

# The River Plantation Reporter

A Newsletter of the River Plantation Community

<http://www.river-plantation.us>

The members of the River Plantation Homeowners' Association Board of Directors are:

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**Access Management:**

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The River Plantation Reporter is a newsletter published quarterly by volunteer homeowners for the entire River Plantation community. The Communications Committee is responsible for the content and production of the newsletter. Interested parties can contact Meridith Zelaya at 678-445-6427 or [mzel@bellsouth.net](mailto:mzel@bellsouth.net) with comments or if you are interested in volunteering. Please feel free to recommend content for inclusion in the newsletter. All suggestions are welcome.

## River Plantation Neighborhood Watch

As many of you know, a couple months ago we had a community meeting to implement a Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) within River Plantation. The residents that were able to attend unanimously decided to start a NWP in our subdivision.

Throughout the summer, there were a number of harmless pranks played out by some juveniles at all

hours of the night, but towards the summer's end, the incidents escalated to the point of damaging property and endangering the lives of at least one family within our community.

The safety of our neighborhood and its members is dependant upon how well we come together as a community to ensure that this program is

effective. It requires very little from us as individuals, but these small efforts add up to safety for everyone, so let's all do our part.

Our neighbor, Jill Comer, is the Area Coordinator for our Watch program and is working hard to organize it—she needs our help. See page 3 for more details.

## Letter From the Editor

The past few months have brought us many new neighbors to welcome! On behalf of the neighborhood as a whole, I'd like to welcome the Bamblett, Yalvak, Novarino, Erdman, Sharkey, Mesa, and Smith families. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help your transition to your new home run smoothly. We are glad to have you here!

In addition to the new families, check out how many new babies we have to celebrate! Welcome to Chase Waldbauer, born June 11, Abby Elisabeth Messing, born August 7, Zachary Carl Salter, born September 15, Jaden David Rehbarg, born Sep-

tember 16, Kayla Rakowski, born September 18, and the very youngest, Marissa Lynn, born October 6.

Congratulations to the elated, yet likely sleep-deprived parents of these babies. Congratulations also go out to the Hyatts, who had their baby girl in August.

I would also like to extend a rather belated congrats to the Wehmeyers, who had baby Lilli on 11/3/03, the Butticazes, who welcomed Emily to the family on 9/12/03, and the Langleys, who had Marissa Faith on 6/7/03.

Please let us know if you are new to the neighbor-

hood or have had a new baby but were not mentioned. Try as we might, we may not have found all of you.

Elections for board positions will be coming soon. Look for more information coming your way within the next few weeks. Also, we will be having a neighborhood garage sale soon—check out the details inside.

Thank you to all volunteers who have contributed their time and talents to this newsletter. Your work is much appreciated!

Meridith Zelaya

Kid's Holiday party coming soon! This annual event will take place at CC's Pizza by the new Wal-Mart on December 11, from 11:00am-1pm. We'll deliver a flyer with more details as the time nears. Hope to see you there!

Volunteers are always welcomed and needed. We are currently looking for volunteers for the Welcoming Committee (7/592-5134) and the Recreation Committee (7/591-2226). All other committees would gladly welcome your help as well. Call one of the numbers above or email us.

Have a little one at home? We'd love to welcome him/her to our playgroup! All kids ages 0—pre-school invited. We meet once a week in the morning. The day is subject to change, so we need your input! This is a wonderful opportunity to let the little ones play with new friends and for parents to chat and meet new friends as well. We hope you join us! Please call Pam at 770-592-7497.

\*\*\*\*\*

*After mowing your lawn, it is very important that you clean up the clippings while refraining from putting in them in the street. The clippings, if allowed to enter the catch basins, clog up the storm drains. We have several neighbors who's yards have become flooded and who's houses have become severely damaged as a result of this.*

\*\*\*\*\*

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## River Plantation Neighborhood Watch

We learned at the neighborhood watch meeting in August that many incidents have occurred here in our neighborhood, but most of them went unreported. We also learned from the officers that no matter how small the incident may seem, it is imperative that we make a police report by calling 911 so that investigators can put all of the "pieces of the puzzle" together and get a big picture of what is going on.

My name is Jill Comer and I have volunteered to be the Area Coordinator for our Neighborhood Watch Program, which means that I am responsible for organizing it and overseeing its operation. At this point, *we need volunteers to be Block Captains!* We are all responsible for being Block Watchers.

**Block Captain-** A person in the neighborhood that is responsible for a specific area or their street of the neighborhood. This position requires time to obtain names, addresses, and phone numbers of the people in their area. The ideal number of households for this position is 10 - 12 homes. The Block Captain must update this information as new neighbors move in or out and the Area Coordinator should maintain a copy of this roster.

**Block Watcher-** These are all residents of the neighborhood. We should all be on the lookout for suspicious behavior. **NEVER think your call to 911 is foolish, insignificant, or unworthy. Your call could save a neighbor's life or property**, and, yes, recent incidences in our neighborhood HAVE put residents' lives in danger and have damaged property.

I have sectioned the neighborhood off into Zones, with each Zone containing nine to twelve homes. We have a total of 17 Zones and 7 volunteer Block Captains. *I need more volunteers to be Block Cap-*

*tains.* I am maintaining the master records and I have a lot of the information already in the system. I will provide that to you as you volunteer. All you will need to do is verify that the information is correct and update it as residents move in and out of your Zone. This may only require a simple phone call, but could require going door to door.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to make River Plantation a safer community for our families to live in, please contact me via e-mail or phone to establish your "area". If you would like specific information on the Watch program and how to be an effective member, I can get you a copy of the information provided at the meeting.

Please remember that this program only works if WE work it together. Neighborhood Watch requires continual commitment to maintain the neighborhood roster and keep the program intact.

Jill Comer  
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678-445-6858  
[thecomers1995@adelphia.net](mailto:thecomers1995@adelphia.net)

<http://www.river-plantation.us>  
[riverplantation@hotmail.com](mailto:riverplantation@hotmail.com)

Have stuff to get rid of?  
2nd Annual River Plantation Garage Sale coming soon!  
November 12 & 13  
See page 13 for details

# Fire Safety

Doug Owsley

Believe it or not, the United States has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world, according to the U.S. Fire Administration's Facts On Fire fact sheet. We hear about fire safety every October, being that it is Fire Safety Month, but more of us need to listen. More of us need to act. A little bit of preparedness goes a long way towards saving lives and property. October's focus on fire safety is just a reminder that now is the time to act and plan, because at 3:15 in the morning in a dark bedroom choked with smoke, it's too late!

Prevention is always your first line of defense. Never leave cooking unattended. Take care with open flames, like candles or the flame on a gas stove top. If someone in your home is a smoker, be sure to safely dispose of smoking materials. Be sure your children are aware of the hazards of matches and lighters, even if you're certain there are none around your home. Those items may be available in homes your child visits.

Use good judgment with electrical appliances. Make sure they're able to disperse heat as needed and periodically check that the power supply cords are well insulated. Pets have been known to chew on power cords, so keep that in mind.

Think through how you store flammable materials. Gasoline, propane tanks, or oily shop rags are often found in garages and similar work areas, as are things like water heaters with a pilot light or battery chargers which can throw sparks. Be aware.

If a fire does occur, preparedness and planning will be your greatest asset. Make sure your home has at least one functional smoke detector. Test it. Right now. Make sure it works. It is estimated that 52% of residential fire fatalities occur in homes with no smoke alarms (U.S. Fire Administration fact sheet). Have an alarm and make sure it works. As inexpensive as they are, get a couple. I have yet to hear anyone complain after a fire that they had one too many alarms.

Have a home fire escape plan. Make sure that everyone in your home knows the plan. Making this plan can be a great activity involving your children. Draw a map of your house and help them map out two ways out of every room. Have a family meeting point outside of your house, far enough away to be safe. The garage door of the house across the street or a neighbor's mail box are good examples. Practice the plan so your children know what to do and where to go. Cherokee County Fire's website has some great detailed information on exit drills in the home: [http://www.cherokeecountyfire.org/escape\\_plans.cfm](http://www.cherokeecountyfire.org/escape_plans.cfm)

Have a fire extinguisher on hand and know how to use it. Have your extinguisher near where you may need it. For instance, within ten feet of your stove or near candles that are burning (think about those Halloween Jack-O-Lanterns). Know how to

use your extinguisher. Remember PASS: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep. **P**ull the pin, **A**im at the base of the fire, **S**queeze the handle, and **S**weep from side to side at the base of the fire. It is also very important to know when you can control the fire and when it's time to leave. As a general rule, if you have to stop and think, "Can I control this fire?," you can't. Get to safety and call for help.

In the event that you do need to call for help, do so from a safe location. This may mean leaving your house and asking a neighbor to call. The best thing you can do in a fire emergency is to make sure you are safe. If you are not safe, you've compounded the problem by adding your rescue to the list of things professionals have to tend to when they arrive on the scene.

With prudence and providence, all of us can avoid emergency fire issues. October is Fire Safety Month. That gives us a reminder to capitalize on Providence and keep our homes, ourselves, and our loved ones safe.

Now go test your smoke detector.

<http://www.river-plantation.us>  
[riverplantation@hotmail.com](mailto:riverplantation@hotmail.com)

# Enjoy Beautiful Georgia!

## Haunted Gold Mine!

October 1-31

Friday & Saturday nights; 7pm-11pm; Family hour: 7pm-8pm

Hear the legends of lost miners as you head underground into dark fog-filled tunnels in Dahlonega! \$8/adults, \$5/kids 14 & under; <http://www.dahlonega.com>

## 3rd Annual Taste of Canton

October 14

Central Park, Canton; Canton's restaurants come together to share a taste of their menus

## Frontier Day

October 16; 10am-4pm

New Echota Historic Site, Calhoun; Experience 19th-century frontier living in GA as New Echota's historic buildings and grounds come to life with demos of cooking, spinning, weaving, pottery, basket making, candle making, and other skills. Try your hand at some of these crafts and learn about the Cherokee Nation's last stand against removal on the Trail Of Tears. 770-624-1321; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## 200th Anniversary & Cherokee Homecoming

October 16, 11am-4pm

Chief Vann House Historic Site; Cherokee craftsmen will demonstrate traditional arts such as pottery, storytelling, blowgun shooting, basket making, woodcarving, and more. The Vann House museum will be open for tours; 706-695-2598; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## Fall Color Horseback Rides

October 16 and October 30, 9am-4pm

Fort Mountain State Park, Chatsworth; Saddle up for a 7-mile guided ride on some of the most beautiful horse trails in Georgia. Riders will see waterfalls, overlooks, old talc mine shafts, and colorful fall foliage; ride takes about 2 hours; reservations required; \$50; 706-517-4906; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## Halloween Hayrides

October 16-29

Friday & Saturday nights

Red Top Mountain State Park and Lodge, Cartersville; Take a haunted hayride where professional storytellers will spin family-oriented Halloween tales and visitors can enjoy cider and cookies. \$5 plus \$2 for parking; register in advance; 770-975-4226; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## Alpharetta Main Street Market

October 16-17

Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12pm-5pm

Square in downtown Alpharetta, corner of Main & Milton; fine arts, crafts, antiques, collectibles; 770-475-5758; [downtownalpharetta.com](http://downtownalpharetta.com)

## AIDS Walk Atlanta

October 17

5K walkathon  
[aidswalkatlanta.com](http://aidswalkatlanta.com)  
404-876-9255

\*\*You can sponsor me by going to the site, clicking "sponsor a walker", and typing "Meridith Zelaya". Every dollar counts! Thanks!\*\*

## Fall Hoedown

October 23, 6:30pm

Vogel State Park, Blairsville; Celebrate Autumn's arrival with line, square, and round dancing, hayrides, and campfire stories; \$2 parking; 706-745-2628; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## Moonlight Madness

October 26, 4pm-7pm

Kroger in Towne Lake; costume contest, games, and treats for the kids. Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services will be on hand to talk about fire safety. Children who attend will receive a metallic Halloween bag that will reflect car headlights and provide visibility for trick-or-treaters. Safe Kids of Georgia; 678-493-4343

## Moonlight Madness

October 28, 4pm-7pm

Kroger in South Canton. Same as above.

## Halloween Happenings

October 30

Bring the children out dressed in costume for games, fun activities, and prizes; 770-429-1115 ; 800-835-0445 - No. 4 Depot Street, Marietta

## Haunted Lodge on the Hill

October 29 & 30, 5-10pm

Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge, Dawsonville; Enjoy carnival games, cakewalks, costume contests, haunted hayrides, and a spooktacular buffet in the park's restaurant; \$2 parking; 706-265-4703; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## Native American Festival

November 6, 10am-5pm

Woodstock City Park; Native American dancers, arts, crafts, jewelry, and food. Email Cheryl West of Seven Arrows for info: [cawest@bellsouth.net](mailto:cawest@bellsouth.net)

## Half-Day Wilderness Hike

November 6, 9am-1:30pm

Panola Mountain State Park; Moderately

strenuous 4-mile hike through variety of habitats, including hardwood and pine forests, a river, and 100-acre granite outcrop. Register in advance: 770-389-7801; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## 27th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration

December 4, 6pm

Downtown Alpharetta Square; 678-297-6078

## Pictures With Santa on the Square

December 11, 11am-2pm

Downtown Alpharetta Square; 770-475-5758

## Winter Bird Hike

December 11, 8-11am

Panola Mountain State Park; Take a guided tour through restricted areas of Panola Mountain's field and river habitats and watch for migrating song birds and hawks; register in advance; 770-389-7801; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## Christmas Workshop

December 11, 1-5pm

Providence Canyon State Park, Lumpkin  
Learn to make angels, wreaths, snowmen and other ornaments from natural materials found outdoors; children can take home hand-made items; register by Dec. 10; 229-838-6202; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## Winter Mountain Hike

December 18, 1-3:30pm

Panola Mountain State Park; Enjoy the cool weather and the lush mosses and lichens that prosper on the mountain's bare rock this time of year; 3-mile hike; register in advance; 770-389-7801; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## Christmas Open House

December 18, 5-10pm

Amicalola State Park; Visit with Santa and enjoy choir performances, hayrides, artwork by local children and gingerbread displays; holiday buffet will be served; 706-265-4703; [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)

## Check out these sites for more events!

<http://gastateparks.org>

[www.ci.woodstock.ga.us/index.htm](http://www.ci.woodstock.ga.us/index.htm)

[http://www.n-georgia.com/festiv\\_atl.htm](http://www.n-georgia.com/festiv_atl.htm)

<http://www.southfest.com/georgia.shtml>

[www.cherokeega.com/](http://www.cherokeega.com/)

<http://sequoyahregionallibrary.org/>

[www.cherokeearts.org/](http://www.cherokeearts.org/)

[Accessatlanta.com](http://Accessatlanta.com)

[www.alpharetta.ga.us](http://www.alpharetta.ga.us)

[www.northpointmall.com](http://www.northpointmall.com)

<http://www.dahlonega.com>

# Trees, Weeds, or Trouble

Dot Daly, resident Botanist

The majority of trees here in River Plantation, planted as each home was completed, are Red Maples (*Acer rubrum*). These lovely trees are getting big, about twenty feet or more, and are starting to give us the benefits that trees, in general, are known for, such as:

- They provide shade in summer, thereby conserving energy.
- They are deciduous, thereby allowing the sun to help warm our roofs in winter.
- Trees help purify the air
- They help to beautify our homes, thereby increasing or maintaining value.
- They cushion sound in the neighborhood.
- They provide a haven for birds.
- They're not a lot of trouble to maintain.
- The Red Maple is among the smaller maples, as is the Japanese Maple.
- In the Fall, they give us beautiful colors of red and yellow. When the leaves drop, they do so rapidly and they are smaller than other varieties, as opposed to oaks for example, and are therefore easier to clean up.

The growth rate of Red Maples is 10 to 12 feet in five to seven years, reaching an average height of 40 to 60 feet, although they've been known to reach as high as 100 to 125 feet. The spread is rounded with age, and they therefore have the potential to be nearly as wide as they are tall. There is a need to figure a space minimum of 15 feet all around from the trunk. The lower branches can be trimmed without harming the tree. The best time? I'm told by the extension service agent that the best time is when the tree is going dormant.

Red Maples do well in zones 3 – 9, so hardiness is no problem. Some sources say that the maple has a medium-fast growth rate. The Red Maple has soft wood, but not brittle, especially when compared to the Bradford Pear, which is a favorite harbinger of Spring with its gorgeous white flowers, but has the disadvantage of being brittle, and is likely to snap in 10 to 12 years.

Red Maples are here for the long haul and therefore should be cherished and respected just as we cher-

ish and respect any people that come into our lives. Then they, both people and trees, can grow to their potential.

Are trees necessary? Yes. Can they be weeds? Yes. Can they be trouble or a nuisance? Yes. Are Maples easily propagated? Yes. In this area, Maples begin to come out of dormancy in February and you'll see small but profuse red flowers. These are pollinated by wind and insects, among other things, and many will become seeds, called samaras. They are winged-shaped and about ¾" long. These samaras soon blow around and grow where they land. This could be in a flower bed, in a dirty gutter, next to your walkway or foundation, or any other place where there is a bit of moisture. You'll never see these propagate successfully under the mother tree, because of its surface roots. Come June or July, you'll begin to see these little trees. Now eight to twelve inches high, they're to be considered weeds, because they're growing where they're not desirable. Left alone, they may continue to grow. In three years, they could be five feet tall, with well-established root systems. You can cut them down, but if you don't get their roots, they will pop up again.

Maples have surface roots, a long tap root, and lateral roots. They don't like anything growing near them and will compete for moisture. Remember, the minimum growth is 40 feet in height and about 30 feet in width. Therefore the minimum drip line is about fifteen feet from the trunk. It does not harm the tree to prune the lower branches. If your tree was planted, say, ten feet from your driveway, it may be necessary to do this.

Trees, just like all living things, need air, space, water, and fertilizer. If your tree isn't looking good, it is probably lacking in one or more of the basic requirements. If the tips are bare, the roots are dying. Keep in mind that they WILL compete for water. The roots will wrap around water and sewer lines. Have you ever noticed, when walking down a tree-lined street, the sidewalk has lifted? If the tree is too close to the concrete, and has no other source of water, the roots will reach under the concrete and eventually lift it.

**Avoiding trouble**

When planted, the base of the tree trunk should be level (yes, *level*) with the surrounding soil. It has surface roots, which will rise up with age. It can handle three or four inches of mulch, pulled away from the trunk, or one inch of topsoil. To quote Todd, an agent with the Cherokee County Extension Service, when asked about raised beds I've seen throughout the sub-division, he laughed and said they call them "decorative mulch volcanoes." He said they are quite efficient in killing the trees in four to five years. If you have the need to replace your maples, there are many other trees that are suitable. To name only

a few, we have Lace Bark Elm, Drake Elm, Crepe Myrtle, Red Bud, Smoke Tree, and Dogwood. Get some advice from a professional and consider a particular tree's requirements and diseases if any.

In short, let's take care of our Maples and other trees. Consider the requirements of each plant. Does it have four sides? How much room will it need, eventually, next to a house, a fence, a property line, or another tree, *from the trunk*? Get out the measuring tape, O.K?

**Some facts on other trees, lovingly planted in River Plantation:**

(E = Evergreen    D = Deciduous    F = Flowering)

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Width</u>
Leyland Cypress (E)	60'-70'	12'-17'
Juniper (E)	40'-50'	8'-20'
Magnolia, Big Leaf (E)	30'-40'	20'-25'
Cryptomeria (E)	60'-80'	20'-36'
Bradford Pear (F, D)	20'-40'	20'-30'
Crepe Myrtle (F, D)	15'-25'	5'-15'
Dogwood (F, D)	15'-30'	5'-20'
Redbud (F, D)	20'-30'	12'-25'
Weeping Cherry (F, D)	15'-30'	10'-15'
Silver Maple (D)	60'-80'	50'-75'
Weeping Willow (D)	30'-50'	20'-40'

Sources:  
*Landscape Plants of the Southeast*, by R.G. Halfaire & Anne Shawcroft  
*Trees of the South*, by Don Hastings  
*Trees*, Time-Life Library  
 Brief talk with Todd, the Cherokee County Extension Agent.

According to the experts at Lowe's and Home Depot Lawn and Garden Departments, if you haven't done so already, **now is the time** to put out your pre-emergent weed control, which will prevent Crab Grass, Poa Annua, and most other grassy weeds. You'll need to **reapply again** on Super Bowl Sunday to keep your yard weed-free year round -- now isn't that easy to remember?!!

Expert in your field? Will you contribute your ideas, information, or even an article?    [mzel@bellsouth.net](mailto:mzel@bellsouth.net) (editor)

# Slop Swap

Yikes! We running on empty here, folks, and we need your help! Please contribute to the River Plantation Slop Swap. Our recipes are being compiled by Aubree Tong as she plans to create our first ever cookbook. We want your recipes! Please send them to one of the following email addresses: [riverplantation@hotmail.com](mailto:riverplantation@hotmail.com) or [mzel@bellsouth.net](mailto:mzel@bellsouth.net)

Thanks for your input!

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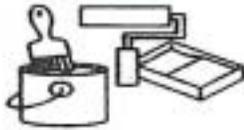
825 Plantation Ridge Overlook

Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 10am-

2pm

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## The River Rambler

Please do not dump stuff in the drainage areas/easements such as grass clippings etc.

Access Management

Can you remind people (in the "Rambler"?) to remove weeds that grow in that crack between the street and the curbing? It just makes sense to get rid of these weeds as we do the ones in our grass. They look terrible and I just think people should take that extra minute to pull them, kick them, or whatever for the good of the neighborhood as a whole.

People better start slowing down their cars in this neighborhood. I don't want to have to pitch in for speed bumps because of a few people who aren't careful.

riverplantation@hotmail.com

## The River Review

\*\* I found a great site for learning and reviewing math skills. It is for elementary and middle school students. There are tons of activities and games that are great for learning those math facts. [www.k111.k12.il.us/king/math.htm](http://www.k111.k12.il.us/king/math.htm)

\*\* This book is a must-read for any and all parents who are saving or want to start saving for their kids' college education! It is called [The Best Way To Save For College—a Complete Guide to 529 Plans](#) and it is by Joseph Hurley. I borrowed it from the library (it's a new release) but it can be bought at any bookstore.

\*\* If you haven't already read this must-read best-seller by Robert Kiyosaki, go get [Rich Dad, Poor Dad](#) right away! You'll wish you had read it years ago. Kiyosaki, self-made millionaire, challenges the idea that you have to work all the live long day in order to make money and create wealth.

\*\* Have a digital camera? Check out [Snapfish.com](http://Snapfish.com) for your printing needs. They are really cheap, they ship very quickly to your door, and you can order lots of cute stuff with your pictures, like mugs, t-shirts, and calendars. I've gotten lots of great gifts there—what else would a grandparent want than a mug with the grand kids on it?? Also, you can create online photo albums and send the link to anyone you want so they can sift through all your pics and order any they like.

# Antique Corner

Michael Waycott Moore

## The Antique Goes Back To Basics

I would like to offer a definition or two of terms that I have used, perhaps, a little too freely.

The first: **Antique.** The classic definition is any item that is at least 75 years old. By definition, a chair from the 1940's is not an antique, but a chair from 1929 and before is.

The second definition: **Collectible.** This is any type or general class of item or piece that is desired or collected. Anything that has to do with "The King" is very collectible. A collection of early American wash tubs may also be collectible, but to a smaller group of people. Not all collectibles are antiques, like "The King" memorabilia and Bakelite jewelry, for example, and not all antiques are collectible.

Many collectible antiques have great value and everyone is looking for that one treasure, bought for a few dollars, that will make them rich. This does happen every once in a while, but not that often. Planning on this happening is like planning on winning the lottery as part of your retirement package. Most dealers are honest folk, they know what people want, and they give it to them for a fair price or close to it.

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier, furniture and decorative pieces were made in a very practical fashion. The good hard woods and decorative woods were expensive and would be used, generally, only where they would be seen from a distance. The top and the face of a side board may have been made from mahogany with finely matched grains, but the insides of the drawers would be made of secondary woods such as poplar and, in the New England area, pine. These unseen pieces would be unstained and, as they aged, they may have split and may have developed a pale-green patina. Dove-tailed joints would be rough and unevenly spaced. These pieces were made by hand by

a cabinet-maker just working by eyeing the distance. There are "knockoffs" and items that have been "lovejoyed." "Knockoffs" are reproductions of the real thing, made with modern tools and materials, and they provide an inexpensive substitute for use as a decorative piece. Look closely at an item that appears too good to be true.

"Lovejoyed" is a phrase derived from a character in several mystery novels. Lovejoy was an unscrupulous antiques dealer. A "lovejoyed" piece is one that has many parts. A few dealers will take pieces from one item and replace the areas that would indicate that the piece was a knockoff and try to pass it off as a genuine item. It takes a bit of practice to spot these items, but it is easily learned.

When looking for antiques or collectibles, buy what you like. If you pay by cash or check, ask for a discount because you'll usually get at least 10% off. As you narrow your field and start collecting specific things (I collect T&V Limoges, only hand painted) you will learn more and more about the things you collect. Then, every visit to an Antiques and Collectibles shop will truly be a treasure hunt, with an excellent chance of finding just one more piece.

A great place to visit is *The Queen of Hearts* in Marietta. Take North Main Street past the Square and go just to the edge of town. It will be on the left-hand side of the road. I have never found anything there that was misrepresented or shoddy and they are more than willing to answer any questions you may have.

If you start your day there and work up an appetite, take Main Street South towards the Square and visit either "Mittie's Tea Room" or the "Nantucket Sandwich Shop".

Have a wonderful Fall and happy collecting!

### Resident Babysitters:

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# Net Zone

Doug Owsley

The Internet can be a wonderful source for answers to questions, but sometimes knowing where to look for those answers can present a bigger challenge than your questions do to begin with. It is our hope that this section of The River Plantation Reporter can help you with some of those challenges as each issue will highlight several websites focused on a certain theme.

With fall now upon us and the daylight waning, many of us tend to head indoors. In an area like Georgia, however, this is the perfect time of year to venture out. The oppressive summer heat is gone, yet it's still warm enough that you can dress comfortably. With Georgia's and the surrounding areas' natural playgrounds inviting, what are you waiting for?

From a general point of view, it's hard to beat <http://gorp.com>. Sharing its name with the simplest of hiker's trail foods (Good Old Raisins and Peanuts), it's a wonderful starting resource for all things outdoors. It has gear reviews, tips for beginners in all kinds of outdoor activities, general outdoor stories and information on activities like hiking, paddling, and climbing. The site is broad focused, but with features like "Close To Home" and "Find Trips" along with links to select National Parks and National Forests, it's fairly easy to find fun within your travel range.

For a similar general view but focused a little closer to home, try <http://www.georgiaoutdoors.com/>. If you're a hiker/camper, someone who likes to see small town festivals, or someone who likes to bring home the game and fish, this site is a wonderful resource. An easy to follow menu at the side of the page helps you navigate to your favorite topic, but the articles and links on each page provide a wealth of useful information that you may not have considered as pertinent to your interest. There are also plenty of links to maps and topic specific clubs. They sometime take some effort to track down but it's worth the search.

For an overview of Georgia's natural gifts, start at Georgia's Department of Natural Resources: <http://www.gadnr.org/>. The site itself is more

about the department than our outdoor wonders, but it does provide easy links for on-line hunting and fishing licenses and boat registrations. It also provides links to its specifically focused sites on topics like historic preservation and environmental protection.

For the hunters, boaters, and those who like to fish, check out GA DNR's <http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/>. Though it's layout shows more government process than inviting creativity, that does not at all diminish the information provided. There are helpful frequently asked questions (FAQ) sections for hunting, boating, fishing and non-game animals as well rules, regulations and topical articles for each category. If you intend to be an informed Georgia gamesman or gameswoman, you owe it to yourself to check this site.

If hiking, camping, and seeing the sites is more your speed, then stop by GA DNR's <http://www.gastateparks.org/> for a look. It not only has information on the state's parks, but also the means to make reservations at any of them, a record of events, lists of outdoor activities (birding, horseback riding and so on) and what parks support them, and an easy to find link for Leaf Watch to help you find the most vibrant fall colors.

I would be remiss if I didn't include <http://georgiatrails.com/>, which, as a hiker, I have found to be one of the most useful sites for Georgia outdoor fun. It has an extensive collection of hiking trails indexed by name, location/city and, in some cases, natural features like waterfalls. Each trail is rated and reviewed by the folks who run the site as well as any users who have contributed reviews of their own. It makes easy work of finding a trail matched to your ability.

## It's Time for the 2nd Annual River Plantation Garage Sale!!!!

Only five weeks left till the 2nd Annual River Plantation Garage Sale! The sale will be November 12 & 13 from 8am-2pm. There is a small donation of \$7.00 per household requested to participate. This donation covers signs and advertising in the Cherokee Tribune and Cherokee Ledger. If there is any money left over, the balance will be used for next year's garage sale.

Please place balloons on your mailbox on sale days so shoppers know where to go! If you choose to put up signs/markers, they MUST be on a stake. DO NOT attach to street signs or place in common areas, per our Covenants.

Additionally, on the days of the sale please have all shoppers park on the sidewalk side of the street in order to allow traffic to pass safely.

If you wish to participate in the event, please fill out the form below and return it with your \$7.00 to Kelley Graham, 1079 River Plantation Drive. Please feel free to call with any questions at 770-591-2226 or email at [timkelle@bellsouth.net](mailto:timkelle@bellsouth.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for your participation!  
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Please email Meridith Zelaya at [mzel@bellsouth.net](mailto:mzel@bellsouth.net) for details. Prices are as follows: business-card space is \$8, half-page is \$20, and a whole page is \$40. Please be prepared to furnish a camera-ready advertisement for printing.