

THE

MT LAUREL CHRONICLE



Volume No. 3 Issue 1

A Traditional Community in Concert with Nature

April/June 2005

Spring is Sprung at MT LAUREL

If you ask a resident of MT LAUREL, what is the first big happening at MT LAUREL each year, undoubtedly, the answer will be "the Spring Festival!" People come from all around in response to the announcement of the date for the Spring Festival, which was held on Saturday, April 23. More than eighty vendors participated, and more than 2,500 people attended the Festival this year.



The activities included the opportunity to ride around MT LAUREL on a trailer being pulled by Mr. Cecil's John Deere tractor. All traffic came to a halt as the tractor slowly snaked around the neighborhood. Didn't we see Mr. Freeman in the driver's seat at one point? The kids enjoyed slipping and sliding on the caterpillar and the giant slide, painting pots, and participating in other exciting activities, as parents and others strolled up and down the streets, checking out the wares of the vendors. Wonderful smells wafted through the air as the food vendors began to set up to sell their products.



Buckets of strawberries set the mood and our taste buds in anticipation of warmer days and being able to purchase wonderful fruits and vegetables grown in Alabama.

As vendors packed up at the end of the day, everyone was in agreement that the 2005 Spring Festival at MT LAUREL was another reason why you always want to be in the know about what is happening at MT LAUREL! When you see Kelly Burley, the organizer of the Spring Festival, tell her thank you!

Meet & Greet

Saturday, April 16, 2005. 4 p.m. The young and not quite as young came from Abbott Square, Burnham Street, Hawthorn Street, MT LAUREL Avenue, Olmsted Street, and Parsons Street, to Abbott Square Park and had a great time! The children ran throughout the Park, making new friends and sharing toys, while the adults talked, laughed and shared food and drink while catching up on the latest.



If you were one of the over one hundred persons who attended the first Meet & Greet for 2005, you received one of the name tags which were used to help everyone get to know their neighbors. Did you meet and greet our self

professed most available resident, George, proudly wearing his name tag, GEORGE – "available"? Tables were set up with appetizers, coolers were stocked with cokes, water and, if you dug deep enough, beer! Grills were provided and fired up for families to cook their chosen delicacies. Some residents even had their very own "luau" going on.

Thanks to the Stones and the MT LAUREL Homeowners Association for providing assistance with extra tables, stocked coolers, and for detouring traffic during the event. Thanks to all who provided the scrumptious treats for everyone to enjoy. We have some excellent cooks in town!

The weather was perfect, the company was unsurpassed, and a great time was definitely had by all! The Meet & Greet group of the MT LAUREL Events Committee is to be thanked for staging a wonderful beginning for a year of activities at MT LAUREL! Rest assured there will be many more opportunities to get to know the nice people who call MT LAUREL home! Every month, around the third weekend, an event is planned for the residents of MT LAUREL. Check out the MT LAUREL Resident website to view the calendar of events. By December, we could have a community where everybody knows your name

Mountain Laurel

Rip Weaver, the Town of MT LAUREL Landscape Architect, reminds us that MT LAUREL was designed as and continues to be a native plant community, with the intent to show the world that native plants are hardier and consume less resources than exotic plants. Each resident of MT LAUREL is provided with a copy of the Town of MT LAUREL Residential Landscape Regulations, which lists the plants approved for use in the front and side yards visible from the public way. In each issue of The MT LAUREL Chronicle, at least one of the approved plants for landscaping in MT LAUREL will be featured and, a description of the plant will be given along with care instructions.

For this issue, the mountain laurel is the featured approved plant.



(Mountain Laurel Continued on p. 7)

ATO To The Rescue!

Nine members of the Birmingham Southern College chapter of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, David Branton, Will Butler, Patrick Cashio, Ian Cunningham, Chad LeCroix, Milton Ragsdale, Tyler Sasser Cook, Chuck Smith, and Cal Woodruff, pitched in and launched the MT LAUREL Keep



Highway 41 Litter Free project on Saturday, April 16, 2005, after receiving instructions from Renee Prescott. They labored, toiled and had fun while taking on the initial cleanup of the one mile stretch of Highway 41 which will be attended to by the residents of the Town of MT LAUREL.

ATO immediately responded to the call to help MT LAUREL at the request of one of the fraternity brothers, Tyler Sasser Cook, who is also a resident of MT LAUREL. The Birmingham Southern chapter of ATO has a history of lending a hand to philanthropic projects throughout the Birmingham area. Keep an eye out for these leaders of tomorrow!

The Keep Highway 41 Litter Free project for MT LAUREL has been spearheaded by Renee Prescott, who is a resident of MT LAUREL and a member of Friends of Dunnavant Valley Greenway, Inc., a nonprofit organization. One of the goals of Friends of Dunnavant Valley Greenway, Inc. is "to promote stewardship of scenic roadways, streams, wet lands, lakes, and forests. Secure the adoption and implementation of open space, sound management policies and programs at the county, state, and national levels that will protect and maintain the integrity of native vegetation, wildlife and aquatic ecosystems". As stated in an e-mail to the residents of MT LAUREL, Renee Prescott stated that one natural by-product of the goals would be to keep Highway 41 litter free.

Renee has reported that twenty-two residents of MT LAUREL have volunteered for duty in the cleanup project, allowing for a year round schedule of monthly cleanups of the one mile stretch assigned to MT LAUREL. If you are a resident of MT LAUREL and have not signed up for the project and wish to do so, you should contact Renee Prescott at 980-2598 or by e-mail at spresc4685@aol.com. Never too many volunteers!

Homeowners Association

Did you know that MT LAUREL has a Homeowners Association? Have you wondered who, what, when, where, how?

The Association was officially established to enhance community life, establish and enforce certain covenants, restrictions, Rules and Regulations, and the Design Code. And further, the Association has been established "to allow for the future self-governing of MT LAUREL by its owners". The Association receives its authority from EBSCO Development Company, Inc., as described in the MT LAUREL Declaration of Charter, Easements, Covenants and Restrictions. The Association, governed by EBSCO Development Company, Inc., has a Board of Directors consisting of five members: John O. Freeman, Sr., General Manager and Vice President of EBSCO Development Company, Inc., Rip Weaver, Town Landscape Architect, Jessica Kelley, Accountant Manager of Real Estate for EBSCO, Scott Stone and Brian Parker, resident representatives of MT LAUREL.

The Board would like for you to know that many things are being done behind the scenes for your benefit. For instance, the Board is working on a plan for enforcement of the MT LAUREL Covenants & Restrictions. Dues have not been increased since inception, thanks to the Board's watchful eye. Recently, the Board passed an amendment requiring the review and approval of any lease to be executed between a homeowner and a tenant, for the purpose of helping residents maintain the standards under which MT LAUREL was founded.

The Board meets quarterly. Even though a Board meeting is not open to the public, you may contact a Board member to discuss any issues you would like to have presented to the Board. Be informed. Review your MT LAUREL Covenants & Restrictions Manual. Don't forget that although those in charge like to be made aware of concerns, they also like to hear words of appreciation when you just can't think of anything but something good to say!



Elton B. Stephens, Jr.

Mt Laurel – the Vision, the Reality

When you hear the name, Elton B. Stephens, Jr., you very likely will associate the name with the traditional neighborhood development of the Town of MT LAUREL. According to articles written, Elton B. Stephens, Jr. began with a vision and, with the help of a chosen dedicated team, the vision became a reality.

As with a beautifully orchestrated piece of music, when people sit and listen, they absorb the beauty of the music with their senses. Such is the case with MT LAUREL. It is to be enjoyed with the senses. For such beauty, we are forever indebted to Elton B. Stephens, Jr.

Garage Sale – Huge Success!

Although the weather did put a damper on the actual day of the garage sale at MT LAUREL, April 30, the spirit of the residents of MT LAUREL rose to the occasion again. The day before the sale, Marie Freeman, Mark Taylor and Sean Caskie helped with placement of signs to direct visitors to MT LAUREL. Mark Taylor also prepared maps so that visitors could find their

way from street to street once they were in the Town of MT LAUREL. Mary Peters and Jen Parker prepared the red balloons for participating residents to place at their homes.

After some wee hour setups, the sale was on! Residents were selling furniture, baby items, baby clothes, outdoor equipment, toys and other

things. After the weather cleared, the crowds came! Residents reported success, with money in hand.

Mallory Carrington, an organizer for the sale, feels the sale is more successful each year as the kinks are worked out. Mark your calendars for next year's MT LAUREL Garage Sale!

The Land Of MT LAUREL

By Rip Weaver, Town Landscape Architect
(Excerpts from Vol 1, Issue 1)

MT LAUREL has the rare opportunity to be developed by a design and engineering team dedicated to saving not just the flora of the land but the integrity of the land as well. Our philosophy for the development is to not "imprint" the land. Grading is minimized; natural drainage corridors are retained; and trees are preserved. Tree saving involves preserving groups of various sizes and types of trees, not just a larger single specimen. Our philosophy includes re-using plants, plant materials, timber and stone removed during construction in the landscape design of MT LAUREL.

MT LAUREL purchased a tree spade to dig, relocate to a holding area and eventually return trees and large shrubs to those areas cleared during construction. MT LAUREL is also blessed with a great diversity of small shrubs, bulbs, vines and wildflowers. Trees and plants are also being collected from building and roadway sites and placed in a holding area for future relocation.

The traditional methods for disposing of trees too large to move are to pulp or burn the debris. MT LAUREL employs two additional techniques for disposal: we will mill the larger trees that will yield significant lumber and chip the small debris. The milled lumber will be used to build gazebos, bridges, shelters, signs and add details in some structures. The chipped wood is used for erosion control.

The planting design of the MT LAUREL home is a less formal landscape. Unlike the shocking masses of flowering shrubs with rigid, clipped hedges typical of conventional suburban landscapes, MT LAUREL's plantings have a looser, more casual feel and a less obvious "edge". The typical collar of evergreen shrubs around the foundation is replaced by plantings that actually change the landscape on a seasonal basis. Having trees of various sizes in the landscape reduces the need for extensive plantings and gives the design instant age.

As construction and planning continue, we will continue to investigate "new" techniques for making MT LAUREL land friendly. Our desire is that others will see our commitment to the land of the Dunnavant Valley (and eventually the Double Oak Mountain ridge) and will change their development practices to become more respectful of the land's existing natural systems.

The Evolution Of MT LAUREL

From its inception, the Town of MT LAUREL has been a trend setter, a special place, and a unique community, winning numerous national and state awards and commendations. This has resulted in changes in attitude and perspective throughout the planning, development, design and building industries.

MT LAUREL is a model for enhancing the quality of life and developing an optimal community lifestyle. The blending of a respect for the environment and excellent architectural design has come together to create and give this place a healthy vitality and character unique in today's developments. Shelby County commissioners and planners have singled out MT LAUREL as the community design they envision for the future.

Early on, Elton B. Stephens, Jr., the Town Founder, Rip Weaver, the Town Landscape Architect, and J. Scott Finn, the Town Architect, determined that there was a need to project the concepts of MT LAUREL beyond the Town itself. They realized that MT LAUREL could not exist as an island in a river of uncontrolled development. The mission statement of MT LAUREL encompasses and envisions "a community in concert with nature, dedicated to

land development and building practices that recognize, promote, protect and preserve the natural landscape and topography of the Dunnavant Valley/ Double Oak Mountain ecosystem". The planners and developers of MT LAUREL wanted to "empower town residents to protect and preserve a landscape that is continually being lost due to poor land

"a community in concert with nature, dedicated to land development and building practices that recognize, promote, protect and preserve the natural landscape and topography of the Dunnavant Valley/ Double Oak Mountain ecosystem"

development decisions which denude the natural landscape. . ." To carry out this mandate, they created a stakeholder's organization called Friends of Dunnavant Valley Greenway, Inc.

Today, residents in the Town of MT LAUREL and from surrounding developments have joined Friends of Dunnavant Valley Greenway, Inc. and are presently working cooperatively on projects to protect and sustain the Dunnavant Valley/ Double Oak Mountain ecosystem.

Your newspaper will follow the events and issues in and around MT LAUREL with the intention of keeping you well informed so that you are in a position to evaluate and help make decisions about the community in which you live. Please keep us informed of your concerns.



John O. Freeman Sr.

Mr. Freeman's Corner

What's happening around MT LAUREL? In response to the question, or sometimes without even being asked, John O. Freeman, Sr. will proudly begin telling you about this spot or that corner. Mixed in with his information about MT LAUREL will be a "how are you doing?", "good to see you!" spoken with genuine concern and care. This man, a native of Birmingham who graduated from Woodlawn High School, majored in engineering at Vanderbilt University, and attended business school at the University of Alabama, is the General Manager and Vice President of EBSCO Development Company, Inc. You can expect to see Mr. Freeman "everywhere" in the Town of MT LAUREL and it is suspected that he loves for you to walk up to him and ask him, "what's happening around MT LAUREL?"

Update about "what's happening around MT LAUREL" with respect to development and construction: swimming pool opened on Memorial Day weekend; an arbor is being added to the swimming pool area; land for tennis courts has been graded (projected completion date - February, 2006); grading has begun for construction of the James Building in front of the present site of Hilltop Montessori School; construction of mixed use units in front of Freeman Building underway; and homes being built in Phase III of the Town of MT LAUREL.

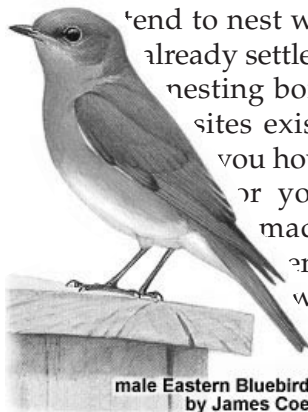
Bluebirds At MT LAUREL

<http://members.tripod.com/~K1bluebird/Appearance.html>.

Have you seen these beauties gracefully flitting from tree limb to ground and back? What a beautiful sight! You will see a flash of bright blue with spots of orange swoop down to feed on grasshoppers and other insects and arthropods. One of MT LAUREL's residents, Susan Ferguson, reported a family of bluebirds nesting in a birdhouse in her yard last year. Thinking the bluebird family had moved on and would not return, Susan removed the nest and cleaned out the birdhouse. This spring, much to her surprise, the bluebirds returned. So how about it, everyone. Want to help restore the bluebird population to MT LAUREL?

The Eastern Bluebird population was severely reduced in the 1950s and 1960s. Many feel that

the decline of the population was due to the harmful effects of pesticides. Thankfully, some of the survivors are nesting in our neck of the woods. Bluebirds are semicolonial nesters and tend to nest where other bluebirds have already settled. We can provide artificial nesting boxes for the bluebirds. Web sites exist on the internet to show you how to build a bluebird house or you can purchase a ready-made birdhouse. You might enjoy checking out the website highlighted above which has a recording of the song of an Eastern Bluebird.



In late summer and fall, the family of bluebirds will forage together in family groups. In winter, the family groups join others as flocks of ten to fifty birds. Migration is associated with weather severity and food availability. So, if you put up a bird feeder and supply it in the wintertime, it is a given that you will have many visitors to your bird feeder, some of which may be bluebirds. With any luck, the bluebirds of MT LAUREL just might establish a year-round colony. Again, we can thank EBSCO and all involved in the production of MT LAUREL for the concerted effort to maintain the natural environment. Watch for our little friends, the bluebirds. Read and learn more about them so we can help to make their homes at MT LAUREL as enjoyable for their families as our homes are for us.

First Graduating Class Of MT LAUREL Elementary School

Emma Brooks, a resident of MT LAUREL, was one of the fifty students of the first graduating class of MT LAUREL Elementary School. Emma has written, "This fifth grade graduation was a memory never to be forgotten because of the people that made it happen for us. The Class of 2005 would like to thank Mr. Brown and Mrs. Neighbors (fifth grade teachers) for a wonderful year and for never giving up on us. A special spice was added to the ceremony because the moms volunteered to make a slide show with pictures from throughout the year". Emma went on to write about the speaker, "Have you heard of Brian Cunningham? Well, if you haven't, he is the retired field goal kicker for the University of Alabama." Emma remembers Brian talking about setting goals and never giving up, while making people teary-eyed as he told some of his life stories. After the ceremony, cake and punch was enjoyed as everyone visited and talked at the reception.

Emma says thank you to all of her friends, family and teachers, and wishes the graduating class the best in Middle School!

FUN! FUN! FUN!

That is the easiest way to sum up what goes on each Wednesday with the children who show up to play together with the Mt Laurel Play Group. The Group began meeting about a year ago when a few moms decided to get together once a week to let the children burn off some energy.

The Tot Lot and the MT LAUREL swimming pool are the favorite places for the Group to enjoy together. However, the Group has taken a few trips away from MT LAUREL to visit the Oak Mountain State Park Petting Zoo, the Birmingham Zoo and the Recreation Station of Highway 280. The trips to the Zoos were huge hits with the children as they loved the hands-on interaction with the animals, along with echoing all of the animal sounds. The trip to Recreation Station was spent enthusiastically jumping in the bounce houses and playing arcade games. The children are usually so exhausted from the trips that they take long afternoon naps, giving their moms a breather!

The children love the interaction with other boys and girls at MT LAUREL and the moms enjoy getting to know their neighbors. Anyone who is interested in joining the Group, which meets every Wednesday (weather permitting) at 10:00 a.m., should contact Mallory Carrington at 566-5804.

Congratulations, Grads!

In alphabetical order:



Miss Emma Brooks graduated from 5th grade at MT LAUREL Elementary School and will enter Oak Mountain Middle School in the fall.

Miss Catherine Burley graduated from 4th grade at Primrose Day School and will enter MT LAUREL Elementary School next year.

Miss Emily Marsh completed kindergarten at Hilltop Montessori School and will enter the first grade at Hilltop Montessori School in the fall of 2005. Emily says, "School is fun because it has lots of fun things there, like math and languages. I also like my teachers."

Mr. Micah Pak graduated from Hoover High School on May 24, 2005, and will begin his college days at Auburn University this fall.

Mr. Charlie Peters, valedictorian of his senior class at Chelsea High School, graduated on May 26, 2005, and will enter Birmingham Southern College in the fall of 2005. Charlie was CHS Ambassador, and a member of Beta Club and Mu Alpha Theta. Charlie has been awarded the Greensboro Scholarship and the EBSCO Scholarship.

Mr. Nicholas Pihakis, a senior at Indian Springs School, graduated on May 27, 2005, and has been awarded a soccer and academic scholarship to Birmingham Southern College.

Mr. Kurt Walter graduated from Hoover High School and will enter Purdue University in the fall to study engineering.

Congratulations to all of our students! Have a great summer and we will watch proudly as all of you continue on your academic journeys.

Farmers' Market & Craft Fair 2005

The temperature began to rise, the air was brisk, then calm, and May, 2005, rolled in. But long before May 7, 2005, Kelly Burley began preparation for the 2005 season of the Farmers' Market & Craft Fair at MT LAUREL, calling vendors and sending out letters. In response to Kelly's efforts, the vendors came on May 7 to begin the 2005 season. Food and craft vendors lined up on MT LAUREL Avenue, displaying their wares as customers came from the surrounding areas. Ten-year old Geoffrey Gray, from Clanton, Alabama, was energetically selling the goods he and his Dad brought to MT LAUREL.

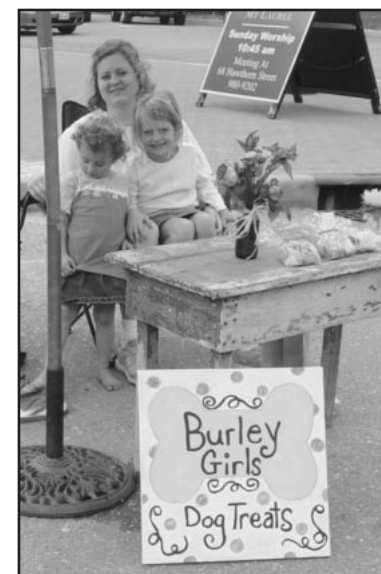


With the season well underway, on Saturday, May 14, Jim Landreth, owner of MT LAUREL Hardware, Jimbo's, and MT LAUREL Nursery, gave a hands-on demonstration of how to prepare a container garden, explaining the composition of soil, choice of fertilizer and plants. A particularly interesting herbal



arrangement he prepared included chives, dill, jalapeno, lavender, mint, oregano, and parsley, which was such a crowd pleaser it seemed a pricing war would ensue!

Vendors sell vegetables, baked goods, crafts, plants and to top it off, incredibly refreshing lemonade. Special events such as nature walks, lectures and demonstrations are scheduled on the second Saturday of each month and demonstrations will be presented by guest chefs on the third Saturday of each month during the season. The Farmers Market at MT LAUREL will be held on each Saturday, 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., from May 7 through September, 2005.



Hilltop Montessori School's Art Show And Silent Art Auction

On Saturday, May 14, 2005, at 7 p.m., Hilltop Montessori School hosted its annual student art show and silent art auction. With the attendance of parents, neighbors of MT LAUREL and local businesses, the Hilltop School proudly displayed artwork representative of the entire student population. Children as young as three had work displayed. Various forms of visual arts including drawings, sculpture, paintings and photography were displayed. Beautiful candles lined the halls and front of the school to light up the event while violinist Susan Nuckols played "jazzy" music to also light up the event. Candles crafted in sand,

tapestry weavings, photography imprints, batik on cloth pieces, wood burned art and sculpture were featured, as well as a variety of murals. All art show items were created by the students, under the direction of Virginia Allison.

Items were donated from local artists such as Rachel Higgins, Wes Frazer, Sonny Pritchett and Virginia Allison for the silent art auction. Students donated over twenty pieces of their original art for auction to help raise money for the Hilltop School. Montessori schools encourage growth in all subject areas, with emphasis on fostering creativity and

independence while instilling a love of learning in each child. Evidence of these values was shown in the hard work of the students who contributed to the event.

The proceeds of the art event, over \$3,200 from donations and the silent art auction, will benefit Hilltop Montessori School's art program for the 2005-2006 school year. Everyone looks forward to next year's art show and, of course, the opening of the new green school in the fall of 2006!



Little Bundles Arrive!

Maddox Thomas Patrick Evans born on March 6, 2005, 7 lbs., 4 oz., 19 inches long; son of Ami and Eric Evans

Charles Maxwell Scroggins born on March 16, 2005, 8 lbs., 5 oz., 21 inches long; son of Rorie and Chad Scroggins

Josslin Crane O'Kelley born on April 25, 2005, 6 lbs., 4 oz., 19 inches long; daughter of Leslie and Michael O'Kelley

Kenley Grace Meis born on May 18, 2005, 7 lbs., 14 oz., 21 inches long; daughter of Tracy and Ryan Meis, sister of Ely Catherine Meis and Levi Bogie Meis.

Travel to Costa Rica!

George Meighen reports the following about his recent trip to Costa Rica:

Most pleasant trip to Costa Rica. Did almost 500 miles on the stick-shift rental car. Drove SW from San Jose through the mountains and along the Pacific Coast to Quepos. Then it was back up the coast and NE through and over another chain of mountain to Fortuna. Lodge was located directly below the Volcano Arenai. Thought it was rain thunder I heard but it was the volcano making its presence known. Returned to San Jose (SE) via another mountainous route in dense fog. Final couple of days in a suburb at the Hotel Bougainvillea. Beautiful gardens and pools. Friendly people. Challenging road experiences.

Most memorable moment? A rainy morning in the vicinity of Volcano Arenal. Decided to take a drive along the windy, pot-holed, sometimes asphalt, narrow, slippery road running along the north side of the man-made Lake Arenal. Slowly meandered west for about 25 miles and came to the town of Lake Arenal. Great lunch at Tom's German Bakery. I had bratwurst, sauerkraut and fresh baked apple strudel. Super visit with the owners and waved at ranchers riding by on their trusty, beautiful steeds. Oh, I had a German dark beer. Many pleasant moments on this trip but that was the biggest surprise. Always great to make the return entry into the USA.

Thanks, George! Can almost see the mist and smell the flowers!

Fishing 'N Gardening Calendar For July, August, September

Observing nature through its seasons enables us to have a more creative understanding of the elements and so we learn to read the language of nature on earth as well as the language of the stars.

It has been documented that during a full moon, at sunrise or sunset, fish will bite on anything they see or smell! Fish tend to feed during dawn and dusk, but what amplifies the activity is the effect of a moonrise or moonset plus the specific monthly periods of the New Moon and Full Moon. So, take a look at the calendar below!

Planting by the moon is an idea as old as agriculture, with scientific ideas to back it up. At the new moon, the lunar gravity pulls water up. In the first quarter, the gravitational pull is less but the moonlight is strong. After full moon, the energy is drawing down. In the last quarter, there is decreased gravitational pull and moonlight, and is considered a resting period.

What does this mean to a gardener? Here are some moon planting rules:

New Moon to Full Moon:	Sow, transplant, bud and graft.
Full Moon to New Moon:	Plow, cultivate, weed and reap.
New Moon to First Quarter:	Good for planting above-ground crops with outside seeds, flowering annuals.
First Quarter to Full Moon:	Good for planting above ground crops with inside seeds.
Full Moon to Last Quarter:	Good for planting root crops, bulbs, biennials, and perennials.

Fishermen and Gardeners, here is the calendar!

Good luck, everyone! Be sure and tell us your success stories!

	<u>New Moon</u>	<u>First Quarter</u>	<u>Full Moon</u>	<u>Last Quarter</u>
July	6	14	21	28
August	5	13	19	26
September	3	11	18	25

MT LAUREL Organic Garden

Leaving the Town of MT LAUREL, turn left on Highway 41, go about one mile, turn left. You are at MT LAUREL Organic Garden. Chances are, you might bump into Jerry Spencer, the gardener who began the dream of providing fresh, chemical-free locally grown vegetables to the community, at the request of MT LAUREL's founder, Elton B. Stephens, Jr. With environmental sensitivity being a fundamental organizing principle of the Town of MT LAUREL, the community farm, with Jerry Spencer at the helm, has observed the highest standards of ecological farming while producing a wide variety of organic products.

Jerry Spencer also operates Grow Alabama, an organization established to give our community a direct connection to the family farms of Alabama. Members not only buy more

nutritious, flavorful food, they keep millions of dollars from leaving the State, and a rich tradition from vanishing forever. Grow Alabama is your opportunity to have vegetables, fruits, eggs, dairy products, even fresh meats delivered to your home, office, or to a central pick-up point near you, from Alabama's family farms.

If you knew that there was a problem in Alabama that was harming some or many of our people and you could help that situation without it costing you any more money or time, would you want to help? Not by spending more, but by re-directing your food dollars to support the farmers in Alabama. You can make a big difference in the quality of life for yourself, for the rural communities in Alabama, and for the farmers of Alabama, by supporting Grow Alabama.

Grow Alabama's website is GrowAlabama.com or you can contact the office by telephone at: 205-991-0042. After speaking with the office, if you do not get satisfaction, call Jerry at 205-266-5130.



Get Cookin'

Low Country Hoppin' John with Cucumber, Avocado and Cherry Tomato Salsa

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 3 c. cooked basmati rice | ½ c. peeled, seeded, diced Kirby cucumbers |
| 3 c. cooked black-eyed peas | ½ c. cherry tomatoes, cut in half |
| 2/3 c. pea liquor | 2 c. avocados, diced |
| 2 T. lime juice | 1 jalapeno, minced |
| olive oil | fresh herbs (cilantro, basil, mint, scallions) |
| salt and pepper, to taste | pinch of sugar |

Add jalapenos, pinch of sugar and salt to lime juice. Macerate for 15 mins. Add cucumbers, tomatoes and avocado. Coat with olive oil. Heat rice and peas with pea liquor. Garnish with salsa and fresh herbs. (Recommended with fresh fish, chicken or pork)

– Courtesy of Alan Martin, Executive Chef, Standard Bistro

Easiest, Quickest, Yummiest Cobbler!

- 1 can of any kind of pie filling (apple or peach is best)
- ½ box of yellow cake mix
- 1 stick butter or margarine

Pour can of pie filling in 9 inch square casserole dish. Sprinkle cake mix on top. Melt butter and pour over top. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 mins. or until bubbly and crust is golden brown. Serve warm with ice cream.

– Courtesy of Mallory Carrington

Zippy Veggie Salsa

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 cans black-eyed peas | 1 can black beans |
| 1 can white corn | bunch of chopped green onions |
| 1 can yellow corn | 1 chopped bell pepper |
| 1 small can chopped olives | 2 chopped jalapenos |
| 3 cans Rotel tomatoes (drained) | 8 ozs. Italian Dressing |

Drain and rinse beans, peas and corn. Mix together. That's it!

– Courtesy of Mary Peters

Those Tubs of Chilton County Strawberries

Freeze those tubs of Chilton County strawberries. Wash and let dry completely. Remove stems. Slice in half or whatever. Place the outsides of the berries on a cookie sheet. Place in freezer for 3-4 hours. Remove and flip into a freezer bag and return bag to freezer. The berries should not stick together.

– Courtesy of George Meighen

(Mountain Laurel Continued from p. 1)

Like the native azalea, the mountain laurel, when seen in its natural environment, is often in an area which is close to a water source, such as a creek, waterfall or lake. If you have ever seen the mountain laurel in bloom, you will never forget the beauty of this plant which is native to the eastern part of the United States. The mountain laurel usually grows under the canopy of trees, which protect the mountain laurel from the



strongest rays of the sun and give the plant a generous helping of the right ingredients over the seasons for the type of soil the plant loves. Each year when the leaves fall and decay, the soil is enriched.

Once again, Mother Nature shows us how to best care for her children. To protect the natural environment of MT LAUREL, residents are asked not to remove native plants from their natural environment. When we see the plants in their natural environment, we can observe how the seasons and the environment affect the plant.

If you purchase the mountain laurel in a container during the flowering season, you might want to care for the plant in the container until the autumn or late winter of that year, which is the best time for transplanting the mountain laurel, remembering that the plant loves organic humus in the soil.

If you wish to prune the mountain laurel, you should only lightly prune the plant immediately after the plant has flowered.

A word of caution: the leaves of the mountain laurel possess narcotic poisoning properties. The best antidote is whiskey, according to an article printed on the internet website, botanical.com.

Did you know that the Native Americans used the wood of the mountain laurel for spoons? On occasion, the mountain laurel plant will be referred to as "spoonwood". Mountain laurels can be found around Spoonwood Lake at MT LAUREL. Coincidence that the Lake is named Spoonwood Lake?

Community

Change landscaping to greenscaping, practice the 4-Rs: Reduce; Reuse; Recycle; Rebuy
www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/green/index.htm

Respect for Nature

If we all make little contributions, the impact over time can be huge.

Commitment to the Future

Help protect all the creatures and plants – the circle of life connects us all.

The Town Seal Of MT LAUREL

J. Scott Finn, the Town Architect of MT LAUREL, wrote an article for Vol. 1, Issue 1, of The MT LAUREL Chronicle, in which he stated that like the name of the Town of MT LAUREL, the Town Seal of MT LAUREL is based on the flower and buds of the mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). The design of the MT LAUREL Town Seal is an abstract interpretation and not a literal

picture, to make it graphically strong and easily recognizable.

The manhole cover used on the streets of MT LAUREL has been custom designed. EBSCO Realty contracted with East Jordan Iron Works to create a mold for the manhole covers. The foundry cast the covers with the design of the

Town Seal. The distinctive mold have been used primarily as the manhole cover for the streets of MT LAUREL but the mold has also been used for other purposes.

As you walk around the Town of MT LAUREL, look around. Where do you see the Town Seal?

The Town of MT LAUREL

An EBSCO Community

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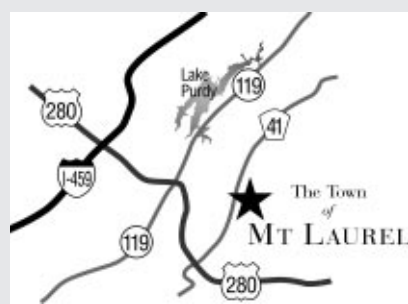
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www.mtlaurel.com

EBSCO Donates Property To Hilltop Montessori School

The sun rose over the hills at the Town of MT LAUREL on Friday, May 20, 2005, to shine on the 9:00 a.m. ceremony in which J. T. Stephens, President of EBSCO, deeded a five-acre site in the Town of MT LAUREL to the parties who will build the LEED-rated green school as the home of Hilltop Montessori School. Seventh and eighth grade students planted a tree to commemorate the event.

The parents, teachers and Board members of Hilltop Montessori decided to create a green school so that their children could experience first hand the benefits that come from building and learning about this type of structure. To receive LEED certification, buildings must meet a long, detailed list of criteria covering every aspect of building design and construction, including: daylighting strategies, energy-efficient lighting, energy-efficient HVAC, water

efficiency, and minimal site disturbance. We hope our children will take with them an understanding of these issues that will guide them in the decisions they make as adults, said Hilltop Board member, Rita Smith.



The General Manager of the Town of MT LAUREL, John O. Freeman, Sr., said the green school concept is a perfect fit for MT LAUREL, which has been constructed with respect for the land and environment around it. A LEED-rated building is the most advanced, environmentally friendly construction program that exists in the United States today, Freeman said.

For more information about Hilltop Montessori School, visit www.hilltopmontessori.com.

Mt Laurel's Pony Express!

No question, human beings want to receive the news as quickly as possible! The sooner, the better. Man has diligently found the best possible means of transmitting information by land, sea and air. At MT LAUREL, several people are to be thanked for the "fastest" news in town. When Mark Taylor and his family moved to MT LAUREL in 2001, it was a very small community, possibly five or six families. Since computers and e-mail were the rage, in January, 2002, Mark set up a web page for compiling information about the residents of MT LAUREL, including a means of communicating, e-mail addresses. Many hours of hard work have been put into maintaining the website, which requires frequent updates. Mark has improved the website from time to time, including in 2004, adding a means for residents to e-mail those at MT LAUREL who have an e-mail address by means of a singular e-mail group.

"... In the spirit of the Pony Express it is for us to bequeath to those who shall follow, new trails in the sky uniting in thought and in deed."

- Frank S. Popplewell

In February, 2003, Mary Peters began to help Mark with the website and began sending out the e-mail announcements, and in February, 2005, Mary began to maintain the group e-mail listing.

So, thanks to Mark and Mary, our modern Pony Express team!