

JUNE 2024

Parkwood Press

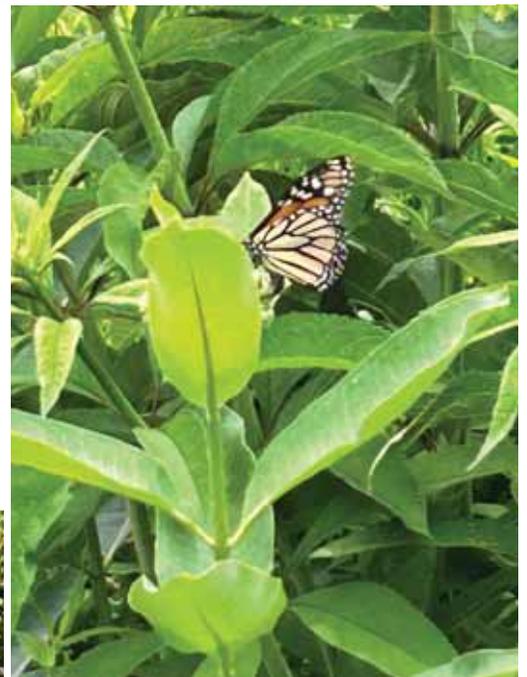


The Parkwood Association Neighborhood Newsletter



Our Pollinator Garden is buzzing with activity!

It is a great time to check out our polinator gardens outside of our Parkwood Association Office and Community Center at 1417 Seaton Road! You are likely to find many of our smallest neighbors making the most of our friendly offerings!



These pretty yellow springtime flowers do NOT belong here



by Mike Brooks

Looks can sometimes be very deceiving. Take these bright yellow Fig Buttercups, for example. Sound almost delicious, don't they? Native to Europe and Western Asia, introduced in the U.S. as an ornamental plant sometime earlier than 1867, it blooms in very early spring, ahead of all native early spring plants.

Also known as Lesser Celandine or Pilewort, *Ficaria verna* - Fig Buttercup - appears to be a pretty little exotic plant that wouldn't harm anything. But it's poisonous if ingested raw and potentially fatal to grazing animals and livestock. And

where it gets established, *every* other spring-flowering native plant is eradicated. Its early-growing mat of dense leaves blocks sunlight, keeping anything sprouting below the plant from being able to grow. Native insects, including caterpillars, feast on native plants to survive, but can't eat Fig Buttercups. Birds eat the insects, and also carry away seeds, supporting the growth of other native plants. Where a Fig Buttercup invasion takes hold, none of that happens.

After flowering, the plant's foliage dies back and by early summer the plants become dormant. The extensive mat of leaves looks dead, but it's not. Bulbils (tiny above-ground tubers) and larger underground tubers are its primary methods of propagation. The tiny bulbils grow where the leaf meets the stem and break off easily as the dormant plant is worn down by wind and rain. After bulbils sit in the ground or travel through creeks during a flood, they grow into new plants the following spring, and the whole cycle repeats.



Pete Schubert explains how, only two weeks after the initial herbicide application, the Fig Buttercups have all died, and the new barren area is already seeing native plants sprouting.

Schubert and the NC Invasive Plant Council, its spread was stopped — at least for this year. And that gives the rest of us time to learn about Fig Buttercup dangers and elimination techniques before next spring, when the battle will continue against this “horribly destructive invasive plant.” When it comes to Fig Buttercups, beauty definitely hides the truth.

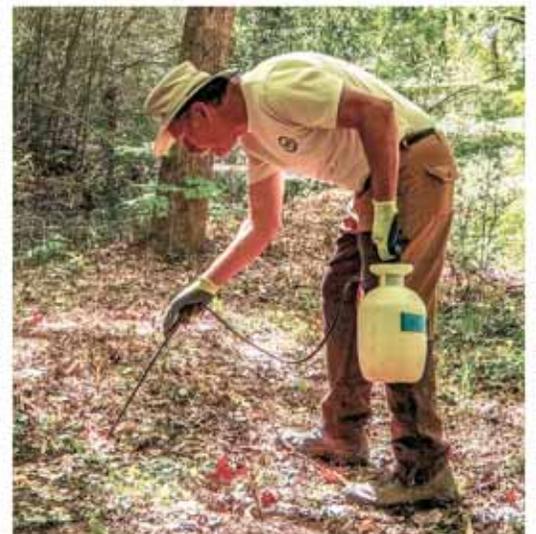
Colleen Haithcock, a long-time neighborhood activist and resident of the Parkwood Village townhomes, was walking along the Ace Hardware trail just off Euclid Rd. in March, and saw the thick, widespread mat of blooming Fig Buttercup along the small creek.

She recognized it for the nasty invasive species it is, and called her friend Pete Schubert, native plant expert and a board member of the NC Invasive Plant Council (<https://nc-ipc.weebly.com>), which happens to have secured grant funding for Fig Buttercup eradication.

Since Fig Buttercup can only be successfully killed when in the brief flowering stage, Pete came out right away and carefully sprayed a systemic herbicide engineered for broadleaf plants. The herbicide, made of a 3% glyphosate mix, breaks down in the soil after a few days, does not harm aquatic life, and kills the entire plant.

A return visit a couple of weeks later (shown here) took care of any missed or later-blooming plants.

So before Parkwood even knew about its Fig Buttercup infestation, it was eradicated. Thanks to Colleen Haithcock, Pete



Pete Schubert carefully sprays herbicide just on remnant Fig Buttercups.

MORE LINKS: 1) www.gardeningchannel.com/how-to-get-rid-of-invasive-lesser-celandine-fig-buttercup 2) dukeforest.duke.edu/2020/04/03/duke-forests-least-wanted-fig-buttercup-ficaria-verna 3) www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/plants/fig-buttercup 4) www.invasive.org/alien/fact/pdf/rafi1.pdf 5) en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ficaria_verna

Notes from the Parkwood Community Garden

By Susan Costa

We've been so busy in the garden that I haven't had time to write anything! Really, I'd rather be outside than in front of a computer screen, and I hope all y'all do the same thing this month. We welcome you to stop by for a visit and see how everything is growing! We will begin earlier now (8am, for some of us) because mornings are already pretty warm. We'll be working on some creative trellis options this month, so those should be interesting...

Hope to see you in the garden!



Newsletter Delivery Options

All Parkwood Homes receive a minimum of two paper issues of the Parkwood Press per year. These are currently scheduled for January and July.

Want to receive a paper copy of the Parkwood Press Every Month?
Join our Opt-In List to have a paper copy delivered to your doorstep every month.

Receiving Paper Copies but prefer Digital?
Let us know that you no longer wish to receive the every month paper copy.

Email pa.office@parkwoodnc.org to make delivery change requests.

Parkwood Board

2023 - 2024

Marsha Brooks, President, Dist.7
Felipe Rodriguez, Vice Pres. Dist. 1
Vickie Wheeler, Secretary, Dist. 2
Marie Dean, Treasurer, Dist. 8

Dist 1: Diane Wright	Dist 5: Olga Rodriguez
Dist 2: Chris Classen*	Dist 5: Andrew Hunter
Dist 3: Richard Evert	Dist 6: Mary Mertz
Dist 3: Dennis Sharp	Dist 6: OPEN
Dist 4: Tracee Hester	Dist 7: Julia Maron
Dist 4: Janie Long	Dist 8: OPEN

*Serving At-Large
The PA Board meets
on the 2nd Thursday of the month
at 7 pm via Zoom

Parkwood Office

Parkwood Association
1417 Seaton Road
Durham, NC 27713

Phone: (919) 544-2161
Email: pa.office@parkwoodnc.org
Website: parkwoodnc.org

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30 - 5:00 pm

Laura Denny, our office administrator,
is available by email or phone.
Please allow 24 hours for a reply.

RACE UNITY PICNIC

hosted by One Human Family Choir

Saturday, June 8 @ 12 PM-4 PM

**LIVE MUSIC, FREE
FOOD, GAMES &
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

**"The well-being of
mankind, its peace and
security, are
unattainable unless
and until its unity is
firmly established."**

*You're
Invited!*

THURSDAY, JUNE 6 @ 7PM
**MEANINGFUL
CONVERSATIONS**
Exploring issues we all face and
seeking truths that unite us

SUNDAY, JUNE 9
@ 10:30AM-12PM
SOULFUL SUNDAY
Music, devotions & fellowship
and children's classes



DURHAM BAHAI CENTER
5103 REVERE ROAD, DURHAM 27713
WWW.DURHAMBHAI.ORG * (919) 489-6690

Missionaries Interested in Service Projects

Missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are interested in doing service for people and groups. If you have a service or project that you need done, please contact Gary Hatch at hatch.gary@gmail.com or 919-943-3758 or the missionaries at 919-225-7386 to submit a request.

Advertise in Parkwood Press

Pricing and details are on our website, <https://parkwoodhoa.nabrnetwork.com/publicforms.php>

Who Do I Call?

Speeding and other traffic issues. Please contact the PD by either dialing 911 or the DPD non-emergency number 919-560-4600.

Pets running loose without a leash. If a dog is not aggressive but seems lost, and you are comfortable, you could try to lure him into a backyard and find the owner. But if you are not comfortable doing this, please call Durham County Animal Control which is handled through the Sheriff's Department. 919-560-0630.

Cars parked on lawns, trash in the front yard, overgrown lawns. If you wish to report this kind of issue you can either contact PA at pa.office@parkwoodnc.org or contact the NIS directly by emailing nis-codeenforcement@durhamnc.gov or calling 919-560-1647

Cars, trailers or trucks parked on the streets. The Durham Police Department enforces parking on public streets and should be contacted at the Durham PD non-emergency number 919-560-4600.

Keep in mind, sometimes a problem can be handled quickly by a friendly conversation. Sometimes starting the conversation with an offer to help works wonders. You never know, that person with the overgrown lawn may be ill or injured and unable to mow the lawn. Thank you for being a good neighbor.

Tall Grass? Time to Mow!

Spring is here and the grass is growing. If you haven't already starting mowing your grass, it is probably time.



Front Porch
REAL ESTATE



Tony & Zondra Miller
919-616-5212
info@frontporchnc.com

Full Service Real Estate
Listing Homes For 2%.

Parkwood residents
since 1998.

We love working
with our neighbors, friends,
and family.

We Make Front Porch
Living A Lifestyle



Summary of Minutes from May 9, 2024 Board Meeting

Call to Order 7:15 pm

Attendance: Diane Wright, Felipe Rodriguez, Vickie Wheeler, Chris Classen, Dennis Sharp, Janie Long, Olga Rodriguez, Andrew Hunter, Mary Mertz, Marsha Brooks, Marie Dean

Guests: Steven Berkowitz, Mike Brooks

Steven Berkowitz reported that the City's Parkwood Area Lift Station Consolidation (PALSCO) Project documents are not yet ready for review.

Committee Roundtable

Executive Committee - M. Brooks

Executive Committee Minutes 1 May 2024

Marsha Brooks, President
Felipe Rodriguez, Vice President
Vickie Wheeler, Secretary
Marie Dean, Treasurer

1. Next EC meeting will be on 5 June 2024 at 7:00 pm.
2. Atlantic Union Reserve Account. Vickie has contacted 5 banks and we will recommend moving both the Atlantic Union Reserve Account and the North State Checking/Debit account to Pinnacle Financial Partners.
3. Letter to Homeowner on Lake property. Vickie will prepare Marie's letter to be sent to the homeowners directing them to move the last section of their fence in preparation for the work to be done at the dam.
4. Tree on Monterey Ln. Marie and Vickie will visit the homeowners whose fence was damaged by a fallen tree.
5. Maintenance at Office/Community Center. Vickie will make an appointment with Lowes for an estimate on replacing 3 doors on 5/30.

Motion to move the Reserve Account from Atlantic Union Bank to Pinnacle Financial

Partners. Seconded. Motion passes.

EC Minutes approved.

EC Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Finance Committee Report - M. Dean

May 7, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting
The Finance Committee of the PHA held their monthly virtual meeting on May 7, 2024 from 7:00 - 7:50. Attending were Marie Dean, Olga Rodriguez, & Felipe Rodriguez.

The committee reviewed the April report from PPM. There was discussion of possible errors on the expenditure report when designating which GL Codes to use. The Finance Committee would ask that each committee take time to review the month's report from PPM which Laura includes a link on the agenda that's shared with everyone. Discrepancies should be sent to the FC.

The report from our attorney's office showed 1 account paid in full that we'd sent for collection, 1 on a payment plan, 1 that'd inquired about a pay-off, and 4 with no response.

Submitted by: Marie Dean, Treasurer

Motion: To go into executive session to discuss homeowner financial matters.

Motion to approve the \$510 that PPM has already paid to our lawyers' office using GL-00529 for PALSCO legal guidance. Seconded. Motion passes.

Parks and Lawns - M. Mertz

Parks, Lawns, and Ball Field Committee Meeting

May 6, 2024 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Members in attendance: Steven Berkowitz, Michael Brooks, Wray Dean, Rob Shoaf, Chris

Classen, Mary Mertz, Marie Dean

TOPICS for DISCUSSION

1. Tree Report. - Bill
Tree removal. Spent \$10,925 to date and all authorized tasks have been completed and invoices submitted to PPM.

Historic White Ash tree. Leaf and Limb injected a pesticide into the tree last week to prevent emerald ash borers from infecting the tree for two years. The invoice from Leaf and Limb, in the amount of \$636.00, has been sent to Laura to send on to PPM to make payment. This was approved at the 11/2023 board meeting to be taken from the 2024 budget using GL Code 05078.

2. Grounds Report.
Clermont culvert report. When Dragonfly Pond Works cleans out the culvert, they leave debris on the bank that could wash back into the culvert. Steven plans to call the city to find out if the city will pick up the debris if we move the debris to the street. A volunteer work day can be scheduled after we determine the best place to move the debris.

Main Parkwood sign is down. Mike and Steven plan to move the sign to a safe place until it is repaired.

Motion to approve the request of a homeowner to cut and remove 6 large bamboo stalks near the entrance to the Brentwood to Hidden Park trail. Passed in committee to present to the Board.

Motion to approve the removal of 6 bamboo stalks by a homeowner on the Brentwood Trail to Hidden Park. Seconded. Motion passes.

3. Drainage. - Steven
Storm drainage at Sedwick Park field/report from VisionNC scoping/next steps.

After scoping that demonstrated several problems, VisionNC has provided quotes

for two options to repair the drainage system at the Sedwick Park Playground. Steven is getting bids from other contractors. For now, it is best to keep the sink hole flagged.

Dredging project with Guins Excavation Service above spillway. Steven reports that Guins Excavation plans to start work this month.

4. Parkwood Lift Station Replacements (PAL-SCo).
Steven has worked with Board member, Richard Evert, and our HOA lawyer, Michael Ganley, concerning legal issues needing resolution before the easements the City needs to obtain from Parkwood can be executed for the project to begin. Steven hopes to have documents ready to provide for discussion and possible approval at the upcoming Board meeting. Mike shared that the city has planned a meeting to inform residents of the plan for the new lift station and force main (to be installed along the south side of Sedwick Road).

5. Playgrounds and Parks
Replacement of missing bench overlooking lake at Sedwick Park. Mike has the kit plus wood and bolts needed to make another bench. Wray agreed to put the bench together.

How to secure new picnic table at Emerald Pond. Discussion concluded this may not be necessary since we have not secured other picnic tables in Parkwood, but options will continue to be evaluated and considered.

6. Plantings. - Chris
Jeff Hawkinson is replanting some of the perennials in the two areas at Custer Circle. Not everything that was planted made it through winter. We are trying to get some native plants to grow there as an experiment. Jeff has put some plant markers and bamboo to mark new plants. Workers should let Jeff take care of the two circles.

7. Ball Field. Bill

Modern Plumbing and Backflow has repaired and recertified the RPZ valve at the ball field.

Motion to modify payment to Modern Plumbing and Backflow from \$881.17 approved by the Board from ball field fund 04170 on April 22, 2024 to \$1,036.32 due to an additional charge of \$145 +tax for recertification the third time. (The fee is waived for a second inspection but not a third.)

Motion to modify the amount to be paid to add the additional fee for inspection, \$155.15, to be paid by GL-04170 to Modern Plumbing and Backflow. Seconded. Motion passes.

Consider altering SDLL lease to make them responsible for paying water bill and possibly for future costs associated with maintaining the RPZ valve. Steven plans to work on this with Bill.

8. Trails

Lotus Pond Bridge collapse. For now, the bridge has been repaired enough to safely open the trail. In the future, it will probably need replacing. Wray has been in touch with contractors about replacing it. Wray shared that many contractors in this area are busy with larger projects. Wray reminded the committee that in order to work on the bridge, someone has to haul tools and materials into the woods.

Wray is also looking at a different design to replace the deteriorating railroad tie steps off Clermont down to the lake. Residents have asked that these replacement plans include a handrail.

9. Old Business.

Invasive species, especially poison ivy and English ivy.

Bill and Mary are working together to re-

visit the Indemnity Form and cover letter to allow a homeowner to control invasive species within 10 feet of the property line. An appendix with descriptions of invasive species and recommendations for controlling each is being developed. Hopefully the forms will be ready for the committee to discuss next month.

Currently, residents should contact the office to refer to a PLBF committee member prior to gaining Board approval as outlined in our current Tree Policy.

Rob shared that he is concerned about the spread of invasive species throughout Parkwood at large. The committee has discussed approaches to control invasive species throughout Parkwood in the past. The committee agreed we need to develop a plan. Rob mentioned this could be a project for the Planning Committee to address. Mike encouraged Rob to take pictures of areas with a pervasive invasion.

10. New Business.

Consideration of mid-year assessment of Rescue Lawn Care's performance. - Rob
The committee agreed to ask Bill for recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.
Minutes submitted by Mary Mertz.

Garden Committee - C. Classen

April finds the gardeners spending more time in the garden tending our cold weather lettuces, and other greens. Since we had a warm April we have gone ahead and planted tomatoes, peppers and beets. Cucumbers, tromboncino squash (long necked trellised yellow squash) have gone in too. We have done a second planting of carrots, cilantro and broccoli. Sunflowers have popped up from last year's plants and haven't been transplanted to the beds.

The blackberry bushes are leafing out, the

elderberry bush has flowers and the strawberries are ripening. Peas are just about ready for harvest too. There are other crops growing as well. We needed to cut the chives back to the ground because they were infested with black aphids. They were sprayed with soapy water to kill them. The chives are coming up again.

The flower garden in front of the garden has been worked on. Some gifted daffodil bulbs have been planted as well as some nicotiana and dusty miller seedlings. Our barrels contain two types of thyme, lemon balm, anise hyssops, oregano, mint, and marjoram (similar to oregano). The iris' are gone with gladiolas replacing them soon. Lilies are about to bloom next. The Bee Garden has flowers blooming now.

Netting has been put on the gates to further deter critters. The irrigation system is up and running. The rain this weekend was very welcomed. We have been helping our beginning gardeners with their plant choices, planting and finding their way around the garden. Our volunteer hours were 35.5 for April.

Parkwood Press & Social Media - L. Denny

Reminder, the deadline for the next issue of Parkwood Press is the 15th.

Parkwood on Social Media

Our Facebook presence stands at 668 Followers and 572 Likes. Our posts reached 331 people and we had 572 page visits in the past 28 days. There were 3 posts during this time, 2 were original content and 1 was a share of a neighbor organization's post.

ParkwoodNC Google Group

Our group has 879 members. There have been 12 new posts/conversations since our April Board of Directors meeting.

Parkland Planning Committee - M. Brooks

Parkland Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 7pm via Zoom

Attendees: Mike Brooks (Chair); Marie Dean, Wray Dean, Chris Classen, Pete Eisenmann, Andrew Hunter, Janie Long, Steven Berkowitz, Rob Shoaf

1. Approval of March minutes: approved as written.
2. Sedwick Park Bridge Updates:
 - a. Updated quote for bridge kit received April 8 from Areté Structures for \$46,107, with 40% down payment required, and a 10- to 12-week delivery time.
 - b. Site Preparation quote received from one bidder for a total of \$44,800.

UPDATE: Site preparation quote received from Scott Brown for \$30,638. Some additional funds for additional installation verification, testing and permitting are now being tabulated by Steven.

3. New Parkwood entry signage
 - a. Next step is to apply for sign permits for 2 locations, and once permits are approved (\$130 per sign), present total costs (sign permits, materials, installation) to Board for funding approval. Project being paused until time permits to complete the paperwork.
4. Old Growth Trail Interpretive Signage project:
 - a. Flyer was published in April Parkwood Press and on the Parkwood website; an on-line opinion survey will be active until April 30, and results will then be tabulated for study.
5. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. Committee discussed possibilities and options for the 2025 issuance of the 319 Grant Program for some aspect of water quality improvement for Parkwood's common areas. Involvement with the Northeast Creek Streamwatch group may be a possibility.
6. Next meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 7pm via Zoom.

PPC Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm

Motion to pay initial payments not to exceed \$32,000 for the Sedwick Park Trail Bridge from the Reserve account, GL-01010, for permit fees, not to exceed \$1000, to the City of Durham, deposit to Areté Structures in the amount of \$18,443 and deposit to Blue Ridge Trailworks Inc. in the amount of \$12,500. Seconded. Motion passes.

Events Committee - V. Wheeler

Events Committee Meeting
Minutes 24 April 2024

The meeting was held virtually through Zoom on 24 Apr 24 at 6:00 pm, Attending were Olga Rodriguez, Mamie Parker and Vickie Wheeler.

Preparations for the Spring Flea Market are on schedule. Mamie's grandson will be volunteering to manage reserved spaces again this

year. New banners will be ready Friday. It was decided to look into using the bi-folds instead of cones this year to block parking from the spaces near the ballfield fence. Vickie will email Kristi at the Parkwood Swim Club to make sure they have information on reserving a space.

We will look for contacts for the Boy Scouts to see about a joint activity this fall.

New Business

Minutes Approval

Motion to approve the minutes. Second.
Motion passes.

Meeting adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Second.
Motion passes.

Minutes from Parkwood Association board meetings are archived and available on our website. parkwoodnc.org

There is room for You on the Parkwood Board of Directors

We are seeking candidates to fill vacant seats on the Board of Directors of the Parkwood HOA.

Any candidate elected now would serve in an at large capacity through September 2024. It is not required that you live in the district you represent if you are elected "at large". See the bylaws and district map at parkwoodnc.org for more information.

To serve on the Parkwood Board of Directors you must be

- A resident and homeowner in Parkwood
- Current on all assessments and payments to the Association
- Available for Board meetings - 2nd Thursday of every month - 7 pm

The next meeting of the Parkwood Association Board of Directors is scheduled for June 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

If you would like to attend as a guest, please email the office, pa.office@parkwoodnc.org no later than June 11.



Durham
ONE CALL
919.560.1200

Scenes from the Parkwood Flea Market

Thank you to our vendors and all of our neighbors who came out to shop our Spring Flea Market on May 4th. We faced a bit of rain but with a little determination, we had a successful event.

We plan to have another flea market this Fall. Keep an eye out for details in future issues of Parkwood Press. We expect to begin announcing details in our August issue for what will likely be an October event.



Contact Our Board and Committees

All Board Members: board@parkwoodnc.org
 President & Officers: executive@parkwoodnc.org
 District Reps: district1@parkwoodnc.org
(be sure to use your district number)

Events Committee: events@parkwoodnc.org
 Finance Committee: finance@parkwoodnc.org
 Garden Committee: garden@parkwoodnc.org
 Meets in the Garden, Sundays 10am
 Parkland Planning: possibilities@parkwoodnc.org
 Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
 Parks, Lawns & Ballfield: parksandlawns@parkwoodnc.org
 Meets 1st Monday, 7pm



June 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 9 am Community Garden Mtg	3 7 pm Parks & Lawns Com-	4	5	6	7	8
9 9 am Community Garden Mtg	10	11	12	13 7 pm Parkwood BoD Meeting	14	15 Deadline for Parkwood Press
16 9 am Community Garden Mtg	17	18 7 pm Parkland Planning Mtg.	19	20	21	22
23 9 am Community Garden Mtg	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9 am Community Garden Mtg						