



Diamond Hill News

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Oak Trees



A few years ago after DHHS was organized, the membership voted to plant several dozen trees throughout the neighborhood. A tree specialist who was working for the city at that time ruled that if we planted trees in the tree lawns they had to be Red oaks--even though many of them would be under power lines.

The city helped us to buy young trees and the members planted them. They are now mature trees and provide a prodigious amount of leaves and acorns--along with their shade. Although they are healthy now, our oak trees will eventually develop problems.

Northern Red Oak
"Red Oak", "Gray Oak"

Description: Large tree with rounded crown of stout, spreading branches.
Height: 60-90' Diameter: 1-2 1/2'
fence posts, pilings, and pulpwood. A popular handsome shade and street tree, with good form and dense foliage. One of the most rapid-growing oaks, it transplants easily, is hardy in city conditions, and endures cold.

Leaves: 4-9" long, 3-6" wide. Elliptical: usually divided less than halfway to midvein into 7-11 shallow wavy lobes with a few irregular bristle-tipped teeth. Usually dull green above, dull light green beneath with tufts of hairs in angles along midvein; turning brown or dark red in fall.



Acorns: 5/8 - 1 1/8" long; egg-shaped, less than 1/3 enclosed by broad cup of reddish-brown, blunt, tightly overlapping scales; maturing second year.

Habitat: Moist, loamy, sandy, rocky, and clay soils; often forming pure stands.

Range: W. Ontario to Cape Breton Island, south to Georgia, west to E. Oklahoma, and north to Minnesota; to 5500'



Bark: dark gray or blackish; rough, furrowed into scaly ridges; inner bark reddish.



The northernmost eastern oak, it is also the most important lumber species of red oak. Most are used for flooring, furniture, millwork, railroad cross-ties, mine timbers, fence posts, pilings, and pulpwood. A popular handsome shade and street tree, with good form and dense foliage. One of the most rapid-growing oaks, it transplants easily, is hardy in city conditions, and endures cold.

Oak trees eventually may develop problems. Don Davis' recent article on News & Advance explains some oak trees die because they have a syndrome called oak decline. "Mature trees die for no apparent reason when oak decline is involved and this tragic condition is common over large parts of the US. It hits white oaks but is most common on red oaks. It happens most often to trees at least 70 years old. The trees most likely to die from oak decline are found growing in shallow, rocky and dry soils. Low rainfall is part of the equation and our area has had more than its share in recent years. Prolonged drought kills trees directly and it can weaken them to the point where they are more prone to insects and diseases. Root rot is one example and many of the big oaks blown down in the last June's derecho had greatly reduced root systems. It is normal for mature oaks to be killed by root rot and wood borers under the stressful conditions of climate change."

For more information Don Davis can be reached at dodavis2@vt.edu

March Activities:**Lynchburg Museum**

March 1st—First Friday
5 pm — 8 pm FREE

Jones Memorial Library

March 20th, 2013
Downtown Lynchburg Evolves
A Photographic Journey
For more information call the library @
(434) 846-0501

Academy of Fine Arts

Empty Bowls
Saturday March 2: 11:30 am to 2 pm
Bowl & Meal are \$15, benefiting Daily
Bread

Broadway's Next Hit Musical
Friday, March 1, 2013
7:30PM
Tickets: \$27 Adults; \$15 Students

Shemekia Copeland
Friday, March 15th, 2013
8:00PM Tickets: \$34

Little Red Riding Hood
Saturday, March 23, 2013
2:00PM Tickets: \$5

The Magic Flute
Mar 22 7:30 pm
Mar 24 3:00 pm

The Magic Flute is Mozart's ever-popular fantasy opera in which good triumphs over evil to some of the most memorable music ever written. The magic flute and bells help Pamina and Tamino conquer trials and vanquish the menacing Queen of the Night, as Papageno, the most loveable of hapless bird-catchers, finds his own true love. A family favorite performed in English.

Old City Cemetery

Saturday, March 2 10am – 12pm
Maple Syrup Tapping
Learn how sap is made into syrup by tapping the Cemetery's great sugar maples.

Wednesday, March 27 7pm – 9pm
Opera to Live For — Bicentennial Chapel
Special concert with four soloists from Opera on the James. Free, but reservations required.

Sustainable Lifestyles: How the Greener Half Lives

The following are some of the secrets of sustainable living:

Reduce, reuse and recycle. This is rule number one in sustainable living. Save energy. The production and use of energy to fuel households and vehicles results in emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants that lead to a host of environmental problems, including climate change. **Turn off** lights and home electronics when they are not in use. Adjust your thermostat at night or when you are not at home. Small retrofits such as compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and air sealing also make a big difference. **Travel smart.** Automobiles use tremendous amounts of fossil fuels and are a major source of emissions that contribute to global warming. Instead of driving, walk, bike or use public transportation whenever possible. When shopping for a vehicle, it is important to consider fuel efficiency and emissions ratings in your purchasing decision. For more information, see the Green Vehicle Guide from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Eat smart. Organic foods are produced using sustainable practices and local foods reduce transportation and storage, which can also have an impact on the environment. Look for organic food at your local grocery or food cooperative and visit your local farmers market. **Use water wisely.** Fresh, clean water is not an infinite resource and providing it to our growing population comes at a cost to the environment. Take shorter showers and only use the dishwasher or washing machine when you have a full load. Fix leaks as quickly as possible. Consider installing aerator faucets and low-flow showerheads. **Green on a budget.** Think that sustainable living is not financially sustainable? Think again. While some items—such as organic produce or high-efficiency automobiles—may cost more, many of the sustainable practices outlined above cost little or nothing and may even save you money. So going green will not necessarily leave you in the red. For more budget-friendly sustainable living ideas, see Sustainable Living: **Going Green on the Cheap.**

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Neighborhood Watch: L. Robert Halpin
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Remembrance Committee: Ray Pulliam
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Any updates to the above committee's chairpersons will be published in further releases.

Meetings

Business meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m. on first Tuesdays of each month except June, July and August. Owners of properties in the Diamond Hill Historic District and others interested in supporting historic preservation are welcome to attend.

Membership

Annual dues for Active Members are \$10.00 per person and the initiation fee is \$5.00 (first year). Active Membership is limited to adult members of households owning Diamond Hill property. Annual dues for Associate Members are \$10 per person (no initiation fee). All members receive this newsletter at no charge. Newsletter subscriptions for non-members are \$5.00 per year.

Publisher's Statement

The Diamond Hill Historical Society (DHHS) is a nonprofit historic preservation organization approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Its purpose is to preserve and encourage—through the fostering of education, research and restoration—the historical and architectural integrity of the Diamond Hill Historic District. DHHS was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia February 22, 1979. Views expressed in the *Diamond Hill News* do not necessarily reflect the position of DHHS or its officers and directors.



PHOTO COURTESY MEGAN TYSON

Giving Gullah/Geechee Culture a Home at “The Little House”

It's that time of year again -- awards season -- and though the Grammys and the Oscars are nice, I like to keep an eye on the Richard H. Driehaus National Preservation Awards as well. Last year's list of winners is packed with worthy recipients, but one in particular stands out to me because of its efforts to preserve a culture I hadn't even known existed. For a long time, I had thought of Hilton Head Island, which lies off the coast of South Carolina, south of Charleston, as just another resort community in a warmer climate than my own. What I didn't know was that the island is a traditional home of the Gullah/Geechee, an African-American farming and fishing culture that spanned the barrier islands from Florida to North Carolina. Starting in 2010, preservationists led an effort to preserve that culture in the form of "The Little House."

The small, blue house was built for William Simmons, also known as “Bubba Duey,” on land purchased by his formerly-enslaved grandfather with the money he earned by enlisting in the Civil War. The house represents what Gullah culture was like on the island before a bridge was built in 1956, bringing electricity, development, and irreversible change with it.

But by the early 2000s, the house had suffered extensive damage to both its interior and exterior from weathering, animal nesting, and general disregard. Thanks to a two

the historic house began in the summer of 2010, led by Louise Miller Cohen, a relative of William Simmons, and founder and director of the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island.

Since then, with the help of donated labor from the Remodeler's Council of Hilton Head Island, the house's chimney was stabilized and reinforced; concrete footings were installed; ventilation was improved to avert moisture and termite problems; the porch steps, porch, framing, and roof overhang were removed then restored; wooden siding was replaced; and wooden shutters were hand-crafted to match the originals. The house was also repainted in its original shade of blue, known locally as “haint,” which was intended to ward off bad spirits.

But for the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island, the preservation of Gullah culture doesn't end with The Little House. The organization continues to raise funds for additional projects that include adding another building to house interactive exhibits and a community meeting space, creating a garden for indigenous plants, and constructing and preserving numerous other buildings that were used in Gullah culture for anything from settling disputes to housing migrant workers.

The museum has also applied for a grant to fund a film project intended to preserve the experience of current Gullah elders by recording their stories of what life was like in this farming and bartering community before development started

in the 1960s.

Thanks to the museum, and community organizations like the local Boys and Girls Club that have donated their time and helped them achieve their goals, more people will have the opportunity to discover the vibrant and beautiful culture of the Gullah/Geechee.

Information for this article was extracted from the National Trust for Historic Preservation web site.



Saint Patrick

Saint Patrick's Day or the Feast of Saint Patrick (Irish: Lá Fhéile Pádraig, "the Day of the Festival of Patrick") is a cultural and religious holiday celebrated on 17 March, the anniversary of his death. It commemorates Saint Patrick (c. AD 385–461), the most commonly recognised of the patron saints of Ireland, and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. It is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion (especially the Church of Ireland), the Eastern Orthodox Church and Lutheran Church. Saint Patrick's Day was made an official feast day in the early seventeenth century, and has gradually become a celebration of Irish culture in general. The day is generally characterised by the attendance of church services, wearing of green attire, public parades and processions, and the lifting of Lenten restrictions on eating, and drinking alcohol, which is often proscribed during the rest of the season. Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Newfoundland and Labrador and Montserrat. It is also widely celebrated by the Irish diaspora around the world such as Britain, Canada, the United States, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand.



Frohliche Weihnachten from Germany

Photos of the Christmas Market stalls and the Steiff Museum, which is mechanized and feels like the dolls in the **Nutcracker**, as they move, talk and seem lifelike. Bill & Mary Kathryn spent 10 days touring many markets in three countries during December of 2012; they were impressed by the store windows and wonderful cookies which were unique in each region. Nature did its best by providing a snow blanket as they toured different castles, the Salt Mines and Folk Museum. Mary Kathryn could not help but think of the German families who lived on Diamond Hill a hundred years ago. She is sure they enjoyed many of the same customs that we observed. Perhaps the most interesting was the Krampus parade in Berchtesgaden on December 5-6. Krampus who has a devil face and a cloven foot is a sidekick of St. Nicolas who takes the bad children away in a sack. He also switches the girls along the sides of the parade. It is a popular attraction in that region. In order to be a Krampus one must be a male over 16 and unmarried. Perhaps we will need to take another look in the future!



DHHS March Membership Meeting

Newman Franklin from the City of Lynchburg will be our special guest speaker. We will discuss 4 way stop signs to control traffic on Diamond Hill. Please plan to attend!



March Meeting

**Tue., Mar. 5th
7:30 p.m.**

at the

**Stabler-Bocock-Watts House
(C.1852
602 Washington St.**

Hosts: Julie & Vernon Neighbors

