



President: Mel Locklear



FRIENDS OF BITSY GRANT TENNIS NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1 – Winter 2009

New Board Members Elected

The Board is happy to announce the election of three new board members – William King, Ashley Lalande, and Lee Nunnally.

William King has been a member of the Commodores band since it was founded 40 years ago when he was a freshman at Tuskegee Institute. Two of the original members are still playing in the 8-member band which plays all over the world. While at Tuskegee, William played college tennis and won the SIAC championship in singles and was a finalist in doubles. Today he plays frequently at Bitsy; a USTA member he is ranked 8th in Georgia and the Southeastern region in his age group.

Ashley Lalande has over 8 years of consulting experience working with Accenture (formerly Anderson Consulting) and Slalom Consulting. She is currently working as a Business Development Executive at Slalom Consulting, where she is building relationships with AT&T, Autotrader.com, Kimberly Clark, and Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. She brings over 5 years of extensive eCommerce solutions experience leading teams to build over 20+ customer facing Web site implementation projects. Ashley grew up playing tennis in Lafayette, Louisiana. She was captain for two of the four years she played at Millsaps College. She has been playing on an ALTA at Bitsy Grant for the last 6 years.

Lee Nunnally is a Vice President/Accountant for WH Capital, LLC. Before returning to her hometown, she was co-owner, developer, general manager and president of the Matthews Tennis Club in Matthews, NC. Lee was an alternate on the 1978-79 University of Tennessee tennis team. She played at Bitsy Grant as a teenager and was rated #14 in Georgia's 16's. Since then she has played various tournaments all over the south and has been active in ALTA AA teams reaching the city finals multiple times. She has had the honor of playing twice with Bitsy Grant and Bobby Dodd in friendly but competitive doubles. She has wonderful memories of playing in the City Open, watching Dodd and Grant at the checkers table, and even had a "refreshment under "The Tree".

The Board wants to thank Alan Elsas, who rotated off the board at the end of 2008.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15-20 GA State Adult/Senior Open Tournament

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to support the well and other Bitsy restoration projects, please send checks payable to the Friends of Bitsy Grant Tennis, 1266 West Paces Ferry Road, Box 113, Atlanta, GA 30327.

For more information or questions, please call Barbara Howell at 404-575-0898 and visit us at www.bitsytennis.com.

Trees Atlanta and Friends of Bitsy Grant Tennis Become Partners

By Dan Lyon

On Thursday, December 4, the weather was windy, cold and rainy, but nothing could dampen the spirits of the players at Bitsy Grant Tennis Center. This day they gathered outside to memorialize "The Tree," Bitsy's best-known landmark. Her life had ended in August when drought, disease, and a thunderstorm combined to send her crashing to the ground. The Tree was the only fully grown hardwood on the Bitsy premises capable of affording shade. Over the course of fifty-plus years, she attained legendary status. Here players would bring lawn chairs and libations to cool down after a hot match on the courts. Under her limbs, oral tennis history, often embellished, flourished.

But the gathering on December 4 was a time when the players, about 50 in number and mostly seniors, remembered the past and celebrated the future. Stan Smith, Jr., legal counsel for ALTA, spoke of his father, Stan, Sr., and his devotion to "The Tree Bar." Upon Stan's death several years ago, the players placed a concrete table and bench under The Tree in his memory. Luckily these were not hit when The Tree fell. The ceremonies concluded with recollections by Peter Howell and Dan Lyon, former presidents of Bitsy's tennis association.

Through efforts by Ann DeRosa, a partnership between Trees Atlanta and Friends of Bitsy Grant Tennis has been forged. As a result, Trees Atlanta donated a 15-foot, 6-inch caliper white oak to plant in the same spot where The Tree had been. Transportation costs to move the new tree from its original site were covered by "passing the hat" among the players and contributions from the Friends of Bitsy Grant Tennis Center. Ann DeRosa and Mike Maxwell spearheaded this drive.

Special guests for the day were Marcia Bansley, executive director of Trees Atlanta, and her staff. In addition to the replacement tree, four special saplings provided by Trees Atlanta were dedicated in memory of players Cliff Sheffield, Jim Hines, Scott Bridges, and Christine Butler. An additional twenty trees were planted around the property by Trees Atlanta.

Barbara Howell, fundraiser for Friends, introduced a Legacy Plan, which will allow contributors to work with Friends to remember Bitsy in their wills. For information, go to www.bitsytennis.com.

The day concluded with hot dogs and hot chili on the clubhouse porch, prepared by "Mama Ann" DeRosa. Overall the event was quite an auspicious beginning for "The Tree Deuce."

Year end Gifts Support Friends' Activities

Thanks to all the **Friends** who supported Bitsy Grant in 2008. Over 70 individuals made contributions of cash or stock in 2008 totaling \$11,643. The yearend annual letter raised \$6,290 and other gifts supported the Tree Bar and programs such as the USTA ProAm.

Gifts can now be accepted online at www.bitsytennis.com or by mailing them to 1266 West Paces Ferry Road, Box 113, Atlanta, GA 30327.

2008 Annual Fund Donors

Ms. Theresa Abrook	Mr. William Jarrett
Mr. Paul Anderson	Mr. and Mrs. Danny Johnson
Dr. W. Perry Ballard III	Ms. Joan Keller
Mr. Thomas Benedict	Mrs. Charles E. Kerns
Mr. Bud Blanton	Mrs. Glenn Kincaid
Dr. Michael Blass	Dr. Michael Kreisberg
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Bondurant	Mr. George Kuechenmeister
Mr. Harvey Brickley	Ms. Ashley Brooks Lalande
Mr. Leslie G. Callahan III	Mr. John P. Lovell
Mrs. John Callier	Dr. Robert L. & Lucinda W. Bunnan
Mr. Hart Cobb	Mr. Jerry Luxemburger
Mr. Charlie Cox	Mrs. Ed Michaels
Mr. John DeBorde	Mr. Tom Mobley
Ms. Deborah Demoss	Mr. Bernard Neal Jr.
Mr. George Dickinson	Mr. Armistead Neely
Dr. Joseph H. Dimon III	Ms. Lee Nunnally
Mr. Scoot Dimon	Mr. and Mrs. Albert Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Dorsey	Mr. Johnny Redmond
Mr. Charles Ellis III	Mr. Robert Rives
Mr. Bruce Feuer	Ms. Elaine Nyberg Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. James Griffith	Ms. Eunice Watkins Smith
Mr. Alan Harris	Mrs. James P. Swann
Mrs. Charles B. Holloway, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Ed Van Winkle III
Mrs. Harry Howard	Mr. Charles B. Wilson II
Mrs. Clark Howell	Ms. Gail Wilson
Ms. Anne B. James	

Tree Bar Donors

Mr. Herbert Axelrod	Mr. Nikolai Makarenko
Mr. Larry Brown	Mr. Michael Maxwell
Mr. Chuck Driebe	Mrs. Joseph P. North
Mr. Alan Elsas	Mr. Clark Raby
Richard and Phyllis Franco	Mr. John Ritsema
Mr. Allen Gaines	Mr. Phil Slotin
Mr. William King	Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stine
Mr. R.V. Klenberg	Ms. Elvira Tate
Dr. Michael Kreisberg	Mr. Monte Teal
Mr. Dan Lyon	Mr. J. Roger Webster

Free Gift Giving?

Make a Gift that Costs You Nothing During your lifetime

Several Friends of Bitsy passed away in 2008 and other Friends have honored them with gifts in their name (see **In Memory of...**), but there is another way to benefit tennis at Bitsy Grant and that is by including the Friends of Bitsy Grant in your estate plans.

At the Tree Bar Dedication on December 4, the Board announced the creation of the Bitsy Grant Legacy Society. This is painless way to give a gift to your favorite charity and honor yourself or someone else.

It can be as simple or as complicated as you want. The easiest way is to include a statement in your will or trust that you want to leave a certain amount or percentage of your estate to Bitsy Grant. Other financial tools are available for you to receive an income during your life, which upon your death is directed to the Friends of Bitsy Grant.

If you are interested in learning more about this new opportunity available to Friends of Bitsy Grant, please call or email Barbara Howell at 404-575-0898 or Barbara@wellspringresource.com.

By indicating your intentions, you become a member of the Bitsy Grant Legacy Society and support a cause dear to your heart; allowing you to enjoy the rest of your own life not worrying whether your money will outlast you.

Bitsy Grant to Host 2009 GA State Adult/Senior Open

The Friends of Bitsy Grant was awarded the sanction for the 2009 Adult/Senior Open to be held August 15-20, 2009. This is the first GA State Championship to be played at Bitsy Grant since the GA State Senior Championship in 2001, sponsored by the GA Tennis Foundation. It is great to see Championship Tournaments return to Bitsy Grant which has a wonderful history dating to the US Clay Court Championships won by Tony Trabert in 1955.

This Tournament combines both the Men's and Women's Open events as well as the Senior (ages 30-85) events. Lately, they have been held at separate venues. **An Open Event means players from outside GA can compete. We look to full draws and urge everyone to participate.**

An extravagant **Gala** is planned in conjunction with the tournament, as well as a players' social. "We hope to set the standard by which other State Championships will be judged" stated Peter Howell, tournament director.

Esteemed Mac MacDougal will serve as tournament referee.

If you would like to volunteer to help this great event please contact Barbara Howell at 404-575-0898 or barbhowell@bellsouth.net.

In Memory of...

Several Friends of Bitsy passed away in 2008 and other Friends have honored them with gifts in their name.

In Memory of Dot Wood

Margaret Becker	Rosalie and Joseph North
Mariette Beerkens	Frances P. Nunnally
Clara S. Carter	Elizabeth Nuzzaco
Fio Crockford	Drexel Pringle
Norma Driebe	Jean Robertson
Frances Ann Ferguson	Jo Ellen Tansil
Cheryl Holloway	Carolyn Tidwell
Joan Merkle	Sandy Turner
Martha P. Mitchell	Becky Wheeler

In Memory of Mark Silverman

Joan Merkle

In Memory of James Lindsay

Joan Merkle

In Memory of Natalie Cohen

Nancy Merrill

In Memory of Scott Bridges

Capitol Steps Productions

In Memory of Cindy Bridges

Terry and Regina Bridges

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Positions available for the Georgia State Adult/Senior Open August 15 -20.

- Tournament Desk: Registration and Check-in
- Players Social
- Concession Chairman and volunteers

Contact **Peter Howell** at (404)364-8437 or phowell@oglethorpe.edu

GIFTS CAN NOW BE ACCEPTED ONLINE

Gifts can now be accepted online at www.bitsytennis.com or by mailing them to 1266 West Paces Ferry Road, Box 113, Atlanta, GA 30327.