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Pensacola Park Post

A Monthly Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association Distribution
Find us also on the web @ www.PensacolaPark.org

THE SUMMER SOLSTICE NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC IS THIS MONTH!

Please plan to attend the neighborhood picnic. This will be a chance to meet new neighbors, reconnect with old friends, and meet the babies that have enlivened our neighborhood over the past year or so.

WHEN: Saturday, June 24th, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Hoping for a pretty day, as there is no rain date.

WHERE: Goodrich Green space (at the end of Goodrich drive)

WHAT: Neighborhood picnic. Everyone in the neighborhood is invited.

WHO BRINGS WHAT:

PPNA will provide grilled burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs; chips; and drinks. If you'd like, bring a dish to share. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Make sure to bring bug repellent, just in case. Please text Rebecca Glasscock at 859-213-3441 if you would like to help with set-up/take down or have a question about the picnic.

Hope to see you all there!

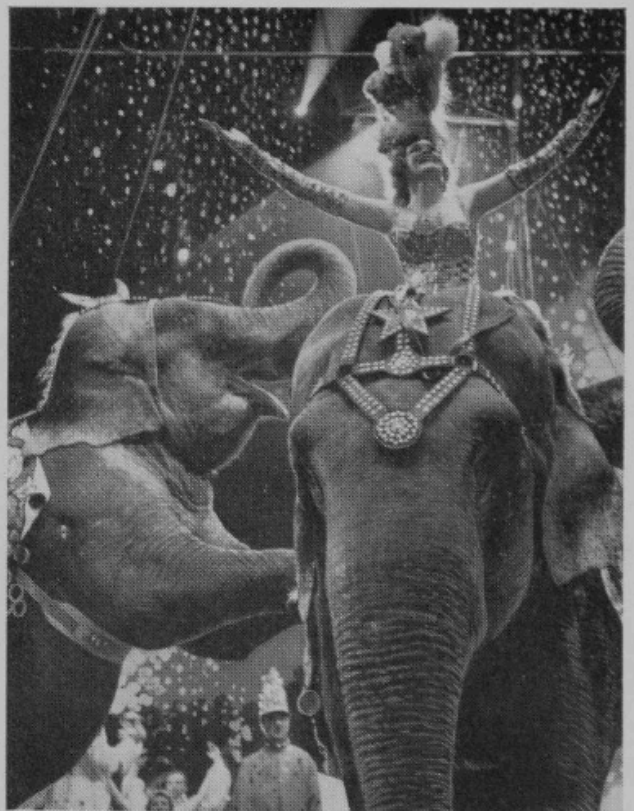
History Corner: The Circus by Rebecca C. Glasscock

From 1871 until 2017, the American traveling circus was, for many, the greatest show on earth. In 1952, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey show came to Lexington. On August 3rd, the show was in Columbus, Ohio. Seventy rail cars were loaded up for the trip to Lexington. Fred Baumann, Jr., a young boy living on Goodrich, remembers the train cars being unloaded on Rosemont. Then, on 14 acres behind Goodrich, the big top went up. Teenage boys from the neighborhood were hired to help erect the tent that was said to have a seating capacity of nearly 19,000. Of course, Fred and his family went to the show. After the shows, the whole shebang was taken down. The animals, performers, and supplies were loaded up and gone when the sun came up.

That year, in 219 days, the circus traveled 15,003 miles and visited 143 cities in 26 states and Washington D.C. The 1292 employees and 1084 animals gave 434 performances. After the final performance (In Miami), the circus traveled to its winter home in Sarasota, Florida. Still no rest for the weary as the 200 acre winter facility was open to the public every day of the week from December 1 until April 1. It sounds exhausting.

As it turned out, what Fred and his buddies witnessed was soon to end; 1957 was the last year that the circus traveled with its own big top tents. In subsequent years, sports stadiums and arenas were used. Declining attendance, high operating costs, and concerns over animal rights eventually led to the end of the traveling circus. The last show was on May 21, 2017. As a footnote, Feld Entertainment recently announced that the circus would once again tour, beginning in the fall of 2023 – without animals.

Big Top Magnificence



Striking scene from "The Good Old Times," 1952 super-spectacle of the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

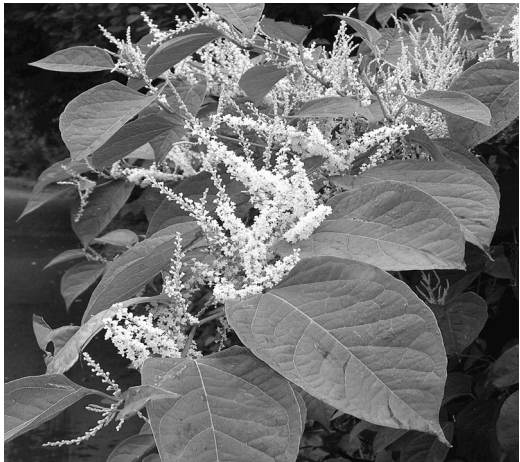
Photo by Joseph Foldes

Invasive or Not Invasive, That is the Question by Jesse Voigt

I scoured my yard for plantings I could share with the neighborhood during the plant sale this year. One in particular hides in the corner of my yard; it had crept its way over from my neighbors’ side, who has a gigantic specimen that borders our fence: a very Asianesque-looking plant that resembles a bamboo, with large round leaves. We had tried for years to get rid of this piece of planting on our side. When we first moved to our property, which was in a state of dilapidation, this plant had found a home in our garage through the myriad of cracks in the foundation. We fixed our floor, and ended up putting in a French drain in our side yard, backfilling it with two feet of gravel, and still this plant found a way up through that gravel. I figured, why fight it, why not replant it and give to the plant sale, it’s not an unattractive plant, but in researching what it is called, **Japanese Knotweed**, I found out that it is highly invasive, grows anywhere (see our gravel), spreads uncontrollably, and outcompetes natives. Not only was I not going to share this plant, this led to the wormhole of what other invasive species do we have in Kentucky.

We all know the **Bush Honeysuckle** (white flowers) takes the proverbial cake when it comes to invasive species, is nearly impossible to kill, and an arch nemesis to our municipality and fencerows alike. Though did you know that we have a native honeysuckle (red flowers) that is considered ok to plant? Then there is the **Winter Creeper**, sold at almost all garden centers, it can spread nearly as fast as kudzu. Our local arboretum spent the entire winter this year using an herbicide to try and eradicate this species as it has overtaken their wooded area; they are currently now trying a more biological attack by planting herbaceous plants like wild rye and white snakeroot to try and smother the winter creeper. The **Bradford Pear Tree** was planted as a favorite city street tree about thirty years ago with its supposed profusion of sweet-smelling white flowers (which in actuality smell like baby poop) and dense foliage, and then they found out that it hybridized with native pears, creating an ecological disaster. **Loosestrife**, also known as gooseneck, can be found in and around our neighborhood, it spreads as both seeds and a rhizome and can be incredibly difficult to control, and will often outcompete local plants. It is recommended to only grow this in a controlled zone, if at all. There is also **Japanese Barberry**, also around our neighborhood, a favorite exotic introduced in the nineteenth century as a popular landscaping plant, with its dark foliage and pink flowers, but it has been found to spread rapidly overtaking native plants, not to mention it has sharp thorns, grows six feet tall, and is believed to have helped spread lyme disease in Pennsylvania and further North due to the black legged tick favoring refuge in its foliage. Some of the other invasive plants listed on Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet’s website (eec.ky.gov) are **Chinese silver grass, garlic mustard, Japanese stilt grass, kudzu, multi-flora rose, oriental bittersweet, and winged burning bush.**

Each year our Environment Cabinet releases a list of invasive species, and they mainly focus on what is overtaking our native habitats. The recommendation is to try and avoid planting things that may not be from here and that have an aggressive growing pattern to them. Primarily try to plant natives, but if you find that sometimes you enjoy the exotics (I know I do), then try to find plants that have similar growing patterns as the natives, and plant them in areas that are contained. Also try to increase the native wild zones in your yard. That way your native pollinators can still find food, and you both can enjoy the mix of native and exotic in your yard. Nonnative species can change their public perception on a yearly basis; what was once considered in vogue, may now be considered invasive.



Japanese knotweed

HOW TO ORDER A PENSACOLA PARK EMBLEM

Please visit our website www.pensacolapark.org to order any emblems, or write us at pensacolapark@gmail.com. Payment is via paypal, check, or cash. Metal Plaque is made up of holly bronze and comes in two sizes: 8x8 (\$165) and 5x5 (\$100)



PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO PENSACOLA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

As an organization we do not currently collect any neighborhood association dues, instead we function off of grants, fundraisers, and donations from the neighborhood. Donations allow us to go after matching grants, buy trees to increase our canopy, improve street conditions, throw community events, and be able to print this newsletter. If you would like to donate, you can either: (1) Drop off Cash or Check to our GREEN PPNA mailbox at 107 Lackawanna Rd / (2) Use Paypal @ pensacolapark@gmail.com

ABOUT PENSACOLA PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY AND PENSACOLA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Pensacola Park Preservation Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 formed by Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association in order to bring together residents and businesses located in the Pensacola Park Nationally Registered Historic Boundary, for the common good of (1) preserving the historic integrity and resources of the area; (2) creating an environment that promotes sustainable and appropriate growth for the neighborhood; (3) providing historic education and assistance to those in the Pensacola Park Neighborhood for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic homes, structures, and landscapes; and (4) Unifying and being representative of all the original streets in the Pensacola Park Historic boundary. Also check us out online at www.pensacolapark.org, and follow us on Facebook @ Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association.

If you have any questions or would like to submit topics or op-eds to Pensacola Park Post, please feel free to write us at pensacolapark@gmail.com. If you would like to stop receiving the free monthly post, please write us and put “stop post” in the heading, along with your physical address. Thank you.

Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) and Pensacola Park Preservation Society (PPPS), our nonprofit. PPNA/PPPS represent ALL streets in Pensacola Park Historic District, including: Goodrich, Lackawanna, Nicholasville, Norfolk, Penmoken, Pensacola, Rosemont, Suburban, and Wabash.