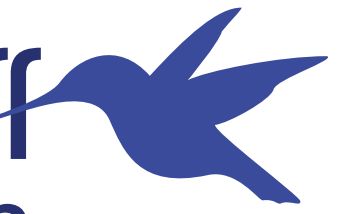


North Briarcliff Civic Association



The Official Newsletter of the
North Briarcliff Civic Association

October-December 2021

To Contact the NBCA
Email Info@northbriarcliff.org

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NBCA Off-Board Members 2021

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Maggie Casner

THE NBCA BOARD NEEDS YOU

by Andrew Heaton, NBCA President

For decades, the North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) has served as the official voice of the neighborhoods within the footprint of Hawthorne Elementary School. The Association has helped organize neighborhood watch groups, thrown social events, financially supported other community groups, and worked with elected officials to ensure that community concerns are heard. Throughout it all, the Board of Directors has been the backbone of the NBCA.



Members of the Board serve one-year terms. At each year's annual meeting, dues-paying members of the NBCA vote to elect the neighbors who have volunteered to serve for the next year.

Like any non-profit volunteer group, our leadership team experiences times of growth and retraction. The last year has been one of those times of retraction. Family emergencies, moves, and stresses due to the pandemic have caused some of our Board members to step away from the NBCA Board. Because of all this, we are now at a point where we need more Board members. New residents and neighbors should consider joining our Board.

Could that new Board member be you?

In the last two years, Board members have worked hard to keep the NBCA visible throughout one of the toughest times in our nation's history. We've continued to financially support the Briarmoor Manor Swim Club, the Hawthorne Education Foundation, and the Mary Scott Nature Park. We held a Christmas Lights competition that spotlighted the holiday lights of many of our neighbors, along with putting some holiday cash in the pockets of several winning families. We have hosted a coffee truck and a dinner truck to provide outdoor opportunities for residents to gather together in fellowship.

There is so much more we would like to do. However, to do all of this and more, we need new members on our Board to provide their ideas and energy to make this growth in activity possible. Many of our Board members are long-time residents. Our neighborhood has seen a large amount of turnover in ownership, and we would really benefit from having some newcomers join the Board.

If you are a new resident to the area, I ask you to consider if now is the right time for you to take the next step in your engagement with your neighborhood association. Joining the Board will give you an opportunity to contribute to your local community. The time commitment is not large -- one Board meeting per month, and three-to-four events throughout the year. Unlike many volunteer boards, there is no additional financial commitment for Board members other than the \$25-per-year membership fee that all NBCA member-households pay. If you are interested in becoming a member of the NBCA Board, please email me at president@northbriarcliff.org.

NBCA ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2021
7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING ALL
CURRENT MEMBERS WILL BE
REMIND BY EMAIL OR LETTER



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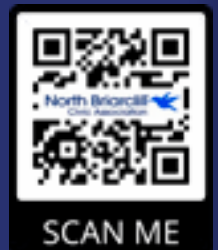
NBCA ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 10, 2021

7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

ALL CURRENT MEMBERS WILL BE REMIND BY EMAIL OR LETTER



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North Briarcliff



Civic Association

2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please return your check for annual dues and this form to:

North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) • 2566 Shallowford Road, Suite 104, PMB 132 • Atlanta, GA 30345

To pay your dues with a credit card or via PayPal, go to www.northbriarcliff.org/membership.

YES! I SUPPORT THE NORTH BRIARCLIFF CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Enclosed is my \$25.00 check for 2021 Annual Dues. (Added optional donation \$_____.)

»»» PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY «««

Name: _____ Phone (in case of questions): _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

I am (We are) interested in helping NBCA with (Circle any of the following):

Newsletter or Website Layout or Updating

Member Recruitment and Benefits

Neighborhood Watch

Board Service

Membership in the NBCA is open for all residents and owners of property within the Hawthorne Elementary School district and residents on other bordering streets who may request inclusion.

The North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) represents you. A civic association is an organization that exists to improve the neighborhood through volunteer work by members of the association. The purpose and mission of the NBCA is to promote the civic interests of the people living in our area. What this means is that this association is dedicated to informing, representing, and supporting the residents of our area in issues of public concern.

Membership in the NBCA is voluntary and is open to any resident or property owner within the Hawthorne Elementary School District and to other residents living on bordering streets who request inclusion. The newsletter is addressed to "Current Resident" to ensure that the newsletter is delivered (free of charge) to every house and condominium in the NBCA area as a service to all the residents.

We want you to help us become better representatives. As our paid membership increases, we have greater authority and leverage in dealing with (or confronting) the county and other organizations on your behalf. Renew your membership or become a member by paying your annual dues. The \$25 dues covers the household for the calendar year (January-December 2021).

Help us to better represent the interests of our neighborhood by bringing to our attention any issues or events that merit our attention. We would appreciate your perspective, and you may know more or care more about

that issue than any board or off-board member. Consider joining the board or advising the board as an off-board member so that the association is better able to address the issue in question. We would welcome your assistance, enthusiasm and expertise.

The NBCA is a non-profit organization that is managed by its board members, all of whom are neighbors who have volunteered to work together to make a difference in our local community. All of the board members are elected by the dues-paying members of the NBCA at an annual meeting in the fall. Some board members have special interests and expertise in specific areas that are important to our area, while other board members are generalists. The board members are supported by off-board members, who are neighbors who have volunteered to help the board by identifying and addressing specific areas. None of the board or off-board members receive any monetary payment for their efforts.

If you want to report something or register a complaint with the county or other agencies, the board may be able to assist you or help you contact appropriate agencies. However, you are responsible for making your report or registering your complaint. Please remember that board and off-board members are volunteers with only so much time and energy.

Email addresses for board and off-board members are listed on the front page of each newsletter and are also found on the NBCA website www.northbriarcliff.org

OCTOBER 29TH – CALLING ALL NEIGHBORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

by Lisa Limoncelli, Hawthorne Principal

Hornet Hustle – October 29th

Mark your calendars for October 29th because the Annual Hawthorne Elementary Hornet Hustle fundraiser is back and IN PERSON!! No more virtual races for us!

The Hornet Hustle is one of Hawthorne's main fundraisers and is led by the Hawthorne Elementary School Foundation (HESF). The HESF is a parent organization that raises money to meet long-term academic and environmental needs for the school.

Over the past ten years, we have:

- Purchased a new playground and designed it to be more accessible.
- Updated the school exterior.
- Supported STEM activities.
- Cared for the school grounds.
- Provided interpretation services to assist our Spanish-speaking families.

Please help support us and join in our community-building fundraiser.

Due to the Hornet Hustle being so close to October 31st, the theme this year will be "Hocus Pocus" Hornet Hustle. If you happen to see some miniature ghosts and goblins running through the neighborhood on October 29th, it's us!

Against all odds last year, we came together as a school and community to support Hawthorne and secure funding for our school needs. I cannot express the pride and gratitude I felt about how this community came together even in a time of significant challenges.

This year, our goal is to make \$15,000 so we will be able to:

- Continue supporting interpretation services and teacher needs.
- Address drainage concerns on the upper playground and work towards getting a new ground surface so it will be more conducive to wheel chairs and all weather conditions.

This is a big project, so let's all come together to make it happen!!

If you would like to support the Hawthorne Hornet Hustle, please consider making a donation in one of the following ways:

- 1) Donate online by visiting the website: www.heshornethustle.com
- 2) U.S. Mail - Please make checks payable to the Hawthorne Elementary School Foundation and mail to:

Hawthorne ES Foundation
2535 Caladium Drive NE
Atlanta, GA. 30345

Donations may be made from now until November 30th.

As always, we are truly grateful for the continued support of our community. Thank you for making Hawthorne part of your lives and continuing to enhance our lives.

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HELPFUL NEIGHBORS MONITOR WATER QUALITY AND SEWAGE SPILLS

by Art Hansen

Riverkeeper Neighborhood Water Watch Program

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper is a non-profit caretaker of the Chattahoochee River and its watershed. The Neighborhood Water Watch is a program where Riverkeeper collaborates with citizens, neighborhood groups, and schools in the Chattahoochee River watershed to monitor water quality. The goal of Neighborhood Water Watch is to improve water quality in urban streams and protect human health.

Concerned citizens collect water samples from creeks and lakes in many sites throughout the watershed and take their samples to the Riverkeeper laboratories where the water samples are promptly analyzed. Riverkeeper works with local governments. When contamination is revealed, Riverkeeper notifies local authorities and ensures that corrective action is taken to restore the health of our streams.

Our local streams and lakes are part of the Chattahoochee River watershed. All of the little streams behind our houses flow directly or indirectly (through Cravey, Echo and Flair Lakes) into the North Fork of Peachtree Creek. In our area, the North Fork flows east of (and more or less parallel to) I-85. The Creek passes west of Cravey Lake, meanders south around the ends of Hawthorne and Cosmos Drives, passes next to Flair Lake and adjacent to the Bradford Square Condominiums, crosses under Shallowford Road, skirts Sherbrook Drive, and runs parallel to Melinda Drive until, to our south, the Creek passes Fisher Trail Park and then crosses west under I-85 and enters Chamblee.

Neighbors Monitor Local Creek Water Quality

Two of our neighbors participate in the Water Watch program. Every two weeks, they sample creek water at three nearby locations:

- ▶ The small creek that flows along the border of Mary Scott Nature Park and then into Flair Lake.
- ▶ The North Fork of Peachtree Creek as it passes under Flowers Road (near the FBI building).
- ▶ The North Fork of Peachtree Creek as it passes under Shallowford Road (near Publix).

The samples collected by our neighbors during 2021 have recorded major changes in the level of total coliform and E. coli in the local creek waters (see table). In August, the samples revealed a major sewage spill into the North Fork upstream from Flowers Road.



This is a water-testing kit. Riverkeeper trains the volunteers so they know the correct way to collect creek water without contaminating the samples. Riverkeeper also provides each volunteer with a kit that contains the necessary materials to collect and store samples.



Debbie Miller demonstrating how to collect a sample from the creek. The long green cord is needed when the collector has to stand on a bridge high above the water.

Collection Date	Mary Scott Tributary		North Fork Flowers		N Fork Shallowford	
	Coliform	E. coli	Coliform	E. coli	Coliform	E. coli
1/14/2021	2,435	610	2,100	205	50	50
1/28/2021	5,270	315	19,365	1,055	100	50
2/11/2021	2,685	155	1,775	50	50	50
2/25/2021	7,575	4,935	1,705	50	50	50
3/4/2021	4,935	550	2,480	260	50	50
3/18/2021	120,980	18,270	120,980	10,710	120,980	6,670
4/1/2021	19,365	1,475	70,680	1,395	99,315	590
4/22/2021	6,980	365	3,760	360	2,175	150
5/6/2021	70,680	24,420	43,320	605	77,655	3,665
5/20/2021	24,810	3,790	6,970	630	7,270	200
6/3/2021	25,860	3,135	16,275	470	5,070	260
6/17/2021	25,860	1,065	16,275	205	9,945	155
7/1/2021	120,980	3,690	25,860	1,015	21,760	490
7/29/2021	120,980	18,270	28,970	545		
8/5/2021	28,970	1,775	38,505	1,205	28,970	1,295
8/26/2021	120,980	6,880	120,980	8,910	120,980	7,335
9/2/2021	46,040	3,445	25,860	660	28,970	260

NOTE: The Coliform and E. coli counts are in MPN/100ml.

This table shows nine months of data collected from two sites within our North Briarcliff neighborhood (Mary Scott Park and Shallowford Road) and one site just north of us (Flowers Road). The tables show the levels of total coliform and E. coli. The measures are defined and discussed below.

HELPFUL NEIGHBORS MONITOR WATER QUALITY AND SEWAGE SPILLS *CONT'D*



This shows the new sewer pipe before it was buried. In the photo, the pipe is stretched across the Flowers Road bridge over the North Fork.



This shows some of the equipment used by the county as it repaired the sewer line.

Riverkeeper notified the county, which then had to replace/reline a section of a large (30 inch diameter) sewer pipe crossing below Flowers Road (see photos). On August 24th, the Riverkeeper Facebook page stated – “Thanks to Neighborhood Water Watchers for finding a sewage spill in Mary Scott Nature Preserve! DeKalb County stopped the spill quickly, helping water quality return to baseline conditions in this Peachtree Creek tributary. Find local data at nww.chattahoochee.org.”

Our neighbors also discovered a break in a main clean water pipe between Shallowford and Flowers Road, and that break also had to be repaired by the county.

Bacterial Contamination of Creek Water

The creeks, rivers, and lakes throughout the Chattahoochee watershed are vulnerable to bacterial contamination. The most common causes for elevated levels of bacteria are storm water runoff associated with storms, leaking sewage lines or spills from treatment plants, cracked and overflowing

septic systems, agriculture, wildlife, and pet waste.

Bacteria are a natural component of all rivers, lakes and streams. Most bacteria are harmless, but certain can cause sickness in humans. The most common side effects of these sicknesses may include a short period of vomiting and/or acute diarrhea, but there also may be more serious complications. Those most at risk for the serious side effects associated with these waterborne diseases are the very young, old, and immuno-compromised.

Pathogens and Escherichia Coli (E. coli)

Pathogens are disease-causing organisms such as some types of bacteria, viruses, and protozoans. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), E. coli is the best indicator of the presence of pathogens in surface waters. E. coli is a bacteria that is commonly found in the gastrointestinal tract and feces of warm-blooded animals and humans. The presence of E. coli provides direct evidence of fecal contamination of the water. Water pollution caused by fecal contamination is a

serious problem due to the potential for contracting diseases. Elevated E. coli levels are a common indicator of sewage leaks and spills into waterways.

Total Coliform as Indicator

Monitoring for indicator organisms is usually much easier and more cost effective than actually monitoring for the disease-causing organisms. Pathogens typically occur in very small concentrations, so routinely monitoring for them is comparable to looking for a needle in a haystack. Field sampling and laboratory methods for measuring pathogens are also very time-consuming and expensive, and sometimes the analyst is at more risk for being infected by the pathogen.

As a result, it is not practical to test for pathogens in every water sample. Instead, the presence of pathogens is determined with indirect evidence by testing for an indicator organism. A microbial indicator organism is a single celled organism that is usually harmless, found in high numbers, and originates from the same sources as the pathogens you want to measure.

The most basic test for bacterial contamination of a water supply is testing for total coliform bacteria. Total coliform counts give a general indication of the sanitary condition of a water supply. Coliforms are bacteria that are always present in the digestive tracts of animals, including humans, and are found in their wastes. Coliforms come from the same sources as pathogenic organisms, are relatively easy to identify, are usually present in larger numbers than more dangerous pathogens, and respond to the environment, wastewater treatment, and water treatment similarly to many pathogens. For these reasons, coliform bacteria are a reasonable indicator of whether other pathogenic bacteria are present.

Measures – CFU and MPN

One way to measure the level of E. coli bacteria in a sample of creek water is to count the actual number of individual colony forming units (cfu) per 100 milliliters of water (cfu/100ml). Instead of cfu, the Riverkeeper lab uses MPN (most probable number), the statistical probability of the number of organisms. The MPN and cfu measures are supposed to provide similar values.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends an E. coli recreational safety level for primary contact of 126 cfu/100ml or less. Because it is common to find high bacteria counts in urban areas, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream advises that counts that exceed a 1,000 cfu/100 ml threshold may warrant special attention.

UPDATE ON THE PEACHTREE CREEK GREENWAY

by Betsy Eggers, Founder, Peachtree Creek Greenway, Inc.

Although 2020 and 2021 are hitting many people with great difficulties, there is a silver lining. We are blessed by living in an area with a good climate and many natural areas. The outdoors beckons us, and more people are recognizing the need for more places away from car traffic to enjoy nature.

We have been leaving the inside of our homes to sit on porches, eat on decks, and visit nearby parks. There are more children on bicycles, more neighbors walking dogs, and more commuters trading 4-wheel vehicles for 2-wheel bicycles. More and more community members are finding respite and meeting friends outside their homes. Paved trails that connect communities are being utilized and supported like never before.

The proposed Peachtree Creek Greenway (PCG) will provide people in our North Briarcliff area with a free, public, multi-use trail for walkers, runners, bicyclists, parents pushing strollers, shoppers, and commuters. The Greenway will closely parallel the North Fork of Peachtree Creek through our area. The Greenway will extend for 12 miles from Brookhaven and Chamblee through our North Briarcliff area to Doraville and farther north. The Greenway may extend past Spaghetti Junction into Gwinnett County.

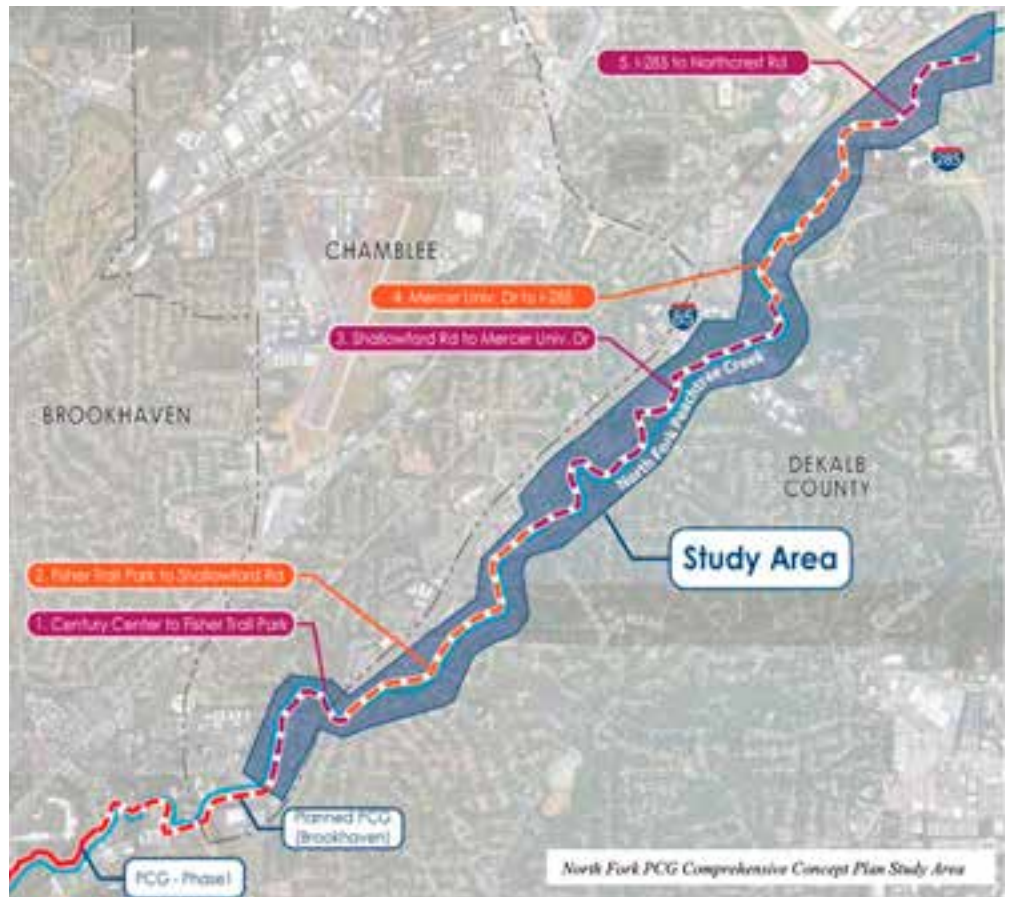
“When’s the Peachtree Creek Greenway coming our way?”

The question has been asked for many years as neighbors are anticipating and looking forward to the Greenway coming closer to where we live, work, and play. The news is positive, although the answer is complicated. The Greenway effort has grown during the pandemic. Significant progress has been made, and the first section in Brookhaven has been completed.

Planning is complicated because, unlike the BeltLine that is only in Atlanta, the Peachtree Creek Greenway will stretch through at least two counties (Fulton and DeKalb) and four cities. We call this the “ABCDD Greenway line” from Atlanta, Brookhaven, Chamblee, and unincorporated DeKalb County, to Doraville.

Planning for Unincorporated DeKalb County

This year, the DeKalb County Commissioners funded the “North Fork Peachtree Creek Greenway Comprehensive Concept Plan.” The Concept Plan includes approximately six miles of the Greenway from Clairmont Road (the Brookhaven-Chamblee city limits) north through Spaghetti Junction to Silverback Stadium (see accompanying plan).



The North Fork Peachtree Creek Greenway (PCG) Comprehensive Concept Plan Study Area. The red and white line is the PCG. The unshaded area at the bottom left shows Phase I and the planned PCG in Brookhaven. The shaded area shows five phases in the Concept Plan’s study area:

- ✓ Phase 1. Century Center in Chamblee, then crossing under I-85 to Fisher Trail Park.
- ✓ Phase 2. Fisher Trail Park to Shallowford Road.
- ✓ Phase 3. Shallowford Road to Mercer University Drive.
- ✓ Phase 4. Mercer University Drive to I-285 (close to Spaghetti Junction).
- ✓ Phase 5. I-285 (close to Spaghetti Junction) to Northcrest Road.

Support the Greenway -- DeKalb & Chamblee ACTION THROUGH SUPPORT

At every step, the non-profit that advocates for the Greenway -- Peachtree Creek Greenway, Inc. (PCGI) -- has been propelling the project forward.

- ✓ Each of the county and city government entities involved needs multi-jurisdictional support from residents throughout the region.

There is an October 13th opportunity for neighbors’ involvement, and there will be more opportunities in the next six months for local residents to participate in moving the expanding Greenway closer to reality.

- Attend the first public hearing presenting the Concept Plan. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021 starting at 6:00 pm at 2635 Century Pkwy (1st Floor Auditorium). The meeting may be on Zoom.

YOU ARE INVITED!



A Public Meeting For

North Fork Peachtree Creek Greenway Study

WHEN:

6:00 p.m.
Wednesday,
October 13, 2021

In Person:

Highwoods Auditorium
2635 Century Pkwy NE,
Atlanta, GA 30345

The North Fork Peachtree Creek Greenway will connect neighborhoods, businesses and parks from Brookhaven/Chamblee City limit to the I-285/I-85 spaghetti junction. All are welcome to attend in person or virtually to provide important input and feedback towards the planning process!



POLLINATOR CENSUS 2021 IN MARY SCOTT NATURE PARK (MSNP)

by Susan Hansen

August 22, 2021 was the date for the Great Georgia Pollinator Census. This is the third year the Georgia Extension Service has promoted this program to understand and advance pollinator health. Pollinators are necessary for almost all the foods we eat. Pollinators include bees, wasps, flies, and butterflies.

Important Oval Area Inside the MSNP Driveway

Please protect the oval planting area inside the MSNP driveway. This oval area is an important location for plants and pollinators. Visitors to the park should take care not to damage the plantings. Drivers should take care to stay in the roadway and not to shortcut over the planted areas.

I counted the pollinators in the oval planting area inside the driveway. The plant that was most visited was the native mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum incanum*). It does not have a showy flower, but the bees love it. This year I saw 10 honeybees, seven native bees, 17 wasps, and one small butterfly. It was encouraging to see honeybees this year because I did not see any honeybees last year when I did the count.

Pollinators need flowers in spring, summer, and fall. Shrubs planted in the oval that have flowers for pollinators are spring-flowering *Itea virginica*, blueberries, and beauty berry. For summer, there is St. John's Wort and Georgia savory, and the tall Joe Pye weed attracts butterflies in summer.

We have some butterfly weed for Monarch butterflies, but I have not seen any Monarchs. In the garden, there is tall devil's walking stick in several places. If you look high in summer, bees find the flowers. It also produces berries for the birds in fall.

Do Not Spray for Mosquitoes

Please do not spray your yard for mosquitoes. Spraying to kill mosquitoes also kills the butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. The county is monitoring the mosquitoes in the park. NO West Nile mosquitoes have been found.



Mountain mint in MSNP



Oxeye daisy and mountain mint in MSNP

SKINCARE 101

Skincare has become more and more trendy over the past few years. You may hear people on TV talking about the newest moisturizer, toner, oils, etc. and wonder “what exactly is that?” And more importantly, “do I really need that?” Read ahead to learn 3 basic steps that are the building blocks of skincare.

The skin is the largest organ of the body and protects us from pathogens and other outside threats, so it’s important to take care of it. Keeping your skin healthy can reduce your chances of skin cancer and also help reduce signs of aging such as wrinkles and fine lines. Also, it helps leave you feeling refreshed and clean.

The first step to creating your skincare routine is discovering what type of skin you have. Is your skin oilier and shinier after a long day? Or do you have patches of dry, flaky skin? Or maybe it’s a combination of both? Discovering your skin type as either normal, dry, oily, or combination determines what type of products you use and what works best for you.

Once you've discovered your skin type what comes next? A basic skincare routine contains three different steps: cleansing, moisturizing, and applying sunscreen.

Cleanser is an important first step because it removes dirt and bacteria from your skin that has collected on your face throughout the day or while you slept. As a general rule of thumb, it is important to cleanse both morning and night because it helps to clean your pores and also allows your skin to absorb everything you will be applying to it in the following steps. However, if you have dry skin, some dermatologists recommended just rinsing with water in the morning.

The next step in the process is moisturizer. Your skin needs moisturizer to help replenish the water it has lost throughout your day’s activities. It is important to find a moisturizer that works with your skin type because otherwise it could lead to your face becoming too dry or oily. Also, if you have sensitive skin make sure to test the moisturizer out in a small quantity on the back of your hand first to make sure it won’t irritate your whole face. Moisturizer is put on both day and night.



The last step in the process is the most important step... sunscreen. Sunscreen is important to use because it protects against skin care as well as wrinkles and dark spots. In order for the sunscreen to be effective, dermatologists recommended using one that is at least 30 SPF. You want to make sure to use sunscreen every morning even if it is cloudy outside. Many moisturizers or foundations contain sunscreen, so you may be able to combine this step.

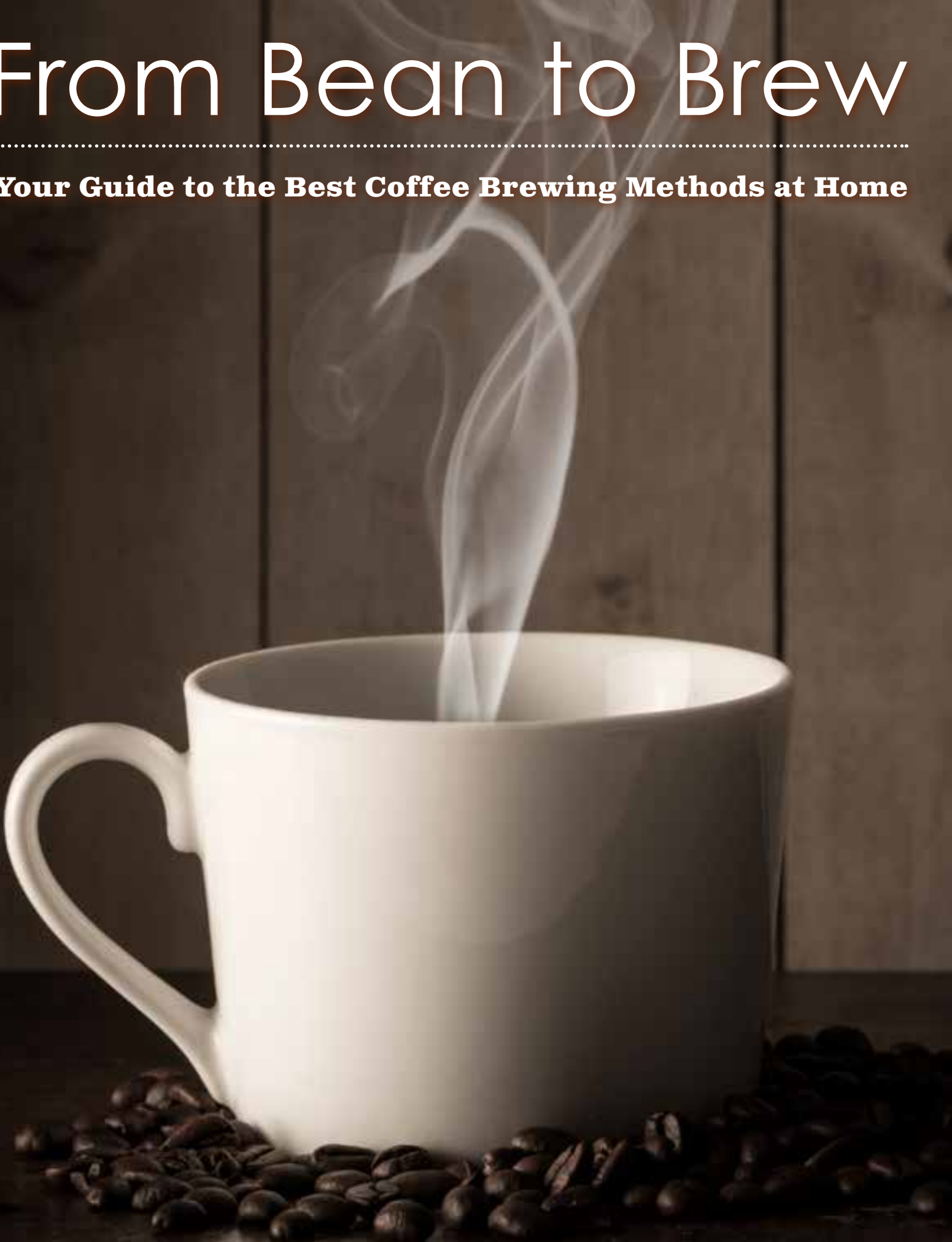
As you get more comfortable with your basic skincare routine, you may want to try adding in a few more steps, there are many other skincare items you can add into your routine such as oils, masks, exfoliators, and toners.



Article by Mary Rose Provence.
I am a current senior at the University of Georgia studying the field of Advertising with the pursuit of a Master's in Journalism. Contact me at mrprovence@gmail.com.

From Bean to Brew

Your Guide to the Best Coffee Brewing Methods at Home



Coffee can trace its heritage back to the Ethiopian plateau where legend says the goat herder Kaldi discovered these beans around 850 AD. There is also evidence of coffee drinking from the early 15th century, in the Sufi monasteries of Yemen, spreading soon to Mecca and Medina.

By the 16th century, coffee spread to the Middle East, South India, Persia, Turkey, India, northern Africa, the rest of Europe and Southeast Asia. Today, coffee has three primary growing locations: Central and South America, Africa and The Middle East and Southeast Asia. These regions are located along the equatorial zone between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, widely known as the “Bean Belt.” There are over 100 coffee species, but the two most economically important varieties are the Arabica and the Robusta, with Robusta carrying more caffeine than Arabica.

With coffee now being one the world’s most widely consumed beverages, different methods and machines have been invented to cater to everyone who wants a taste. To make the process stress-free and simple, here is a condensed list of the different methods to make your delicious cup o’ Java. Ranging from the Pour Over Method to the French Press method, and many more in between, we will cover it all and you will be a coffee-making connoisseur in no time.

THE POUR OVER/DRIP METHOD

Welcome to one of the cheapest and oldest ways to make coffee at home. First, grind the beans evenly and pour hot water over the paper filter or cone. The paper filter results in a clarified mouth feel as it holds back oils and undissolved coffee particles from the final cup. Your brew time will end up being 2.5 to 3 minutes and the flavor will be pure and strong.

THE FRENCH PRESS METHOD

Invented in 1929, this innovative method is reliable, fast and enjoyable. In the French press pot, the coarsely ground coffee is soaked, steeped, and then strained in boiling water. It’s important to grind the coffee coarsely, because if it’s too fine, you’ll have particles stuck in the filter and passing into the finished brew, adding to over-steeping and leaving you with a bitter taste. The process takes about 10 minutes in total and the result will be a unique and distinctive flavor and a large pot of coffee.

THE COFFEEMAKER METHOD

This is perhaps the most common way to make coffee at home. Keurig wins the gold medal for being the preferred brand that offers single-cup brewing machines for homes and offices. However, if you like to have multiple cups throughout the morning, Black & Decker, Mr. Coffee, Cuisinart Coffee, and Bunn HP all brew roughly 7 cups of coffee. Fill up the tank with water and put coffee grounds in the pod. Then a pump sucks in the water, heats it to the right temperature, and forces it through the ground coffee to release the flavor. Your brewing time will be less than 2 minutes and the flavor will be rich and delicious.

ESPRESSO

Invented in Italy in 1901, espresso was invented so people could consume very concentrated, gulpable drinks in half a minute. With any espresso maker, pressurized boiling water is forced through a chamber/puck of finely ground coffee beans, through a filter, resulting in what we call espresso. Your stovetop machine will only take 2 to 3 minutes to brew the coffee and the result is strong, sharp and full of flavor. Adding hot water will turn it into an Americano; steamed milk will make a milk-based coffee. If you want to explore other makers available in the market, try the pump-driven, piston-driven, steam-driven, and air-pump driven espresso machines.

SIPHON METHOD

Invented in Germany around the 1840s, this method works on the mechanism of forcing hot water inside the chamber containing coffee grounds by using immersion, vacuum pressure, and fire. A syphon brewer has four parts: the top and bottom chambers, a filter and a heat source. Water is placed in the bottom part of this all-glass contraption, which is the bulb. A flame heats the water to boiling until the water percolates upwards to the upper part of the device, called the hopper. Once the water reaches the right temperature, coffee grounds are added to the hot water. After an initial stir, remove the siphon from the heat source. The change of pressure and the force of gravity will draw the coffee down, through the filter to the bulb. The grind size of the coffee should be medium fine, like salt, and the brewing time will be around six minutes. The siphon method is as esoteric as they come, so if you are aiming for dramatic, this is the way to go.

COLD BREW

The name says it all: using room temperature or cold water for a fine cuppa joe. Use a coarse, medium-fine grind — like granulated sugar. Combine the grounds with water (one cup of grounds to four cups of water), let it steep 12-24 hours, then strain by lining a small strainer with cheesecloth or flour sack cloth over a large cup or bowl. Transfer it to a cup or bottle. Methods range from pricey cold brew makers to a mason jar; either results in a crisp and refreshing taste.

AEROPRESS METHOD

Created by Alan Adler in 2005, this method is relatively new and combines immersion (where water and coffee grounds steep, like French press) and filtration (like pour over, because it uses paper filters). To get started, wet a paper filter, fit it into the device, assemble the two plastic components, add coffee and water, and then plunge. The result is concentrated coffee that lends itself to dilution with hot water. The grind size doesn’t matter -- you will get a different result based on your grind, so choose the right grind size based on your mood. This brew leaves you with a smooth, rich and pure taste in a matter of minutes and cleanup is a dream.



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