

ROLAND PARK NEWS

Saying Goodbye...and Thank You...to Mille Fleurs

By Kate Culotta

We first became acquainted with Mille Fleurs about 18 years ago, when fledgling florists Diane Pappas and Kathy Quinn took over the former But No Bunnies, a children's clothing store in Wyndhurst Station. Pappas and Quinn first met during a two-year certificate Florist Program at Dundalk Community College. Quinn wanted to leave her position with local interior designer, Rita St. Clair, and Pappas was a practicing physician with specialties in radiology and mammography. The pair ran Mille Fleurs together until two years ago, when Quinn's other love, animal rescue, pulled at her heartstrings and pulled her away to start another adventure.

When I sat down with Pappas a few weeks ago, I asked about her "it" talent. As I am in a creative field myself, I know you've either got it or you don't. A formal education can only hone an existing talent, so where did the floral artistry come from, and why did it take so long to come to the surface? Pappas told me the story of her childhood. She grew up in a small Pennsylvania town and, as a young girl with a love of science, she always knew she would go into medicine.

After school and on weekends, though, she hung around a small florist shop that was within walking distance of her home. It was not her family's business, but the owner and employees let Pappas explore the coolers and greenhouses, and she watched them take orders and create beautiful arrangements. She didn't quite understand it at the time, but she was drawn to the beauty, color and texture of the flowers.

Pappas stayed on a scientific track through school, following her chosen academic field and enrolling in

medical school. Her residency at the University of Maryland brought her to Maryland. Even before she completed her medical training, she knew it wasn't going to be enough.

When Pappas asked her husband for advice, he said, "Practice medicine for a year, and if you're not completely happy, you have my blessing to do something else."

One year later, Diane started taking classes at Dundalk Community College and made a new friend.

It didn't take long for Mille Fleurs, with Pappas and Quinn at the helm, to make a name for itself, bringing sophisticated floral designs and unparalleled service to its clients. Even from the start, the shop's mantra has been "quality and service first." Pappas has always made personal visits to clients' homes an important part of her service, whether to decorate a staircase or mantle with Christmas greens or create an important tablescape or floral arrangement for a

special occasion. Year-round, Pappas made at least one home appointment every week.

She explained, "It's so important to see the environment that the arrangement will be in."

I spoke with one of Pappas' clients recently, and she told me about her relationship with Mille Fleurs. Barbara Lazzati lives in Baltimore County and first admired an arrangement at the home of Marie Cappiello, a client of Mille Fleurs since the company's early days. Lazzati admired the arrangement so much, she asked for Mille Fleurs' contact information. She then sent an arrangement to an ill friend who, as a native of Denmark, is



After almost two decades of providing beautiful arrangements and flawless customer service, Mille Fleurs has closed.
Photo courtesy of Diane Pappas



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News from Robert E Lee Park

By Nancy Horst

The Marshes of Lake Roland...A Fragile Place

“Warm air filled the marsh and I knew that winter had set its prisoner free. This is the month of gentle rain rushing to flood mud flats, when grasses and leaf multiply by thousands, millions, more than any mind can count, more greens than one can mix. This month gives its scream in birth—bud, leaf, cocoon and egg. Days alternate between coolness and warmth, when cattails begin their ten foot growing. I saw the first wood anemone and heard the skewk skewk of the green heron. If one exults in what he sees and hears and smells in nature, it is with good cause, for we too are becoming free.”

Robert J. Wirth

The late Robert Wirth, an artist, graphic designer and MICA teacher whose work focused on the environment, penned these words nearly 45 years ago on his walks near Lake Roland in Robert E Lee Park. But the words ring as true today as they did then. ❖

Photo Essay

“As I make my rounds, I carefully view my surroundings, listening intently and engaging all my senses. I always carry a camera so I am ready when I see something that would be a good picture. Quietly approaching an animal, I observe, identify and capture the moment...”

“I have always enjoyed nature and photography. So, putting them together and capturing that perfect wildlife photo gives me a rush and makes me feel alive. Springtime photography is capturing the rejuvenating of plants, flowers and wildlife coming back to the park.”

Ranger Bart Viguers



The yellow-crowned night heron, a gorgeous, slate-grey bird with a black head and bill, white cheeks, orange legs and showy and distinctive yellowish crown and plumes, builds stick nests in trees or on the ground, and lays four or five pale blue-green eggs. It favors wooded swamps or coastal thickets, but can occasionally be found in the wilds of suburban Ruxton. It eats fish, crustaceans and bugs, grasping its prey in its bill, tossing it into the air and swallowing it headfirst.



Turtles are fantastic reptiles and Robert E Lee Park has an abundance of turtle species, including the Eastern Painted Turtle, Red-Eared Slider, Northern Red-bellied Cooter and Eastern Snapping Turtle. Red-Eared Sliders get their name from the distinctive red patch of skin around their ears, and from their ability to slide off rocks and logs into water quickly. They are omnivores, eating a variety of animal and plant materials that includes fish, crayfish, tadpoles, snails, crickets, aquatic insects and numerous aquatic plants. Red-Eared Sliders remain inactive at the bottom of ponds or shallow lakes during the winter months. This Red-Eared Slider female pictured is just laying her eggs.

Photos: Ranger Bart Viguers



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Robert E Lee Park's Spring Programs

Registration is limited and required for all programs, except bird walks. Call 410-887-4156 or email releepark-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov to register.

- March 23, 2 to 4 p.m., **Natural Egg Dyeing**. Bring your own eggs to celebrate the ancient tradition of egg decorating. We'll use natural materials to craft our eggs in a variety of styles. All ages; \$3 per person.
- March 30, 6 to 8 p.m., **Flashlight Egg Hunt**. Search for eggs and nocturnal animals on this nighttime egg hunt! Bring your flashlights with you on this fun hike through our trails. Ages 5 and up; \$3 per person.
- April 6, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Project Clean Stream**. Join the rangers to beautify Lake Roland. Bring your boat or help clean up the shore. All boaters must wear a life jacket. Ages 14 and up; free. Participants under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- April 13, 2 to 4 p.m., **Natural Play**. Nature will be our playground for movement and fitness activities. We'll use logs,

rocks, water and the trails for running, climbing, balancing, crawling, carrying and more! Ages 6 to 12; free.

- April 26 (rain date April 27), 6 to 8 p.m., **Welcoming in Spring Campfire**. Join us for an evening around the campfire, where we'll toast marshmallows, tell tales and sing songs. Your stories and instruments are welcome, too! Ages 5 and up; \$3 per person.
- Ongoing, second Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Habitat and Trail Team**. Join a ranger and the Habitat and Trail team as you help maintain the beauty of Robert E Lee Park. We have some of the best trails in Baltimore, so come get your hands dirty! Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring water. Ages 14 and up; free.

Should you require special accommodations (language interpreter, large print, etc.), please give as much notice as possible by calling the Agriculture, Nature, and Special Facilities Regional Office at 410-887-4156, or the Therapeutic Office at 410-887-5370/TTD: 410-887-5319. ❖



Monarch butterflies are considered the "king" of all butterflies. All stages of the butterfly's life cycle are colorful. The chrysalis is a beauty, with a green casing and a gold dotted crown. After about 10 to 14 days, the adult emerges. Its wings are tiny, crumpled and wet. The butterfly clings to its empty chrysalis and inflates its wings until they dry and harden. The Monarch in this picture is ready to take flight.

Newsletter Seeks Editor

Well-established community newsletter ISO¹ energetic new editor with an eye for details, excellent time-management skills, and commitment to spreading the good word about Greater Roland Park. GSOH² a bonus.

¹In search of

²Good sense of humor

Reply to: newsletter@RolandPark.org

Not a morning person? We can change that!

Spring Menu debuts March 21st!

Miss Shirley's CAFE

"dangerously delish" fare features many a "Chesapeake" or "Southern" twist
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