

ROLAND PARK NEWS

Ensuring the Future of Roland Park by Gazing into the Past

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An Interview with Doug Munro

By Henry Mortimer

Sometimes in the midst of a journey, it's necessary to stop and glance backward, to acknowledge and appreciate where you've been, in order to keep moving forward. Or, to put it more succinctly, as Confucius once did, "Study the past if you want to define the future." As a community, Roland Park, and by extension the city of Baltimore, is on a journey right now, transitioning from its foundational role rooted in the 19th and 20th centuries to that of a vibrant and valuable resource for the 21st century and beyond. The challenges encountered along the way are not insignificant — How do we modernize our communities and yet preserve the past? What elements of our past can and should be saved? And at what cost? — and they are ongoing. Former Roland Park resident and author Doug Munro addresses these issues and others in a new book, *Greater Roland Park*. Part pictorial essay, part historical document, part fundraising effort, Munro's timely volume contains several hundred photos, maps, and memorabilia, mined from a dozen or more public and private collections, to remind readers everywhere of the importance of historic preservation for providing context to everyday life and ensuring a healthy future for America's cities.

Please briefly describe your new book, *Greater Roland Park*. What inspired you personally to write it?

Greater Roland Park is part of Arcadia Publishing's popular "Images of America" series. I expect RPN readers will be familiar with this series of books, which always have a sepia-toned photo on the cover.

In spring 2008, I became webmaster of the Roland Park web site ([RolandPark.org](http://rolandpark.org)), which Phil Spevak built and ran previously, and I served for about two and a half years. During that time, I had some fun creating a "then and now" series of web pages, comparing historical images of the Roland Park area with modern photos of the same scenes. (These photos are still on line at <http://rolandpark.org/>

ThenAndNow.html and I occasionally tinker around with them. In fact, I'm working on a greatly expanded version, which I hope to complete this year.)

(A)ll proceeds from the book are going to the Foundation for preservation purposes, which is a cause I hope all Roland Parkers will support.

Arcadia staff must have stumbled upon this site, because they approached me in early 2012 about doing a book. Although we were gearing up to move from Roland Park to the Lake Roland area, I decided to tackle the project and submitted a proposal to Arcadia, with the help and support of Mary Page Michel and the Roland Park Community Foundation. The Foundation agreed to buy copies of the book to sell for fund-raising, and all proceeds from the book are going to the Foundation for preservation purposes, which is a cause I hope all Roland Parkers will support.

The book is on sale at major retail chains and locally at the Ivy Book Shop in Lake Falls, Gundy's Gift Shop, Schneider's Paint & Hardware, and Eddie's Supermarket, all in Roland Park (actually, Tuxedo Park, since we're being historical).

The book is billed as "a pictorial history of Greater Roland Park," and includes images from a number of notable public collections, including the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, the Baltimore County Public Library, the Smithsonian, as well as local private collections. Describe your experiences as you visited and explored the various collections.

A successful photo book is completely dependent on sources, and I was blessed to have many good ones. The book contains about 200 photos and old maps, only a minority of which appear on the then-and-now website.

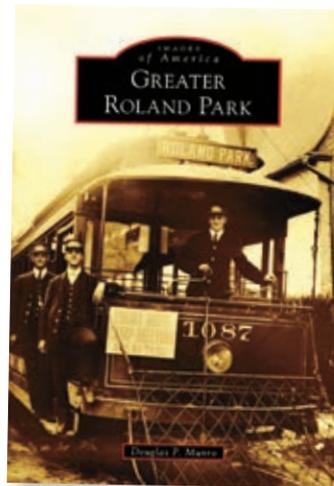


Image courtesy of Baltimore Streetcar Museum/Doug Munro.

Natural Selections

Cylburn Arboretum (4915 Greenspring Avenue) is a 207-acre, nature preserve and public garden located in northwest Baltimore. The property takes its name from the Civil War-era mansion, which was once the private estate of industrialist Jesse Tyson. The house, designed by Baltimore City Hall architect George Aloysius Frederick, was completed in 1888. Now it is home to the Cylburn Arboretum Association and the Horticultural Division of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. This partnership has preserved and protected the Arboretum as a place of beauty and open space for more than half a century.

Cylburn has an extensive and expanding collection of trees and shrubs, including groves of magnolias, hollies, conifers and Japanese maples. The grounds include 13,000 square feet of greenhouse space, more than three miles of walking trails, wildflowers and natural habitats. The grounds are open to the public from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.

Summer events include:

- June 18, 7:30 to 9 p.m., **Firefly Walk**, Vollmer Center. Learn about the different types of fireflies that live in Maryland from expert Dr. Abner Lall. After a short presentation, follow Dr. Lall on a walk through Cylburn and use your new knowledge to identify the different types! A great activity for families and groups, this program is an annual favorite. \$5 per person.
- June 21, 1 to 3 p.m., **Summer Solstice Flower Arranging Class with Local Color Flowers**, Greenhouse Classroom. Come learn all about locally grown flowers, the farmers that grow them and design techniques to make them look extra special. Local Color Flowers owner Ellen Frost will begin with a short presentation about the types of flowers available locally (within 100 miles of Baltimore) in the early summer. Students will also learn about our region's flower farmers and where they can buy local flowers. You'll make your own flower arrangement with help and guidance from Ellen! All supplies included, \$75, \$70 for members.
- June 22 through July 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., **Cylburn Nature Science and Art Camp**, Cylburn Mansion. The camp program has been developed to capitalize on the Cylburn environment and its natural resources. The camps are one-week sessions for children of various ages, all camps are based outdoors with a mix of science and creative based experiential learning. Find out more at cylburn.org.
- July 1, 15, 22 and August 12, 26, 6 to 8 p.m., **Cylburn Sounds Jazz Series**, Cylburn grounds. Spend the nice summer nights at Cylburn! Bring a chair or a blanket and a picnic, and enjoy the music from various artists through the summer. Carpooling is highly encouraged as parking is very limited! Free!

Please call 410-367-2217 to register for these programs in advance. Please check the website for late additions to our programming calendar. For more information, visit cylburn.org or call Cylburn Arboretum at 410-367-2217.

Summer events at **Robert E. Lee Park** include:

Saturdays, June 6 through October 10, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., **Nature Drop-in at Acorn Hill**. Each Saturday we offer nature crafts, live animals, water fun, bamboo teepees or other fun activities in the play area. Ages 5 & up (accompanied by an adult). Registration not required.

June 13th, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., **Fishing Derby**. Learn the fishing basics from rangers and compete for prizes. Other activities will include games, crafts, and making your own fishing pole. Ages 5 & up, \$5.

June 14th, 2 to 5 p.m., **Flat-water Paddling Basics for Canoe**. Learn flat-water paddling techniques, self-rescue, safety and gear selection. This is an American Canoe Association certified instructional program. Ages 10 & up \$10, (\$8 members).

June 20, 2 to 4 p.m., **Serpentine Hike**. Robert E. Lee Park is part of a narrow band of serpentine lands that once stretched from Alabama to Canada. Join rangers on a hike through the rare plant life and rocks of this globally rare habitat. Ages 8 & up, free!

June 26, 7 p.m. to June 27, 9 a.m., **Great American Campout**. Join thousands of people across the nation for The Great American Campout! Rangers will lead the group on a night hike and end the evening with a campfire. All ages, \$5, (\$3 members).

Saturdays, July 11 through August 1, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Introduction to Plein Air Drawing for Adults**. Develop your artistic talents in the beautiful surroundings of Robert E. Lee Park. All levels welcome from novices to advanced. Great for those who love nature and are interested in drawing it in charcoal! \$25 for 4 week session (\$20 members). Adults only.

July 11 and 12, 2 to 4 p.m., **Nature Quest Hike**. Join a ranger-led hike to find one of the Nature Quest markers at Robert E. Lee Park and learn all about this fun, free activity taking place in Baltimore County parks. Ages 5 & up, free!

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Natural Selections

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Enjoy the great outdoors this summer at Cylburn Nature Science and Art Camp. Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum.



July 18, 2 to 4 p.m., **Butterfly Celebration.** Celebrate these beautiful “flying flowers” with face painting, insect

hunts, crafts and more. Join a citizen’s science effort to identify and inventory butterfly and moth species. Enjoy learning about the Checkerspot Butterfly and our efforts to reintroduce it. Ages 5 & up, \$5, (\$3 members).

July 25, 1 to 3 p.m., **Nature Quest Canoe Trip.** Rangers and participants will search for the Nature Quest marker while also enjoying time on the lake looking for wildlife such as turtles, beavers, eagles and many others. Ages 6 and up, \$10, (\$8 members).

July 25, 2 to 4 p.m., **Nature Sculpture for Kids.** How does an artist move from an idea to a finished work of art? We’ll take a hike in the woods and learn about materials and techniques used by



Learn about the different types of firefly that live in Maryland. Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum.

the artists in the “Art on the Trail” collection, and investigate our own artistic processes through hands on building of sculptures inspired by nature. Artwork from this program will be on exhibit the following

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day at the “Art on the Trail” opening reception. Ages 6 to 10, \$3, (\$2 members).

August 2, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Honeygo Regional Park Nature Quest Hike**. Join a ranger-led hike to find one of the Nature Quest markers at Honeygo Regional Park, and learn about this fun, free activity that is taking place in several parks in Baltimore County. Participants will meet at the Honeygo playground to begin this hike. Ages 5 & up, free!

August 8, 2 to 4 p.m., **Mud Day**. Discover the lost art of mud pie making while getting down and dirty with mud painting, mud sculpture, mud games, muddy obstacle course, and more! Then clean off by running through the sprinklers, or get hosed off by the fire department! All ages, \$5, (\$3 members).

August 15, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., **Bark with a Park Ranger**. This program has gone to the dogs! Well-behaved dogs on leashes and their owners can join rangers on a night hike through Robert E. Lee Park. All children must be accompanied by an adult. One dog per adult. Ages 12 & up, \$3, (\$2 members).

August 21st, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., **Cricket Crawl Campfire**. Join rangers for a night hike and a sound census of the late summer crickets and katydids. Learn to identify different species of crickets and katydids by their calls, and catch a glimpse of moths and other nocturnal animals. After listening to the evening chorus, we’ll gather at the campfire and enjoy s’mores. Ages 5 & up, \$3.

August 29, 2 to 4 p.m., **Fairies & Dragons**. Come learn about the mysterious forest-dwellers of myth and legend. Then search the park for signs of dragons and the fair folk, and use natural



Learn canoeing techniques at Robert E. Lee Park. Photo courtesy of Robert E. Lee Park.

materials in the woods to create a fairy house or dragon’s lair to take home. Ages 5 & up, \$5, (\$3 members).

September 5 or September 6, 2 to 4 p.m., **Choo Choo! Tracks & Trains**. All aboard for an adventure! Explore the old, hidden tracks of past trains in Robert E. Lee Park. Children can enjoy games, learn all about trains from the parks past, and make their own wooden train to ride the rails at Robert E. Lee Park! Ages 4 to 10, \$5, (\$3 members). ❖

I like writing in French, but speaking in Italian.

I’m not superstitious
(except when I’m playing soccer).

There are two sesamoid bones in the distal
portion of the first metatarsal.

Sometimes the most valuable perspective
is someone else’s.

I know this because I go to Park.

The Park School of Baltimore is an independent, coeducational,
non-sectarian, progressive Pre-K–12 school. parkschool.net

