

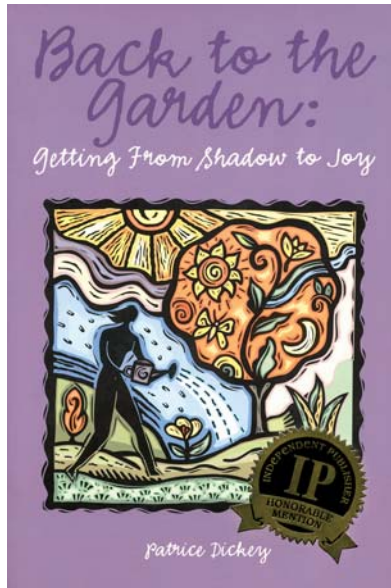
Atlanta Author teams up with Park Pride

Atlanta author Patrice Dickey has joined forces with Park Pride in its quest to build a world-class park system in Atlanta. A portion of the proceeds from Dickey's book, "Back to the Garden: Getting from Shadow to Joy," will be donated to the organization.

"Growing up, my family lived in the first suburb beyond the Chicago city limits in a place alive with parks, appropriately named Park Ridge," said Dickey, who is in her seventh year of teaching "Get the Life You Love," at Emory University's Center for Lifelong Learning. "As a child I learned the magic of woods and creeks and trees, public ice skating rinks and tennis courts, bike paths for exploring, big open fields to run in and play ball. Park Pride knows the healing benefits of being outdoors."

Using a nature/gardening metaphor, her book is filled with inspiring stories of real people who have used the simple secrets she teaches to free themselves from shadow issues and self-defeating behaviors.

"Patrice's book offers formulas for mental serenity and for achieving healthy emotions and minds, and we believe that parks do that as well," said George Dusenbury, executive director of Park Pride. "Contact with nature is known to provide health benefits and to enhance well-being. In today's society, we all need an escape, and parks provide that escape."



FELICIA BRYANT AND PATTY BURNS

Helping Hands

For the past 15 years, Patty Burns has been spreading a little sunshine beyond the walls of her Buckhead salon. Each summer, the stylist and her team of volunteers pack up scissors and blow dryers and head to Camp Sunshine to pamper the campers. Here, on the grounds of Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, Ga., about 350 children with cancer are treated to a magical and memorable summer camp experience. The Patty Burns Salon volunteers spend a day at each of the two week-long sessions, cutting and styling the boys' and girls' hair for their big dance. "Each year the dance has a theme, and we are ready with glitter, ribbons, color spray and accessories to make each child feel beautiful and special," Patty said.

Licensed cosmetologist Felicia Bryant joined this year's group of volunteers. She attended Camp Sunshine herself, from the age of 6 to 18. "I remember how exciting it was to have my hair, make-up and nails done," said Felicia, now 20, whose lymphomic leukemia is in remission. "It was the coolest thing ever."

"Everyone was so happy to see Felicia in her new role," Patty said.

The campers really look forward to this day every year, said Sally Hale, executive director of Camp Sunshine. A multi-purpose room at the camp is transformed into a "spa" and "salon" for the campers, who can get mini-massages, manicures and make-up applications courtesy of Spa Sydell. "The kids are transformed, too," she said. "When they look in the mirror, their eyes get big and bright. They're amazed at how great they look."

In addition to volunteering salon services, Patty helped raise funds to send 22 kids to Camp Sunshine this summer. "Knowing that no child is turned away from attending camp, I thought it would be great if our salon sent a child to camp. There was an overwhelming response. The first year, we sent one child to camp, and the number continues to increase each year."

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