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October 2002

**Notable Trees of the West End:
The Ginkgo**



If you are having trouble with your memory, an extract from this tree might be what you need. Ginkgo biloba, the herbal supplement used to boost brain functions, is extracted from the tree of the same name. A former West Ender of many years called to let me know that Ginkgo had also restored her eyesight. Unfortunately I did not get the whole story behind this, but I was intrigued. Buddhist monks have recognized the value of these trees and have grown them for centuries.

The Ginkgo is sometimes called "Maiden Hair" because its leaves resemble those of the fern by the same name. These distinctive trees can be found growing in the West End, not naturally of course, because the tree's current native range is in southeastern China. However, fossils of the tree's relatives have been found in North America. Ginkgos have been growing on earth for more than 150 million years. As you might imagine, these trees are tough and adaptable. Any species that can survive that long would have to be.

If you would like to see some of these "living fossils," there are a couple of young Ginkgos planted near the playground at Hanes Park. They are the trees with sparse branches that jut diagonally upwards in a pyramidal outline. The leaves are fan-shaped and light green, turning bright yellow in the fall. The bark is light gray and deeply furrowed. An older specimen is found in the Dalton Memorial Garden at St. Pauls. This female was almost eliminated, in part because of its messy, malodorous seeds, and for other speculative reasons. Fortunately it still stands. You can avoid the mess of seeds by planting male cultivars.

The largest Ginkgo on state record is found as you travel up Runnymede, just past Springdale Avenue on the left. Although not in the West End, it is within walking distance.

If you know of a notable tree that you think should be featured or would like more information, please contact Kevin Lindsey at 722-2881.

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West End Association Membership Application

Join the West End Association and help create a friendly and beautiful neighborhood. Membership is as low as \$15 for families in 2002. You will help support the newsletter, park and roadway enhancements, and monitoring of zoning and the Historic District Commission. You can join the West End email list (<http://thewestend.tripod.com>) to receive information on houses for sale and their prices, notes from your Alderman, crime statistics, invitations to monthly gatherings, and much more! **Send to: WEA, POB 10055, W-S, NC 27108**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

() New Member () Renewal **Enclose \$15 for Family Membership; \$30 for Business Membership**

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Highlights from the September 3rd meeting of the West End Association:

- **House Tour Report:** Lee Ann Manning reported that the 2002 House Tour will include 9 homes. Work is proceeding on the brochure and other promotional items. Lee Ann passed around a sign-up sheet, asking for volunteers to work in various areas.
- **George Black Statue:** George Bryan noted that the city would like to dedicate a statue to George Black, a Winston-Salem brick maker who made many of the bricks used in historic buildings and homes in the area. WEA board members had approved a donation of 10% of the profits of the House Tour to go to this statue (not to exceed \$500), but these funds would not be available until December. The city needs the donations in September. Bill Gibson made the motion that the WEA make a flat \$500 donation toward the statue. The motion was seconded. General discussion about the location of the statue followed. Motion was passed unanimously.
- **Police Report:** John Merschel reported on recent police activity in the Fourth St area. John's wife, alderman Wanda Merschel, recently rode with police to see firsthand the increased activity in the Westdale area. Because the police have been vigilant in the Piedmont area, many of the drug transactions and related activity have migrated to the Westdale area. John noted that there is some discussion among the aldermen to find ways to have police make landlords responsible in areas where drugs and crime are problems. Police have asked residents to contact them about any problems. Also, John noted that Wanda has asked police to talk with small children, who are scared when they see an increase of police in their neighborhoods.
- **W-S Neighborhood Alliance:** George Bryan thanked Lisa Elam for agreeing to represent the West End again on the Winston-Salem Neighborhood Alliance. George asked the attendees to be thinking of someone who can represent the West End next year.
- **Chatham Rd. Fire and Subsequent Release of Chemicals into Peters Creek:** George Bryan noted that background contamination remains in Peters Creek. The West End board approved an independent test of the creek water, using Trigon Consulting, to check the water's safety for pets and children.

Continued on next page...

UPCOMING WEST END EVENTS

October 1st - WEST END ASSOCIATION MEETING
7PM, Tice House, 4th St (near Grace Court)

October 4TH - WEST END SOCIAL
6-8PM, Stuart & Andrea Thomas, 909 West End Blvd., Children welcome!




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Meeting Highlights Continued...

- **Plans for Morning Dew Coffee:** George Bryan reported that Jim Brady, owner of Morning Dew Coffee, is investigating other parking options for his business' move to the old Aurora Beauty College building. Jim has contacted 25 businesses in the area for possible "central business" parking which offers more flexibility. The area merchants will meet to discuss. Linda Kirby asked if there are ways to encourage those business owners to make buildings and plantings more attractive.
- **Interest in Downtown Area Grocery:** Mary Jamis and Starr Johnson, owners of Whistling Women on Brookstown, talked with the attendees about their proposal, and the West End's interest, in a small grocery store. They are investigating the possibility of turning part of their building into a local market, focusing on area-grown produce and fresh, prepared foods. They have discussed their ideas with the downtown development center and banks, and will meet further with other city groups. They asked the attendees to complete a questionnaire on their website (www.whistlingwomen.com). They also asked if the WEA would support such a market. They opened the floor for questions and discussion, which included:
 1. Their focus would be on local produce, prepared foods, baked goods, wines – almost a smaller "Fresh Market"
 2. Why not support downtown Farmer's Market? This grocery would offer more hours (6 days/week)
 3. How would the building be changed? No change planned. They have their own parking lot and would build a garden entry from the parking lot into the back side of the building for a front entrance to the store.
 4. Hours would probably be 6 days/week, from 7am – 9pm. But they hope West Enders will complete the questionnaire and register their preferences.

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John Merschel moved that the WEA enthusiastically support such a market. The vote was unanimous in favor of John's motion.

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Portrait of a West End Merchant: Sea Products, Inc.

In 1980, when George Streblov started his business, there was not much seafood to be found in Winston-Salem restaurants. "You might find a shrimp cocktail on the menu, but that was about it," says George. Working from his house and a truck, he set out to bring the coast's bounty directly to Winston. Within a few years, seafood increased in popularity and George rode the wave. His business grew quickly. He moved from supplying restaurants to retail.



Photos: George Streblov, president of Sea Products, Inc., in his retail outlet (above) The Sea Products sign, crafted by George, that swims among the antique shops on West End Boulevard near Hanes Park (below)

In 1984 he moved into his current space on West End Blvd, a building built in the 1930s. The space had been used at different points as a paint company, a chemical company and a garage. The concrete floors and good drainage appealed to George. Sea Product's mission is to turn people on to seafood; how easy it is to cook, and how healthful it is.

In 1987 George added a kitchen at his West End location. Prepared foods have now become a major part of his business. His next venture will be mail-order Maryland Crabcakes!



**2002 Historic West End Holiday House Tour
Sunday, December 8, 12:00PM - 5:00PM**

Advance tickets will be available at various area businesses. Tickets will also be sold on the day of the tour at Cicero Tise House, 952 West Fourth St.

Join us as the West End celebrates an afternoon of house tours, shopping, wining, and dining. Be a volunteer and be part of the festivities! Call Nora Garver (722-3626) or Lee Ann Manning (748-0105) to volunteer, or if you have any questions regarding the House Tour.

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