



**Volume #19**

**Spring 2024**

**Friends of Hofwyl–Broadfield Plantation Newsletter**

**Located at 5556 US Hwy 17N**

**Near the intersection of US17 and GA99 Phone 912-264-7333**

**The historic site is open Tuesday-Sunday with the tour of the historic house beginning on the hour. If you have any questions about visiting, please call the office staff at 912-264-7333. This park is maintained by the state of Georgia. Bill Giles, Site Manager, can be reached at [bill.giles@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:bill.giles@dnr.ga.gov).**

**April 6, 2024 Plein Air Art Event**

**May 2024 Plein Air Art Exhibit is at the hospital in Brunswick**

**June & July 2024 Plein Air Art Exhibit is at the Darien Art Museum**

**August 2024 Plein Air Art Exhibit is at Glynn Visual Art**

**September 2024 Plein Air Art Exhibit returns to Hofwyl-Broadfield State Park in the auditorium**

**May 4, 2024 “The Most Dreadful Looking Things in the World” Changing Attitudes About Snakes at Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation**



## **Hofwyl-Broadfield Friends Focus on the Camellias**

**A new sign purchased by the Friends lets the public know that now is the time to come see the Camellias in the park. Sixty-one people came between January 23rd and January 30th. Two garden club groups saw a presentation on Camellias led by Linda Hlozansky. After the presentation, the group went down to see the Camellias with Linda guiding. The special ones hybridized by Mariam Dent were the focus of the trek. In addition the groups visited the Camellias near the spring. The spring garden Camellias are full grown and covered with blooms in spite of some cold weather damage. All the visitors were treated to a “commercial” for our wonderful cookbook, and 5 cookbooks were sold in two weeks.**

**Hofwyl– Broadfield Plantation is on the state Camellia Trail. The trail is a listing of the gardens in the state that have a significant number of trees on public property. Here at Hofwyl we have both a significant number of trees plus two very special ones. Two of our trees are only found here because they were hybridized here by Miriam Dent. They were registered in the Georgia Camellia Society in the 1950s. The Camellias are in bloom from early December until early March.**





**Fun in the Park!**  
**Come join us for an**  
**Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt**  
**at Hofwyl-Broadfield Historic Site**  
**March 1st through April 7th, 2024**  
**Daily when the park is open!**

# **Save the Date for the Plein Air Art Event**



**Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation are happy to invite all artists to register and join us Saturday April 6, 2024.**

**For information or to register contact George Netherton**

**By phone at 678-778-8889 or by email at [gnetherton@me.com](mailto:gnetherton@me.com)**





## **What's New at Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation?**



**A brand new bathroom was recently delivered to our site. It is a welcomed addition to the park.**



# **“The Most Dreadful Looking Things in the World”**

## **Changing Attitudes about Snakes at Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation**



Rattle Snake



Corn Snake

**Ophelia Dent, the last owner of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation, once remarked that their were two things she hated, one was hurricanes, the other was rattlesnakes. This attitude was typical of those living on the edge of the wilderness in the mid 20th century and before.**

**Today many are beginning to understand the vital role that snakes, (even rattlesnakes) play in the environment. Learn about the beneficial role that snakes play in the environment and how to mitigate encounters with venomous species. We'll also talk about some of Ophelia Dent's near legendary run-in with the creatures.**

**Afterwards we will walk to the plantation area through habitat frequented by several species of snakes. If we are lucky, we might spot a few. Walk will be about 1 mile in length. Bring water and insect repellent if desired. Wear shoes comfortable for walking.**

**Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024 Time: 10 a.m. to 12 noon Location: 5556 US17 near the intersection of GA 99**



Left : Yellow Rat Snake Above: King Snake

## **“...In Harm’s way”: USS Dent DD-116/APD-9**

By

S.T. Lanter

*“I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast; for I intend to go in harm's way.” - John Paul Jones.*



*Figure 1 Cap commemorating the USS Dent, DD-116 in her initial configuration as a flush-decked ‘four-piper’ destroyer at her commissioning in 1918.*

USS Dent, DD-116 was as bold and brave as the man she was named for. During her 28 years of active service with the US Navy she took part in two World Wars participating in dangerous anti-submarine convoying in both conflicts and participating in numerous combat assaults during the island hopping campaign in the Pacific during WWII, winning five battle stars. Dent was one of the 111 USS Wickes class destroyers laid down between 1917 and 1921.

The air was unseasonably warm Saturday, March 23, 1918 at William Cramp & Sons ship builders yards in Philadelphia. The nearly completed ship, DD-116, stood tall in the stocks on the builders ways. Miss Amy Whipple Collins, great-granddaughter of Captain John Herbert Dent, stood ready as sponsor to launch the new vessel. *“In the name of the United States I christen thee USS Dent,”* Miss Collins solemnly intoned as she broke the ceremonial bottle of Champagne across the new warship’s bow. By ancient tradition the sponsor’s words injected a spark of life into an inanimate object, DD-116,



transforming the ship into the *USS Dent*. Named in honor of an illustrious naval officer she slid down the ways to meet the water and take her predestined role in the defense of the United States.

Though launched in March the ship was not ready for active service. The next step was to “fit her out,” that is add armament, fuel, stores, ammunition etc. She was commissioned and joined the Atlantic Fleet September 9, 1918. As DD-116 (The first letter ‘D’ indicates she belonged to the destroyer class, the second letter indicates she was a full-fledged destroyer, there are subclasses too. For example, a Destroyer Escort would be designated as a DE). She displaced 1,090 tons, was 314’ 5” in length, with a beam of 31’ 8”, and a draft of 8’ 8”. Four oil fired boilers drove her at a top speed of 35 knots (40.5 mph). She was armed with four 4-inch guns, two 3-inch guns and twelve 21-inch torpedoes (in four triple mount tubes) and two stern mounted depth charge racks with maximum capacity of 26 depth charges. With a crew of 100 officers and enlisted men.

The *USS Dent* entered World War I in her only active service of the war on September 19, 1918 escorting a large convoy to Belfast, Ireland and back to New York. A round trip that due to the slow speeds of the convoyed merchant vessels lasted until November 8. It was 3,698 nautical miles (4,255 statute miles) from New York City. The average speed of most convoys was 7 knots (8 mph), the convoy could travel no faster than the slowest ship, resulting in a crossing lasting at least 22 days each way. The war ended three days after her return.

May 1, 1919 saw her get underway from New York to serve as a checkpoint on the first aerial crossing of the Atlantic by Naval aviators flying Navy Seaplanes. The *Dent* was one of 21 destroyers in a picket line, spaced every 57 miles, serving as marker beacons across the 1,200 nautical mile flight path from Trepassey Bay, Newfoundland to the Azores. Each ship was equipped with state of the art radio direction finders to guide the flying boat crews. If the electronics didn’t work, and they didn’t much of the time, each ship was to make smoke during the day or swing searchlights from the water surface to straight up or fire star shells at night to guide the flyers.

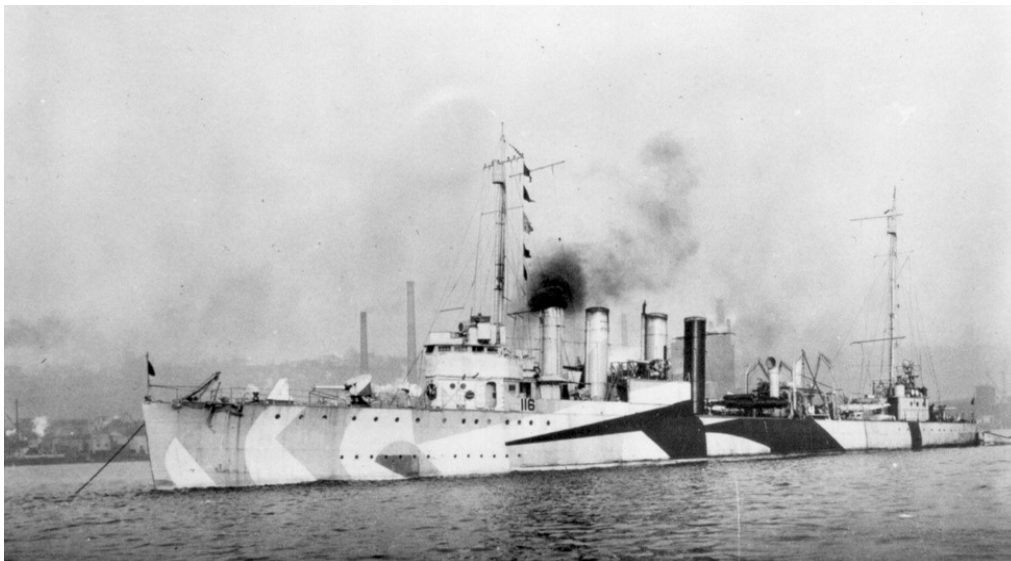


Figure 2 *USS Dent* (DD-116) in anti-submarine camouflage paint in New York Harbor, ca. 1918. Note the four smokestacks, which gave this class of destroyer the moniker ‘Four-Pipers.’ Just aft of the four stacks are two of the four triple mount torpedo tubes. Photo courtesy of the US Naval History and Heritage Command.



The inter-war years found *Dent* cruising the Caribbean until she was placed out of commission in reserve on June 7, 1922. Recommissioned May 15, 1930 she was transferred to the Pacific Fleet and stationed at San Diego, California.

With the attack on Pearl Harbor *Dent* sortied from San Diego escorting the aircraft carrier *USS Saratoga* on a highspeed run to Pearl Harbor the next day. She resumed convoy duty along the West Coast until April, 27, 1942 when she sailed to Dutch Harbor, Alaska. She patrolled and performed convoy duty from May 8, 1942 until September 1 when she escorted the invasion force for the reconquest of Adak Island.

The navy realized early on in the Pacific War, in a conflict stretching over the vast wastes of the Pacific, that there was a critical need for fast ships to transport combat troops to far flung islands. As the great war fighting engine cranked up and newer ships joined the fleet the decision was taken, as a stop gap, to convert some of the WWI destroyers to fast transports. *Dent* was chosen as one of 32 'flush-decked four-pipers,' to be converted. She returned to Seattle, Washington for conversion to a highspeed transport on January 30, 1943.



Figure 3 The USS *Dent*, March 1943, after her conversion to a fast troop transport ship, redesignated as APD-9. Note that two of her four stacks have been removed as have the twelve torpedo tubes, making space for four landing craft. Photo courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command.

Conversion of active service flush-deck DD's to highspeed transports, designated as Auxiliary Personnel Destroyer (APD), was begun in October 1942. Figure three, above, shows *USS Dent*, redesignated as APD-9, March 10, 1943, after her conversion to a fast destroyer transport during her sea trials off Partridge Point, Whidbey Island in Puget Sound. Note the high bow wave indicating high speed, in this case 22 knots (25.3 mph). Conversion to APD's required the removal of two boilers, two stacks and all twelve torpedo mounts to make living space for two hundred assault troops and four Landing Craft Personnel Large (LCPL). Removing two boilers reduced her top speed of 35 knots down to 25 knots (28.75 mph).



*Figure 4 A Landing Craft Personnel/Large (LCPL) like this one is an example of the four carried by USS Dent as APD-9.*

As an APD *Dent* carried four LCPL's like the one pictured above. Each LCPL had a crew of three, two machine gunners (.30 calibers, mounted in the circular hatches in front of the coxswain in the photo), a coxswain and carried 36 troops. *Dent* participated in actions on New Georgia, Rendova, Vella Lavella and Cape Torokina, Bougainville islands until November 1943 when she struck an uncharted shoal and sustained serious damage. Repaired, she carried troops from the newly formed 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division to the uncontested landing on Emirau Island, completing the ring (noose) about Japanese held Rabaul, isolating the huge base, letting the garrison wither on the vine without facing a bloody invasion. She transported army soldiers to landings at Aitape on Papua New Guinea Island. She participated in the Marianas campaign carrying Underwater Demolition Teams (forerunners of today's Navy SEALs) to Roi Island the northern most island in the Kwajalein Atoll. She patrolled off Saipan and Tinian Islands until July when she carried troops for the invasion of Eniwetok Island. Her active war service ended when she sailed for an



overhaul to San Diego where she arrived August 3, 1944.

For the remainder of WWII, she served with the Amphibious Warfare Training Command in San Diego. With the conclusion of the war, she sailed for the East Coast, arriving in Philadelphia on November 6, 1945. She was decommissioned there on December 4, 1945, struck from the naval register, January 3, 1946 and sold for scrap on June 13, 1946.

During her life she received: the World War I Victory Medal w/bronze star; American Defense Service Medal w/bronze star; American Campaign Medal (WWII), Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal w/five battle stars; and World War II Victory Medal.

*Dent's* battle stars are Consolidation of [the] Solomon Islands, 8 June 1943; New Georgia Group Operation, 30 June - 4 to 5 July 1943; Treasury-Bougainville Operation, 27 October - 6, 11 and 17 November 1943; Hollandia Operation, 31 April - 2 May 1944; Marianas Operation, 21 – 26 June 1944.

*Dent's* call sign was: NWGU (November, Whiskey, Golf, Uniform in the military phonetic alphabet). No other vessel bearing this honorable name has ever gone "in harm's way!"