

## July 2018 - Dan and Mary Reed

*Congratulations to our July Volunteers of the Month, Dan and Mary Reed. Dan and Mary have been volunteering with Atlanta Track Club since the late 1970s, shortly after they joined Atlanta Track Club. Dan and Mary have been involved with the Club at both July events for almost 40 years! They are crew chiefs in Start Wave P at the AJC Peachtree Road Race and know all the ins and outs of the Decatur DeKalb 4 Miler. Below, Mary shares stories about their time volunteering at Atlanta Track Club through the years.*



**Do you remember your first time volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? What event was it and what brought you back?**

I remember the first Atlanta Track Club "event" I attended. I went to an Atlanta Track Club open house in an office on the second floor of a little office/retail building on Peachtree Street across the street from East Shadowlawn Ave. I met Tom Aderhold, Tim Singleton, Jack McFarland, Hawthorne Wesley, Penny Kaiser, Carolyn Alexander and a number of other folks who were the

early Track Club. I signed up and said I would be willing to help, so I have been volunteering ever since. The first volunteer activity I remember was handing out numbers and taking registrations for the Peachtree. It seemed to be a great event and it was growing fast, so I agreed to help at the start. That was in the late 1970s and we have been working on this event as well as many others ever since.

**What is your favorite Atlanta Track Club event? Why?**

I think Dan loves the Decatur DeKalb 4 Miler best. It goes through the Emory area which was a "cradle of running" in the early 1970s. There's a great deal of community support for the race and the course monitors and water station volunteers at one time all lived on the course!

My favorite event is the Atlanta Women's 5K in the spring. This race started as part of the Avon Cosmetic Co.'s Women's Running Circuit in 1978 with a women's only full Marathon in Dunwoody. This was an effort by Avon to help get women's running in the Olympics. The next year the Atlanta event was a half marathon and then for several years, it was a 10K. When women's distance running was recognized and added to Olympic events, the Avon Company discontinued this series and Atlanta Track Club took over the women's race every spring in Atlanta.

**What is one of your best memories from volunteering at any race?**

I think Dan remembers volunteering at the Decatur Dekalb 4 Miler in the late 1980s when our two boys were young. They would run the one mile and then enjoy seeing the police cars and motorcycles.

We both have really good memories of volunteering to do the food after the Avon Women's Races as a fundraiser for Atlanta Track Club Women's team. We did an elaborate breakfast that was really fun, especially after we learned you don't really need many fruits and vegetables when you have pastries and bagels and candy!

**What is your favorite thing about volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? What brings you back?**

We both like the supportive staff and the other volunteers. Meeting nice, like-minded people is always fun. The organization and support from the the Club's staff is wonderful. Staff members always ask for suggestions on how to make things go more smoothly. Also, they remember people who have helped in the past and invite us to do really cool things with other organizations like volunteering for the Olympics, the Super Bowl and some of the big track meets. People always say "thank you."



**Do you have a favorite volunteer assignment? If so, explain?**

We don't have a particular favorite. Dan and I both like working the start line, timing and course monitoring. In the past, I think our favorite volunteer work was with the Women's Competitive Team and raising money for our runners to travel to competitions around the country.

**Do you do any volunteering in the community beyond Atlanta Track Club? At which organizations?**

Yes, we both volunteer for Stride Ahead Therapeutic Horsemanship helping people with disabilities and with Little Creek Farms Conservancy. Also, we work with Frazier-Rowe Community Park volunteers and we work with the Boy Scouts. We also work in our church on various projects. We got involved in scouting when our two sons got interested in Scouts and have stayed active (although not nearly so much as when they were young.)

We both have a love for animals and especially horses and understand how valuable experiences with horses can be for children. Frazier-Rowe Community Park provides



such a wonderful outdoor setting in a relatively densely populated part of the city. Its presence is good for the neighborhood.

**How many Atlanta Track Club events do you typically volunteer at during the year? How many events outside of Atlanta Track Club?**

Our "big three" events for the Club are AJC Peachtree Road Race, Decatur DeKalb 4 Miler, and the Thanksgiving Day Half Marathon. We do volunteer at other Atlanta Track Club events but not as regularly or often.

Outside of the Club, we volunteer at Stride Ahead once a week.

**What do you do for a living? Do you work? Are you retired? Professional volunteer?**

Dan and I are both retired. I retired last year as an environmental, safety & health auditor for Georgia-Pacific, LLC. Dan retired a few years ago and owned a remodeling and repair company where he worked on historic homes in the Druid Hills and Oak Grove area.

**Tell us something interesting about yourself – an interesting fact or a story that will help us get to know you...**

Of all of our volunteer experiences, we enjoyed working during the 1996 Olympics the most. We were each course marshals for the men's and women's marathons with each of us leading a team of volunteers to secure a mile along the course. We also worked as monitors and crowd control on the cross country jumping course at the horse park. I was one of the runners who ran that cross country course earlier in the week to help the volunteers prepare for any emergencies along the course. Each runner had a card telling us whether the horse and rider we were representing cleared a jump, refused, rider fell, etc. That was the only time I have ever been referred to as a horse!