



dna news

duckpond neighborhood association • NE Historic District • Gainesville Florida • September 2010



Keep up on happenings between newsletters! Check out our regularly updated website at <http://HistoricDuckpond.com>

general meeting

Tuesday, September 14, 2010
7:00–8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st Street
Room: Fellowship Hall

agenda

Old business, minutes, Treasurer's Report, new business, thank you to outgoing president, introduce Board members

Crime watch (GPD)

Update on Koppers; Plans for First United Methodist Church Fall Festival; Update on *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* team; Roper Park Yard Sale; Holiday Events; Call for volunteers and committee chairs

Announcements

Note: Be sure to check HistoricDuckpond.com for changes and updates to the agenda.

DNA News is published 4 times a year, just prior to general meetings. Meeting dates remaining for 2010: Tuesday, **November 9**, 7:30 p.m. All neighborhood residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Duck pond basin planting update

Mitch Morgan with the Gainesville Public Works department was the featured guest speaker at the March 2010 Duckpond Neighborhood Association (DNA) meeting. A PowerPoint® presentation outlining the planting plan for the pond was shown. Mitch explained the goals of the city are to reduce the maintenance that is currently required to control the presence of Hydrilla and to improve the pond aesthetics. The control of Hydrilla in the pond has been very labor intensive. Currently, city employees lower the water level, don wading boots, hop into the pond and manually pull out the vegetation. Two applications of the organic herbicide Endothall were made directly to the water in the pond; one in October 2009 and one in May of this year. Before applying the herbicide, the water level of the pond was temporarily lowered to increase its effectiveness. The

Endothall was used to control the growth of Hydrilla so that native plants will have a better opportunity to be successful. As most of us probably know, Hydrilla is a very fast growing plant that crowds out other plant life. In June, the city began installing plantings of mostly native aquatic plants. Some of these came from the Depot Avenue Pond where they have thrived since being planted during that pond remediation project. At the beginning of August additional plants were added to the pond. The planting included two different types of water lilies and aquatic reeds. The plants that do thrive in our pond will be augmented with more of the same at some point in the future. So, hopefully, by Fall, we will have a beautiful habitat that will attract and sustain wildlife. 🐦

—Submitted by Mary Rhodes



Have you noticed?

We have quite a bit of wildlife in the pond now. Another goose has appeared bringing the total number of geese to three. And we still have one resident duck. On three recent visits, a blue heron was also spotted.

.....
Stop by and visit the pond and feed our pond residents. Duck/goose food is located on the southeast corner of the pond. Please remember to secure the lid. Thank you.

The purpose of the Duckpond Neighborhood Association is to facilitate communication and exchange of information on issues relevant to the neighborhood. We encourage neighbors to submit articles of interest to our neighborhood, or topics for discussion at our general meetings. Please contact Melanie Barr at 377.4217 or e-mail mvbarr@bellsouth.net.



The next issue of the Duckpond newsletter will be distributed the last weekend of October. Do you have an announcement, story, article, or advertisement that you would like to share? If so, please submit your information to **Melanie Barr** at mvbarr@bellsouth.net **no later than Monday, September 27**. Your submissions are appreciated, and a great way to share information with your neighbors!

A message from our president

Dear Duckpond residents,

I want to welcome our new neighbors to the wonderful Duckpond neighborhood. You are among the lucky few who are fortunate enough to live here. We do have our trials and tribulations, but downtown living is like that, and most of you knew what you were getting into when you signed a lease or bought a house in our beautiful historic district.

I am new to the position as president too, since I obtained it by default due to our former president becoming a Gainesville City Commissioner. I plan to have a special congratulations party for Randy Wells at our next Duckpond Neighborhood Association meeting on Tuesday, September 14th, 7:00–8:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 419 NE 1st Street, Fellowship Hall. Please join us at our meeting.

We have an exciting Fall coming up with several activities that are discussed in the newsletter. First will be the Fall Festival held by the Methodist Church on October 20th. Many of the old timers in the neighborhood will remember the Halloween parties at the Thelma Boltin attended by 200 people. Almost 100% of the attendees, adults and children alike, wore costumes and those outfits were really something special. We even hung Duckpond banners in orange and black from the ceiling. When that event ended, the First United Methodist Church took up the slack and now they would like to

make their event more open to our neighborhood and encourage your attendance.

Also in October is the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk which comes through our neighborhood. Please see the article on page 3 to learn about changes in the route, which will now incorporate the southeast historic district.

Our annual Roper Park Yard Sale will be on November 6, the same day as the first day of the Downtown Art Festival, so we are guaranteed a good crowd. You can set up and sell your own items, donate items to sell, or just be a customer! It is all for a good cause.

There are so many businesses opening up downtown that I can't list them all, but I wanted to make special mention of the *Lunchbox Café* since it is owned and operated by two Duckpond neighborhood residents. There was to be an article about the café in the May issue of our newsletter but due to unique circumstances we missed publishing a newsletter for the first time in nearly 20 years. I hope that doesn't happen again. Please feel free to submit articles for publication, or join the Board of Directors of the Duckpond Neighborhood Association. If you live here, you are qualified to join it.

See you at the September meeting!

Sincerely,
Melanie Barr, President

IN SEARCH OF A "MODERN HOUSE"

Filiz Sonmez, a visiting scholar from Turkey is researching modern houses built in Gainesville between 1950 and 1960. Her intention is to subjectively approach a modern home in order to reveal the personal experiences of the family. She will be doing a case study of a single Gainesville home/family, intended to contribute to a larger corpus of data documenting the lived, subjective, social, dialectical experience of domestic life. Rather than look at the wealthy homes that are usually highlighted in architectural journals on the 1950s, this project will focus on middle class homes. A person who lives in a 1950s house, and is perhaps the original or second owner, and has the plans for the home, would be the best subject for her study. She is also interested in talking with owners of 1950s houses who know where the original owner currently resides. If you can help Filiz, please contact her at filizmz@gmail.com.

What's bugging you?



Living as we do in subtropical North Florida, there are insect problems around the home that do not affect those who live farther north (as in Kentucky, where we came from). Understanding what “bugs” do to “make a living” is important so we can take appropriate measures when their objectives and ours come into conflict.

When we bought our Duckpond house, we had to have it tented with deadly poisonous fumigation to be sure we did not have dry wood termites and other insects (several beetle species such as Powder Post Beetles) that live in and eat the structural wood of the building. This is a very expensive procedure, as anyone knows who has had it done. We had not found recent damage from dry wood termites, but one often cannot tell they are present until the damage is advanced. The same can be true of Subterranean Termites unless one gets the premises inspected annually. The latter live in the ground and make covered tunnels up concrete and wood foundation to get into the wood they eat. They are easier to discover by an experienced pest control operator. We have two separate contracts with different companies, inheriting them from the previous owners.

One way to discover both kinds of termites is when one sees large numbers of winged termites on walls and walkways, usually in late winter. These are “swarmers”—termites from a colony that are migrating away to find new homes. Sometimes ants are winged too, and it is important to know how to tell a termite from an ant—they belong to widely different insect orders. Ants have “wasp waists”—or a narrow connection between the thorax (where wings and legs are found) and the abdomen. In termites, that point of connection is broad and hardly distinguishable. The wings are longer in termites than in ants, and tend to be milky whitish, while those of ants are usually transparent. Some kinds of ants do structural damage to wood, too. If an infestation of termites or ants is suspected, identification and recommen-

dations for control should be sought from a pest control company. I would suggest getting bids from two or three companies. Always use the services of a licensed and bonded pest control company, preferably one that is recommended by a friend, and one which has been in business for years.

Wasps are a nuisance around our homes. We have the mud daubers that make black dirt nests, and we have paper wasps that can be seen clinging to their gray paper-like clusters of exposed cells, where the eggs are laid and young fed by the originating female and then her offspring as the summer wears on. A wasp aerosol insecticide that quickly immobilizes and then kills the wasps can be purchased at a food market, garden shop or hardware. Shoot the stream briefly at the wasp nest at night, when all the wasps are “at home.” As with any pesticide, be sure to read and follow the directions on the container, and dispose of the empty can as directed.

We have some nasty ants around here, too—outdoors. One kind, Pyramid Ants, make raised volcano-like dirt piles around their entry holes in the ground. Imported fire ants are almost too tiny to notice—until they get on the unwary bystander. Ants can get you from both ends of the body: biting with their mandibles and stinging with their stingers. Any stinging bee, wasp, or ant is a female—usually a sterile “worker”—and has the ovipositor (egg-laying structure) modified into a stinger. When stung, use ice on the wound, and follow up with a soothing “sting stick” or tube medicine available at your preferred drug store. Dispatch ant colonies in the yard with appropriate insecticide available from your home and garden store.

Inside our homes, the insects to watch for are mostly clothes moths and stored food pests. There are only three kinds of moths that damage wool and other animal fibers—three out of more than 10,000 moth species in North America. You will see them flying around your bedroom or other rooms where closets house

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

The American Cancer Society's *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk will come through our neighborhood on **Saturday, October 23 at 9 a.m.** We will form a team and if you would like to join, please go to the American Cancer Society's website and click through to the Duckpond Neighborhood Association's team. You can also call 377.4217 if you prefer not to sign up online.

If don't want to walk, you can still be a team member. The point of the walk is to raise money to fight breast cancer, so please donate online or send a check to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 17, Gainesville FL 32602.

New Route for the Walk

This year the walk will start and end at the *Hippodrome State Theatre* and will go through the part of our neighborhood south of NE 8th Avenue. Participants will walk up NE 1st Street to NE 7th Avenue, circle around the Thomas Center, go up and down NE Boulevard and take NE 6th Street from NE 7th Avenue to NE 2nd Avenue. After passing Kirby Smith and walking west on East University Avenue, the final lap takes the walkers down SE 2nd Avenue to SE 2nd Place past two lovely bed and breakfasts. It should be a beautiful October day, so please join our team and walk with us. We traditionally are one of the top fundraising teams against breast cancer, so please help us keep our status and help people in the process.

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

continued on page 5 >

NEIGHBOR HONORED FOR EFFORTS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Melanie Barr was honored by the *Matheson Museum* in March for her efforts in preserving Gainesville and Alachua County history. Melanie is responsible for writing the histories of the houses for the Thomas Center's *Spring Promenade Tour of Homes* in the our neighborhood. She has also written three state historic markers located in or near the Duckpond neighborhood. When she was serving as the Chair of the Gainesville Preservation Board, another member and neighborhood resident, Gary McGill, made a comment that goaded her into saving the 1901 Dorsey House from demolition by moving it off its lot and restoring it back to a single family residence from a quadruplex. She has received awards from *Historic Gainesville*, and was selected as an Outstanding Alumni in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at UF. Her present preservation activities revolve around efforts to convert the Smith-Griffin House into a Black History Exhibit Museum. She is also a docent at the Historic Haile Homestead.

CALLING DUCKPOND ARTISTS

Are you or do you know an artist (or performing artist) who lives or works in the neighborhood? We would like to highlight Duckpond artists in future issues of DNA News. Contact **Melanie Barr** at 377.4217 or email mvbarr@bellsouth.net



View Susan's artwork currently at the Thomas Center Gallery, at the Town of Tioga Gallery's East Meets West show in September, or at the Melrose Bay Art Gallery.

Meet neighborhood artist Susan Johnson

Susan C. Johnson was born in Middletown, Connecticut, and received her degree in Art Education from *Southern Connecticut State College* in New Haven. She began her career teaching art in Connecticut public schools, and later taught in Wilmington, North Carolina and Gainesville, Florida where she retired after twenty-five years.

Susan paints in a realistic style using oil paints. Horses have always held a special place in her heart and so they have become her primary painting interest. Her goal is to capture the indomitable spirit and grace of these animals. Susan uses her own photographic references as a starting point,

and is intrigued with the challenge of capturing the play of light and shadow across her subjects. Painting is decidedly challenging, but always rewarding. Capturing jewel-filled moments in time filled with color and light give her great joy.

The *Melrose Bay Art Gallery* in Melrose, Florida represents Susan. She has exhibited in area art shows and festivals, and has won both awards of merit and excellence. Susan is a member of the *Gainesville Fine Arts Association*, *Plein Air Florida*, and the *American Academy of Equine Art*. Susan can be reached at nbjo@aol.com or at 374.2342. 🐾

From whither didst though wonder?

Yes, another even bigger grey goose has made an appearance at the “duck” pond and now there are three geese.

When the first big grey goose mysteriously appeared, from whence no one knows, the white goose, recognizing ‘one of a feather,’ immediately abandoned the little duck. They were, supposedly, best buddies having grown up together. Prior to the new arrival, the two of them could be seen swimming about the pond every day, he always following whither she led. So much for friendship.

It was rather sad. She was thereafter hard to find, hiding in the weeds, never in the water swimming about as before. The white goose was seen buddying up with the big grey stranger every day just standing about on the island. I was fortunate enough recently, however, to catch sight of her among the water weeds, alone, and had my camera at the ready.

Occasionally, a turtle climbs up onto the bottom step of the island to sun

himself, head cocked to one side keeping a weather eye out. Recently, when the City did a draw down, three turtles were seen like musketeers on one of the mud bars north of the island. I stopped my car way down at the end of the pond and got out to make a photo but before I could aim and fire, all but the brave one had slipped into the water.

I have lived in this neighborhood since 1961 and have seen a lot of changes. Life at the “pond” used to be like an ongoing kaleidoscope with ducks and people lunching on blankets spread out upon the grass, coming and going, a passing parade. Gene Liddon, City Parks and Grounds, before retirement, kept the water in pristine condition. The neighborhood kids would “accidentally” fall in on a hot summer day.

Now the geese outnumber the duck and water plantings have been added along the sides. The scenery has shifted a little. 🐢

—Submitted by Janice Arinson

What’s bugging you? (continued from page 3)

room or other rooms where closets house natural fiber clothes, blankets, etc. The moths, on close inspection, are less than an inch in wingspan, and shiny tan with almost no markings on the wings. They should prompt you to inspect all your woolens for damage holes and tiny caterpillars. One species makes a tubular cocoon out of the fibers, and often attaches that to ceilings and other areas away from the wool source. Infested fabrics must be aired and dry-cleaned to get rid of any eggs and larvae, and then stored in airtight plastic bags.

Small moths and tiny beetles in the kitchen could indicate infestation of stored grain products such as flour, cornmeal and macaroni. Food materials stored for months are more likely to be infested than cereals that are eaten promptly. These pests include several kinds of grain moths, carpet beetles, saw-toothed grain beetles, flour beetles, and others. Look for their larvae (worm-like immature stages and

their cast skins) in the food, and dispose of any infested materials. Clean shelves and cupboards thoroughly before “restocking.”

Cockroaches of different sorts are common in Gainesville, and one can hardly escape their getting into the house now and then. There are two groups: the “domiciliary” roaches such as German, Oriental, and American cockroaches that “specialize” in living in human habitations. Then there are the native “outdoor” kinds like wingless “palmetto bugs” that don’t really want to be in our way. Though smelly and messy; none is known to transmit human disease. They can be controlled with bait traps and residual spraying. But the best defense is to **STEP ON THEM!**

We have more insect specialists (entomologists) in the Gainesville area, per capita, than anywhere else in the U.S.A. You can seek advice from the county agent’s office, IFAS Extension, or your friendly neighborhood entomologist. 🐜

—Submitted by Charlie Covell

THE LUNCHBOX CAFÉ

The Lunchbox Cafe has opened in the old Bethel Gas Station located on the southwest corner of the Community Plaza. It is co-owned by Clea Lauriault, who was raised in the Duckpond neighborhood and still lives here, and Robyn Mole, who lives just northeast of the neighborhood. *The Lunchbox Cafe* is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and serves made by hand fresh food. The sauces and salad dressing are also made by hand, as are some of the drinks. The food is Asian/Latin “street style” food similar to what would be purchased from vendors with carts. They also sell beer and wine. Between Clea, Robyn, and Chef Tate Blair, they have nearly 60 years combined experience in the food industry. We hope our neighbor’s new business will succeed, and urge everyone to give it a try.

FREE EXERCISE CLASSES

If you have always wanted to exercise but could not get motivated, this class may be perfect for you. It is designed for people over 50, yet anyone can attend. Exercises are low impact and many are done while seated, but you can build stamina, flexibility, and strength. The class exercises to videotapes on the stage of the Thelma Boltin Center at 516 NE 2nd Avenue on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 a.m. to noon. Classes are sparsely attended, so you will have plenty of room to work out, and it is completely free! It is never too late to start exercising and this class is located in our neighborhood, so begin a healthier lifestyle now. Call the Thelma Boltin Center for more information, 334.5067

ROPER PARK FALL FESTIVAL

Please join the First United Methodist Church for the Fall Festival and Costume Party at Roper Park on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 from 5-7 p.m. There will be food, entertainment, fun, and games for all ages. Wear your favorite costume and join your neighbors for this FREE event. For information or to volunteer, please contact Jill Wagstaff at 317.1516 or jillwagstaff@gmail.com.



Find a treasure at the Roper Park yard sale

The annual Roper Park Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, November 6th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can donate items for the Duckpond Neighborhood Association to sell, or you can set up and sell your own items. If you are set up by 8 a.m. and have plenty of merchandise, you should do well since this is the first day of the *Downtown Fall Arts Festival* and a multitude of people walk or drive by Roper Park.

If you are a member of the Duckpond Neighborhood Association and want to sell your items at the yard sale, please send a \$10 check to P.O. Box 233, Gainesville, FL 32602. If you are not a member, please send \$15 to participate in the sale. Invite your friends and relatives to join in the sale too! The DNA pays for an ad in the *Gainesville Sun*,

.....
*Benefit your community
 while having fun! Monies
 earned from yard sale items
 go toward improvements
 for Roper Park.*

distributes the ad to emails lists, and sets up signs the morning of the sale, so the only work for sellers is putting their items out on the morning of the sale.

Please call ahead to reserve your space for the yard sale. If you show up with your items on the morning of the sale, we may not have enough tables for display, so it is important to plan ahead.

Please join us for the sale. Proceeds go toward Roper Park improvements, which helps improve our neighborhood. 🐦

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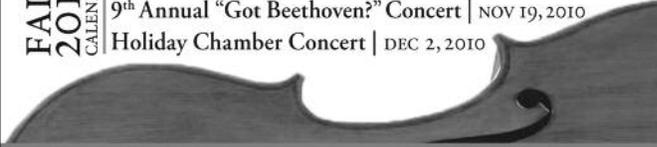
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