



dna news

duckpond neighborhood association • NE Historic District • Gainesville Florida • November 2009



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

general meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2009
7:00–8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st Street
Room: Fellowship Hall

agenda

7:00

Business meeting
Announcements/Reports

7:15

Crime watch

7:30

State Attorney Bill Cervone

8:00

Holiday luminaries and events
2010 neighborhood priorities

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

DNA News is generally published four times a year, prior to general meetings. Meeting dates for 2010 will be announced in the next newsletter. All neighborhood residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Update: Duckpond planting plan

The City of Gainesville recently received a planting estimate for the duck pond. As you will realize, the cost of the planting is not great. There are however three concerns that need to be resolved prior to planting: deeper water plantings, existing hydrilla, and prime planting season. These issues, if not fully considered, compromise the success of the plantings.

Deeper Water Plantings. Consensus opinion is to harvest plants from the Depot Park pond as the specimens will be fairly robust and acclimated to the deeper water regime and thus have a better chance of survival in the duck pond. However, the Depot pond is within the a protected work zone created by public health (air quality) issues caused by the removal of the contaminants by the GRU remediation project. The Depot pond will be off limits to all except the designated contractor for about the next year. Entry into the work area is possible but has to be coordinated through the GRU Project Manager. Also to assist with plant survivability, the water level in the pond will be lowered about 12 inches by cutting a V-notch in the outlet wall. The notch will lower the water level permanently for the plants.

Hydrilla. Eradicating the hydrilla is a time intensive process that requires two or three or more applications of herbicide with about a month between applications. The number of applications is dependent on the degree of success achieved. Also it is important to treat the

hydrilla over the next months prior to it going dormant for the winter. Uptake of the herbicide by the hydrilla is important to the success of the eradication.

Here is a proposed action plan for hydrilla control and suppression:

- 1) Bio-mass harvest manual removal, August 2009
- 2) Hydrilla regrowth of 8"–12" above bottom Aquathol, October 2009
- 3) Bio-mass harvest* manual removal, December 2009
- 4) Hydrilla regrowth, any height w/low water level Sonar SRP*, Feb 2010
**(if over fifty percent of plant height is over 12" to lessen downstream impact)*
- 5) Hydrilla regrowth of 8"–12" above bottom Aquathol, May 2010
- 6) Plant initial proposed plan, June 2010

Prime Planting Season. Spring and early summer of 2010. 🐾

—Submitted by Stu Pearson,
Gainesville Department of Public Works

Editor's note: We have advocated for some time the planting of the duck pond as originally proposed at the time our stormwater basin was renovated several years ago. Plantings are essential to support a variety of wildlife in the pond, including the reintroduction of a modest number of ducks. We will want to evaluate this new plan in light of our neighborhood's expressed desire that the City will follow through with plantings, as well as perform appropriate regular maintenance of the pond and creek. Please direct questions, comments, and suggestions to Randy Wells at 335.8874 or conexos@gmail.com.

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 Randy Wells at 335.8874 or e-mail conexos@gmail.com.



The next issue of the Duckpond newsletter will be distributed in February 2010. Do you have an announcement, story, article, or advertisement that you would like to share? If so, please submit to Randy Wells at conexos@gmail.com no later than Sunday, January 31. Your submissions are appreciated, and a great way to share information with your neighbors!

Letter from the Chief Mudraker

Email from Randy Wells to the City of Gainesville, June 2009

Regards moving forward on the planting plan: Rather than waiting for another meeting, I would suggest you propose a specific set of plants and a maintenance plan revision (based on the 2005 plan). I will circulate that to the neighborhood at large. I am happy to serve as a first point of contact. After numerous meetings and discussions on this topic, I believe neighbors generally support plantings in the pond AND a reasonable, periodic level of maintenance to clear trash and invasive plants. The question is: what level and type of maintenance will this be? And can the maintenance coexist with the plantings? To my knowledge, even the maintenance plan from September 2008 is not being followed. There was a manual harvesting of biomass last Fall. However, there has not been a manual harvesting this past Spring. And I am not aware of any use of endothall or fluridone, as indicated in the plan.

More problematic, the sporadic “manual harvesting” that has been done has only included heavy equipment that would damage desirable plantings. Perhaps this is necessary once, immediately followed by the plantings. However, I am convinced that manual harvesting must be more frequent and using means that

are more discretionary—perhaps boats and rakes? In either case, desirable plantings themselves should help by shading hydrilla, and removing some nutrients. Also, I would suggest use of a couple of small planted floating islands (which apparently was not contemplated in the 2005 plan). These can be anchored in the center of the pond to both absorb nutrients and provide attractive plants.

In the meantime, I would like your advice on sprucing up the island. I note that the planting plan does not provide any guidance on plantings on the island. Can you or others receiving this message provide recommendations on plantings for the island that will provide cover for ducks and other wildlife? We also have two very nice duck nesting boxes we would like to install.

**Randy Wells, President
Duckpond Neighborhood Assoc.**



Feedback on City's new duck pond planting plan

While I was hoping to see planting this year, this seems like a reasonable plan and will likely result in quicker establishment of the desirable species.

My other concern would be that maintenance plans are also in place. In addition to vegetation management, my understanding was that there will still be periodic sediment removal required from this pond. If so, I would hope a plan

would be in place to assure that the plantings would not be adversely impacted by these activities.

Thank you for your continued attention to this project. I look forward to seeing a pond that serves as a good example of wildlife habitat enhancement in an urban environment.

Tom Ward

Editor's note: Neighbor Tom Ward has considerable expertise in wetlands

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY— Let us know what is important to you!

We have a brief online survey asking neighbors to suggest what DNA's priorities should be for 2010, and how we should spend funds raised for Roper Park.

The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete, and helps us gauge your interests and priorities. This is a great way to have your voice heard even without attending a meeting.

We would love to hear from you. Please go to **HistoricDuckpond.com** and click on "Neighborhood Survey" on the top right under "Surveys".

Upcoming Duckpond holiday events

The holidays are upon us, and we have several events that we hope you will enjoy. Bring your friends and family!

DNA HOLIDAY LUMINARIES

Saturday, December 5th

9 am set-up and 5:30 pm lighting



Please consider being a volunteer to set up candlelight luminaries along Northeast Boulevard and Roper Park. (Rain date: Sunday, December 6th). This is a great activity for kids to help with, and a nice way to spend time with your neighbors. Please contact **Nelson Logan** at 384.9303 or ns_logan@bellsouth.net if you would like to help in the morning or afternoon—or both!

HORSE-DRAWN WAGON RIDES

Saturday, December 5th, 6–10 pm

Reserve your spot now for a horse-drawn wagon ride during the holiday luminaries celebration. (Rain date: Sunday, December 6th, same times.) Each ride will last approx. 15 minutes, leaving from the entrance of the Thomas Center (NE 6th Ave and 3rd St), winding down along the Northeast Boulevard and the duck pond, returning to the Thomas Center. For reservations, contact **Randy Wells** at conexos@gmail.com or 335.8874. Include number of adults and kids. Prices, \$5/adult, \$1/child.

Enjoy the arrival of Santa Claus by horse-drawn wagon (expected 6:30 pm), and lighting of the tree inside the Thomas

Center starting about 7 pm. Listen to choral groups both inside and outside the Thomas Center starting at 7 pm, including performances in the beautiful Spanish Court.

THOMAS CENTER TREE LIGHTING

Saturday, December 5th, 7–9 pm

Once again, the Mayor will light the Christmas tree at the Thomas Center. Special guest Santa Claus will be in attendance for pictures and holiday wishes. Refreshments and live music will be provided. Beware of Ebenezer Scrooge who mentioned he's eager to pay a visit!

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS

We are asking any neighbors who plan to put up home lights and decorations to get them up by the evening of Saturday, December 5th, particularly along the carriage route. This will help make our carriage rides all the more special. We will be contacting homes along the route, so watch for a note at your door.

SOUTHEAST HISTORIC DISTRICT HOLIDAY TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES

Saturday, December 12th, 5–8 pm

The Southeast Historic District holiday tour features historic homes and Bed & Breakfasts beautifully decorated for the winter season. Please contact the *Matheson Museum* at 378.2280 or visit their website at mathesonmuseum.org for details. 🐾

ANNUAL ROPER PARK YARD SALE: Saturday, November 14th

The annual neighborhood yard sale will be held on Saturday, November 14th from 8 am to 4 pm. You can donate items for the DNA to sell, or you can set up and sell your items. To sell your own items, please send a check (\$10 for DNA members, \$15 for non-members) to DNA, PO Box 233, Gainesville FL 32602. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors to join in the sale too. We pay for an ad in the *Gainesville Sun*, advertise on email lists, and set up signs the morning of the sale. If you prefer to donate items for the DNA to sell, please set them aside until the week of the sale. Call 377.4217 or email mvbarr@bellsouth.net to arrange pick up. We also welcome volunteers to help staff this fun event. Proceeds go to improve Roper Park.

MATHESON MUSEUM FLORIDIANA SHOW

Jan. 30, 2010

Each year, the *Matheson Museum* hosts a Floridiana show. Numerous vendors that specialize in rare and unique Florida ephemera and souvenirs will be present with items for purchase and display.

For more information, go to www.mathesonmuseum.org, or call the museum at 378.2280.

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 **Randy Wells**, 335.8874 or conexos@gmail.com.

CITIZENS ON PATROL: Gainesville police develop volunteer program

The Gainesville Police Department is looking for enthusiastic individuals to enter the ranks of our new volunteer program. Come see how this new group will help make our community safer.

Contact **Ernest Graham**, our community policing liaison at grahame@cityofgainesville.org or 514.4377.

TAX-AIDE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AARP

The Gainesville district of AARP tax-aide is seeking tax volunteers to help taxpayers complete their 2009 federal tax forms in 2010. This is a free, volunteer-run community service program for middle to low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteers receive a comprehensive IRS approved tax preparation training course using tax preparation software.

There is an immediate need for a Technology Coordinator to join the volunteer management team. This person will manage the computer equipment at preparation sites. There will be three sites taxpayers can come to for assistance, the main one is at the downtown library.

There are other opportunities for volunteers who do not want to prepare tax returns, but would like to support the program.

For more information contact **Norma** at nztaxaide@gmail.com or **Sherolyn** at sherolyngtaxaide@gmail.com

AARP tax-aide is a program of the AARP Foundation, offered in conjunction with the IRS. Please visit www.aarp.org for more information.

Two new quirky eateries open nearby

The Duck is always on the lookout for new local businesses.

8th Avenue Bike & Coffee House 235 NW 8th Avenue, 378.2100

“That’s right, it’s a bike shop, and a coffee shop, simultaneously. Can we please get something like this started at home [in Miami]? My new favorite establishment in Gainesville: A place where the drivers are friendly, the bike lanes are a-plenty, the music is non-stop, the beer is affordable, the coffee is local, and the rent is cheap . . . When I walked in, the most strikingly awesome thing about the relatively large space was that all the walls were covered with gorgeous bicycle frames . . . The incredibly friendly staff were quick to share stories about all the rare frames they’ve acquired, all while sipping piping hot cups of Sweetwater coffee, a local brand to Gainesville. Curious cogheads and coffee drinkers trickled in and milled around the shop all day,

test riding the vintage rides, as well as bringing their own bikes in for a little service.”

Another customer writes “I think we were their first customers. We bought two road bikes. They were professional and friendly and we are thrilled with the bikes. We highly recommend this bike shop.” Check out the *8th Avenue Bike & Coffee House* yourself. They are hosting a big bake sale Saturday, November 14th, from 3 pm to 8 pm, to benefit the *Sweet Things Bakery*.

Kickin’ Devil Café 2017 NE 27th Avenue, 505.6660

“A friendly and quirky new place in the middle of a little industrial area between two Gainesville institutions”: *Satchel’s Pizza* (and *Lightnin’ Salvage*) and the original *Sonny’s Bar-B-Q #1*. They “feature Cajun, Caribbean, and vegan-friendly cuisine in an eclectic art and music venue!” 🐦

Duckpond neighborhood musician produces new CD

After many years of writing songs and playing with various family members and friends around the area, Duckpond neighbor **Monica Leadon Cooper** has finished her first CD. It consists of 12 songs in the country/rock vein featuring performances by many talented musicians. “Summer Rain” has a couple of Florida-inspired songs in the mix as well as some up tempo songs showcasing brother Tom’s slide guitar, and solos by Jack Nettles (an alumnus of J.J. Finley Elementary and Duckpond-area attorney), Alan Stowell (plays at Tim and Terry’s Tuesday nights), and Bob McPeek (who engineered the album at Mirror Image Studio on South Main). Other songs feature David Cook on piano, Jon Alexander (another Gainesville native) on pedal

steel, Gregg McMillan (bass), and Larry Thompson (drums).

Brother Mark Leadon from Tallahassee (co-produced the album with Monica and Bob McPeek) is featured on banjo, dobro, guitar, mandolin, and harmonica. Mike Palecki (Tallahassee) contributed blues harmonica on one track.

Monica has been active in Gainesville working to protect our greenspace and the CD’s cover is a tribute to that love of Gainesville. She is living with her family in the house the family of twelve grew up in and plans to remain here in the Duckpond Neighborhood. You can contact Monica at gvlcoopers@aol.com or 373.5295. Monica will perform at the Downtown Fall Arts Festival on Saturday, November 14th, 2 pm, Hippodrome stage. 🐦

Cade Museum of Innovation and Invention

On November 17th, the Duckpond Neighborhood Association meeting will include a presentation about the *Cade Museum of Innovation and Invention*. The *Cade Museum* is named for James Robert Cade, the physician, musician, researcher and inventor best known for leading the University of Florida team that created *Gatorade*.

The *Cade Museum's* permanent location will be on South Main Street in Depot Park. However, it will first be located in the Firestone Building, 304 West University Avenue, while the \$70 million dollar facility on South Main Street is under construction.

The *Cade Museum* will present several facets of creativity and innovation, and include the following:

- Stories of great inventors from a range of disciplines, including science, the arts, athletics, design, and technology.
- Interactive exhibits that explore how the creative process works, and inspire visitors to explore their own creative potential.
- Opportunities for visitors to share their solutions to real-world problems.
- Lectures, as well as concerts, films, traveling exhibits and seminars designed to “bring the world to Gainesville”

The Boston architect, Verner Johnson Inc., conceived a building that will seem

to flow naturally into the landscape. In addition to state-of-the-art galleries, the three story, 55,000 square foot facility will include a theater, science labs for use by schools and others, a restaurant and a dedicated space for hosting top traveling exhibits. The building is also designed to serve as a venue for meetings and community events.

Upon entering the exhibit galleries, visitors will create their own never to be forgotten giant screen visual and acoustic show. Rippling water, bubbling springs and falling droplets will react visually and in sound to the visitor's every movement, bringing to life a creative merging of people, ideas, images and sounds.

In one museum gallery, Dr. Cade's actual UF laboratory will beckon visitors to learn the story behind the invention of *Gatorade*, and see videos of historic UF football games projected life-size. Visitors will be able to ride an exercise bike to measure their electrolytes, and even evaluate their own physical and athletic potential by doing an innovative “jump and reach” test.

There will be abundant opportunity to try your own creative hand, or muse over how others' creativity has changed your life. Members of the Duckpond neighborhood are invited to assist in the fruition of the *Cade Museum*. Please attend our meeting to learn more about this exciting new museum that is expected to open to the public in 2013. 🐦

—Submitted by Melanie Barr



The Firestone Building at 304 West University Avenue will temporarily house the new Cade Museum in Gainesville.

FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer a success!

The fundraiser luncheon held for the Duckpond Neighborhood team in the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* was a success. It was held on Saturday, October 3rd at the *Fat Tuscan Café* in the historic Vidal house on NE 1st Street.

A representative from the *American Cancer Society*, who is a two year breast cancer survivor, spoke to the guests about her experiences. We also learned how the money we raise is helping educate people about the disease and provide money for research on new treatments.

It was heartwarming to hear a success story, and know that our fundraising helps people survive cancer. Several of the participants had never dined at the café, so the luncheon was a special treat for them, and best of all, due to the generous donations of the people who attended the luncheon \$165 was raised toward the Duckpond Neighborhood's goal in the 2009 *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk.

DUCKPOND GENERATION CONNECTION 2010

Volunteers are needed to help organize a week-long *Duckpond Generation Connection* summer camp in the summer of 2010. Please contact **Joel Daunic** for more information at 256.1715 or joel@joeldaunic.com.

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