



dna news

duckpond neighborhood association • NE Historic District • Gainesville Florida • May 2011



Keep up on happenings between newsletters! Check out our regularly updated website at HistoricDuckpond.com

general meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2011
7:00–8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st Street
Room: Fellowship Hall

agenda

Report: Gainesville Police Department
Minutes: February meeting
Treasurer's Report
Guest Speaker: Wendy Wilber on Florida Friendly Plants
State of the Island and Pond
Roper Park Landscaping
Announcements

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

▶ neighborhood picnic May 15

See page 3.



DNA News is published four times a year, just prior to general meetings. Meeting dates remaining for 2011 are May 10, August 9, and November 8. All neighborhood residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The ghost of Robert Frost



Imagine iconic Pulitzer Prize winning American poet Robert Frost taking a stroll on your Duckpond sidewalk 75 years ago. Yes, it is more than likely and although he was often described as a “frequent winter visitor” to Gainesville, Frost, his wife, daughter, and grandchildren actually lived in a rented residence on NE 4th Street owned by Major Thomas.

His grandchildren attended Kirby Smith Elementary School and Frost frequented the *Thomas Hotel* and dined with “the Major.” Although not exactly at the end of “the road less traveled” Gainesville was a sleepy town of twenty-some thousand souls when the great poet began his 25 year love affair with the Duckpond. He and his family initially rented the “Brown Cottage” on the

grounds of the *Thomas Hotel*. Perhaps he found our fair city a respite from his hectic lecture circuit. He was a lecturer at multiple colleges and was awarded more than 40 honorary doctorates in his lifetime. Robert Frost was first named a “lecturer” at the *University of Florida* in 1937 and was awarded a Doctor of Letters degree in the early 1960s shortly before his death.

His beloved wife Elinor passed away in Gainesville in March, 1938. She was attended by private duty nurse Ruth Powell, mother of ACLD reference librarian Bobby Powell. The Frosts had just purchased a house in Melrose which, according to historian Rie Burton, was most likely never occupied by them.

My own mother, now 90, was acquainted with Robert Frost and related her encounters with him many times as I was growing up. I would like to think that the grounds of the *Thomas Center* and the Duckpond neighborhood is imbued with his spirit. 🦆

—Submitted by Pat Rhodes

.....
*Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I— I took
the one less traveled by,
And that
has made all the difference.*

—ROBERT FROST

.....

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 boardDNA@googlegroups.com.



The next issue of the Duckpond newsletter will be distributed the last weekend of July. Do you have an announcement, story, article, or advertisement that you would like to share? If so, please submit your information to **Mary Rhodes** at **crawley20@hotmail.com** **no later than June 27**. Your submissions are appreciated, and a great way to share information with your neighbors!

A message from our president

Dear Duckpond residents,

April is a busy month for our neighborhood due to the *Spring Arts Festival*. This 42-year-old event is attended by 100,000 people who turn the west part of the neighborhood into a parking lot. It is just for two days though, and it brings a lot of positive attention to our neighborhood. I enjoyed walking there under the shade of huge oak trees and passing the beautiful turn-of-the-century homes while watching visitors trying to fit their vehicles into parking spaces that they hoped were larger than their car. We are so lucky we live here and that we can walk to the art show, as well as our bank or credit union, the library, the Community Plaza, restaurants and the Hippodrome.

Due to events such as the *Spring Arts Festival*, and the *Thomas Center* and the *Thelma Boltin Center* the term "Duckpond

Neighborhood" is well known by the Gainesville residents now. But how did our neighborhood change its name to that from "the Highlands?" In the 1920s developers started subdividing the land from NE 5th Avenue to NE 13th Avenue, and used the word "Highland" in the subdivision name. Thus our area was called "the Highlands." Does anyone know why that changed and who changed it? Perhaps it was a Realtor who thought that "the Duckpond Neighborhood" would be more recognizable to newcomers than "the Highlands." I hope we have this mystery solved by the next issue of the newsletter. Perhaps we can discuss it at the picnic in May!

Sincerely,
Melanie Barr
President

Proposal being accepted for the old azalea circle at Roper Park

Several years ago, the huge azaleas in the circle at Roper Park were dug up by the City at the request of a neighbor. Michelle Reeves, who lives next to the park, and was our president at the time, tried valiantly to grow flowers on the site. However, as of now all that is left is dirt. Part of the problem is that the irrigation system does not extend into the circle.

The DNA board recently received a proposal for planting flowers and bushes in the old Azalea Circle but chose not to accept it for several reasons. One of the reasons was that everyone in the neighborhood was not given the opportunity to submit a proposal for the project. Other suggestions for the circle have included a gazebo or a sculpture

which would not need the attention that flowers do. Another suggestion was a large tree.

Please attend our meeting on May 10th with your ideas for the Old Azalea Circle, and examine the area at our picnic in Roper Park on May 15th. Perhaps some of you have access to a nursery where we can obtain plants or trees, or

know of a site where we can obtain lumber if we decide to build something. 🐦

—Submitted by
Melanie Barr



NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC MAY 15, 2011

To celebrate our wonderful neighborhood, and get to better know each other, we'll be having a Duckpond neighborhood picnic on **Sunday, May 15 at Roper Park**. We'll start at 4 p.m. and have some food ready by 5 p.m. Burgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, condiments, and soft drinks will be provided. A grill will be set up for everybody to use. Admission is free, but please bring a dish to share, such as a salad, baked beans, or dessert. You may also want to bring chairs, blankets, toys, or games for kids to increase the fun (no pets, please!). All Duckpond residents are welcome! If you wish to help out organizing this event, contact Edith (edith.kaan@gmail.com). Please join us on Sunday May 15th!



Why you should join/renew your DNA membership

A big "thanks!" to those of you who joined or renewed your membership to the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* (DNA) so far this year. Membership dues are for the calendar year (Jan.–Dec.). We made a request for dues starting with our annual meeting on February 8th this year.

Being a member of DNA helps us all in several ways. We are not a homeowners association; we are a group of volunteers who work on projects to benefit our neighborhood. You can get involved in several ways, and sending \$15 (or more) each year is one way to help out.

Plans for this upcoming year include social events, such as a picnic in May and our holiday events in early December. It's not only fun to get together for events, it helps build a sense of neighborhood community. Other plans include continual work on the duck pond and the ducks, possible landscaping projects at Roper Park and our entry feature. We also collaborate with other local groups, such as the *Thomas Center* in celebrating their 100th birthday last year. Civic activities include the candidates forum at our February 8th meeting, and our work with area public schools. Our newsletter is distributed to hundreds of households. Our goal is to have the DNA newsletter's costs supported by selling ads, but that hasn't always worked out.

The DNA has a lot of good things going on . . . and more to do this coming year. Our projects aren't big expensive projects, but on the other hand, the price of our dues is very reasonable (\$15 per household). Please consider joining us if you haven't already. A form on the back of each newsletter lists our funds, in the event you'd like to make separate donations to them: Roper Park fund, the duck fund, the holiday fund (luminaries, wagon rides, etc.), and our general fund.

As you can see, the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* is far from only about collecting money. Joining also allows us to claim more members, which shows active, voluntary involvement by many people. This can help with issues that involve our city and county governments.

If you have questions or comments, we'd like to hear from you. The easiest way is to e-mail the DNA board at BoardDNA@GoogleGroups.com. I also check our post office box a few times a week (P.O. Box 233, Gainesville, FL 32602), the same P.O. Box for sending checks for dues.

Let's see what positive things we all can do this coming year . . . with as many of us working together as possible. 🐾

—Submitted by Brian Miller
DNA Treasurer

THELMA BOLTIN CENTER: A NEIGHBORHOOD JEWEL

Our city describes the *Thelma Boltin Center* as a multi-purpose center that serves senior citizens, but it really is more than that. For neighbors looking for healthy activities, you don't need to look any further than *Thelma Boltin Center* and you don't need to be a senior citizen.

An aerobics group meets each Monday and Friday at 11:30 a.m. For those who have joint problems, this is chair aerobics, but you still get a workout. On Monday and Wednesday at 12:30 p.m., there is a one hour Zumba class which will have you panting and sweating in no time. Yoga enthusiasts meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 a.m. to practice their postures. And if the only exercise you prefer is sitting in a chair, come to play bridge on the first Monday of each month at 11:45 a.m.

All activities are free. 🐾

—Submitted by Mary Rhodes



THOMAS CENTER THEATRE

Starting April 21, the commedia, *Tales of King Arthur*, a free theater performance, will be performed on Thursdays and Saturdays at the *Thomas Center* through May 21. For more details: http://www.gvlculturalaffairs.org/website/programs_events/misc_events/king_arthur.html



CALLING DUCKPOND ARTISTS

Are you or do you know an artist (or performing artist) who lives or works in our neighborhood? We would like to highlight Duckpond artists in future issues of *DNA News*. Contact **Mary Rhodes** at crowley20@hotmail.com

**NEIGHBORHOOD FEATURE
RECOGNIZED BY CITY**

On April 27th the Gainesville City Beautification Board gave an award to the Duckpond Neighborhood Association for our entryway feature on NE 10th Avenue at their program at the *Thomas Center*. This feature was paid for by Eckerds who planned to build their new store on the corner of Main Street and NE 10th Avenue. The money was to "to provide a visual delineation between the residential and commercial area" and "to mitigate for the loss of significant conservation area between the store and the neighborhood." The original feature was designed by neighborhood resident, architect Jay Reeves. It was redesigned and built by neighborhood resident, contractor Gary Anglin, and completed in 2009. 🐦 —Submitted by Melanie Barr



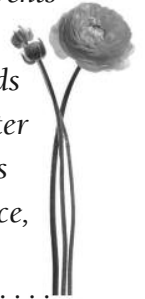
Spring Promenade benefits garden makeover

Saturday, March 12, was perfect this year: sunny skies and balmy temperatures. Visitors strolled from one to another of the six Duckpond homes selected this year to be showcased in the annual *Thomas Center Associates* annual *Spring Promenade*. Volunteers drove vans from one to another of these addresses to transport those wishing a faster progress. Twelve artists from the *Plein Air* artists organization could be observed at work on the *Thomas Center* grounds, and one could purchase their work if desired.

Funds from this traditional Duckpond occasion are designated for the makeover and enhancement of the *Thomas Center's* gardens. The first of these annual events was held in 1975 to provide some of the funds to save the *Thomas Center* from destruction. It has happened every year since, except 2002. In the past other features have been included: luncheons, fashion shows, dances, picnics, antique shows, in addition to the tour.

The homes represented a range in size and character, reflecting the wonderful variety of architectural and period styles that characterize our beloved neighborhood. The event was made possible through the kindness of homeowners Gary and Laura McGill (518 NE 6th St.), Henrietta and Nelson Logan (307 NE 4th Ave.), Carolynn and Eric Topp (719 NE 5th St.), Elena Andersen and Kevin Mickelson (405 NE 10th Ave.) Ann Cordell (1120 NE 3rd St.), and tenants Jenny and Matt Wolfe (506 NE 2nd St.). They follow a long line of civic-minded neighbors who have opened their homes and grounds for this event in past years. The *Thomas Center Associates* are grateful to these folks for being willing to share their homes and for the countless hours they spent in preparing for this benefit.

.....
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.....



The Associates also gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the co-sponsors: the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association*, the *City of Gainesville*, the *Gainesville Sun*, the *Gainesville Garden Club*, the *Gainesville Women's Club*, the *Plein Air Artists*, *Historic Gainesville, Inc.*, and the *American Institute of Architects—Gainesville*.

In addition, the Associates sincerely thank their members and the many people who assisted before, during and after the tour. So much work is involved: recruiting the sites, researching the house histories, designing and printing the program, arranging publicity and insurances, recruiting and scheduling workers (house hosts and hostesses), preparing flower arrangements for each house, renting the vans and scheduling drivers, and preparing the Friday night reception with it bountiful refreshments and mellifluous music.

Each year the Associates hope for good weather and for crowds larger than the year before, since the profits from the tour go toward garden expenses (which grow larger every year). This year should be the best ever, with over \$5,000 taken in. At this writing the bills have not all been received; but there should be an ample amount realized for the event's intended purpose. 🐦

—Charlie Covell and Carolyn Roberts,
with thanks to Jan Scott, this year's Chairman.

Keep Alachua County Beautiful will help with graffiti abatement.

Please report graffiti to them at their website <http://www.kacb.org/> or at 352.371.9444.



Trash . . . not to be treasured

Many of us equate Wednesdays with trash/recycling day. We dutifully take our carts to the curb and wait for the big truck to come. Along our streets, not only carts and bins are lined up on the curb, but “collectors” are as well—individuals that rummage and pilfer through the household recycling bins and trash of each household. In this case, the statement “one man’s junk is another man’s treasure” does *not* apply.

Once bins and carts are placed on the curb, the contents become the property of the *City of Gainesville*. Those who remove the contents are then technically stealing from the City.

Officer Ernest Graham at the Gainesville Police Department Crime Prevention Unit provided the following

response when contacted about this situation:

“Please contact us when you observe people doing this. We need to at the least make contact with these persons and identify them. Many have criminal records that go beyond petty theft and we need to be able to track their movements through the city. This is a great aid to us when crimes such as burglaries do occur.”

In an effort to keep our neighborhood a safer place, *please call the police non-emergency number (955.1818) and report these activities.*

Your neighbors will appreciate it. 🐦

—Submitted by Kacie Grimes

In Sec 27-73 “Prohibited Acts”, it states: **“It is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:**

(5) To collect recovered materials from a solid waste container used by a consumer or commercial customer receiving service from a franchisee, franchise or registrant, after the consumer or commercial customer places the container and recovered materials at the curb or designated area for collection, except as permitted by the city on an emergency interim basis as part of the city’s recycling program when the city manager or designee determines that it is necessary to protect public health, safety or welfare: . . .”



UPCOMING EVENTS

The historic *Thomas Center* is a unique cultural landmark and hosts many diverse art exhibits and special events. Just recently, a fun filled Greek Festival was held there which included traditional music, heavy hors d’oeuvres, and beverages of all kinds. The event was free and open to the public.

Upcoming *Thomas Center* events to include on your calendar:

Juror’s Choice: 2010 Regional Award Winners May 21–July 10
Reception: Thursday, June 9

Thomas Center Summer Invitational July 16–September 11
Reception: Thursday, July 21

Drawing Classes

Beginning Saturday, May 7th, a series of free weekly drawing classes with artist Marco Razo will be offered. Razo has taught in Mexico, New York, and Atlanta. Pencil, charcoal, and pastels will be used. No experience is required and all are welcome. Time is 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Parenting Classes

at the Downtown Library

Beginning Tuesday, May 3rd, with Pam Shamel as your guide, parents and pre-school children will enjoy topics featuring a view-do-read format for all to enjoy. Developmentally appropriate information on language, emotional development, and nutrition will be presented. The program will last four weeks, but you do not need to attend all. Expect to go home with a few free books before the month is over! Pam will introduce you to the full power of PBS for parents and their children. Time is 10:30- 11:30 a.m.

There are many more events happening at our Headquarter’s Library. Be sure to check their website frequently for fun and free programs. —Submitted by Mary Rhodes

ADVERTISE IN DNA NEWS

DNA News is the official publication of the Duckpond Neighborhood Association. It is published four times a year. Our newsletter is hand delivered to approximately 800 households and we estimate each is read by 2.5 persons for a total readership of 2000 Duckponders, mainly homeowners. This is an advertising cost of a little more than 1/2 cent per reader. Quite a bargain we think!

For advertising sizes, rates, specs, and ad deadlines, please contact Pat Rhodes at doctorpatrick@hotmail.com.

DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Many newsletter distributors leave for the summer. If you are able to take a route during the summer, or anytime during the year, please write to boardDNA@googlegroups.com.

Wonderful tree city—sometimes



One of the many attributes of Gainesville is the diversity and population of trees. In our older and established neighborhood, we have an abundance. This spring, our family spent a lot of time in the yard enjoying the weather while weeding, mulching, planting, and raking. Lots of raking. It occurred to me that we were raking leaves from our neighbor's trees . . . hours of raking and clean-up. Although it's great exercise, our list of other tasks lingered while we attended to these outdoor responsibilities.

This situation inspired me to do a little research about neighbors and trees, and indeed there was a multitude of information about the subject on the internet. Some of the issues mentioned: tree limbs hanging over property lines, roofs, and vehicles; felled trees in neighbor's yards; unhealthy or dead trees posing the potential of falling and damaging prop-

erty; invasive species creating tree offspring; dropping of rotting fruit; spreading tree roots that caused damage to patios, property, and plumbing; littering of leaves; the list went on—as did the questions, complaints, and legal advice.

In the spirit of being a good neighbor and responsible property owner, please consider evaluating your own yard with a fresh perspective. Take note as to how your planting choices have affected or may affect others. A bit of research prior to landscaping can minimize problems in the future. As for mature landscaping, proactively take measures to correct potential problems—for yourself and those around you. Discuss problematic situations with your neighbors and offer potential solutions.

Living in tree city *can* be a wonderful thing. 🐦

—Submitted by A. Poston



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COMMERCIAL HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL

duckpond officers and directors



Please fill out and return the form below with your annual membership dues (\$15 per household.) Make your check payable to:

Duckpond Neighborhood Association
PO Box 233
Gainesville FL 32602-0233



President

Melanie Barr 377.4217 boardDNA@googlegroups.com

Vice President

Charles Covell 336.0127 boardDNA@googlegroups.com

Secretary

Mary Rhodes 375.2616 boardDNA@googlegroups.com

Treasurer

Brian Miller 379.7948 boardDNA@googlegroups.com

Directors

David Auth 371.1991 boardDNA@googlegroups.com

Edith Kaan 379.7948 boardDNA@googlegroups.com

David Maren 381.1985 boardDNA@googlegroups.com

Patrick Rhodes 375.2616 boardDNA@googlegroups.com

Currently there are seats available on the DNA Board. If you are curious about the responsibilities and time commitment for being a Board member, please contact any of the Board members listed above. With your help, we can continue to make the Duckpond a great place to live.

Stay Informed: Join the DNA Update email list!

To add your email address, e-mail boardDNA@googlegroups.com to join the e-mail discussion list. DNA updates are typically sent out once or twice a month. DNA will never use your email for solicitation or political purposes.

duckpond neighborhood association membership form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Committee Interests:

Board Member Crime Watch Holiday Events Newsletter Distribution Parks Schools Yard Sale

Skills and/or resources I would like to make available to the Duckpond Neighborhood Association:

I would also like to contribute to the following: *(optional)*

Duck Fund \$ _____ Roper Park Fund \$ _____ Holiday Fund \$ _____ General Fund \$ _____