



dna news

duckpond neighborhood association • NE Historic District • Gainesville Florida • February 2012



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

general meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2012
7:00–8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st Street
Bethany Room

agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS
Approval of Minutes, Nov. 2011
Treasurer's Report

CRIME REPORT
Gainesville Police Department

GUEST SPEAKER
Jo-Anne Peck
Historic Shed
(see info on page 5)

DISCUSSION:
By Laws
Election of Officers
Drawing for Hippodrome Tickets

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

DNA News is published four times a year, just prior to general meetings. Meeting dates for 2012 are Feb 16, May 8, September 11, November 13. All neighborhood residents are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings.

Spring Promenade: Tour of Historic Homes

The **Spring Promenade** tour of homes in the Duckpond neighborhood will be on Friday, March 9th and Saturday, March 10th this year. Five homes (listed at right) will be open to ticket holders and this may be your only chance to see their interiors. The homes represent a range in size and character, reflecting a wonderful variety of architectural and period styles.

On Friday night, the opening reception and candlelight tour will begin at 6 p.m. The tours will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. Friday night tickets cost \$20 per person. These tickets can also be reused to see the houses in the daytime on Saturday when they will be open from 10 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday tickets are \$10 per person.

In addition to the homes tour, the *Thomas Center* will be open for self-guided tours from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on Saturday, and 16 *Plein Air* artists will be painting in the garden until 4 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the *Thomas Center*, 302 NE 6th Avenue. For those who do not wish to walk to the houses, transportation will be provided free of charge. The proceeds from the sale of tickets goes toward the *Thomas Center* garden makeover.

Thank you to all of the neighbors, past and present, for their willingness to share their homes for us to enjoy, and for their support of the garden project. 🐥

Thomas Center Associates
present the

2012 Spring Promenade

Black House (1942)
544 NE 10th Avenue

RESIDENCE OF
Evans Haile

Blackmon House (1924)
214 NE 7th Avenue

RESIDENCE OF
Larry and Jane Fowler

Getzen-Douglas House (1937)
303 NE 8th Avenue

RESIDENCE OF
Susan Parrish and Ken Dixner

Maines-Mason House (1949)
318 NE 10th Ave

RESIDENCE OF
Renee and George Wilson

Wedding Present House (1918)
514 NE 5th Avenue

RESIDENCE OF
Chip Sawyer and Karen Adams

A message from our president

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@google-groups.com.

Dear Duckpond residents,

Elections time is here, not just for local government elections, but also for the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association*. We would like more members to join the Board of Directors, and will have elections at our February meeting. We urge everyone who is interested in the neighborhood and would like to participate in our monthly meetings to join the Board.

You may write BoardDNA@google-groups.com to let us know if you are interested, or would like more information on what being a board member is all about. If you prefer to call, please call 377.4217 to let me know that you would like to be on the Board.

We will also vote on our new By Laws at our February meeting. In the interest of saving paper we have posted them on our website <http://historicduckpond.com/> under the By Laws tab. Please look at

them there so you will be prepared to vote on the By Laws. If you are not able to see them on-line please call me at 377.4217 and I will deliver a copy to you. Some copies will be available at the DNA meeting on February 16th too.

Please remember it is not an easy decision for a business or individual to decide where to spend their advertising money. We are pleased that our advertisers chose to spend money on placing ads in the Duckpond newsletter, and encourage you to patronize them. By doing so you are helping downtown businesses get ahead in these challenging economic times. They will appreciate your patronage, and the money you spend with them will be spent locally as well.

Sincerely,
Melanie Barr
President

WALK WITH CHIEF JONES

The Gainesville Police Department is in the process of scheduling neighborhood walks with Chief Tony Jones. Chief Jones is willing to walk our neighborhood with a group of residents. The walks usually start around 6 p.m. and he does one walk each month. If you are interested in participating in a walk with Chief Jones, please contact Melanie Barr at 377.4217 or e-mail boardDNA@google-groups.com so that we can see if there is enough neighborhood interest to coordinate a walk in our neighborhood. Neighbors can talk with the Chief about neighborhood concerns during the walk.

It's time to join the DNA or renew your membership!

The Duckpond Neighborhood Association (DNA) is a group of volunteers who work on projects to benefit the Duckpond neighborhood. We are not a homeowners association. Anyone who lives in the neighborhood, either renter or owner, can join!

Your contribution will be used towards social events, such as the picnic in May and the holiday events in December; towards Roper Park improvements, towards work on the duckpond basin, and other neighborhood projects and events.

Membership dues are for the calendar year (January–December). Membership is \$15 per household; if you like, you can also make separate donations to specific funds, such as the holiday fund or the Roper Park fund.

Please complete the membership (re-

Please fill out and return with your annual membership dues - \$15 per household
Make your check payable to: Duckpond Neighborhood Association • PO Box 233 • Gainesville, FL 32602-0233

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

I would also like to contribute to the following: Duck Fund \$ _____ Roper Park Fund \$ _____ Holiday Fund \$ _____ General Fund \$ _____

See the back cover of the newsletter for an expanded membership form with additional information. Thank you for supporting our neighborhood.



newal) form located on the back page of this newsletter, and mail it with your check to: PO Box 5794, Gainesville, FL 32527. You can also support the DNA by being actively involved in our events and committees. For more information, please contact the DNA board at BoardDNA@google-groups.com, or come to our general membership meetings. Thank you for your continued support and interest!



—Submitted by Edith Kaan and Brian Miller

Black Widow and Brown Recluse Spiders

One night a few months ago my wife, son and I were returning to our Duckpond home after an evening out. Climbing up the back steps first, Rob pointed out a spider in a tangled web where a step riser met the side wall, creating a corner. "What kind of spider is this, Dad?" he asked. I knew as soon as I saw it that it was a Black Widow, *Latrodectus mactans*, sometimes also called the Southern Black Widow. It is one of the 31 worldwide species of *Latrodectus*, and is so called because the female often kills and sucks the body fluids out of her mate, which is mottled brown and about a quarter the size of a full-grown female.

This spider is easy to recognize. The body is totally glossy black except for bright red spots on the abdomen, the largest usually being a solid "hourglass" pattern on the underside. It is usually seen in the center of a tangled mass of webbing, which vibrates when an insect blunders into it and is quickly dispatched by the female. It is nocturnal, but one can sometimes find it during the day, usually in a protected place like a garage corner, a box, an old tin can, or in a tiny cavity under a stone in the yard. In the "old days" they set up webbing in outhouses, where bites often occurred. It is good sense, however, to avoid putting one's hand in any small protected place outside or in a shed or garage.

All spiders are venomous, but only one other in the U.S. is dangerous: the Brown Recluse. This spider is gray to grayish brown, and does not sit in webbing. The only marking is between the legs on the cephalothorax ("back") that looks like a solid, darker violin shape. It hides under boards, in boxes, in old boots, and other hiding places in sheds, garages, woodpiles, and other outdoor-accessible places. When an insect comes near, it pounces on it to kill and consume it. People get bitten by both of our dangerous spiders when they unwittingly rub up against them, trapping them against the skin.

.....
*The bites of a female
Black Widow and either sex
of the Brown Recluse
are both painful and dangerous, al-
though death from the bites
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lasting problems.*
.....



The bites of a female Black Widow and either sex of the Brown Recluse are both painful and dangerous, although death from the bites is rare. One should seek medical attention right away to treat the bite and limit pain and longer-lasting problems. The venoms of these two species differ: the Black Widow has a neurotoxin which causes muscle pain and spasms, abdominal pain and nausea, in varying degrees. The Brown Recluse venom causes pain at the bite site, but it causes the disintegration of the fat layer under the skin around that site. Over time—sometimes months—it may create an open wound that might require a skin graft. Since I am not a medical doctor, I can only suggest getting to an emergency room as soon as possible after a bite, and capture and take with you the suspected critter for absolute identification. If you use a computer, a wealth of information about these spiders and their venoms, as well as photos, can be seen at a number of websites. Just *Google* the common names "Black Widow Spider" and "Brown Recluse Spider."

Back to the Black Widow now. We have found one other on our premises in the 7 years we have lived here. I found it one morning soon after we moved in. It was in our mailbox! 🐜

—Submitted by Charles Covell

DUCKPOND HOLIDAY EVENTS SUMMARY, 2011

On December 3rd we had a successful, fun holiday evening in the Duckpond neighborhood. Looking back, here's a brief look at what we did:

Luminaries: Northeast Boulevard and the streets leading up to the *Thomas Center* were lit by the glow of luminaries from sunset onward. It was very nice weather, and many volunteers had a good time placing the candles and bags in the morning, lighting them at sunset (and walking around enjoying them!).

Wagon Rides: The *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* sponsored wagon rides for adults and kids. It was popular, and the full wagons took loops from the *Thomas Center* through the neighborhood (including up Northeast Boulevard). Many of the wagon riders sang Christmas carols during their trip. We made some money on this event, which helps to run the event next year.

Tree Lighting: There was a big tree in the center court of the *Thomas Center*. An overflow crowd gathered to hear groups of carolers and musicians, enjoy the snacks, and see the tree lighting ceremony. Usually the mayor flips the light switch, but since he was out of town, Randy Wells (a city commissioner who lives in Duckpond) did the honors.

A big thanks to all the neighborhood volunteers, including DNA's wagon ride and luminary co-coordinator Mary Rhodes. And thanks to all of you who joined in this event!

🐜 —Submitted by Brian Miller

.....
WEB EXTRA!



See photos of this event at
HistoricDuckpond.com

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Redeemed by Art:

Al Black's Prison Murals

January 7-February 25

Thomas Center Gallery

In the 1960s, a group of self-trained African-American artists began producing iconic Florida landscapes in and around the Fort Pierce area. They became known as *The Highwaymen* because they sold their paintings alongside the roads frequented by tourists. Al Black (b. 1946) was one of them. For more than thirty years, he worked with the group as both salesman and painter.

AARP Tax Assistance

Saturday, February 11

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Alachua County Headquarters
Library, Downtown

The AARP Foundation will provide free tax aide-assistance to seniors and others who qualify. From February 6 through April 16, tax help will be available on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please come to the Downtown Library to make an appointment.

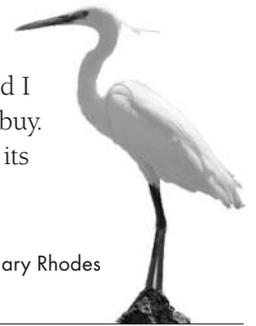
Enjoying our duck pond waterfowl

I love walking along Northeast Boulevard, talking to the geese, and listening to them honk back. I sometimes even get the feeling that they recognize my voice. Is that possible? Along with other neighbors and their children, I also enjoy feeding the geese and any visiting waterfowl. What some of you may not know is that the waterfowl feed in the metal pail is purchased by your neighbors at their own expense. You can help the neighbors who purchase the food by doing a few simple things. Ensure that the lid on the metal pail is on tight when you replace it. A tightly fitting lid keeps rain water out which will cause the feed to be-

come moldy. Leave the cup in the pail of food. The next neighbor to feed the waterfowl will appreciate having a cup. Give one half cup of feed at a time. Excess food not eaten by the birds contributes to unnecessary nutrients in the water causing pollution in the pond and downstream.

If you are interested in occasionally buying the waterfowl feed, send me an email and I can tell you what to buy. Enjoy our pond and its wildlife. 🐦

-Submitted by Mary Rhodes



Artisan's Guild Gallery returns to downtown

We have a new businesses in downtown that many of our neighbors have likely made purchases from already, either at its newest location, or its previous locations. The Gainesville *Artisans' Guild Gallery* has moved several times in its 41 year history, and we hope it is back downtown permanently.

All of the art in the gallery available for sale is created by one the *Artisans' Guild's* 55 members and most of the price of the art purchased goes to the artist, with a portion allocated to gallery expenses. Artists who are represented at the gallery are required to spend time volunteering at the gallery every month, so it is

likely you will meet a new artist every time you visit.

The *Artisans' Guild Gallery* is located in the Union Street Station, 201 SE 2nd Place, Suite 113 and is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and until 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. It is also open from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Please call 378.1383 for more information or visit their website at www.artisans-guildgallery.com. Remember that purchasing art at the *Artisans' Guild* truly gives meaning to the words "Buy Local" since it provides an income to a local person who spends their money locally. 🐦

-Submitted by Melanie Barr

	 <p>Unique Locally Made Gifts Union Street Station ~ downtown 201 SE 2nd Place, Suite 113 Gainesville, FL 32601 Phone: 352-378-1383 Website: www.artisansguildgallery.com Hours: M-TH: 10-7, F-Sat: 10-9, & Sun: 12-5</p>
	
	

The *Artisans' Guild Gallery* is open during the downtown evening Art Walk events. Come on by, see what's new!

The origins of the *Artisans' Guild Gallery* go back to October 1970, a time when there were few opportunities for local artists and crafts people to display and market their work.

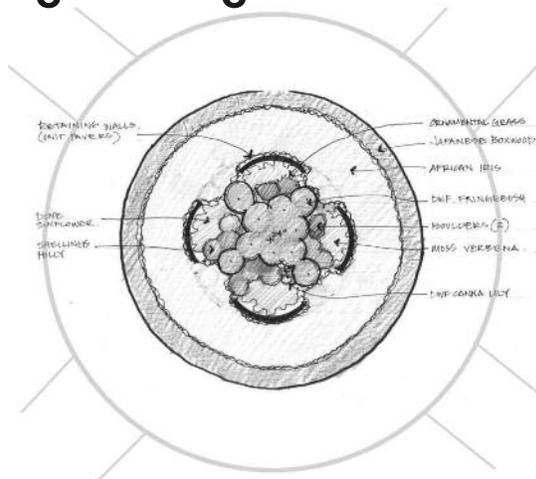
FEATURED GUEST at the FEBRUARY 16 meeting

Our featured speaker for the February 16 meeting will be **Jo-Anne Peck** from **Historic Shed**, located in Brooksville, Florida. Ms. Peck has worked as an historic preservation consultant in Florida for more than 15 years and is a licensed Building Contractor. Several years ago, she and her husband expanded their business to provide historically appropriate garden sheds, cottages and garages that complement historic Florida homes in addition to hard-to-find items such as wood window screens and screen doors. Their presentation should be of great interest to any of us who live in our nationally and locally registered historic district. For more information regarding Historic Shed, please visit online at historicshed.com. 🐦

Roper Park Circle: Spring Planting Plan

The circle in *Roper Park* has been looking rather barren for the last few years. We have described the history of this, and the subsequent actions undertaken by neighbors, in the May and November 2011 issues of *DNA News*. (See historicduckpond.com.)

Last Fall, a committee was formed with two goals in mind: first, to improve the circle as soon as possible, and second, to look into the feasibility of acquiring an artwork or other big-ticket item. The first goal will be realized by planting the circle. At the initiative of our neighbors Jan Scott and Bill Warinner, and in consultation with John Weber from the *City of Gainesville*, Mike Volk from *Volk Design Consultants, LLC* has designed a low-maintenance and low-cost landscaping plan. This plan involves raising the grade of circle gradually up to about two feet in the center, using four decorative ridges to keep the dirt in place. Plantings will include a circle of Japanese Boxwood along the outer edge. The center of the circle will be planted with a variety of perennials and low growing bushes, such as Dwarf Fringe Bush, Moss Verbena, Canna Lilly, and ornamental grass. The space between the Boxwood and the center plantings will be filled with African Iris. This



Note: To view a color version of this landscaping plan, visit HistoricDuckpond.com

design could accommodate one large artwork, or up to four smaller sculptures. Pending final approval of the plan by the DNA board, landscaping will start this spring and be completed before this April. As for the second goal of acquiring an artwork, we are still looking into various options. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas related to *Roper Park*, or would like to be actively involved, please contact Edith Kaan at edith.kaan@gmail.com. 🐦

—Submitted by Edith Kaan

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Matheson Museum Fundraiser
Small Town Sunday Night
Traveling the Old Bellamy Road: A Journey Through History with the Matheson Museum

Sunday, March 25, 4 p.m.
Rembert Farm, County Road 241, Alachua

Save the date for dancing, a live art auction, and horse carriage rides along the Bellamy Road. See live exhibits with historians of a past time in Alachua County history. Tickets are \$99 per person, adults only. All proceeds will support the *Matheson Museum's* educational programs and maintenance. For information, contact the *Matheson Museum* at 378.2280 or info@mathesonmuseum.org.

VIVA EUROPE!

Saturday, April 7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Bo Diddley Community Plaza

Taste, hear, and experience Europe at this free festival! Music, dance, food vendors, games, contests, kid's activities, demos, marketplace, languages, t-shirts, displays, and more. For more information: www.ces.ufl.edu/outreach/viva_europe/

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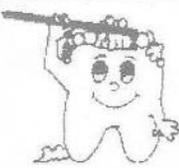
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COMMERCIAL HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL

duckpond board



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 5794
Gainesville FL 32627



President

Melanie Barr 377.4217

Vice President

Charles Covell 336.0127

Secretary

Mary Rhodes 375.2616

Treasurer

Brian Miller 379.7948

Directors

David Auth 371.1991

Edith Kaan 379.7948

David Maren 381.1985

If you are curious about the responsibilities and time commitment for being a Board member, please contact any of the Board members listed above by calling, or email boardDNA@googlegroups.com. With your help, we can continue to make the Duckpond a great place to live.

Do you have an announcement, story, article, or advertisement that you would like to share? If so, please submit your information to boardDNA@googlegroups.com. Your submissions are appreciated, and a great way to share information with your neighbors!



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. Please contact boardDNA@googlegroups.com for more information.

Stay Informed: Join the DNA Update email list!

To join, e-mail your address to boardDNA@googlegroups.com. 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 \$ _____