



dna news

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



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

general meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2012
7:00–8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st Street
Bethany Room

agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS
Approval of Minutes, Sept. 2012
Treasurer's Report

CRIME REPORT
Gainesville Police Department

GUEST SPEAKER
Pegeen Hanrahan
Former Gainesville Mayor
Florida's Water and Land Legacy
(See article on page 3.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. All neighborhood residents are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings. Meeting dates for 2013 will be announced in the February 2013 issue.

Holiday luminaries and carriage rides

Now that fall is here, it's time to begin thinking about the holiday season and luminaries. Once again, the *City of Gainesville* and the *Duckpond Neighborhood* will collaborate in ushering in the Christmas season. We will have wagon rides through the neighborhood starting from the *Thomas Center*. Each horse-drawn wagon ride lasts about 15 minutes.

Your family can also enjoy the arrival of Santa Claus and the annual lighting of the tree inside the *Thomas Center* beginning at 6 p.m. Listen to choral groups both inside and outside the *Thomas Center*, including performances in the beautiful Spanish Court. Wagon rides will last from 6:00–9:45 p.m. Festivities inside the *Thomas Center* begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.

This annual event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 1. Luminary preparation will begin at 9 a.m. on the east side of the Boulevard at 7th Avenue. Lighting the luminaries will take place beginning at 5:30 p.m. We will need lots of volunteers to make this event a success. In addition to setting up luminaries, we will need volunteers at the ticket table for the wagon rides, and volunteers to remove the luminaries after the event. We will have a volunteer signup sheet at the November neighborhood meeting.

This wonderful tradition has been a part of the Duckpond experience for years and a wonderful way to reconnect with neighbors and bring family and friends together. Please put it on your calendar today and we'll see you on the east side of the Boulevard at 7th Avenue on Saturday, December 1, at 9 a.m. Bring your holiday spirit and something to scoop sand with.

If you have questions, contact Mary Rhodes at crawley20@hotmail.com.

—Submitted by Mary Rhodes

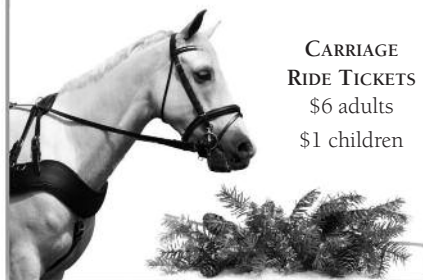
PLEASE JOIN THE FUN AND FESTIVITIES AT OUR ANNUAL

Duckpond Holiday Celebration

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 1, 2012

- 9 am Luminary preparation
(NE Blvd & 7th Ave.)
- 5:30 pm Luminary lighting
- 6–8 pm *Thomas Center* activities
(302 NE 6th Ave..)
- 6–9:45 pm Carriage rides

CARRIAGE
RIDE TICKETS
\$6 adults
\$1 children



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@googlegroups.com.



NEW POND RESIDENTS!

Thanks to a generous donation from one of our neighbors, we have some new pond residents; a pair of **black swans**. While they are becoming acclimated to their new home, we need to periodically check the pond vicinity for hazards. Dogs running loose around the pond will frighten them. Please make sure your dog is on a leash and not barking at our new neighbors. Swans will eat the *hydrilla* growing in our pond and will eat the tadpoles that live in the pond. If you or your children wish to feed them, there is waterfowl food in the aluminum can at the south end of the pond. Please do **not** feed them anything else. 🦆

Dear Duckpond residents,

Our neighborhood's activities went well in October. The *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk was the same day as the Roper Park Yard Sale, which was unusual. Gainesville police stopped traffic from coming into our neighborhood so the walkers could cross the streets so that may have prevented some customers from accessing the Yard Sale.

That was almost made up by the fact that several walkers ran over to see what we were selling. The problem was that no one carries a purse while going on a three mile march, so they didn't have money to buy anything! Some people promised to come back after the walk was over, but I don't think that they did. It was profitable for us anyhow, and we made \$241, thanks to the families who donated items and the fees from the people who set up and sold their own items.

Our fundraising for the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk placed us in 27th place out of 127 teams on the Monday after the Saturday walk. We still have time to raise money, so maybe we will make it to the top 20 before the month is over. I am happy that we are a good host to the walkers by raising money. We are helping people get cured more quickly, and better yet, learn about prevention and early detection so they don't have to battle breast cancer in the future.

We should have a lot of fun with the carriage rides at the *Thomas Center* on December 1st, and setting out luminaries too. If you have not helped with these events, please come out and see what it involves. We can always use your help.

Sincerely,

Melanie Barr, President
Duckpond Neighborhood Association

Duck pond waterfowl update

For those of you who were unable to attend the September *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* meeting, a lively discussion followed a presentation from Pearse Hayes on waterfowl. Not only were local media present for the discussion, but an article in the newspaper was printed the next day. In the ensuing days, during walks around the pond, neighbors were talking about the Muscovies.

During the presentation from Mr. Hayes, we learned that Muscovy ducks procreate rapidly, laying eggs three times a year with up to 20 eggs in each clutch. During the previous 18 months, more than 100 eggs have been removed from the area around the duck pond. The last batch of eggs was not removed and an additional 14 Muscovy ducks were added to the population. A large number of Muscovies produce a good deal of nitrogen which is smelly, is detrimental

to the balance of nutrients in the pond water, which up the growth of *Hydrilla* in the pond. The Muscovies don't limit themselves to the pond and the island. They leave behind unpleasant droppings in the yards of neighbors facing the pond. Mr. Hayes reminded the audience that we do have migratory ducks visiting us each year. He also presented several options to the neighborhood for adding waterfowl to the pond and protecting them from predators.

After the presentation, the neighbors voted to have the Muscovies caught and removed in a humane way. They were relocated to area farms. A neighborhood duck committee was formed during the meeting. The committee has met once to discuss adding waterfowl to the pond and will monitor the wildlife and trash in the pond. This will be an ongoing effort to

continued on page 6 >

Pegeen Hanrahan will speak about Florida's Water and Land Legacy on November 13

Former Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan will speak at our November 13th meeting regarding the campaign to support Florida's Water and Land Legacy (FWLL). Since 2009, the Florida Legislature has provided only \$23 million for *Florida Forever*, a 97.5 percent reduction in funding from the consistent funding level of prior years. State appropriations for land management and ecological restoration, including the Everglades, have suffered similar declines.

Florida's Water and Land Legacy (www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org) is a citizen's initiative to ensure funding for land conservation and restoration over the next 20 years by placing a constitutional amendment on the November 2014 ballot. If passed, the measure will dedicate 1/3 of the documentary stamp tax, the historic funding source for *Florida Forever* and Everglades restoration, to that purpose. This will require gathering 676,811 valid signatures from registered Florida voters by January of 2014, and gaining 60% of the vote at the ballot box. Former Mayor Hanrahan is serving as the campaign manager for this effort, which is being led by Senator Bob Graham and Colleen Castille, Former FDEP Secretary under Jeb Bush.

In 2013, state bonds previously sold as part of Preservation 2000 will be paid off, making \$259 million in doc stamp funds available for other uses. If these funds are not set aside for land and water conservation by the Legislature they will be diverted to other purposes. This proposed constitutional amendment would instead maintain the historical purpose of these funds, reserving them for land and water conservation in Florida. Without the amendment, once these funds are appropriated for other uses it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to reclaim them for conservation.

This would not be a tax increase. The



constitutional amendment would use money that is already collected by the state. Doc stamps are paid when a house or other real estate is sold, and the amendment would dedicate one-third of the proceeds to conservation and recreation land acquisition, land and water management, and restoration of degraded natural systems. This amendment would impose no new regulations. Land would be acquired from willing sellers on a voluntary basis only. Management and restoration activities would be performed on public lands and in cooperation with willing private landowners.

Since 1994, Florida voters have approved five of the six proposed amendments to the state constitution relating to conservation and the environment. The average Yes vote for the conservation amendments was 68 percent statewide; locally, the voting precinct at the *Thelma Boltin Center* has the strongest return for conservation-related issues voting 75.55% in favor of the local *Wild Spaces/Public Places* sales tax in 2008.

Pegeen will speak about the petition gathering process for Florida's Water and Land Legacy project. Volunteers are needed, and we will learn how people can help with this effort. 🐦

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: DUCKPOND HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES, DECEMBER 1

Please join neighbors at 9 a.m., Saturday, December 1, on the east side of the Boulevard at 7th Avenue to fill luminary bags with sand and candles. Bring an empty yogurt container or similar item to scoop sand into the bags.

Bring your lighters out between 5:30–6 p.m. to light luminaries lining the carriage routes.

We need volunteers to sell tickets for wagon rides. This is an easy job. Shifts include two volunteers from 6–7:30 p.m.; 7:30–9 p.m., and 9–10 p.m. Please email **Mary Rhodes** at crawley20@hotmail.com to volunteer or if you have questions.

For questions about the tree lighting, please call 393.8746.



USPS: HOLIDAY PACKING TIPS

As you check off your holiday gift list this season, below are some helpful tips to make sure your gifts travel and arrive safely:

- Remove batteries from toys and electronics. Wrap and place them next to the item in the mailing box.
- Place a card inside the package that contains both the delivery and return addresses to ensure the return of an item should the mailing label become damaged or fall off.
- Include both "to" and "from" information on packages—and only on one side. Always use a return address.
- Select a box that is strong enough to protect the contents.
- Stuff glass and fragile, hollow items, like vases, with newspaper or packing material to avoid damage.
- When mailing framed photographs, take the glass out of the frame and wrap it separately.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fill 'Er Up: A Presentation of Filling Station Collectables

Fri., Nov. 9, 7–8:30 p.m.
Matheson Museum

Learn about an earlier period in Alachua County's history when there was no such thing as "self-serve". View hundreds of artifacts, and collectables from private collections. A discussion of early filling station photographs will be presented by avid collector Don Davis. The exhibit will be on display through December.

Audubon—Ditch of Dreams

Tues., Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Millhopper Branch Library

Fifty years ago in November Marjorie Carr and concerned friends quizzed legislators at a meeting at *Gainesville High School* about the proposed Cross Florida Barge Canal. What has happened since? Local authors Steven Noll and David Tegeder will explain.

The Life and Times of Marjorie Rawlings

Wed., Nov. 21, 7–8:30 p.m.
Downtown Library

Karen De Vos reenacts the memories of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Slides, made from the Rawlings collection at UF, accompany the entire program.

Cane Boil and FiddleFest

Sat., Nov. 24, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.
Morningside Nature Center

Annual Cane Boil and FiddleFest, a musical tapestry joining past traditions of giving thanks and celebrating bountiful harvests! Help preserve that tradition, experience the making and bottling of sugar cane syrup, live roots music, and costumed living history interpreters and demonstrators bringing to life a day on an 1870s Florida farm. For information, please call 334.3326.

Moths in the house!

Here in Gainesville we live in the subtropics—an area where freezes are fairly rare and short in duration. Insects of all kinds are capable of surviving our winters, although those of 2008–09 and the two following gave us more and lower freezes than in most years. Many of our truly tropical insects, such as the Zebra Longwing butterfly, were "killed back" and took a long time to repopulate. Some of our less desirable moths, which share the insect Order Lepidoptera with butterflies, probably suffered the same fluctuations in population.

The moths are much more abundant in species than butterflies: about 11,000 species are recorded in North America as contrasted to about 800 of butterflies. Most moths are not harmful to human interests in any way. A few have stinging caterpillars (Io Moth and Saddle-back caterpillar, for example). A number are agricultural and horticultural pests, (Oleander caterpillar, Armyworm), and some deforest huge stands of timber (Gypsy Moth, pictured above). Then there are moths we find in the house.

Some moths get into the home through doors and windows, as they are attracted to lights and can enter when we give them an open door at night. These often remain around our outside lights at night, and even remain in place during the day where they landed. Most of these are not harmful in any way, and can be shooed out, or caught when they land in a jar or cup to be transported outdoors.

For those of us with plants indoors, moths occasionally come with them when we bring them home. They may be in their immature stages, then emerge as adult moths later on. These should also not be an ongoing problem. It is a good idea to examine plants for any kind of insects before bringing them inside.

Then there are moths that make their living on materials in our homes. Basically



there are the three species of Clothes Moths, which feed on animal hair, hides or such. All adult Clothes Moths are very small—only about one-third of an inch long as they sit with wings folded along the body. Most are small and drab like Clothes Moths, but the Meal Moth, *Pyralis farinalis*, is a bit larger and has a pretty color pattern. If you see these near a closet where woolens are stored, you know it is time to take those clothes, blankets and other items out for a careful inspection. Unexplained holes, and small whitish caterpillars tell you have a clothes moth infestation. Dry cleaning after airing these in the sun for a couple of hours should solve that problem. If the infestation has done irreparable damage, the item should be discarded. Services of a bonded pest control company may be necessary to rid the house of a bad infestation. One kind, the Case-making Clothes Moth, makes tiny cocoons which often appear on the ceiling near where the moths have been active.

The other kind of unwanted moths belong in the category of "pantry pests," along with certain small beetles. These usually specialize in cereals and cereal products. Most are small and drab like clothes moths, but a couple (like the Meal Moth, *Pyralis farinalis*) is a bit larger and has a pretty color pattern. I have had these in our Duckpond home, and the solution involves carefully inspecting all milled grain products you keep on hand. Infested food that you discover should be tightly wrapped in plastic bags and discarded. To prevent infestation, such foodstuffs should be stored in tight containers as soon as they are brought into the house.

I recently bought a small sticky trap that folds into a triangular "house" for

continued on page 5 >

Moth (continued from page 4)

suspension in the kitchen. It has an attractant that brings in any moths, and I found that we had some! These are available from hardware or big box stores. The brand we have is called “ReVenge Moth Traps.”

There are other species one might find.

For identification and control information I suggest one use Google and put in “grain moths” and “pantry pests.” Our IFAS specialists have very good information about these critters as well.

Best wishes for a moth-free home! 🐛

—Submitted by Charlie Covell

The Doris Bardon Community Cultural Center

Doris Bardon, who passed away at the age of 86 in October 2006, provided seed money in her estate to establish a community cultural center where artists, arts organizations and community members could collaborate, grow, inspire and create for the sake of the Gainesville community and beyond.

In spite of the cultural treasures that abound in Alachua County there was no physical space or community cultural center that offered facilities for creating, teaching, exhibiting, performing, collaborating, training future artists, developing future audiences, sharing information.

In the summer of 2011, a strategic alliance composed of the *Arts Association of Alachua County* and the *Gainesville Fine Arts Association* came together with resources, energy and a determination to establish “The Doris”. In October 2011, The Doris opened its door on the border of our neighborhood adding a new vitality to the growing downtown arts district.

Under the leadership of the AAAC, it is hoped that the *Doris Bardon Community Cultural Center* will become a unifying force for the arts, provide a central meeting place, a gallery, and a home for various events. It will be a place where the talented artists in our community will have a home, where children can explore various arts, performers can share their talents, and especially one where the community throughout Alachua County will feel comfortable. To quote Doris, we wish to create a place “where the rich



The Doris Bardon Community Cultural Center. Visit their website at <http://thedoris.org/> for a listing of upcoming exhibits, classes, and events.



treasures of Alachua County can be shared with its citizens.”

The *Doris Bardon Community Cultural Center* now serves as the vibrant “cultural heart” of the North Central Florida community by offering visual and performing arts classes, gallery exhibits, workshops, performances and other programs. The primary goal of The Doris—a volunteer-run, non-profit organization—is to stimulate creative inspiration, both for those who create it and those who experience it.

The Doris is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and is located at 716 North Main Street, an easy walk from our neighborhood. For more information, please call 505.5062 or email info@thedoris.org. 🐛

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rwanda Sustainable Families Fundraiser at The Doris

Sat., Dec. 1, 6–10 p.m.

Help to change the lives of families in Rwanda. Purchase jewelry, clothing, baskets, and wood sculptures by our artist cooperative members. Enjoy great food and wine as you listen to music by Peter Levitov and the acoustic group Cinnamon Hill. For information, call 222.2052.

Hippodrome State Theatre A Tuna Christmas

Nov. 23–Dec. 23

Those wacky characters from Tuna, Texas have once again entered the heated Yuletide lawn display contest. Socialite Vera Carp hopes to win another consecutive victory, but she faces stiff competition from the crusty proprietor of Didi’s Used Weapons and from a pair of cowboy-loving Tastee Creme waitresses. Don’t miss tour-de-force performances for two actors in multiple roles!

A Christmas Carol

Nov. 24–Dec. 22

Join Scrooge, Marley, the Cratchits and a host of Christmas ghosts for this holiday favorite. Dazzling special effects, an original adaptation and a timeless message of goodwill have made *A Christmas Carol* one of the most popular Hippodrome productions of all time.

For more information, please contact the **Hippodrome** at 375.4477.

ADVERTISE IN DNA NEWS

DNA News is hand delivered to approximately 800 households. We estimate a readership of approximately 2000 residents. For advertising sizes, rates, specs, and ad deadlines, please contact boardDNA@googlegroups.com

Ducks (continued from page 2)

keep wildlife in the pond. Your neighborhood association has a “duck fund” which helps to pay for waterfowl food and the purchase of additional ducks for our pond. If you would like to make a donation, please note on your check that

it is for the duck fund. If you would like your voice to be heard, volunteer to be on the duck committee, or if you would just like to make a comment, email boardDNA@googlegroups.com and put “duck committee” in the subject line. 🦆

—Submitted by Mary Rhodes

The Pleasant Street Historic District was the first predominately black historic district in the State of Florida to be placed on the *National Register of Historic Places* when it was listed in 1989. It is located directly west of the Duckpond Neighborhood and bounded roughly by NW 8th Avenue on the north, NW 1st Street on the east, NW 2nd Avenue on the south, and NW 6th Street on the west.

Smith-Griffin House, Pleasant Street District

The Pleasant Street Historic Society's grant application for the renovation of the Smith-Griffin House in the Small Matching Grant Category was ranked 11th out of the 29 received by the *Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation*. The grant requests have to be voted on by the State Legislature so it will not be known until the end of the next legislative session in May as to whether the project will receive funding. The Historic Society is obligated to provide \$25,000 in cash and in-kind donations in order to match the grant. The matching money must be in the Historic Society's bank account prior to signing the contract in June.

The house was donated to the *Pleasant Street Historic Society* to be used as a Black History Exhibit Museum by Claronelle Smith Griffin, the great granddaughter of the original builder. Her ancestors helped establish Mount Pleasant Church and the Union Academy, a school

for children of freed people, where she attended school prior to attending *Lincoln High School*. Her father was in a singing group that traveled around north Florida during WWI raising money for savings bonds. His group also performed at the White House hotel which was owned by Major William Reuben Thomas.

Claronelle was a civic volunteer and charitable woman who contributed to many local causes. She donated to the renovation of the *Thomas Center* gardens and her name can be seen on the plaque on NE 2nd Street.

If you would like to help the PSHS with the renovation and preservation of the Smith-Griffin House, please send a signed pledge or a check made out to the *Pleasant Street Historic Society* 321 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601. For more information email PleasantStreetHistoricSociety@gmail.com or call 377.4217. 🦆

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

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Gainesville FL 32627



duckpond board

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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 in which 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 are 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 \$ _____

DNA News occasionally lists the names of paying members. Permission to list your name: yes no