



dna news

duckpond neighborhood association • NE Historic District • Gainesville Florida • February 2013



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

general meeting

Tuesday, February 26, 2013
7:00–8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st Street
Fellowship Hall

agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS
Approval of Minutes, Nov. 2012
Treasurer's Report
DNA Board Elections

CRIME REPORT
Gainesville Police Department

GUEST SPEAKER
Phoebe Cade Miles
Cade Museum

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 are Feb. 26, April 8, Sept. 9, and Nov. 11.

The future of Gainesville's Cade Museum

Our featured speaker at our meeting on February 26th will be Phoebe Cade Miles who will speak about the *Cade Museum* which will be located on South Main Street just south of the historic Depot. Phoebe grew up in Gainesville and graduated from *Buchholz High School*. She presently lives in our neighborhood with her husband, Richard Miles. Richard and Phoebe lived in a historic district in Washington, DC where Phoebe received her BA in History from the *University of Washington* in 1987.

Phoebe will be accompanied by the new architects of the *Cade Museum* who will also give a brief presentation at our meeting. An architectural competition was held in 2012 that drew 25 entries from across the United States and abroad, and was overseen by a panel of judges who included national and local architects. GWWO, Inc., a Baltimore-based architectural firm, was chosen unanimously as the winner. GWWO specializes in cultural and educational facilities such as the *Port Canaveral Welcome Center* and the visitor center and museum at Mount Vernon.

The Principal Designer is Alan Reed who said they wanted a design that wouldn't look incomplete,

which will enable the *Cade Museum* to be constructed in phases. He described their inspiration as one of natural origins, using the brain and the universe as examples of living connections that branch out from a center. This concept was then interpreted into the design for the museum, which will include a central gathering space that exhibits and laboratories will extend from.

The new *Cade Museum* design has been scaled back from the original model, but will still need \$9 million to see it to completion. The first phase of the museum will be 21,000 square feet and is scheduled to open in late 2015. Phase two of the *Cade Museum* will be an additional 24,000 square feet. Please come to the meeting to hear more about the museum and how it will add to the renaissance on South Main Street. 🐥

—Submitted by Melanie Barr



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.

HOLIDAY EVENTS SUMMARY

On December 1st we had a successful, fun holiday evening in the Duckpond neighborhood.

For our luminary project, we used improved candles that burned more than 4 hours and stayed lit until the last wagon ride! Many people helped fill bags with sand, put in the candles, and placed the bags on the streets.

The DNA sponsored the wagon rides. No advance tickets were sold, which made it easier for the volunteers, and less confusing for the wagon riders. Attendance was very good. Money earned is set aside to help us continue this event in future years.

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. The mayor turned on the light switch, officially lighting the tree. Santa was also present.

A big thanks to the many neighborhood volunteers, including DNA's wagon ride and luminary coordinator Mary Rhodes. And thanks to all of you who joined in this event! We hope to see you again at our next event! 🐦

—Submitted by Brian Miller

Dear Duckpond residents,

I look forward to hearing the featured presentation about the *Cade Museum* and hearing about the plans for this great museum that has inspired a renaissance on South Main Street. South Main is already bustling with activity due to the arrival of the *Civic Media Center*, the *Citizen's Co-Op*, *The Warehouse Restaurant & Lounge*, arts and craft galleries, and a recycling center. The *Cade Museum* will add a dramatic new museum to the area which will attract world wide attention and South Main Street will really take off. North Main Street is already a cultural center with *The Doris*, *Friends of the Library*, and the *Actor's Warehouse*. Time will tell whether SoMa (South Main) or NoMa, (North Main) will be a true cultural corridor.

Our annual Duckpond Neighborhood elections will be held at the February 26th meeting. If you would like to be on the

Board please let a Board member know. Our Board meetings are held every month when there is no general neighborhood meeting and lasts around two hours. If you enjoy participating in neighborhood activities and would like to have an opportunity to write articles for our newsletter, please consider becoming a Board member.

This year DNA will jointly sponsor a Candidates Forum with the University Park Neighborhood Association. Please email me or let me know at the our meeting any questions you may have for the Candidates since the University Park Neighborhood Association prepares their questions in advance. We are expecting a lively discussion!

Sincerely,

Melanie Barr, President
Duckpond Neighborhood Association

Candidates Forum: Sunday, March 3rd at 4pm

The Duckpond Neighborhood Association normally has a City Election Candidates Forum during a general neighborhood meeting. However, since there are nine candidates, including six people running for mayor, and three candidates running for the seat in District 4, it was felt that our meeting would run too long if we were to have a featured speaker, conduct our regular business meeting that includes a police report, approval of the Treasurer's Report, Minutes, elect Board members, and have announcements.

Additionally, Dr. Thomas Hawkins invited us to participate in the Candidates Forum held by the University Park Neighborhood on Sunday, March 3rd at the United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Avenue, at 4 p.m. Since there are nine candidates who would each like as much time as possible to answer questions it will be easier to spend a long

Candidates for Gainesville Mayor

Ed Braddy ★ Scherwin L. Henry
Peter Lars Johnson ★ Craig Lowe
Donald E. Shepherd, Sr. ★ Mark Venzke

Candidates for Gainesville City Commission District 4

Alfredo Espinosa
W. E. "Mac" McEachern
Randy Wells

afternoon listening to their answers than a long weeknight evening. We will try sharing a Candidates Forum with the University Park Neighborhood. If it doesn't work well we can go back to having our own forum. 🐦

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

Duckpond Dog Issues and Information

The Duckpond Neighborhood

Association Board members have heard a number of complaints about dogs running loose (off leash) in our neighborhood. The specific City ordinance against this is as follows:

(1) No owner or keeper of any animal shall permit the animal to become a public nuisance. The following can become a public nuisance and the owner or keeper of the animal can be cited for any instance of:

- (a) An animal found to be at large.
- (b) An animal damaging, or depositing fecal matter on, the property of others.
- (c) An animal molesting or biting any person, unless that person is trespassing on the property of the owner or keeper of the animal or that person provokes the animal.
- (d) An animal creating odors that are detectable and offensive to a person of reasonable sensibilities on nearby property, or attracting flies detected on nearby properties.
- (e) An animal attacking another domestic animal.
- (f) An animal making sounds that are a violation of Chapter 15 of this Code (Noise). http://library.municode.com/HTML/10819/level2/PTIICOOR_CH15NO.html

(2) Repeated instances of violations of subsection (1) adversely affect the rights of nearby residents to the quiet enjoyment of their property and therefore constitute a public nuisance. To this end:

- (a) If there are two or more citations given for violation of any of the subsections (1)(a) through (f) within a 12-month period on the same premises, the city attorney, if there are reasonable grounds for the action, is authorized to seek an

injunction in the name of the city from the appropriate court to abate the nuisance.

- (b) Adjudication of guilt, withholding of adjudication, or plea of no contest (including, but not limited to, payment of fine) in a 12-month period for two violations of any of the subsections (1)(a) through (f) on the same premises, plus a third such citation within the 12-month period, shall be presumptive evidence of a public nuisance. However, the judge may find a public nuisance without such presumptive evidence based on other evidence presented.



Dogs Parks

There are two free City owned dog parks within walking distance of our neighborhood. The more well known is within Northeast Park at 400 NE 16th Avenue. It has a fenced area with double gates to prevent dogs from escaping when other dogs are entering, a drinking water spigot and bowl, and two benches. One of its biggest pluses is lots of trees that provide shade. A trash can with bags is provided so owners can clean up after their dogs.

The newest dog park is located at the Haisley Lynch park at 450 South Main Street. The upscale renovation of the block was completed by the Community Redevelopment Agency in 2010. The south portion has a garden that consists of native plants, brick walkways, and an off leash play area for dogs. The park has high-end lighting and benches, and the dog play area has a double gate fence entry with a water fountain for the dogs. This park also provides owners with bags and a trash can. 🐾

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

DUCKPOND UTILITY STUBS

Gainesville Regional Utilities replaced several utility poles in our neighborhood awhile back. The old poles were left in place until all utility companies had an opportunity to disconnect service from them and reconnect to the new poles. A majority of the old poles (stubs) were removed, however some were overlooked. Please report any remaining utility stubs to **Richard Gunton** at **393.1516** or email him at **guntonre@gru.com** and ask that they be removed. Thank you.



LOCAL EVENTS

Gainesville's Historic Evergreen Cemetery: This Wondrous Place January 11 - March 23 Thomas Center Gallery

Rare photographs, documents, multi-media exhibits and the work of Gainesville's leading artists will tell the story of the 156 year old, 53-acre Evergreen Cemetery, one of Gainesville's most historic and beautiful sites.

Curated by Burton J. "Jimi" Brown, J.D. Ph.D. with Susan Stewart, this new history and art exhibition tells the story of the 53-acre Evergreen Cemetery from its founding in 1856 and shines light on the many important historical figures for which it is their final resting place. In addition, throughout the exhibition numerous works by six of Gainesville's leading artists—Frank Barone, Randy Batista, Eleanor Blair, John O'Connor, Bob Senesac, and Anne Seraphine—interpret the great beauty and moving emotion of the site. Gallery hours are M-F, 8 a.m.-5p.m., Saturday, 1-4 p.m.

Spring Promenade Thomas Center Associates

Each year in March, the Spring Promenade has taken place in our neighborhood. This fundraiser benefited the Thomas Center Garden Makeover project. Unfortunately, there will be no event this year.

If you would like to support the Thomas Center Garden Makeover project, please contact the *Thomas Center Associates*. Donations are accepted and appreciated.

Those Pesky Air Potatoes

The air potato is considered one of the prime invasive plant pests in the Gainesville area, and one of the easiest to recognize. A thin twining vine with heart-shaped, moderately shiny leaves, growing high in trees makes this plant easy to identify. When mature enough the vine puts out variably sized brown fruit-like structures called bulbils. These are reproductive bodies that eventually fall to the ground and sprout new vines. It is possible for the vines to proliferate in trees around one's premises and in public and private forests around town. The density of their foliage can crowd out a tree's leaves and stunt growth or even kill the tree. There is an underground tuber that can give rise to new vines each year, or when the vine has been severed but not dug up.

The scientific name of this plant is *Dioscorea bulbifera*, and it is a relative of the yam. There is a second species, *D. alata*, winged yam, which has similar growth habits. The potato-like bulbil produced by both plants is toxic to humans, but is the main means of dispersal. They can reach the size of a good-sized potato, but very small ones are more successful in spreading the plant. They can get caught in mowers and other yard machines and released in other places. Mowers can throw small bulbils around to give them new spots to sprout. The total length of a vine can reach about 70 feet to the tops of trees, and growth can approach 8 inches per day in the summer.

Control consists of pulling up the vine and its tuber, the earlier in the year the better. A big problem is their growth in public areas. Each year since 2003 we have had an Air Potato Roundup in chosen parks and preserves. In recent years, a total of 111 tons have been harvested by over 1,000 volunteers each year around the end of January.



Air Potato, *Dioscorea bulbifera*

The air potato was added to the Florida Noxious Weed List by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 1999 (5b-57.007 FAC). Plants on the Florida Noxious Weed List may not be "introduced, possessed, moved, or released without a permit." From southeast Asia originally, then in Africa, it is detoxified and used for food and primitive medicine in those areas. It has been used to treat dysentery and diarrhea. It was introduced into Florida in 1905.

Every year we have the Air Potato Roundup, sponsored by local organizations. In 2003 the roundup resulted in 13 tons of air potatoes and other invasive plants. This year will be the 13th annual event. I check the larger trees around our property from time to time, and pick up and dispose of any bulbils I find. During the summer I pull up any vines I find.

For a more extensive story about Gainesville's air potato problem, please go to the following websites: <http://www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu> and Nature Operations Division, Gainesville Parks and Recreation: <http://www.natureoperations.org/> 🐾

—Submitted by Charlie Covell

What happened to the Post Office mail boxes?

I am one of the 1500 people who had a post office box on the first floor of the Federal Building. I loved having Post Office Box 17 since that was such a low number and I knew someone had held a box with that number since 1853 when Gainesville was first founded. I had Post Office Box 17 for twenty-five years and I am still being sent mail there, although I don't receive it anymore. I heard from two people this year that my Christmas cards were returned to them because they forgot to change my address. I have to wonder how much mail I am not receiving because the person or company mailing a letter to me does not know how to contact me any more.

The problem was that in September 2011 all 1500 box-holders lost their mail boxes when the Post Office moved out of the Federal Building, and this has made our mail undeliverable. This included my credit union, the *City of Gainesville*, Alachua County, several law firms and many other business and corporations, including the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association*. The Post Office had always been downtown, and 100 years ago it was located in what is now the

Hippodrome. It had been there since 1911 and moved to the new Federal Building in 1963. Now there is no downtown presence, and most of us have to drive to the location on North Main Street. My short walks every day downtown to check the mail in Post Office Box 17 are over.

I remember walking with my grandparents to red, white and blue mailboxes on street corners and dropping the mail in the box when I was young. I remember when those boxes were painted a solid blue color, perhaps in an economy move to save paint. Last year I wondered where those mailboxes in our neighborhood were located, and discovered there was only one in the residential part of

our neighborhood on NE 10th Avenue. When I checked the *United States Postal Service* website this month that box is no longer shown on the map, and all of the blue mail boxes are now in commercial areas.

- 515 N. Main Street
Monday–Friday pick up at 4 p.m.,
Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
- 305 NE 1st Street
Monday–Friday pick up at 4 p.m.,
Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
- 620 East University Avenue
(behind Kirby Smith)
Monday–Friday pick up at 4 p.m.,
Saturday at 10 a.m.



When I deliver Duckpond Neighborhood newsletters it is noticeable how many people no longer check their mailboxes every day because they are overflowing with mail. The Post Office has now decided to discontinue Saturday mail delivery, although they will continue to deliver parcels on Saturday. What will the future hold for the United States Post Office? 🐦

—Submitted by Melanie Barr



LOCAL EVENTS

Lakes, Rivers, and Creeks January 10–February 28 Matheson Museum

Photographs of the Lakes, Rivers, and Creeks of Alachua County offer a glimpse into the rich, natural, and historic wonders of North Central Florida. The variety of photographic interpretation in this exhibition captures nature at some of its most beautiful moments and reflects the seasonal changes that make the natural environment a continuously mesmerizing subject.

The photographs in this exhibition come to the *Matheson Museum* courtesy of private collector and museum founder Dr. Mark V. Barrow. Featured photographers include Mark V. Barrow, Eleanor Blair, Cornelius Clayton, John Moran, and Jeff Ripple. For more information, please call 378.2280.

Retrospections: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of A. Quinn Jones February 1–February 28 Matheson Museum

View the personal possessions of Professor A. Quinn Jones. Artifacts from the *Matheson Museum's* collection tell the story of his extraordinary life and his lasting legacy of improving educational opportunities for African-Americans in the segregated South. The exhibition also comprises early artifacts from *Lincoln High School*, including his awards, certificates, curriculum guides, and the oral history of this distinguished educator. For more information, call 378.2280.

CELEBRATE SPRING!

Spring Garden Festival
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
March 23 (9 a.m.–5 p.m.)
March 24 (10 a.m.–5 p.m.)

The Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival is Gainesville's premier horticultural event. The Spring Garden Festival features about 200 booths offering plants, landscape displays, garden accessories, arts and crafts, educational exhibits, and foods. Also featured are a walk-through butterfly conservatory, children's activities area, live entertainment, and live auctions. Parking is free and two off-site parking areas are serviced by shuttle buses. The theme for this year's festival is "Passalong Plants," representing the staple plants that are passed along from generations and between friends.

Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children (2–13). Cash only. A \$2 discount is given for members of Kanapaha. No pets.

The gardens are located at 4700 S.W. 58th Drive. For more information, visit www.kanapaha.org/spring.htm or call 372.4981.

The Dreamer's Garden



Maria Huff Edwards formulated the idea for developing a community garden, now known as The Dreamers Garden at the corner of NW 4th Street and NW 10th Avenue in the Grove Street Neighborhood, after she spoke at a meeting of the *Florida Organic Growers Association*. The site had been a vacant lot since the 1980s when the historic buildings that were located there and occupied by an antique store and a bakery were demolished.

The *Neighborhood Nutrition Network* division of the *Florida Organic Grower's Association* helped Maria complete the paperwork necessary to make her dream a reality, and in February 2002 the *City of Gainesville* gave the neighborhood access to the property. Cristy Delgado, a landscape architect from the *University of Florida* drew the plans for the garden at the work party on March 15, 2002.

Sean O' Keefe, of Boy Scout Troop 164, built an ADA path with cement donated by Guy York in 2003. The *Alachua County Council of the Blind* helped Maria raise money to buy bricks for the raised beds in the Sensory Garden. The beds were constructed by Lovell Formby, a

retired brick mason and a resident of the Pleasant Street Neighborhood, and his crew of friends.

After she read about blacksmith Philip Simmons of Charleston SC in *Smithsonian* magazine Maria wanted a wrought iron gate for the entrance of the garden. Jody Berman, a Grove Street resident, was writing her Master's thesis in Art History on Yaw Owusu Shangofemi, an apprentice of Simmons, who lived in Hawthorne. The two were put in touch with each other and Shangofemi built the gates for the Dreamers Garden. The dedication ceremony was held in May 2007.

Another Eagle badge project for members of Boy Scout Troop 84 was completed last summer when they worked on grapevines, created new square food beds and built a stage. An annual reading of Jack Kerouac takes place on every December 1st, and a Summer Reading Series celebrating the Lost Generation and the Beats was held on the first Sunday in the Summer.

Everyone is welcome to help maintain the garden and participate in various projects. Maria can be contacted at 258.1238 or maria0407@bellsouth.net.

—Submitted by Maria Huff Edwards

Pleasant Street Historic Society holds banquet

The Pleasant Street Historic Society will be holding the Claronelle Smith Griffin Distinguished Speaker Banquet on April 7th at the D. R. Williams Fellowship Hall at 618 NW 6th Street. The annual banquet is held to raise money to rehabilitate the Smith-Griffin House at 321 NW 8th Avenue into a Black History Exhibit Museum. Her great grandfather bought the property in 1872 and it remained in the family until Mrs. Griffin's death in 2003 when she willed it to the *Pleasant Street Historic Society*.

The banquet will feature Dr. Courtney

Moore-Taylor as the keynote speaker. Her topic will be "The Antebellum Enslaved Female Experience" which corresponds with the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. Four people will be honored for their work in the categories of history, community service, religion, and education. Middle school students will receive awards for writing an essay with the topic of "Standing on the Shoulders: Because You Did, I Can."

Tickets are \$40. Please write to PleasantStreetHistoricSociety@gmail.com or call 377.4217 for more information.

—Submitted by Melanie Barr



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

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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