



dna news

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



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

general meeting

Change of time and location!

Sunday, May 19, 2013

4:30 p.m.

Roper Park



agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes, Feb. 2012

Treasurer's Report

CRIME REPORT

Gainesville Police Department

DISCUSSION

Roper Park Circle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PICNIC AND FUN

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. Remaining meeting dates for 2013 are Sept. 9 and Nov. 11. Please join us!

Change of venue: May meeting at picnic

The **DNA annual picnic** will have a delightful addition this year. A well-known local band, the Y'all Stars, led by Monica Leadon Cooper has agreed to perform and join us for a ritual that welcomes in the summer season. The picnic will take place on Sunday, May 19. At 4:30, a brief general meeting will precede the picnic and cover neighborhood association issues of general concern. The meeting will be shorter than usual so that we can quickly move on to our picnic. For some of you, the picnic may provide an opportunity to check out what the DNA general meetings are all about and thereby generate increased interest in participating. The picnic is expected to last the better part of two hours. Its format is pot luck and covered dish, and the DNA Board will provide burgers, hot dogs, buns, rolls, and picnic ware. *First United Methodist Church* is kindly loaning us tables and chairs.

Those of you who have heard Monica Leadon Cooper and the Y'all Stars at the "Free Fridays" concerts at the downtown community plaza know that we'll be in for a treat. Two of Monica's older brothers started their careers in local bands and then went on to perform with some great nationally known musicians. Tom Leadon played locally with Tom Petty, and Mike Campbell in the Gainesville band Mudcrutch. Tom moved to Los Angeles and played with Johnny Rivers, Linda Ronstadt and others. Bernie Leadon is an original member of the Eagles and played with

Linda Ronstadt, Gram Parsons, Emmy Lou Harris, and many others. Monica and her brother Mark Leadon played together in the Leadon Family Band until he moved away.

Monica's Y'all Stars consists of longtime musician friends from the Gainesville area including Jon Alexander on pedal steel, Ron Thomas on bass, Jack Nettles on electric guitar and mandolin, Alan Stowell on fiddle, and Larry Thompson on drums. Their music draws from the folk, country-rock, and rock and roll traditions that they have known throughout their lives and the acoustic format should create a very relaxing and satisfying picnic experience. We look forward to seeing you there. 🐥

—Submitted by George Papadi

Come One Come All Neighborhood Picnic May 19 at 4:30 p.m.

The DNA neighborhood picnic committee will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, condiments, rolls, buns, sodas.

Please bring a side dish and games for kids.

LIVE MUSIC by Y'all Stars

Please leave pets at home.



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.

DNA MEMBERSHIP: JOIN/RENEW

The Duckpond Neighborhood Association 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 can join. Your contribution will be used towards events such as our upcoming picnic in May, holiday events in December, Roper Park improvements, work on the duck pond and feeding the ducks, as well as 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 Duck Fund, the Holiday Fund, or the Roper Park Fund. Just complete the membership/renewal form on the back page of this newsletter, and mail it with your check to the address listed. You can also support the DNA by being actively involved in our events and committees. For more information, please contact boardDNA@googlegroups.com or come to our general membership meetings (such as the one before our picnic in May!). We are interested in your input and help. Thank you for your support! 🐥 –Submitted by Brian Miller

Dear Duckpond residents,

I write this column while thinking about the changes that will occur in our neighborhood when the semester ends. Commencement will begin on April 26th and run through Sunday May 5th. Shortly after the ceremonies we will see moving vans in the neighborhood, and one thing I have learned, is that moving vans bring out the rain, so a word of advice to those of you who plan to move is to have plastic sheeting handy to cover the floors of your new or former home, as well as your possessions after the skies open up.

Summer in our neighborhood is usually very hot, and often much quieter when so many faculty, students and snow birds are away for the summer. Then comes the biggest moving day of all, July 31st, and after that, more moving vans are seen in the first few weeks in August which starts off the hustle and bustle of

the coming fall semester. Downtown and our neighborhood will spring back to life as the cycle of life in Gainesville continues.

One event that we have planned for our neighborhood before it gets too hot is the neighborhood picnic. We have returned to holding it annually, and this year it is planned for May 19th. We will have a special treat this year with a musical performance that includes some long time neighborhood residents. Another new part of the picnic is that we will hold a short meeting just prior to the picnic, so if you would like to know more about what the Duckpond Neighborhood Association has been doing, please plan to attend at 4:30 p.m. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Melanie Barr, President

Duckpond Neighborhood Association

GPD advises on solicitors and neighborhood safety

Many of you subscribe to our neighborhood email list and receive neighborhood related updates. A recent notification from the Gainesville Police Department discussed safety and neighborhood solicitors. Gainesville City Ordinance 19-17 has a provision that solicitors *must* follow. Solicitors must:

- Terminate their activities between 7 p.m. to 9 a.m. the following day
- Not solicit from a vehicle or while standing in the street
- Not solicit at residences or areas where “No Solicitors” or “No Soliciting” signs are clearly posted
- Not have more than two people with them while soliciting any one citizen
- Immediately cease their activities when their request has been declined, and immediately leave the premises when asked to do so

- Not harass persons by demanding, threatening or intimidating conduct

Although there are solicitors who are legitimate, many are not. Below are tips to remember when dealing with solicitors:

- Make it a practice *never* to give out money or sensitive information
- Never open the door; talk from behind the locked door
- Never invite a solicitor into your home
- Never drive the solicitor anywhere
- Don't be afraid to tell them to go away
- They may tell you a sob story. Don't buy it!

If the solicitor doesn't appear legitimate, obtain a good description and immediately call the police at 955.1818.

To sign up for neighborhood alerts and notifications, email boardDNA@googlegroups.com. 🐥

Spotlight on Neighborhood Artists

Andrew Avakian is a ceramic artist whose hand-built vessels are an expression of the beauty he finds in the structure and surface of weathered or antiquated architecture and furniture. His art work brings the richness of architectural forms into common place environments. The vessels are individually inspired by old barns from the rural southeast U.S., well used time-worn furniture, and ancient monumental architecture. Andrew grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina



where his love of art was encouraged by his family and professors in college. After receiving a Bachelors of Fine Arts from *Western Carolina University*, Andrew was awarded a residency at *The Cub Creek Foundation for the Ceramic Arts* in Appomattox, VA and has exhibited in many regional national ceramic exhibitions. Andrew is currently studying ceramics at the *University of Florida* as a post baccalaureate student, and teaching classes at the Arts and Crafts Center at the Reitz Student Union on campus. Andrew will be teaching children's ceramics classes this summer in July and August at the *Doris Bardon Community Cultural Center*, and his work can be viewed online at andrewavakian.weebly.com.

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Donna Flanery makes sculpture and pottery featuring narrative and painterly surfaces. She is from Montana and currently lives in the Duckpond neighborhood. Donna is studying Fine Arts as a graduate student at the *University of Florida*. Before moving to Gainesville, she completed artist-in-residence programs in such far-flung places as Shanghai and Minneapolis. "Living in a beautiful place is a great source of



inspiration for my artwork. I have been particularly influenced by the neighborhood swans, which have made their way onto a few pieces. They have wonderful storybook connotations." Additionally, her art work is informed by pop-up books and toys. You can see more of her art work, including her MFA thesis exhibition, at her website donnaflanery.weebly.com. 🐿

—Submitted by Mary Rhodes

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES

The *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* currently has four active committees; the DNA Picnic Committee, the Holiday Carriage Ride Committee, the Roper Park Landscape Committee, and the Duck and Pond Committee. None of these committees require attending frequent meetings. Volunteering can be rewarding and fun. If you are interested in one of these committees, email boarddna@googlegroups.com.



PET FOSTERS REQUESTED

All pets benefit from a safe and loving home. Unconventional pets are sometimes more challenging to place. **Gainesville Rabbit Rescue** is currently overwhelmed with the number of animals recently dumped after Easter and are requesting assistance in fostering these pet rabbits while they are awaiting adoption. If you, or someone you know, would like to care for a pet in need, please contact April Bennett, 392.2235 or faith@gainesvillerabbitrescue.org. To learn more about how to properly care for rabbits, visit www.gainesvillerabbitrescue.org. Help to save a life and make a difference to pets in need.

LOCAL EVENTS

Free Fridays Concert Series Bo Diddley Community Plaza Fridays through November

Every Friday night from 8 to 10 o'clock, local and regional bands are showcased under the stars. Enjoy free live concerts in a family friendly environment.

Stetson Kennedy Folklife Festival and Floridiana Show

Matheson Museum
May 11, 10 a.m.— 5 p.m.

To acquaint the public with the folklore of North Central Florida from the mid-20th century backwards using Stetson Kennedy's life and work as a lens. Lectures on "Early Folk Medicine" by Dr. Mark Barrow, and "What is Folklife?" by Dr. Peggy Bulger. Music by Willie Green, Dale Crider, Cathy DeWitt, and Frank Thomas. Huge Floridiana show and sale with many vendors of early Florida memorabilia.

Blues Pioneers and Their Progeny

Thomas Center Gallery
May 24th—September 7th

The exhibition "Blues Pioneers and Their Progeny" with its colorful folk art style illustrations will highlight the musical legacy of dozens of great early 20th century Blues musicians, as well as other legendary artists whose style was influenced by these trailblazers.

Pet Care Workshop

Matheson Museum
May 25th, 10 a.m.

Bring the whole family and learn how to care for your pet from a local pet care professional. For more information, contact the Matheson Museum, 378.2280.

Neighborhood Amphibians and Reptiles

Joanne and I have lived in the Duckpond Neighborhood since November 1986. We have kept records of amphibian and reptile (herptile) sightings, with emphasis on our half-acre yard and Sweetwater Branch Creek, a short distance to the west of our house. We have seen 17 different native species: no salamanders, five frogs, three turtles, three lizards, five snakes, no crocodylians, and one worm lizard. The common names of these are: Southern Toad, Green Treefrog, Bullfrog, Pig Frog, and Spadefoot Toad; Florida Softshell Turtle, Yellowbelly Turtle, and Common Snapping Turtle; Green Anole Lizard, Eastern Glass Lizard, and Ground Skink; Southern Ringneck Snake, Pine Woods, Florida Crowned, Rough Earth, and Eastern Garter Snake; and the Florida Worm Lizard. Three known exotic species living in the neighborhood are: Cuban Treefrog, Cuban Brown Anole Lizard, and Mediterranean Gecko Lizard. Also, the exotic turtle subspecies, the Red-eared Slider, and our closely related native subspecies, the Yellowbelly Turtle, co-exist in the Duckpond.

From 1985 to 1999, I was Collection Manager for Herpetology at the *Florida Museum of Natural History*. I made detailed "dot maps" of amphibian and reptile geographic ranges for Alachua County, plotting individual historic specimen localities from many natural history museum collections in the United States. I continue to plot specimen localities using visual sightings, personally and also verbally given to me by people who know the fauna. Herpetologically, Alachua County is one of the best collected areas in the world. Yet, parts of our county are still poorly known, primarily because the herpetological communication network between professionals and amateurs remains poor.

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Thankfully, Florida still has quite a few populations of each of its 141 native species (53 amphibians and 88 reptiles), primarily because a significant portion of the state remains in public ownership or large private



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It is a sad fact that amphibian and reptile endangerment in Florida (reduced populations and extinctions) is much greater now than even fifty years ago. Although habitat destruction by over nineteen million living Floridians is the most significant reason for this collapse, many other human caused declines are significant as well. Thankfully, Florida still has quite a few populations of each of its 141 native species (53 amphibians and 88 reptiles), primarily because a significant portion of the state remains in public ownership or large private holdings. Humans have illegally released hundreds of exotic amphibian and reptile species into the landscape, 40 of which are presently known to be breeding successfully, 4 amphibians and 36 reptiles (mostly lizards). Alachua County still has almost the highest species total in Florida, perhaps as many as 97 (33 amphibians and 64 reptiles). The Duckpond Neighborhood before human development possessed at most 77 species (28 amphibians, 49 reptiles), 79 percent of the county total.

Many amphibians and reptiles are secretive and, thus, hard to find. Populations have always been unequally distributed over the landscape, because each species has preferred habitat(s) and



continued on page 5 >

Amphibians and Reptiles (continued from page 4)

individuals of many species do not move far. Dozens of additional human-causes have altered historic ranges. Thus, I can't guarantee my list for the Duckpond Neighborhood is accurate, even after intensive looking for 26 years. The herpetile fauna in the Duckpond Neighborhood has obviously deteriorated severely in the last 50 years, with both local species extinctions and reduced population sizes. Since the Duckpond Neighbor-

hood has maintained a stable human population longer than most areas in the county, the decline is exceedingly troubling. The worst case scenario is that the historic high 77 species has dropped to 17, (down 78 percent; 82 for amphibians; 75 for reptiles). Many improvements in human behavior are well known to herpetologists, which would certainly improve these numbers over time. 🐸

—Submitted by David Auth



GPD: STEP UP AND STOP CRIME!

The Gainesville Police Department needs extra eyes and ears that can detect and identify crime. GPD urges you to STEP UP and STOP CRIME in your neighborhood by calling 9-1-1 to report crime (955.1818 for non-emergencies). What's important in this message is that residents understand that they *can* actually help reduce crime by calling the police to report suspicious activity.

During the summer months, crime tends to rise in our neighborhood. Our Duckpond Neighborhood has a Duckpond Crime Watch listserve. To subscribe, e-mail: DuckpondCrimeWatchsubscribe@yahoo.com. This information is shared with your neighbors that subscribe, and with GPD officers. Please be vigilant in keeping our neighborhood a safe place to live.

Plein Air Paint-Out: Painting Historic Gainesville

The Gainesville Fine Arts

Association will have a one-day plein air paint-out event on June 1st as part of their recognition and celebration of their 90 years of continuous leadership, support and service to the arts in Gainesville and Alachua County. It will focus on and recognize "Historic Gainesville", and will run from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Some of the sites where the artists will be located are: the historic *Thomas Center* and grounds, the *Matheson Museum* and Sweet Water Branch Park, the *Pleasant*

Street Historic District, and the historic *Duckpond Neighborhood*. They will be working in small groups, painting scenes that capture the grace and good memories that created the charm of early Gainesville.

The day's art work will be on display at an evening social/birthday party from 6–9 p.m. at the *Doris Bardon Community Cultural Center* located at 716 North Main Street. A special exhibit of all the completed works will be on display at *The Doris* from June 10–June 29, 2013. 🐸

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

LOCAL YARD AND GARDENING WORKSHOPS

Investing in your yard can bring enjoyment to you and your neighbors, increase property value, and provide resources for wildlife.

Below, a series of workshops offered by Wendy Wilbur at the **Alachua County Extension Office**. Pre-register by calling 337.6209, or for more information, 955.2402. All workshops are located at the extension office, 2800 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville.

Converting to a Florida-Friendly Yard

May 8th, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Water is our most precious natural resource. Learn to make changes in your landscape that will save water and protect our ground water. Plant selection, micro-irrigation and rain barrels will be covered.

Citrus

May 9th, 3–4 p.m.

Learn to grow delicious oranges, tangerines, lemons, and grapefruit in your own backyard. This class will cover variety selection and freeze protection.

Flowering Trees for Your Florida-Friendly Yard

May 23th, 3–4 p.m.

Flowering trees can add beauty to your North Central Florida landscape. Learn how to select and grow trees that bloom and have lots of color.

Weeds and Other Plants that can Ruin Your Weekend

June 6, 3–4 p.m.

Is your yard more weeds than anything else? Learn to identify and control our most common weeds and invasive plants.

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FREE LEGAL ADVICE ON FORECLOSURE

Florida's foreclosure activity has increased for the 11th time in the last 13 months, according to RealtyTrac, which follows real estate activity across the country. In fact, for the fifth consecutive month, Florida has had the highest foreclosure rate in the nation. In response to this toxic real estate environment, legal aid organizations throughout Florida are now offering free legal advice on how to avoid or navigate through the foreclosure process. Alachua County's *Three Rivers Legal Services* has three offices: Jacksonville, Lake City, and Gainesville. Their Gainesville office is located at 901 NW 8th Avenue. Residents seeking advice must first determine if they qualify based on their income. While few if any residents in our Duckpond neighborhood are likely to need this assistance, anything is possible when sustained job loss and limited re-employment options wreak havoc on our communities. Applications may be obtained online at www.trls.org or by calling 352.372.0519. 🐾

—Submitted by George Papadi

Do you have Duckpond photos to share?



Neighborhood Picnic
Roper Park, 2012

—Photo submitted by Mary Rhodes

Please consider contributing your photos of interest for our website. Examples: Duckpond neighborhood events, historical photos, nature, architecture. Contact a board member at boarddna@googlegroups.com if you have a contribution. Please include a description to accompany your photo.

duckpond neighborhood advertising

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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.



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

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