



# dna news

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



Keep up on happenings between newsletters! Check out our regularly updated website at [HistoricDuckpond.com](http://HistoricDuckpond.com)

## general meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2013  
7:00–8:30 p.m.  
First United Methodist Church  
419 NE 1st Street  
Fellowship Hall

## agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS  
Approval of Minutes, May 2013  
Treasurer's Report

CRIME REPORT  
Gainesville Police Department

GUEST SPEAKER  
John Dukes III  
Dr. Buggs Exterminators, Inc.  
Subject: Termites



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note: Be sure to check [HistoricDuckpond.com](http://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. 10 and Nov. 12. Please join us!

## Termites in our neighborhood

About two months ago, I saw a small brown wingless insect crawling across the desk in front of me. It had the usual three body regions of an insect: head, thorax, and abdomen. The thorax continued straight into the abdomen, and was not separated by a “wasp waist,” as is the case with ants and their relatives, the bees and wasps. It was a termite. A day or two later I saw a similar insect but with four long, same-sized wings fly by my computer. One termite is a sighting; but two or more almost certainly means an infestation.

If we were still living in Louisville, Kentucky, we would almost never see a termite flying indoors. Termites “up North” are only the subterranean kinds—*Reticulitermes* species. These insects are truly “social insects,” like bees and ants; but they are more primitive and have only three life stages: egg, nymph (growing stage), and adult. Bees, wasps, and ants on the other hand, also social, have the complete metamorphosis with four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The subterranean colonies consist of workers, soldiers, kings and queens. This division into anatomical and functional “castes” defines truly social insects. The subterraneans must live in the ground for its dampness; and they build thin mud-like galleries up into the wood of our houses to get to their food: the wood itself. Termites digest wood. The digestive enzymes, including cellulase, are produced by a variety of bacteria and Protozoa in their digestive tracts. In time, they can do great damage without being detected. That’s why a

contract with a reliable, bonded pest control operator is essential.

Subterranean termites are paler in color than the “other kind,” and swarm outdoors usually in spring in order to start new colonies. This “other kind” is a southern problem. These are drywood termites, members of the genus *Cryptotermes*. They infest structural timbers, wooden furniture, and other objects above ground and in homes. One should also have a contract to have yearly inspections for these as well as for subterranean termites. If a major dry-wood termite infestation is found in a home, expensive “tenting” may be the only way to be sure of killing the invaders. But that may not be necessary.

In our case, the yearly inspections had been negative since we moved here in 2004, and I found loose wings and dead termites in the woodwork around a first-floor window. A “topical” control method was employed: drilling and filling with an expanding insecticide.

We think we’re okay for now—but our termite guy says the Duckpond neighborhood, with many old wooden homes, is an attractive venue for swarmers looking for a new home with three square meals in which to set up housekeeping.

Just Google “termites” and “Florida” to find copious information about the various termites, their life cycles, damage, and control. After you have studied the two varieties mentioned above, google “Formosan termites.” They may be heading our way! 🐜

—Submitted by Charles Covell



# 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](mailto:boardDNA@google-groups.com).

## SEPTEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

John Dukes III will be the speaker at the September 9th Duckpond Neighborhood Association meeting. He earned a Bachelor's in Entomology from Florida A&M University, and a Master's in Entomology from Virginia Tech. He founded his company *Doctor Buggs Exterminators* in 1985. Although much of his work is residential, the company fumigated the Smith-Griffin House owned by the Pleasant Street Historic Society two years ago, and will be doing the Thomas Center in November. Termites love our neighborhood and we need to be on the lookout for signs of infestations. Some of us have had experiences with drywood termites, but subterranean termites are abundant here too. Come to our meeting and learn about how to spot the signs of termites and why they love our neighborhood.

## Dear Duckpond residents,

I want to welcome new people to our neighborhood, and welcome back the people, students, and professors who were out of town during the summer.

If you are new to Gainesville, please get involved and learn about your new city. There are many restaurants, merchants, and activities that we can walk or bike to, and many volunteer options for those who want to contribute to helping Gainesville continue to be a great place to live. For entertainment ideas, the *Gainesville Sun* puts out *Scene* magazine on Thursdays, and you can also check their site online for Events which is in a special section. For educational opportunities, pick up a Community Education catalog at the downtown *Santa Fe College* campus, or have one mailed to you. In full disclosure I am offering my historic district tours through them again.

To keep up to date with happenings in

the Duckpond neighborhood, please send us your email address so you will be aware of neighborhood issues. Several people did not realize that the City was considering, and may still be considering, putting a Probation and Parole office on NE 1st Street and NE 3rd Avenue due to not being on the email list.

Be sure to attend our meetings too. The September meeting is probably relevant to everyone since the topic is termites. I have had experiences with drywood and subterranean termites. The signs were there all along, but I had no idea they have been eating away for years. You will hear the astounding story when I introduce our speaker, John Dukes, who operates the *Doctor Buggs Exterminators, Inc.* at our September meeting.

See you around the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

**Melanie Barr, President**

**Duckpond Neighborhood Association**

## GPD: Duckpond Neighborhood Crime

**It may surprise you** to learn that criminals who are arrested due to crimes in the Duckpond Neighborhood come from all over Gainesville. Some have come from as far away as Majestic Oaks, which is west of I-75. I share this information with residents of the Duckpond not to frighten them, but to remind them to stay on their guard. Comparatively speaking, the Duckpond does not suffer from nearly the amount of crime as some of our more distressed areas, but it does have its problems, particularly when it comes to vehicle and residential burglaries.

Recently one of the officers who patrols zone Hotel, which is the designation of the area where the Duckpond is located, advised me that he observed open garages and vehicles with their windows open as late as 1 a.m. This is not good. Over half of the reported burglaries in the neighborhood resulted from

open or unlocked doors. Our undercover officers have arrested suspects in the Duckpond after observing them try multiple car doors. Car burglary is probably the most opportunistic crime there is. Thieves are willing to break windows for things they see, but would prefer to reach inside an open window or just open an unlocked door. We encourage Duckpond residents to remove valuables from their vehicles and lock the doors.

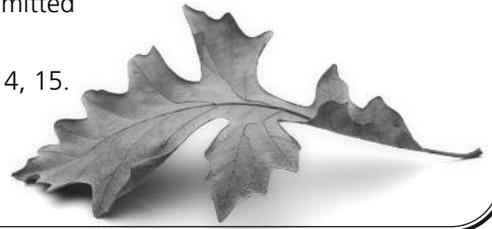
Residential burglaries in the Duckpond aren't as numerous as car burglaries, but make no mistake they do happen often. Burglary suspects that we have arrested from the Duckpond have stated that they have knocked on doors at various hours of day and night to verify if the home was occupied prior to their attempt. If the resident answered the door the typical story has been an offer to do their lawn. Lawn services have lawn

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## Enjoy the arrival of the Fall season—visit the great outdoors!

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens will be offering a guided tour the first Saturday of every month, starting at 10 a.m. The docent will be a Master Gardener. Admission price is \$7; members are admitted free of charge.

Local landscape artists will be gathering to create live paintings on Sept. 13, 14, 15. Witness the creative process as you stroll through the gardens from artist to artist. Paintings will be displayed for purchase on Sept. 19 from 6–9 p.m. For more information, visit [www.kanapaha.org](http://www.kanapaha.org).



## Sweetwater Branch/Paynes Prairie Restoration

Paynes Prairie is both a Florida State Park and a U.S. National Natural Landmark, which receives drainage on its northern border from the Sweetwater Branch watershed. This drainage eventually enters the Alachua Sink which is a small lake located within Paynes Prairie. Water from this lake enters directly into a sinkhole, which connects directly to the Floridan Aquifer.

Historically, the flow of water draining toward the sink was distributed over approximately 1300 acres of wetlands that served to filter out nutrients and help maintain the quality of water entering the aquifer. In the 1930s however, ranchers expanded their grazing areas by draining portions of the prairie by building a canal that flowed directly into the Alachua Sink. Curtailing the sheetflow eliminated the wetlands and their filtering benefits, which resulted in high nitrogen levels. The Alachua Sink is therefore currently listed as “an impaired water body” due to its non-compliance with current State and US EPA regulations.

Efforts to improve the quality of water entering the Alachua Sink began with discussions in 2002. The State required the city to clean up the pollution since the primary sources were storm water runoff from about three square miles of urban area near the prairie and discharge from GRU’s Main Street Wastewater Treatment Plant. The massive project is projected to cost \$26 million dollars and is in part funded by \$5.2 million in state and federal

grants, GRU sewer revenues and Public Works storm water revenues.

The canal dug by ranchers in the 1930s is being filled in and landscaping and vegetation planted to restore sheet flow across what were once ecologically productive wetlands. The sheetflow improvements will lower levels of nitrogen while the GRU wastewater plant upgrades should serve to lower phosphorous levels.

Several years ago, the section of the Sweetwater Branch Creek that passes through our Duckpond Neighborhood was remediated to slow down flow and remove nutrients by: 1) creating a meandering stream profile, 2) removing the concrete lining along its banks, 3) modifying the banks to give them a shallower and wider surface area, onto which landscaping mesh impregnated with plant seedlings was applied, 4) building a large mechanical trap for solid storm water waste materials as the creek emerges from under the Main Street and NE 10th avenue corridor, and 5) extensively remodeling the Duckpond perimeter to accommodate rooted plants and redesigning the pond’s bottom structure consistent with the goals of nutrient reduction and flow control.

The Duckpond section of Sweetwater Branch Creek is visually and functionally improved and should contribute positively to the overall goals of the current sheetflow project thereby helping to put the rest of the creek and Alachua Sink in compliance with state and federal regulations. 🐦

—Submitted by George Papadi

## SPRING PROMENADE 2014

The *Thomas Center Associates* are happy to announce that *Spring Promenade*, the tour of homes in our historic district, will return this spring after a one year hiatus. A tradition since 1975, the event will take place **March 7 and 8, 2014**. Serving as a fundraiser for garden improvements and other beautification programs for the *Thomas Center*, the Friday evening Reception Tour as well as the Saturday Tours give the rest of Gainesville a glimpse of the elegance and beauty of our beloved neighborhood.

However, to offer this event each year we need one very important thing—**HOMES that can be toured**. Jan Scott, who has chaired the event since 2004 and recruited more than 60 residences to participate, has decided it’s time to pass the torch to Brenda Rainsberger, a new *Thomas Center Associates* Board Member. Brenda will be looking for six or seven homes that represent a range in size, style, and location. If you’d like to offer your home as part of the tour, please contact **Brenda Rainsberger** at [brenda\\_rainsberger@gmail.com](mailto:brenda_rainsberger@gmail.com) or call her at 352.317.8661.

## Online Resources for Florida Friendly Yards

Florida Friendly Landscapes:  
<http://www.floridayards.org>

Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants:  
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>

Florida Exotic Pest Council:  
<http://www.fleppc.org>

Florida Native Plant Society:  
<http://www.fnps.org>

### ROPER PARK PICNIC 2013

For the third year in a row, the neighborhood held a very successful picnic in *Roper Park*. Close to 100 neighbors turned out on a sunny afternoon in May. As in the past, the only requirement was to bring a side dish and a chair. The variety of side dishes was astonishing and delicious. One neighbor surprised us with ears of corn to toss on the grill. I wish I could remember who brought the corn so I could thank you again. Also, a big thank you goes out to all the great neighborhood cooks. The *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* furnished hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, condiments, and beverages. Grill Master Roy Stahley returned this year to cook our hot dogs and hamburgers. Thank you Roy. The weather cooperated with a light cloud cover which made the heat tolerable, and the forecasted rain held off until everyone was ready to leave.

The DNA picnic had a delightful addition this year. A well known local band, the *Y'all Stars*, led by Monica Leadon Cooper performed and joined us for what is becoming a spring ritual. The *Y'all Stars* include Jon Alexander on pedal

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## Florida Friendly Yards—and neighborhoods!

This past July has been one of the wettest on record, and we can all see the results of abundant rain in our green and lush yards. However, I'll let you in on a little secret. The drought we've had for the past few years has not been much of a problem for us because we have a Florida Friendly Yard. This means that we are using landscape plants that are mostly native to North Central Florida, and that don't require a lot of water or fertilizer, and provide habitat for animals.

Unlike the generic landscape plants usually found at gardening centers, native plants are adapted to local water, nutrient and temperature requirements. They don't need to be protected in cold weather. And they don't need extra fertilizing. In addition, native plants are important sources of food for native animals and insects that have evolved along with the plants. Imagine a yard that not only accents your house with beautiful flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs, but also provides habitat for native butterflies, bees, mammals and birds and helps the environment.

Of course, there are many gorgeous plants that are not native, and being able to grow them is one of the fun advantages to gardening in Florida. It's perfectly fine to grow non-native plants in your yard. Azaleas, Camellias and Japanese Magnolias are some good examples of great, non-native plants. I'm also very fond of Red Pentas, Gingers and African Irises in a butterfly garden. The trick is to choose plants that are good players within the local environment, and to put the right plant in the right place! Plants that need a lot of water should be planted around a wet area. If your yard is dry, wetland plants may not be right for you. Many parts of Gainesville have sandy, dry soil. Use drought tolerant plants in those kinds of yards. And pay close attention to sun and shade requirements.

Another point to consider with non-native plants is if they are Invasive Exotic

species. Exotic plants are just plants that are not native to your particular region. Invasive Exotic plants are the non-native ones that do so well in any particular climate that they outcompete the native species, to the detriment of the local ecosystems. They have no local natural pests or diseases that control them and they crowd out the native plants. These species in the wrong place can cause real harm to the environment.

So take a look around your yard and see if you have Invasive Exotic plants that should be removed. You can see examples all around our neighborhood and along the ditches of the Sweetwater Branch, crowding out the beautiful native plantings. Elephant Ear, Air Potato and Mexican Petunia nearly cover the banks in some places. You might think it is ok to grow these plants in your own yard and keep them under control. But just a tiny piece of Mexican Petunia will grow a whole new plant. Berries from Lantana and Ardesia are carried off and deposited by birds and squirrels. Plant fragments, seeds and berries wash down into the storm drains where they gather in the ditches, just a heavy rain away from being washed down to the Prairie.

Consider planting a Florida Friendly landscape in your yard. You'll appreciate the diversity of wildlife and you'll be doing your part to help protect our environment. One great source for Florida native plants is the Native Plant Sale at *Morningside Nature Center* that takes place in the Fall and Spring each year. The Fall sale this year is September 27 and 28. The sale on the 27th is open only to members of *Friends of Nature Parks* or the *Florida Native Plant Society*, but you can join at the gate. The sale on the 28th is open to the general public. Many knowledgeable vendors and experts will help you pick the right plants for your yard. Happy Gardening! 🌿

—Submitted by Katherine Edison

## GPD: Duckpond Neighborhood Crime (continued from page 2)

care equipment with them, and typically don't solicit for business after dark. Please call GPD when "guests" pay you visits at odd hours.

The *Gainesville Police Department* encourages residents of the Duckpond to report *all* suspicious activity. Many times we learn of crimes well after the fact when a witness tells us about it at a neighborhood meeting. Citizens say that they didn't want to bother us, or that they weren't sure. If something you observe makes you suspicious then it most likely is

suspicious, please call these incidents in. Non-emergencies (no immediate threat to life or property) can be called in at 352.955.1818. An emergency situation can be called in via 911. If you are not sure, call 911, there is no punishment if the incident turns out to be a non-emergency. Remember that citizens are the eyes and ears of the community and GPD relies heavily on responsible citizens of which the Duckpond has no shortage. 🐦

—Submitted by Ofc. Ernest Graham  
GPD Crime Prevention Officer

## PLANT EXCHANGE

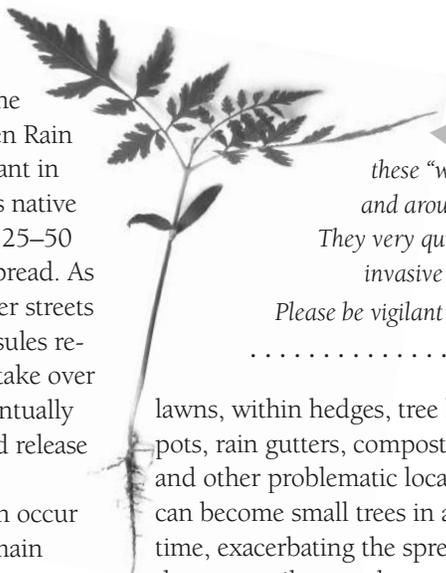
Anyone interested in forming an informal Duckpond Plant Exchange? We'd come and dig for free in each other's back yards. In my yard you'll find native anise shrubs, flowering ginger, confederate jasmine groundcover, and baby loquat trees that will grow quickly and bear fruit for you and the birds. Surely these plants will thrive in your yard since they did so well in mine! Any neighbors who'd like to join in this exchange, please email [janemedved@cox.net](mailto:janemedved@cox.net).

## Golden Showers

Early Fall is celebrated by the lovely yellow flowers of the Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria elegans*). Abundant in our neighborhood, this deciduous native of Taiwan can grow to a height of 25–50 feet with a 35–50 foot diameter spread. As flowers wane, golden petals shower streets and lawns. Rose colored fruit capsules resembling Chinese paper lanterns take over the treetop display. Seed pods eventually become dried and brown, fall, and release seeds of copious quantities into the environment. Germination can occur within six to eight days. Seeds remain viable for germination most of the year, the process expediting after rain, or when water is abundant by other means.

In our vicinity, Golden Rain Tree seedlings sprout rapidly and abundantly. Also in abundance are Jadera Bugs, a nuisance pest attracted to the abundant seeds of the tree. These insects, numbering in the thousands, will cover the ground beneath this tree and surrounding areas. Timely removal of seed pods offers some control, yet Jadera bugs reappear annually until the tree is removed.

Although the Golden Rain Tree bestows annual beauty, it is considered a Category II exotic invasive. In our neighborhood, thousands of seedlings sprout in



◀ Have you noticed these "weeds" sprouting in and around your property? They very quickly grow into the invasive Golden Rain Tree.

Please be vigilant and remove them!

.....  
lawns, within hedges, tree lawns, flower pots, rain gutters, compost bins, rooftops, and other problematic locations. Seedlings can become small trees in a very short time, exacerbating the spread of a species that can easily crowd out native vegetation, as well as planned landscaping.

As the heat of summer subsides and cooler temperatures arrive, please consider perusing your property for problem vegetation. Caught early, rain tree seedlings are easily removed by pulling. Additional information on the Golden Rain Tree can be found online, through IFAS, or the Alachua County Extension Office.

By making informed decisions regarding choices of plant material, each of us can help to protect our environment, spend time more wisely and pleasurable outdoors, enhance our property values, and be a better neighbor. 🐦

—Submitted by A. Poston

## PICNIC 2013 (continued from page 4)

steel, Ron Thomas on bass, Jack Nettles on electric guitar and mandolin, Alan Stowell on fiddle, and Larry Thompson on drums. The acoustic format provided a very relaxing and satisfying picnic experience. If you were not at the picnic and have not heard them play, check out the schedule for "Free Fridays" concerts at the downtown community plaza. You can sometimes hear them play on the plaza.

A small but dedicated group of neighbors worked hard to bring off the picnic. Our DNA picnic banner was torn last spring by a gust of wind and professionally repaired by Phoebe Papadi. Others shopped, chopped, stored food in home freezers, provided the grill, and the "pin your address" map. Thank you to Gayle Wheeler, Phoebe and George Papadi, Mary Rhodes, and Jill Dumas. Another thank you goes out to all those who helped set up and break down tables and chairs. Last, but not least, thank you to the *First United Methodist Church* for the use of their tables and chairs. We hope to see you next year. 🐦

—Submitted by Mary Rhodes

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## 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 requires attending frequent meetings. Volunteering can be rewarding and fun. If you are interested in one of these committees, please email [boarddna@googlegroups.com](mailto:boarddna@googlegroups.com).

## Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

The American Cancer Society's March Against Breast Cancer will be on Saturday, October 26th. The Duckpond neighborhood has been hosting a team for the march against cancer since 1996. If you would like to join the Duckpond team, please go to the American Cancer Society's website and click through to the Duckpond Neighborhood Association's team. Visit [http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY13FL?pg=entry&fr\\_id=55704](http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY13FL?pg=entry&fr_id=55704) or call 352.377.4217 if you are not able to sign up online.

The point of the walk is to raise money to fight breast cancer, so please donate, either online at the Duckpond Neighborhood team's site, or you can send a check made out the American

Cancer Society to the DNA at P.O. Box 5794, Gainesville, FL 32627.

The walk will start downtown and go through a small portion of our neighborhood. The weather is usually beautiful and it is a great way to get some exercise. If you do not want to walk that is fine; it is really about raising money to fight breast cancer.

As the years pass, the chance is less that breast cancer will end a loved one's life due to new research and better methods of prevention and detection. This is in part due to fundraising. Our team appreciates a donation of any amount to continue the fight against breast cancer. —Submitted by Melanie Barr



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# duckpond board

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| <b>President</b>      |          |
| Melanie Barr          | 377.4217 |
| <b>Vice President</b> |          |
| Charles Covell        | 336.0127 |
| <b>Secretary</b>      |          |
| Mary Rhodes           | 375.2616 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      |          |
| Brian Miller          | 379.7948 |
| <b>Directors</b>      |          |
| David Auth            | 371.1991 |
| Edith Kaan            | 379.7948 |
| George Papadi         | 373.1296 |

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:boardDNA@googlegroups.com) for more information.

## Stay Informed: Join the DNA Update email list!

To join, e-mail your address to [boardDNA@googlegroups.com](mailto: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