



The Villager

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*American Homesteading Foundation, Inc.
535 Hammock Road
Melbourne Village, FL 32904*

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The Villager

Spring 2012 Volume 52 Issue 1



American Homesteading Foundation, Inc.

Sixty-Sixth

Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 10

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Call to order at 9:00 a.m.

Donuts, coffee, and juice served
(Quorum Required)

Annual Dinner

Sunday, March 11, 5:30 p.m.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$5.00 for adults & children
plus a side dish or dessert

Birds and Critters of the Village

by Mary Nicolay

Some may wonder why there is a list on the bulletin board of birds and wildlife in the Village. The answer is it serves those of us interested in such things, as we live in a very unique area.

Our dark streets and trees are a haven for owls, a really fascinating and useful bird. Hawks that are migrating enjoy a tasty repast as they travel through. The yard birds are plentiful; Cardinals, Blue Jays, Carolina Wrens, Mourning Doves, woodpeckers et cetera. Ground feeders like the Brown Thrashers and ground nesters like the Chuck-wills-widow do not fare so well with so many predators about.

For feeder watchers, who can deny the incredible beauty of the Painted Bunting? Those of us lucky enough to have them visit regularly thrill to their shy behavior and flashing colors. So a notice on the board reminds us all to be on the lookout for them. The Village eagles are safe here. Wood ducks drop their ducklings to the ground and walk them to our water sources. Such a sight! Humming birds love our garden flowers. The Sphinx Moth often confuses villagers as they resemble the tiny hummers and love the pentas found in village yards.

There are occasional RARE sightings that set some birder's hearts aflutter. As villagers we are lucky to have Shirley and Bill Hills putting their yard sightings on the list. The Hills are noted birding experts and have many years observing village wildlife to share. Our young people add observations to the list. They enjoy seeing the gopher tortoises, alligator snapping turtle, eagles, ospreys, vultures, even foxes and bobcats.

Please take a look at the list and you will begin to notice changes in numbers of sightings as the seasons change. Keep your neighbors informed by adding the birds and critters you see in our wonderful Melbourne Village!

AHF Annual Dinner

The AHF Annual Dinner will be on Sunday, March 11. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.

This year's menu is Roast Beef, Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, grilled fresh vegetables, and bread and butter. Beverages will be provided, but you can bring your own adult beverages too, if you like.

The theme for our Annual Dinner is "Dancing under the Stars"! Jessie Schneider, age 14, daughter of Anna and Mike Schneider, and a lifelong resident of Melbourne Village, will perform with members of the DAC, Dance Arts Centre company. The group of teen girls is raising money for a cultural immersion and cultural exchange with students in Ecuador. They will be leaving in late March for Quito, the capital, and then will be living with student families in a nearby city. Please support their efforts! They will appreciate any help they receive. Mary and Hugh Nicolay are Jessie's grandparents, and they are very proud of her efforts!

Tickets will go on sale starting March 1 in the AHF office (hours 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). They are \$5.00 each for adults and children, plus a side dish or dessert to share. Seating is limited, so get your tickets as soon as you can!

A Message from the President

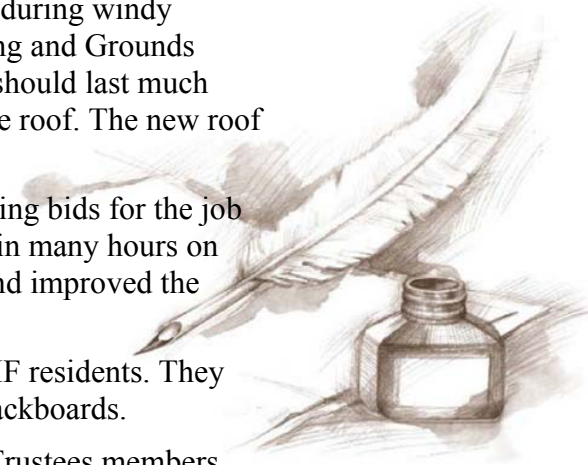
The AHF hall shingle roof had reached the end of its life. The shingles were very brittle, posing a danger of breaking and leading to leakage during windy weather. The board accepted the recommendation of the Building and Grounds committee to replace the shingles with a metal roof. The metal should last much longer than shingles, providing a cost savings over the life of the roof. The new roof is now in place.

I appreciate the efforts of the committee members in soliciting bids for the job and coordinating the completion of the job. They have also put in many hours on other projects during the last year on projects that maintained and improved the hall.

The basketball court was refurbished by volunteers and AHF residents. They installed new goal rims, re-painted the lines, and erected new backboards.

It will soon be time for the annual vote for AHF Board of Trustees members and for our annual meeting. Members should have already received Board of Trustee ballots by mail. Please take a few minutes to fill out and return your ballot.

The AHF Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 10. It provides an opportunity to review AHF activities of the past year with your fellow members. We need a quorum to vote for AHF committee members and to conduct other business, so please plan to attend. The meeting usually ends before noon.



AHF Announcements

Monthly Committee Reports Due

Monday, March 5,
Monday, April 9
Monday, May 7

Committee Orientation Meeting

April - to be announced

Swimming Pool

Pool heaters are turned off in January and February, and turned back on March 1.

Scheduled Monthly Meetings

Recreation Committee

2nd Monday, 6 p.m., Committee Room

Parks and Paths Committee

1st Monday, 7:30 p.m., Committee Room

Budget and Finance Committee

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Library

Scheduled Weekly Clubs

Mah Jongg – Mondays 1-3 p.m., Committee Room

Bridge Club – Tuesdays 1-4 p.m., Committee Room

Contacting the AHF

The AHF office is located at 535 Hammock Road.
Office hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Mon. to Fri.

Phone: 321-723-6042

Email: AHFMV@cfl.rr.com

Web: <http://www.melbourne-village.com>

Board of Trustee Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.

AHF Office Closures

Monday, Feb. 20 (Presidents' Day)

Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day)

AHF Board of Trustees Election

February 23 (balloting closes at 6 p.m.)
2012 candidates are Richard (Dick) Bustello,
Anthony (Tony) Calenda, Kathryn Merry,
Hugh Nicolay, and Linda Wilson.

Board Adopts Invasive Plant Policy

by Hugh Nicolay

At their January meeting, the board of trustees adopted the following policy, effective immediately:

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees, that to the degree practical and feasible, AHF committees having responsibilities for the management and maintenance of AHF lands, are authorized and encouraged to remove or cause to be removed, exotic pest invasive plant species which have been so designated by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council.

While the AHF has an established history of trying to remove invasive plants from its parks, it was discovered that it had no formal policy on the matter to back up workers in the field.

All of the committees have been working diligently, with the limited workforce available on Saturday mornings, to push back against the invaders. Herbicides and sprayers are available to members upon request for spraying potato vines on their property. The trustees have authorized to pay for cutting of some larger invasive trees on park property on occasion. For the most part, the organization has relied on volunteer workers.

A few homesteaders living next to parks have expressed concern when areas are cleared next to their lots. The change can be dramatic, especially where exotics dominate. The trustees realize it is a necessary short term impact if a diverse community of native plants is to be encouraged to replace the exotics.

Landowners feeling unjustly impacted can always appeal directly to the board of trustees for special considerations. The policy pertains to AHF property, not individual private lots or town owned property.

The current official list referenced in the policy statement can be viewed at the web site:
<http://www.fleppc.org/>.

----- Upcoming Events: Cut and Save -----

	Sat., Feb. 18 - Parks & Paths work party; 8 - 10 AM; check Dayton Blvd chalk board for location
	Mon, Feb. 20 - TMV and AHF offices closed for Presidents' Day Mon., Feb. 20 - TMV Beautification Committee meeting, 10 AM AHF Hall
February	Sat., Feb. 25 - Nixon Hammock work party 9 AM
	Mon., Feb. 27 - TMV Beautification Committee work party, 9 am, Sheridan Rd entrance and island at West Pine
	Tues., Feb. 28 – TMV Regular Town Commission meeting, 7 PM Town Hall
	Sat., Mar. 10 – AHF Annual Meeting, 9 am Village Hall
March	Sun., Mar. 11 - AHF Annual Dinner, 5:30 pm Village Hall
	Sat., April 7 – Easter Egg Hunt
April	Sun., April 8 – Easter Sunrise Service, Deerhead Hammock.
	Sun., April 22 – Annual Founder's Day. Sponsored by the Town of Melbourne Village

Volunteers are always needed for every event!

Passings

Marie Anthony Sheahan

Marie M. Anthony-Sheahan, 84, passed away on Tuesday, July 26, 2011. Her husband, Charles Sheahan, predeceased Marie in 2009. Mrs. Sheahan lived on Towhee Drive and was an AHF member since 1984.

Eleanor Krause

Former AHF Executive Secretary, Eleanor Krause, 90, passed away on Monday, October 17, 2011.

Hazel M. Thomas

Hazel M. Thomas, 93, of N. Wildwood Melbourne Village, passed away on Thursday, December 8, 2011. Mrs. Thomas lived on N. Wildwood Lane and was an AHF member since 1978.

Carolyn Hazelgrove

Former TMV Town Clerk, Carolyn Hazelgrove, passed away on Thursday, August 18, 2011. Mrs. Hazelgrove lived on Cajeput Circle and was an AHF member since 1963.

eVillager Trivia Contest

by Hugh Nicolay

At the beginning of every month, the Information Committee publishes an email which includes a calendar of upcoming meetings and events for both the AHF and the Town. Also included are announcements of interest.

Recently we have been including a bit of trivia in each issue to spark interest.

Quiz - This AHF member recently received major award for one of his watercolor paintings at the annual meeting of the National Watercolor Society held in Los Angeles, CA.

Quiz - This AHF member attended the same school in Honolulu, Hawaii as Pres. Obama?

Quiz - This AHF member, when a young lad, helped his uncle deliver milk. One of their customers was the noted Florida author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings ("The Yearling"). Her Cross Creek homestead is now a state historical park.

Quiz - This AHF member is the inventor or co-inventor on 'about' 120 US patents.

If you would like to get on the eVillager mailing list send an email to: eVillager-subscribe@YahooGroups.com.

Your email address is safe. You do not need a Yahoo account or give any personal information.

The Villager

The Villager is published 4 times each year by and for the members of The American Homesteading Foundation, Inc. News items, stories, and comments can be addressed to the AHF Office.

Information Committee Members:

Kathryn Merry, Chair
 Gail Griswold, Editor, Reporter
 Gerda Murphy, Reporter
 Rosa Bennett, Layout
 Perry Foster, Webmaster
 Vance Johnson, Bulletin Board
 Hugh Nicolay, Secretary, Photographer, & eVillager Editor



AHF Committee News

The AHF Committees are a large part of what makes Melbourne Village work. We are always looking for more volunteers to help out. With 17 standing committees you can certainly find something to suit your individual skills, talents, interests, and fit with your schedule. Call the AHF office if you would like to find out more (723-6042) or visit the AHF website: www.melbourne-village.com.

Parks & Paths Committee

The 3rd Annual Founder's Day Air Potato Round-Up is fast approaching!

Collecting Air Potatoes can help your wallet! Their value this year is 10 cents per pound. There will be a Grand Prize and additional prizes for

- Most collected by weight
- Heaviest 'single' potato
- Most unusual potato

Check the Bulletin Board for additional information.

Building & Grounds Committee

From the floor to the roof, this Committee has been very busy keeping the AHF buildings in good repair. The terrazzo floors have been cleaned and waxed. Their shine is reflected in the new metal roof - looks pretty good!

Deer Head Hammock Committee

We meet the 1st Saturday of the month in the Hammock - come out and join us!

Please plan on attending the April 8th Easter Service in the Deerhead Hammock followed by a Continental Breakfast (bring a breakfast dish to share). Check the Bulletin Board for more details.

FREE Herbicide available to help fight Air Potato scourge

To help fight this noxious vine, FREE pre-mixed herbicide is available to residents through the AHF Office, David Volckmann, or Mike Smith:



AHF Office 723-6042

Mike Smith, Parks & Paths Chairman
723-6042

Earn Bright Futures Scholarship Credit

Helping the Parks and Paths, Erna Nixon Hammock and Deer Head Hammock Committees with their cleanup and invasive species eradication efforts is a good way for high-schoolers to earn community service hours. These committees are active in the spring and fall and regularly provide notice of their "work parties" on the bulletin board.

Memory Garden

Winter 2011

Once a month our committee gets together to work in the garden. We trim shrubs, remove weeds, mow and do a general clean up. The rest of the month the garden is maintained by one of the committee members. They keep the garden tidy and water as needed.

We have been working on the Butterfly garden by adding native flowers for our little friends the Butterflies. We think that this really enhances our garden and makes for a serene place to sit and enjoy the beautiful outdoors. We are adding a Butterfly weathervane to the pergola and more native plants the spring.

As always, we hope that you enjoy the garden and if you have any suggestions, please let us know. Happy Gardening!

Memory Garden has workdays the 1st Thursday of the month at 9 am. You can contact the AHF office or Sandi Dix at 952-5618.

Erna Nixon Hammock

Spring 2012

The main focus of our committee is removing invasive plants from the Hammock. This past year we have taken out Brazilian peppers, Surinam cherries, Java plums, sprayed Potato vines and both of the bad Ardisias. All of these plants are on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Invasive Plant Lists Category I list. Which states invasive exotic plants are termed Category I when they "are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. Invasive exotic pest plants are biological pollutants that wipe out more natural habitat every year than development". This definition does not rely on the economic severity or geographic range of the problem, but on the documented ecological damage caused."

So you can see why it is so important for us to remove these invasive plants and be aware of what we plant in our own yards. You can pick up a brochure on invasive plants in the Town's office. The Town's Beautification Committee had a wonderful workshop given by Melbourne Village resident Dr. Scott Taylor on invasive plants. If you didn't attend you missed a really good workshop. Watch the bulletin board for more workshops that the Beautification Committee will be sponsoring.

The committee keeps the paths clear of fallen debris and weed whacked to making strolling through the park more enjoyable. Be on the lookout for bee hives and poison ivy along the paths.

If you would like to help out in the park, our workdays are usually the 4th Saturday of the month starting at 9 am. All committees could use more help! For more information, contact Sandi Dix, at 952-5618 or the AHF office.

Please remember: NO SMOKING or littering in any of your parkland and please pick up after your dog. There is nothing worse than enjoying a nice walk in the park and stepping in someone's dog poop! Let's be considerate of others.

New AHF Members

November 2011 - Welcome to our newest AHF members Michael Fischer and Christine Anzevino. They purchased the home at 6535 Sheridan Road, Lot 50, from Jozsef Szabo and Amina Eperjesi.

TMV Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 10 AM in the AHF Committee Room. Among our many ongoing projects, the Committee has implemented an Invasive Plant Removal Program on South Drive along the M-1 Canal – west end. The plan is to remove the invasive plant material, maintain the area to retard re-growth, then re-plant, as needed, with native plants. Target workdays are Tuesday and Friday each week, 8 – 10 am. Participants are asked to wear appropriate clothes, bring own tools and water.

At Founder's Day, the Committee is raffling a beautiful copper container full of herbs and strawberry plants. Tickets are \$1 each. Visit our booth!

Help Keep Melbourne Village Beautiful by participating in a TMV Workday. Dates and locations are Mon., Feb. 27 – 9 AM at West Pine and Sheridan entrance; Tues., Mar. 20 – 8 AM at Dayton Blvd and South Dr. intersection; Fri., Apr. 27 – 8 AM at South Dr. Water will be provided. Please bring pruners, shovel, wheel barrow, etc.

Dates to Remember:

Mon, February 27 - 9 am	Workday - Sheridan entrance and island at West Pine
Sat, March 3 - 9 am	Work Party - Deerhead Hammock
Tues, March 20 - 8 am	Workday - Dayton Blvd. and South Dr. (La Florida Site)
Fri, April 27 - 8 am,	Workday - South Drive – Invasive Plant Removal

Upcoming Events

Annual Historic Walk

Sponsored by the Town of Melbourne Village, Historic Preservation Commission.
Contact Jean Henderson (724-0700) for date and further information.

Easter Egg Hunt

April 7, For further information, contact Recreation Chairman, Linda Wilson.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 8, Deerhead Hammock. For further information, contact Kathryn Merry.

Annual Founder's Day

Sponsored by the Town of Melbourne Village.
April 22. For further information, contact the Town Office.

Ruth B. Hayes Melbourne Village Scholarship

Applications will be available at the AHF Office beginning May 1. The annual Ruth B. Hayes Scholarship is awarded in July. The scholarship, in the amount of \$1,130, is made available through the American Homesteading Foundation, Inc. to a graduating senior residing in Melbourne Village.

You may contact the AHF Office for additional eligibility requirements.