



The Villager

Spring 2014

Volume 54

Issue 1



American Homesteading Foundation, Inc.

Sixty-Eighth

Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 15

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Call to order at 9:00 a.m.

Donuts, fruit, coffee, & juice served
(Quorum Required)

Annual Dinner

Sunday, March 16, 5:30 p.m.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$5.00 for adults & children
over 12 yrs old

AHF Annual Dinner

The AHF Annual Dinner will be on Sunday, March 16. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. for social time and dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.

The theme for our Annual Dinner is "St. Patrick's Day", so please feel free to celebrate by wearing your best green attire! We'll have a Deejay to spin your favorite tunes and a dance floor where you can party the night away. Your song requests are welcome!

Dinner will be catered by Harbor City Diner and the menu will include traditional fare such as corned beef (with boiled potatoes, cabbage, and carrot), beef stew, vegetable pot pie, and a green salad. Beverages will also be provided such as juices, lemonade, iced tea, water, and coffee, but you are welcome to bring your own adult beverage too.

Special Request: *Please note that we plan to have more than enough food for all, so we kindly ask that everyone please bring a dessert instead of a side dish.*

Tickets will go on sale starting Monday, March 3 in the AHF office (hours 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) They are \$5.00 each for adults and children over 12 years of age. Tickets are free for children under 12 and Board of Trustee members.

Seating is limited, so get your tickets as soon as you can!

A Message from the President

The AHF Board of Trustees elections are coming up. Look for your ballot in the mail and vote for the candidates of your choice.

The annual meeting is scheduled in March. Please plan to attend. You can review activities of the AHF for the last year and catch up with your fellow members. We need a quorum to conduct the meeting, so your attendance helps us meet that requirement.

I would like to thank Linda Wilson, chair of the Recreation Committee, and the committee members for all the work they put in this year to provide us with a number of outstanding events.

I would also like to thank Sandi Dix for her work in planning and completing the project that resulted in the new sign system for our events. They are a great improvement.



Announcements

Regularly Scheduled Committee Meetings

Deerhead Hammock Committee

1st Saturday, 9 a.m.

Memory Garden Committee

Last Friday, 3 p.m.

Erna Nixon Hammock Committee (work party)

4th Saturday, 9 a.m.

Parks and Paths Committee

Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. See the bulletin board for location.

Building and Grounds Committee

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

Recreation Committee

1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Committee Room

Budget and Finance Committee

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

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mah Jongg

2nd Thursday of the month, 6-9 p.m., Committee Room.
Call Amber Boerner for details (725-2786). New players are welcome!

AHF Office Closings

Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day)

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 Trustees Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports due Monday, March 10.

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

Committee Reports due Monday, April 7

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

Committee Reports due Monday, May 5.

AHF Board of Trustees Election

February 27, 2014, balloting closes at 6 p.m.

2014 candidates are James Beasom, Jonathan Cronkhite, Thomas Kjerulff, Donald Lauer, Mary Jane Moon, Deborah Seiler, and Linda Wilson.

Welcome to our new AHF Members

November 2013: Keith and Leslie Gallagher, 6587 Canal Road (Lot 512). Purchased from Robert and Beverly Daubert.

December 2013: Felicio and Daniela Laterca De Almeida, 325 Dayton Boulevard (Lot 503). Purchased from Richard and Encarnation Sence.



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, or visit the AHF website: www.melbourne-village.com.

Memory Garden Committee

by Sandi Dix

Well, we had some cold days this winter and we will have to see how much, if any, damage we have from it. At this point I don't think we will have much, but you never know.

The committee is planning on planting a memorial tree this spring and we will be replanting our butterfly garden. Our garden spring cleaning always includes adding more mulch and trimming shrubs.

In addition to our monthly work parties, committee members are responsible for monthly maintenance of the garden which includes watering as needed, picking up around the garden and monitoring ant beds. Our workday for the cooler months is the last Friday of the month at 9 am. We can always use more help, so if you have an extra hour or so, please contact me (Sandi) by phone at 952-5618 or e-mail: mntlcrpl@yahoo.com.

As always, we hope that you enjoy the Memory Garden and if you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Happy Gardening!

Bylaws Review Committee

by Sandi Dix

Well, the Bylaws review workshop we had in November was a success, I think. We got feedback as to what is important to the residents who attended. If you didn't get a chance to attend, don't worry - we are planning on holding another workshop soon. Watch the bulletin board and our Nextdoor Melbourne Village website for the date and details.

The committee didn't meet in December since everyone is so busy with the holidays during this time. But, we will resume our monthly meetings soon.

At this time, the Bylaws Review committee has thoroughly reviewed all of the old Bylaws and made changes that we felt were necessary. Our next plan of action is to hold another workshop for Village residents, to have the Board of Trustees take a look at the committee's proposed changes, and to have a lawyer review the Bylaws to make sure everything is legal.

I hope that everyone who wishes to have input at the workshop will look over the current Bylaws. Copies of the current Bylaws can be obtained at the AHF office or downloaded from our website: <http://melbourne-village.com>. If you can't attend the workshop but you have suggestions, please e-mail them to the AHF office, drop them off at the AHF office, or email them to me (Sandi) at mntlcrpl@yahoo.com. We would love to hear from you!

The proposed Bylaws changes will be sent out in a separate mailing after the Board of Trustees has voted. The voting is taking a little more time than we expected.

Parks and Paths Committee

*The Founders' 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.

The Deerhead Hammock Committee will 'match' Air Potatoes to those who volunteer to collect in the Hammock - so far, about 16 pounds have been collected. 1st come, first get!

Erna Nixon Hammock

by Sandi Dix

As you know the Erna Nixon Hammock committee has a critter cam that we use to document the wildlife in the hammock. Well, we have also gotten some strange pictures of people. The latest is of two boys with what looks like a rifle with a scope on it. Any type of gun is prohibited in our parkland and hunting is NOT allowed. I reported this violation to our police department along with pictures of the boys. Unfortunately, the pictures don't show their faces, so if you see any type of questionable behavior please report it to our police department. Let's make our parkland safe for all wildlife and humans as well.



We did get some pictures of the Bobcat, such as the one below:



The committee members spend many, many hours in the hammock removing invasive plants like the Brazilian peppers, Air potato vines, Coral and Shoe button ardisias and Java plum just to name a few. We continue to remove some the grape vines that are choking out the Saw Palmettos and small oak trees on the Live Oak path.

The committee's upcoming projects include installing a bench in the parkland along Live Oak Road, replacing plant ID tags, and planting a Red Cedar tree on the Acacia path. All of these projects take time, so if you have some time to assist please feel free to join us!

Our workdays are usually the 4th Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. We could always use more help. For more information, contact me (Sandi) by phone 952-5618 or e-mail: mntlcrpl@yahoo.com.

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 stroll in our parks and stepping in someone's dog poop! Let's be considerate of others.

Happy Trails!

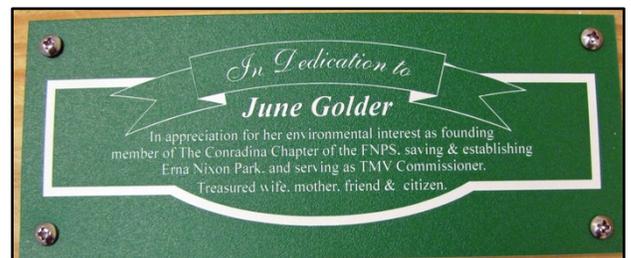
Beautification Committee

by Kathryn Merry

June Golder Dedication: On Friday, Jan. 17, the TMV Beautification Committee dedicated a live oak tree located on South Drive in appreciation of the years of dedication June played in the preserving and developing of area environmental concerns. Notably are the preservation of Erna Nixon Hammock Park and early formation of the local chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. The Committee specifically selected Jan. 17 (3rd Friday in January) to recognize Florida's Arbor Day.



In the 1970 and 80's, June walked the paths with Margaret Hames, Hester Wagner, Erna Nixon and other environmental activists as they and others worked together to protect Brevard County from the hands of developers. Among her achievements are setting the framework for the local Florida Native Plant Society - Conradina Chapter (then called South Brevard Chapter, and prior to that the AHF Environmental Committee). June also was very active in the Town of Melbourne Village, serving as a Commissioner.



Other notable Villagers involved in these preservation activities include Ray and Jean Henderson, Priscilla Griffith, Beth Griswold, Rusty and Mary Ann Rustein, Bill and Shirley Hills, and Paul Swedroe, to name a few.

For additional photos from the dedication, see page 8 and our Nextdoor.com website.

Benefits of Native Plants

by Marge Derrick

I want to congratulate our Town Commission for their swift response to the Indian River Lagoon crisis in enacting a law forbidding fertilizer use during the rainy season. The situation with the lagoon is extremely serious as we all know.

One of the biggest fertilizer uses is to maintain a green lawn which then needs frequent cutting. An alternative to that is, of course, to plant native plants which in every way represents a much safer impact on the environment. Additionally, using native plants has great benefit for the Indian River Lagoon, which is in a state of crisis due in great measure to fertilizer runoff. Native plants require no fertilization. They are made to live in Florida soil.

I would like to speak to the native plant alternative as not only environmentally desirable but truly a necessity for the food supply it provides for an array of highly desirable insects such as monarch butterflies and bees.

Monarch butterflies are in huge trouble and quite possibly could go extinct. I received a news article from a friend in the north which was very alarming. Thanks to heat waves, illegal industrial logging in their Mexico winter habitat, and the pervasive use of genetically modified crops that resist herbicides, their numbers are plummeting - by about 80 percent. When Roundup is used to spray crops, everything is killed but the crop. The reason this is so dangerous for monarchs is that they lay eggs on milkweed which grows around the edges of fields or between the crops and their caterpillars need to eat the milkweed to survive. The use of Roundup effectively leaves the monarchs with no place to lay their eggs and no milkweed for caterpillars to eat.

Monarchs migrate all the way from Mexico. It requires generations of them to follow the entire route north and south. On their way, they have to stop and find milkweed for their future generations. We are on their route, so I would like to recommend that we Villagers plant native milkweed in our yards along with other plants to aid the Monarchs and bees. We asked our mosquito control folks what they use, and found out that Control 4, their spray of choice, is extremely hard on bees, to the point that it cannot be used anywhere near fields at all.

I feel we have every reason to plant native plants and the more the better. We have Spanish needles in a spot in our yard (okay, too many). I have never seen anything like the insects on their blooms one day, an array of butterfly species, tiny bees, everything with an appetite, and even dragonflies watching the fun. It is very well worth it and deeply needed.

I can't help thinking of our founders who created this unique place with the natural world in mind. I think we could carry that spirit forward in seeing what we can do to help our fellow creatures survive.

Passings

Dorothy May Ploeger



Dorothy Ploeger of Norman Dr. passed away on August 31, 2013 at the age of 84. She was a long time resident of Melbourne Village and a dedicated and loving wife and mother who enjoyed sewing, crafts, traveling and Scottish dancing.

Dorothy is survived by Ernest, her husband of 65 years; daughters, Linda (Charles) Ruckman of Palm Bay, Kathi (Don Meyers) Ploeger of Seattle, WA; sons, William Ploeger and Paul Ploeger of Melbourne Village, FL; grandson, Randall Jones of Josephine, PA, and a brother, Louis Arbor of East Detroit, MI.

Karen Delorme (Batson)

Karen Delorme of West Pine Rd passed away on August 1, 2013 at age 59. She is survived by her son, Philip.

28th Annual Ruth B. Hayes Melbourne Village Scholarship

The annual Ruth B. Hayes Scholarship in the amount of \$1,130 is awarded in July. The scholarship is made available through the American Homesteading Foundation, Inc. to a graduating high school senior residing in Melbourne Village. Applications will be available in early May. Contact the AHF office for additional information.

Earn Bright Futures Scholarship Credit

Helping the Parks and Paths, Erna Nixon Hammock and Deerhead 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.

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. Contact David Volckmann or Mike Smith:

Dave Volckmann 723-6042

Mike Smith, Parks and Paths Chairman 725-0597



Upcoming Events: Cut and Save

March	Sat. 3/15, 68th Annual Meeting. Registration 8:30 a.m. Call to order 9:00 a.m., AHF Hall.
	Sun. 3/16, Annual Dinner. 5:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
	Fri. 3/21, Table set up for Spring Flea Market. 9:00 a.m. AHF Hall.
	Fri. 3/21, Villagers set up their tables for Spring Flea Market. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. AHF Hall.
	Sat. 3/22, Melbourne Village Spring Flea Market. 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. AHF Hall. For more information, contact Linda Wilson (984-2539).
	Sat. 3/29, April Game Night. 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
April	Committee Orientation Meeting, April (date & time TBD). For details, see the bulletin board.
	Sat. 4/19, Easter Egg Hunt (ages 1-12), 9 a.m. AHF Hall. Volunteers needed to stuff and hide eggs. For more information, contact Linda Wilson (984-2539).
	Sun. 4/20, Easter Sunrise Service, Deerhead Hammock. For more information, contact Chairman Ann Adkins (724-5766).
	Sat. 4/26, April Game Night, 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
May	Sat. 5/3, Ice Cream Social, 7:00 p.m. Hester Wagner Community Center
	Sun. 5/4, Annual Founders' Day (sponsored by TMV). For more information, contact the Town Office or see the bulletin board.
	Annual Historic Walk (sponsored by TMV Historic Preservation Commission). Founders' Day weekend (date & time TBD). For more information, contact the Town Office or see the bulletin board.
	Sat. 5/24, Movie Night. 6:30 p.m., Movie TBA. See the bulletin board for details.
	Sat. 5/31, May Game Night. 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
June	Sat. 6/21, Movie Night. 6:30 p.m., Movie TBA. See the bulletin board for details.
	Sat. 6/28, June Game Night. 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.

Volunteers are always needed for every event!

Photos from Christmas Dinner



Dog Funnies

Source: Reader's Digest website, rd.com.

Dog Sounds: I always scoffed when my sister insisted that our three dogs are computer literate. Then one day when I was signing on to AOL, I noticed that when the “welcome” voice came on, the dogs immediately settled down. Later, when they heard the “good-bye” sign-off, all three dogs rushed to the door expecting to be walked.

The Retriever : I’m a police officer and occasionally park my cruiser in residential areas to watch for speeders. One Sunday morning I was staked out in a driveway, when I saw a large dog trot up to my car. He stopped and sat just out of arm’s reach. No matter how much I tried to coax him to come for a pat on the head, he refused to budge. After a while I decided to move to another location. I pulled out of the driveway, looked back and learned the reason for the dog’s stubbornness. He quickly picked up the newspaper I had been parked on and dutifully ran back to his master.

The Anxious Poodle: Poodle: “My life is a mess. My owner is mean, my girlfriend is leaving me for a German shepherd, and I’m nervous as a cat.” Collie: “Why don’t you go see a psychiatrist?” Poodle: “I can’t. I’m not allowed on the couch.”

A Dog Goes Into: A dog goes into a bar and orders a martini. The bartender says, “You don’t see a dog in here drinking a martini very often.” The dog says, “At these prices, I’m not surprised.”



The Villager

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

**CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Photos From June Golder Dedication

