



The Villager

Fall 2007

Volume 47
Issue 3

Recreation Committee Plans Busy Season!

by Sommer Lourcey

Fall is coming and the MELBOURNE VILLAGE ANNUAL FLEA MARKET will be held at the AHF Hall on Saturday, September 22nd. Villagers will be able to set up their tables the night before (Friday, September 21st) from 6 pm until 8 pm. Tables will be \$5 each. Please call Heidi Salmon for table reservations and more info at 733-5833. The FLEA MARKET doors will open at 8 am on Saturday morning.

On Saturday, October 13th at 7:30 pm at the AHF Hall there will be a fundraiser held to raise money for Village Movie Nights. Come enjoy a "Taste of Florida" and support a good cause. We will sample some delicious Florida fruit wines and enjoy chocolate-covered treats from the Fountain. The donation will be \$10 per person. Don't miss out on the fun. And it's okay to bring a bottle of your favorite wine to share.

BOO! Don't be scared! You didn't miss the

MELBOURNE VILLAGE HALLOWEEN PARTY. The fun begins at 6 pm at the AHF Hall on Saturday, October 27th. There will be music, food and fun for Villagers of all ages. A costume contest will be held with prizes for cutest, scariest and most original. And for those of you who are SERIOUS about Halloween, there will be a Haunted Room contest! Get your team together and start brainstorming on the scariest way to decorate a room approximately 12 feet long by 8 feet wide. There will be a \$25 cash prize (plus BRAGGING rights) for the best overall room!

Come to RIDE TO EAT, EAT TO RIDE on Sunday, November 11th.

Villagers are invited to meet at 4 pm at the AHF Hall for a motorcycle ride to eat dinner in Cocoa Beach. For more information contact Joe Lourcey at 508-0506 or jlourcey@cfl.rr.com.

On Sunday, December 9th Villagers will gather together for the Annual AHF Christmas dinner. More info to follow.

Reminder
Flea Market
Saturday
September 22, 2007
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
See recreation article for details

Joshua Reed, Scholarship Winner



Three applications were submitted in June for the 2007 Ruth B. Hayes Scholarship. In accordance with criteria for the scholarship award, funds are given to the applicant with the highest "weighted" grade point average. It was determined through school records that this year's recipient would be Joshua Reed, son of Jon and Roberta Reed (W. Pine Rd.).

Joshua is a Melbourne High Graduate and has been a frequent volunteer for activities planned by AHF Committees. In addition to playing varsity golf at Melbourne High, Joshua interned at Harris Corporation in finance during the Summer of 2006 and was retained to work part time in that position until his graduation from high school.

Joshua is currently attending the University of Florida and is majoring in Engineering.

We extend our congratulations to Joshua for his outstanding achievements in high school and wish him great success with his college studies.

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A Message from the President

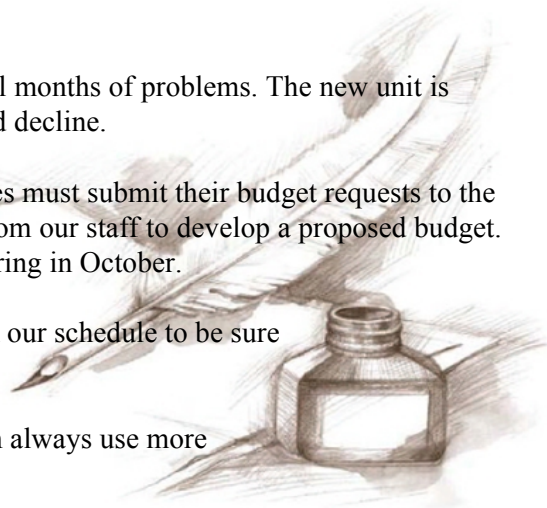
by Jim Beasom, AHF President

The air conditioning for the AHF hall was replaced recently after several months of problems. The new unit is working well. It is more efficient than the old unit so operating cost should decline.

AHF annual budget preparation begins in September. Funded committees must submit their budget requests to the office. The Budget and Finance Committee takes these inputs plus those from our staff to develop a proposed budget. They present the budget to the AHF board and members at the budget hearing in October.

As summer comes to an end, the pace of AHF activities picks up. Check our schedule to be sure you do not miss anything.

The Recreation Committee, which puts on most of the fall activities, can always use more help. Consider volunteering for one or more of their events.



AHF Announcements

Obituaries

Hester Wagner (Ward Parkway) died May 21, 2007
(see page 11)

AHF News and Announcements

FREE ADVERTISING FOR AHF MEMBERS: Due to popular demand, there is now a business card display located in the AHF Office. Interested AHF Members may drop off their cards any time. Use the mail slot after office hours.

Additionally, the AHF Website will post your announcements or help you advertise your business for free. Simply email the webmaster@melbourne-village.com with your information. Check it out at www.melbourne-village.com/ahfinfo.html

PROUD PARENTS Rusty & Maryann Rutstein (Hammock Rd.) would like to announce that congratulations are in order to their son, Adam Rutstein since the company that he is affiliated with, Bankers Life and Casualty, has announced that Adam has qualified for its exclusive 2007 President's Honor Circle based on leadership, sales productivity and professional service during the year 2006.

Board of Trustee Meeting Schedule

Thursday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.

AHF Office Closures

Monday, November 12 (Veterans Day)
Thursday, Friday Nov. 22-23 (Thanksgiving)
Tuesday December 25 (Christmas)

Welcome New AHF Members

Theeratat Taweasuk
694 Hammock Road
Lot 242 (from Usher)

John F. and Theresa M. Backes
6250 Savannah Drive
Lot 108 (from McKay)

Regular Events In AHF Hall

Bridge Club Every Tuesday, 1-4 p.m.
Orchid Club 2nd Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

Parks and Paths 1st Monday, monthly, 7:30 p.m.
in Committee Room
Budget and Finance 4th Wednesday, monthly, 7:30 p.m.
in Library
Building and Grounds 3rd Saturday, monthly. For more
info, contact Mike Smith.

Monthly Committee Reports Due in AHF Office

Mondays: October 8, November 5,
December 10

DELINQUENT ANNUAL MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS: Please note that if you have not paid your maintenance assessment for the fiscal year 2007 (\$75 for Jul 1, 2007 - Jun 30, 2008), your account will begin to accrue interest on October 1, 2007.



International Folk Dance

by John Daly

International folk dancing is a fun way to keep mind and body fit. Anyone who is able to walk and run can enjoy the rhythms and patterns of ethnic dances. The dances range from easy and peaceful to fast and energetic. The music and the cultures range mostly through the Balkans and middle Europe, over to the Middle East, up into Scandinavia, and across the ocean to the United States, Canada, and many South American countries. There is an enormous variety of music and there is almost always something for everyone with broad interests.

Folk Dancing is a bit like tennis or bridge in that it does take a certain amount of effort and practice to learn. The reward is a fascinating path to fun and fitness, and much of the fun is the pleasure of learning. Dances are held every Friday evening from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm at the Historic Hester Wagner Community House on Hall Road. The

evening starts with an hour of teaching from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm. This is the time to come and try your hand. Periodically the group offers a graduated series of classes to systematically introduce the fundamentals. But the regular Friday sessions are a good opportunity to learn. From 8:00 till 10:00 the dancers can request their favorites. We do miss perhaps three Fridays a year, so it is a good idea to call before coming the first time.

We were the first group to use the Historic Hester Wagner Community House and have been dancing there since it opened. Dance was an important part of early Melbourne Village life and we'd love to have more villagers who want to come and learn. For more information call John Daly at 482-6818 or Willa Davidsohn at 254-7090.

MELBOURNE VILLAGE WOMEN'S GUILD

by Winnie Shanks

In the strictest sense of the word a Guild is an association of craft people. We like to think of the Melbourne Village Women's Guild as an association of ladies interested in crafting good fellowship. Kate Fick, who organized the Guild back in 1952, would probably agree. She thought we should get together for "pleasant social contact".

This is an invitation for all the women in the village to

join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm (with noted exceptions) for coffee and dessert and, we trust, an interesting program.

Here are some of the programs planned for the 2007/2008 season:

September 12, 12:30 pm - Pot Luck Luncheon

October 10, 1:30 pm – Gardening: Learn about butterfly gardens with Sally Scerlera, Brevard County Horticulture Extension Agent

November 14, 1:30 pm – Birding (Presenter to be announced)

December 12, 1:30 pm – Crafting: Paint a ceramic Christmas cottage

January 9, 1:30 pm – Health & Wellness: About Acupuncture with Dr. Sylvie Morin of "Health for Life"

February 13, 1:30 pm - Fun with Flowers

March 12, 1:30 pm - Annual Fundraiser Auction

April 9, 1:30 pm - Annual Road Trip

May 14, 1:30 pm - End of season meeting

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 or emailed to villager@melbourne-village.com

Information Committee Members

Steve Gaul, Chairperson
Nancy Bustelo, Secretary
Debbie Seiler, Webmaster
Grayson Dix, Photography
Mary Wood, Editor
Bruce Benson, Community Bulletin Board

Note: Programs, like life, are subject to change.



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 new AHF website: www.melbourne-village.com



Parks and Paths

by Jean Henderson

During the summer, Parks & Paths had three special work parties in Tippie Lake Park with members of David McCampbell Battalion of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps along with Battalion Commander (and villager) Martha Robinson. These highly motivated youngsters earned community service hours as they cleaned out the big drainage ditch from the lake to South Drive, the Fuller Stream bed to the east, the south shore of the lake and adjoining paths. They removed a huge trailer load of debris on all three work parties and took pictures to prove it.

The Robinson children of Acacia Avenue were among the Sea Cadets who earned community service hours during the special summer program.

Parks and Paths traditionally encourages groups of young people to join work parties in the parks to earn community service hours. The committee also arranges special assignments for individual youth to earn their service hours.

The Parks and Paths committee holds regular early Saturday morning work parties in the parks, October to May, and welcomes all who want to participate. Please watch the bulletin board for exact places and times.

“The Sea Cadets are accepting new members right now. Visit their website at www.MelbourneSeaCadets.org.”





Village Movie Nights

by Sommer Lourcey, Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee wishes we could take all the credit for the idea of Village Movie Nights, but we can't. Parts and pieces of it have been popping up at Village events over the last few years. Maybe you saw the movie at last year's Halloween party or a slide show of Villagers at a dinner. Both are great examples of what we can do with a multimedia projector.

A multimedia projector would make it possible to show a greatly enlarged image on a wall or screen. It could be used with a computer, DVD player, video game or even a microscope.

The plan is simple. We "fundraise" the money we need for the multimedia projector and an umbrella movie license and start showing free movies at the AHF Hall. The total we need to raise is \$1320. That is \$860 for the multimedia projector (Sharp XR-10S) and \$460 for the umbrella movie license.

The umbrella movie license allows us to legally show movies at the AHF Hall. The \$460 fee is annual. It covers many distributors and you can also use a movie you already own. Some licenses we checked into required that you have the movie sent to you from the company's warehouse and you could only show it on a specific date and then it had to be sent back immediately. We like the flexibility that the MPLC gives.

The Committee raised \$277 at our wine tasting in July. Thank you to all Villagers who came out and supported us despite the last minute date change and thunderstorm an hour before the event. It was a fun evening with neighbors and friends. We hope everyone will join us for our next Village Movie Nights fundraiser on Saturday, October 13th at 7:30 pm in the AHF Hall. Tickets are just \$10 per person; adults only please. We will be sampling some new wines and also enjoying the chocolate fountain and a cheese fountain with many wonderful things to dip.

We still need to raise \$1023 and the best way you can help us is by attending our fundraiser October 13th. Our goal is 100 Villagers. And yes, you can bring a friend or your own bottle of wine to share. You can also make a donation to any Recreation Committee member or the AHF

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Summer Program 2007

by Diana Derrick, Education Committee

This year's Education Committee Summer Program was a success. Everyone had a great time. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children of Melbourne Village to meet new friends, see old friends, play and spend time together.

There were a total of 31 children and 15 volunteers, in addition to the Education Committee members. The program consisted of different daily activities. The kids worked on projects based on the theme of the day. Speakers came to talk to the kids each day. Monday, there was a Sea Shell presentation made by Doris Underwood from the Astronaut Trail Shell Club. On Tuesday, members of the Therapy Dog, Inc. brought two therapy dogs (Sassy and Margy) who demonstrated how they help people with special needs. Wednesday, we had a Biology professor from FIT, Michael Grace. He spoke to the kids about reptiles--how they live, what they eat, etc. The kids had the chance to see some tortoises and snakes. The Melbourne



Village Police Department also came to present a lecture on how to stay safe. They fingerprinted the kids. Thursday was a water day and everyone enjoyed getting wet and playing water games. Friday was the program closing day with a Medieval theme. The children wore the Medieval costumes they had worked on during the week, sat at fancy decorated tables, and ate a feast while watching a beautiful Medieval Times presentation given by Lady Gail and Steve Gaul. Our special thanks to all the children who attended the program, the volunteers, the speakers, and the Education Committee members: Theresa DeGregory(Chair), Diana Derrick(Sec), Chris Foster, Gabrielle Bollaert, Betty Willis, and Elaine Paez (prospective member).



Information Committee News

by Debbie Seiler

NEW! Monthly e-Newsletter

The Information Committee proudly announces its latest tool to help get news and information to all AHF Members. In addition to the quarterly Villager Newsletter, the Bulletin Board, and the AHF Website, we now offer a monthly e-Newsletter which is emailed to everyone on our list. We have gathered 80 email addresses so far and hope that list grows to include every AHF Member with internet access. If you would like to get on the e-Newsletter mailing list and never miss another Village meeting or event because "you didn't know about it," simply email villager@melbourne-village.com and let us know you want to be included. No email addresses will be shared with anyone for any reason and all e-Newsletters are sent as blind carbon copies to protect the privacy of your email address.

The AHF Website

If you haven't been by the AHF Website recently, you will want to stop by to see what's new. We've added lots of photos from summer events in the "Photo Gallery." And a quick link from the homepage to the "Announcements" and "Classifieds" pages. Why not take advantage of this resource and post your personal or committee announcements, and add your "business card" or item for sale in the Classifieds. It's all FREE to AHF Members.

Erna Nixon Hammock

by Sandi Dix

The Committee continues to spray air potato and poison ivy vines. There seems to be an over abundance of poison ivy this year; so please watch where you step and wear long pants if you are sensitive to it. As always we will continue to remove invasive plants such as the Boston fern, air potato, Queen Palm, Brazilian pepper tree and both of the invasive ardisias.

We have lost a couple of the plant ID tags which will be replaced. Please, if you see any lying around, turn them in at the AHF office.

The Committee is working on replacing most of the sign posts. The new signs are made and will be installed this fall when it cools down some!

The Committee has been working hard all year maintain-

ing the park and hopes that the residents are able to enjoy our wonderful Hammock.

Once you get your login & password from the webmaster you are ready to go! Add your name to the online directory, download the calendar, check out the recent and upcoming events, photo gallery, historic photos, Women's Guild, Committees, Parks & Paths, Links (add yours), and so much more.

Our AHF Website is a constantly changing work in progress and we can't do it without feedback from YOU - so please remember to send a quick email to the webmaster with your thoughts. Additionally, we welcome your photos, announcements, committee news and suggestions of any kind. Anyone who would like to submit content or suggest a subject matter that is not covered by the website, you are encouraged to do so.

We Need YOU!

The Information Committee would like to extend an invitation to any AHF Member who has an interest or talent in writing, editing, print layout, web publishing, etc. who would like to join our committee and be a regular contributor to the website, the quarterly newsletter, and the monthly e-newsletter. Please contact Debbie Seiler at 412-4784 or debbieseiler@cfl.rr.com.

Remember NO SMOKING in any of your parkland and please NO littering!

Remember NO SMOKING in any of your parkland and please NO littering!

Memory Garden

by Sandi Dix

The Garden is maintained by Committee members throughout the year. We keep the Garden trimmed, remove unsightly foliage, and water as needed. We will be having workdays when the weather cools down. If you have some free time give us a call, we can always use more help! You can contact the AHF Office or any of the committee members. Happy Gardening!

Reminder - Committee chairpersons from funded committees need to provide their budget requests to the AHF Office by September 17, 2007.



Recreation Committee, continued from page 5

Office. If you are replacing your current projector and would like to donate your old projector to the cause we would welcome it.

Maybe your committee would like to make a donation to the Village Movie Nights project. Here are some things your committee might like to try with the projector:

1. Show photos everyone can see during presentations. Flowers and trees all look better "super sized"
2. Look at a web page with your entire committee seated, not hovering over your shoulder.
3. 50 people could see the same bug under a microscope
4. Make a DVD of your committees yearly accomplishments and show it
5. Show a movie that interests your group
6. Speakers who come to the Village will be able to show you more dynamic presentations
7. Hooked up to a video game you could play team versions of golf, bowling, bird watching, Scene It and Monopoly.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the project, please speak to any Recreation Committee member. They are Mary Jane Moon, Jean Henderson, Carol Gent and Joe and Sommer Lourcey. Or you can call Sommer at 205-3010 or sommer@cfl.rr.com.



4th of July Parade

The July 4th Parade organized by the Recreation Committee was a big success! The parade started at 9:30 am at the AHF Hall and was followed by ice cream and a movie in the Hall. Villagers wore their most patriotic outfits, decorated bicycles and other vehicles, and built floats!

ISITSOORNOT

It seems the Brevard Theatrical Ensemble has found a home in Melbourne Village. On October 19 and 20 at 7:30pm the Brevard Theatrical Ensemble will present its production of *TELLMENOW ISITSOORNOT* in the Village Hall. *ISITSOORNOT* presents a collection of scary stories, told by the BTE storytellers with a decorated Village Hall as the backdrop.

According to their website, "We Love All Things Spooky! Tales of the Macabre by Edgar Allen Poe and more! Come let us scare the wits out of you. Please?"

The production is appropriate for adults and teens, but is too scary for younger viewers. Tickets are \$15.00 for each show with senior and student tickes priced at \$12.00.

Call 984-8832 for reservations. Find out more about BTE theatrical productions by visiting their website at: www.brevardensemble.com

Fall Hall Events

- September 22 - Annual Flea Market, 8 am - 2 pm**
(setup - September 21, 6 pm - 8 pm)
- October 13 - Wine Tasting, 7:30 pm**
- October 17 - Annual Budget Hearings, 7:30 pm**
- October 19-20 - Brevard Theatrical Ensemble's ISITSOORNOT, 7:30 pm**
- October 27 - Halloween Party, 6-8pm**
- November 26-29 - Hanging of the Greens**
- December 8 - Holiday Craft Bazaar, 8 am - 2 pm**
- December 9 - Christmas Dinner**

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.

Students will learn about native and non-native species in our parklands and gain first hand knowledge about the effort needed to maintain our parkland.



Parkland Invaders

by Steve Gaul

Air Potato

This is the season.

The season of the air potato.

The season I vowed to eliminate this invasive plant from my property, once again.

I started by picking up the loose potato-like tubers where ever they fell from last year's plants. They blend in nicely with the forest floor among the oak leaf litter. There were fewer than last year, about 5 gallons, but I'm sure I missed many of the tubers, especially after the oaks shed their leaves in the winter.

I vowed to dig out every plant that sprouted in the spring. After digging out 12 gallons of tubers, I stopped digging for a while, but the plants continued to sprout and are everywhere now.

I'm now at the stage where the visible green stuff can be taken down or sprayed with herbicide. I prefer to remove the vines unless the air potato tubers have already started to grow on the vines, in which case I'll spray. The vines are entwined on everything! When they reach the top of a tree or bush they spread out and block the sunlight from their "host."

Soon the vines will produce tubers and eventually wither, releasing the "air potatoes" for the next season. This takes a while, but can be "hastened" by carefully removing the vines, potatoes and all. Taking down the old dead vines eliminates a quick way "up" for any vines that sprout in the spring.

I'm not the only one struggling against this plant. The AHF has been battling the air potato through the three "Parkland" Committees; Parks and Paths, Deerhead Hammock and Erna Nixon Hammock. Now as the weather turns cooler, these committees organize work parties and seek out volunteers to help with park maintenance, including removing air potato tubers in the fall and winter.

If you have a son or daughter in need of volunteer hours, helping one of the park committees is a fast way to earn community service hours for the Bright Futures program.

Air Potato Seasons

Spring - Dig out tubers at first sign of growth. More mature growth can be killed or slowed by using a 'round up' type herbicide. Apply carefully to avoid harming surrounding native plants. Remove dry vines from last season to discourage new plants from climbing.

Summer - Continue removing vines or spraying. Frequent Summer rains may discourage spraying, however.

Fall - Remove green vines if there are no "air potatoes" yet formed along the stem at each leaf node. Otherwise spray leaves with herbicide. Pick up any fallen air potatoes.

Winter - Remove dead vines taking care to also collect any potatoes still clinging. Remove air potatoes on the ground.

Air Potato Facts

Air potatoes can grow to over 60 ft tall.

There are at least three varieties of air potato growing on AHF parkland.

Members and volunteers from the three parkland committees - Parks and Paths, Deerhead Hammock and Erna Nixon Hammock - remove hundreds of pounds of air potatoes yearly.

The AHF will help its members battle this pest by providing herbicide. Inquire at the AHF Office or contact a parkland committee chairperson.

Do You Know?

Do air potatoes grow back from "rootlets" left in the ground from a previously removed tuber?

Have any of the air potato plants in Melbourne Village produced seeds?



Plant Profile

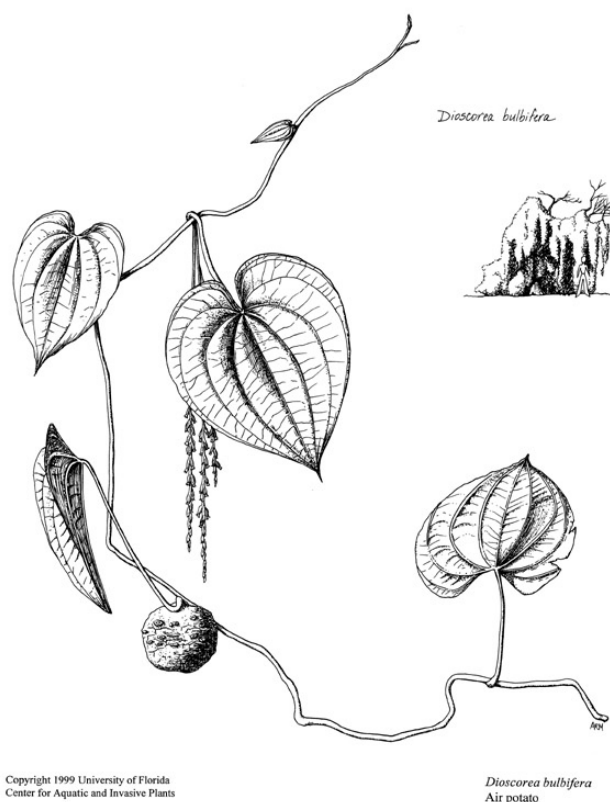
Air Potato, Potato Vine (*Dioscorea Bulbifera*)

Air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) is a non-native, invasive vine in Florida. Covered with large handsome leaves, it can quickly grow 60-70 feet in length, which is long enough to overtop (and shade-out) tall trees. A member of the yam family (*Dioscoreaceae*), air potato produces large numbers of aerial tubers, potato-like growths attached to the stems. These grow into new plants.

Dioscorea species are cultivated for their edible underground tubers in West Africa where they are important commodities. Uncultivated forms (as in Florida) however are reported to be bitter and even poisonous. *Dioscorea* varieties, containing the steroid diosgenin, are a principal material used in the manufacture of birth-control pills. Air potato is believed to have been introduced into Florida as an ornamental and a food plant in about 1905. By the early 1970s it was already recognized as a pest plant throughout the state.

How To Identify Air Potato

Air potato has a winter dormant period when the stems die back to the ground. After dormancy, the underground tubers give rise to stems which quickly grow, often reaching up to 70 feet long by the end of the growing season. The vine's stem is herbaceous (not woody). The large leaves are up to 8 inches long and are heart-shaped (cordate). The leaf blade's basal lobes are rounded. Leaf veins radiate from a single point. The leaves have long stems (petioles), and alternate on the stem. Air potato flowers are small, greenish and fragrant, hanging in relatively long clusters (panicles and spikes) up to 4 inches long. The fruit



is a capsule of seeds. Air potato plants produce "aerial tubers" that are attached closely to the stems where leaves attach to the stem (axil). These air potatoes are grayish and somewhat irregular. Tubers also grow underground where they may be larger.

(Line drawing is by Sandra Murphy-Pak, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida)

Passings

Hester Wagner

Hester Marie Wagner passed away on May 21, 2007. She was born in Red Lion, York County, Pa. on July 20, 1913. She married Jay Wagner and moved to Melbourne Village in 1956. Hester is survived by her husband, Jay O. Wagner of Melbourne Village, one sister, Mrs. Viola M. Kauffman of Wrightsville, Pa., Nephew, Barry Reichard and Many nieces and nephews.

Hester was greatly involved in environmental and conservancy groups in Brevard County for over half a century. She was active in the Florida Native Plant Soci-

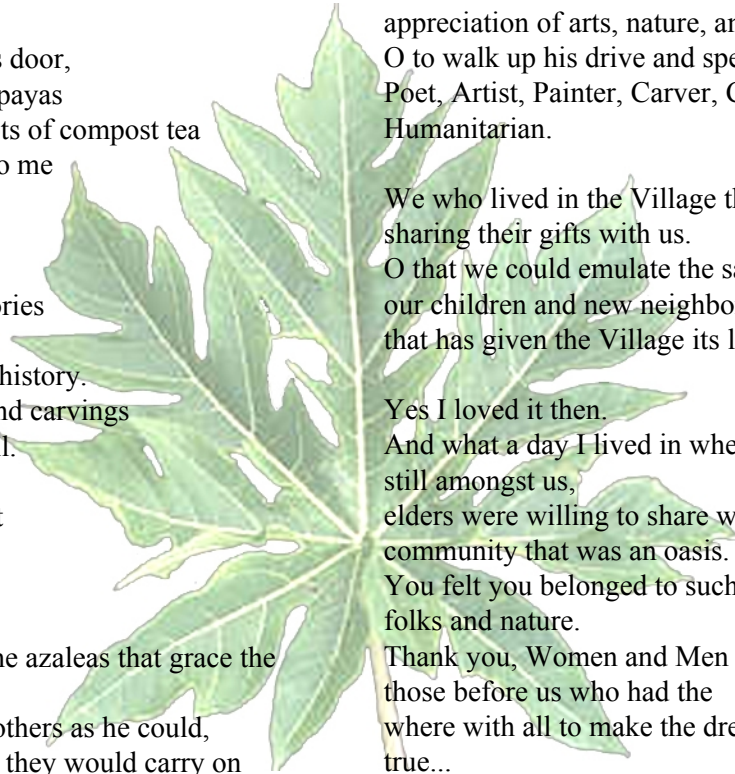
ety, the Nature Conservancy, Turkey Creek Sanctuary, and Melbourne Village Women's Guild. She was on the AHF Board of Trustees from 1968 to 1976 and served as President from 1970 to 1976. The Hester Wagner Community Center in the Melbourne Village was dedicated in her honor in 2005.

Hester was a skilled seamstress, making pillows, draperies, and needlepoint. She was an artist, caning furniture, making pine needle baskets, and using nature as a creative art form. She grew herbs and knew all the native plant names. She helped villagers make butterfly gardens. She loved birds. Hester had a passion for nature and the dignity and grace that made her special to all who met her.

Remembrance

by Dawn Teague

O to knock on Mel Manthey's door,
where lining the path were papayas
grown with loving care and lots of compost tea
"Come on in," he would say to me
"I'm carving."
"Feel this soapstone."
O, it was soft.
And then he would tell me stories
as he also taught me to carve.
His walls were full of art and history.
Beneath his couch, journals and carvings
the wall couldn't hold them all.
Recite to me his poetry
and breathe in and breathe out
patience and wisdom.
O Mel we miss thee!
Sharer of beauty,
grafter of trees and many of the azaleas that grace the
village.
Prince of a man, who helped others as he could,
and taught children with hope they would carry on



appreciation of arts, nature, and history.
O to walk up his drive and spend the day with him.
Poet, Artist, Painter, Carver, Ceramicist, World Traveler,
Humanitarian.
We who lived in the Village then, had the benefit of elders
sharing their gifts with us.
O that we could emulate the same, and share with
our children and new neighbors, the history and the beauty
that has given the Village its life.
Yes I loved it then.
And what a day I lived in when some of the founders were
still amongst us,
elders were willing to share with others, people lived in a
community that was an oasis.
You felt you belonged to such a wondrous collection of
folks and nature.
Thank you, Women and Men who had the vision and all
those before us who had the
where with all to make the dream of beautiful living come
true...

Dawn Teague is the daughter of Ruby and Gene Murphy.



The Villager

*American Homesteading Foundation, Inc.
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Melbourne Village, FL 32904*

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