

The Villager

Fall, 2006

Volume 46
Issue 3



Fall Arrives with Smashing Success Annual Flea Market Starts the Fall Season

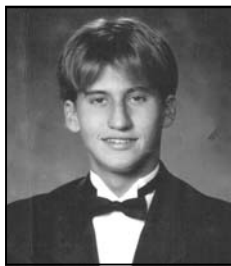
by Carol Gent
Chairperson & Chief Hot Dog Cook

The Annual Flea Market on September 23 was a huge success. Special thanks to the Recreation Committee who made this event possible and to the Robinson family for helping set up and take down. Thanks to all the vendors for their "flea market treasures," smiling faces and community involvement.

The table space inside was sold out,

and 5 vendors brought their own tables and set up outside! Even the parking lot was overflowing most of the day!

The kitchen reported a very successful "food day", starting with breakfast fare including coffee, donuts and muffins. At 9:20 a.m. the "cook" was approached and asked if the hot dogs were ready...so assuming hot dogs MUST be a breakfast food, she started the grill and began (Continued on page 6)



Ruth B. Hayes Scholarship Awarded Johnny Derrick Receives 2006 Award

Congratulations to 17-year-old Johnny Derrick, this year's recipient of the Ruth B. Hayes Scholarship. Johnny is the son of John and Diana Derrick, who reside on Flamingo Road and the grandson of long-time village residents, John and Marge Derrick who live on Acacia.

Johnny and his family came to Melbourne Village in 1998 from Miami. He attended Middle School at Our Lady Of Lourdes,

and graduated High School at Melbourne Central Catholic with a GPA of 4.2.

Among his more notable achievements are the Collegeboard AP Scholar Award, four years of Distinguished Honors and 7 certificates of Merit. He also received Scholarships from the American Meteorological Society, The Elks Club and The Garden Club By The Sea. Johnny is attending the University of California at San Diego, majoring in Chemistry with a Minor in Mathematics. He is interested in pursuing a career in either Oceanography or Medicine. Johnny is an avid competitive surfer, and has been on trips to Costa Rica. He's also interested in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

A special thanks to Susan Downey, who also applied for this years' Scholarship.

SAVE THESE DATES

OCTOBER
28 Halloween Party

NOVEMBER
7 General Election

24-30 Hanging of the
Greens

DECEMBER
9 Holiday Craft
Bazaar

9 Holiday Dinner



Peek at our Centerfold!

We've created a colorful calendar of "Village" events for the next few months. Hang it on your fridge or bulletin board and you'll know what's going on around town. You may even want to attend some of these events.



A Message from the President

by Jim Beasom

The annual budget process has started as I write this. The AHF Budget and Finance Committee has received budget requests and has begun preparation of the budget. The budget will be presented to the Board and AHF members at the budget hearing on October 18. The Board will finalize and adopt the budget before the end of the year.

The AHF's busy calendar of fall events has begun. A very successful flea market was held in late September. Upcoming events include the Halloween party,

Christmas bazaar and Christmas dinner. Plan to join your fellow members at these events.

Tree removal continues to consume a lot of committee time and expense. All trees downed by the hurricanes the last few years have been taken care of. We are experiencing a new round of pine tree die-off. This has required the removal of a number of recently dead trees including three in the Hall parking lot area. We continue to remove dead trees that are a danger as we become aware of them.



AHF Announcements

AHF Annual Maintenance Assessment: Late Fees Accrue

If you have not paid your Assessment for the July 2006-June 30, 2007 yet, your account is now delinquent. As of October 1, an annual interest rate of 12% will be applied to unpaid maintenance assessments in accordance with the AHF Bylaws II.C(1)(c). Please call the AHF office if you have any questions.

AHF Office Closed

- Friday, November 10 (Veterans' Day)
- Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24 (Thanksgiving)
- Monday, December 25 (Christmas)
- Monday, January 1 (New Years' Day)
- Monday, January 15 (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- Monday, February 19 (President's Day)

Monthly Board of Trustees Meetings

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the AHF Hall
Thursday, October 12 Thursday, November 9
Thursday, December 14 Thursday, January 11
Thursday, February 8

Committee Reports Due to AHF Office

Mondays: October 9, November 6, December 11,
January 8, February 5

2007 AHF Budget Update Public Hearing to Be Held October 18

The AHF Budget and Finance Committee will hold a Public Hearing to review the proposed 2007 AHF Annual Budget on Wednesday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the AHF Hall. The Budget and Finance Committee has been reviewing budget requests made by AHF administration and the funded committees of the AHF. The Board of Trustees will review the proposed Budget at their November 9 meeting and will formally approve the budget at the December 14 meeting.

A proposed budget will be formally presented to all AHF members at the Public Hearing on October 18.

Chairpersons or representatives of the following committees requesting funds are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting: Annual Meeting, Building & Grounds, Education, Information, Memory Garden, Parks & Paths, Recreation and Swimming Pool. If needed, amendments will be made to the budget and presented to the AHF Board for final review at its November 9th meeting. Final approval of the 2007 AHF budget will be voted on by the AHF Board at the December 8th meeting of the Trustees.



Welcome New AHF Members:

Vance J. Johnson
6641 Flamingo Road
Lot 222 (from Endress)

**Jerome & Christine
Chapman**

5680 Live Oak Avenue
Lots 346, 346A, 1/2 347,
1/2 347A
(From Sotolongo)

**Wendall K. Stroderd
& Tracy K. Howard**
5660 Crane Road

Lot 357
(from Burkowski)

**Greg J. & Beatrice A.
Solloway**
643 West Pine Road
Lots 204 & 205 (Estate
of Carol Balser)

**Ryan L & Carol A.
Krahn**
6597 Norman Drive
Lot 30 (from Zook)



AHF Board and Committee Changes New Members to Finish 2006/2007 term

Board of Trustees

Gerda Murphy, Treasurer, resigned effective in April and was replaced by **Mike Wymer**. **Linda Wilson** was elected Treasurer of the Board and **Bob Davis Smith** elected Assistant Treasurer.

Committees, Resignations

Mike Wymer resigned from the Board as well as the Budget & Finance and Swimming Pool committees. **Sandi Jones** resigned from the Information Committee and the Annual Meeting and Erna Nixon Hammock Committees. **Ginger Farrell** resigned from the Parks and Paths committee. Her husband **John**, resigned from the Swimming Pool Committee

Replacements

Ana Marie Powell, Annual Meeting Committee
Gabrielle Bollaert, Education Committee
Dave Champion and **Marcus Medley**, the Erna Nixon Committee
Susan Brown, Parks and Paths Committee

Women's Guild Meets to Kickoff Fall Activities Good Food, Good Company, and Good Ideas Shared at Recent Meeting



by *Debbie Seiler*

On September 13th the Women's Guild (WG) held their first meeting after the summer hiatus. Before getting down to business, everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon. An hour flew by as the women socialized, catching up with old friends and meeting new members. Many wonderful dishes were shared, from salads, sandwiches, casseroles, meatloaf, cookies, ambrosia, cupcakes, banana bread, and a nice flower pot full of yummy "dirt" (crushed Oreo cookies layered with pudding and whipped cream).

The AHF Hall was energized as the new president, Theresa DeGregory, called the meeting to order. Apparently, everyone had been thinking over the summer about projects and programs for this year. There were so many great ideas and a lot of involvement.

The Committee voted to revive the Hospitality Committee's "welcome wagon," which had been fairly inactive during the past few years. It is so important to let the newest Villagers know they are welcome when they move in to the neighborhood. Sandi Dix, Gail Griswold, and Debbie Seiler will team up to streamline the

process so it doesn't get lost in the shuffle again.

To bring the WG into the 21st century, Debbie Seiler announced that the Guild is now on the web at melbourne-village.com/womensguild.html. In an effort to boost attendance and save money on printing and postage, she is working on a WG email list for sending monthly invitations and reminders. To be included, send an email to wg@melbourne-village.com.

For this year's big fund raising project, Sandi Dix suggested replacing the old, heavy tables in the AHF Hall with new, lighter tables. Everyone agreed that would be a good cause and we decided to discuss the issue again at future meetings.

The holiday season is the busiest time of the year for everyone and the Guild is no exception. Do yourself a favor and slow down long enough to take part in the Village's most beloved tradition, The Hanging of the Greens (during the week after Thanksgiving at the Hall). Don't forget about the Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair on December 9th. Bakers and crafters are always needed.





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 on projects that the Committees undertake. If you are interested in lending a hand and your skills, or if you have a question about any of the Committees, call the AHF Office or visit the new AHF website. !

Parks and Paths

The Work Never Stops for This Committee

As usual, the Parks and Paths Committee continues its maintenance of AHF parkland. There is always a long list of "action items" to be addressed by the committee and the number of tasks completed by the committee is enormous.

A large oak in Azalea Park, downed by the hurricanes, caused a bit of a dilemma for the committee. The tree, uprooted but still alive and well, fell across the path and into the backyard of John and Marge Derrick. To allow the tree to continue living, they decided to re-route the path around the rootball of the tree rather than cut the tree to maintain the established path.

A major project in the works is replacement of all signs at pathway entrances. Committee member Don Willis will construct the signs and has already completed the entrances to Azalea Park, Martin Woods and Hall Park.

A big Thank You to the Space Coast Young Marines for assisting in a work party held last June to clean, prune, and spruce up the grounds surrounding the Town complex (AHF Hall, Town & Police Offices, and the playground/basketball court areas.) Thanks also goes to "Friends of the Parks" volunteers, Joan Tindall, for cleaning and maintaining the corner area of South Drive and Hammock Road; and Susan Brown and Frank Spino, for diligently removing air potatoes in the Ward Park area. Frank is also helping Don Willis with the sign project.

Special thanks go to Mike Smith, who has been working very hard clearing the entrance to Deerhead Hammock on Hammock Road and helping on the Hammock Road entrance to Charles Griffith Park. Way to go, Mike!

The committee reports that the mid-year mowing of Nutting Wood Green and Wildflower meadow was completed and spraying of invasive plants with herbicide is ongoing. The herbicide, 'Protector Pro' is available, already mixed and in a sprayer, by contacting the AHF Maintenance Technician, Bud Brower, who can be reached through the AHF office.

Please watch the Bulletin Board and AHF Website for upcoming work party announcements. They are usually held on Saturday mornings and focus on clean-up and mainte-

nance of selected parkland areas. The "parties" will shift into full swing as the weather cools. They are a great way to get outdoors, get some exercise, and socialize with friends and neighbors while doing a great service to our community. For more information, please contact Jean Henderson, Chairperson of the Parks and Paths Committee, or the AHF office.

Erna Nixon Hammock

It's been a year since we've had a hurricane but we are still feeling the aftermath. We had to take down several leaning Palm trees that had become unsafe. We watched and waited in hope that they would stabilize, but with the summer storms and rains they started leaning more. We felt they had become a threat to our residents. So with a sad heart several of these wonderful trees were removed.

We didn't spray potato vines as aggressively as usual this summer, so you will see a slight increase. But we're in full swing now! Watch out potato vines!

The new path around the fallen Dragon Oak seems to be working, but please be careful as it's still slightly uneven. There is a bench to rest on the base of the tree. The Dragon Oak is lying on the ground and makes a nice backdrop. Sit and enjoy the stillness of the hammock.

The plant identification tags that Eagle Scout Justin Kolleda installed have been a big hit. Everyone who has seen them think they are a great asset to the hammock. It takes about a year to complete an Eagle Scout project. Thanks, Justin!

We are working on replacing the four sign-posts in the hammock. They were very old and in poor shape. We like the plant ID tags that are made of plastic, and will have matching directional signs made to go on the wooden arrows, so be watching for these in the future.

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.

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



Swimming Pool Committee

Several Projects Completed or In-Progress

Late last May, the Committee began researching ways to reduce the pool's high electric expense. The AHF, as well as all FPL customers, experienced the shock of FPL's rate increase.

To lower electric expenses, the Committee identified two options: Either turn off or lower the temperature on the pool heating system in the winter months, or increase the pool membership fees. They prepared a survey, addressed to the 63 pool members to allow input and received 31 responses. The results indicated a preference to turn off the heating system during January and February rather than increase fees.

Another project in need of attention was cleaning and painting the bath house which was completed in June. The committee is now soliciting estimates for replacing or repairing broken Kool Deck around pool.

Plans are being reviewed to replace the bench shelter located just inside the gate. Plans include moving the shelter to the west side of the gate onto the grassy area, making it larger, and possibly creating a hard surface on which to place the shelter.

Finally, a reminder that the Snow Bird Special on pool membership will take effect in November. This allows memberships of the pool, at a reduced rate, from November through April, when membership are due.

Memory Garden

Garden Entrance Enhanced by Pergola

The pergola is finally complete! On a Saturday morning, bright and early Sandi Dix met her crew, Richard Jones, Gray Dix and Lyle Zody, tools in hand. There was a lot of hammering, sawing and measuring - and lots of re-measuring - then there stood a beautiful, well built pergola. Thanks, guys! Our next step is to plant vines and plants around the pergola. Our committee thinks it makes a nice entrance into the garden. We hope that next time you are in the area you will take a stroll through.

Throughout the summer, the Memory Garden Committee has kept the garden mowed and cleaned of debris. The trees around the parking lot are kept trimmed. We will be putting in two new garden hose hangers. As always we hope that you will enjoy the garden and if you have any suggestions, please let us know.



A "Village Style" 4th of July Celebration

by Grayson Dix

The rain stopped, the clouds parted and the Florida sun shown brightly on the patriotic July 4 celebration in Melbourne Village. The grand parade through the streets was led by smartly marching "Young Marines" of various ages dressed in camouflage fatigues and carrying the Stars and Stripes. They made a great introduction for the various Villagers dressed in patriotic dress, manning colorful floats, driving antique cars and generally having a fine time.

After the parade, local chefs prepared a magnificent hot dog feast in the community center. Prizes were passed out for best dressed, finest bike decoration, and most patriotic float. All the kids received special gifts, made new friends and generally ran about enjoying themselves. Next year should be even better, see you there!

Special thanks to the "young Marines" for their help in cleaning up the AHF Hall after the festivities. Many hands make light work!



Vision 2012 Update

by Rod Stiefbold

Recently collected data from residents by the Vision 2012 Committee about the future of Melbourne Village have been divided into two broad categories. The two categories, **Green-Related** and **Property-Related** will be discussed at four upcoming meetings to be held at 7:00 pm on October 9th and 16th and November 13th and 20th.

Recommendations for "Green-Related" subjects will be completed at the October 9th and the November 13th meetings. *Potential action areas identified so far include:*

- Required lot coverage ratios for green space and/or canopy
- Increased fines for illegal tree removal
- Tougher and clearer code enforcement standards, and processes
- Clarification and simplification of water retention policies
- New policies for proactive care and maintenance of our greatest asset, our parks, paths and greenspace. This will require a greater commitment of funding from both the AHF and the Town of Melbourne Village.

Recommendations for "Properties-Related" subjects will be completed during the October 16th and the November 20th meetings. Potential action areas identified to date far include:

1. Permanent lot coverage "roofed structure" parameters, variable by lot size
2. Parameters likely to include new requirements for

footprint maximums; for street, side, and rear setbacks; 2nd story "bulk" constraints such as setbacks; and limits on overall building height from a consistent measurement baseline

3. Confinement of larger home structures to larger lots, with an additional maximum-coverage overlay applicable to all lots regardless of size
4. Constraints on lot coverage by "other impermeable surface", with a focus on driveways as opposed to other paved surface

Citizen Feedback - Vision 2012 has used a variety of techniques, including public hearings and one-on-one contact with residents. The goal is to explore, record and report residents' views about what our most important assets are, how to protect and preserve them, and to help the Town Commission make appropriate code changes based on input from the 2012 Committee. The Subcommittee on Citizen Feedback, on the subject of the "Look and Feel" of Melbourne Village, has conducted a house-to-house survey of residents on a few basic questions. All but about 75 households have been contacted, and most have been interviewed. If you have not been contacted please pick up an interview form at the Town Office, complete it, and return it to the Town Office. You are also welcome to register your views on the Vision 2012 website, vision2012.org.

For more on the discussions leading the Committee into the policy recommendations phase of its process, see the extensive postings to its website under "Forum".



Flea Market Success

(Continued from page 1)

cooking and serving hot dogs for breakfast!

Thank you to the Villagers who came and spent money and told their friends about the sale. Thanks to everyone who donated to the Women's Guild table (your generosity helped raise \$229). Especially a

big thank you to Hester Wagner for donating the 100+ year old rocking chair that she caned herself. Special thanks to the Space Coast Young Marines for helping clean the Hall at the end of the day.

It was a wonderful event...lots of joy, laughter, and

hopefully lots of sales for our vendors. Some folks said they sign up each year just to visit with other Villagers. That's a good reason...it's also a good time to clean our your garages and storage units. So...next year, September 2007, we will do it again!





AHF Membership Directory Publishing and Distribution Set for 2007

by Gary Hayes

The AHF Membership directory featured in the Summer issue has postponed publication and distribution to 2007 due to budget constraints and the availability of committee members to process all of the information.

We received many requests to update the directory, originally a private endeavor by Dick Cullen in 2000. Villagers who have copies find it invaluable but contend that it is in severe need of updating. The directory will also be published on the secure pages of the AHF website.

Entry into the directory is by member permission only. Entries will include AHF member's names, address, phone number, and e-mail (optional). Other household member names may also be included. Business owners, we will include the name and phone number of your business.

In the last issue of *The Villager*, we published guidelines for submitting information for the directory. This form is reprinted below and we will accept information until the end of the year.

AHF MEMBER DIRECTORY

Please complete this form and return it to the AHF office Before DECEMBER 30 to authorize inclusion of information in the new AHF Directory.

AHF Members' Names
(please print): _____

Other household member names:

Address: _____

Phone Number : _____

E-mail address (optional): _____

I DO wish to have my personal information included in the AHF directory.

Signed, _____

Bring this form to the AHF Office. After office hours, please use mail drop slot or email info to tovillager@aol.com or webmaster@melbournevillage.com



2006 Children's Summer Program

One of the Village's Favorite Events

The Children's Summer Program, held every June, was again a great success! Many hours of planning by the Education Committee resulted in a fun-filled, educational program for the children and grandchildren of AHF members. Always a popular event, this year was no exception, with over 30 children participating.

Invited guest speakers and craft projects were selected to correspond with each day's "theme". The week began with "Environmental Day". Erin LeClaire of Solid Waste Management has been a part of the program for the last six years, and again she provided a wonderful interactive program with the kids on the benefits of recycling and waste management.



Switching gears, Tuesday was "Western Day". Chris Salmon took time off from his busy schedule to share his hidden talent, the art of rope tricks and throwing lassos. Wednesday was "Science day" and on Thursday, local clowns ruled! Theresa DeGregory, a trained clown, gave clown lessons and instructions on face painting. The program ended Friday with the traditional pool and pizza party.

The Education Committee is Theresa DeGregory, Chair, Chris Foster, Secretary, and members Diana Derrick, Laurie LeBlanc, Betty Willis and newcomer Gabrielle Bollaert. Former Chairperson, Phyllis Cullen, was an instrumental Advisor to the committee.



Special thanks to all the volunteers who made time to help provide a positive learning experience for our kids. A special thanks goes to the teenage volunteers, many of whom attended the program in their "younger" years. We couldn't do it without you!

Reserved for Calendar

Reserved for Calendar



For the Birds

Migrating Birds Stop in the Village for a Visit *An Afternoon of Birdwatching pays Off*

by Shirley Hills

On this afternoon, September 27th, I'm sitting by the window, binoculars in hand, watching all the bird activity in the yard. A hard overnight rain brought down a mixed flock of migrating birds that chose to rest and feed rather than fight the storm. At the tip of a Laurel Oak is a beautiful male Baltimore Oriole, nearby is a pair of Eastern Kingbirds. In a Pine tree festooned with vines I can see several Swainson's Thrushes fluttering about. Going outside to get a better look at the thrushes I hear the soft notes "whew, whew" - the call of another thrush, the Veery. Soon, I spot this distinctive reddish-brown thrush feeding with duller brown relatives. A gorgeous bright red male Summer Tanager is flying back and forth across the yard and before too long I see the golden female.

What is the reason for all this activity? A bountiful crop of berries on the Virginia Creeper vines that have wound their way to the very tops of the trees. If you have yanked out your Virginia Creeper vines to give your yard and trees a more manicured look, reconsider letting these native plants re-establish themselves, for you will never see the colorful berry-loving birds eating dried seed on your bird feeder.



Black & White Warbler.
Photo by Danny Bales

A few other highlights from this great birding afternoon: three Gray Catbirds seen (1st of the season) and a male Painted Bunting spotted on the feeder - the green female delicately picking grass seeds in the shrub border, also a first of the fall season.

Beneficial Insects in the Garden Not all Pests are Pests

by Sandi Dix

There are lots of bugs out there but not all bugs are bad. In fact some bugs are good for our yards. So nix nuking the bad bugs and encourage more beneficial bugs to your yard and watch nature do what it is supposed to do. Sit back, relax, and enjoy nature at its best!

Listed below are just a few of the good guys. For detailed pictures and more information about the bugs listed here, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/departments/entomology/ornamentals/beneficials.html> OR
<http://www.ext.vt.edu/departments/envirohort/factsheets2/insectpest/jan94pr1.html>

Ladybugs can eat up to 5,000 pests in a lifetime. They feed on aphids, mealybugs, mites, and other soft-bodied insects.

Ground Beetles crawl out at night to eat on slugs, snails, cutworms, and mole crickets. These shiny black beetles live under logs, stones and boards around your house.

The Green Lacewing is found on crops, weeds and in the landscape. They feed on aphids, thrips, red mites, small caterpillars and mealybugs. They usually have four pale green, transparent wings and are slow flyers.

Praying Mantis may be green, brown or a mottled color. This sticklike insect will eat just about anything including fellow praying mantises.

Soldier bug or "stink bug". Some stink bugs damage plants and others are insect predators. Plant-feeding stink bugs usually have rounded "shoulders" and have long, thin mouthparts, whereas the predacious species have spines on their "shoulders" and have a short, stout beak. They feed on many insects, especially caterpillars.

The Tachinid fly has large eyes and a hairy body. Some resemble the house fly but prefer the outdoors. They eat tent caterpillars, gypsy moth larvae and cutworms. Follow some of these tips to keep your yard stocked with good bugs.:

- Forget the chemical pesticides in favor of natural pest-control measures. Spray your plants with a soapy water mixture, use a nontoxic horticultural oil or hand pick the little buggers.
- Plant nectar-producing flowers in your yard that beneficial insects snack on.
- Plant for successive bloom so there is always food.
- Add a water element to you garden - insects of all kinds are drawn to it.





Plant Profiles

Virginia Creeper or Woodbine

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

by Gary Hayes



Virginia Creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Habitat and range – Full light to partial shade, Virginia Creeper will grow anywhere and is native from New England to South Florida. The vine can easily grow to 50 feet or more and should be treated as invasive and kept under control.

Description

Palmately compound leaves have five oval, pointed, toothed leaflets, 2 - 4 inches long. The leaves in summer are lush and are bright green with paler green underneath. Without cool weather, the vine may stay evergreen in Florida. Fortunately there is usually enough cool weather to reward the gardener with a bright show of reds, magentas and purples.



Where to look in Melbourne Village – Although most noticeable in early winter when the foliage is red, there are numerous vines here in the Village. You notice them most often growing on Pine trees. (near the intersection of Indiana and Flamingo, several pines on the north side have young vines growing on them). For those who like a little control in the garden, this rapidly growing vine is excellent for trellises or fences. It is prized for its brilliant scarlet and crimson Fall/Winter color and for the attractiveness of its fruit to wildlife.

Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

by Steve Gaul



Beauty-Berry
Callicarpa americana

Habitat and range – Pine woods and open hammocks in the southeastern U.S., throughout Florida. Drought-tolerant and grows readily in shady areas.

Description – Beautyberry is a colorful plant when in flower or fruit. It is a multi-stemmed plant with open-growing arching stems, growing to a height of 5

to 6 feet. The leaves are oval and pointed with a rough texture. The light green leaves grow to about 6 inches in size. Its' blooms are small, clustered, pale purple flowers appearing in spring and attractive to butterflies. Beautyberry's most striking characteristic, its fruit, is on display in the fall and consists of small, round fruits in striking metallic shades of magenta and violet clustered along the stems. There is also a form of Beautyberry that has white fruit (variety lactea). The fruit is quite attractive to birds and squirrels.

Where to look in Melbourne Village – Look for Beautyberry in any of the parks around Melbourne Village. At this time of year, the fruit-laden stems are hard to miss.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

AHF HALL

7 AM -7 PM

A General Election will be held for National, State, and local governments. Included are seats for the Town of Melbourne Village Mayor and three Commissioners.

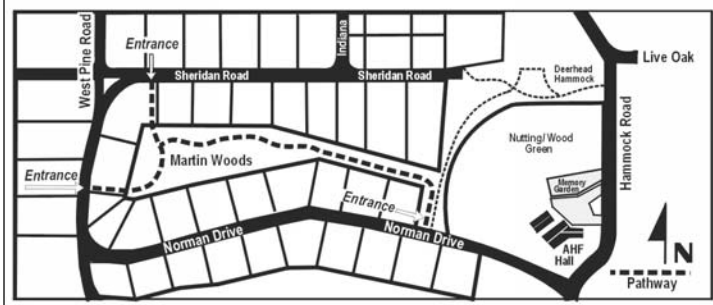
The AHF Hall is the official polling site for Melbourne Village. AHF members will staff the polling site. Don't forget to cast your vote in this important election. There is rarely a wait and our staff will ensure that you complete the process as easily as possible. If you need transportation to the Hall to cast your vote, please contact the AHF office.



A Walk in the Park

Martin Woods Provides a Look at the Villages' Wild Side

by Steve Gaul



I did something the other day that I've only done once since moving to Melbourne Village – I took a walk through Martin Woods. After only a few minutes of walking I knew I was out of my depth, however. Martin Woods is big, and for a newcomer like me, confusing. It has a long loop path like Erna Nixon Hammock with many side trails, including several 'unofficial' trails that lead to private property. At the west end of the woods there are two entrances, one on West Pine Road and the other on Sheridan Road. The Parks and Paths Committee recently made improvements to these two entrances, making them more visible and inviting from the road. These entrances are still quite intimidating though, as they exist on narrow six-foot right of ways between private property. In spite of this, visitors to Martin Woods will be rewarded by some of the more wild and extensive woods in Melbourne Village.

The woods themselves are a study in woodland evolution, being part way between a pine flatwoods and an oak

hammock habitat. From my entry point in Deer Head Hammock I observed more and more pines and many younger hardwoods the further I ventured into Martin Woods. Like many of our parklands, Martin Woods has its share of invasive plants, including ardesias, Boston fern and large patches of potato vine. Although diligent work has been done to clear the area of tree damage caused by the harsh hurricane seasons in 2004 and 2005, there are still reminders of the damage done and the extensive cleanup involved. I can see where members of the Parks and Paths Committee would get discouraged about maintenance in these woods – the task seems insurmountable! The Committee cleared over an acre of potato vine last year and has plans to replace the aging signs that mark the trails this year. There are also several Villagers who are dedicated to maintenance in Martin Woods. Needless to say I will be watching the bulletin board for announcements of Parks and Paths work parties in these woods so that I can help preserve this wild and wonderful place.

For those of you who were wondering, Martin Woods was named for Gertrude Martin, one of the founding AHF members who participated in the early organizational meetings of the AHF in the late forties and helped in the drafting of the AHF By-Laws. She lived in the Village from 1957 to about 1973 only a short distance from Martin Woods in the 'barracks' house now occupied by Paul Wilmes.

AHF Website - The Community Bulletin Board of the Future?

Communication Among Villagers Take a Giant Step Forward

by Debbie Seiler, Webmaster

Communication among us Villagers has always been an important issue. It started years ago with the Community Bulletin Board on Dayton Blvd. Eventually the Villager newsletter was developed and distributed to AHF Members. The AHF Information Committee is pleased to announce our latest form of communication-the AHF Website. Launched in April, we've already had 521 "hits" or visits to the site – quite a respectable debut! We're very excited

about the enthusiastic reception of our latest effort.

The site is comprised of nine main pages (screens) that are accessible to the general public. These pages provide a general overview of the AHF and Melbourne Village. For each main page, there are "sub-pages" that are accessible only to registered AHF members. They provide more detail about our Melbourne Village lifestyle including information on AHF events, its members and committees, flora and fauna in the Village and a vast collection of data that will promote the lifestyle we love in the Village.

(continued on page 14)



Ask The Village Idiot



*Dear Village Idiot,
What is a Nutting-Wood? I hear
about Nutting-Wood Green but have
never seen a Nutting-Wood.
Sincerely,
Color Blind and Confused*

Dear C.B & C.

Good question! The Idiot thought “Nutting-Wood green” was a fancy schmancy color used by high priced interior decorators looking for an alternative to Sea Foam Green. However, the Idiot did a little research and found that “Nutting” is Elizabeth Nutting and “Wood” is Virginia Wood, “founding Mothers” of Melbourne Village. The “Green” part was originally an intermittent lake on old topography maps, whose white sandy shores were used as the first roads for delivering construction materials for the first houses built north of the canal.

On April 29, 1979 Nutting-Wood Green was officially dedicated, honoring the two Founding Mothers. Virginia Wood called Elizabeth Nutting the “essential spark plug” in the whole undertaking- from the vision in 1933-35 in Dayton Ohio - to the birth of Melbourne Village, Florida in 1946. Virginia called herself a general errand boy and back up person.

Nutting-Wood Green is bordered by Deerhead Hammock, Memory Garden and the playground and encom-

passes the important visions of the Founding Mothers: First, save the native trees, pines, palms and oaks. The green area harbors wildflowers and grasses that provide food and shelter for the varied wildlife essential for preserving this environment.

The recreation area and Memory Garden provide a place for Villagers to relax in the peace and tranquility of nature. The expanse of wooded area marking the north and west borders were very important to the Founding Mothers. It was their vision and gratitude for the land that prompted the dedication of this important piece of Melbourne Village in their honor.

At the dedication ceremony, Elizabeth Nutting’s nephew, Charles, while commenting on the sign that still marks Nutting-Wood Green today, had this to say;

“A far more lasting tribute to our two founders is this village, you, the people in it and friends from the surrounding area. Each time you further the beliefs that led to the concept of this village; each time you reach to help a youngster, each time you work or fight or become an instigator, if you will, in the effort to save our environment, each time you show compassion to persons less fortunate than yourself, each time you plant the seeds of independence in a person who is too dependent, each time you pause to meditate in the quiet beauty of nature on those mysteries of His realm which the Almighty has not chosen to let us fully understand, each time you do any of these things you make a great and lasting tribute to two wonderful ladies, our founders. You have done these things in the past, you are doing them today and I am sure you will continue to do them in the future.”

*Dear Village Idiot,
Dude, like how did you get to be “The” Village Idiot. Did you have to take a test or were you elected?
Enviously yours,
Timmmy*

Dear Timmmmy,

It takes many years of hard work and perseverance to become just a regular idiot, but to become a *Village Idiot* you must also be gifted in the art of idiocy as I am. Some have the misconception that merely drooling and muttering incoherently can get them the job; this isn’t so. Idiots must harbor a certain mystique so the ordinary person views you as neither threatening nor completely in possession of all faculties. An animal sidekick helps too. Make sure you get one that you can not only talk to, but carry on an animated conver-

sation with. Invisible pets don’t cut it! It is important that this sidekick appear to be at least as intelligent as you.

I got this job because no one else wanted it. The pay is poor, the hours horrendous, but you do get to meet lots of nice people.

If you really want to pursue a career as an Idiot, I suggest spending lots of time in the woods with your sidekick. Watch the small things happen and think it’s important. Get up for the sunrise and take naps when it’s hot. Use sunscreen! Talk to old people and children and learn from them. Smile a lot, people will wonder whether you’re up to something, or just being friendly. Be polite; Idiots know their place and are content in it.

Personally I think being the Village Idiot is a good thing but that’s just one idiot’s opinion.



Critter Sightings

As reported in the last issue of the Villager, there is a LARGE wild pig roaming the Village. **Susan Lester**, who captured the wild pig on film, commented that "the pig was visiting us earlier this summer, then he left. Well, he returned a month or so ago."

At night, her husband **Bob** would go out on "pig patrol" with a large spot light. "This seemed to frighten the pig away," Susan stated. One evening while on patrol, Bob saw something in one of their birdfeeders. Susan said, "He shined the light on the feeder and the palm tree it was attached to and saw several flying squirrels on the tree and feeder. They were so cute with their large eyes and little square tails. These are smaller than the northern flying squirrels, only about 9 inches long and weighing around 3 ounces."

Pete, Joan, Jason and Amy Taddie report seeing a large Bobcat, about the size of a medium German Shepherd. The latest cat sighting, several months ago at dusk, was at the edge of their yard, bordering Erna Nixon Hammock on North Wildwood Lane. The Taddy's have seen the bobcat in this area several times over the years. It is the same spot where a very large alligator - over 7 feet long - visited them 6 years ago and nipped their German Shepherd. The Taddy's also report lots of evidence, especially rooting, of the hog that has been wandering the Village. Pete summed up his feeling by stating, "this is an awesome place to live."

Sandi and Grayson Dix went to Cedar Key for a few days with their curly coated retriever, Bosco. Sandi told us, "As you know we have a pond in our back yard close to our house. When we got back I couldn't find one of

our fancy goldfish anywhere in the pond." She added, "So you can imagine my surprise when I saw a huge Heron standing beside my pond on a rock!" Well, mystery solved as to what happened to the missing fish! Sandi also reports "we have 3 baby squirrels living in an Oak tree beside our driveway. One day while I was working out in the yard, one of them fell out of the tree and landed right under Bosco's nose." Sandi continued, "the squirrel lay there for several minutes before looking up and seeing Bosco; then it was like he was hit with lightning. He took off to one of the palm trees but didn't have the strength to climb it, so he just hid behind it...now they play around the tree." said Sandi

Steve & Debbie Seiler who live on Live Oak Drive spotted a pair of Great Horned Owls in a pine tree behind 5640 Live Oak Avenue (formerly Edna Johnson's house). It was around 7 am, and Debbie said, "They were jumping from limb to limb, spreading their wings. It's not mating season, so they were probably just having a "hoot"!"

Lynn Miraglia, on Ibis Drive also spotted a Great Horned Owl on the corner of Ibis and Ward back in June While **Karen McLaughlin** from Jupiter Florida was visiting friends in the Village on September 23 she spotted a gopher turtle munching on the side of the road right under the "Turtle Crossing" sign on Live Oak.

Gary Hayes, on Hammock Road, has a backyard view of our nesting eagles who have been returning to Deerhead Hammock since 2001. The pair arrived in Mid-August and are expected to stay till late spring. Gary is participating in the Audubon's Eagle Watch Program and will be providing updates on the eagle activity on the AHF Website. You can view the nest from the street at 611 Hammock Road in front of "Eagles Rest" mailbox and from Deerhead Hammock.



Website

(continued from page 13)

To gain access to these secure pages, AHF members must first acquire a user name and password. It's a very simple process. All you have to do is email your name, address and phone number (optional) to **webmaster@melbourne-village.com**. Don't wait, request yours today and discover this wonderful website.

The Website will always be a work in progress as we update on a weekly (sometimes daily) basis, add content where there appears to be a need, and delete where interest is lacking. It is a forum for all AHF members and we

encourage you to contribute your stories about the Village, good Samaritan reports, wildlife sightings, garden news, photos, ideas, suggestions, comments, and feedback on various issues. Most importantly, tell your neighbors about it – spread the word. Let's use this valuable communication tool to the limits of its potential and make it work for us.

We could tell you all about the site, but there is no better way to experience it than to visit for yourself and discover everything the AHF Website has to offer. Below is a "site map" to help you navigate the site. Log on to **www.melbourne-village.com** TODAY!!



Passings

AHF Members

Verna Francis passed away May 16. Verna and her husband Robert, lived on Crane Road from 1984 to 1992 and retained their AHF membership as non-lot members after leaving the Village. Verna's husband, Robert can be contacted at 1424 South King Street, Windsor, North Carolina 27983.

Jack Matthews of 693 West Pine Road, died July 26. He was 80 years old. He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Verna May and is survived by his stepson, Henry O'Dell, and grandsons, Mark and Timothy O'Dell. Jack served in the British Royal Navy during World War II and moved to the U.S. in 1951. He became an AHF member in 1990.

Kip Norton, 541 South Wildwood Lane, passed away on September 6. He was 39 years old. Kip was an AHF member since 1997. Memorial services were held at the AHF Hall. Kip was preceded in death by his wife, Cindy, who passed away in 2002. They leave their daughter Kyra in the loving hands of grandparents, Russell & Yvonne Gilkes.

Howard Burroughs passed away on September 27. He was 82 years old and is survived by his wife, Helen, who lives on Canal Road. Howard was an AHF member since 1986. Buried in California.

Non AHF Members

Larry Hughes, husband of AHF Bookkeeper, Chris Hughes, passed away on July 13. Services were held at Faith Lutheran Church of Viera, followed by his burial at Florida Memorial Gardens. I'm sure you join us in passing our sympathy to Chris.

Mikiel Brower, mother of our AHF Maintenance Technician, Bud Brower, passed away on July 10. Services were held on July 13 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Chapel in Melbourne. We are all sorry to hear of Buds' loss.

Sigurd Hersloff, father of Villager Oliver Hersloff, passed away on September 14. Sigurd lived nearby with his former wife Jean, who lived on Crane Road for several years. We extend our sympathy to Oliver and his family for their loss.

**SEE SOMETHING
UNUSUAL IN YOUR YARD?**

Let us know and we'll
report it in the next issue.

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 to the Information Committee at tvillager@aol.com

Information Committee Members:

Gary Hayes, Chairperson
Debbie Seiler: Secretary, Webmaster
Leslie Fay, Design, Layout
Grayson Dix, Photography
Mary Wood, Editor
Bruce Benson, Community Bulletin Board
Nancy Bustelo and Steve Gaul

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

WANTED: Crafters, Artists, and Bakers are needed for the annual Melbourne Village Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair. Open to the public and widely publicized, this is the perfect venue to sell your work. Only homemade, original pieces are allowed (this is not a flea market). With an increase in advertising before the event you can count on a huge turnout. Space is limited so reserve your table early.

REWARD: There are so many: rewards to this long-standing tradition - Holiday Shopping, Community Spirit, see old neighbors, meet new ones, have lunch, and more....

For more information about anything related to the Women's Guild, please email wg@melbourne-village.com or call **Sandi Dix at 952-5618**.





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Halloween Party Saturday October 28

Haunted AHF Hall Chills and Thrills

Join Villagers of all ages for the Recreation Committee's Annual Halloween Party on October 28 from 6 to 9p.m. at the transformed and haunted AHF Hall.

This Village tradition offers a safe, family-oriented evening of fun. Throughout the night there will be plenty of activities to engage every creature present, including:

- 6-7 pm Haunted Hall "Light" for small fries
- 7-9 pm Haunted Hall "Enter at your own Risk"
- Haunted Cemetery Tours
- Costume Contest (all ages)
- Pumpkin Carving Contest
- Games
- Soothsayer
- Big Screen Horror Movies (popcorn provided)

Committee members and volunteers always manage to add something new, so dress up, come on over and plan on a ghoulishly good evening with your neighbors!

Help is Wanted & Welcome!
If you would like to help with this event, please join the Recreation Committee behind the scenes on Friday, October 27, and during the day October 28. For more information, please call **Sandi Dix 952-5618**.

Punch and light snacks will be served, but extra snacks are always welcome!

