

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



SECOND & THIRD MONTHS, 2012

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**Newsletter submissions are due on the Monday
before the last Sunday of the month.**

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

Hopefully many of you nearer to the Meetinghouse were able to attend the Forum in late January: *GainesvilleQuakers.org: Nurturing our Online Community*. While our website doesn't take the place of our newsletter, it is a great way for us to keep in touch with each other and the larger community. It has the potential to keep us up-to-the-living-breathing-minute in ways that print on paper does not.

This newsletter is spanning two months for several reasons. February is a short month, but also your faithful editor has started a new job and is in need of more walks in the woods! While many events for March have been decided upon and are listed here, others will surely come up. Please check the calendar on our website regularly, to be sure you're not missing something wonderful.

Another place to check for updates on our Meeting is on our blog. (*"What's a blog?!" hath said many of you.*) For those who missed the Forum, a blog is simply a long scroll of announcements, listed by date. If you have the time, you can read it as a scroll – starting from the top or the bottom. But there is another way! Each announcement has also been "photocopied" and "filed into a filing cabinet." So, you can search through the filing cabinet by whatever category interests you.

Our Meeting's blog is on the front page of our website: www.GainesvilleQuakers.org. The "file cabinet" containing our announcements is on the right side of the page. It's called **Announcements: View by Category**. Our categories currently correspond with our committees, but more may be added, as needed.

If you want – for example - to read all the announcements that post Jean Larsen's articles *A Quaker Walk In the Woods* – which feature the full collections of Bill Mitchell's nature photography – click on "Building & Grounds." You could also find these entries using the Search feature at the top of the page. Just type in a word or two of what you're looking for and click **Go**. And because we are treated with these articles monthly, you could also just scroll down (the blog scroll) until you find the one you're looking for. Notice that they're organized by date.

Don't forget, like penciled notes in the margins, left for the next reader who comes along, you can leave comments on any announcement. Look around and you will see that several lively conversations have already come about in this way. I hope many more will follow.

Until Spring,

Jen Ambrose

Please Hold In the Light

Carol Clark

Morrie Trimmer

Marie & Dave Parsons

Eleanor & Andy Merritt

Jen Ambrose & Hoyt Cotter

"When you see the Spirit shine through people in spite of unimaginable human destructiveness . . . when you see people healed, forgiven, learning and loving life with such zest that tragedy is overshadowed . . . then you know the Power of Life that is present, palpable and moving among us . . ."

~ Nadine Hoover

A WALK IN THE QUAKER WOODS

Explorations of the Meetinghouse Property

by Jean Larson with photographs by Bill Mitchell



January 22, 2012

Yesterday I was weeding the area in front of the Meetinghouse and noticed that one of the large coonties near the peace pole had ripe orange fruits. I have heard that they require processing as in the digestive track of an animal before the seeds of a coontie will germinate, so I suggest to Bill that we spread some where we know a raccoon travels. I gave him a wildlife camera over the holidays, which he had positioned along the dry creek bed. We put some of the fruits near the camera, where we had seen a squirrel and a raccoon. Then we walked along the creek, discovering an invasive Coral Ardisia needing to be removed in an area we rarely visit. We also spotted a lovely pale violet, possibly a Primrose-Leaf Violet (*Viola primulifolia*).

We learned at the rise of Meeting that the children had planted Brussels sprouts and pansies (garden flowers derived from the *Viola* species that bloom robustly during Florida's late fall and winter). They also created planters out of recycled soda bottles. I'm looking forward to seeing the spouts grow. They did well last year.

After meeting and snacks today, John Burton joined Bill and me on our walk. John confirmed that the longleaf pine we planted some years back was definitely out of the grass phase with a clearly visible bud. Bill commented that it was growing very slowly. I recalled that John was familiar with what I call "Sticky-Willy" and pointed some of this Florida winter plant out near the back retention pond. He reminded me that he called it "Bedstraw." I had been pulling it out of the coonties near the front door to the meetinghouse and it would keep sticking to my gloves when I tried to put in it my weeding pail.

We wandered into the woods past the Meeting for Worship in Nature area and onto the creek bed. The coontie fruits were still in place so Bill scattered some in the dry creek bed where raccoon tracks were evident. Bill observed that the Air Potato Round Up was the following week, so we wandered down the creek bed to look for areas south of the Meeting property where many air potatoes cluster. As we moved down the creek bed, I pointed out that the creek had changed its course. For now it's staying close to the south boundary of the meeting property, instead of turning south near the end of the fenced portion of the south boundary which is shared with a condominium complex.

That vicinity is where - in a previous round up - we piled air potatoes into a large round plastic tub that Sandy brought. Bill slogged the tub through the rain on our wheelbarrow, back to the parking lot for collection. The area currently has air potatoes but not nearly the profusion we had seen before.

John and I kept picking up litter along the way. We found drink containers: plastic bottles and aluminum cans for the most part, with a sprinkling of balls and bits of snack packages. The litter is largely found where the water washes through. The changes in the landscape from the passing water - and from the animal life supported by the passing water - are some of the ongoing changes that are most enjoyable to watch. With a full pail of litter, we called the walk done.

Then Bill and I checked out the freshly planted Brussels sprouts, and circumscribed the Meetinghouse. Behind it, we admired the incoming crop of Sticky-Willy/Bedstraw and spotted a Yellow Jessamine vine climbing on the dried stalk of a milkweed. We took a close look at the single flower on the Yellow Jessamine that Bill had pointed out at rise of Meeting (there are lots of buds). We pulled a few beans off the Senna pendula (non-native senna which we thought was native when we planted it) which has largely died back for the winter. As we came to the front of the Meetinghouse, we spotted a passion vine sprouting near the hose cart. This host plant of the Zebra Longwing butterfly is very hardy and tends to pop up seemingly randomly near where it grew the year before.

I felt blessed to see cloudless sulfur butterflies during Meeting and during the walk. The senna and cassia plants are their larval hosts. Their brief flits through our area remind me that each of us can be a bright spot in someone's life with a smile here, a turn washing dishes there, or joining together in worship on a Sunday.

More photos from our "A Quaker Walk in the Woods" series can be found at <http://www.gainesvillequakers.org>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Day School Committee

Dear Friends and friends,

I am filling out the First Day Schedule for the next quarter and am contacting all those people who have helped out in the past or are on First Day School Committee. Laura Winefordner and I usually share the caregiver role, although we would welcome some new faces and hands in that role. Laura frequently fills in as storyteller as well. I fill in where and whenever needed.

Thanks to all of you, we have had a great variety of storytellers and messages. We are broadening the Young Friends' experiences and creating new relationships within our faith community. Sharing your career, skills, experiences, and talents usually is the easiest, most natural, and richest option, reading a story or doing a craft is a good alternative if you are not sure what to do. I appreciate your flexibility and adaptability when we have no children, very few or a full house.

Please check your schedule and then contact me to sign up for a Sunday (or more) during this quarter. A copy of the schedule is on the bulletin board in the First Day School room, and I will keep a copy so we can confirm readily which dates are filled and what is open.

~Sandy

Friendly Lunch

Friendly Lunch will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month. Due to the closing of the Book Lover's Café, we will meet at the Meetinghouse. Please bring a bag lunch.

Hospitality Committee

We have two Quaker Market dinners coming up.

On February 18th, it will be a Valentines Day theme.

On March 17th, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Both dinners start at 6 p.m.

On March 18th, we'll celebrate our Meeting's birthday with outside worship and a potluck picnic.



Library Committee

Our Meeting is sending magazines to Jim Morrison in Poland, where he will share them with students at university where he is teaching. Contact John Burton if you have magazines to donate.

Ministry & Nurture Committee

A Memorial Meeting for Worship for Tom Clark will be held on February 25, at 2 p.m. at the Meetinghouse. Light refreshments will be served at 3 p.m. and childcare will be available. If you have questions, contact Carol Clark at (352) 275-6382.

So that we can better care for each other, please make sure your Emergency Contact information is up-to-date. Find the notebook in the library or see Sandy Lyon.

Newsletter & Website Committee

Our next newsletter will be published in April. Please remember to check the website calendar and blog for any updates to dates and times, and other goings-on: www.GainesvilleQuakers.org.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

On February 5th at 1 p.m., Walter Morris will hold a Forum at the Meetinghouse on “Quaker Economic Values.” This Forum is in part a response to the request received from the Friends Committee On National Legislation. FCNL would like input from our Meeting on our priorities for their message to the 113th congressional session. (They would like a response from us no later than April 16th).

“I understand that Gainesville Friends Meeting has traditionally assigned matters pertaining to FCNL to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. This is certainly a very major opportunity for GFM to participate in the work of the intensely effective and very closely related (but legally separate) lobbying organization working to bring Quaker values to bear on our nation's critically important policy decisions. As a tax-exempt religious organization we are not able to directly use our own resources for any partisan or electoral lobbying, but we can certainly address faith-related issues, which these issues clearly area. Peace and Social Concerns would certainly be honored to play a part in this, but we are the servant of GFM as a whole and will cooperate with whatever plan has served well over time or that seems best to all.”

~Tim Ray, Interim Clerk, Peace and Social Concerns

Singing!

Friends are invited to gather near the piano every third Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. for singing! Additional instruments are welcome.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM)

Winter Interim Business Meeting was held in Orlando on January 14th. Here is a synopsis of the topics that were discussed:

- While the finance committee understands that talk of money ignites passion in many people, they ask us to be respectful when offering suggestions on the budget.
- **Yearly Meeting will be April 4th through the 8th. Yearly meeting will send three registration document packages to each meeting. These documents will also be available, closer to Yearly Gathering, at seym.org. The Yearly Meeting prefers electronic registration and will ask for half of the cost in advance. Please register by March 21st.**
- When registration documents are sent out, please read the Peace & Social Concerns minutes for consideration. These have been seasoning for a year now and P&SC is eager to have some movement on these issues.
- SEYM Faith and Practice is on track to be available at 2013 yearly meeting. This has been a 20-year labor of love.
- The Yearly Meeting is committed to having every child under the age of 18 attend for free and will continue to offer 50% of the price meals during the gathering.
- Tom Nelson, activist musician, will be the featured speaker at the Walton lecture. Bring your instruments.
- This year's scholarship to Pendle Hill is still available. The scholarship covers room, board, and tuition. Check out the offerings for workshops and retreats at pendlehill.org. Applying is simple; if you are interested please see me for the details.
- Teens are looking for a Quaker who is a medical doctor to speak about servant leadership. If you know someone who might be willing to fill this need, please let me know.
- Peace & Social Concerns and Quaker Earthcare Witness are looking for a live wire contact to communicate to the individual Monthly Meetings.
- We are asked to consider adding a line item to monthly meeting budget for Friends Peace Teams.

~ Cheryl Demers-Holton

WORDS TO CONTEMPLATE

“As for you, the anointing that you have received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in it.”

~ I John 2:27 (NRSV)

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sun Feb 5, 2012

11am Meeting for Worship; 11:15am First Day School
1pm Forum: Quaker Economic Values with Walter Morris

Mon Feb 6, 2012

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Tue Feb 7, 2012

11:30am Friendly Lunch at the Meetinghouse. Bring a bag lunch.

Fri Feb 10, 2012

7pm Film Night at the Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 12, 2012

11am Meeting for Worship; 11:15am First Day School
12:45pm Meeting for Worship for Business

Mon Feb 13, 2012

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sat Feb 18, 2012

6pm Quaker Market Dinner: Valentine's Day

Sun Feb 19, 2012

9:30am Singing!
11am Meeting for Worship; 11:15am First Day School
12pm Rise of Meeting Potluck

Mon Feb 20, 2012

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sat Feb 25, 2012

2pm Memorial Meeting for Tom Clark

Sun Feb 26, 2012

9:30am Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting in the Meetinghouse

Library

11am Meeting for Worship; 11:15am First Day School
12:30pm Bible Study

Mon Feb 27, 2012

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sun Mar 4, 2012

11am Meeting for Worship; 11:15am First Day School
1pm Forum: FCNL Priorities (PSC)

Mon Mar 5, 2012

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Tue Mar 6, 2012

11:30am Friendly Lunch at the Meetinghouse. Bring a bag lunch.

Fri Mar 9, 2012

7pm Film Night @ the Meetinghouse

Sun Mar 11, 2012

11am Meeting for Worship; 11:15am First Day School
12:45pm Meeting for Worship for Business

Mon Mar 12, 2012
6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sat Mar 17, 2012
6pm Quaker Market Dinner: St. Patrick's Day

Sun Mar 18, 2012
9:30am Singing!
11am Meeting for Worship OUTSIDE
12pm Rise of Meeting Potluck: Birthday Party for our Meeting

Mon Mar 19, 2012
6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Fri Mar 23, 2012
6pm Meeting with Clerks (Tentative)

Sat Mar 24, 2012
All day Meeting retreat (Tentative, may continue Sunday afternoon)

Sun Mar 25, 2012
9:30am Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting
11am Meeting for Worship; 11:15am First Day School
12:30pm Bible Study

Mon Mar 26, 2012
6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Wed Apr 4, 2012 - Sun Apr 8, 2012
Southeastern Yearly Meeting - Location TBA



**LIVING THE
QUESTIONS**

An exploration of Christian faith and life

Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Beginning February 1, 2012

BELTRAM PEACE CENTER

Mennonite Meeting House

1236 NW 18th Avenue, Gainesville

For more information, visit www.FORgainesville.org

Or contact Eve MacMaster at (352) 377-6577

QUERIES & ADVICES

“Harmony Within the Meeting Community”

Queries: Are love and unity maintained among us? ∞ When differences arise, do we settle them in a spirit of love and humility? ∞ Are we careful not to hold an idea too firmly, knowing that another may bring us close to the truth? ∞ Are we patient and considerate towards those we find difficult to understand or like? ∞ Do we demonstrate a forgiving spirit? ∞ Do we have concern and respect for the reputation of others? ∞ When people are hurt, do we take care to hold them up with a tender heart? ∞ Do we respect that of God in each person, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult for us to discern?

Advices: Maintain love and unity by avoiding tale bearing and detraction. ∞ Settle differences promptly, in a manner free from resentment. ∞ When we have a difference with another person, speak to them in private “in the love and wisdom that is gentle and pure.” ∞ Be aware that verbal violence can be as destructive as physical violence. Be careful that our language does not incorporate violence, consciously or unconsciously. ∞ Listen patiently, and seek the truth another person’s expressions may contain for us. ∞ Be willing to seek and willing to receive counsel and help from one another. ∞ In our daily lives, seek to know one another in the things that are eternal, and to enter with ready empathy and sensitive discretion into the joys, sorrows and needs of each other. ∞ Be mindful that everyone is included in the life and activities of the Meeting.

**Gainesville Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
702 NW 38th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607**