

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
702 NW 38th Street, Gainesville, FL 32607; (352) 372-1070

www.gainesvillequakers.org

Sandy Lyon, clerk

A man's life is dyed the color of his imagination.

Marcus Aurelius (121-180 CE)

Hold in the Light: Hap Taylor, Anne and Phil Haisley, Connie and Tim Ray, Arnold and Amy Von der Porten.

Calendar of Events: (online at www.gainesvillequakers.org)

Every Sunday: 11:00 am Meeting for Worship; 11:15 am First Day School

Every Monday: 5:30 pm Yoga with Gary — **Begins on September 11**

Every Monday: 7:30 pm Candlelight Witness at Bo Diddley Plaza

Sunday, September 3

9:30 am Library committee

9:30 am Meetinghouse committee

Tuesday, September 5

11:30 am Friendly Lunch - at the Meeting House

Sunday, September 10

12:45 pm Meeting for Worship for Business

Sunday, September 17

12:45 pm Earthcare Witness Committee

Wednesday, September 20

Deadline for newsletter items. Email to Bonnie Zimmer at gfquakernews@gmail.com

Sunday, September 24

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee

1:00 pm Bible Study

Friends are reminded that it is the responsibility of the entire community to assist with cleaning up the kitchen area after the social hour.

News from Pride Community Center

The Center will be celebrating 10 years at the current location on Friday, September 22, 2017, with a party. We received a thank you for our support over the years.

The 2017 Pride Festival will be October 21, 2017. As usual, we will have a presence at the Festival and an advertisement in the Guide. Volunteers will be needed to staff the table during the day. In addition, a pop-up type tent for shade would be very useful (10 ft x 10 ft). To sign up to help, see Bonnie Zimmer.

Gainesville Meeting on the SEYM webpage

Bonny Zimmer and Peter Harrell contributed [an article on our activities](#) in Peace, Social Justice and Earthcare.

New from QuakerBooks:**The Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quaker Dwarf Who Became the First Revolutionary Abolitionist****by Marcus Rediker****Reviewed by Friends Journal, September 2017**

In *the Fearless Benjamin Lay*, renowned historian Marcus Rediker chronicles the transatlantic life and times of a singular man--a Quaker dwarf who demanded the total, unconditional emancipation of all enslaved Africans around the world. Mocked and scorned by his contemporaries, Lay was unflinching in his opposition to slavery, often performing colorful guerrilla theater to shame slave masters, insisting that human bondage violated the fundamental principles of Christianity. He drew on his ideals to create a revolutionary way of life, one that embodied the proclamation "no justice, no peace."

Lay was born in 1682 in Essex, England. His philosophies, employments, and places of residence--spanning England, Barbados, Philadelphia, and the open seas--were markedly diverse over the course of his life. He worked as a shepherd, glove maker, sailor, and bookseller. His worldview was an astonishing combination of Quakerism, vegetarianism, animal rights, opposition to the death penalty, and abolitionism.

While in Abington, Philadelphia, Lay lived in a cave-like dwelling surrounded by a library of two hundred books, and it was in this unconventional abode where he penned a fiery and controversial book against bondage, which Benjamin Franklin published in 1738. Always in motion and ever confrontational, Lay maintained throughout his life a steadfast opposition to slavery and a fierce determination to make his fellow Quakers denounce it, which they finally began to do toward the end of his life.

With passion and historical rigor, Rediker situates Lay as a man who fervently embodied the ideals of democracy and equality as he practiced a unique concoction of radicalism nearly three hundred years ago. Rediker resurrects this forceful and prescient visionary, who speaks to us across the ages and whose innovative approach to activism is a gift, transforming how we consider the past and how we might imagine the future.

Finding Wonder and Awe

I could not resist including some photos from Alaska. I found my time there to be filled with a sense of wonder and awe: the mountains, the glaciers, the wildlife. In spite of being on a tour, I found it a deeply spiritually rewarding experience.]



A Walk in the Quaker Woods — *Jean Larson, with photographs by Bill Mitchell*

August 21, 2017



Paintedleaf or Fire on the mountain (*Euphorbia cyathophora*), a native poinsettia.

Bill and I headed down the drive after a called meeting for business for a short walk in the woods. As we passed the back retention pond we stopped to admire a small black butterfly with a few white spots on the upper wings that darted around on the salt and pepper bush (*Melanthera nivea*) that Bill



Maryland senna (*Senna marylandica*) by the creek. This is a native Senna which I planted this spring back by the creek.

was unable to photograph. As we were about to enter the woods, I spotted and pulled up a ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) because so many people are allergic to the pollen of this plant.

We walked into the woods with a glance at the meeting for worship in nature area. Then we walked to the place where the ditch crosses from Shir Shalom land to our property, and after noticing the flowing water, became aware of the mosquitoes. We were not prepared so we moved away from the water.

Bill dug some air potatoes as I headed down the remnants of the road to the creek to inspect the work Bill has done shoring up the bank. The aquatic milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*) and rattlesnake master (*Eryngium aquaticum*) that he planted in this area this spring have been beaten down but are still there and blooming. Sadly, aquatic milkweed which has been there for a year got washed out, along with some new partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) planted this spring, but the Maryland senna (*Senna Marylandica*) is blooming.

Happily ironweed (*Vernonia sp.*) has volunteered nearby as a different nectar plant for butterflies.



Giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) being visited by a bee (enlarged at right).

We continued down the creek moving away a bit due to the growth of shrubs. I standing on the bank waiting for Bill to catch up when I saw a fish perhaps four inches long zoom past, my eye attracted by the fast movement. I recalled being told by a visitor who used to live here that before the area was ditched and drained people

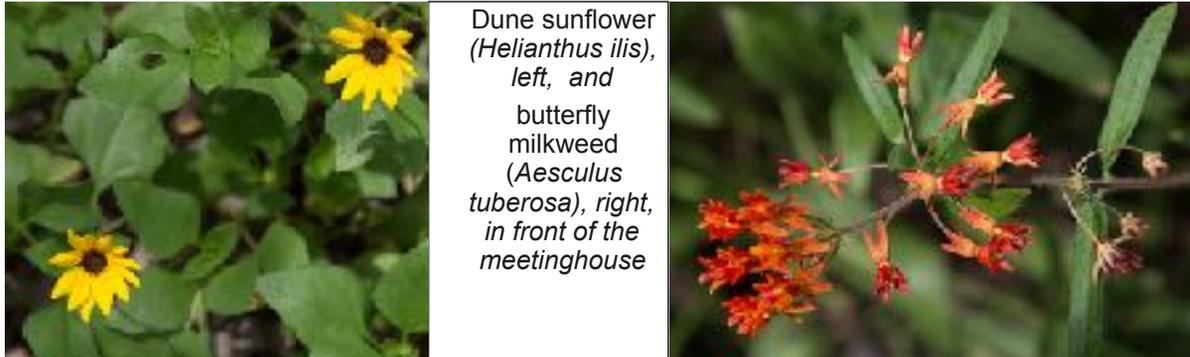
pulled edible fish from the creek.

As Bill and I moved further down the creek, we saw a teal bodied black-winged damselfly, possibly an ebony jewelwing (*Calopteryx*



Air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) leaf turned into lace by the air potato leaf beetle, (*Lilioceris cheni*)

maculata) resting at the tip of a frond of fern stretched out over the water. As we reached the place where the creek moves off of the meeting property, Bill spotted an air potato vine made lacy by air potato leaf beetles.



Dune sunflower (*Helianthus ilis*), left, and butterfly milkweed (*Aesculus tuberosa*), right, in front of the meetinghouse

We headed toward the pond area, spotting a resurgence of taro in the wettest part. We skirted around the pond and emerged near the longleaf pine. We visited the children's yard, swept leaves off the table, and enjoyed the sea oxeyes (*Borrchia frutescens*) growing there. In front of the building we noticed that butterfly milkweed (*Aesculus tuberosa*) and Dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) were still blooming.

Are you taking time to enjoy the beauty near you?



Spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*), planted last year by the driveway near the far end of the back retention basin.

Queries for the Ninth Month:

Do our lives reflect Quaker testimonies? ■ Are we open and responsive to continuing revelation, and do we incorporate it into our spiritual life? ■ Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others? ■ Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us? ■ Does our witness lead us to the condition in which we “walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone”? ■ Do we as a meeting try to share in the religious life of our wider community, availing ourselves of opportunities for worship and service with other local religious groups?

Advices for the Ninth Month:

Strive to keep true to the testimonies of integrity and simplicity. ■ Try to keep before us the essential truths, and test our life by them. ■ Endeavor to make our lives consistent with the high principles we profess. This involves the often-difficult discernment not only between good and evil but also between the better and the best. ■ Live adventurously. Let not failure discourage us. Witness so that others can perceive the presence of God within us.

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