

# QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

702 NW 38th Street, Gainesville, FL 32607; (352) 372-1070 [www.gainesvillequakers.org](http://www.gainesvillequakers.org)

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*Enlightenment is an accident. Practice makes us accident prone.*

*Zen Proverb*

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

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**Calendar of Events:** (online at [www.gainesvillequakers.org](http://www.gainesvillequakers.org))

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

Every Monday: 5:00 pm Witness at Corner of 23rd Ave and 43rd St to Support Immigrant Justice

Every Wednesday: 5:30 pm Spiritual Explorations and Meeting for Worship

**Sunday, August 5**

9:30 am Library committee

9:30 am Meetinghouse committee

**Sunday, August 12**

12:45 pm Meeting for Worship for Business

**Sunday, August 19**

12:45 pm Earthcare Witness Committee

**Wednesday, August 22**

Deadline for newsletter items. Email to Bonnie Zimmer at [gfquakernews@gmail.com](mailto:gfquakernews@gmail.com)

**Sunday, August 26**

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee

**1:00 pm Biblical and Spiritual Explorations**

Friday, August 31 - Sunday September 2: Advanced AVP Workshop

5:00 pm Friday through Sunday afternoon

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

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**August 31 - September 2: Advanced AVP Workshop**

This workshop is open to anyone who has completed the Basic workshop. The theme of the weekend workshop is **Justice**.

**Brief Report from Friends General Conference Gathering**

Four members of Gainesville Meeting attended the FGC Gathering the first week of July in Toledo, OH. (Joshua Killingsworth, Bill Mitchell, Jean Larson, and Bonnie Zimmer) The welcoming plenary on Sunday evening consisted of a Water

Ceremony conducted by a local indigenous woman. The ceremony welcomed all to the Gathering, including all plants, animals, planets, stars, and the sun and moon.

Rev. Barber (Poor Peoples Campaign) spoke on Thursday evening in a moving speech. [His speech](#) is posted on our website and Facebook page.

Joshua attended a workshop on Paul and his writings to the early church. He came away with a deeper understanding of the things that Paul actually wrote as compared to things that he probably did not write, but have been attributed to him. Look for some of this to show up on fourth Sundays in Biblical Explorations.

Bill and Jean attended Arthur Larrabee's workshop on clerking skills. Expect to see some of these new skills in Meeting for Business.

Bonnie attended a workshop on deepening worship both individually and as a meeting community. She brought back some new ideas to share on ways to enter a deeper state of opening to the Inner Light. Expect to see some of these when we resume our first Sunday Forums in October.

### **WebSite Access**

There has been some talk around the Meetinghouse about access to our website, our Facebook page and group, and to the internet service at the Meetinghouse.

**Website:** Anyone can access **ALL** content on our website ([www.gainesvillequakers.org](http://www.gainesvillequakers.org)) **EXCEPT** member information. To access member information, you need to have a login. To get a login, you must have an FGC login and request to join. Bonnie Zimmer is the Admin and will add you.

The member information consists of name, email, and when you got your login and when you last logged in. At some point, we may want to use the website for committee work or planning and if the Meeting wanted to do so, we could put that planning information behind the login until it was final.

**Facebook Page:** Our Facebook page is totally public. We use it for Outreach. To get access, you have to have a Facebook account. Gainesville Quakers

Facebook Group: Our Facebook Group is a closed group, which means you have to ask to join. It is for members of our community and if you ask, one of the Admins will add you. You must have a Facebook account.

**Internet Access in the Meetinghouse:** Internet access (WiFi) is available throughout the Meetinghouse. The router for the internet is located in the utilities room (where we store cleaning supplies). The user name and password is taped to the top of the router. Please do not remove it. There are 4 individuals with admin privileges listed on the card taped to the router. One of them should be available during many Meeting events (although they may not have a computer at hand). The password is 'WPA' so your computer / phone needs to be set to 'WPA'. Most computers are preset to WPA but if you are having problems connecting, try checking this on your computer.

### *Progressive Framing Workshop*

This workshop, which is tentatively scheduled for 8/22/2018 or 8/23/2018, was developed by Scott Wittkopf and based on the science of Dr. George Lakoff and others.

Learn to:

- "communicate the shared values, vision and beliefs that bring people together.
- Effectively pivot the frame on any issue, and create positive, proactive, progressive messaging." — *Scott Wittkopf*

For more information, or to sign up, see the posting in Social Room, or contact Gail Stallings.

### **EarthCare News: Florida Legislative Alerts**

The guiding question of the [Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network](#) is, "*How do we live well together in our environment so that everyone thrives?*" If that question resonates with you as a Friend and as a concerned Floridian, you can turn your concerns to action and increase the impact of your activism through signing up for action alerts that target your specific State Representative and State Senator.

As its website ([fl-ican.org](http://fl-ican.org)) states,

"The Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN!) is comprised of climate conscious individuals, organizations, and groups that come together collaboratively to address Florida's unique climate challenges."

The FL-iCAN Affiliate, Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida, is providing focused legislative action alerts as well as alerts on vigils, marches and other opportunities for Earthcare and climate related actions.

Sign up for action alerts at [fl-ican.org/action-alerts/](http://fl-ican.org/action-alerts/).



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

July 18-20, 2018

On Tuesday, Bill and I made a short visit to the woods, entering by the Chickasaw plum (*Prunus angustifolia*) near the far end of the split rail fence. We headed briefly east toward the front retention basin so Bill could show me a fallen tree which had been leaning up against one of the pine trees in the old meeting



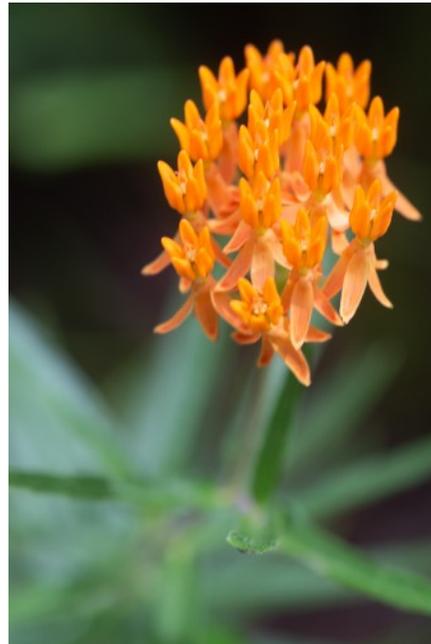
The longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) we planted a few years ago at the south end of the utility strip,

for worship in nature area. The tree blocked the trail which skirts the pond area and had contributed to an already waterlogged area. We talked briefly about where we might reroute the path before we reversed course to walk through the old meeting for worship area and find our muddy way up to the planting area at the creek just below the junction with the ditch. We talked about establishing a clear path between this point and the remnants of the old road as we made our way out.

On Wednesday, Bill found me weeding near the rosemary bush by the social room door. He took pictures of the butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) which has returned for another year. I suggested we take a look at the longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), and on our way, we admired the purple twin flowers (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*) in the lawn north of the driveway. The longleaf pine has continued growing up with a top whirl of needles and it has needles sprouting further down as it had not in the past.

As we headed back toward the drive, I picked up sticks in the lawn to make it more amenable to mowing. Under the hackberry tree (*Celtis laevigata*) by the road Bill spotted small leaf spiderwort (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) and started carefully removing this easily broken plant whose fragments with a leaf or root node regenerate. This reproductive strategy enables it to crowd out native plants in bands where it is the only plant. These understory monocultures inhibit growth of tree seedlings of the upper story, so over time the landscape changes. We then walked down the drive, with Bill encouraging me to pull up the chinaberry saplings (*Melia azedarach*) I spotted on the way. We entered the woods by the new meeting for worship in nature area and headed down the remnants of the old road toward the creek, but when we arrived the heavens opened and we decided to call it a day.

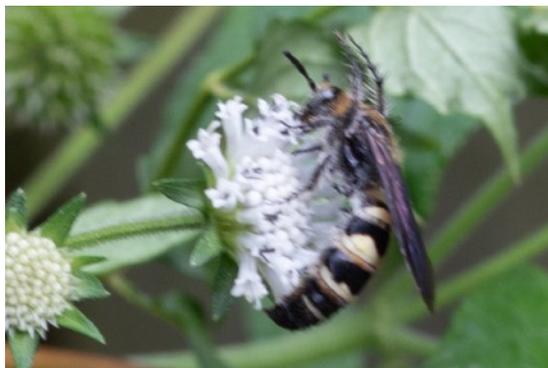
On Thursday, we wore rubber boots for walking in the mud. We entered the woods by the Chickasaw plum again but headed east toward the front retention basin, seeking a high water way to skirt around the pond area, so we moved closer to the split rail fence, went between the split rail fence and the grandfather oak, and passed the nearby sparkleberry tree with white lichen with green edges standing out on its red-brown bark. We encountered palm trees and palmettos



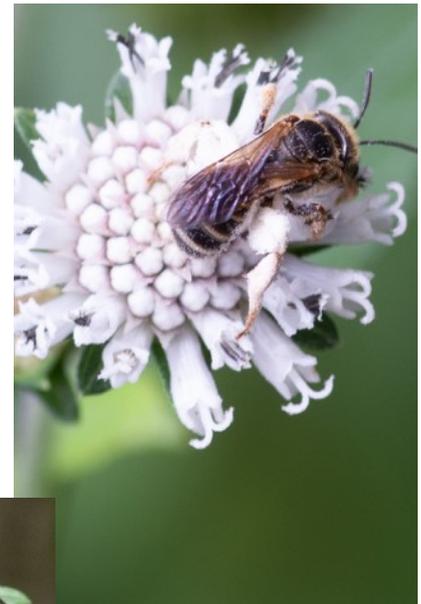
Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) blossoms in front of the library. Since then there were two monarch caterpillars on this plant. The question is; will they manage to pupate, or will they run out of milkweed first?

and a smilax vine as big around as my thumb before we intersected a path leading up to the berm on the western side of the front retention basin. We decided that the path on its top would serve to fill the final missing piece to our high water path, and checked the plants nearby as we ended our walk.

We are working to make the woods a better place for the creatures that live there and the people who visit. We welcome you to visit the Quaker woods



Snow squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*), also known as salt and pepper bush, is popular with many pollinators. These were taken on plants along the fence behind the worship room.



**Queries for the Eighth Month:**

Do we keep to simplicity and moderation in speech, manner of living, and vocation? ■ Do we make time in our day for silence, solitude, spiritual reflection, and the growth of our inner life? ■ Do we remind ourselves each day of our connections with people, other creatures, and all that sustains life? ■ Are we ready to live in the Spirit that heals estrangements that may arise from resentment, nagging fears, and alienation from others? ■ Do we listen to others, even beyond words, being sensitive to their personal needs and difficulties? ■ Are we free from the use of judicial oaths, thus affirming that our statement is only part of our usual integrity of speech? ■ Do we regard our possessions as given to us in trust, and do we part with them freely for the needs of others? ■ Are we careful to keep our jobs and social activities from absorbing time and energy that need to be given to spiritual growth and service to others? ■ Do we stay tender and open to the leadings of the Spirit?

**Advices for the Eighth Month:**

Use your capabilities and possessions as God's gifts entrusted to us to share with others in humility, courtesy, and affection. ■ Accept and encourage the creativity in others. ■ When we have a choice of employment, choose that which gives the fullest opportunity for the use of our talents in the service of others. ■ Be willing to seek and be faithful to God's will. Remember that we are all one in God.

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