

Tenth Month, 2018

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

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

www.gainesvillequakers.org

Our real journey in life is interior. It is a matter of growth, deepening, and an ever greater surrender to the creative action of love and grace in our hearts.

Thomas Merton

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

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

Every Tuesday: 5:30 pm Tai Chi with Arun

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

Sunday, October 7

9:30 am Library committee

9:30 am Meetinghouse committee

1:00 pm Forum

Tuesday, October 9

12:00 pm Friendly Lunch - at the Meeting House

Saturday, October 13

9:00–11:30 The local chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society visits the meetinghouse grounds.

Sunday, October 14

1:00 pm Meeting for Worship for Business

Sunday, October 21

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee

12:45 pm Earthcare Committee

Wednesday, October 21

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

Friday, October 26

Deadline for Agenda Items for November Meeting with a Concern for Business

Sunday, October 28

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee

1:00 pm Biblical and Spiritual Explorations

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

Foundations of Framing Workshop

The Gainesville Quaker Meeting's **Foundations of Framing Workshop** held was held on Saturday, September 22. The twelve participants included meeting members, and several individuals from the community at large. Personal goals ranged from being able to converse with family members, to effectively communicating about important issues with the public and government leaders. In the morning session, through the interactive presentation, discussion, and activities, attendees found how positive language, vision and ideas can change how an individual experiences the world. Questions, discussion, and energy continued through the lunch break and into the afternoon session, when participants created personal issue statements that effectively communicated non-partisan, progressive values. Attendees related having a greater understanding and awareness, and feeling more positive, hopeful, and empowered with new skills and tools use in their communities and work. Certificates and training workshop materials (everything that was used in the workshop) will be sent out shortly, as well as additional resources that were requested by many.

News From the EarthCare Committee

At the September meeting of the Earthcare Committee, ideas were shared ideas on how to live more lightly on the earth. Jean showed the wax paper and silicone bags she used in place of ziplock bags in July as she had pledged to do. She shared information on the Lint LUV-R Washing Machine Discharge Filter from Environmental Enhancements which screens out microfibers from your laundry. These fibers are a significant source of pollution in the ocean and the synthetic fibers are especially harmful to sea life. Gail shared a variety of easy to carry bags to use in place of single use plastic. She also addressed the redundant packaging so familiar to all of us with alternate suggestions, especially for cleaning products. Shawna said the Center for Disease Control no longer recommends germicides (e.g. hand sanitizer) since they are ineffective.

SEYM Half-Yearly Meeting

SEYM Half-Yearly Meeting will be Thanksgiving Weekend (November 22 - 25) at Wekiwa Springs State Park. This is a fun, laid-back weekend filled with nature type activities and plenty of time for walks in the woods, talking, meditating, writing or whatever. Housing is in heated cabins. Food is prepared communally. Registration opens October 4 on the SEYM website: <http://seymquakers.org/news-events/half-yearly-meeting/>.

Florida Native Plant Society — walk in our Quaker woods

The Paynes Prairie chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is having a “yard walk” in our grounds from 9:30 to 11:00 am on Saturday October 13. We are looking forward to hearing reactions and suggestions for its development. We invite meeting members to join us.

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

September 23, 2018

We squeezed our walk between lunch and Bible study. I let Bill know I was ready, so he started getting out his new lens and flash attachment for close-up pictures. During his preparation, I checked out the area by the door into the meeting for worship room, noting that the soil was fluffy after having dried out after weeks of plentiful rain. When I went back to meet Bill, he wasn't visible, so I headed out to the woods hoping to catch up with him. I walked past the meeting for worship area where he has been filling hollows in one of the benches with wood putty in preparation for painting and went to the ditch where it crosses from Shir Shalom to our property. There was a small pool of water in the ditch but looking south, most of the ditch was dry.

Then I walked back toward the meetinghouse and found Bill crouching down to photograph a small flower in the utility strip near the butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) with an upward pointing seedpod of substantial size relative to the size of the plant. All five of the milkweeds we planted are still alive, though most have been heavily attacked by caterpillars.

As we walked along the drive toward the woods, we admired the black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) sprawling on the slope below the ramp, and the soil-holding power of a patch of straggler daisy/horseherb (*Calyptocarpus vialis*) that anchored a mound of dirt on the curb below the



Black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

worst place on the slope for erosion. Straggler daisy is not native in Florida, but is native in parts of southern Texas. Further along I showed Bill a white crownbeard (*Verbesina virginica*) that was lying on the ground with a cluster of flowers by the “Do not mow: Wildflowers” sign. I thought it had been knocked down, but Bill said it may have simply fallen, given how soft the

aerated ground was. It seemed to be living quite comfortably in its new recumbent position.

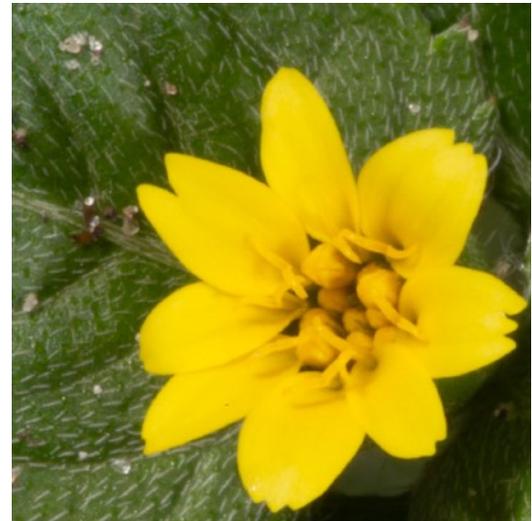
We continued toward the woods, noting in passing that the back retention pond was dry after weeks with standing water. Bill picked up the trunk of a small downed tree from the opposite parking bay and dragged it into the woods to add to the brush berms he has been constructing to slow overflow from the ditch. After he dropped the trunk in place, we continued to the creek, where we observed the stabilizing Fakahatchee or Eastern

Gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) and Dropseed grass (*Sporobolus sp.*) were flourishing as was the non-native rose glory bower (*Clerodendrum bungei*) which Bill plans to remove. As I prepared to return to the meetinghouse for Bible study, Bill pointed out the bright red flower of tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*).

On a busy day we pieced together time for a peaceful walk in the woods. Do you find time for yourself and your friends, even if it comes in bits and pieces?



Straggler daisy (*Calyptracarpus vialis*). Below, closeup of flower. This will need to be watched: it is native to Mexico and south Texas, and may become invasive.



Unwanted plant of the month: Mexican petunia (*Ruellia simplex*)

This attractive plant puts out numerous seeds; it also spreads by underground rhizomes which make very difficult to control.

Sterile varieties are available—Please use them if you want to grow it.



tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*)

Queries for the Tenth Month:

How do Friends meet our responsibilities to the community and the world? ■ Do we seek to transform the world with our loving spirit? Do we take an active interest in the social and economic conditions of our community? ■ Have we objectively considered the causes of discrimination, and are we ready to abandon old prejudices and think anew? ■ Do we as individuals and as a meeting do all in our power to end governmental, social, economic, and educational injustices in our community and to create equal opportunity for all? ■ How do we as individuals and as a meeting promote the welfare of those in need and work to secure a just distribution of the world's resources? ■ What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to understand and remove the causes of war and violence and to develop the conditions and institutions of peace? ■ Do we understand the causes of social ills, and work toward their removal.

Advices for the Tenth Month:

Be not content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert, sensitive, and questioning mind. ■ Understand and maintain Friends' witness for truth, simplicity, and nonviolence, holding up your personal life to these testimonies. ■ Encourage inclusiveness, and discourage discrimination. Friends' belief in that of God in everyone should lead to reverence for all life and to personal integrity. Encourage all efforts to overcome prejudices and antagonisms. ■ Cherish diversity. ■ Aid and comfort those afflicted or in prison that they may rebuild their lives. ■ Work for the abolition of the death penalty. ■ Let the way that we live contribute to the realization of a peaceable kingdom on earth.

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