

FRIENDS OF THE GARDENS

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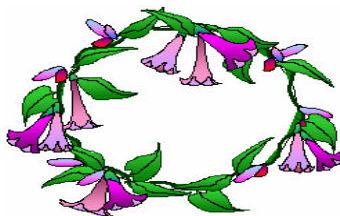
LIAISONS

Dr. Mack Thetford, Univer-
sity of Florida, Associate
Professor of Environmental
Horticulture. Coordinator of
the Milton Gardens

Dr. Jamie Gibson, University
of Florida, Assistant Professor
of Environmental Horticul-
ture. Assistant Coordinator of
the Milton Gardens

Mrs. Amy Compton
Pensacola Junior College
Assistant Professor

Lindsey Mullinax, UF-Milton
Undergraduate-Senior



ENCHANTED GARDENS OF THE RENAISSANCE

*Line, Jacques-Edouard's Student
Ecole des Beaux Arts, Lausanne. (1973-1978)*

Since man has existed, and, one might almost say, before man existed, there have been gardens.

I will refer only to the Garden of Eden which was, after all, the place in which man was born. It existed even before Adam and Eve came into the picture.

One has heard of the gardens of Semiramis and the famous Hanging Gardens of Babylon. There are traces of an Egyptian Pharaoh's garden. It was the one designed by the Pharaoh Tutmosis III within the temple complex at Karnak.

More recently, literature speaks of the splendors of the gardens of the Tivoli patrons, contemporaries of the emperor Nero. From a point of view of taste, they were considered to be the grandest, most beautiful and noblest that could be imagined. This caused a jealous Nero to have even more beautiful ones designed. They adorned the Domus Aurea. They were located under the present day parking lot at the Colosseum.

You have certainly heard of the gardens that the Empress Theodora had designed for her husband, Justinian, in Byzantium.

The monastery gardens of our grand 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries were the preferred resting places of the Virgin. Known as Ortus Conclusus, the enclosed garden sheltered the miracle of the incarnation itself.

Even more recently, the gardens at Versailles, Schonbrun, Charlottenburg and Nuremberg were high points of garden art. As you have probably noticed, I have only spoken about Western gardens. I have omitted those of China, Japan and Moghul India.

Wherever man exists, he finds the need to redesign, to recreate the world. A more beautiful world, purer, sweeter smelling and more colorful. A garden is probably the spot where the hopes for civilization are best captured. In fact, man defines himself by his garden.

A garden's purpose changes from place to place, from civilization to civilization.

There are gardens in which to grow flowers, such as ours, as well as that of Voltaire's Candide.

There are parks — Versailles is a beautiful example of this.

There are gardens in which to hunt. Outside Naples, don't pass up the chance to visit the castle in Caserta, whose fabulous park served mainly as a hunting ground.

There are gardens in which to meditate. This is true for most Japanese gardens: Zen monastery gardens.

There are gardens which must be contemplated as works of art. This is true for the gardens of Classical China, notably those in Suzhou.

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The foregoing is an excerpt of an article from the Internet. J.-E Berger Foundation— World Art Treasurers Project.

Our guest speaker, Dawn Johnson, will further explore Renaissance Gardening and perk your interest in this fascinating subject.

The Milton Garden Comings and Goings
April 2005

Bruce M. Furlow, Horticulture Facilities Manager
University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center

“To make a great garden, one must have a great idea or a great opportunity.”

Sir George Sitwell

The season of spectacular events is beginning at Milton Gardens. Already plants are beginning to express their peculiar and unique growth forms and structures. Indeed this is period when changes will be rapid and exciting.

In early February my entomology class had the great challenge of collecting soil samples around the garden and examining these samples for invertebrates that live there. What did they discover? There are countless creatures burrowing, digging, crawling, running and jumping throughout the garden. They are eating, decomposing, shredding, chomping, and sucking to their heart's delight. The point is the garden is not just waking up after a winter's nap but it has been a busy place throughout the winter and will become busier.

Dr. Thetford's Annual and Perennial Gardening lab has adopted a large portion of the garden for a design project this spring. Each class member has been assigned an area within which to create a planting plan. Annuals, perennials and woody ornamentals which are presently growing in the greenhouses will be incorporated into each design. Volunteers will be given the opportunity of assisting the students in planting the selected materials in locations designated in each plan. Most of the clean up, weeding and mulching in the areas to be landscaped has been accomplished. Only the fun part of the process remains to be accomplished. It's a great time to be a volunteer. There are annuals, perennials and woodys waiting patiently in the greenhouse and on the production pads for the helping hand of the master gardener to put them in their new home. The shade garden needs a 'mite' more clearing and cleaning and it will be ready for design and landscaping.

There are not only thousands and thousands of feet in the garden making the soil fertile and the garden productive, but also ample tasks for the hands of gardeners to make it a place where plants and animals can thrive and where the beauty of spring and summer can blossom and bless the gardeners themselves. Come out on Monday mornings and help or make an appointment with the facilities manager for a time when it is convenient for you to contribute to the beautification of the community. We have more opportunities for you to contribute to plant production, assisting with making of signs and participating in the design of the trial garden and the new shade area. If you are willing to offer your horticulture talents we are willing to help design a volunteer program will use you talents and skills.

Come by soon and look at the many new Daffodils flowering in the garden and view the many other spring flowers beginning to show color throughout the garden.

“Gardens, scholars say, are the first sign of commitment to a community.”

Anne Raver

FACES IN THE GARDEN

An Indiana Hoosier by birth, Jeanne grew up in a farming community of north central Indiana. As with many of her classmates in school, she and her brother shared farm chores in the early morning before attending school. Milking by hand in the early hours of an Indiana winter is not for the faint of heart!

She is a graduate of Porter Business College and after graduation, served as an instructor for five years teaching shorthand and advanced dictation. From the mid 60's through the mid 80's, Jeanne worked for the Clowes Memorial Hall for the Performing Arts and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra retiring in 1985. After her retirement, and a difficult but successful treatment for breast cancer, Jeanne became a Master Gardener in Marion County

(Indianapolis) Indiana and her Class in 1988 became the founding class for the County.

Married to her husband, Blair, for nearly 30 years, they have four daughters, ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, all scattered throughout the United States. Efforts were made to place them in the garden spots around the world but that failed miserably. Blair served most of his business career with Marsh & McLennan, the insurance consulting firm, retiring as a Senior Vice President in 1994 after thirty-one years of service.

During their three-month retirement trip in early 1994, Jeanne and Blair traveled nearly ten thousand miles by car seeing large portions of the country from Indiana to Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana and Florida. After returning home, both agreed should there ever be a move from Indianapolis, the preferred destination would be the Emerald Coast of Florida. That is exactly what happened in April of 1995, one year later.

After being rudely greeted by Hurricanes Erin and Opal, Jeanne quickly became involved in the Santa Rosa County Master Gardener Association receiving her designation in 1996. Numerous projects were undertaken including serving as Project Coordinator for the "Milton Tropical Perennial Display Gardens" under the direction of Dr. Rick Schoellhorn. Many volunteer hours have been spent at both the old and the new "Panhandle Butterfly House" among others. Jeanne is currently on the Board of the "Friends of the Gardens" under the leadership of Dr. Mack Thetford.



Jeanne Blage, Garden Volunteer
and FOG Board Member

Jeanne Blage was the first volunteer to head the Project then known as the "Demonstration Gardens" under the direction of Dr. Rick Schoellhorn. Jeanne and her husband, Blair, once celebrated their anniversary in the gardens with an elaborate picnic for the volunteers. Their enthusiasm was contagious! Anne Grove

A FEW WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE MILTON GARDENS

As I write this article, I think of all the progress the "Friends" has made over the past year! We had a great year of organization growth, volunteerism and program development and in spite of our plant losses in the gardens as a result of Ivan, we had an opportunity to plant a few new plants for the public to enjoy. This brings me to the real subject of this article. I am looking for input from you on design ideas for the Milton Gardens. The "Friends" have a list of several plant collections we would like to add to the garden and we have some planting space to design. While I may have a few ideas on circulation paths that I want to maintain, I want to work with your ideas to develop more planting areas in the garden.

So what are some of the ideas you have shared that need to be developed? Remember our organizational meeting where we asked for input? Well, you suggested a rose garden, daylily collection, native shrubs and trees, bulbs, a shade garden, the children's garden and a fern garden to name a few. Now it is time to step forward and help to design these elements into the gardens. We want to create a design team to work with me to incorporate your ideas into the overall design. Please email me at Thetford@ufl.edu and let me know of your interest in participating on the design team for the Milton Gardens.

by Dr. Mack Thetford

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lately, I have had to spend some time going to and from the hospital and it made me think about the health of our organization. I tried to take the pulse of the Friends and I find it strong! As with any living, growing, active organism, this organization needs the basics of food, rest and exercise.

We tried to give you food for thought by offering you educational opportunities that relate in some way to gardening and the outdoors. This past quarter we sponsored our second Landscape Design Study Course. Our presenters were a diverse group of Landscape Architects, businessmen, volunteers and historians. The 24 students studied a myriad of topics dealing with hardscape, plant materials, landscape design and historic preservation. Our first course in the Gardening study featured dynamic presenters who were so good they may be up for sainthood! Thanks to Dr. Thetford, Dr. Gibson, Amy Compton and Libbie Johnson for such a thorough study in Soils, Botany, Propagation and Containers.

We offered you a relaxing weekend of beauty at the 8th annual Emerald Coast Flower and Garden Festival. The deluge of over 16 inches of rain on Friday did not dampen the spirits of hardy, seasoned plant shoppers and vendors. As this was our first opportunity to sponsor the festival, we are tickled with the profits earned which will all go toward UF scholarships in Environmental Horticulture. The festival also gave us an opportunity to introduce new and prospective members to our mission and goals. It can only get bigger and better in the coming years with your help!

Lastly, we want to exercise the creative mind by offering you a hands-on workshop in growing, cleaning and crafting with gourds grown in our own, beautiful garden. Mark your calendars for the afternoon of June 9 and sign up early for this unique class. The cost is \$20 and flyers will be available at the general meeting and from the web site. If you need more exercise of the mind or body, come join us each Monday morning in the garden for volunteer workdays.

The events of the recent past make me more hopeful about the future of the Friends of the Gardens organization. We plan to continue to offer educational opportunities, workshops and programs. The subsequent funds generated help to support our garden and the UF and PJC students. Please take advantage of the benefits and opportunities offered to members and come join us. The future of our organization looks bright. By Tina Tuttle

FESTIVAL FLOURISHES IN SPITE OF 16 INCHES OF RAIN

Yes, Friday afternoon, the weather cleared up enough that there were eager shoppers out plant-hunting at the booths of the six or so brave (and very wet) vendors who set up in spite of heavy downpours! Most of the more than 40 vendors waited until early on Saturday to set out their plants and wares. Saturday was glorious, and the plant buyers were out in droves ... shoulder to shoulder they vied for antique roses, daylilies, small trees to replace those lost to Ivan, bedding plants, herbs, Bonsai, fertilizer, hanging baskets and more. It is estimated that the crowd on Saturday was at least 5 thousand, if not more. Each of the vendors reported very good sales. While it may have seemed that there were not as many vendors this year, what we were "missing" were those wonderful folks with garden-related items: rakes, gloves, hats, hangers, containers, hoses, garden art and the like. We did have several new plant vendors, however, and they are already asking for their 2006 contracts!

In the end, the Friends of the gardens made \$4,050.00. After paying for Festival insurance, security police, and rental of four golf carts, we will have nearly \$3,500.00 for our scholarship purposes. I believe this was a good step for the Friends of the Gardens (to take over the sponsorship of the Festival); enabling us to raise money for scholarships, widen community awareness of the Friends' organization, increase memberships, advertise our workshops and classes, and to allow the public easy access to a broad spectrum of plants ... sort of "one-stop-shopping" for the rebuilding and beautifying of their yards, gardens and landscapes.

It further strengthened our association with local Garden Clubs, nationally recognized plant societies (Hemerocallis, Bonsai, Camellia, Rose and Bromeliad, etc.) and the Master Gardener Association of both Santa Rosa and Escambia counties. In allowing non-profit groups to come as vendors, without charge, we help the ARCs of both counties, the Nature Conservancy, Audubon and many others who are so deserving.

Mark your calendars. We will be back, March 31—April 2, 2006 ... we'll see you there.

Gina Jogan, Festival Chairman

Growing Something New in Northwest Florida

Mailing address:
Friends of the Gardens
P.O. Box 221
Milton, FL 32572
Telephone: 850-983-5216

Check out our website
[Http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/
WFREC/miltongardens.htm](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/WFREC/miltongardens.htm)

Volunteer workers are always needed in the gardens. Your help will be most welcome and you will reap the rewards of learning more every time you come. On these beautiful spring days, what better place could there be! Monday mornings from 8:00 A.M. For more information, please call 983-5216 Ext 122

HELLO TO ALL FRIENDS OF THE GARDENS!

Are you looking for an opportunity to become more involved with this budding organization? Are you curious just how and where your membership donation is being used? Do you like being out in the garden and seeing the beauty that is there for all to enjoy? If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, perhaps you would like to join us on Thursday, April 14, 2005, at 4:30 P.M. to take a tour of the garden with some Friends on the PJC Milton Campus. Dr. Mack Thetford, Friends Advisor and Head of the Trial and Research Garden, will lead a tour to train and inform all in attendance about the history, present and future plans of the garden design and development. Anyone wishing to become a docent of the gardens and lead tours for various local organizations will enjoy this informative field experience. As an added incentive to encourage you to join us on this afternoon, you will be treated to a light supper at 6 P.M. in the student activity center and invited to stay and attend the General Membership meeting and program.

So, come and join us on what is sure to be a delightful and educational tour of your garden! If you need more information, please call 983-5216. By Tina Tuttle

GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 8 a.m. TO 1 p.m.

We will be calling for volunteers from schools, organization, the public sector and businesses throughout Santa Rosa County to help clean up litter (not construction or yard debris) from public areas and easements.

Operations will be staged at each of Santa Rosa County's six high schools. Volunteers will be asked to sign up in advance to receive the proper bags for collection of litter in advance. There will not be public dumping at each location. There will be recognition and incentives for organizations that make the biggest impact.

Let's take back pride in the natural beauty of Santa Rosa County. One day can make a big difference in cleaning up litter, but restoring pride is endless.

For more information, please contact rodney@suttonesi.com

Sponsored by Clean Community Solid Waste Committee

FOG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 14	Docent Volunteer Training in the garden	4:30 P.M.
April 14	GENERAL MEETING 6PM Dinner— 6:30 PM Business meeting	Program 7:00 P.M.
April 18	Executive Board Meeting	1:00 P.M.
April 23	Santa Rosa County-wide Earth Day Clean Up	8:00 A.M.
May 14	Escambia County Master Gardeners Plant Festival	8:00 A.M.—1PM
May 23	Executive Board Meeting	1:00 P.M.
May 30	Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs Patriotic Flower show	1:00 P.M.
June 1—3	Gardening and Design Seminar, Gainesville, MG hours, classes	
June 9	Gourd Workshop (pre-registration required)	2:00 -5 P.M.
June 9	GENERAL MEETING 6PM Dinner—6:30 P.M. Business meeting	Program 7:00 P.M.