

# FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

## WASHINGTON OAKS GARDENS STATE PARK

editor, Cecile Giguere

January/February 2009

### *The view from my branch...* Robert Bouck, President

My thanks to all of you who spent numerous hours volunteering to assure the success of the Holiday Tea with Mrs. Claus and Holiday in the Gardens. As major fund raisers for the Friends, I am happy to report that we netted more than \$3,000 on the two events. Also, our thanks to the Park Staff and Park Hosts for all of their efforts in making the Park a Holiday Wonderland.

February is a busy month for the Friends; we will have a Membership Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting at the new Whitney Lab, overlooking the ICW, on the 18th. I want to encourage each of you to come and join us for an interesting and fun filled evening. We will begin with a wine social at 6:00 pm, followed by an interesting program by local historian and author Bill Ryan. Bring a friend that may want to become a "Friend". We have many future volunteer opportunities especially with the new Gift/Garden Shop that is in progress.

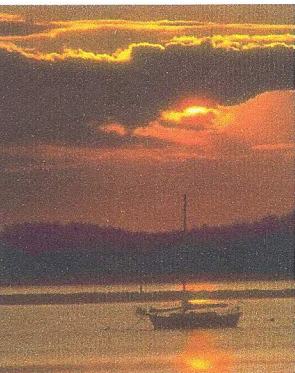
We will celebrate Valentines Day with our Annual Citrus Harvest Festival and Second Saturday Sweetheart Plant Sale on the 14th from 10 to 3.

Volunteers and staff are making good progress with the renovation of the Log Cabin, plumbing, electrical and concrete work are well under way. Construction of the ADA access ramp will begin shortly. We expect to be fully operational by Earth Day in April.

Special kudos to the Second Saturday Plant Sellers, their first ever clearance sale netted \$2,900. Earth Day Celebration is set for April 18th and 19th. Committees will begin meeting soon. We will need a lot of volunteers, so when you are called say "yes"!

## *Friends Annual Meeting February 18 at Whitney Labs*

The annual meeting of the Friends of Washington Oaks Gardens State Park will be held on Wednesday, February 18th, at the wonderful new facility at Whitney Lab on Florida's beautiful intracoastal waterway, Rt A1A across from Marineland. We will begin at 6:00 PM with a light supper/social hour with the meeting at 7:00.



Our guest speaker will be Bill Ryan, author and history researcher. Bill will be speaking about his latest book "I am Grey Eyes" which deals with Florida's early history thru the eyes of a real Seminole Indian. Bill has done much research on Old King's Road and has written a book "The Search for Old King's Road" from which "Grey Eyes" grew.

The membership will then elect candidates to the new Board of Directors. Members whose term expires are Liz Morrison, Vice President and Don Denby, Finance. Retiring is Sharon Searles. The nominating committee recommends the following candidates, Liz Morrison, Don Denby and Cecile Giguere. There will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor. Each candidate will be introduced and give a brief summary of his/her background. After the general election, the new board will have a short meeting to elect the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Members are welcome to bring a friend that may have the potential of joining the FRIENDS of Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. We would love to grow our membership as the bigger we get, the more fun we have--

