

Friends of Washington Oaks

Gardens State Park, Inc.

July/August 2009



2009-2010 Board Members

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Cecile Giguere, Newsletter
Diane Johnson, Publicity
Liz Morrison, Workshops



The view from my branch, Bob Bouck, President

Let's talk budgets, UGH! Your BOD wants you to know that the allocation of funds is a major responsibility they share and give careful consideration to. The Friends fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th. This past year we had income of \$51,200 and expenses of \$62,500, the difference was covered by prior year reserves. Major income sources are our Special Events and Plant Sales. The major expenditure of \$22,000 was for renovation of the Mr. Young's Office to a Friends Gift Shop and workroom.

The BOD has recently approved a current fiscal year budget that anticipates income of \$54,150 and expenses of \$68,875. The difference is to be covered by reserve funds of \$45,000 of which \$28,000 has been designated for the restoration of the Green House.

Major increases in expenses are seen as investments for the future benefit of the Park, Visitors and Friends. A budget of \$7,000 should complete the renovation of the Gift Shop and workroom. A net budget of \$7,500 is allocated to increase the inventory for the Gift Shop. An allocation of \$5,500 is designated for Gateway Signage in anticipation that the Historic District Nomination will be accepted. Additionally, \$2,000 has been budgeted for an inauguration event of the Historic District and a Fund Campaign.

Sufficient funds have been allocated to continue our support and funding of Special Events, Workshops and cover Administrative Expenses.

The Board of Directors is committed to the protection, preservation, promotion and interpretation of Washington Oaks Gardens State Park and we believe that approval of the Fiscal 2009 - 2010 Budget is our statement to support this commitment.

Friends of Washington Oaks Summary of Accomplishments: July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

1. The renovation of Mr. Young's Office to an ADA accessible Friends Gift Shop, with lots of hard work and efforts from Staff, Volunteers and Friends, is nearly complete. Additional longtime gains were made with the enclosure of the citrus shed to create a Garden item area and a Friends workroom. Future Concession Sales will be greatly enhanced with the new preparation areas and storage. Treasurer and Membership Chairs will gain needed workspace as well as providing sufficient storage and work area for merchandise.
2. The Board of Directors took a proactive position with contacts to the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation, prompting the nomination of the Washington Oaks Historic District to be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register with continuing dialogue.
3. Initiated Salt Water Workshops for Adults and continued the Kid's Workshops, nearly doubling participation, interest and income.
4. Reestablished Holidays in The Gardens as a daytime event with expanded activities in addition to annual Tea with Mrs. Claus, netting \$3,000.
5. We netted \$10,000 with monthly Second Saturday Plant Sales in conjunction with annual the October Herbs in the Gardens and the February Citrus Festival, additionally sponsoring workshops on Camellias in November and Bromeliads in May.
6. Expanded Sponsorships for our the Annual Earth Day Celebration in April netting over \$6,500 with sponsors, gate receipts, sales of baked goods, refreshments, citrus, Friends Merchandise, plants, and Chance Drawings
7. Continued to published bi-monthly Newsletter and maintained and updated with a new look on our WEB site washingtonoaks.org.

