

PEAR

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PEARLS

FALL 2019

WWW.PEARASSOC.ORG

Peg Reminisces

Recently, on a visit to Pear Park Preserve, my 23-year-old granddaughter, who was visiting from Missouri, mentioned a memory of herself as a young girl watering the small newly planted scrub oaks in the restoration area, and was now amazed at how much they had grown over the years. Other grandchildren had helped with weeding and watering over the years, as well.

It made me think back to the beginning of my journey with Pear and how I became involved after my friend Peg Lindsay invited me to a Pear Association meeting in 2002. I was taken in by the determination of a group of concerned citizens to protect and preserve this wonderful property for passive recreation and as a sanctuary for wildlife.

These citizens included previous UF/IFAS researchers who had worked on the property for many years and were now moving out; members of local environmental groups such as Lake Beautyberry Florida Native Plant chapter, Oklawaha Valley Audubon chapter and local residents from surrounding communities.

Lake County Parks and Trails, with the blessing of the state, was given stewardship of the property and has done a wonderful job managing the park to please those who love the serenity of this area, with its wide diversity of native plants and the wildlife that depend on them.

But going back to the beginning of Pear in the late 90's, the Pear Association and volunteers were given permission to plan and execute, in cooperation with Parks and Trails, some of the goals of the original master plan.

We had much to learn though. I have to laugh at my initial positive reaction to the beauty of fields of exotic invasives such as Natal Grass, with its

pretty pink and white fluffy tops that glowed in the sun. Peg and I did photo shoots of each other using it as our magnificent backdrop (lol). But we all learned as we went, thanks to mentors who knew their "stuff".

And the volunteers-oh my! Who knew that so many would turn out to work so hard on the various projects which included river trail and expanding river corridor, scrub restoration area, native plant demonstration gardens, meadow restoration and trail, heritage memorial grove and nature center. Boy Scout troops, garden clubs and even county commissioners showed up to lend a hand and show their support.

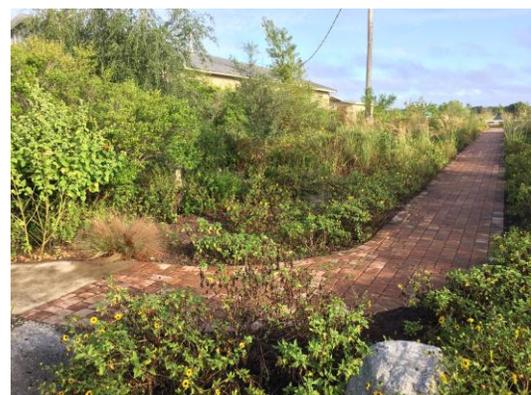
In the meantime, the county has added many attractive and interesting features, such as the Overlook pavilion (which we affectionately refer to as Pear Peak), the unique and educational Bird and Wetland Observation area, and many educational kiosks.

More recently, beautiful native plant landscaping has been added around the nature center and more improvements are in the works. Also, the "front 50", adjacent to HWY 27, includes the more active areas such as the popular dog park, ball fields, pickleball, children's playground, etc.

Many of our great volunteers have come and gone, some have, sadly, passed on; but a small group continues every Tuesday morning to maintain the native demonstration gardens. It's true that we are all slowing down but we are thankful and proud that we have done our part to contribute to adding to the diversity of native plants and wildlife at Pear, and help to create a wonderful haven for visitors to come and take it all in.

Peg Urban

Presenting A Journey





Early Planning with County



County Presents Conceptual Plan

The work developing PEAR Park began in the late 1990's. The pictures present a small portion of the projects undertaken by many volunteers. The man-

agement from the start has been Lake County Parks and Trails Division. Bobby Bonilla has guided the development and growth of facilities making PEAR the gem of Lake County. The Pear Association owes a debt of gratitude to all who assisted with those early efforts; those days of planting trees and developing Demonstration Gardens. We salute the many volunteers for their dedication and work to make this possible.

But the task is not complete. Recently, additional paving enhances moving from place to place in the Reserve section of Pear. The Community Gardens are slated for an upgrade – a much anticipated improvement. Pear Association continues to administer this gardening effort – the only such amenity under Lake Parks and Trails. Thank you for supporting our grass roots volunteer efforts to bring this beautiful place here in the heart of Lake County.

**Pear Association Inc 2020
Membership/Renewal
Application**

Name _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 opp. email _____

Membership type Enclosed
 Single \$ 10 \$ _____
 Family \$ 15 \$ _____
 Support Organization \$40 \$ _____

Special interests and concerns

Skills & talents you offer

By signing this document I affirm that I am in agreement with the mission and purposes of Pear Association.

Signed _____
 Date _____

Annual Membership Campaign

Pear Association conducts an annual membership campaign each fall. The dollars received at this time are crucial to our efforts in maintaining the flower and fauna in our Demonstration Gardens, Butterfly Pavilion and Heritage Memorial Grove. Also, maintaining and upgrade of the Science and Nature Center. Our ongoing projects depend on the financial support of our members. Please consider this and return the membership form with your check to our post office address. Thank you.

Notice of Annual Meeting of Pear Association Inc
The Pear Association Inc a non-profit corporation will conduct its Annual Meeting on Dec. 16 at 2 pm in the Administration/Science & Nature Bldg at Pear Park. This meeting is open to the public.

Pear Assoc Inc

P O Box 424

Okahumpka, FL 34762

Palatlahaka Environmental & Agricultural Reserve Inc

President	Gary Salzman	323-6138
Vice President	Robert Putman	326-2045
Secretary	George Wolf	728-8956
Corresponding Sec	Sally Schulte	728-1446
Treasurer	Robert Putman	326-2045

Standing Committees

Budget	Robert Putman, Gene Bouley, George Wolf
Membership	George Wolf
Volunteers	Peg Urban

Other Committees

Butterfly & Demo Gardens	Peg Urban
Community Gardens	Gary Salzman
Gopher Tortoise	Lynn McGann
Heritage Memorial Grove	Gary Salzman
Historian	Robert Putman
Mowing	Hal Urban
Science & Nature Center	Gene Bouley

- We apologize that this issue has not reached the web until now.
- This edition was mailed to our regular people and you may enjoy it here on the web.
- As an aside, we will gladly accept your membership at any time.
 - Thank you.