The most powerful ministry is a wordless radiation of the love of God.

William Tabor

Hold in the Light: Hap Taylor, Anne and Phil Haisley, Connie and Tim Ray, Arnold and Amy 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 (Scheduled to begin in late August)

Tuesday, August 2
11:30 am Friendly Lunch - at the Meeting House  NO FRIENDLY LUNCH IN AUGUST

Sunday, August 7
9:30 am Library committee
9:30 am Meetinghouse committee

Sunday, August 14
12:45 pm Meeting for Worship for Business

Sunday, August 21
9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee
12:45 pm Earthcare Witness Committee – Field Trip to High Springs Museum

Wednesday, August 24
Deadline for newsletter items. Email to Bonnie Zimmer at gfquakernews@gmail.com

Sunday, August 28
1:00 pm Bible Study

The Ministry and Nurture Committee is responsible for organizing set-up and clean-up of food after Meeting for Worship. The list for committees responsible for set-up and clean-up is located on the bulletin board in the social room.
Sunday, August 21: Field Trip to High Springs Museum
The EarthCare Committee is sponsoring a field trip to the High Springs Museum. Car pools will leave the Meetinghouse at 12:45 pm. The High Springs Museum is currently hosting a Smithsonian traveling exhibit, *Water/Ways*, on water issues. The exhibit, especially meaningful during an era in which water is having a profound impact on American culture and life, examines water as an environmental necessity and important cultural element in today's world!

*Water/Ways* explores the endless motion of water on Earth’s surface, below ground, and in the atmosphere, and it illustrates its effect on landscape, settlement, migration, and even spirituality.

EarthCare News
Alachua County urged a plastic-free July, according to the Gainesville Sun.
In short, that means using no single-use plastic. Single-use plastic items include plastic bags, plastic straws, plastic bottles and takeout containers (cups).
A couple of months ago we watched a film about the city of Concord and the attempts to get single use plastic water bottles banned from sale within the city. We might use this opportunity to consider how we might lessen the use of single-use plastic.

Grow Gainesville
Grow Gainesville has held its meetings at our Meetinghouse on the 3rd Monday of every month since May.
The first meeting drew a surprisingly large attendance, and as some of you may have noticed, some changes have been made to the social room to accommodate having more people. By the second meeting, the First Day room had been designated as the official entrance (see photo), which reduces noise and traffic while Gary Arthur is finishing up his yoga class, and provides space to set up extra tables for name tags and handouts.
The library becomes a showcase of donated plants, books and other garden goodies, which find homes at the end of the night with people who have donated money to the group to help with rent. The extra traffic and attention to our bookshelves has brought up a few questions – among them, do we have a book on Betsy Ross and do we know her Quaker history? That was asked by Woody Blue, who is actually not a food grower, but who enjoys the meetings and brings a box to collect extra food from other members that gets donated to hungry people in Alachua County. She does this as a second generation of the late Pat Fitzpatrick’s Feed Every One campaign.
It's taken a few turns for the group to feel completely at home in our kitchen and familiar with the potluck flow, but they're getting the hang of it – and they compliment it often. (They love that we compost.) In July, they made homemade ice cream with mangos and bananas that someone brought back from South Florida.
Themes of each meeting differ: the first one featured a professor from UF talking about soil. The next meeting there was a mixup and someone pulled together a quick presentation on edible weeds. (Some smilax tastes just like asparagus. Some tastes terrible). The third meeting was billed as a "rectangle table discussion" (Faith Carr, the group's fearless leader, has quite a sense of humor). Just in the process of going around the room and introducing ourselves, an informative and warm conversation was had, and new friends were made. There were cautionary tales of broad leaf herbicides sprayed on hay and straw (that end up in manure), advice on edibles that trellis and could serve as a privacy screening, and plans for the next installment on the TV20 series that features members of the group: "What's Growing On?"

The next Grow Gainesville meeting is on August 15th at 7pm. If you're able to make it, bring a dish or donate a garden item – and don't forget to enter through the First Day room.

Institute for Learning in Retirement

The Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) is a part of the Road Scholar Program, formerly known as Elder Hostel. It is a local program based at Oak Hammock Retirement Center which makes available educational programs for a modest fee. The programs are divided into four 'semesters', each about 6 – 8 weeks in length. Most courses meet once a week and consist of a lecture by someone in a specific field of study. Most semesters include courses in conversational Spanish, understanding opera, film studies, a specific field of science, something on sociology or psychology, something on world travel, something on political issues, etc. For more information go to:  http://www.ilratoakhammock.org/

New from QuakerBooks:  A Sincere and Constant Love

This is the only collection of writings featuring epistles and doctrinal writings of the woman many have called 'the mother of Quakerism.' Selections include 'Women's Speaking Justified,' 'Some Ranters' Principles Answered,' 'The Mystery Letter,' 'A Testimony of Margaret Fell Concerning her Late Husband George Fox,' and 'Some of the Sayings of Margaret Fox a Little before her Departure out of this World.' An important book for any meeting library or any Friend interested in early Quakerism. This new second edition is a handsome and the typesetting more readable than the earlier version.
July 31, 2016

Today is the fifth First Day of the month, visitation Sunday, and Brad Stocker, co-clerk of SEYM Earthcare, was visiting from Miami Meeting and I had a chance to chat with him after meeting. So Bill had already wandered into the woods by the time I was ready to join him. I felt unprepared for the walk since I had no hat and no bucket to use in picking up trash but enjoyed myself nonetheless. As I walked out the driveway, I noticed movement by the salt and pepper bushes (Melanthera nivea) at the edge of the back retention basin, so I paused to see who was visiting and spotted a bee with a blue body, a tiny bee, a honey bee, and a bee with long wings and a long body.

Then I headed to the part of the creek just below where the ditch comes in. When I did not see Bill, I stepped into the mostly dry bed and walked around the corner to see Bill by the border with Shir Shalom. When I joined him he showed me seedling coonties (Zamia pumila) that sprouted from seeds he had tossed by the side of the ditch.

I encouraged Bill to return to the edge of the back retention basin to photograph the bees. While we were there he checked on the swamp milkweed (Asclepias perennis) he had planted near the bottom of the basin, and found that something had been eating its leaves, but no caterpillars or cocoons were visible.

Then we headed back to the creek, where we admired the healthy growth of the button bush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) at the edge of the creek where there had been one when we first bought the property. Since the water was low in the creek, we walked up it a ways looking for the four inch catfish that Bill had seen the day before. We saw that the aquatic milkweed Bill had planted along the bank was still blooming.

We set out across country toward the southwest corner of the property, noting that no additional tires had been left on the property. We wandered diagonally toward the meetinghouse, circled around the pond area to monitor the barriers Bill has placed to help preserve our stand of yellow stargrass (Hypoxis curtissii) and found they were working well. We walked the berm around the front retention pond, admired the growing longleaf pine, and noticed that the flowers observed...
two weeks before on the Hercules’ club (*Aralia spinosa*) had disappeared in our absence. We admired a newly flowering spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*) in the wildflower garden by the street.

The lack of water has stressed some of the plants we have added to the property and the Stokes asters (*Stokesia laevis*) have died, but our walks in the woods ease our minds and let us see again with the wonder of our childhood.

Invasive plant of the Month: Mexican petunia (*Ruellia simplex*) is a member of the Acanthus family Acanthaceae and is listed as a category I invasive by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. This means that it is a specie that is invading and disrupting native plant communities in Florida.

I have been watching it and hoping it was something else, as it likes to grow in places where I want to have plants which will hold the soil. But lately it has been flowering, and it has to go.

Above, male flowers of Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*). The inset is an enlargement of whatever is just to the left of it; I wonder if it is anything interesting. To the left are the female flowers which, as in the distant relative corn are on the lower part of the head.
Queries for the Eighth Month:

Do we keep to simplicity and moderation in speech, manner of living, and vocation?
■ Do we make time in our day for silence, solitude, spiritual reflection, and the growth of our inner life?
■ Do we remind ourselves each day of our connections with people, other creatures, and all that sustains life?
■ Are we ready to live in the Spirit that heals estrangements that may arise from resentment, nagging fears, and alienation from others?
■ Do we listen to others, even beyond words, being sensitive to their personal needs and difficulties?
■ Are we free from the use of judicial oaths, thus affirming that our statement is only part of our usual integrity of speech?
■ Do we regard our possessions as given to us in trust, and do we part with them freely for the needs of others?
■ Are we careful to keep our jobs and social activities from absorbing time and energy that need to be given to spiritual growth and service to others?
■ Do we stay tender and open to the leadings of the Spirit?

Advises for the Eighth Month:

Use your capabilities and possessions as God’s gifts entrusted to us to share with others in humility, courtesy, and affection.
■ Accept and encourage the creativity in others.
■ When we have a choice of employment, choose that which gives the fullest opportunity for the use of our talents in the service of others.
■ Be willing to seek and be faithful to God’s will. Remember that we are all one in God.