

# Pear Pearls

Spring 2010

[www.pearassoc.org](http://www.pearassoc.org)

Volume 7 Issue 1



## Ron & Barbara Plakke - The Perfect Team

Have you Googled anyone lately? The persons shown in our picture today are out there in cyberland with numerous items. The County of Lake in Florida and the Pear Park along with our Pear Association, not to mention The Florida Native Plant Society and the Florida Audubon Society are all shown with contributions by Ron Plakke. This retired college professor and his wife have been full participants in many programs while in Florida.

Ron has always been a student of the environment. His earliest publications were on the subject of animals like the prairie dog, the swift fox, and the North American opossum. Ron has done extensive research in various areas of small animals; his publications shared with others going back to the mid 1960's through the 1980's. He is

a continuing member of the American Society of Zoologists.

When the Plakke's moved to Florida it was a natural step to involvement with the Florida environment. This was quite different from other areas where they had lived – Colorado, Wisconsin. Ron joined with the Pear Association and in 1999 made a personal commitment to give ten years to working with our organization. He went back to the books and became familiar with wildlife and Florida Native trees and plants. His knowledge was shared with his retirement community where he served on the Board of Directors of their homeowners association.

Ron took on the responsibility of writing grant requests seeking funds to purchase trees and plants

( See Plakke page 2 )

## ( Plakke )

for our plan of restoration – a plan designed by Ron and others. All of the volunteers have much respect for Ron-his knowledge, his work ethic, dedication and perseverance-he has been a great role model for all of us who have participated in the restoration efforts over the years and working with him has been a pleasure.

The Plakke's celebrated 50 years of marriage recently; Barbara has been a great supporter of Ron's endeavors. She encouraged the Central Florida Women's Club to participate in developing the Butterfly Garden, and spent many hours personally in this effort. The beauty of Pear Park owes much to this great team and they will be missed as they return north to live near family.

The Pear Association is the recipient of a living legacy through the dedicated work of Ron and Barbara Plakke. We salute them for their many contributions to our organization, and to the larger area - Pear Park, Lake County's Regional Park.

## Heritage Grove

The Heritage Memorial Grove survived the cold days and nights over the past 2 months and fresh buds are already shooting out from the young trunks. The East Palatka Hollies were especially hardy and yielded many red berries, which provided food for birds frequenting the Park.

We have recently added a Sabal Palm, adding to the variety already memorializing or honoring several people. As these native trees grow to maturity, they will one day be a beautiful display of what Central Florida has to offer in magnificent and majestic vegetation.

Currently we have located a wider variety of trees to choose from (always native, of course), and there are many spots available for more trees. Why not visit PEAR and check out the Grove, located immediately to your left as you enter the park from University Drive. Then call for an application so that you may order a tree and memorial brick as a lasting tribute to someone or create a remembrance for a loved one or perhaps a special pet.

Please contact either Eileen Nichols at 352-323-9251 or Mary Remer at 352-365-0934.

## Palatlahaha Environmental & Agricultural Association, Inc.

### Officers

President	Peter Moeller	787-6230
Vice President	Mary Remer	365-0934
Secretary	Eleanor Hall	728-5754
Corr Sec	Sally Schulte	728-1446
Treasurer	Peg Lindsay	326-2045

### Standing Committees

Budget & Finance	Gary Salzman & George Wolf
Membership & Publicity	George Wolf
Nominating	Ed Schlachtenhaufen
Volunteers	Duane Hall & Lynn McGann Ed Schlachtenhaufen

### Other Committees

Xeriscape Garden	Jean Morse
Demonstration Garden	Peg Urban
Wildflowers	Peter Moeller
Mowing & Plowing	Hal Urban
Woodland Restoration	Mary Remer & Peg Urban
River & Perimeter Trails	Gene Bouley Ed Schlachtenhaufen
Canoe Launch & River	Gene Bouley Ed Schlachtenhaufen
Exercise Trail, Ball Fields	Tom Eicher Lake Parks & Trails
Special Events	Tom Eicher
Dog Park Liaison	Linda Ballard
Birds & Bat Houses	Bob Putman
Heritage Memorial Grove	Eileen Nichols
Grape Arbor	Ed Schlachtenhaufen Duane Hall
Science and Nature Center	Gene Bouley
Meadows Restoration	Peter Moeller
Community Gardens	Gary Salzman Ed Schlachtenhaufen
Historian	Bob Putman
Gopher Tortoise	Lynn McGann

## Pear Pearls

This newsletter is the publication of the PEAR Association Inc. It is issued twice each year and sent to all members and other friends of our organization. We conduct monthly meetings in the Administration Building in the Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 2:00 PM. The public is invited. Our officers are listed with phone numbers for any questions you have. Thank you.

George Wolf – Editor



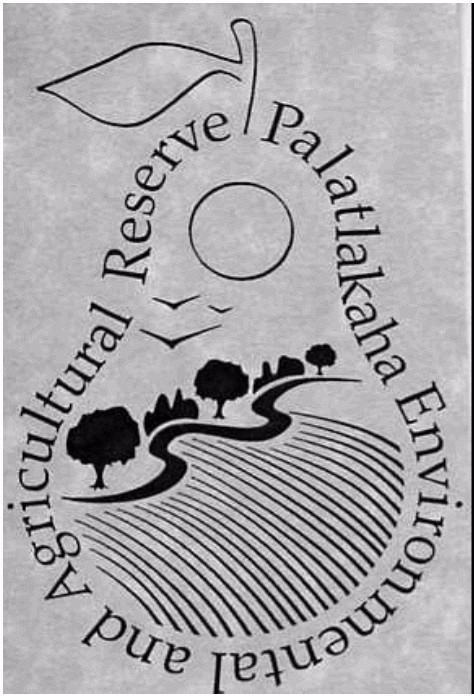
## **The Tuesday Morning Workers**

Pictured above are the core volunteers who have presented themselves each Tuesday morning to perform whatever tasks were required. Many gallon bottles of water were deposited on new plantings. Weeding selected areas often meant nursing a sore back. These faithful guys and gals came back week after week and did their part. The final hurrah was removing the scrub poles on March 16, 2010, marking the last nursery work for scrub plants. The trees and plants are now on their own.

Shown above left to right are:

Jane Weeden, Bob Putman, Nancy Griebel, Guy Konkle, Peg Urban, Larry Vancour, Carol Duguay, Russ Sass, Bobbi Richards, and Ron and Barb Plakke. A few other scrub regulars were busy with other duties and missed being in the photo. They were Hal Urban (took photo), Lynn McGann, Mary Remer, Ed Mohberg and Ed Schlachtenhaufen. Of course many others contributed a lot over the years, especially those who adopted plots and watered them on a weekly basis. Thank you all for your dedication and perseverance.

Pear Association  
P. O. Box 424  
Okahumpka, FL 34762



## What's Ahead?

Pear Park has completed its Scrub-jay habitat. A Scrub-jay workshop is planned at the park on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This event begins at 8 AM and is a joint effort of Lake County Parks and Trails and The Nature Conservancy. Pre-register with Cheryl Millet online [cmillet@tnc.org](mailto:cmillet@tnc.org). Another source of interest is our web site at [www.pearassoc.org](http://www.pearassoc.org). Links to the Lake County site present additional information on activities at Pear Park.

The Board of County Commissioners approved the contract for the entry road with turn lanes from SR 27 on April 6, 2010. Hopefully, the work will be completed by August 2010. Also, bids are being evaluated for the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramp and railing with landscaping to the observation overlook. These will be major additions to Pear Park. The Pear Association eagerly awaits these improvements which will showcase Pear Park as Lake County's Premier Regional park.