



Volume XXIII No. 7

NEWSLETTER

March 2009

PRESIDENT'S GREETING

Dear Women of Sugarmill Woods,

With the harsh weather and severe economic climate we have experienced in recent months, it would not be an exaggeration to say in the words of John Steinbeck that this has been "the winter of our discontent". Let's hope a balmy spring will soon warm our hearts and revive our spirits.

Our in-house website has been launched and we invite you to visit womenofsugarmillwoods.com. Please note our address change from .org. We hope you will enjoy the colorful presentation and various pages of news, events, calendar, photo gallery, forms, newsletters past and present, and Board of Directors. Many thanks to the website team who made it possible: Diane Fudge (Project Leader), Donna Rayne, Pat O'Brien, Cora Ziegler, and yours truly.

Our 13th Annual "School"astic Classic Golf Tournament on February 23 at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club was a big hit. The weather held up for 128 women who played, dined, and loved their gifts and prizes. Our April newsletter will have more detail and photos. Congratulations to Donna Rayne, Sandy Partin, Vicki Budd, Linda Swart, Pat O'Brien and Joyce Englebrecth for a job well done.

In just a few days, March 6 and 7, the WSW Trash and Treasure Sale, our last fundraiser of the year, will take place at the Crystal Square Plaza. Under the leadership of Sally Fieseler, Nancy Pearson and Linda Swart, we know it will be a great one so make sure to stop by and look for your treasure!

March is WSW Member Appreciation Month which we will mark at our luncheon meeting on March 23 at the Glen Lakes Country Club. All you "green thumbs" will enjoy hearing about growing a Florida-friendly garden and we look forwards to expressing our appreciation to you all, Wonderful Women, who give so much to our club and are the heart of our endeavors.

Cordially,
Francesca Paar, President 2008-2009

Board Briefs

The Board voted to raise the price of Military Cards to \$12.00 to reflect increased costs at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club. The increase will be effective at the next session on March 16. WSW membership dues will remain at \$25.00 for 2009-10.

The WSW Clubhouse Steering Committee, chaired by Joyce Rasmussen, held its first meeting and is preparing a questionnaire for consideration by the membership in April.

**YOUR FLORIDA GARDEN
AND
MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**

March 23, Glen Lakes Country Club
Doors open at 11:30, lunch at 12:00 Noon

The WSW Board of Directors welcomes all our WONDERFUL women to an appreciation lunch featuring a presentation by the University of Florida Extension Service on how to help our gardens grow. Debbe Hooper and Audrey Durr will be on hand to tell us about the growing and maintaining of Florida-friendly plants and flowers. CD's will be given out with examples from SMW Yards and Neighborhoods program. Our thanks to Warren Blodgett of the Sugarmill Woods Civic Association for arranging this delightful program for the Wonderful Women of Sugarmill Woods.

MENU

Lobster Gazpacho

1. Southwestern Quiche, Roasted Potatoes, Asparagus with Hollandaise Sauce
 2. Tropical Fruit Salad with Pineapple Dressing
- Dessert: Chocolate Torte with Crème Anglaise

Please indicate your menu choice (#1 or #2) by writing it on you check for \$16.00 per person to the Women of Sugarmill Woods. Place your check (no envelopes please) in the box marked "luncheons" in the WSW boxes located near the main entrance off Rt. 19 no later than Monday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m. If you need a ride, please indicate this fact on your check along with your address if it is not printed on your check.

Call Jeanne Goldich at 382-2983 if you have any questions.



Women of Sugarmill Woods Newsletter
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FUND RAISERS

WSW 2009 Trash and Treasure Sale

Sale Dates

Friday, March 6 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location

(Formerly) Fred's Furniture Store
Crystal Square Plaza (anchor businesses American Pro Diving and Dillon's Inn)
773 S.E. Hwy 19, Crystal River

Ladies, you still have time to donate those items no longer needed or wanted. All items must be clean, saleable and in working condition. If you are donating curtains, drapes, bed or table linen, please include size. We cannot accept clothing or shoes however, Hospice, Goodwill and the Key Training Thrift Shop will be happy to take them.

If you are able to volunteer a few hours of your time to help with set-up, pricing, selling the dates of the sale or cleanup after the sale, please contact Sally Fieseler, 382-1024 or Nancy Pearson, 382-2191. Sally or Nancy will also arrange for pickup of any large items you wish to donate. Drop-off and set-up dates are Friday, February 27 and Monday, March 2 thru Thursday, March 5 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Clean-up will be Monday, March 9, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please plan to come to the sale on Friday or Saturday. Your treasure" is waiting! All proceeds from this event will be given to local charitable organizations.

2009 Fashion Show

Preliminary plans for our 2009 Fashion Show to be held on November 7th at the Palace Grand have been made. Thanks to the efforts of Lois Thomas, Coldwater Creek will provide lovely fashions and we will again enjoy the fantastic vocals of Stan Prinston. Several ladies from last year's committee have agreed to serve this year however, we need several more volunteers to fill the remaining committee chair positions and to model. **As you know, this is a vital fund raising event for our club and our ability to fund scholarships and local charities will be greatly reduced if this event does not take place.** Therefore ladies we need your time and talents! Your reward – making new friends, working with great ladies, and the satisfaction of knowing that your efforts have made a huge difference in the lives of many people in our community.

Please call Linda Swart at 382-7203 with questions or if you would like to volunteer in any capacity. We're counting on your support!

THE WONDERFUL WORLD AT CAMP E NINI HASSEE

Last Tuesday afternoon a small group of us had the privilege of going to camp E Nini Hassee in Floral City for a tour of a place approximately 70 "troubled teens" call home. They had asked if I would give the girls a short speech, prior to touring the camp, on the importance of community service, volunteering, and being active in your community. I had prepared a 5 to 10 minute speech, and expected to deliver it to blank stares, perhaps some yawns, or perhaps some of the girls would doze off. Quite the opposite occurred. We were met by genuinely welcoming applause.

I started by asking if any of the girls had ever done any volunteer service, and to my surprise, at least 50 of them raised their hands. Next I asked them ways they could think of to help make their community a better place to live. I spent the next 5 to 6 minutes listening rather than speaking, as a room full of hands enthusiastically shot high up in the air and one by one they stood up when called upon, giving some very profound answers. They came up with ways to volunteer that I had not even thought of when preparing my speech. The time allotted for me to "teach" the girls about community service, became an interactive time, much different than I might have expected. Instead, the girls taught me. I learned that the girls were quite sincere and knowledgeable when it came to volunteerism. I learned that the term "troubled teens" refers to their past, but the young women in that room were far from "troubled" any more. They were becoming model citizens and it was quite evident that being a good citizen and being active in community service was very important to them. I believe that they will make wonderful citizens as they go out into the world.

My point is that for most of the girls living in the wilderness at E Nini Hassee, the girls they are today, is a far cry from their life prior to attending the camp. The girls openly talk one on one with you about their former lives. Most of them had drug addictions, were sexually active, and had also been victims of physical, mental and sexual abuse. Many of them came from families filled with addiction. Some were abandoned or bounced from one foster home to another. Most of them have been charged with crimes. But there is something magical that happens at Camp E Nini Hassee. I don't think it is "just" the outdoor living. It is a combination of the caring counselors, and the way responsibility and old fashioned morals and values are taught. They must learn teamwork and trust in order to survive in the woods. A young lady goes into Camp E Nini Hassee at a tender young age, but she is already hardened and tough beyond her years. She is rebellious and society has given up on her. She is probably headed towards a life of crime, yet the camp transforms her. These girls leave ready to make the world a better place. They put their former life behind them and look to the future with optimism and an attitude to serve. I'm told it's only a matter of a month or so, before these tough teens begin to turn into polite young ladies, who learn to care about others, to use manners and soft speech, and respect authority. We noted that most of them even sleep with a teddy bear (a far cry from their former life on the streets)! They learn responsibility and community service (they go out in groups to serve where needed). They learn to trust others, and that the world is what you make it. Girls who have been at the camp for some time teach the new girls that the "old way" only leads to destruction, and there is a better way of life waiting for them. A metamorphosis occurs when a young lady attends the camp so much so, that many of the girls choose to remain as counselors and staff. If you are interested in a tour, contact Diane Fudge, 382-2120)

MARCH CHARITY OF THE MONTH - WE CARE - Feeding the Poor. Due to economic times, the Food Pantry that feeds the hungry in Homosassa can hardly keep up with increased demands. For this reason, we will have a food drive at our March Meeting. If you wish to participate, please bring canned goods, non-perishable items or paper products (toilet paper is high priority as it is not covered by food stamps). Peggy Davis will collect the donations.



Members of the Women of Sugarmill Woods at Camp E NNINI HASSEE, pictured left to right:
Gail Wire, Camp Director, Diane Fudge, Edna Pirman, Dottie Radcliffe,
Shirley Boese and Camp Counselor Andrea. Typical lodging in camp.

Life at E Nini Hassee is not something one can easily put into words. The ladies in our group were still telling family and friends about the wonderful girls and the remarkable way of life at the camp for days after our visit. I encourage you to tour the camp and meet the girls, you won't regret it!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT-MARCH, 2009

March is the beginning of our membership renewal period, please place your dues check for \$25 in the Membership box at the Cypress Village entrance wall no later than June 30 to be included in the new Membership Directory. You may also pay your dues to me or Donna Rayne at one of our luncheons during the next three months. Any new member joining in March will be considered a paid member through next year, so now is the time for new friends to join **THE WONDERFUL WOMEN OF SUGARMILL WOODS.**

We happily welcome a new member:

Kathryn (Kay) Garland 14 Carnation Ct. 382-1784

Our Current membership stands at 343!

Our Sunshine Chairwoman, Helen Dresback, 382-2319 will gladly send out a card from the membership for any member in need of a little cheering up. Please avail yourself of this nice little service.

Vivian Turner, 651-204-6715
Membership Director

INTRA-CLUB ACTIVITIES

Bridget Leo, 382-0080

We have a variety of Intra-Club activities and hope you will find one you are interested in. Please contact the above if you have an idea for a new activity. Please contact one of the following ladies if you are interested in one of our current groups.

BOOK GROUPS

Adelaide Keller, 382-0219-Please contact me for current openings or to start a new group.

CARD GROUPS

Cards & Conversation: Contact Mary Ann Zack, 382-1444 or Maryann McNiff, 382-4881.

Hands & Feet: Contact Ann O'Brien, 382-1848 or Sonya Coughenour, 382-9038.

Monday Morning Mah-Jong: Contact Joyce Rasmussen, 382-3466.

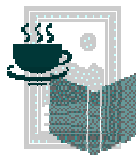
Regular Bridge: Contact Joan McGee, 382-1462.

New-Beginners Bridge-Formation: Contact Darrielle Wyatt, 3823182

New-Pinochle-We will be meeting on Wednesdays. Contact Vickie Leitzinger, 382-2906.

WALKING FOR FUN: Contact Donna Rayne, 382-2999

NEW-AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES: Do you love the movies? Are you sorry you can't get to them more often? If there was transportation would you be interested? Contact Francesca Paar, 382-2528



CREATIVE HANDS

Our group meets the first Thursday of the month at the Chassohowitzka Firehouse from 9:30 to noon. For information, contact Lorraine Blond, 382-1926

Scholarships Update!!

WSW Withlacoochee Technical Institute Renewable Scholarships have been awarded to 5 new students and renewed for 3 previous awardees for the spring 2009 semester. The \$500 scholarships are given to deserving young adults in the area to support their dreams of making a better life through education. Since Pat O'Brien worked to make this scholarship fund a reality in April, 2007, WSW has donated \$10,000! Brenda Miley, guidance counselor at WTI, said of our scholarship recipients, *"Many of them face so many challenges while trying to attend school. The help with tuition is a blessing to them. You should see the tears and hugs that I get!"*

We have also sent \$500 each for our General Scholarship recipients Roy Chaupis at the University of South Florida and Sarina Jaster at the University of Florida, both of whom are 2nd semester sophomores. Our 2nd semester freshman recipients Priya Patel, University of Central Florida, Herb Sickler, Indian River State College, Michael Kelly, Central Florida Community College have also received their \$500 tuition checks. All of these students have maintained a 3.0 or higher grade point average. Our Technical Scholarship winner, Jonathan Weber, transferred from WTI to CFCC and received the last \$500 of his scholarship.

WSW fundraising efforts do make a tremendous difference in the lives of these young people!!!

March 24 & 25 RIF volunteers needed!

The Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Program at Homosassa Elementary School will take place on March 24 & 25. The RIF program, supported in part by a donation from WSW, provides each student at the school with a new book to take home. Volunteers are needed to help students select their books and help with a small project. If you have a few hours to give, please contact Judy Hill at 382-1348 or via email at jhill0401@embarqmail.com.

Victoria Budd, Director
Education & Scholarships



UPCOMING DINNER DANCE

Based on our survey at the January luncheon and feedback since then, we are planning a Dinner Dance to be held in early May at Glen Lakes. Included is a cocktail hour, dinner, dancing and entertainment. Watch for details in your April newsletter.