

Koreshan State Historic Site Newsletter

K O R E S H A N N E W S L E T T E R
W I N T E R 2 0 0 6

WHAT'S NEW ??

- The 'Newsletter' is back after a hiatus.
- Volunteers making a difference
- Web Site News

If you have any information about *anything* Koreshan, please contact us. We can scan your pictures and return them to you and we always accept donations.

Support your CSO...

Newsletter Returns

Our last newsletter (Spring-Summer 2005) was not our last, even though this new edition has been a long time coming. We hope to be able to produce more as time goes by.

Volunteers Making A Difference

Note: Leonard "Jack" Horner, a former ranger at Koreshan State Historic Site is leading a group of volunteers who have begun cleaning up areas of the park. Jack send out an e-mail to interested parties. The following is a reprint of his September and November letters. (ed.)

KORESHAN GARDENS (SEPTEMBER 11, 2006 UPDATE)

Over the past two weeks the crew revisited the large patch of "Air Potato", and reworked it with a more concentrated mixture of herbicide; they hand pulled and removed numerous "Life Plants"

along the trail; and hand pulled and removed several thousand "Caesar Weeds" from the sunken Garden area. For the next few weeks we have planned our work as follows:

September 13 - hand pull and remove more Life Plants

September 20 - revisit the patch of Air Potato to determine the effectiveness of the most recent herbicide treatment, and further treat if necessary

September 27 - work on the opening up of trails that have nearly become overgrown in places

I will be meeting with an "Environmental Educational" student volunteer from FGCU tomorrow to introduce him to the settlement; and also introduce him to the Trimble GPS equipment. It's hoped that he'll work with us in the future locating and mapping artifacts and significant trees. All Park staff and Volunteers are invited to join us.

Please let me know if you can help out with our projects.

We are also hoping to find at least one photographer, that is familiar with electronic cameras, to work with us in documenting our progress. [Continued on p.2]



No... This is NOT Estero! Imogene Bubbett Rahn and Annie Ray Andrews in Philadelphia. What year???



NEWS FROM THE WEB SITE

The following is reprinted from the November issue of our "unofficial" website:

November brings us to the birthdates of two of the most prominent Koreshans, at least with regard to the present day State Historic Site. November 12 is the 156th birthday of Berthaldine Sterling Boomer, one of the very first followers of Dr. Teed. Her name also figures prominently in the history of the State Historic Site since her home, built by her son, Lucius Boomer, is the focal point of the latest effort to preserve Estero. The house once known as

Mirasol Grove still stands, hidden by the growth, at the corner of US-41 and Broadway. The home was recently sold to the State and Lee County to be preserved. Berthaldine, who died in the house in 1935 was, as already mentioned, an early follower of Dr. Teed. She came to Estero with the second group in January of 1894. Mrs. Boomer did a great deal of writing for various Koreshan publications, including the *Flaming Sword*. [Continued]...



Contact us at: P.O. Box 7, Estero, FL. 33928

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.FLORIDASTATEPARKS.ORG/
KORESHAN AND AT
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How to contact us:

State Park: PO Box 7, Estero, Fl. 33928

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/koreshan/>

Archives: <http://Koreshan.mwweb.org>



T H E B A C K P A G E ...

[Web site news continued from Page-1...]

The other prominent Koreshan was Lillian "Vesta" Newcomb who was born in Stockton California on November 19, 1878. Lillian, who was renamed "Vesta" by Koresh, came to Chicago with her mother, Hattie, who had become a widow, and her brother, James. They arrived in Estero in 1894. Even though Hedwig Michel was the last Koreshan, Vesta was the last of the *originals*. That is, she was the last of the original Estero settlers. Vesta served as a maid to Victoria (Annie Ordway) and was a student of Koresh, a lover of poetry and books. She also served as a helper to her mother who ran the Koreshan dining room. She was a teacher and even learned to operate the linotype machine at the Guiding Star publishing house. She also befriended the Boomer family and was a frequent visitor to Mirasol Grove. George Boomer, grandson of Berthaldine, donated almost 20 acres of land near the boat ramp in the Historic Site in Vesta's memory. Vesta wrote of the ordeal of those early days. she said: *"We tackled with the wind this way and that way, and we were all sick. At Mound Key we were rowed in a towboat to Halfway Creek where they pushed north through the bush carrying our belongings and a parrot in a cage. We finally reached an ox-team trail, turned south over a rustic bridge, and there we established our settlement. We pitched our tents and slept for 10 months on the ground. We cooked and ate around a bonfire. Everyone did his share of the work."* Vesta died on April 8, 1974.

Koreshan Gardens

[Continued from Page-1]

I'd like to take this opportunity to electronically introduce you to Elaine Parnell. Elaine has been competently leading three other women in trimming brush and grasses; as well as applying herbicide where needed. These four women reside in local communities (Fountain Lakes, The Cascades, and Pelican Sound). All are members of the Florida Trail Association's Alligator Amblers Chapter of which I'm also a member. Following is Elaine's work schedule for November:

NOVEMBER WORK SCHEDULE:

November 1:

Begin cutting and spraying the Guinea Grass (Johnson Grass) running from the burial marker toward the mounds. Remove Hong Kong Orchid seedlings, Sweet Acacia seedlings and saplings, Caesar Weed, and Old World Vine, etc. Watch for native Morning Glory Vine, and protect it as we do Grape and Smilax vines. Remove or herbicide encroaching Sanseveria (Mother-in-laws tongue). In general, push the growth back 3 to 4 feet.

November 8

Walk the new trail. Bring saws for Palmettos, drip herbicide bottles, and pruners. Is the trail user friendly? Cut back growth as necessary on the sides and pay special attention to roots and stumps on the path for safety. Decide whether the new trail needs one or more work days before we invite Karen and Bob to view it.

November 15

Return to the Sunken Garden. Cut and herbicide the remaining Guinea Grass on the back bank and river

end. Treat the remaining clumps on the front bank so that the rope break can be installed by the rangers. Cut and herbicide the maroon plant regrowth. Pull Hong Kong Orchid seedlings and Caesar Weeds. Protect the Four O'Clock Vine (yellow flower with hollow center). Remove other alien or invasive specie as routine maintenance dictates. Notice the new non-invasive ground plant growth competing against aliens like Caesar Weed.

November 22

Do standard removals in the perimeters of the Monkey Puzzle island. Move growth back 3 to 4 feet. Use the drip herbicide bottles on saplings of the Sweet Acacia, Phoenix Reclinata and Sanseveria. Protect native Beauty Berry and Wild Coffee, etc.

November 29

Return to the Air Potato behind camp sites 41 and 14 and 15. Cut Potato vines that are weakened by previous herbicide treatments. Remove. Use pump sprayers to herbicide Air Potato vines not previously reached. Walk the trail and do standard maintenance.

These are wonderful opportunities to enjoy the views, the sounds of nature, and each other. Thank you for giving your time to care for this valuable land.

