

The Groundhog



A Newsletter for and about Mentone

September, 2012

Into the Wilds

Discover Beautyberry!

I recently took a walk around the jogging path to see if the water had filled the retention areas after the recent rains. I remember four years ago, there was always water in the ponds, but during the drought of the past three years, a filled retention pond was a rare sight. I was hoping to see some water birds. My stroll was rewarded by one full retention pond, and some lovely wildflowers, but that day, no birds.



However, I was happy to see the beautyberry bush. In early fall, the beautyberry lives up to its name by putting on a show of deep purple berries. It is a Florida native plant which provides a treat for birds and humans alike. It also grows in New England.



Did you know that you can make a jelly from beautyberries? Most people think they are poisonous, but they are not.

Notes From The Board

New Board Member

The Board is happy to announce that Mary Opel has joined the Board. Welcome to the Board, Mary, and thank you for your contribution to Mentone!

New Management Company

The new company is Cornerstone Property Solutions. Kelly will continue to be our manager, after she returns from maternity leave after Labor Day. Their number is 352-373-2730

A Few Reminders

Please Bag your Dog's Waste. Stepping on his or her calling card is no fun. Thank you!



Mentone neighbors love well-trained dogs and well-behaved dog-owners

Apply sun screen 10 minutes before swimming.

Did you know that many of the new sunscreen products actually can clog the pool filters? This information comes from our pool maintenance company. So, try to remember to apply your sunscreen early to give your skin time to absorb it.

Please be aware of the noise you make. Some motorcycles, leaf blowers, lawnmowers, have loud engines. Even music inside your house or car, especially with amplified bass, can reverberate and cause thumping inside your neighbor's houses. Please be considerate and keep loud sounds to a minimum, especially before 9 am or after 10 pm.

Around the 'Hood

Community Garage Sale: Oct. 13

Halloween Fun Day Oct. 27

The Mentone Ice Cream Social was well attended by many. Over 60+ folks attended and we went through 4.5 gallons of ice cream. More pictures are posted on Mentone Facebook page.

Save your unwanted items for the **Mentone Garage Sale Sat. Oct. 13**. Signs will be posted at the entrances.

The Halloween Family Fun Day is scheduled for Saturday, 10/27 from 4-7pm. The Halloween House Decorating contest judging will occur on Monday, 10/29 at 7pm. Winning signs to be posted in the yards.



Yum! Ice Cream on a hot day!



Sept. 15 Florida-Friendly Garden Tour Features two Mentone yards- Go Mentone!

September 15, 2012; 8:30 am - 1:00 pm
The Tour begins at the UF Straughn Development Center, 2142 Shealy Drive

The Alachua County Master Gardeners will be offering a tour of Florida-Friendly Landscapes™ in the Gainesville area. These yards exemplify water conservation and environmentally friendly landscaping practices. The event starts at the UF Straughn Development Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, beginning with a gardening talk and onsite tour. Participants will leave for tours of four local landscapes, maps will be provided. These landscape sites will have Alachua County Master Gardener volunteers as guides. You see the gardens on your own.

There is no charge for this program. Space is limited so pre-registration is recommended by calling 352-337-6209. This program is offered by Wendy Wilber, Environmental Horticulture Agent.

Mentone Garden Group Thrives

Do you have an urge to grow some of your own vegetables?

Wouldn't it be nice to walk out your door and pick some fresh beans or lettuce?

If you've never tried gardening, but want to have the freshest vegetables or flowers, or if you are already into gardening and would like tips from other gardeners, join the Mentone Garden Group.

To learn more about growing your own vegetables, visit the IFAS site <http://alachua.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>

Let's Communicate

To Join the Mentone email Events list or to join the Mentone Garden Group, send an email to mentoneevents@yahoo.com and put "Garden Group" in the subject.

Please sign up for E-communication

If you would like to take advantage of this more efficient means of communication, and receive this newsletter in color, via email, please print, complete, sign and mail the form found on Mentone website homepage.

To Contact Mentone Management
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