

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

A PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

JUL 1984

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EDITORIAL

In one of those airline magazines, I read an article about Homeowner's Associations and their influence on politics. author pointed out that these local organizations were rapidly becoming a force to be reckoned with in contemporary American Life. Among his examples was the case of the group of neighbors in Lake Ridge, Va which sued the developer and Prince William County to prevent the construction of office buildings in an area originally planned as "green space". We used to live in Lake Ridge and know something about the area as well as the organization. There the homeowner's association is controlled by the developer, but the aggrieved homeowners range from transient military personnel all the way up to congressional aides. though they lost the zoning battle, they were not afraid to take on the bureauracy in the courts. Another group according to the author actually seceded from it's local government, because they couldn't get sufficient support for their problems.

All of that prompted me to think of our own situation right here in Bloomingdale. Have you noticed the subtle changes in our environment since our initiative to acquire funds for common area maintenance was torpedoed in a political football match? The bulk of construction has shifted to the new sections in East, and the walls got painted by the developer. Park East got upgraded and repaired. You know the all mighty dollar and sales figures are driving the train. But what about the West? The Park is a disgrace, but somebody is building a new baseball diamond. Whether you like it or not, the appearance of our community determines property values. Politics makes the world go around and only a unified organization is going to succeed in influencing our destiny.

Residents the simple fact is that you are going to have to get involved. Numbers tip the balances in your favor, and George isn't around to do it for you. We are trying to get speakers for BHA, who are able to answer your questions and hear your concerns.

How about Letting me know how your ful

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BHA NEWS

The BHA June General Membership meeting was unable to muster a quorum and no business was transacted. Discussion centered around doing something to improve the condition of Park West. President Knott reported that Criterion will furnish paint for the residents to repaint the handball courts and criterion will let a contract to replace the playground equipment. BHA has also secured space for soft drink concessions during the Brandon Balloon Rally over the Labor Day weekend.

The board met July 3 at Errol Whitfield's. The board invited a speaker from TECO to explain their peak load power shutoff program. This program can reduce your electric rates, so why don't you come to the Bloomingdale Fire Station and hear what he has to say. The board also made plans for Gloria and Wynella are in the Balloon Rally. charge. The Balloon rally is our single biggest fund raiser and they need your support. Bob Knott announced that the Master Community Homeowners Association is still awaiting approval at VA in Washington. that they have heard about the overwhelming opposition to the MCHA. "Sonny" Palomino, Hillsborough County Board of Education member is still on tap as the August speaker.

THE JULY MEETING WILL BE AT THE BLOOMINGDALE IRE HOUSE.



LETTERS to the Editor

"Let George Do It "

Well, it happened again. another BHA meeting without enough concerned people to make up a quorum (25 voting members). That's two meetings in a row now, and it's happening far too often.

Do you realize ther are well over 1000 houses in Bloomingdale and only about 120 members in the BHA (Editor's note: There are 180+ members, but the point is the same). That's only 10 % of our population that say, "I care". Waht's the matter with you people? Don't you care about your community? Are you people so apathetic that you can't set aside two hours each month to attend a meetin and say "I care," and not "Let George do it".

It also appears that these nonfunctional citizens are the first to criticize
this community. These people are also the
first to bring their children to the "free"
Bloomingdale Children's Halloween Party, or to
visit Santa. This is a fact, not a guess,
I've watched, I've seen. They have once again
said, "Let George do it". These non-paying,
non-functional people are reaping the benefits
of the few that keep and that care about the
Bloomingdale Community.

How many volunteers will the BHA get when they begin painting the Courts of Park East and West? Will the people that use them daily help, or will they "Let George do it" then say, "nice job, George."

Why can't we get more community involvement? Take the step, say "I Care, and I'll help". Don't let "George" do it all alone.

A Concerned BHA Member

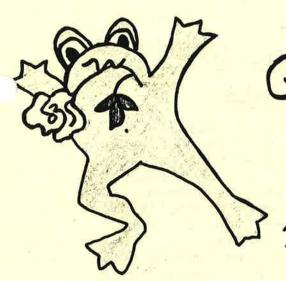
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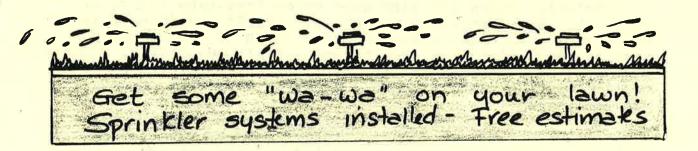
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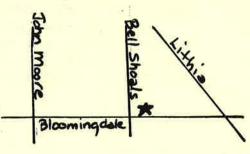
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Gardening with Eric Wilds

Fruiting Trees & shrubs

This month, I'd like to talk to you about fruiting trees and shrubs in the residential landscape. For the past several years homeowners as well as the citrus growers have suffered a great deal of cold damage on citrus trees. For this reason, and to offer you some diversity, I would like to suggest some alternatives to citrus. These fruits are ones generally associated with more temperate zones farther north, but in recent

years, varieties have been developed for Florida.

Peaches are an excellent choice if you are looking for a fruiting tree of about 30 ft. in height. "Flordabelle" is a fast growing variety producing abundant fruit ripening in May or June. You only need one tree to produce fruit. The peaches are red and are excellent fresh, cooked or canned. Some other varieties for central Florida are Early Amber, Flordagold, Flordasun, McRed and Flordawon. Another special feature of peaches is that they flower in January and February giving a striking show with masses of pinkish-white flowers approximately in diameter on the leafless branches.

Nectarines are another possibility for a dooryard fruit. They flower and fruit at about the same time as the peaches and grow as fast. "Sunred" is the best variety in our locale.

There are two varieties of apples that do well in central Florida. "Anna" is a red apple with good crisp texture and sweet flavor. They must be planted with a pollinizer variety such as "Dorsett Golden", a golden apple comparable to the "Golden Delicious" available commercially. "Dorsett Golden" may be planted by itself. Both trees grow to 25-30 feet and flower in February with fruit ripening in June. The fruit is good fresh, canned or cooked.

Briefly, there are also some other tree-type fruits of interest. Try planting a pear tree. "Hood" and "Pineapple" pears grow well. Pecans are handsome 35-40 ft. trees which vary in production from area to area within our locale. Curtis, Desireable or Moreland are the best varieties. If you enjoy persimmons, "Tanehashi" as well as other varieties, thrive

and fruit well.

If you are looking for a landscape shrub which yields fruit, blueberries are very attractive bushes. The foliage is light blue-green year round with pinkish-white blossoms in March. The fruit matures in May and June. Blueberries require the same conditions as azaleas but will take a sunnier location. A single bush will grow to 8-10 feet in height with a 6-8 foot spread. They only need to be fertilized twice a year. Overfertilizing can be harmful. The best varieties for us are "Flordablue" and "Sharpblue". For best results, you must plant both varieties.

Blackberries produce abundant fruit and grow vigorously, but are thorny and not generally considered attractive. Their rampant spreading habit makes them hard to control in the residential landscape. If, however, you are a real berry-lover,

try Brazos, Flordagrand or Oklawaha. The latter two must be

planted together for good results.

Grapes have many landscape uses and there are numerous excellent table grape varieties available. They can be used as arbor vines or in hanging baskets. A simple trellis arrangement is suitable and they can be trained to grow up columns, fences or blank walls. One thing to keep in mind is that grape vines are deciduous and the woody vines are bare in the winter. However, the twisted vines have a stark beauty all their own. I hope this small review will aid you in selecting dooryard fruit. Most retail nurseries stock these items or can order them for you. A fruiting plant is rewarding to look at and is a treat at the table as well.

Till next month, Happy Gardening:



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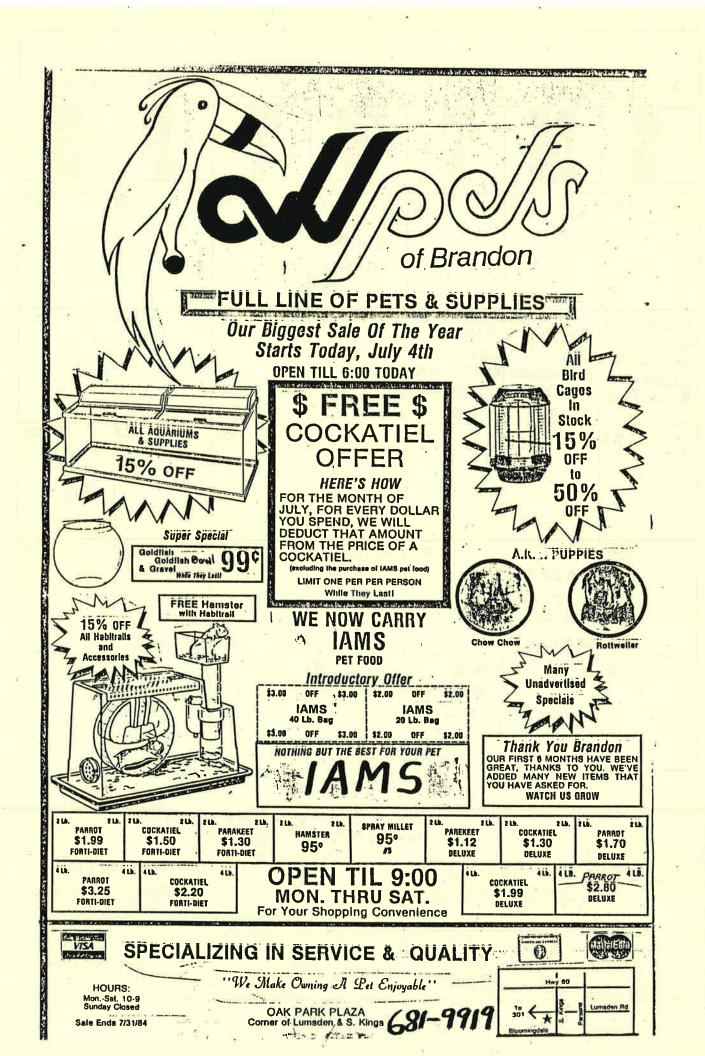
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