



Informing residents of issues and events in and around our neighborhood



As good as 2006 was for our neighborhood, let's make '07 better

By Carolyn Fries President,
Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association

I would first like to extend a big "thank you" to Gary Crosby for his leadership and long-time commitment to the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association. Gary has passed his presidential reins to me, but continues to serve in a key leadership role as Treasurer, along with heading up our exciting and highly ambitious "Healthy Lake" project.

President's Perspective

I would also like to thank our board members, committee members, residents and property owners for the time, talent and treasure invested in the neighborhood association, its projects and people. Without all of you, the association would not prosper.

Looking back, 2006 was a pivotal year for the association, with many impressive achievements:

- Increased Association membership by more than 520 percent over 2005.
- Renewed publication and distribution of our newsletter, *The Banyan Banter*, with positive feedback from many neighbors.
- Organized or sponsored several popular neighborhood events, including the Easter Egg Hunt (April), Fourth of July in the Park (July), Fall Harvest Festival (October) and the 2nd Annual Luminary Walk (December, with over 30 neighborhood residents involved in planning and execution).
- Submitted and received a Tampa Bay Estuary Grant for our "Healthy Lake" Project (see update in this issue).

Continued on page 13

Project to improve Crescent Lake's health about to move into high gear

The project receives grant funding, turning the exciting concept into an even more exciting project. As work begins, the project is a great chance for neighbors and local residents and groups to get involved in a meaningful effort that will keep our lake healthy and beautiful for years to come.

By Gary Crosby

Our exciting concept to greatly enhance the overall quality of Crescent Lake has turned into an even more exciting, and real, project.

The idea was first shared in the October-November issue of the Banyan Banter in a front-page story about the possibility of a large-scale, neighborhood project to create a healthier and more diverse water and wetland environment at Crescent Lake. It was also discussed, and approved by vote, in our November General Meeting.

Since then, there is more great news to share.

We applied for and received grant funding through Tampa Bay Estuary Programs. That lets us go from concept stage to a genuine project.

The first step begins with a thorough removal of the trash and invasive plant material in and around the lake.

Continued on page 4



Lighting up the lake

The holiday spirit was in full swing on Dec. 10 for the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association's second annual Holiday Luminary Walk. On a beautiful evening, neighbors and visitors from around the city strolled the park to enjoy the warm glow of 300 luminary lights encircling the lake, lively music courtesy of talented volunteer musicians, the ever-popular urban hayride and of course Santa Claus.

Home Beautiful Award

68 years later, still a family jewel

By Doug Mason

Mike and Juanita Mullaney purchased their home at 1710 Crescent Lake Drive back in 1994. They never imagined it would come with so much history.

It seemed the original owner had been a friend of their families for years. The home was built of terra cotta and stucco with 14-inch exterior walls back in 1939 by a developer who sold it to the Raven family.

A niece, Marjorie Raven, inherited the property and called it home until 1994. She planted the Jacaranda tree that now shades the house on the southern side. Even the original tree swing continues to blow in the breeze, as it has for many years.

Sixty eight years after it was built and sold into their family, Mike and Juanita came into their lakefront home with some prized possessions left from the Raven estate. The original Duncan Fife dining set still remains in the dining room. An antique desk in the den still holds pictures and receipts of purchases from the Ravens.

As for the house itself, the paint was stripped from the original Lightolier ceiling fixtures to expose solid brass fittings around the antique frosted globes. The family also took on the job of restoring the wood sash windows to their original working order.

All of the oak floors and trim have been stripped and refinished. Even the original telephone nook has been sanded down to bare wood and restored. The kitchen was gutted and new white cabinets were installed, along with granite counter tops and a black-mirrored backsplash.



This quarter's Home Beautiful Award winner – located at 1710 Crescent Lake Drive — was built and sold into Mike and Juanita Mullaney's family in 1939, and since moving in, Mike and Juanita have done extensive work to restore the Spanish-style home to its original state.

As you walk through the arched slate entry that faces Crescent Lake, you are greeted by the original matching slate fireplace hearth. The two upstairs bathrooms shine with updated fixtures and unaltered ceramic tile. A new pool was installed and coconut trees planted to accent each end. The Mullanneys' future plan is to restore the roof back to the original clay tile as depicted in the black and white photo that hangs in the main entry.

Time goes by, but great architectural design will always live on, especially for a home like this and especially with such caring owners.

Award-winning home influenced by Spanish, Florida land boom, major local builder

By Gary Crosby

The recipient of our Home Beautiful Award is a house designed in the broad category of the architectural style known as Spanish Eclectic (1915-1940).

The style is typically identified by a low-pitched gable roof, usually with little or no overhang and having a red tile roof covering.

The structure usually will contain one or more prominent arches placed above the entry door or a principal window. The exterior wall surface is almost always stucco and the façade is normally asymmetrical.

The recessed arched entry with the Random Ashlar stonework surrounding it is of special note on Mike and Nita Mullaney's home. Not as random as the name implies, the stones are squared and assembled in a pattern that is repeated again and again, though the pattern is not always immediately discernible.

Continued on page 15

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Healthy lakes project

Continued from page 1

Then the natural plant and animal environment will be enhanced by the planting of diverse Florida native plants within and along the shoreline of the lake.

Monthly laboratory testing and advice from environmental scientists will monitor and guide our efforts in improving both the aesthetics and biological health of our lake.

Additionally, all roadside storm drains throughout the Crescent Lake drainage field will be marked with educational signage informing the public that the drains empty directly into the lake and eventually to Tampa Bay.

In January, training from University of Florida personnel sets up Crescent Lake to participate in the Florida LAKEWATCH Program.

Kathleen O'Keefe, a research administrator with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, has agreed to head this portion of the project. Several Crescent Lake residents will also be involved in this initial training to start monthly water sampling of the lake. If you are interested in participating in this monthly sampling process, which should be an excellent learning opportunity, contact Kathleen at 896-8626, ext. 3052, or email her at Kathleen.OKeefe@myfwc.com.

Want to Join In? Your Help's Needed

We will need your help, starting in February and running into the early summer.

Workdays will be scheduled for the trash and plant removal and then several other workdays will be required for the planting to occur within and around the lake.

Workdays will be set aside for the marking of the storm drains and for the periodic monitoring and maintenance of the plantings and of the project area.

Technical advice and access to the resources needed to succeed in this project will be made available. The labor required to do the physical work will be solicited from our neighborhood, the surrounding neighborhood associations, environmentally conscious individuals and from community service agencies and organizations.

We realize this project will take a lot of effort from our neighborhood and the surrounding community within the next six months.

But we also realize this is a unique neighborhood and community project that can make a big difference for a long time to come.

So if you're looking to get involved in a local, meaningful project, for you or for you and your family, or your church, youth or adult organization, this really is a great opportunity to ensure the health of Crescent Lake, a resource enjoyed by so many of us, both in our neighborhood and throughout Pinellas County.

The positive results will be apparent early on. The long-term enhancements to the aesthetic beauty of our lake, the healthier and more diverse plant and wildlife in and around the lake, and improved water quality will be well worth the effort many times over. It will be something we can all be proud of being a part of, and it will give us a chance to get to know each other, too.

Next Step: First Workday on Sat., Feb. 24

The first workday at the lake is scheduled for: **Saturday, February 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

The objective of this workday is to remove trash and debris from the shoreline and within the lake itself.

To participate, wear comfortable work clothing and work gloves. If you can, bring rakes or other tools you think may be useful for the cleaning (though that's not required). Water and light refreshments will be available. Boats will also be used for some of the clean-up.

Other workday schedules and specific timelines for various aspects of this project are being formulated. Additional workdays and tasks will be communicated through this newsletter, our email E-lets and postings in the park.

To Join In, Here's Contact Info

To learn more or to express interest in helping with the project, or to provide input for school, church or other organizations who you believe may want to take this on as a community service project, contact Gary Crosby at 823-8014 or mgmccrosby@tampabay.rr.com or Lucy Trimarco at 821-2133.

Roadwork for Crescent Lake Drive approved, will be complete in 2007

Our neighborhood has approved a plan for the long-awaited roadwork for Crescent Lake Drive.

At the association's November meeting, neighborhood support was given to a plan the city had presented. The approved work involves milling (removing some of the existing road surface), followed by adding multi-layer applications of an asphalt overlay.



This work is scheduled for completion during the 2007 fiscal year.

The result of this work will give a consistent surface to the road while retaining the "waviness" of the existing road surface.

The city and residents supported this approach, as the work would not pose a possible settling issue with adjacent private properties, would retain the traffic calming effect of the wavy road surface and would improve the aesthetics of the road, disguising the road's many existing patches and cracks.

In a follow up with this plan, the city states it will also oversee the repair and replacement of damaged curbing and storm drain covers prior to the planned resurfacing work.

Thanks to all who spent time and effort in helping to define the issues and in bringing this to conclusion. Particular thanks go to Carol Henderson and Marian McGrath, in addition to those members of our Board of Directors.

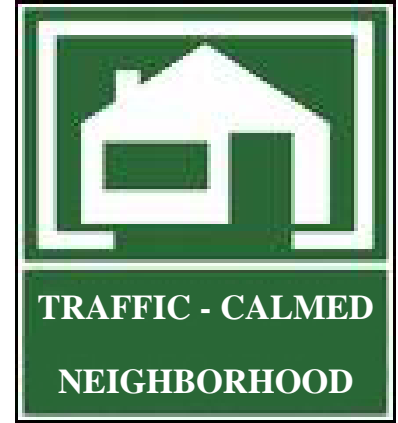
Traffic Calming along Crescent Lake Drive

A separate but related issue concerns the installation of the traffic calming devices that have been previously supported and approved along Crescent Lake Drive.

The three brick-imprinted speed humps will be installed just after the roadway is resurfaced this year. There has been input from residents and CLNA discussions with the city regarding the visual clutter of not only the existing signs along Crescent Lake Drive but also how that would be increased when the speed humps are installed.

Mike Frederick, manager of Neighborhood Transportation, has stated that prior to the installation of any new signage associated with the speed humps, his department will work with the residents and the neighborhood in an attempt to reduce any additional required signage.

The budget and scheduling has been approved for 2007 road projects. The raised intersection at 12th Avenue and Crescent Lake Drive was not



funded due to the rising cost of construction and balancing city-wide neighborhood desires.

Construction cost of the brick-imprinted speed humps is \$3,000 each, and the brick-imprinted raised intersection is \$54,500.

Frederick states that with the construction costs associated with the raised intersection, it is doubtful the city will ever be able to fund this type of feature. To meet traffic calming desires, he is proposing that the raised intersection be replaced with three speed humps, with two along 12th Avenue and one along Crescent Lake Drive adjacent to the alley between 13th Avenue and 12th Avenue.

If this modification (or another acceptable alternative) is agreeable to both the neighborhood and the city, he will include them on a prioritized list for funding in the 2008 Work Program.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Gary Crosby at 823-8014, or any member of the Board.

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CLNA Board, neighborhood projects approved at November general meeting

On Nov. 16, the general meeting of and election for the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association was held.

The candidates were introduced and Dan Saunders from the City of St Petersburg gave a history and summary of the Crescent Lake Drive resurfacing project. Gary Crosby, then serving as CLNA president, presented the remaining neighborhood projects up for vote. Up to 14 members, residents and property owners were present and voted at the meeting.

Below is a summary of the items voted on and the results. Winning candidates and projects are in bold typeface.

2007 CLNA Officers & Board of Directors

President: Carolyn Fries

Vice President: Rich Wall

Secretary: Phil Celli

Treasurer: Gary Crosby

Board Members: Mike Flanagan, Nancy Wall

Resurfacing of Crescent Lake Drive:

0 votes: Milling and multi-layer overlay with leveling courses and curb reconstruction

11 votes: Milling and overlay

2 votes: Other

As a result of this election, the city will perform "milling and overlay" work on Crescent Lake Drive between 22nd and 12th Avenues N to be completed before September 2007.

Healthy Lake Grant Proposal

14 votes: In favor of neighborhood pursuing this proposed project

0 votes: Opposed to the neighborhood pursuing this proposed project.

As a result of this election, Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association will continue its efforts to win funding to support this project (grant was approved in December; see front-page story for details).

1994 Neighborhood Plan Implementation:

Installing Neighborhood Markers

7 votes: In favor of the association pursuing design and costing efforts for installing neighborhood markers

6 votes: Opposed to pursuing design and costing efforts for installing neighborhood markers

As a result of this election, the association will pursue design and costing efforts toward installing neighborhood markers at designated points along neighborhood boundaries. Additional meetings and votes will be held prior to purchase or installation of these markers.

1994 Neighborhood Plan Implementation: CLNA Logo Stamping in Sidewalks

4 votes: In favor of the association pursuing design and costing efforts for stamping the CLNA logo in sidewalks at designated locations in neighborhood

9 votes: Opposed to pursuing design and costing efforts for stamping the CLNA logo in sidewalks at designated locations in neighborhood

As a result of this election, the association will not further pursue efforts for stamping the CLNA logo in sidewalks at designated locations in neighborhood. No further activity will take place on this project.

1994 Neighborhood Plan Implementation: Observation Deck at South end of lake

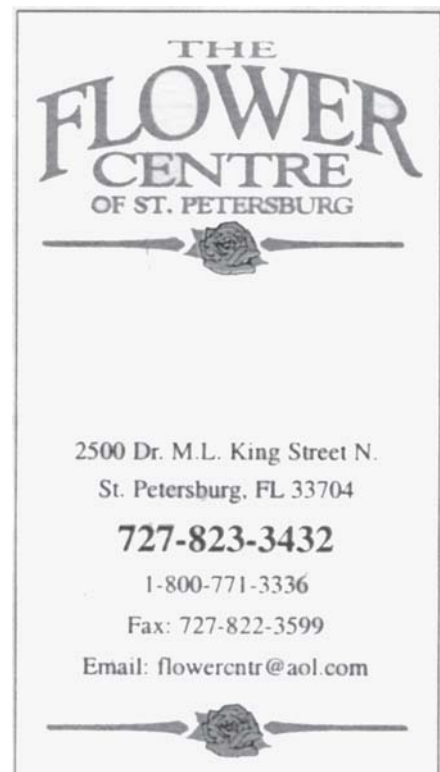
8 votes: In favor of the association pursuing design and costing efforts for installing an observation deck and Florida-friendly plantings at the south end of the lake.

5 votes: Opposed to the association pursuing design and costing efforts for installing an observation deck and Florida-friendly plantings at the south end of the lake.

As a result of this election, the association will pursue design and costing efforts toward installing an observation deck and Florida-friendly plantings at the south end of the lake. Additional meetings and votes will be held prior to purchase or installation of this observation deck and plantings.

Watch the *Banyan Banter* and CLNA E-LERTS for updates on these exciting neighborhood projects.

For more information or to participate in our neighborhood planning, email Carolyn Fries at cfries@tampabay.rr.com or Gary Crosby at mgmccrosby@tampabay.rr.com.





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- 1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg
- Pinch ground cloves
- Pinch salt
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Crescent Lake's Field of Dreams

Dedicated 82 years ago, our neighborhood's baseball field, called Huggins-Stengel Field, began as spring home to great Yankee players, from Babe to Gehrig to DiMaggio to the Mick. It lives on, a field of legends where high school and college players still dream of baseball glory. Little do they know.

By Phil Celli

A tennis ball throw away from the dog park exists a survivor, a stubborn slice of neighborhood history.

With the sounds of progress in the form of bulldozers and cranes constructing condominium cathedrals minutes away, it remains the same. A cliché in its truest form. For many decades, before Hollywood conceived a Field of Dreams, there was Huggins-Stengel Field.

The field itself took shape shortly after the completion of the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Park. Created specifically for Major League Baseball spring training 82 years ago, the field was a sign of the times. A simple spit of land with a baseball diamond, a small clubhouse and bleachers, all bordered by a lake inhabited by alligators.

In what could be described as a “there goes the neighborhood” moment, the New York Yankees took to the newly dedicated field called, “Crescent Lake Park,” on Feb. 25, 1925, in front of 5,000 fans.

According to an article written that day in the *St. Petersburg Times*, former St. Petersburg Mayor Al Lang “tendered” the park to Yankees Manager Miller Huggins in the name of the City of St. Petersburg.

In front of the assembled New York press, Lang proclaimed, “We’re giving this field to the team which we know will be the champion of the American League this year. For we feel that with the benefit of spring training in our climate the Yankees will be able to take the pennant.”



In this photograph, believed to be from the mid-1950s, the clubhouse along 5th Street North across from 14th Avenue, is where Casey Stengel, then manager of the New York Yankees, held a team meeting during spring training. The field in our Crescent Lake neighborhood, once the spring home to a number of big league baseball teams, was where the Yankees trained for 35 years.

In front of the assembled New York press, Lang proclaimed, “We’re giving this field to the team which we know will be the champion of the American League this year. For we feel that with the benefit of spring training in our climate the Yankees will be able to take the pennant.”

Yankees Made Crescent Lake Home for 35 Years

In what was a sign of things to come for the Yankees in 1925, Lang’s ceremonial first pitch sailed over Manager Huggins’ head, recording what was described tongue in cheek as the first wild pitch of the season. Lang’s prediction of a pennant proved to be wrong as the Yankees finished seventh that season. The field however, would remain home to the Yankees for the next 35 years.

The dimensions of the field were constructed for one person, Babe Ruth. Yankee Stadium Groundskeeper Phil Schenk supervised the construction of the field. Wanting a deep right field for Ruth’s omnipotent swing, the park was filled in and sodded to a distance of 390 feet.

Though Ruth’s ego probably relished the idea of hitting a baseball that far (he did), it was simple economics that justified the distance of right field. The cost of a new baseball in 1925 was \$2. Schenk calculated that with a right field shorter than 390 feet, the Yankees would be on the hook for roughly \$50 worth of lost baseballs every time Ruth practiced. A longer distance, Schenk concluded, would save the Yankees a lot of baseballs *and* a lot of money.

Arguably the game’s first superstar, it was Ruth himself who reportedly refused to shag fly balls in the outfield because of an alligator patrolling the banks of Crescent Lake.

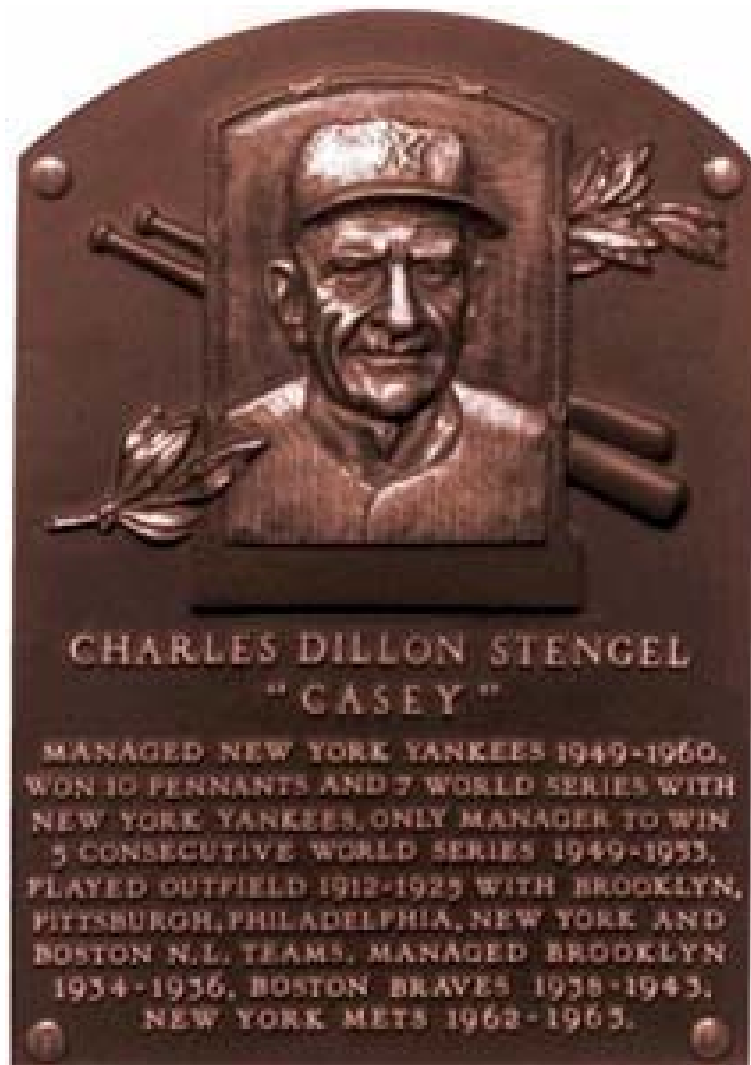
The games of spring were played at nearby Waterfront Park, now Florida Progress Park, formerly known as Al Lang Field. However, it was Crescent Lake Park where the now iconic Yankee legends spent the bulk of their time. Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Bill Dickey and Tony Lazzeri, to name a few, practiced, trained and played ball in our neighborhood’s back yard.

In September 1929, Huggins, the Yankee manager, passed away suddenly at the age of 50. Guiding the Yankees to six pennants and three World Series titles, it has been said that Huggins “cut the Yankees’ pennant pattern.”



Aerial photo of Huggins-Stengel Field

Above, our neighborhood's popular water tower stands sentry over Huggins-Stengel Field, still a field of dreams after being officially dedicated in 1925. Below is one of the two plaques – found on the lawn in front of the clubhouse — honoring the namesakes of our neighborhood field, Casey Stengel and Miller Huggins.



Thus, on Feb. 13, 1931, the City of St. Petersburg honored the late Yankee manager and part-time resident by renaming Crescent Lake Park “Miller Huggins Field.”

Huggins Field became the place where fresh-faced rookies realized their dream of playing Major League Baseball, and where grizzled veterans tried in vain to recapture the game of their youth.

It was the place where, in the spring of 1936, an Italian immigrant's son from San Francisco named DiMaggio began his lifetime career as a Yankee. The place where, in 1939, the Iron Man himself, Lou Gehrig, would start to feel the early effects of a disease that would end his consecutive games played streak, and ultimately his life. An unadulterated field, where fans of the game could bask in the warmth of the Florida sunshine, and the glow of their heroes' faces.

Stengel Makes Huggins Field Debut in 1949

In 1949, six Yankee managers had come and gone since the passing of Huggins. That spring, a new manager would take over the helm of the Yankees that would change the face of “Miller Huggins Field,” the Yankee organization, and everlastingly, Major League Baseball.

A well-traveled, some would call “clown-like” manager by the name of Charles Dillon “Casey” Stengel made his Huggins Field debut in pinstripes.

“The Ol’ Perfessor,” as he was called, managed the Yankees to five consecutive World Series wins in his first five years as Yankee manager, a big league record that has never been broken. A brilliant field general and baseball tactician, Stengel ruled the field each spring with an iron fist and even sharper tongue.

Off the field, especially in spring training, it could be a different story. Known to enjoy a drink or five himself, Stengel allowed his players a little leeway during their stay in St. Petersburg. One spring, Don Larsen, who would throw a perfect game in a 1956 World Series game, demolished his car not far from Huggins Field by running into a pole at 4 a.m. “The pole was speeding,” the player told reporters. “I hope Stengel don’t fine me.” Stengel said later, “Fine him? He oughta get an award, finding something to do in this town after midnight.”

The names of Yankee players in Stengel’s time to this day bring a sparkle to a Yankee fans eye, and a tear to the other.

For on Huggins Field during Stengel’s tenure, fans could take their place along the fence and witness for themselves future Yankee — and to some extent, American — icons honing their trade. On the mound, Whitey Ford was throwing fastballs to battery mate Yogi Berra or Elston Howard. In the infield, Billy Martin, Phil Rizzuto and Gil McDougald were fielding ground balls. In the batting cage was the man who would break Babe Ruth’s single season home run record, Roger Maris. In the outfield was a blond haired kid from Oklahoma running wind sprints the length of the outfield, and who would wind up hitting 536 home runs for the Yankees. A kid named Mickey Mantle.

Continued on page 12

At Crescent Lake, birds of many feathers flock together

Our neighborhood lake is home to a host of birds, including Ring-Necked Ducks, Mallards, Water-Turkeys, Egyptian Geese and a Wood Stork, a must-see for bird lovers. Like us, they're some of the many birds who also enjoy our lake.

By Susie Betzer

Each year about the first week of November, our population of water birds is added to by a flock of ducks that spends the winter with us — our own snowbirds, you could call them — just as our relatives up north begin to tell us that snow has arrived there.

The flock is mostly Ring-Necked Ducks — deceptively named, as the white rings are on their bills, not their necks. There are about 30 of them, and they tend to stay farther out in the lake than our Mallards and Muscovies, which come to the edge and even waddle up on shore to be fed.

The Ring-Necks are busy diving for dinner in the late afternoon. They're easy to identify with the males' white sides, dark stripe along the back and distinctive black heads.

A few other ducks are mixed in, such as Redheads, with the males featuring coppery red heads and pale sides, and can also be seen diving eagerly and popping back up.

There are about six ducks, called Shovelers, that have a long spatula-shaped bill. They tend to keep to themselves and are sometimes close to the water's edge on the east side of the lake or near the cypress trees at the south end.



While the Muscovy duck — featuring red patches on its face — is not native to North America, several Muscovies make our lake their year-round home.



Double-crested cormorants, like this one, are often mistaken for the Anhinga, but have a heavier head, neck and body. However, like the Anhinga, cormorants lack oil in their feathers and the ability to easily shake off excess water. So after diving underwater for fish, they have to spread their wings and dry off before being able to fly again.

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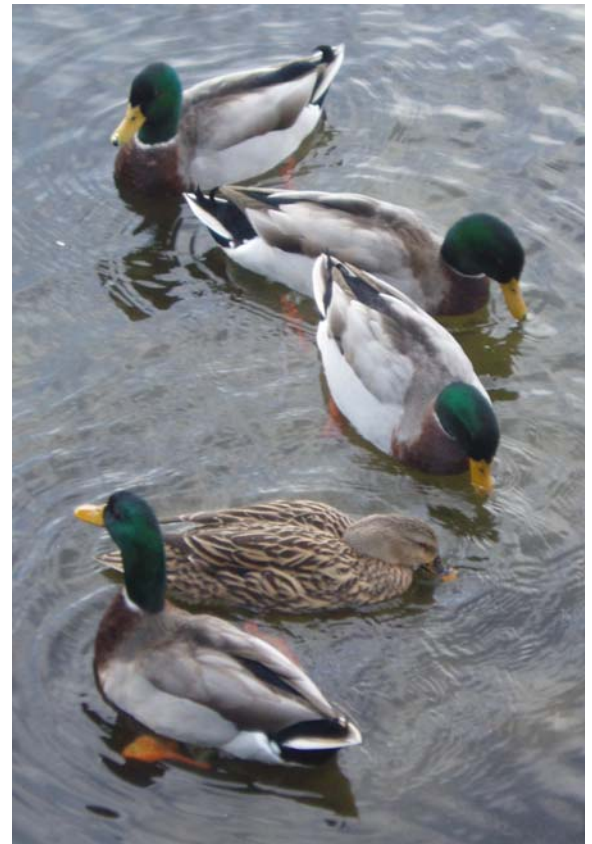
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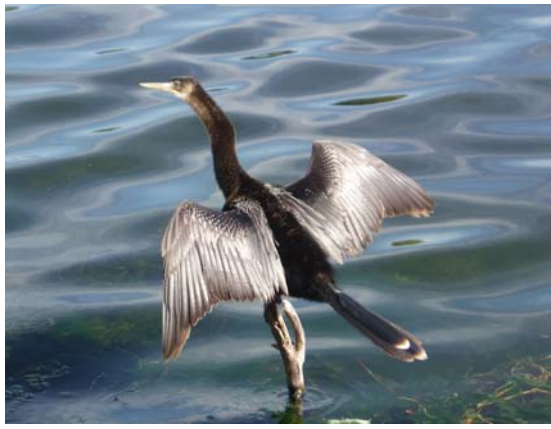
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These four male and one female Mallard ducks are some of the most abundant year-round ducks at Crescent Lake.



At the playground, or north, end of the lake is the best territory for our year-round water birds. An Anhinga (water-turkey or snake-bird) often stands on a branch with wings spread, drying off after “flying” underwater to catch fish. Many coots (black with white bills) and a few gallinules (similar but with red bills) are poking around for food in the shallows — and when they come out on land they have a silly, giddy run that’s similar to their relative, the chicken.

A flock of seagulls is usually doing some fishing, and a cormorant comes up from his dive, looking a little like an Anhinga but with a bigger, heavier head and neck.

A Wood Stork can be seen standing in the shallows, and sometimes walks out onto the grass. This is a huge bird — 40 inches tall with a five-foot wingspread — and while he’s white when standing, he has black linings to the wings when in flight. He moves slowly and is found in the tropics — birders come from all over the world to see one for their “life list” — but we can just walk down to the park and there he is!

Very much in evidence and eager to take the bread crumbs people offer are our domestic geese —the one “barnyard” Graylag and his two elegant companion Egyptian Geese.

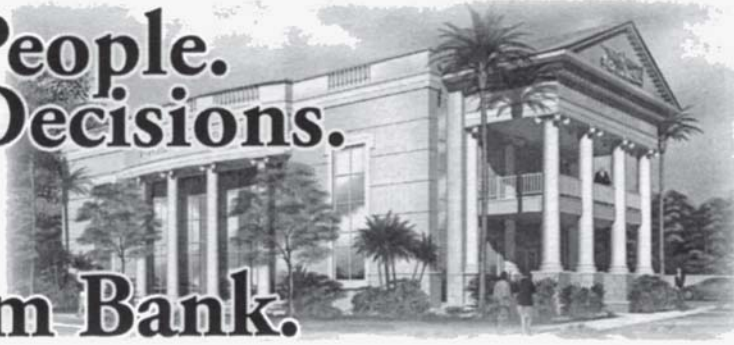
They arrived at Crescent Lake years ago and are quite fearless — and even intimidating — if they think you may have food for them.

Like the Muscovy Ducks, they are not North American natives. They have likely been raised by someone and let go at the park. The Muscovies (with big red patches on their faces and heavier bodies than the green headed mallards) were originally domestic birds who now breed in the wild and interbreed with mallards at Crescent Lake. This is why some of the ducks look like a combination of both!

When you have a chance, please visit some of our “neighbors.” Like us, they also love Crescent Lake Park.



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Crescent Lake's field of dreams

Continued from page

In 1960, Casey Stengel, in his 70s, was “involuntarily retired” by the Yankees. He had won an astounding 10 American League pennants and seven World Series titles. Unbeknownst to Stengel, however, his time at Huggins Field was far from over.

The love affair between the Yankees and St. Petersburg ended in the spring of 1962.

After 35 years, nine managers and perhaps thousands of lost-to-the-lake baseballs, the Yankees left Huggins Field and moved to a new spring facility in Fort Lauderdale.

For the first time since Al Lang's wild pitch, Huggins Field was without a team. The neighborhood was free of New Yorkers.

Or was it?

Mets' 'Lovable Losers' Take Over in 1962

1962 brought a new expansion team to the National League, the New York Mets.

Though very short in the legendary name department, the Mets were nonetheless looked upon as “Lovable Losers,” especially from the Brooklyn Dodger faithful who had lost their team to Los Angeles a few years earlier.

Managing the Mets would be a man who was no stranger to the game of baseball. A man who would once again don a New York uniform and step onto Huggins Field. For in the spring of 62, 72-year-old Casey Stengel returned to St. Petersburg.

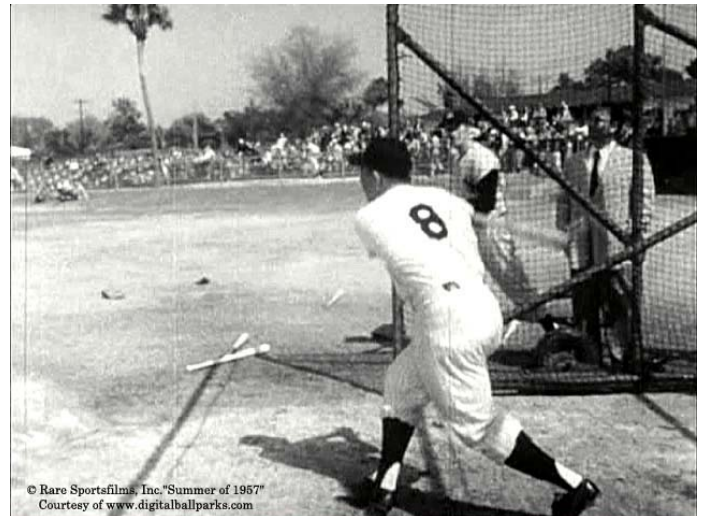
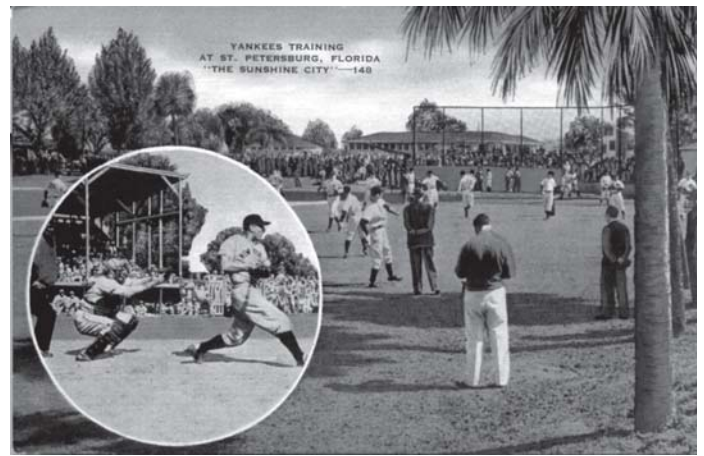
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The city made a few minor improvements for their new tenants. The original clubhouse was now gone, replaced with the building that exists today. There was new fencing and some field improvements, but for the most part, Huggins Field remained the same it was in Babe Ruth's day. After a dismal 1962 season, the somewhat hapless Mets returned to St. Petersburg in 1963 with Stengel once again leading the way.

That spring, the city decided to honor Stengel. Hailed as the man who helped make “the Sunshine City the Spring Capital of the World,” the city unveiled a monument that would stand side by side with Miller Huggins' own marker. With Stengel looking on, “Miller Huggins Field” officially became “Huggins-Stengel Field.” Those two monuments remain to this day and can be found at the front of the building.

Stengel would go on to manage the Mets until 1965. He passed away 10 years later. Yogi Berra once said “it's not over till it's over.” In the case of Huggins-Stengel Field, Yogi was right on the money.

The Mets left for Port St. Lucie in 1987. The St. Louis Cardinals, Baltimore Orioles and finally the Tampa Bay Devil Rays would all use Huggins-Stengel field in the years following. The television show Saturday Night Live would even use the field as a backdrop for a classic baseball sketch. The Rays would eventually hand back the field to the city, opting to use the Naimoli complex exclusively.



These postcards illustrate New York Yankee spring training scenes from our neighborhood baseball field during the 1940s and 1950s, underscoring the Yankees' prominence as one of the most popular teams in professional sports.

Today, a fan of the game can still find young players setting foot on Huggins-Stengel for the first time. Though not wearing big league uniforms on their backs, high school and college players now bring the familiar sounds of the game to the field.

Some are unaware they stand upon the same grass that Hall of Famers once roamed, unaware that the field they stand upon could one day see their children running the base paths. For if this diminutive parcel of land of baseballs and backstops in the Crescent Lake neighborhood is one thing, it is a survivor.

— Made significant progress on two potential Neighborhood Plan projects to resolve \$10,000 in unspent funds from a 1994 neighborhood tax assessment — the Observation Deck and Neighborhood Markers, as voted on in our November General Meeting and reported on in December in a one-page update.

— Had three members attend Annual Neighborhood Partnership Awards Ceremony, with our association receiving, I'm proud to say, two awards: Honorable Mentions for our newsletter and for a Neighborhood Project, our inaugural 2005 Luminary Walk.

Looking ahead, I am optimistic you will join me and others in taking advantage of the momentum we gained in 2006. To that end, I have set the following association goals for 2007:

1. Meet or exceed 2006 Membership Levels.
2. Continue organization and sponsorship of annual neighborhood events.
3. Complete the "Healthy Lake" Project, an effort with significant positive impact for all of us.
4. Complete observation deck and/or neighborhood marker projects.
5. Significantly increase neighborhood volunteerism and service.

Of these, the fifth goal, to me, is the most critical.

While 2006 was a record year for membership and volunteerism, we will require more volunteers to complete the events and projects noted above.

As you read through this edition of the *Banyan Banter*, please take a moment to scan the volunteer opportunities and consider how you can contribute to your neighborhood and build new relationships and friendships with your neighbors.

If something catches your eye, please, don't wait; instead, contact me right away and I'll help make sure you are able to get involved with us.

The saying "strength in numbers" is definitely true. As a neighbor in our wonderful neighborhood, you can, even by sharing just a little of your time, help all of us achieve a great deal.



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Show your support – join or renew your membership in your Association!

Now is the time to join or renew membership in the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association.

Besides being a way to show your support for our neighborhood, membership dues help support the various activities and services offered by the association. The following are some of the activities your contribution helps to support.

Newsletter
Easter in the Park
Neighborhood Yard Sale
Porch Parties
Harvest Street Festival
Holiday Luminary Walk
Park Plantings



We had 165 paid active members in the association last year. The budget for this year requires a similar level of support from the neighborhood.

Whether you are a property owner, resident, business owner or just want to show us your support for our activities, consider joining today.

Thank you to those listed below who have already shown support by submitting their 2007 membership dues:

Jim and Joan Brennan - Phil and Kathryn Celli - Gary and Michelle Crosby - Mike and Jennie Flanagan
Carolyn and David Fries - Hardwood Specialists (Terry Reeb) - Richard and Susan Tribolet - Rich and Nancy Wall
Jason Diviki - Kelly Brockstedt

Visit our website at www.neighborhoodlink.com/stpetersburg/clna

2007 CLNA Membership Form

YES! I want to get involved (circle your interest): **Neighborhood Planning** **Board Member** **Newsletter**

Traffic Calming **Social Events** **Neighborhood Projects** **Hospitality**

Membership **Fund Raising**

Annual dues are just ... Individual \$15 Household or Business \$20

Annual dues are just ... Individual \$15 Household or Business \$20

Make checks payable to: Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone #'s Hm _____ Wk _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Do you have a Business? If desired, complete below...

Name of Business or Service _____

Business Address _____

*Bring this completed form along with your dues to the next event or mail to :
Crescent Lakes Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 76065, St. Petersburg, FL 33734*

Update on Community Policing: Officer Merritt, 4 others part of District II team

Previously defined as our Community Police Officer (CPO), Officer Ray Merritt will continue to work in our neighborhood as a District II Community Service Officer. Officers Ed Borelli, Jason Deary, Jennifer Lich and Joe Truong complete the District II team. They are responsible for responding to and tracking calls placed to the Community Service Squad phone line (see below).

Other police officers will continue to patrol the neighborhood on a regular basis.

For emergencies, always call 911.

For non-emergency issues of an urgent nature, call the non-emergency main number, 893-7780. This line is answered by a live person 24 hours a day.

For non-urgent issues requiring police assistance (including questions about the new program), you may call the Community Service Squad for District II at 551-3182 and leave a message.

All calls to this number will be returned within 24 hours and any progress made will be tracked. This is similar to calling Officer Merritt's voicemail in the previous structure, except that response to all calls is officially tracked and a callback is guaranteed within 24 hours.

Mark calendar for Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

Come celebrate Mardi Gras at Neighborhood Porch Party

Come celebrate Mardi Gras, Crescent Lake style, at a porch party and outdoor movie.

Geoff and Jenny Voight will be our hosts on Saturday, February 17th. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. Wear a costume and bring your Mardi Gras beads to get in the spirit! Bring a food dish to share with your neighbors.

All residents of the neighborhood are invited.

The Voights live at 801 20th Avenue North. Our "Big Screen" from the Movie-in-the-Park will be installed on the side of Geoff's garage to present an outdoor showing of a New Orleans-themed movie.

For more information contact Geoff or Jenny at 822-4610.

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Talavera and clay pottery from Mexico and Spain. Unique selection of garden pots and outdoor and indoor accessories.

Mention this ad for 10% off of one item.

Award winning home Continued from page 2

The very visible massive chimney (which was no doubt topped with red barrel tile like the original roof covering) and the tile gable vents are more detailing, further expressing the architectural style.

The Spanish Eclectic style is most common in the states with a Spanish heritage, particularly California, Arizona, Texas and Florida.

These are regions where original Spanish Colonial building occurred and continued into the 19th century. During the 1920s, many communities in Florida and southern California were planned in the Spanish Eclectic style.

Residential buildings of Spanish precedent built before 1920 are generally free adaptations in the Mission Style, based on the Spanish missions in California. It was not until the San Diego Panama-California Exposition in 1915 that the precise imitation of more elaborate Spanish prototypes received wide attention.

The exposition was designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, who previously authored a detailed study of Spanish Colonial architecture. He wanted to go beyond the then-prevalent Mission interpretations and emphasize the richness of the Spanish precedents found throughout Latin America.

Inspired by the wide publicity of the exposition, other fashionable architects soon began to look directly to Spain for source material. There they found a still longer and richer sequence of architectural traditions that became melded into a style called Spanish Colonial Revival.

Due to the style's broad roots, the more inclusive name Spanish Eclectic is preferred. The style reached its apex during the Florida land boom of the 1920s and remained popular through the 1930s, eventually passing from favor during the 1940s. Earlier examples of the style are more elaborate; later examples such as this one are more modest and transitioning into the form of the early Ranch Style.

This home is also worthy of note in regard to the historical significance of its designer and builder, Cade Allen. Allen was a prominent player in the early development of St. Petersburg in the 1920s. His namesake, Allendale, the neighborhood to the north of 38th Avenue at Dr. ML King Jr. Street, was designed and developed by him. His work is typified by good design and sound building materials (hollow terra cotta wall tile, exterior granite and quality interior finishes were common).

Thanks to the efforts and appreciation of Mike and Nita Mullaney, this very special house continues to grace our neighborhood, marking its contribution to our rich development history.

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cfries@tampabay.rr.com
823-0050

Rich Wall, Vice President
823-2835

Gary Crosby, Treasurer
mgmcrosby@tampabay.rr.com
823-8014
CLNA Treasury balance
as of 1/4/07: \$968.02

Phil Celli, Secretary

Nancy Wall 823-2835

Mike Flanagan 452-4538

Upcoming Board Meetings:
Feb. 5, 7p.m.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

A great and inexpensive way to reach hundreds of local potential customers. The newsletter is mailed bi-monthly to all residents of Crescent Lake (nearly 600 households).

1 page \$60/issue \$300/year

1/2 page \$40/issue \$200/year

1/4 page \$30/issue \$150/year

Business card \$25/issue \$100/year

Editor, Mike Flanagan

Designer, Jason T. Diviki

Printing by:
Lightning Print
(727)321-0785

Mark your calendar for neighborhood events

Monday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.

CLNA February Board Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

Neighborhood Porch Party & Movie – Mardi Gras theme

Hosts: Geoff & Jenny Voight

Location: 801 20th Avenue North

Wear costume and Mardi Gras beads

Bring food dish to share with neighbors

Saturday, Feb. 24, 8:30 to 1:30

Neighborhood Workday for Healthy Lake Project

Pitch in to remove debris from shoreline and within lake

Monday, March 5, 7 p.m.

CLNA March Board Meeting

Saturday, March 10, 8 a.m.

CLNA Spring Garage/Yard Sale

Will be held at homes of neighbors, not in the park.

Saturday, March 10, Time TBD

Haz-Mat to Go (safely dispose of electronics, paint and

other hazardous materials)

Monday, April 2, 7 p.m.

CLNA April Board Meeting

Friday, April 6

Banyan Banter Newsletter, Second Quarter Issue

Ad/Article/Photo Deadline

Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m.

Annual CLNA Easter Egg Hunt

Crescent Lake Park, East of Playground

Carolyn's Top 10 List

Not much time? Not a problem!

A little time can go a long way

No time to volunteer?

Whether you can spare one hour or many, there are many things you can do to help *your* neighborhood association that can fit into your busy schedule.

Below are 10 examples.

10. Hide Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

9. Make your porch available for the "Easter Egg Drop Box."

8. Participate in a Lake Cleanup Day (even one hour makes a *big* difference!).

7. Write an article, submit a photo and/or solicit an advertiser for the next newsletter.

6. Help with plantings for our Healthy Lake Project.

5. Nominate a neighbor for the next Home Beautiful Award.

4. Host a Porch Party/Outdoor Movie Night at your home (we have the projector).

3. Weed a planting bed in the park (and let us know you did!).

2. Call a few neighbors (Phone Tree Neighborhood Notification Program).

1. Join the Neighborhood Association.

There are many more opportunities to get

involved. Let us know your time constraints and we'll come up with something for you.

C'mon, don't wait. We need you. So contact us today ... we're very friendly!

— Carolyn Fries, President & (Acting) Volunteer Coordinator

cfries@tampabay.rr.com / 823-0050

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