

The Friends of Mead Garden Historical Timeline

2003

February

- Initial exploratory meeting, Mead Garden Beautification Advisory Committee

April

- Strategic planning meeting with Dori Madison, IMK Group
- Consultation begun with Robert Bowden, Leu Gardens
- Butterfly Brigade (Bob Stevens, Judy Finaro, Fran Cooper, Ann Taylor, Beverly Lassiter, MA Freyer) and Weed Warriors (Rene Kelley, Alice Mikkleson) started
- Historical investigation started by Dr. Elizabeth Camm

May

- Meeting of Friends of Mead Garden, Inc. (FMG) Eagle Scout project for signage and arbor in Mead butterfly garden

July

- Bylaws, Incorporation documents filed; 501(c) 3 application for tax exempt status filed by W.Graham White (Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman, PA)

September

- American Pioneer Title Insurance Company donation gift
- Eagle Project-Clayton Sheppard, tree inventory hard and digital format

November

- DAR donation gift
- Mead Garden Preservation Association donation gift

2004

January

- Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation grant
- Establish bank account at BankFirst
- Education report & recommendations by Arlene Bridges, Sarah Sprinkel
- Antique Camellia Grove found by Weed Warriors

February

- Pat Rich (EWD Consultants), a garden development consultant known for her work with botanical gardens throughout the country, was contracted to assist with feasibility and visioning study of Mead's restoration

2004

March

- First Annual Spud Hunt resulting in 376 lbs of air potatoes collected
- 501(c) 3 tax exempt status granted
- Eleethax, a consortium of 30 PR professionals, joins FMG for media and public relations campaign
- Mead Garden is determined to qualify to be part of the Bartrum Trail Society, (marking William & John Bartrum's historic trip & cataloging trails through eight southern states promoting interest in developing recreational trails & botanical gardens)

April

- Community Foundation of Central Florida grant
- Three Focus groups held with neighbors, garden advocates, educators and Winter Park citizens

May

- Winter Park Historical Museum presents Gardens of Winter Park Display with large display of Mead Garden history
- Community survey to 1,000 households with statistical analysis by Dr James Eck, Rollins College
- Wonder of Birds & Bees and Butterflies Projects donation by W. Williams

June

- Summer Environmental Camp for children 5 to 11 yrs of age, held 5 successive weeks
- Winter Park Health Foundation grant for Summer Environment Camp Scholarships
- Participation at National Convention for the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretum in Dallas
- Eagle Project-Drew LaNenga, weeding, plant labeling and directional signage

August

- Planning meeting with Pat Rich with over 30 FMG Board members & Winter Park citizens
- Membership Co-Chairmen, Jane Courter & Margie Pabst begin Membership planning

September

- Three Hurricanes!
- Cookies for Crews-300 dozen cookies distributed to city workers performing storm cleanup
- St Johns Water Management District grant - swamp (restoration, dredging & hydrologic alteration of the wetland area); clay pit (creation of several dams & improved access & public education); & optimization of the alum injection system treating the water flowing in the creek
- City of Winter Park first time budget allocation for Mead Garden restoration

October

- FMG Membership Campaign launched for Charter, Individual, Family and Corporate partners.

December

- FMG wins trophy for best float in 2004 WP Christmas Parade.
- FMG is the charitable recipient of the 1st Annual WP Christmas Boat Parade.

2005

January

- 150 Central Florida Brownie and Girl Scouts participate in an overnight lock-in, and clean-up day in Mead, accumulating over 101,000 service hours.
- Clean-up Sundays every week in January
- Approvals for the Vision Plan for Mead Garden by Lakes & Waterways Advisory Board and by Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

February

- Approval of the City of Winter Park Commissioners for the Vision Plan for Mead Garden
- Establish Office for Friends of Mead Garden in mobile trailer office located in Mead Garden
- Newsletter for Friends of Mead Garden launched by Sue Foreman and committee

March

- Completion of Charter Membership Campaign with celebratory event at the Macnab residence on March 17
- Grant awarded from the Invasive Exotic Plant Regional Working Group, St Johns Water Management. The grant was used to spray for invasion species, controlling skunk vine, wild taro and air potato in the heavily infested areas of the northern section and a smaller area in the southeastern section of Mead.