

**Henry Nehrling Society, Inc.**  
**President Theresa Schretzmann-Myers Report**  
**Annual Membership Meeting, February 22, 2010**

I assumed the Presidency of the Nehrling Society on February 23, 2009, at the Annual Membership Meeting. This is a summary of the most significant events in 2009 with the help of our hard working Board of Directors and Advisory Board.

On February 28, 2009, Vice Pres. and ISA Certified Arborist Jim Gerber chaired and volunteers worked to clean-up Dr. Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens with State Radio Band from Boston. Exotic invasive Kudzu, Air Potato, Brazilian Pepper and Cherry Laurel were removed from Palm Cottage Gardens house, tree canopy and green house.

In March 2009 Nehrling Society planned strategy at our Board Meeting for the upcoming Legislative Session. On March 23-24, Cindy Christmas, Angela Withers, Nancy Rodlun and myself traveled to Tallahassee to lobby legislators in the Florida House and Senate on behalf of Nehrling Gardens, historic preservation funding of our Florida Division of Historical Resources Special Categories Grant and as members of Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.

In March 2009, the Nehrling Society members Kathleen Klare, Angela Nicols, Melissa Busby and myself finished indexing the Koreshan Collection of Dr. Nehrling's personal library books and ephemera donated to us by the Koreshan College of Life Foundation.

In April, 2009, Nehrling Board and Acquisition Committee met and planned strategy for acquisition. Nehrling Archivist Kathleen Klare reported contact with appraiser Mr. Slicker from Lighthouse Books, Tampa, Florida, specialist in antique books and ephemera to inquire about him appraising Koreshan collection of Nehrling books and ephemera. The "Garden Groove Committee" planned the first "Henry Nehrling's Garden Groove" fundraiser. On April 15, Angela Withers and I attended the Florida Federation of Garden Club convention in Daytona. Angela was instrumental in reopening the dialogue with the FFGC to explain Dr. Nehrling's connection with the creation of the FFGC garden club in Jacksonville and other clubs around the state.

The two weekends of April 18-19 and April 25-26, Nehrling Society hosted our "Help Us Save Nehrling Gardens" booth at the Winter Garden Bloom & Grow Annual "Spring Fever in the Garden Festival" in Winter Garden and the Apopka Foliage Festival. Angela Withers chaired the Development Committee with Treasurer Pat Uhl, Sandy Roman, Jim Gerber, Angela Nicols, Nancy Rodlun and myself to develop a strategy for raising the needed funds for closing. On April 28, 2009, Nancy Rodlun was

instrumental in getting the office of the Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty and the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to recognize Dr. Nehrling's historic significance to Orange County and Florida and declare a Proclamation of May 9, 2009 (Nehrling's birthday) to be recognized as Dr. Henry Nehrling Day.

In May 6, 2009, Jim Thomas, Angela Withers and myself attended the West Orange Chamber of Commerce Orange County luncheon to hear County and Legislative Delegates talk about issues pertaining to development, commerce, environmental issues and historic preservation pertinent to West Orange County. May 14 – 16, Nancy Rodlun, Pat Uhl, Cindy Christmas and Angela Withers attended the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Palm Beach.

May 18 the Board met again and May 26 the Nehrling Acquisition Committee met to plan strategy and move ahead with fundraising plans.

On May 29-31, the Nehrling Board consisting of Angela Withers, Richard Nehrling, Nancy Rodlun and myself met with board members of Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, Dr. Nehrling's old Tropical Arboretum garden in Naples. We had the pleasure of being personally toured around the property by Dr. Jan Abernathie, Bob Printz and Al DeMartino. What makes the Zoo so appealing and unique is the symbiotic relationship between the educational animal exhibits surrounded by magnificent and historic tropical landscape. We were given a tour of the facility and shown Dr. Nehrling's "living history" of 100+ year-old trees and plants which had been saved and recognized in Naples. We had dinner with Charles Dauray of the College of Life Foundation; Cary Hester, Landscape Architect who gave us his thesis, "A Restoration Proposal for Dr. Henry Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens," conceptual site plan and GIS tree survey and Board Members from Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens. Plans were discussed to start a Nehrling Society in Naples.

On June 6-7, 2010, Mr. Slicker from Lighthouse Books, Tampa, Florida, specialist in antique books and ephemera, came to Windermere to appraise Dr. Nehrling's books and ephemera from the Koreshan collection. On June 13, Cindy Christmas and I made a presentation to the Apopka Historical Society regarding Dr. Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens. On June 15, I conducted a radio interview with DJ Beth Perrill on Cox Radio's WDBO regarding the historic house and gardens and our attempts to raise the money to save Palm Cottage Gardens. The "Nehrling's Garden Groove" festival committee met to continue planning for the fundraising event. Nehrling Board and Acquisition Committee met and planned strategy for acquisition.

On July 3, 2009, I conducted a tour with Orlando business owners Frank and Theresa Vassell and on July 9 with Saint Leo students Davion Cooper and Wesley Johnson from

Saint Leo Alumni Office regarding publicity in the St. Leo University Alumni Magazine. Dr. Nehrling visited the German Benedictine monks at St. Leo during his forays in Florida in the 1880's. The Nehrling Board and Acquisition Committee continued to meet and plan for the acquisition of the gardens. Two appraisals of the Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens property were completed prior to negotiating a new Contract for Purchase and sale with Barbara Bochiardy, along with a home inspection of Nehrling Gardens house. Nehrling Board and Acquisition Committee met and planned strategy for acquisition.

In August 2009, the "Nehrling Garden Groove" committee met with City of Ocoee Parks and Recreation about hosting "Henry Nehrling's Garden Groove," in Ocoee. On August 22 we attended the open house at Senator Alan Grayson's office in Winter Garden. Board and Acquisition Committee continued planning meetings.

In August, 2009, the Acquisition Committee with our broker Sandy Roman to talk about strategy for renegotiating the Contract for Purchase and Sale. We renegotiated the Contract for Purchase and Sale down from \$650,000 to \$450,000, a key component for the success of the acquisition, in conjunction with a State Grant for historic preservation.

Nehrling Garden Groove volunteers met on September 16 to do the Ocoee Parks & Recreation Walk through for set-up at Vignetti Park. On September 19, we hosted the First Annual "Henry Nehrling's Garden Groove" chaired by Chesley Devine-Blake. Bands from around Florida donated their time and talent to play the event with food, artists and green vendors helping us to raise funds for the acquisition of the property.

In October 6, 2009, we had a meeting to plan writing a \$50,000 State of Florida Division of Historic Preservation, Special Category Grant. On October 7, Nehrling Board Members attended a Casa Feliz fundraiser to see how their non-profit restored the historic house and gardens in Winter Park and sponsored an on-site art auction and fundraiser. Meanwhile, Board and Nehrling Acquisition Committee planning meetings were happening fast and furious.

On October 7, we presented a the DVD Nehrling Gardens presentation to Pine Castle Garden Club.

On October 19, 2009, I presented in front of the Orange County Legislative Delegation of State Representatives and Senators regarding historic preservation and our Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens with Jim Thomas, Nancy Rodlun and my daughter Sarah Myers handing out brochures and info to the delegation. The comments were very positive.

On October 20, 2009, Mike Spotts, Chelsey Devine-Blake and myself did a clean-up of Nehrling's Garden path from the house to Lake Nally to open it up for visitors. On October 22, Pat Uhl, Jim Thomas and I led Mr. James Gissy on a tour of the gardens to talk about financing the mortgage for closing on the property, our business plan and the historical significance of the gardens to Orange County and the State of Florida.

On October 26, the Nehrling Board of Directors had its most important meeting to date, to vote on moving forward with the acquisition of Nehrling Gardens and acceptance of the mortgage promissory note terms from James and Brenda Gissy. Special thanks to our Real Estate Agent, Sandy Roman, and her excellent strategic advice. Closing was tentatively scheduled for November 15, due to pending acquisition grant deadlines to close before December 31, 2009.

On November 11, I presented to Kiwanis Club of Winter Garden, Loretta Leda's home club. On November 12, the Central Florida Anthropological Society contacted us about doing a site visit at historic Nehrling Gardens. On November 17, there was an emergency meeting of the Nehrling Society Board of Directors for last minute closing details and strategy. On November 30, 2009, the Henry Nehrling Society, Inc. closed the acquisition of the Nehrling Gardens property with the help of our closing attorney Vernon Swartzel of the Law Firm of Carlton Fields, our real estate agent, Sandy Roman, Seller Barbara Bochiardy's real estate agent, Suzi Karr and their closing agent Barry Miller. Special thanks to Attorney Vernon Swartzel for his judicious legal advice. Nehrling Society's Board met with celebratory luncheon downtown in Orlando with much joy and relief.

On December 2, 2009, Pat Uhl and myself attended the Donors Edge seminar for the Community Foundation of Central Florida. On December 6, the Board of Directors conducted a walk-through with Board Member and biologist Jim Thomas regarding the exotic invasives on the property for clean-up and eradication. On December 8, we met with Julie Miles at Seaside Bank for the upcoming "Visioning Luncheon" to be held on March 18, 2010. Another radio interview was conducted with Beth Perrine at Cox Radio WDBO regarding the garden acquisition on December 22, 2009. In December we had a Christmas Board and Advisory Board meeting and celebration at Angela Withers house.

I attended several leadership seminars at the Rollins College Philanthropy and Non-Profit Leadership Seminar in January 2010. We conducted a walk-through of Nehrling Gardens with the Central Florida Anthropology and Archeology group on January 30, 2010. On January 31, 2010, we attended our first Lake Nally Woods HOA meeting as owners of the Nehrling property.

At our Annual Membership Meeting, Henry Nehrling Society, Inc. is here another year later with the exciting news that we have purchased Dr. Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens. What a phenomenal year for the Nehrling Society. I am proud of our hard work and achievements together as a team.

I'd like to recognize the Nehrling Board that made this historic event happen.

Theresa Schretzmann-Myers  
**President**  
**Grant Writing Chairman**  
**Development Committee**

Angela Withers  
**Development Director**

Jim Gerber  
**1st Vice President**  
**Development Committee**

Jim Thomas  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Pat Uhl  
**Treasurer**  
**Development Committee**

Mike Neff  
**Financial Secretary**  
**Development Committee**

Jennifer Roper  
**Recording Secretary**

Ellen Scott  
**Corresponding Secretary**

Chelsey Devine-Blake  
**Volunteer Coordinator/Community Liaison**

Ralph S. Chabot  
**Database Chairman**

Kay Groeger  
**Special Events**

Melissa Busby  
**Nehrling Quarterly Newsletter**