

Editor's Memo....

Please send me your news about your Chapter. We want to know about your programs, Preservation and Restoration projects, field trips, fund raisers, in other words, we want to know everything about your chapter! Remember there may be times when I have to do some editing to your articles due to space requirements.

Please submit your chapter information either typed and mailed or by an attachment in an email. Please print any names. Be concise. Please be sure to include your name, phone number, email address, so I will be able to contact you if necessary.

Send information to: **Linda Goshorn, 10419 SW 75th Way, Gainesville, FL., 32608, Phone: 352-495-7811, E-Mail address: lgoshorn@Hotmail.com**

The next deadline for *Cracker Crumbs* is July 1, 2026

Many thanks to all who submitted articles for this issue of the *Cracker Crumbs*,

Linda Goshorn

The *Cracker Crumbs* Newsletter is the official publication of the Florida State Questers and is published twice each year under the direction of the Florida Executive Board. Each issue received is a privilege of membership in the Florida State Organization of The Questers, a private non-profit, international organization incorporated in the State of Pennsylvania.

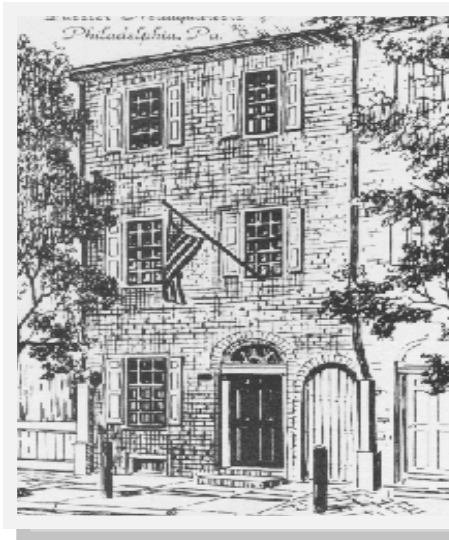
The purpose of The Questers is to education by research and study of antiques, to donate funds to the preservation and restoration of existing memorials, historical buildings, and landmarks, and to provide funds for further education of students, enrolled at Columbia University and the University of Delaware at Winterthur.

*International
Headquarters*

The Questers

210 South Quince Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107



"It's Fun to Search and a Joy to Find"

The Florida State Organization

Spring 2026



Golden Age of Piracy

1650 - 1730:

Was a period of intense maritime robbery from roughly the 1650s to the 1710s and 1720s. It was characterized by pirates operating in the Caribbean, North American coastal waters, and the Indian Ocean, targeting ships involved in the growing transatlantic trade.

This era gave rise to:

TO LEARN MORE, COME TO

THE SPRING COUNCIL MEETING IN MARCH 2026!!!!

More information on page 7...

President's Corner.....



reetings to all Florida Questers ...

Happy 2026 Dear Questers!

I do hope everyone had a wonderful holiday filled with family, friends and lots of food.

The state board was busy. We installed a new Corresponding Secretary, Janet Wright. Janet is also our website liaison and has worked with our webmaster to update our state website. If you haven't been on it lately check it out. This coincided with the update of the International Questers website.

Francine Webb our Bardens' Angels planner, chose Bok Tower for the fall field trip, which was open to all. I would also like to thank Francine for volunteering to be our Publicity person. If your chapter has some news to share please contact her.

The Spring Council meeting is planned for March 26, 2026 in Sun City Center. We will have election and installation of officers. Information can be found in the following pages. As we did last year we will be awarding a Chapter of the Year certificate to a worthy chapter. This is based on the information on the chapter president annual report. We will also be awarding a certificate for the best Yearbook. The chapter presidents were emailed information about this and hopefully we will have chapters sending in their handbooks.

Julia Compton Moore

2/10/29 - 4/18/04

Civil War families were notified of deceased solders occasionally by letters from the troop commander but often, a list was simply posted at the local funeral home.

During WWI, notifying families of deceased solders was by telegram delivered by taxi drivers.

Julia Moore was married to a WWI Army Officer. A taxi pulled up to her base housing and knocked on her door. She was terrified that they were delivering bad news. Turns out, he was at the wrong house.

Julia began following the taxi's to comfort the widows and children of the deceased soldier.

She petitioned the Pentagon to set up survivor networks and casualty notification teams. The four person teams consist of an officer, a Chaplin, a medic and an additional officer who remains in the car in case of violence or other situation.

They deliver the messages within four hours of being notified of a death but will only deliver between 6:00 am and 10:00 pm. And the name of the deceased is withheld for 24 hours after the family has been notified.

In 2023, Fort Benning was renamed Fort Moore to honor Julia and her husbands efforts and service, however in 2025 the name was returned to Fort Benning.



After having two children, Jennie and Randolph went their separate ways, although they never divorced. Both of them had affairs, and one of Jennie’s lovers was King Edward VII, who had endorsed her marriage in the first place.

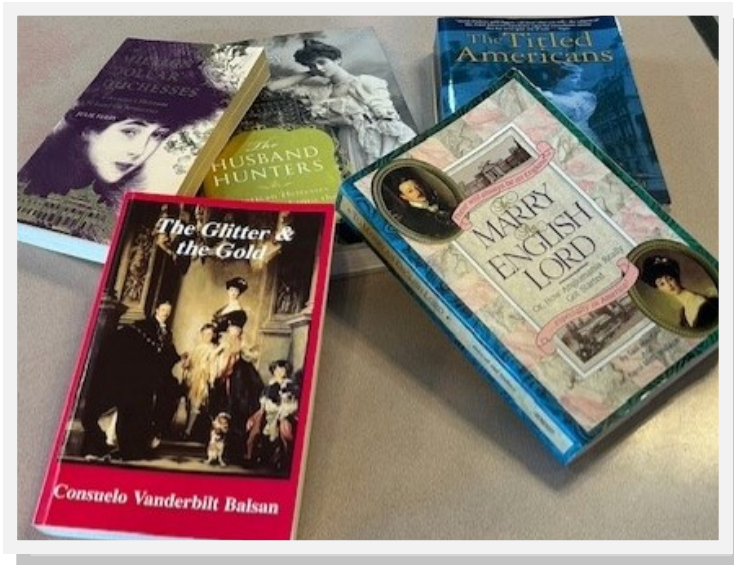
Randolph died in 1895. Jennie’s second marriage ended in divorce, and she was married to her much younger third husband at the time of her death in 1921. Through her “relationships” with several powerful and influential men, she was able to promote and help advance both her first husband’s political career as well as her eldest son’s. That son was Winston Churchill, one of England's most popular Prime Ministers, who was voted “The Greatest Britain of All Time” in 2002.

Consuelo Vanderbilt: Married Charles Randolph Churchill in 1895. Consuelo was forced to marry the 9th Duke of Marlborough at 18 by her mother, Alva. Alva Vanderbilt used her daughter’s marriage to a titled British aristocrat as a way to gain acceptance from New York’s “Knickerbockers”, and to rise in society.

The Duke had come to the United States with his parent’s blessing to find a wealthy wife. The Marlborough’s estate, Blenheim Palace, was in need of much restoration and repair. Although many of it’s treasures had been sold, the family was deeply in debt and in danger of losing their ancestral home.

Alva arranged an introduction between Charles and Consuelo, and made it clear that he was welcome to marry her daughter.

There is more information from this presentation from Lucy, but I ran out of room in this issue of the CC! The books in this picture were used by Lucy. Check them out from your library and continue to learn about that history during the years between 1870 to 1914.



I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Council meeting. I’d like to thank Nautilus #909 for hosting this event. It should be a very fun day for all.

Barbara Magnuson, Florida State President

P.S. By the way, our International President, Daphne Davis, has graciously accepted our invitation to attend The Spring Council event. The Board and I would love to have a big crowd come and welcome Daphne!



Just a note from Barbara:

I was able to visit with the members of St. John’s #1821 just before Thanksgiving. The Chapter is celebrating 30 years as a Quester Chapter. They are celebrating with a High Tea on January 26, 2026.

Please let me know if your Chapter is celebrating a very special number of years being a Quester. Congratulations to St. Johns.



*Florida Questers and Their Guests
are Cordially Invited to Attend
the Spring Council Meeting
of the Florida State Organization of the
Questers*

Date: Thursday March 26, 2026

AHOY MATEY!

**TRIM THE SAILS, COME ABOARD AND JOIN THE
CREW.** Join us for an adventure on the high seas.

Come if you dare! Arrrrr.

Location: 1311 Aston Gardens Court, Sun City Center, FL 33573

Host Hotel: Holiday Inn, Sun City Center, FL

10:00 a.m. Registration/Sales/Curiosity Shoppe

11:00 a.m. State Meeting, Election and Installation of Officers

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

12:45 p.m. Last call for Raffle and Curiosity Shoppe

1:15 p.m. Program: The legendary life of Jose Gaspar, a Spanish nobleman who turned to piracy, terrorizing the Gulf of Mexico in the late

Lovie Pritchard #561

By Lucy Ray

“The Dollar Duchesses”: Lucy presented this very interesting subject to us at our chapter meeting in October. This is a small part of the program.

FRANCES ELLEN WORK: Married James Burke-Roche in 1880. Burke-Roche later became the 3rd Baron Fermoy. Her father Franklin disliked the British, and was very much against American heiresses marrying British aristocrats and taking their fortunes out of the United States. He told Frances he would cut her out of his will if she married James. Burke-Roche, a compulsive gambler who was heavily in debt, married her anyway, probably because Frances had an allowance of \$7,000 per year of her own.

The marriage was not a happy one, and they divorced in 1891. Frances returned to the United States with their two daughters, and later Burke-Roche sent their twin sons to live with her as well. The youngest son, Maurice eventually returned to England. His youngest daughter married Viscount Althorp, who's name was John Spencer, and they had four children. He became the 8th Earl Spencer in 1975. This makes Frances the Great-Great-Grandmother of Diana, the Princess of Wales, and Great-Great-Great Grandmother to Prince William, heir to the English throne.

JENNIE JEROME: Married Randolph Churchill, the second son of the 7th Duke of Marlborough. They became engaged in 1872, three days after they met. Both sets of parents initially objected to the marriage. Jennie's two sisters had both married British aristocrats with titles, and their parents did not like the fact that Churchill was a younger son who would likely never inherit the title. They were also upset that Randolph hadn't asked their permission before proposing to their daughter.

Randolph's parents were unhappy that their son wanted to marry into an American family they knew nothing about, and after they learned that Jennie's father Jerome had rather a bad reputation they firmly objected to the engagement. The Prince of Wales had met, and was very fond of Jennie, so he stepped in to say that he "highly endorsed" the marriage. The Duke and Duchess did not want to go against the wishes of the future King of England, so gave their consent. Agreeing on a marriage settlement took some time, and the wedding did not take place until 1874.

Cameos have not always been decorative jewelry for women. In different points of history they have been worn frequently by men.

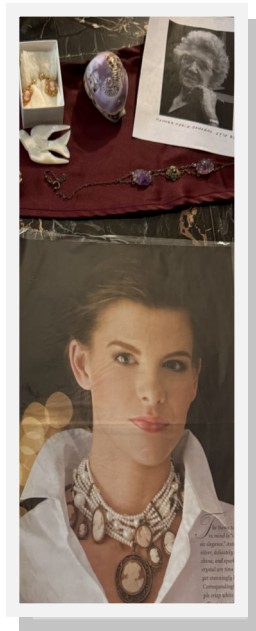
Early Greek and Romans featured gods and goddesses, many depicted living heroes or rulers.

During the Renaissance, Pope Paul II was an avid cameo collector.

Cameos have been worn on helmets and military accessories like breastplates and sword dandles, on rings and other jewelry, vases, cups and dishes.

Napoleon wore a cameo to his own wedding.

Cameos are now being modernized by mixing them with diamonds, freshwater pearls, and other gemstones.



Examples of Cameos



1700s. Tampa continues to celebrate his mythical exploits with the annual Gasparilla Festival (i.e. Mardi Gras on steroids). Guest speaker, Gary Mull, professional speaker who has served as International Director of Toastmasters International, past Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and past Commodore of Tampa Sailing Squadron.

1:45 p.m. Opportunity Drawing (Baskets)

2:00 p.m. Adjournment

Host Chapter/Old Curiosity Shoppe: Nautilus #909

Registration: Survey Creek #1392

The Executive/Appointee Board joins me in an invitation to all Florida Questers and guests. We hope many prospective members will join us that day. After registering enjoy shopping in our Curiosity Shoppe. Please bring priced items by you, to sell. There will be time for you to buy Opportunity Drawing tickets for our Themed Baskets. This has been a great money-maker, and the chapters are showing great ingenuity with new ideas for the baskets. We hope your chapter will be bringing a basket for the Spring Council Meeting. **RAFFLE BASKETS ADD TO THE FUN, WILL YOUR CHAPTER BE BRINGING ONE? Please let the registrar know if you plan to bring a basket. President: Barbara Magnuson**

LUNCHEON MENU

Chicken with lemon parsley sauce, Roasted Asparagus and Carrots, Parmesan Tomatoes, Mixed Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing

Rolls, Iced Tea, Coffee, Water Dessert: Cake donated by

Nautilus Chapter #909

NOTE: Vegetarian option available

Please submit one check (\$35.00 per person) payable to:

Florida State Questers for your Chapter no later than

March 9, 2026 to:

FL Treasurer, Lynn Carr, 3115 Terramar Court, Naples, FL34119

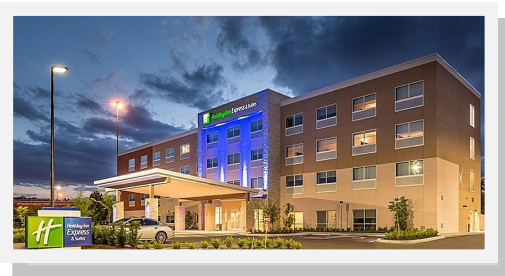
Please PRINT names of those attending and include with your check.

The Party Begins the Night Before:

**ACCOMODATIONS: Holiday Inn Express & Suites,
226 Teco Road, Ruskin, FL 33570**

When making reservations call the hotel direct at 813-922-4561 and use CODE TQE “The Questers Event” to get our discounted rate of \$169.00 +tax for a traditional room or \$185 +tax for a suite per night.

MEET & GREET: will be held at the hotel in the South Shore Room on Wednesday evening March 25, 2026 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.



Reservation deadline March 6, 2026.

Selby Botanical Gardens, the Tampa Theatre, the Chihuly Museum... well you get the idea.

Nautilus is currently busy planning the Florida Spring Council Meeting scheduled for March 26, 2026. The last time the convention was held in our area was right after the pandemic and was poorly attended as many of our Florida members were still apprehensive about Covid. Hopefully, we'll have a better turn out for 2026. Our speaker, Gary Mull, is excellent. I promise you... I know him well. No one will fall asleep! He's a dynamic speaker!

TURNBULL #1486

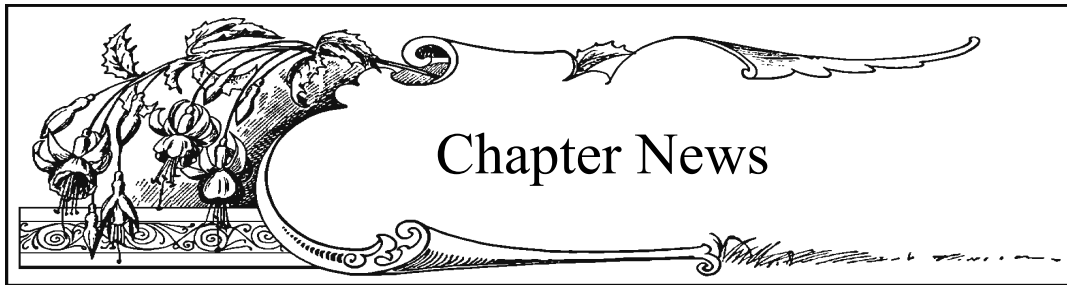
By Barbara Magnuson

CAMEOS: At our October meeting our member Abbie Kverek gave a presentation on Cameos.

One of the oldest art forms, dates back to Greece in the 6th Century B.C. Cameos have never fallen out of fashion, worn by royalty for centuries including Queen Victoria. Abbie's first introduction was from her grandmother who Abbie remembers wearing a cameo or pearls. Abbie's sister collected vintage jewelry and when she passed her daughter gifted Abbie with several of her prized cameos.

Old cameos were mostly carved on shell depicting a women's portrait. Each and every cameo in a miniature work of art. Whether carved in camellian shell or sardonyx shell, mother of pearl or agate they have an exquisite beauty that has held for generations.

Carved sea shells is a tradition dating back to the fifteenth or sixteenth century and popularized by Queen Victoria. Cameos predominately showcased women's profiles and have been worn by women who enjoy the beauty and craftsmanship of hand carved cameos.



Another Busy Year for Nautilus #909

By Francine Webb

Our 2025-2026 program schedule is a speckled mix of topics. We've discovered (ahem) that many of our members have down-sized, thus have given away or sold a lot of their treasures. Consequently, we decided to broaden our thinking and take a slightly different approach incorporating history, architecture, art, culture, etc...

Our season is off to a steady footing with a program on our beloved Bess Bardens. Next, one of our members shared her knowledge about her collection of match safes. The Holidays are always a good reason for a chapter outing to celebrate the season's festivities. The New Year will trace the hidden messages of "Underground Railroad Quilts". February's meeting will touch on "Molas" – the colorful hand-made textiles worn by Panama's indigenous Guna people. March will deal with the History of the Internet (many of us can use a little help in that area) and we'll delve into the History of Books in April. Capping off the year, May will explore the world of "isms". Curious about that one? Let's just say that it's a cultural thing!

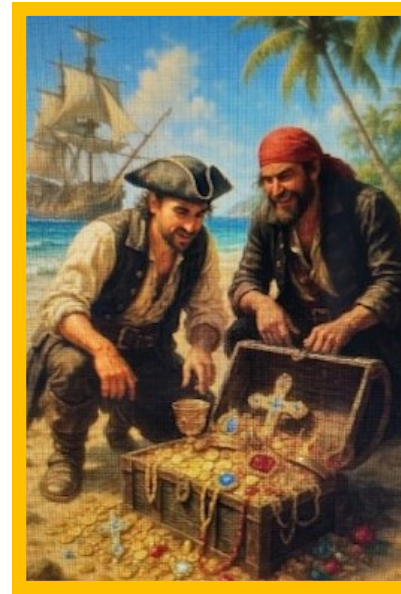
Once our Snowbirds are back, we partake in a couple of field trips. November brought us to the Toy Museum in Sarasota for a nostalgic visit. Past trips have included a visit to the Bits' & Pieces Puppet Theatre, tours of the Ybor City Cigar Factory, a backstage tour of the Asolo Theatre, antiquing in Lake Alfred, the Morse Museum in Winter Park to view the largest collection of Tiffany works in the world, Bok Tower & Gardens,

Continued from page 1:

The Golden Age of Piracy

There were many factors that contributed to the Golden Age of Piracy in the late 16th to 18th century, including the rise in the quantities of valuable cargo being transported across the vast Atlantic Ocean. Coupled with the fact that most of the major colonial empires of the time, the British, the French, the Spanish, the Dutch, the Danish, Portuguese and many others were at war in Europe and did not have the men or ships to effectively govern any of their colonial territories at the time created an atmosphere of little or no law or authority. This led to experienced sailors and privateers taking advantage of a ripe opportunity to take over valuable cargo without risking a rapid colonial response.

Pirates and privateers alike in this time period were able to amass massive fortunes and virtually halt trade in the West Indies. The Golden Age of Piracy can be subdivided into four major eras, the Privateering Era, the Buccaneering Era in the 17th century, the Pirate Round of the late 17th and 18th centuries and finally the infamous Post Spanish Succession Period of the 18th century during which piracy reached its peak and resulted in many of the famous pirates we know today such as Edward 'Blackbeard' Teach.



This issue of *The Cracker Crumbs* does not have enough available pages to devote to the entire history pertaining to The Golden Age of Piracy so: Please go online and look-up the Website, The Golden Age of Piracy and discover for yourself the following Era's that make up that time period. Begin with the Privateering Era, the Buccaneering Era, Pirate Rounds, and then the Post-Spanish Succession Era. There are videos, maps, suggested books for reading

and much of it is in a printable and free PDF format. An example is this information pertaining to the term Buccaneer Raids:

Buccaneer raids were semi-informal attacks on Spanish settlements along the [Spanish Main](#) throughout the [Buccaneering Era](#). The [buccaneers](#) would generally land a few miles down from the settlement and then march overland and attack them from the coast. This was much different than the [privateers](#) and [pirates](#) who generally seized ships and goods rather than raid settlements. Overall the buccaneers were successful in helping destroy Spanish hegemony in the West Indies and the New World and forced the Spanish to invest more and more wealth to develop fortifications to protect their settlements.

One of the most famous buccaneers in history to raid towns and settlements was [Henry Morgan](#) who operated out of the port of [Port Royal](#) on the island of British Jamaica. However, there were many other raids throughout the West Indies that challenged the Spanish claim to the entire region as well as their military dominance. Originally the buccaneer attacks were just normal hit and run highwaymen tactics that saw buccaneers tricking ships to come ashore by posing as merchants willing to sell food and other supplies to travelers just arriving in the West Indies. However, as they became more organized and more numerous they were soon seen as useful tools for the various competing colonial powers in the region.

Buccaneer raids were initially started in the early 1660's by the English who seized upon the chaos in Spain during the Portuguese Restoration War.

This is a picture of Richard Sawkins. Don't you just love his hat!! Discover more at the Spring Council Meeting!



Official Notifications

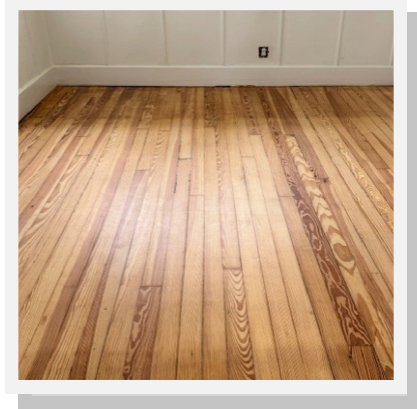
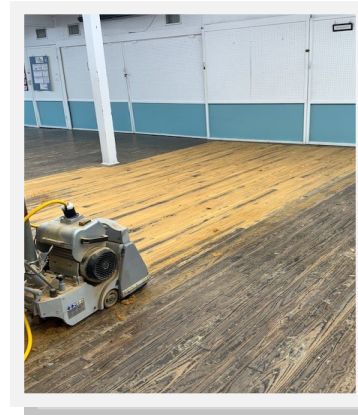
By Noreen Brownson, 1st Vice President

Hello Florida Chapters,
If you would like your 2025-2026 Chapters Roster/Yearbook to be displayed at the March 26, 2026 State Spring Council Meeting in Sun City Center, Florida and receive a certificate from the State for entering your year book; then please mail it to , Noreen Brownson, 3050 Turnbull Bay Rd., New Smyrna Beach, Fl 32168 by the end of January 2026. President, Barbara Magnuson, Editor, Linda Goshorn and myself will select one lucky Roster/Yearbook winner, to move on to the International May 13, 2026 Convention in Lincoln, Illinois. There it will be voted upon by convention attendees for a Best of the Best Award. Talk with other members in your chapter and see if they would like to send one in. Thank you.

State Preservation and Restoration Project

By Judith Koutsos, P & R Chairman

Judith oversaw the floor restoration project of the West Pasco Art Guild Building. She attended the Art Guild event and presented a check for \$2,900.00 to the president of the Guild for the completed project. The event was well attended by 100 artist from the area. She also gave an overview of the Questers organization and invited anyone interested in history or antiques to join their chapter. Below are photos of the before on the left and restored floor on the right. Well done, Judith!



Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. had designed Edward Bok’s Gardens and several private gardens inside Mountain Lake Estates, a neighboring private community. Charles Austin Buck engaged the Olmsted firm to design the landscape of his winter estate. In 1929, landscape architect William Lyman Phillips of the Olmsted firm began to design the gardens and the placement of the house. In 1930, architect Charles Wait was hired to design the house that has become one of the finest examples of Mediterranean-style architecture in the state of Florida. The Estate was the result of the collaborative inspiration of Buck, Wait, and Phillips.

The gardens are currently ten times their original size, and feature acres of ferns, palms, oaks, pines, and wetland plants. The plantings also include camellias, tree ferns, creeping fig, yaupon and dahoon holly, Asiatic jasmine, Justitia, crinum and spider lily, monstera, wax myrtle, date and sabal palm, papyrus, philodendron, blue plumbago, and horsetail rush. The site is a refuge for more than a hundred bird species. Wild turkey and groups of Sandhill cranes are also often seen wandering the grounds.



You can all see how much the Questers enjoyed strolling thru the gardens!



In Memory

ANN MEVERS

The Questers of Florida say "Good Bye" to Ann Mevers, Past Florida State President from 2016 to 2018.

Ann passed away in October, 2025. Ann was a member of Ponce De Leon 183. When that chapter disbanded, she joined Treasured Memories 1096. Ann had a wonderful collection of Lighthouses which she shared.

Ann became ill and her two amazing daughters were with her to help her.

The Florida State Board has contributed \$50.00 to the Florida State P & R Fund in Ann’s memory.

By Lynn Carr, Florida State Co-Treasurer

Directions to Access Florida Questers Website

- 1. Google Florida Questers or type floridaquesters.org in your browser.**
- 2. You will be directed to the Home Page of the website. Three horizontal lines in the top right corner will direct you to other pages on the website.**
- 3. The Home Page; About Us; Board/Committee Members; Chapters; Florida P&R Projects; Links; and Contact Us are all available to the general public.**
- 4. To access the “Members Only” folder, a password is required. If you do not know the password, please contact the State President, your Chapter President, or the Editor of the Cracker Crumbs. For privacy reasons, the password will not be listed here. Once you have accessed the “Members Only” folder, you may or may not need the password again.**
- 5. Inside the “Members Only” folder, you will have access to: News & Events; Cracker Crumbs newsletters; Bardens’ Angels; Presidents’ Packets; Policies; Forms; What’s In A Name?; Minutes; and State Board Job Descriptions.**

This is your website, enjoy it!

Bardens' Angels 2025 Bok Tower & Gardens in Lake Wales Outing

By Francine Webb, Chair

We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day! The sun was shining and the temp couldn't have been more comfortable. After a friendly greeting in the Visitor Center, we viewed a brief orientation video, then went on our way, willy nilly to enjoy the lush gardens and tour El Retiro. (Spanish for "the retreat"). The house was the winter residence of Austin Buck from 1932 until his death in 1945. Mr. Buck was a vice president of the Bethlehem Steel Company. While some of us decided to enjoy lunch before our wanderings, others went directly to the mansion. Each room was beautifully decorated to reflect the spirit of the season. Bok Tower staff were present in each room to provide historical details and to answer our many questions. The Mediterranean Revival style home includes 12,900 sq. ft of living space, staff area, two apartments, laundry room, three-car garage and, believe it or not, a basement (a rarity in Florida). Each season, Mr. Buck's daughter, Lucy, traveled two weeks before her father, with a few staff to prepare the house for his arrival. The Bucks brought their staff from PA, seven to nine in all, including Mr. Buck's butler and valet, several maids, a cook, a laundress and a chauffeur.



Some of the attendees at Bok Tower and Gardens. More pictures will follow of that very special day.



The musical sound of the Tower bells could be heard no matter where we were. There were many, many Kodak moments and some among us couldn't resist the well-stocked Gift Shop. Participating in the day's outing were the following chapters: Turnbull (3), Treasured Memories (4), Survey Creek (2), Treasure Coast (8) and Nautilus (6).

Everyone seemed to enjoy their day.



El Retiro, is a 12,900 sq ft Mediterranean Revival style mansion built as a winter retreat in the early 1930s for Charles Austin Buck, a Bethlehem Steel vice president. The estate was originally named "El Retiro," meaning "retreat" in Spanish and was used by his family for six to twelve weeks out of the year.

The dining room is ready for the family to enjoy Christmas!

