The Nature Walk Garden

It was the very first demonstration garden developed on the Fort Pierce Extension Office grounds in the mid 1980’s. “The area was originally all weeds and swamp” said master gardener Jacques Burrell, who was one of about a dozen or so on the original committee (including Richard Coan) that developed the Xeriscape Landscape.

What is a Xeriscape Landscape? Xeriscape landscaping conserves water and protects the environment. The main objective of Xeriscape is to establish and maintain a healthy landscape by matching the right plants with existing site conditions so that the use of additional resources, such as water, fertilizer, pesticides and labor, is minimized. Today, the Nature Walk contains both native and “Florida friendly” non-native specimens, including kumquat, Hong Kong orchid tree and yellow poinsettia. A looped stone pathway includes rest benches and a gazebo. Located on the west side of the Extension Office, “it’s a great place for the public to come and just sit, watch butterflies and reconnect with nature”, says Nature Walk Chairperson Barbara Hightower.

“It doesn’t maintain itself though” says master gardener Bill Reilly (pictured left recently in the Nature Walk Garden). “Many volunteers have helped over the decades and you could become a part of history too”. Join us in maintaining the Nature Walk any Monday from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Meet at the Shade House and bring tools, and gloves. For more information, call Kate O’Neill at 772/462-1660.