

Tree Tending

Experts, Leaders, Stewards

Thanks to a generous Davey utility crew, the canopy covering Gotha, Fla.'s Nehrling Gardens received a facelift in early February.

Davey's Orlando Utilities crew dedicated a full Saturday to volunteer for the annual ISA Florida Chapter Loren Westenberger Work Day, which provided a bit of TLC to some special trees in a historic local garden. Supervisor Tim Garrison and Area Manager Mike Mittiga coordinated with Nehrling Gardens staff to schedule a crew for volunteer work, which involved removals of hazardous trees and some maintenance trimming on other trees.

Foremen Dagoberto Monroy-Castillo and Manny Chacon, as well as trimmers Genel Laquerre and Marc Pierre, helped reduce the canopy by removing deadwood and other hazardous limbs. The crew also performed some safety removals of hazard camphor trees that had been leaning against the house and over the nature trails in front of the gardens.

Some of the work affected historical trees that required some attention to create a safer environment for educational tours and field trips that occur on the property throughout the year. The Nehrling Gardens' historic trees include some of Florida's oldest native trees, tropical trees and hybrid palms.

However, invasive species from South American countries and Caribbean islands have thrived in the area's tropical climate, choking out native oaks and cypress. "It's important to eradicate invasives to promote preservation of the garden," Garrison explains. "It's a historical community park."

The Florida Chapter ISA Work Day occurs once a year at several different parks across the state. Because Florida trees still suffer from hurricane damage that occurred 10 years ago, ISA dedicates many volunteer hours to storm damage recovery projects. "Storm damage recovery is an ongoing process here in Florida," Mittiga says.

Mittiga's crew has been involved with ISA

Davey's Dagoberto Monroy trims camphor away from the historic house at Nehrling Gardens.



Volunteers trim invasive camphor's to allow more light to reach the historic palms.

Work Day for the past three years, but employees volunteer for other community events throughout the year as well. “Orlando Utilities often joins partnerships with community organizations,” Mittiga explains. “They ask Davey crews for help with the labor because they know we’ll get the job done.”

In a letter addressed to Garrison, Florida Chapter ISA CEO Norm Easey wrote, “Your voluntary contribution of equipment and staff enabled the event to be a big success, not only in getting a lot of tree work done at Nehrling Gardens, but also in providing a stellar example of tree care and tree care workers in your part of the state.”

When supervisors ask for volunteers to participate in community events, including ISA Work Day, they typically receive a positive response. Mittiga explains the crew was particularly satisfied with the organization of this year’s event: “The crew really enjoys the teamwork aspect of helping out and being recognized for their efforts.”



Davey’s Orlando Utilities crew: Dagoberto Monrroy, Marc Pierre, Genel LaQuerre, Manuel Chacon.



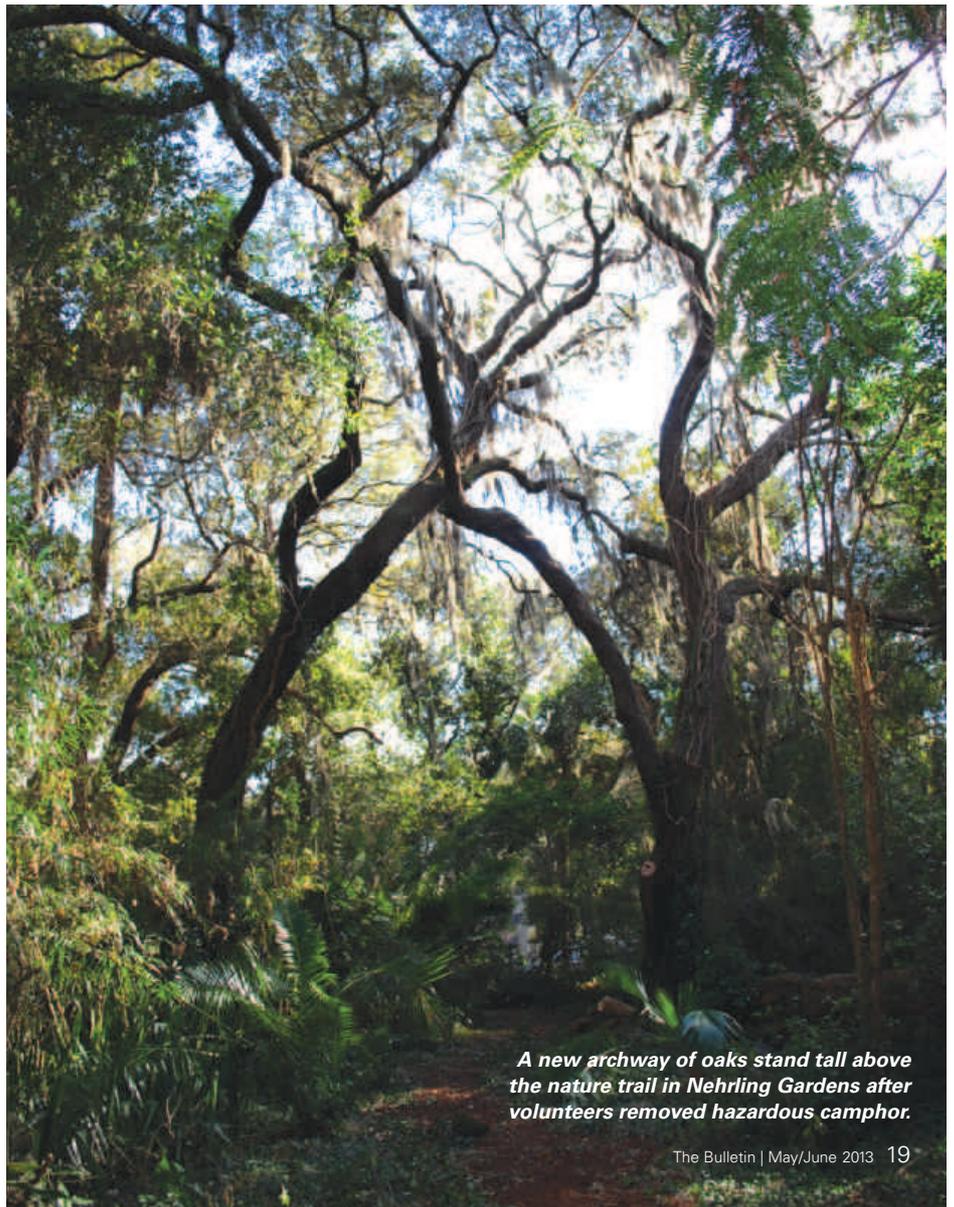
Davey’s Genel LaQuerre, Marc Pierre, Dagoberto Monrroy, Manuel Chacon (L to R of sign) with volunteers.



Davey’s crew dedicated a full Saturday to help Nehrling Gardens volunteers.



Davey’s Marc Pierre, JEA Assess Coordinator Mike Robinson and Davey’s Manuel Chacon.



A new archway of oaks stand tall above the nature trail in Nehrling Gardens after volunteers removed hazardous camphor.