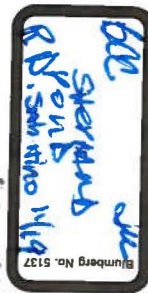


HIGHLAND RIDGE



Highland Ridge is a deed restricted community of 120 homes located east of Highway 301 on 30th Street East in Bradenton, Florida, Manatee County. The subdivision was developed during the 2002–2003 time period.



Mary Garst Sheppard Pond

► Mary Garst Sheppard

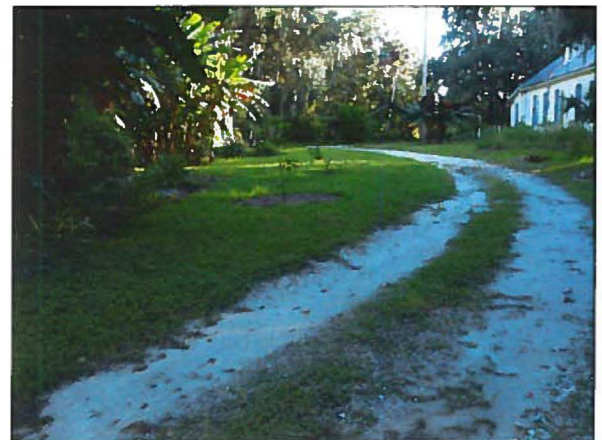
On the Tenth Anniversary of Highland Ridge, the Homeowners Association Board of Directors is honored to recognize the history of our land in the naming of our north side pond to be the **Mary Garst Sheppard Pond**.



This is a publication and property of the Highland Ridge Homeowners Association of Manatee County, Florida, prepared by Board Director, Barbara Woodburn, Secretary. The use of any Mary Garst Sheppard information or photographs requires the written permission of the Board of Directors.

On September 19, 2013, the Board passed a Resolution, giving tribute to Mary Garst Sheppard for the historical significance of her residential presence in Highland Ridge. Mary is the daughter of Chaflin Garst, Sr., who owned and managed the land, before it was developed as Highland Ridge. The Garst home with small acreage is situated at the center of our community, where Mary currently lives as our good neighbor and friend. The private driveway off of 42nd Avenue originally extended north to 38th Avenue and was lined by the historic oak trees that we now treasure. In Mary's young life, the house was surrounded by expansive pastureland, livestock and dairy barns, with the area around the house fenced to keep animals out of the family living space. Saw Palmetto overgrowth had to be removed by persevering through hard manual labor to make way for grapefruit, orange, tangelo, lemon trees, and a large family garden. It was a tough economic era prior to World War II, but Mary and her siblings thrived in a tropical Florida life of agriculture, exotic plants and wildlife, picnics at the beach, and no air conditioning or mosquito control!

The Garst household was a stimulating environment for Mary and her siblings, and a challenge for both parents. Formal education began at the Oneco School (a little different version than the current school) and continued at Manatee High School, where Mary took driver's education classes, and tried to avoid gym class and sports. The family attended First Baptist Church in downtown Bradenton. Along with household tasks and her commitment to the safety and well-being of three energetic curious children, Mary's mother worked as an in-home surgical nurse. Her father, with a business degree from Columbia University and self-taught in agriculture, managed the dairy farm, helped with school homework, and was strategically engaged in civic affairs. In addition to being a strong advocate for preserving the Braden River environment, Mr. Garst deeded a portion of his property for the construction of the 30th Street roadway connection between State Road 70 and 38th Avenue East to benefit community travel.



After graduating from Florida State, Mary taught school in California and returned after the death of her mother, so that she could assist her father, until his death at age 95. The Chaflin Garst, Sr., property was sold for residential development including Manatee Oaks, Wallingford, Oak Trace, Highland Ridge, Hope Presbyterian Church, and commercial development near State Road 70.

Highland Ridge occupies the last portion of Mr. Garst's property to be sold for residential development and it included the family home. In negotiating the sale, the home was not included. Eventually, Highland Ridge was constructed around the homestead. Staying in the home, Mary had a unique perspective on the transformation of the pastureland and recalls the thick clouds of dust, and unrelenting noise of heavy earth-moving equipment on all sides of the house. Large trees were moved to temporary storage planting areas on the land. Top soil was scraped off and piled for construction and landscaping. The first excavation was an enormous hole on the west side of the homestead, which later became the upper pond. Gradually, houses began to encircle the homestead boundary. Soon after, new homeowners moved into the pleasant neighborhood. During the years that followed, Mary enjoyed getting acquainted with the residents and many rich friendships were formed.

Mary has carried on her father's civic interests to benefit our community in her long-term and highly respected service, as a member of the Manatee County Planning Commission, while she persistently advocates policies that insure our pleasant quality of life. The Board of Commissioners honored her service by proclaiming December 14, 2010, "Mary Sheppard Day In Manatee County."

**A Resolution By
The Highland Ridge Board of Directors
September 19, 2013**

THE MARY GARST SHEPPARD POND

WHEREAS, The Highland Ridge Homeowners Association 2013 Board of Directors, hereby resolves to recognize the historical significance and presence of Mary Garst Sheppard residing in our community today, as the daughter of Chaflin Garst, Sr., her father, who owned and managed the land before it was developed, as the community of Highland Ridge, where we live,

WHEREAS, Mary Sheppard is a highly respected neighbor, friend, and community advocate, who gifts the community with her energetic commitment, practical insight, wise counsel, and historical orientation,

WHEREAS, The Manatee Board of Commissioners recognized Mary Sheppard for Planning Commission leadership in acclaiming December 14, 2010, to be Mary Sheppard Day,

THEREFORE, to express our community appreciation for Mary and her passion to preserve the beauty of the Highland Ridge environment, and, thereby, a high standard quality of life for our residents, and to salute her rigorous efforts to maintain those same standards in long range planning for all Manatee County residents, public recognition is proclaimed by the naming of the Mary Garst Sheppard Pond,

FURTHERMORE, a sign will be installed at the pond site, as visual declaration of Highland Ridge recognition of Mary Sheppard and notice of this Resolution will be distributed to the Homeowners Association Membership, along with supporting background information.



INTENT OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION



Highland Ridge Homeowners Association 2013 Board of Directors

Nancy Lorenzini
President

Lori Olding
Vice President/Treasurer

Barbara Woodburn
Secretary

Walter Hunt
Director

Patricia Scott
Director

The intent of the Board Resolution on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of Highland Ridge is to declare that the **Mary Garst Sheppard Pond** will represent to Highland Ridge residents now and in the future, the historical significance of Mary Garst Sheppard, daughter of Chaflin Garst, Sr., once owner of this land, sharing life with us in 2013, as a neighbor and friend.



Mary Garst Sheppard
September, 2013

A Personal Note: Mary's sister lives in North Carolina and her brother lives in Bradenton. Her children, Lynn and Gregory, live nearby, and her son, David, is deceased. Mary's granddaughters, Stacey and Nicole, are very dear to her.