

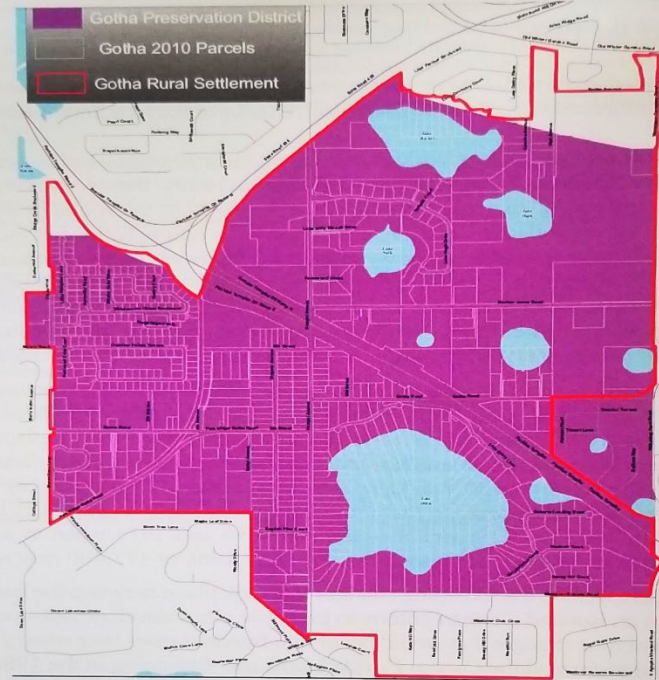
# Historic Gotha 1885 – Orange County Rural Settlement Preservation District

Designated 1995 by Orange County Commission

## Rural Settlement Preservation Boundary



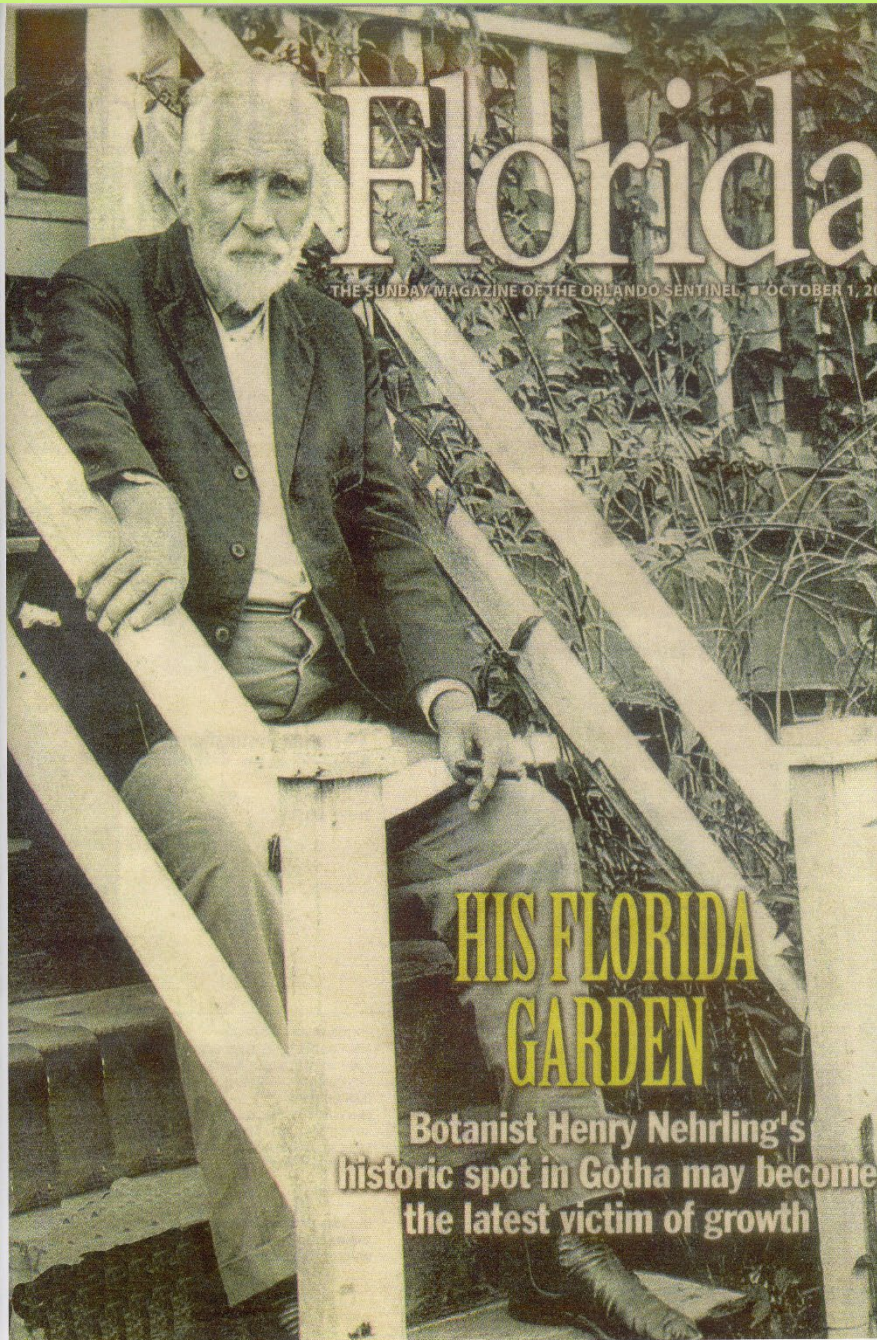
Gotha Rural Settlement and Preservation District Boundary Map



Rural Settlement and Preservation Boundary designation conferred by Orange County in 1995. Map Source: District 1, Orange County Commissioner's Office, Orlando, FL.

# BAPS Temple on Hempel Location 2198 Hempel Avenue





## **Nehrling Gardens 2267 Hempel Avenue**

**National Register Historic  
Site & Florida Heritage  
Landmark – Gardens of  
Horticulturist Ornithologist  
Naturalist & Writer Dr. Henry  
Nehrling-Significant in  
Orange County,  
Florida & USA History**

# Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens

Much of what we see in our beautiful Florida gardens today is the legacy of this brilliant German American Scientist from Wisconsin, who established his experimental garden here in Gotha, West Orange County in 1886.



# Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens

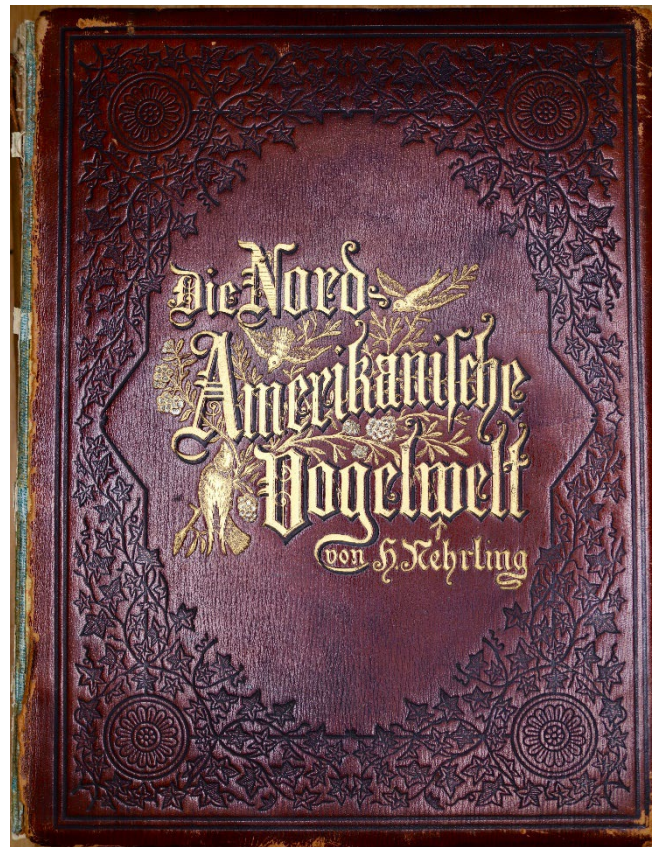
Nehrling's experimental garden in Gotha, West Orange County in 1886 was one of the first U.S.D.A. Offices of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction in Florida where he tested over 3,000 plants for U.S.D.A. More than 300 of these he introduced into Florida's landscape including caladiums, palms, amaryllis, cycads, bromeliads and bamboos.



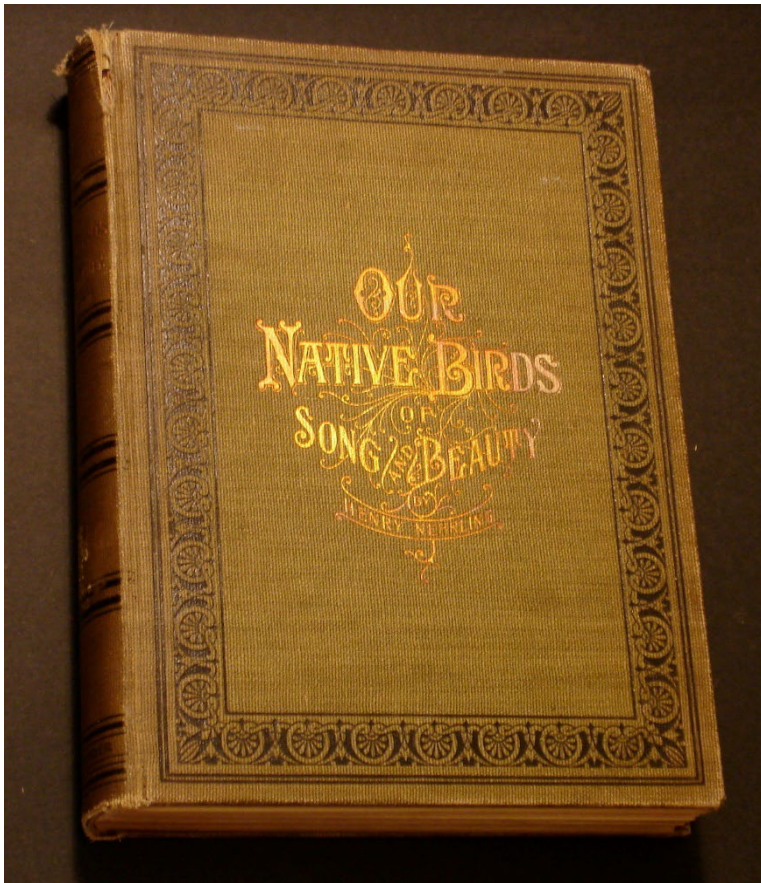
Dr. Nehrling's extraordinary horticulture work at Palm Cottage Gardens gave us some of his signature plants.



Nehrling's extraordinary Ornithology books regarding "The World of North-American Birds" written in German first.

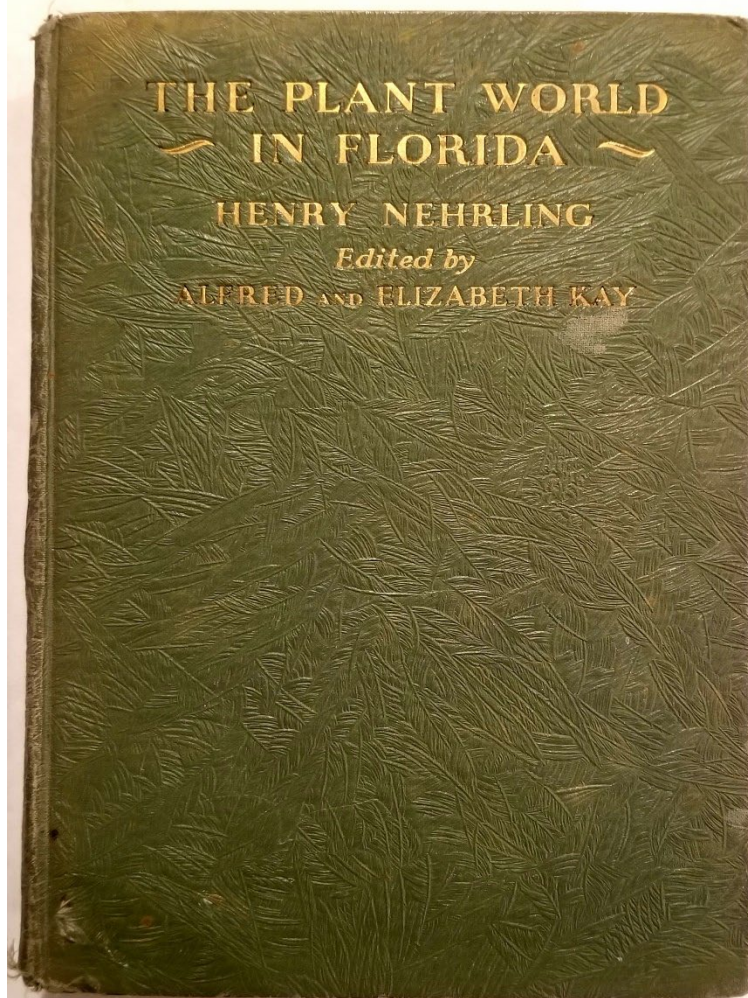


We'll introduce you to his Ornithology books regarding "Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty" Volume I and II written in English, subsequently.





# Nehrling's eloquent writings and how we are preserving and building on his legacy today.



## DR. NEHRLING DESCRIBES HIMSELF

*"Show me your garden, provided it be your own, and I will tell you what you are."*

Recently a friend said to me: "What are you doing here in this wilderness, without neighbors or amusements? This hermit's life would be intolerable to me." I answered him, that a lover of Nature is sufficient to himself wherever he may be, and for a plant-enthusiast this is not a dull existence, but Paradise. Fortunately the minds of men show even greater dissimilarity than do the soils and climates of their gardens, and whereas my friend craves the bustle of cities, I ask nothing better than life offers in my Florida garden.

Beginning in 1879 when I first experimented with tropical and subtropical plants at Houston, Texas, my enthusiasm for this field of Horticulture grew from year to year. It was therefore the fulfillment of a long cherished dream when I purchased some land at Gotha, Florida, in the rolling, pine region of Orange County and, in 1886, made my first trip to inspect my property and study the possibilities of this land of sunshine and flowers. Imagine my happiness at the thought of a home where I could grow my new plant friends!

When I reached Gotha I first had to clear a few acres for a house and orange grove, and for several years my means did not allow me to indulge my inclination for an ornamental garden. I had set aside ten acres for this purpose, but it was 1890 before I could clear and plow the highest, driest half of it. In so doing I carefully preserved the few tall Pines remaining from a once magnificent pine forest, and some small Live Oaks which are now dense, broad specimens fifty feet high. At first I could spend only a month or two in Florida each year, but a kind neighbor cared for my place while I continued in my position as custodian of the Public Museum in Milwaukee.

Nehrling was generous in sharing his knowledge and became known as the “Father of Florida Horticulture.” Many of the plants popular in our Florida landscapes today were first introduced by Henry Nehrling, including caladiums, amaryllis, bamboos, Indian Hawthorne, and crinum lilies. He first saw caladiums attending the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1892, at the Brazilian Pavilion. He had over 1700 named varieties growing in Gotha, Orange County.



Indian Hawthorne



Crinum Lilies

# Religious Communities and Buildings Serving Gotha: Santoshi Ma Hindu Temple, 10900 Park Ridge Gotha Road.



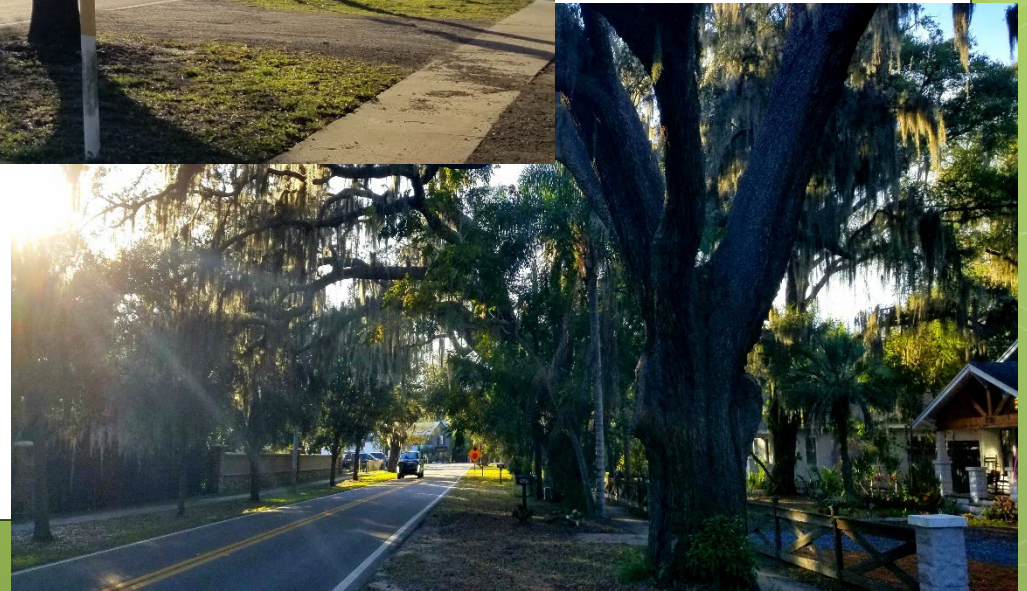
# Religious Communities and Buildings Serving Gotha: New Covenant Church of the Bretheran at Camp Ithiel: 2037 Hempel Avenue, Gotha



# Religious Communities and Buildings Serving Gotha: Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall, 2044 Hempel Avenue, Gotha



## Religious Communities and Buildings Serving Gotha: Apostolic Light Church, Hempel Avenue & Gotha Road



**Religious Communities and Buildings Serving Gotha:  
New Life Worship Center, 2342 Hempel Avenue Near  
Historic Nehrling Gardens.**





## **Nehrling: Young Naturalist to Teacher**

Born May 9, 1853, Town of Herman, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin Henry Nehrling was a remarkable naturalist and keen observer of north American Birds. Walking 3 ½ miles thru primitive forest to school each day he learned to recognize birds, their calls, colorful plumage patterns, native host plants and forest habitats.



In 1885 Nehrling comes to Florida from Milwaukee and buys 40 acres in first German Colony of Gotha. Going back and forth to Milwaukee for first 5 years. He develops Palm Cottage Gardens every Winter.

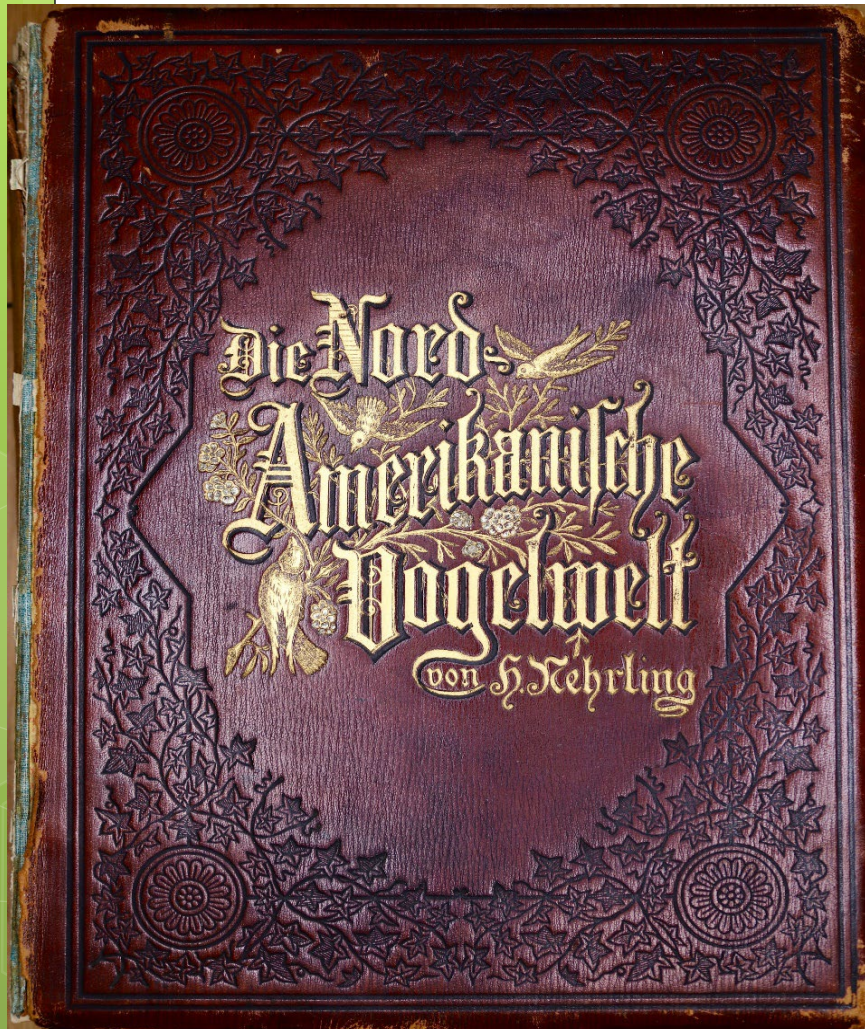




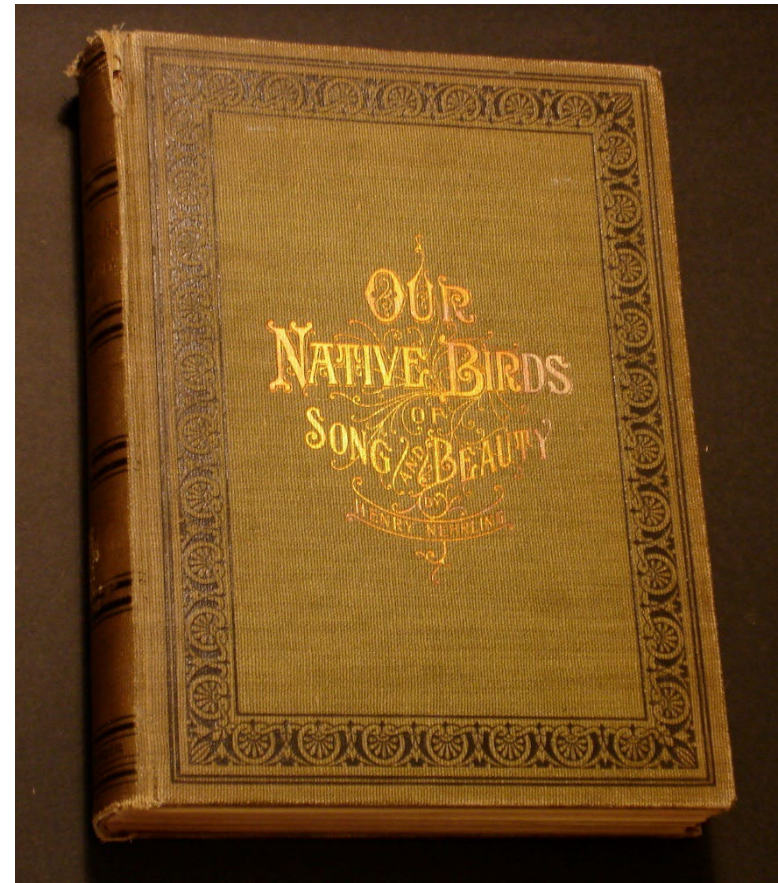
## Working at Customs Office

In 1887 Nehrling joins the Customs Office in Milwaukee. Pres. Washington signed July 4, 1789 Tariff Act, authorized collection of duties on imported goods, a new role was created for government officials which was known as "Customs Collector." Customs Officers were responsible to supervise collection of custom duties in a particular city or region. Nehrling is making is earning money, making connections and going back & forth to Fla.

Nehrling's literary career is indebted to friend and benefactor, Koeppen (Graf George Von Haeseler) Editor in chief of Milwaukee "Germania" 1872-1897. This friendship credited for 1880s publication in German and English, Nehrling's "The North American Bird World."



# Nehrling's Ornithology books "Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty" Volume I and II published in English in the 1880's.



Nehrling's bird books document birds of North America to educate people, advocate and create legislation for the protection of birds which were being slaughtered for fashion feathers and fishing lures.

# OUR NATIVE BIRDS

## — OF — SONG AND BEAUTY,

BEING

A COMPLETE HISTORY OF ALL THE SONGBIRDS, FLYCATCHERS, HUMMINGBIRDS, SWIFTS,  
GOATSUCKERS, WOODPECKERS, KINGFISHERS, TROGONS, CUCKOOS,  
AND PARROTS, OF NORTH AMERICA.

By

HENRY NEHRLING,

CUSTODIAN OF THE PUBLIC MUSEUM, MILWAUKEE, WIS., ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS'  
UNION, CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB, MEMBER OF  
THE GERMAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BERLIN, ETC., ETC.

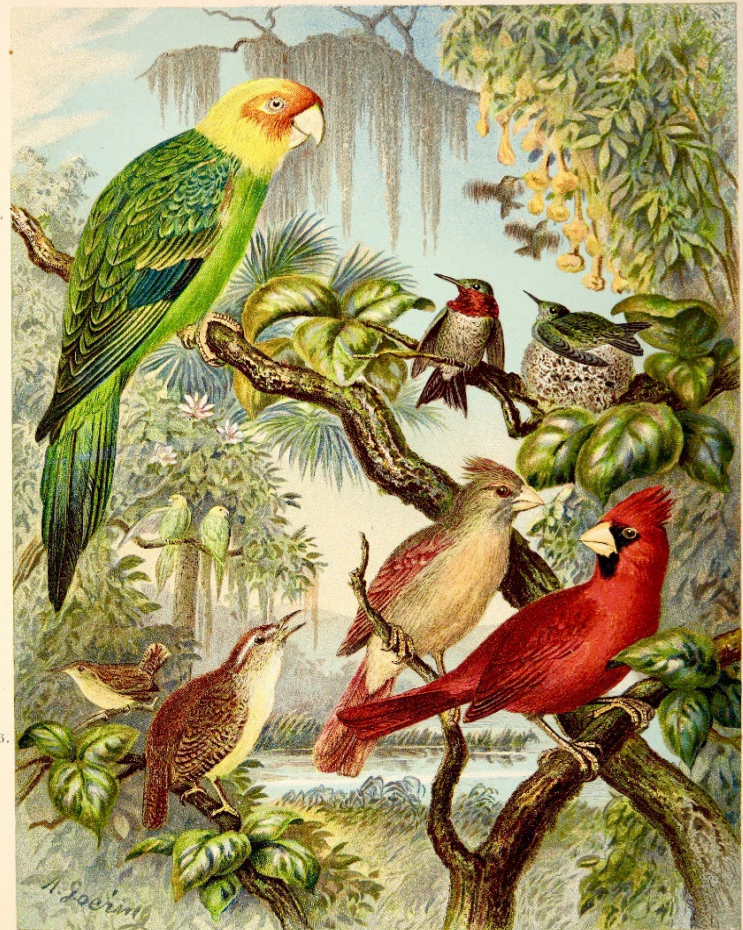
WITH THIRTY-SIX COLORED PLATES AFTER WATER-COLOR PAINTINGS

By PROF. ROBERT RIDGWAY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND NATIONAL MUSEUM, WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
PROF. A. GOERING, LEIPZIG, AND GUSTAV MUETZEL, BERLIN.

VOLUME I.

MILWAUKEE:  
GEORGE BRUMDER.  
1893.

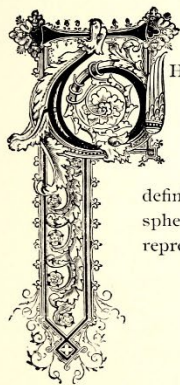
XXVI.



- |    |                                 |                     |                                     |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | TROCHILUS COLUBRIS Linn. ♂      | - RUBINKOLIBRI      | - Ruby-throated Hummingbird (male). |
| 2. | " " " ♀                         | "                   | " (female).                         |
| 3. | CARDINALIS CARDINALIS Licht. ♂  | - KARDINAL          | - Cardinal (male).                  |
| 4. | " " " ♀                         | "                   | " (female).                         |
| 5. | COEURUS CAROLINENSIS Less.      | - KAROLINASITTICH   | - Carolina Paroquet.                |
| 6. | THRYOTHORUS LUDOVICIANUS Bonap. | - KAROLINASCHLÜPFER | - Carolina Wren.                    |

## GNATCATCHERS, KINGLETS, WARBLERS.

*Sylviidae.*



THE FAMILY *Sylviidae* is a large group of birds represented chiefly in the Old World and having but few representatives in this country. "The family is not well distinguished from the *Turdidae* and *Saxicolidae*, and no attempt will be made here to cover all its phases by any diagnostic phrase—it is perhaps insusceptible of exact definition. While there are several hundred species of the Eastern Hemisphere, less than a score occur in America." (Coues.) The family as represented in our country consists of the three genera:

- 1, *Poliophtila* SCLATER. Gnatcatchers. Three species.
- 2, *Regulus* CUVIER. Kinglets. Three species.
- 3, *Phylloperustes* MEYER. Old World Warblers. One species.

### BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.

*Poliophtila caerulea* SCLAT.

PLATE VI.

ON A BEAUTIFUL day in the first part of April, 1886, I found myself on the wooded shores of Lake Apopka, Fla. The air laden with fragrance, the deep blue sky, the thousands of small flowers which carpeted the sandy soil, the song of innumerable Mockingbirds, and the many strange trees and shrubs held my very soul spell-bound. The fine hammock woods on the borders of this large body of fresh water consists of a great variety of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs. I have nowhere

## Ornithology Writings

As a bird scientist and writer he documents everything he observes in detail. On "Wooded shores of Lake Apopka, Air laden with fragrance, Deep Blue sky, Thousands of flowers carpeting sandy soil, song of innumerable Mockingbirds, Many strange trees & shrubs held my very soul spell bound, Fine Hammock woods on borders of this large body of fresh water consists of a great variety of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs. Nowhere have I seen such Gigantic Live Oaks, Water Oaks, Loblolly Bays, Magnolias, Cabbage Palms..."

seen such gigantic live and water oaks, loblolly bays<sup>1</sup>, magnolias and cabbage palms<sup>2</sup>. Many of the huge forest monarchs were entangled to their very tops in a mass of woody vines, such as the Virginia<sup>3</sup> and trumpet creeper<sup>4</sup> and bignonias<sup>5</sup>, while the smaller trees and bushes were covered with fragrant Carolina jasmine<sup>6</sup>. The luxuriant ferns, orchids, and especially air plants<sup>7</sup> growing parasitically on the branches of almost every tree, give these woods a decidedly tropical appearance, a peculiar charm. Near the water's edge we find the fragrant white lily-like crinum<sup>8</sup>, and several species of deliciously scented spider lilies<sup>9</sup>, and a great variety of half-aquatic plants. The brownish water of the lake swarms with fish. The greatest attraction, however, are the many cultivated and wild orange groves found on the borders of the lake. Whether the wild orange is indigenous is as yet an unsettled question, but the weight of evidence seems to be in favor of the idea that it was first introduced by the Spaniards, and that the wild orange groves now found in various localities are simply the result of that deterioration which so many cultivated plants undergo when left for long periods to run riot in a state of nature. The adjoining pine lands with their high and scattered trees and their dense undergrowth of huckle-berry bushes and saw-palmettos<sup>10</sup> look poor against these rich hammock woods. Among birds, I saw here a great number of Yellow-throated Warblers and particularly GNATCATCHERS, which generally took their exercise high up in the tops of the huge magnolias and live oaks.

One day, April 12, I was rambling with a friend through the woods near Gotha. We had been fishing in Long Lake and were now before a low-lying apparently very shallow body of water which was covered with a mass of water-lilies, among them the fragrant yellow water-lily<sup>11</sup>, figured in Audubon's great work, afterward lost sight of, and a few years ago re-discovered by the well-known naturalist Mrs. Mary Treat of Vineland, N. J.—Gallinules were busily engaged on the floating leaves, and now and then an Anhinga or Snakebird was seen. No sound was to be heard except the song of the Mockingbird. The forest consisted almost entirely of pines, and only near the lake small oaks and a few other trees were to be found. As I stood gazing on the mass of water-lilies I perceived a pair of little, nimble birds, clinging to the trunk of an oak, and loosening lichens from the bark. I was much surprised to see them fly directly to a tree near which I stood. As I looked up I saw, scarcely nine feet from the ground, the beautiful lichen-decorated nest of my old well-known favorite, the BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. The chosen haunts of this tiny bird are usually the tall tree-tops in the river bottoms of the Middle and Southern States. Hence my surprise at finding it in such a locality as the one I have described.

Its pretty, dwarfish form, its extraordinary adroitness in capturing flies and gnats, its very peculiar song, and the skill it shows in building its beautiful, decorated nest—such skill as is attained by few other birds—excites attention and stimulates admiration. The small genus *Poliophtila*, consisting of about a dozen species, is confined to America, and is represented by the greatest number of species in Central and South America. Only three species are found in the United States, one in the East, the other two in the West.

<sup>1</sup> *Gordonia Lasianthus*. <sup>2</sup> *Sabal Palmetto*. <sup>3</sup> *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*. <sup>4</sup> *Tecoma radicans*. <sup>5</sup> *Bignonia capreolata*. <sup>6</sup> *Gelsemium sempervirens*. <sup>7</sup> *Tillandsia* (several species). <sup>8</sup> *Crinum americanum*. <sup>9</sup> *Hymenocallis caribaea*, *crassifolium*, etc. <sup>10</sup> *Sabal serrulata*. <sup>11</sup> *Nymphaea flava*.

## Example: Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher Details



VI.



$\frac{1}{2}$   
POLIOPTILA CAERULEA Selat.  
MÜCKENFÄNGER.  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

## Detailed and poetic Observations

On Lake Apopka, "Gazing on the mass of water lilies, I perceived a pair of little, nimble birds, clinging to the trunk of an Oak, and loosening the lichen from the bark. I was much surprised to see them fly directly to a tree near which I stood. As I looked up, I saw scarcely 9 feet from the ground, the beautiful, lichen decorated nest, of my old well-known favorite, the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. The chosen haunts of this tiny bird are usually the tall tree tops in the river bottoms of the Middle and Southern States. Hence my surprise at finding it at such a locality as the one I have described.





## Nehrling's Scientific Background

-1883 Nehrling is one of fifty fellows of the "American Ornithological Union" elected at first session; Honorary member of the German Society for the Protection of the Bird World; supporting member of Florida State Horticulture Society; Member of National Geographic Society; and U.S. Health Commission.

-1885 Nehrling brought land, Gotha, FL.

-1889 planted his first orange trees-Gotha.

-1890 planted his first palms and magnolias in Gotha.

-1893 Attends Chicago Worlds Fair "Red Letter Year"

-1902 resigned Milwaukee Museum Custodian position to settle permanently in Florida.

"Never regretted this step, although I had to struggle along for many years."

-In beautiful Florida Nehrling lives, wholly dedicated to scientific studies and growing of plants, among which the colorful caladiums (the largest collection in all the world) and Amaryllis stand first.

1906-1929 Collaborator of the Bureau of Seed & Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

## 1893 Chicago's World's Fair Colombian Exposition



HORTICULTURAL HALL.  
1,000 x 250 feet; covers nearly six acres. Cost, \$300,000.

-"Many a day I spent in the White City. Impressions of combined exhibits of rare and tropical plants and my large single specimens of palms and foliage plants will never fade from my memory. Here I saw, for the first time in my life, masses of new Fancy-leaved Caladiums from Adolph Liezte in Rio de Janeiro. When I admired the richness, brilliancy, delicacy of these often translucent colors I was reminded of art, not of nature. In this as in many other cases nature simply surpasses art. "

Palm Cottage Gardens-Post Card Lake View- "When I reached Gotha I first had to clear a few acres for a house and orange grove...It was 1890 before I could clear and plow the highest driest part of it. In so doing I carefully preserved the few tall Pines remaining from a once magnificent pine forest and some small Live Oaks which are now dense, broad specimens 50 feet high. I searched hammock-woods 5 miles away for plant material.



DR HENRY NEHLINGS old place, Gotha, Fl  
early 1900s

During development of his gardens, Dr. Nehrling was collecting Florida Native tree specimens



**“As soon as the land was cleared, I searched the hammock-woods, 5 miles away for plant material. My kind neighbor and I repeatedly walked the 10 miles, shouldering the heavy plants on the return journey. We collected small specimens of Magnolia, American Olive, Loblolly Bay, Wax Myrtle, American Laurel, Sweet Bay and many other treasures.”**

**“The Plant World in Florida” pp. xii**

During his garden development time, Dr. Nehrling was collecting many local native plant specimens



**“Plant collecting in a dense hammock has its unpleasant features, and this first planting of mine was done under considerable hardships. The November sun was hot and trails through the woods were practically non-existent. Indeed, many of the thickets were almost impenetrable. Worst of all, carrying each plant the 5 miles home became a Herculean task. However, bad as they were, my adventures in the hammocks and swamps seemed great fun when I finally reached home and I was always ready to make the excursion again, even though it meant a repetition of the hardships.”**

**“The Plant World in Florida” pp. xii**

Dr. Nehrling was also corresponding with and collecting from well-known horticulturalists in the USA, Asia, Europe, and South America and was importing plants from many areas.

**“As my ‘Palm Cottage Gardens’ at Gotha grew and developed from year to year, the results far surpassed any expectations or efforts involved. Kind folk sent me more and more tropical plant material and I soon found myself surrounded with many rare and valuable palms, trees, ferns, shrubs---in fact every type of growing plant.”**

**“The Plant World in Florida”  
pp. xii**



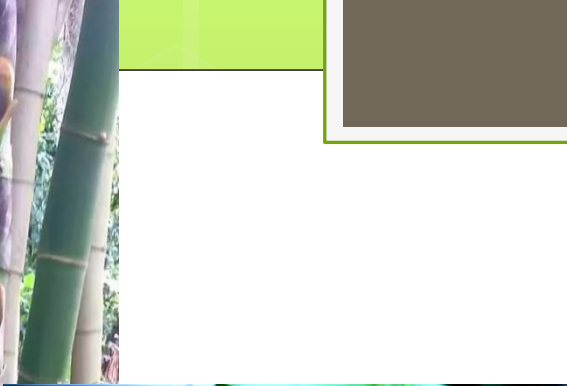
Nehrling was generous in sharing his knowledge and became known as the “Father of Florida Horticulture.” Many of the plants popular in our Florida landscapes today were first introduced by Henry Nehrling, including caladiums, amaryllis, bamboos, Indian Hawthorne, and crinum lilies. He first saw caladiums attending the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1892, at the Brazilian Pavilion. He had over 1700 named varieties growing in Gotha.



Indian Hawthorne



Crinum Lilies





# Dr. Nehrling's Contribution to Caladium Introduction

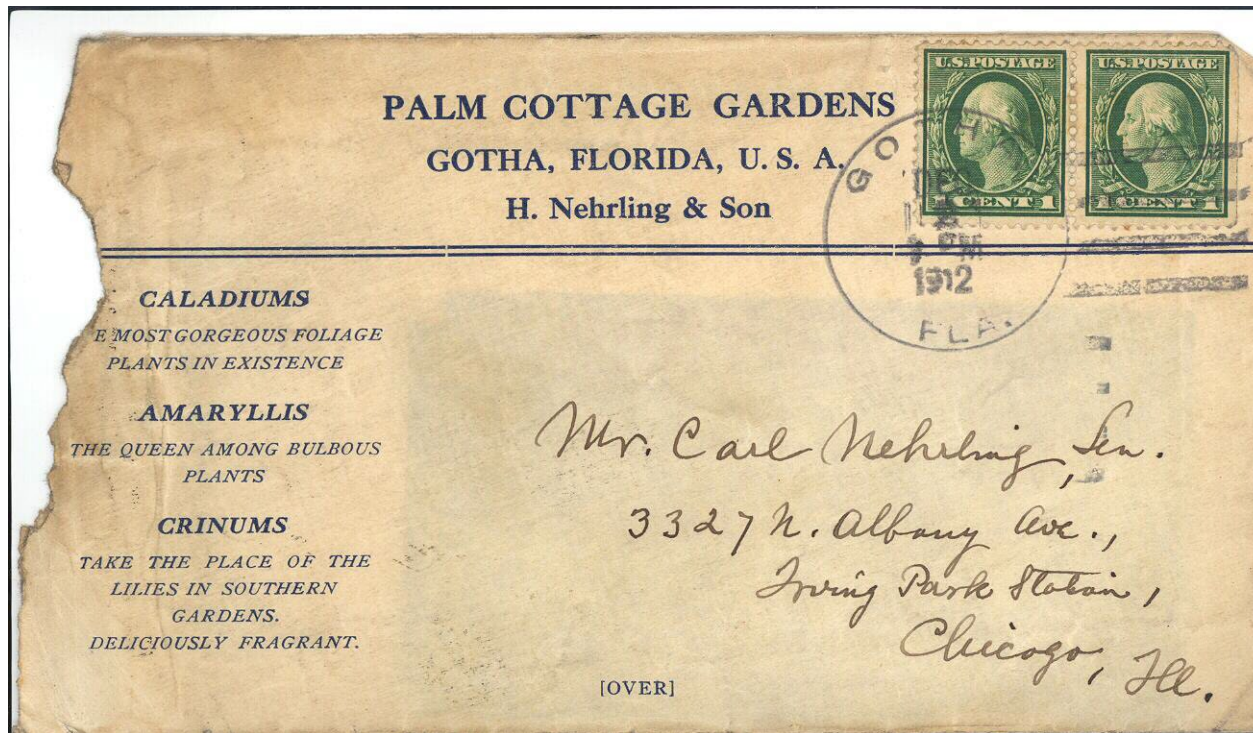
- "My Garden in Florida" Vol 1. pp. 41
- "The largest collection of fancy caladiums in the world."
- "Over 1,700 named varieties grown."
- "Fancy-leaved Caladiums are the main attraction from June to November."
- "I usually plant around 250,000 Caladiums every year."
- "The beds which they occupy are 200 feet long and 10 feet wide."
- "No pen and nor pencil can give an idea of the indescribable beauty of these color masses when at their best."



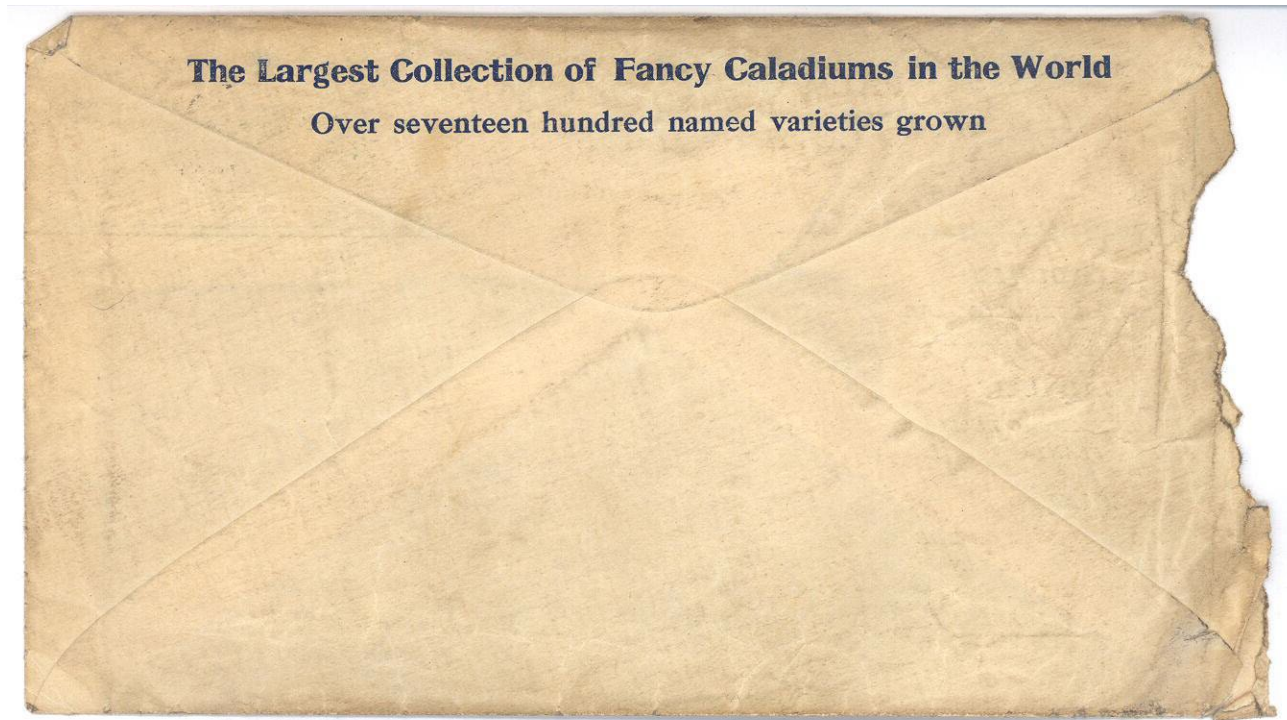
## Brilliant Caladiums

“...the most brilliant and fascinating of foliage plants...” H. Nehrling

# Nehrling Letterhead 1912

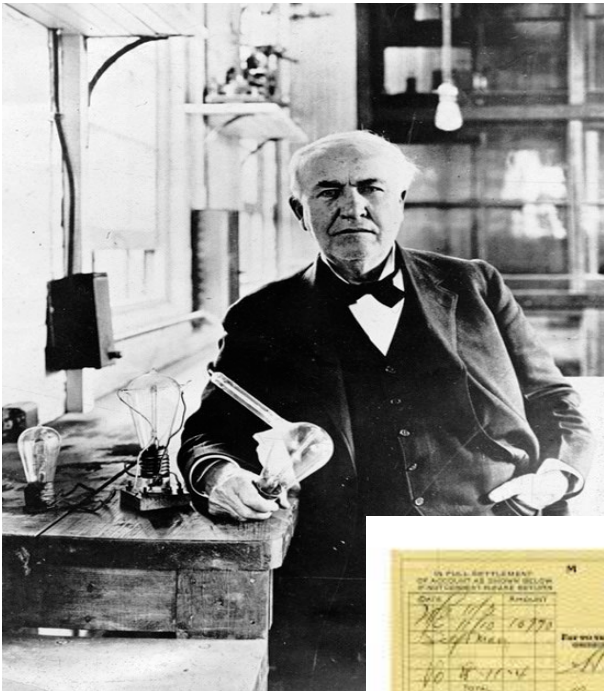


# Nehrling Letterhead 1912



Nehrling also corresponded regularly with notable scientists and leaders such as Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, who had developed their winter estates in Fort Myers. Edison paid Dr. Nehrling to install plants at his Estate.

## Thomas Edison



## Henry Ford



IN FULL SETTLEMENT  
OF ACCOUNT AS SHOWN BELOW  
OF UNPAID CHECKS DEPOSITED

EDISON BOTANIC RESEARCH CORPORATION  
WEST ORANGE, N. J.

No. 1190

DATE 10/10/1914

AMOUNT \$100.00

PAID TO THE ORDER OF Dr. A. Nehrling

TOTAL \$100.00

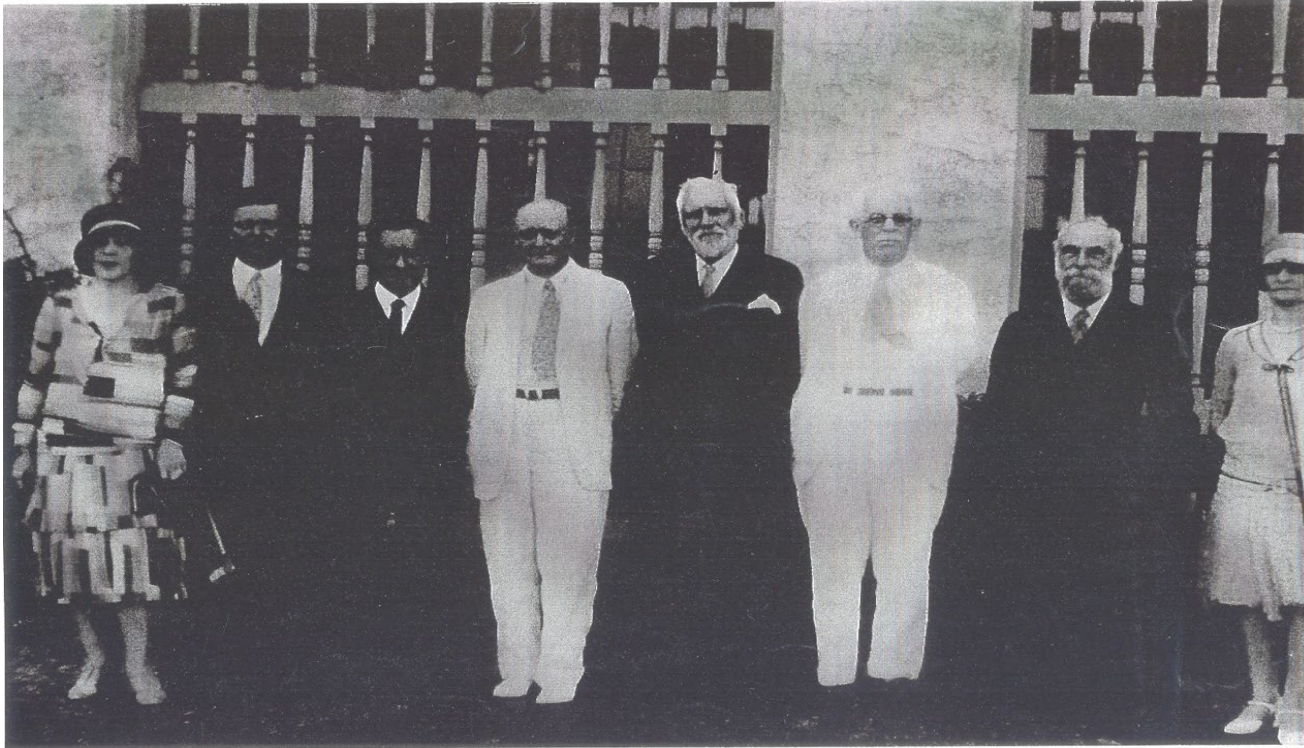
NO RECEIPT NECESSARY

THE SAVINGS INVESTMENT & TRUST CO.  
INCORPORATED  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

PAID IN FULL

THANK YOU

# Florida Horticultural Pioneers



*Florida's early plant enthusiasts.*

*L+R*

*Mrs. Anne Cummer, Norman Reasoner, J.K. Small,  
Prof Harold Home, Dr. Henry Nehrling, Dr. David Fairchild,  
Theodore Mend. Mrs. T.V. Moore.*

*Photo, Miami Womens Club - 1929 FFGC - CONVENTION -*

Nehrling also corresponded with President Theodore Roosevelt who came to Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens and helped found the Florida Audubon Society during a visit.

## Florida Audubon Society



## Theodore Roosevelt



By 1901 Nehrling decided to move with his wife Sophie Schoff Nehrling and 5 youngest of his 9 children to his property in Gotha – and needed a place for them to live!





1880s Gotha Founded by George Hempel, Turnverein Germans "The Turner Society," German Lutherans

**Hempel Hotel**



**Nehrling Back Yard**



A downturn in local economy led to many houses in Gotha being abandoned. Nehrling purchased for a song a charming Florida wood frame vernacular home. It was cut into sections and moved by ox cart along the rough sandy road to his property; the 2-story home was rebuilt on site and a separate single-story kitchen/dining wing was added.



From 1885-1929 Nehrling devotes himself completely to his work experimenting with and hybridizing tropical and subtropical plants, influenced by Johan Mengel. He wrote extensively for scientific and horticultural journals throughout the country, Europe, writing in both English and German and in “The American Eagle Newspaper.”

## The American Eagle



## The Garden Illustrated Weekly Journal





# Johann Gregor Mendel (1822-1884) Father of Genetics

--Austrian Monk. Genetic experiments took 8 years (1856-1863). Published results in 1865.

-Grew over 10,000 pea plants, keeping track of progeny.

-Turned study of heredity into a science.

-Seven traits studied: seed shape, flower color, seed coat tint, pod shape, unripe pod color, flower location, plant height.

-Work on pea plants discovered fundamental laws of inheritance.

-Deduced genes come in pairs & inherited as distinct units.

-Tracked segregation parental genes & appearance in offspring as dominant or recessive traits.

-His work not appreciated or understood until 1900's. Why?

-After his death papers burned by monks. Luckily some letters and documents by Mendel kept in Monastery archives.

## -Mendel's Laws of Heredity

**1) Law of Independent Segregation:** Parental genes randomly separated. Offspring inherit one genetic allele from each parent when sex cells unite in fertilization.

**2) Law of Independent Assortment:** Genes for different traits sort separately so inheritance of 1 trait not dependent on inheritance of another. Random!

**3) Law of Dominance:** Organism with alternate forms of genes will express form that is dominant.

# Dr. Nehrling's Contribution to Amaryllis Introduction

- Amaryllis introduced into Florida by Dr. Henry Nehrling, prominent botanist, horticulturalist and ornithologist at Nehrling Gardens, Gotha.
- Wrote "Die Amaryllis". Reprinted from the "**Gertenwelt**" illustrated weekly covering entire field of gardening 1909. Best English translation Dr. and Mrs. E.W. Berger, Berlin 1932. **UCF Archives**.
- Recognition of "The Amaryllis" was occasion for printing in English pamphlet form too.
- Nehrling: "I grow at present all the species obtainable. My collection of named hybrids alone consists of about a thousand different varieties."
- Nehrling & Dr. Theodore L. Mead collaborated on hybridization of species.



# Hippeastrum Leopoldi





## Amaryllis Sex & Cross Pollination for Hybridization

Nehrling performed hybridization and reproduction by [allogamy](#) (cross-pollination) and *Hippeastrum* was propagated by seed or offset [bulbils](#) (bulblets), although commercial ventures also involved splitting of the bulb into sections.

- Take pollen stamen, break off.
- Place pollen stamen to stigma
- Like certain colors? Same pollen to same flower stigma BEFORE bees visit early morning. Cover with netting and tie with twist.
- Hybridization? Cross pollinate different pollens to different flower stigmas BEFORE bees.



# Amaryllis (Hippeastrum) Mature Seed Pods



Nehrling's work became more well known and his extensive experimental gardens flourished, the site became a mecca for tourists from the north, unfamiliar with these lush plants.



*Caladium Gardens at Letha*

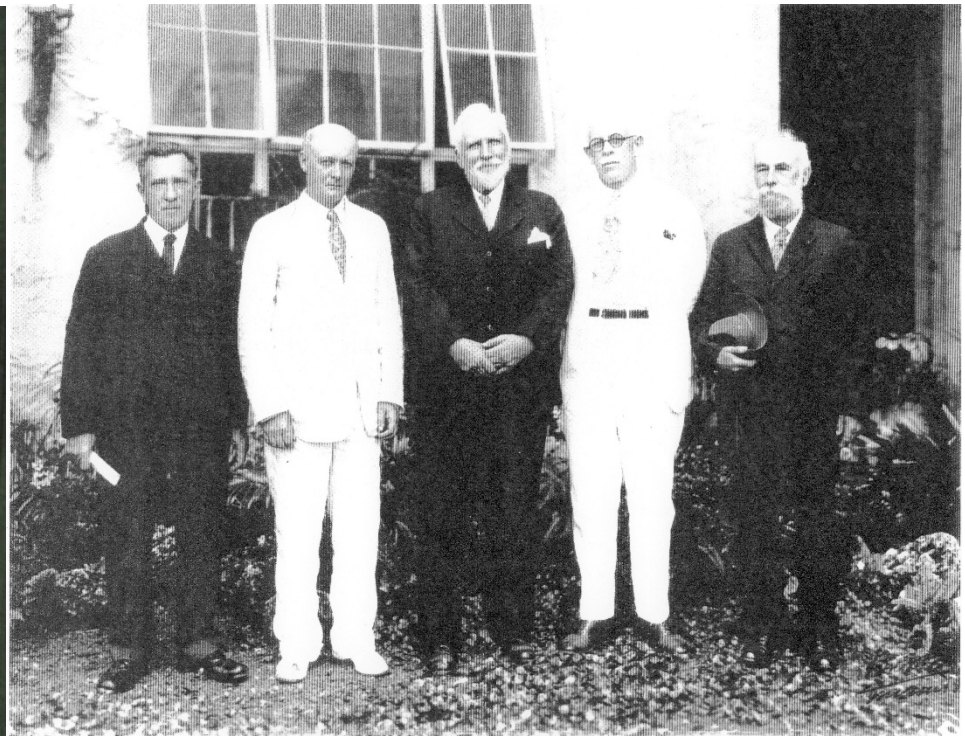


Severe freezes around 1916 caused extensive damage to his more delicate plants, and Edison and Ford recommended he find property further south. He ultimately bought property in Naples and named it "Henry Nehrling's Tropical Garden and Arboretum." It is now called the Naples Zoo and Caribbean Gardens.



Dr. Nehrling & Son Arlo Nehrling

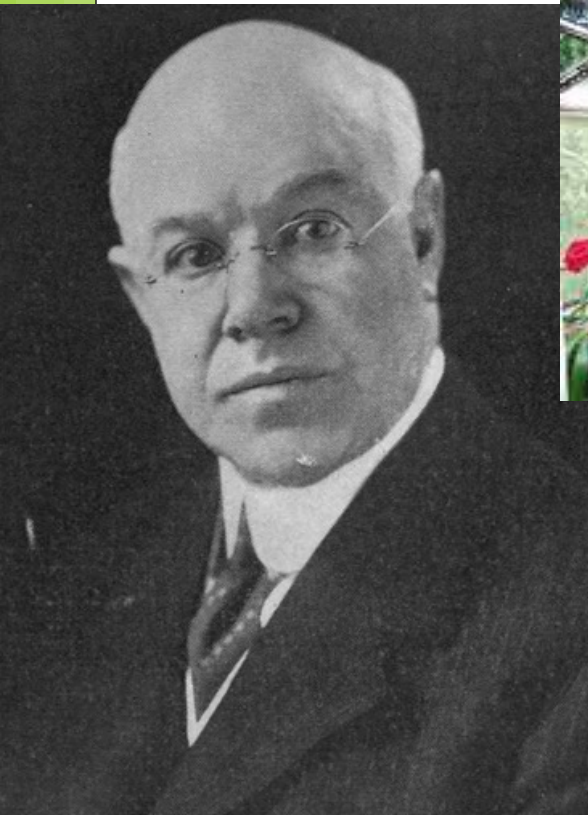
However, his beloved Palm Cottage Gardens in Gotha remained his first love. In 1929 he was awarded the Myer Medal for his work in Foreign Plant Introduction by the USDA Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction. In failing health, he returned to Gotha and died there later that year.



LTR -

JK Small, H. Hume, H. Nehrling, D. Fairchild, T. Mead

Nehrling's second wife ultimately sold the property. It was purchased by Edward Julian Nally and wife Maggie Nally from New York. They loved the property and ran it as a commercial Bamboo, Bromeliad and Gloriosa Lily Nursery until their deaths in 1978, when the property was subdivided by their estate into Lake Nally Woods. Artifacts are found when we dig in the gardens.



Nehrling Standing in Amaryllis Fields and his grave marker at Woodlawn Cemetery, Gotha, Florida: "Scientist" -1853-1929



Four years later the remaining 6 acres was purchased by Orlando architect Howard Bochiardy and his wife Barbara, a dedicated horticulturist. Howard constructed a large garage/workshop addition in a style compatible with the old home. Sadly he died within a few years. Barbara remained living in Palm Cottage, but it was difficult for her to maintain the large property. She needed to sell but wanted the property saved.

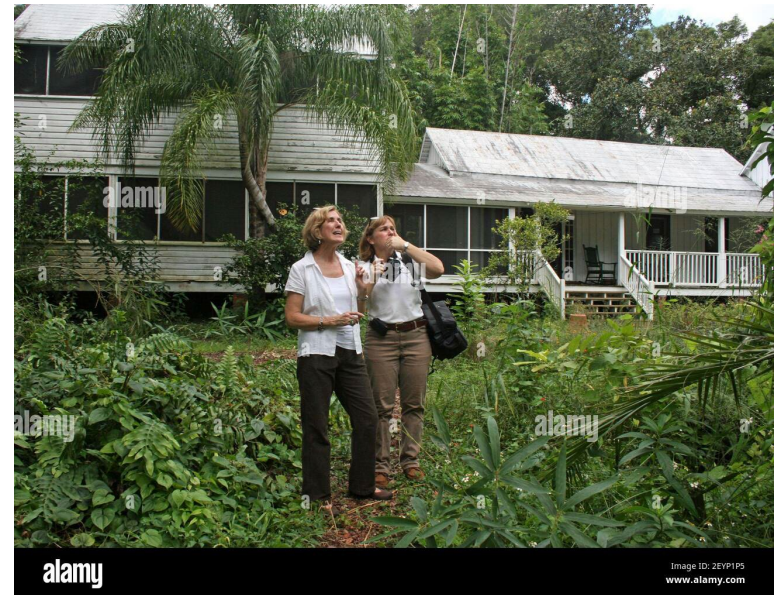


In 2000 the Henry Nehrling Society was formed to preserve the property, and Henry Nehrling's Palm Cottage Gardens was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and was listed as a Florida Heritage Landmark. The Society struggled for several years to raise the money to purchase the property, finally succeeding in 2009.

## Historical Marker



## Angela Withers and Theresa Schretzmann-Myers





Since then the badly overgrown site has been gradually restored, with the help of hundreds of volunteers.

**Tree by Tree, Yard by Yard, Foot by Foot** Nehrling Gardens living treasures are being restored by our Volunteers

**Our Garden Team uses Dr. Nehrling's books and philosophy as a guide to conserve the gardens.**



A Florida Division of Historic Resources matching grant in 2017 helped with exterior and roof repairs, and removal of 100 years of lead-based paint.



# Palm Cottage Gardens



# Nehrling's Palm Cottage Exterior Repairs, Prep and Painting as of April 21, 2020

**Left Photo: West Front Porch Painting  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor facing East**



**Right Photo: North Side of House  
and Front Porch Facing South**



## Nehrling's Palm Cottage Exterior Repairs, Prep and Painting as of April 21, 2020

**Left Photo: South Side 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Story Front Porch Facing North prep Complete and 2<sup>nd</sup> coat going on. Going back to original blue color found on ceilings**



**Right Photo: Horizontal View Southwest Corner of Palm Cottage 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Story back porch facing Northwest.**



# Nehrling's Palm Cottage Exterior Repairs, Prep and Painting as of April 21, 2020

**Left Photo: Vertical View Southwest  
Corner of Palm Cottage 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd  
Story back porch facing Northwest**



**Right Photo: East Side of  
Palm Cottage House and  
Kitchen facing West.**



## Nehrling's Palm Cottage Exterior Repairs, Prep and Painting as of April 21, 2020

**Left Photo: Northwest Side of Palm  
Cottage House and Kitchen facing  
Southeast**

**Right Photo: Closer view Northwest  
side of Palm Cottage facing  
Southeast.**



# Nehrling's Palm Cottage Exterior Repairs, Prep and Painting May 6, 2020

**Left Photo: L-R Nehrling Volunteers Aaron Neff and Mike Neff painting East back 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Porch Ceiling looking North.**



**Right Photo: L-R Nehrling Volunteers Mike Neff and Aaron Neff painting East Back Porch 1<sup>st</sup> floor ceiling looking South.**





Today the beautifully wooded site has been revealed from its overgrowth of invasive vines. The Garden Team continues to reintroduce many of Nehrling's favorite plants, as well as focusing on native plants that provide food and habitat for his beloved birds. And his glorious caladiums, graceful palms and bamboos, endlessly varied caladiums, spectacular amaryllis and gloriosa lilies now continue to bring delight to all our visitors!





# **Nehrling Gardens**

Historic Florida Garden 1885