



The Basement Watchdog is the brainchild of inventor and philanthropist Alan Schulman. It is the trade name for a line of sump pumps, plumbing products and accessories sold at retail outlets nationwide. Schulman is providing primary funding for TEAM's newest initiative, *Punta Gorda in Bloom*.

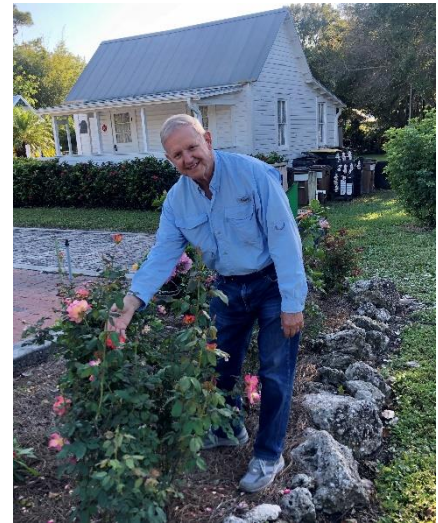
Sump pumps and water alarms

Basements in Florida are few and far between. Basement Watchdog pumps are not in high demand. However, water alarms are another story. Alan Schulman discussed this innovation. "The Basement Watchdog 9-volt battery powered water alarm is a very popular product that will sound a loud alarm when water is detected. These alarms are in stock in all local hardware retailers. This product reflects our commitment to create consumer products that help people protect their homes. That commitment has enabled the parent company, Glentronics, Inc., to thrive and grow for over 30 years."

The Schulmans' home office is in Lincolnshire, Illinois, a northern suburb of Chicago. When asked how they became actively involved in Punta Gorda, Schulman explained, "My wife Barb and I have been snowbirds in Punta Gorda for 11 years. While fishing and the water originally attracted me, my other hobby, gardening, is what has become my spare time focus. When I found the Punta Gorda History Park with unattended planting beds, I asked for permission to plant a few flowers and as they say, *the rest is history*."

Today the History Park displays an amazing assortment of blooming Florida native and colorful annual plantings. It is a free display, and as Alan Schulman describes it, "a Botanical treasure that should brighten up the spirits of all who visit."
(photo: Alan Schulman at the History Park.)

As if on cue in the spring of 2020 when all spirits needed a boost, the city of Punta Gorda approved a pilot program intended to beautify the downtown with planters and hanging baskets of flowers. *Punta Gorda in Bloom*, an affiliate of *America in Bloom*, was initiated by Richard Polk, already deeply involved in both the History Park and the Punta Gorda Nature Park. He reached out to Schulman and to TEAM Punta Gorda. According to Schulman, "Richard entrusted his vision to TEAM Punta Gorda for implementation. I committed to funding and helping to plant and maintain the plantings."



"Being a relatively small community, it is easier to make a positive impact that will benefit so many, says Schulman. "I hope the contribution of my flowers will enhance our city and bring us all closer together. I look forward to seeing our city shine."