

HISTORIC 19TH CENTURY HOMESTEAD, GROVE, AND VENUE ON THE INDIAN RIVER

Field Manor E-Newsletter

October 2019

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Homestead News

by Korinn Braden

Despite our current temperature, Fall is upon us! We ended our summer months attending educational events, planning weddings as well as our 4th Annual Oyster and Fish Fry. It is times like this we that we miss the guidance of late President Jane Templeton.

Thankfully in September Sue Nisbet Lawrence was elected as Field Manor President and Harry Carswell was elected as Vice President. Each is long time Board Members, who have seamlessly moved into their new appointments. Welcome and thank you!

Brevard Zoo's Educator's Night was a success, with over 300 teachers attending. It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce them to Field Manor. Being the 'newish' kids on the block, we had many teachers stopping by to learn more about our Field Trips and other activities. More than once I was told, 'I grew up on Merritt Island and I had no idea you were there.' Getting out into our community and meeting and speaking with people is one of the best

way garner exposure. Alexis Pernal, our event coordinator, and I make it a point to be Ambassadors of Field Manor. And as Friends of Field Manor, we hope you are able to do the same.

Speaking of Alexis, weddings are ramping up this month and we're happy to announce seven on the books for 2020! It's wonderful to watch the faces of the brides and grooms as they tour Field Manor, and even better when they look at one another and with a nod, say, 'yes.' Alexis has really taken to her role and position, with enthusiasm and professionalism.

In case you haven't heard, our 4th Annual Oyster and Fish Fry takes place Saturday, October 12th, between 4 P.M. - 8 P.M. We would like to thank our Guava Sponsor, attorney Douglas R. Beam. His commitment to Florida history and Anthropology makes this a wonderful partnership.



Upcoming Events!

It's that time of year again! We hope you join us

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Creativity Abounds!

Local artists discover Field Manor

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4th Annual Oyster and Fish Fry

We hope you will be able to join us for our 4th Annual Fish and Oyster Fry! This tradition is over 100 years old and we'd love you to help us celebrate.

We thank the Chuck Van Riper Duo for providing music, as well as Playlinda for providing beer. We will be holding a Silent Auction, with many exciting items, including a wine experience from Total Wines&More for you and a few friends, and also a staycation from Cape Crossing.

Since we will be serving oysters on the half-shell and located on the Indian River, we will be collecting the shells as part of the Shuck and Share program in an effort to restore oysters in the Indian River. We thank you in advance for participating!

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, 12 October, 4 P.M. – 8 P.M. Call: 321.848.0365 or visit our website: <https://fieldmanor.org/events>

To learn more visit: <http://shuckandshare.org/>



Spooky Flower Crown Class by Afton and Fern and Curl Designs



Photo by Angie and Marko

As we're getting into the Fall spirit, we will be co-hosting a Spooky Flower Crown class here on Sunday, October 6th, between 10 A.M. – 11.30 A.M. Our friend Afton, from Fern and Curl Designs, will be supplying and helping you create fun, wearable art. For tickets click: https://www.eventbrite.com/o/fern-and-curl-25413482775?fbclid=IwAR0qXlw4cToGcM_zubLFmy3GngpW1e8aIZTafdn6q4Suh

SAD FACTS:

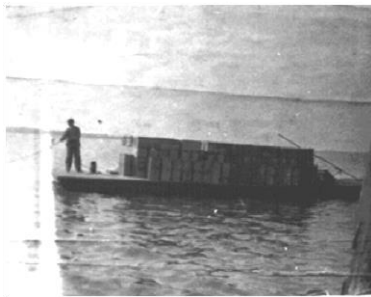
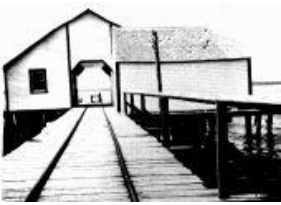
ACERAGE CHANGES

242

In 2000 there were 750 thousand acres of citrus in Florida. Today there are less than 476 thousand acres left

Citrus Railway

So much citrus was grown and packed on Indianola that a railroad was created to easily move produce



Boatload of Citrus

A barge loaded with citrus on the Indian River

FAST FACTS:

242 million Crates
of citrus left
Florida in 2000
vs. 89 million
Crates in 2015

Ties to the Past

Indianola, during the early citrus hey-day, had a packing house where growers would bring their fruits to be sorted and graded. Here at Field Manor, citrus production was so large we had our own. Indian River citrus would be brought to boats or barges in the shallow river via a long dock, by pushing or pulling the heavy crates on a rail. Evidence of the Indianola rail was found during renovations on Sam Field's property. Here at Field Manor, hidden in a peanut tin, were seven 3.5 inch rail spikes. It makes me wonder if perhaps there was also a rail on this property. In the 1930s, Mims Citrus co-Op took over that aspect for most local growers and packing houses turned into garages or work spaces. This winter we hope to investigate whether or not a rail did exist here. We'll keep you updated.



Indianola citrus railroad was used to move fruit to the docks and transportation through the groves

Although Field Manor has artifacts a-plenty, it is always nice to receive donations to this lil' gem of a museum that are era appropriate. We would like to thank Ross Schlernitzauer and family for donating this beautiful wedding dress from 1936. Brides are awed by its beauty, not to mention its tiny waist size! The Schlernitzauer family were long time citrus growers in Florida.



Creativity Abounds At Field Manor!

The house and grounds of Field Manor are literally picture, or painting, perfect. Recently, renowned artist Carolyn Seiler and her friend Adam came out to Field Manor to paint. While the house was stunning in the morning light, Carolyn was more inspired by the Packing House. Adam enjoyed painting a scene by the river. Having such talent on the grounds is so exciting. We are anxious to see Field Manor through their eyes!



Photo by Scott Levin

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.facebook.com/CarolynSeilersFriends/>

Or stop by her shop located at 318 Delannoy Ave.,
Cocoa Village or call: 321.637.0444

Wish List and a Call for Volunteers

A tractor with a PTO. (Thanks to the Glover Family for the use of their tractor!)

A bush hog for the tractor

A box blade for the tractor

A Roof to shade the tractor driver

A golf cart that works

A truck or other pulling device

A road certified trailer

An electric pole saw

Wooden water barrels for some downspouts

Electrical wiring for the packing house to bring it to code

Railings for the packing house

New stringers and planks for the dock

A sign by the road with letters we can change

Installation of the hand water pump



We would like to thank Adrienne from Aging Matters Brevard for spreading the word and bringing us four Volunteers for the Oyster and Fish Fry! Much appreciation to Bea, Debbie, Marianne, and Pat for donating their time and energy! And thanks also to Jan for helping us with this event.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Education

Group leaders

Group helpers

Curriculum development

Curriculum

Archives

Written material

Research

Grove

Cultivation

Historic Gardens

Plant propagation

Research

Water Issues

Florida ranks as the fifth lowest state for Volunteers, at 23.5%. Won't you consider increasing that percentage by volunteering some of your time? We are in need of volunteers for the 2019/2020 school year to assist with field trips. Please contact us at: 321.848.0365, education@fieldmanor.org.

We would also like to thank Victoria Mitchell for her kind donation of Brevard history books. This will certainly add to our collection of local history. Our plan is to open it to the public for research purposes.