

July 2022



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Photo by Tony Balzanto

Homestead News

We wish all our Friends of Field Manor a Happy and safe 4th of July weekend!

Here at the Homestead the dog days of summer have set in. The grass grows high, the birds stay low, and I sit inside. But Darren and Nemon have been working in this heat. It makes one appreciate the hard work pioneer families had to do to put food on their table and to make a living. Merritt Island's soil is unique in that there are sandy ridges as well as rich, mucky soil. Different crops enjoy different soils, so a farmer was able to optimize their acreages. Like many farmers, the Field family grew diverse crops to ensure success of some if not all. The Fields grew tobacco, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, and pumpkins. Each of these crops prefer a certain type of soil and the Field homestead has it all! However, it is not difficult to imagine a year when crops fail, and tables are bare. We tip our hats to our pioneer forefathers and mothers for their perseverance and resolve in their attempt to make a new life for themselves.

Our 7th Annual Oyster and Fish Fry, is on Saturday, October 29th. Is it on your calendar yet? Tickets go on sale in August. Keep an eye out for more details on our website and your in box.

Speaking of our website, www.fieldmanor.org, we launched a new one last month! Our goal was to streamline it and make it user friendly. We have updated photos and information, as well as opportunities to donate to our many projects.

We continue our work on Ed Field's WW II letters. We are fortunate to have a typesetter and are currently looking for a volunteer graphic artist/book designer.

Work in the Packing House has slowed down due to the heat, but we have made great progress! Next time you stop by the homestead, we would be happy to show you around. Again, thanks to Kim, Mike, and Tina for all their hard work and research!

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The importance of Volunteers

Our Homestead Volunteers are our best ambassadors. I absolutely love that folks are so excited about the work they do at Field Manor that they talk about it with their friends, coworkers, and neighbors. Many of these contacts come to tour the historic home and end up ambassadors themselves. We are thrilled with their excitement and with their ideas, and appreciate the time and energy they spend to help preserve the past and to ensure our future.

On Saturday, July 30th, at 10AM, we will be hosting a meeting for those interested in becoming a Homestead Volunteer and Ambassador at 750 Field Manor Drive, Merritt Island, 32953. The meeting will take place under our pavilion. Below is a list of our needs and our opportunities. Please email fieldmanor@gmail.com or call 321.848.0365.

Volunteer Needs/Projects

Development/Grants

- Research matching grant opportunities
- Outline basic grant timelines and availabilities
- Research community components of grant application
- Attend relevant meetings/seminars

Education:

- Field trip assistants
- Help develop engaging new field trip ideas
- Create a list of non-school groups that would benefit from trips to Field Manor
- Contact and encourage high schools about senior projects

Gardening:

- Research, development, planting, and maintenance of an historic kitchen garden
- Tend a produce stand for homestead made products and produce
- Create interpretive signage to showcase special plants/varieties

Graphic artist/designer/book designer

- Transcribed WW II letters to be made into a book. We have a typesetter but need a professional for images

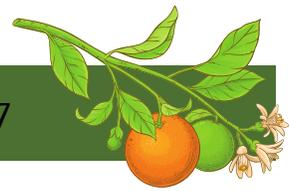
Grove:

- Research alternatives to citrus
 - oHeat tolerant
 - oSalt tolerant
 - oDrought resistant

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Historic Preservation:

- Create an artifact inventory list for each room
 - oCross reference with artifacts in PastPerfect database and add if needed; also create an Xcel spreadsheet
- Create an artifact inventory list for each room
 - oCross reference with artifacts in PastPerfect database and add if needed; also create an Xcel spreadsheet
- Inventory non-historic item

Housekeeping:

- Cleaning historic home
- Proper cleaning of historic collection (while performing a condition report on artifact), including the waxing of wood furniture once a year (Howard's Feed n Wax)

Membership:

- Work with the Membership Committee
- Keep membership information up to date in Xcel and on PastPerfect
- Contact members twice a year
 - oUpdate members of up-coming events

Museum:

- Museum Docent
 - oEstablish days to work
 - oMay require after hour tours
- Develop ways to keep child engaged during tour
- Attend bi-monthly Museum of Brevard meetings – Collections and Historic Homes

Partnerships:

- Develop and foster external partnerships

Publicity

- Create social media posts
 - oWhat is it Wednesday?
 - oArtifact Friday
- Maintain communications with print media
- Distribute publicity materials throughout Brevard County

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Research:

- Timeline of the Field family journey to Florida
- Timeline of the community of Indianola and showing its relation to other Merritt Island communities and mainland communities
- Timeline for contemporaneous historic homes of Brevard
- Field genealogy

Special Events:

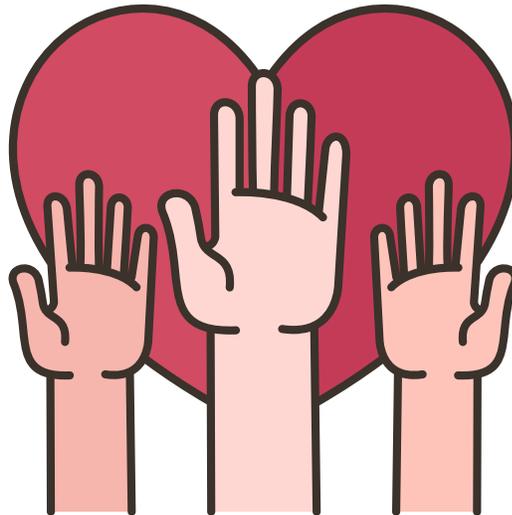
- Serve as additional staff
- Help with set-up/break-down

Stained Glass Artist:

- Mount two pieces of window glass from 1882 for display

Volunteer Coordinator:

- Schedule volunteer hours
- Maintain volunteer log
- Be the staff/volunteer liaison



“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

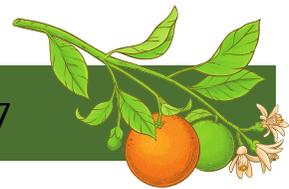
A special thanks for Jani S. She began volunteering at Field Manor the Spring of 2021. She brought her love of gardening and farming, and her mad jelly-making skills, as well as her friendship. She took to task our homestead kitchen garden, growing many of the same crops the Field family grew. Not only that, she took the rewards of her hard work to create infused vinegars, dehydrated citrus, and savory and sweet jellies. She would grow plants from seed to sell at our Vendor Markets and taught a lot of people about what one can grow in this area. I thank her for teaching me her skills and for sharing the vision of Field Manor Homestead. Plus, she gives good hugs. She and her husband Gary recently moved and will truly be missed.

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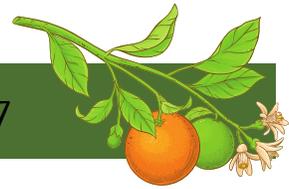
FIELD MANOR

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The
7TH ANNUAL
OYSTER & FISH FRY
at Field Manor
OCTOBER 29TH, 2022

This event runs from 3PM-7PM
with lawn games, live music, a 50/50 raffle, a
silent auction, and of course oysters and fried fish!



Bonnie Bonnets

In September 2021, we found bonnets from the turn of the 20th century in an armoire. Although we know not where they came from, they have become part of our collection. We consulted the Museums of Brevard's Collection group, who recommended Orvus, which is primarily used to clean animals. No, really! It will lessen and sometimes remove stains (foxing) associated with age. If you are unable to find this product, you can also use lemon juice or white vinegar. Of course, vintage clothing is very delicate, so please be careful whichever product you use.

Check out our results and come see this new display in person.



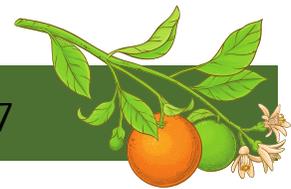
Thanks to Roxy B., both
Friend of Field Manor and a
volunteer, for the fabric consults
and creating a way to display them.

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EDUCATION:

GROUP LEADERS
GROUP HELPERS

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES
CURRICULUM RESOURCES

RESEARCH

ARCHIVES:

WRITTEN MATERIAL
COLLECTIONS
RESEARCH
WW II LETTERS

GROVE:

CULTIVATION
HISTORIC GARDENS
PLANT PROPAGATION
RESEARCH
WEATHER ISSUES
WATER ISSUES
GROUND TESTING

HOUSE:

CLEANING
FLOWER GARDENS

PACKING HOUSE:

CLEANING
ORGANIZING
EXHIBITIONS

COLLECTIONS

CATALOGUING ARTIFACTS
UPDATING PASTPERFECT
PHOTOGRAPHING ARTIFACTS

FIELD MANOR WISH LIST

- A TRUCK OR OTHER PULLING DEVICE
- RAIN BARRELS FOR DOWNSPOUTS
- RAILINGS FOR THE PACKING HOUSE
- BETTER SIGNAGE FOR BETTER VISIBILITY
- TWO NEW TOILETS
- TWO TOILET SEATS
- BENCHES FOR THE RIVERFRONT
- STABLE SHELVING FOR ARTIFACT STORAGE
- BOOK SHELF
- STABLE SHELVING FOR INVENTORY
- ADIRONDACK CHAIRS
- SPONSORSHIP OF GRAVEL

Our Star Supporters:

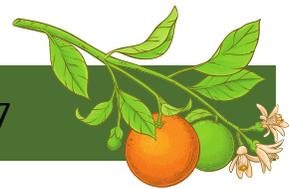
- **Mike and Tina T.** for their passion of history and their hard in this heat
- **Michelle C.** for keeping an eye out for items on our Wish List, including shelving, rocking chairs, tables and chairs
- *Friend of Field Manor* **Robert B.** for his typesetting skills and his dedication
- **Jani S.** for making the time for Field Manor and our homestead goals

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www.fieldmanor.org/membership

<https://www.fieldmanor.org/donate>

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FIELD MANOR AND OUR MISSION (HEY KATHI!) TO RESTORE, PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND PROMOTE AWARENESS OF LAND, BUILDINGS, CULTURE, AND CUSTOMS OF EARLY SETTLERS TO COASTAL CENTRAL FLORIDA.
WE ARE A 501(C)3, EIN 59-3517194