



Homestead Happenings 02/2026

Can You Hear the Buzz?

Over a year ago local beekeeper and vice president of the Brevard Backyard Beekeepers Association, Todd Snyder, began keeping honeybee hives on a seven-acre parcel of land. Settled between two sloughs, the bees enjoy an area surrounded by stands of bananas, sugar cane, and the dreaded Brazilian Pepper (which oddly enough creates a unique honey). In December, Todd and his crew processed the first honey from Field Manor! This unique blend incorporates all of these flavors. We currently carry our Field Manor Snyder's Hives Honey, available in both 16oz. and 18 oz.

Todd and his crew have been busy out here for the last week or so preparing the hives for transport to California. Last year they moved around 450 hives out west for almond pollination. In 2025, the US transported over 2 million honeybee colonies to California. About 30% of the transported bees will not survive. In efforts to lower that number, measures have been taken. For instance, mandatory stop times for over-road truckers have been modified for bee transport, to include stop times reduced by 10-15 minutes. Hive owners are not only helping an important tree nut, but they also stand to make money, with each colony worth around \$200. After the bees are unloaded to their new location, they are back to work pollinating as soon as the next day!



Thank you to volunteer and *Friends of Field Manor*, Cheryl and Fred, for the donation of the lovely metal bee art! It makes a great addition to our porch.



Public Speaking

Outreach is an important component within the nonprofit world as a way to spread your mission and to educate the community at large. Field Manor accomplishes this by tabling/exhibiting at historic events, as well as public speaking at luncheons, at civic meetings, in classrooms, and at libraries. In the last six months, we have spoken to the South Brevard Historical Society, tabled at Cracker Christmas for the fifth year, spoke at the Merritt Island Library, and spoke to the Central Brevard Newcomers Club luncheon. If you are interested in having us speak about the Field family,

about Brevard County after the Civil War, or about the native population of Brevard at the time of contact, please contact Korinn Braden at 321-848-0365 or [Contact Korinn Here](#).

Pioneer Day at Sams House

13th Annual Pioneer Day
Saturday, February 8th, 2025 • 10 am - 4 pm
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Sams House/Pine Island Conservation Area



History & Nature • One Event • Two Historic Sites • Free Shuttle
Step back in time as we celebrate Brevard's early settlers in the woods of north Merritt Island
5555 & 6195 North Tropical Trail, Merritt Island

Florida Living History Demonstrations • Guided Trail Hikes • Live Music
History Speakers • Guided Historic Cemetery Tours • 1888 Sams House Tours
Pioneer Parade • Cemetery Stroll • Cemetery Quest (ages 7 and up)
Exhibitors: History, Nature, Wildlife, Anthropology & Archaeology
Children's Games • Homemade Chilis, Grilled Hot Dogs, Loaded Baked Potatoes
Vintage, Crafts & Farmer's Market Vendors • Food Trucks • Kettle Corn



Live Music at Sams House: Celery City String Band • Chris Kahl • Boylston Fish • Pine Trio

FREE Admission • \$5 Suggested Donation For Parking
www.mipioneerday.com • FB: Pine Island Preservation Society/Sams House

We hope to see you at the Sams Homestead on Saturday, February 7, to celebrate their 13th Annual Pioneer Day. Field Manor, along with other Brevard cultural entities, will be there to help honor Merritt Island's pioneer past. Stop by and say hello! [13th Annual Pioneer Day](#)

A Huge Thanks to Our Volunteers!

In 2025, our **volunteers**, to include the Field Manor Board of Directors and the Advisory Board, clocked 1882.25 hours!

Thank you!

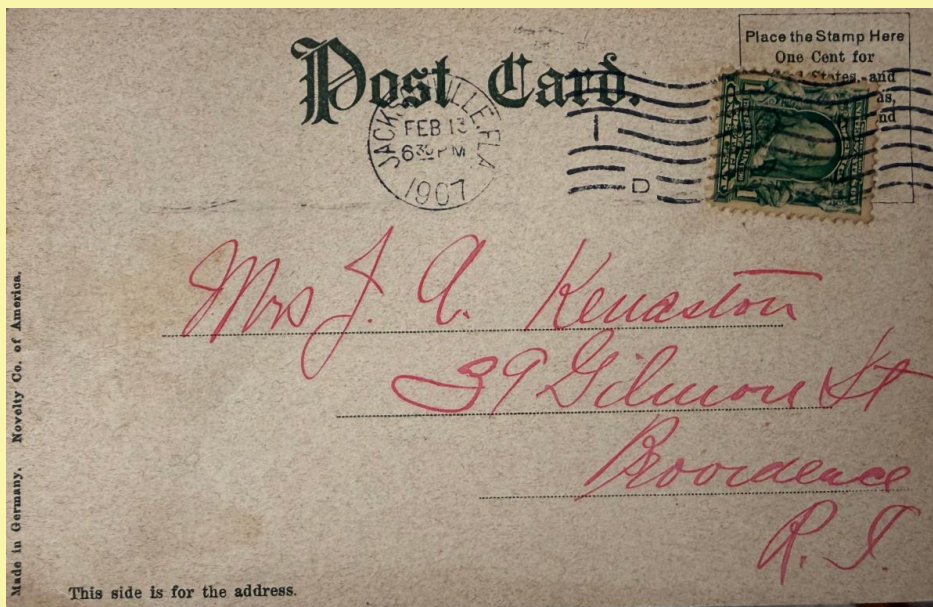
We are currently seeking volunteers for our 2026 Founders' Day on Saturday, April 4th. We have many opportunities available. Please contact [Korinn and Tristann](#) for more information.



Brevard History Comes to Life

Member of the Space Coast Postcard Club, Laura Houston, brought Brevard-related cards to Field Manor to share. We ran across one with a familiar name on the back. After contacting the family, it was confirmed that the postcard was sent to the mother of Dr. Tom Kenaston, Sr. Tom moved to Brevard permanently in 1929 from Nebraska, where his father, James Augustus, homesteaded. Tom was one of a handful of doctors here at the time and he was one of the founders of Wuesthoff Hospital. His son went on to become a prominent pediatrician, known as Dr. Tom. We'd like to thank Jeanne Kenaston, daughter-in-law of Tom, Sr., for this information.





Save the Date!

HOT PINK is returning for the third time to help us celebrate an island tradition. Our Founders' Day is Saturday, April 4, from 11A-4P, featuring beer from Bugnutty Brewery, museum tours, a silent auction, and most importantly, a good time on the riverfront. Bring chairs/blankets and set up on the shore. This fundraiser helps with our historic preservation efforts. We are seeking sponsors for this event. Contact [Tristann Jones](#) to learn more about our sponsor opportunities.

Thank you for your support!

[Click Here to Learn More and Purchase Tickets](#)

FIELD MANOR'S 11TH ANNUAL

FOUNDERS' DAY

SAT., APRIL 4TH, 11AM-4PM

LIVE MUSIC **HOT PINK**

LOCAL BEER **BUGNUTTY BREWING CO.**



Admission Donation
Presale \$10 / Day-of \$20



**BEER/WINE, MUSEUM TOURS, RAFFLES,
FOOD TRUCKS, SILENT AUCTION,
VENDOR MARKET & MORE!**

FIELDMANOR.ORG/FOUNDERS-DAY

750 Field Manor Drive, Merritt Island, FL 32953

Don't forget to Renew OR update your membership here!

If you prefer, you can always send a check. Our address is below.

And thanks to those who renewed in January!

Thank you for your support!

The mission of Field Manor Foundation is to conserve the historic Field Manor Homestead for the purpose of educating the public about East Central Florida native inhabitants and early settlers' culture and customs.

EIN: 59-3517194



Field Manor Foundation | 750 Field Manor Drive | Merritt Island, FL 32953 US

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