



FIELD MANOR HOMESTEAD

# Field Manor E-Newsletter

## February 2019

### IN THIS ISSUE

## Homestead Headlines

This newsletter is specially distributed to our incredible members, our *Friends of Field Manor*. We simply could not do what we do without your kindness and support. Thank you for all you continue to give us.

### The Month in Review

The new year is off to a great start here at Field Manor. There was a lot of planning going on behind-the-scenes, and our Board, staff, and volunteers can't wait to showcase all of the wonderful programming and events we have lined up for you in 2019.

This past month we received dozens of inquiries for hosting weddings and special events here at Field Manor and our staff conducted a great number of venue tours. For more information on how Field Manor reaped the benefits of engagement season, check out the article on page 2.

Speaking of special events, the Friends of the Enchanted Forest held a Board of Directors retreat here at Field Manor on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board adored sitting around our historic dining room table and were thrilled that they could eat their lunch from the rocking chairs on our front porch overlooking the river. We had a wonderful time hosting them!

### The Month Ahead

There is no sign of slowing down in February. For one thing, our education programs are ramping up as the school year resumes. Roosevelt Elementary's entire fourth grade class will be coming for a field trip on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. We have three more schools scheduled to come across March and April as well.

Since our last Homeschool History Day went so well, we're bringing the event back on February 11<sup>th</sup> for two sessions. These students will be learning about Valentine's Day and Presidents Day and how the two relate to Field Manor. Like our previous event, there will also be crafting experiences and time for play outside.

We are happy to have a couple of events on-site this month as well! Trail Life Troop is coming to do a service project with us on Saturday, February 23. The next day, on Sunday, February 24, Field Manor will host the University of Central Florida as they conduct a History Harvest! More info on that event can be found on page 4.

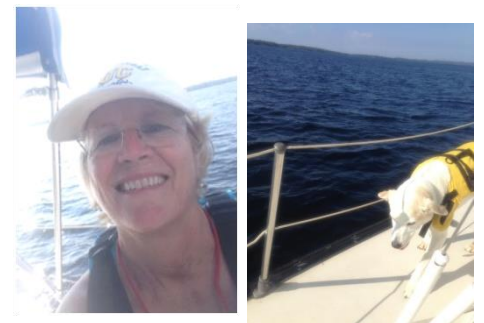
We hope to make 2019 our best year yet! Stay tuned for more events and programs!



### Founders Run/Walk

Calling all runners and walkers! Field Manor is celebrating Founders Day a bit differently this year. Learn more about how we're commemorating 151 years!

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### Meet our Board: Laurie McTavish

Take some time to get introduced to our newest Board member! Learn more about Laurie and what she hopes to see accomplished at Field Manor.

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## Founders Run/Walk

Calling all runners and walkers! Field Manor is happy to introduce a new event coming to you this March! In lieu of our regular Founders' Day celebration with tours and food, we are marking the 151<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Field family landing on Merritt Island with a one-mile fun run/walk through historic Field Manor's property! One of our Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School students has been working with our staff since August to plan this racing event as his senior project.

The course will take participants in a loop around historic Field property. Everyone will start near Field Manor's pavilion then head east down neighboring Shy High Drive. Turning south onto North Tropical Trail, runners will race down and turn right onto Field Manor Drive. As participants near the finish line, Historic Field Manor will appear on the horizon with the Indian River Lagoon in the background. Racers can choose to end their run/walk after one-mile, but the course will be open for unlimited laps until 9:15am.

Each participant will receive a race t-shirt and will be treated to a race "after-party" with



music, food, and plenty of water. Take your time and enjoy Field Manor's property as the sun comes up. We hope this event will introduce more of the Brevard County community to the history we are lucky to enjoy here on Merritt Island.

Our Field Manor Founders Fun Run/Walk will take place on **Saturday, March 23**. Race start is 7am and will be capped at 200 participants. Thomas, our student, will be donating all event proceeds to Field Manor. Admission is \$25, and again includes a t-shirt, race bag with sponsor items, and our race after-party. Sponsorships are still available, and range

from \$100-\$500. If you or someone you know would like to promote their business, please have them contact Caroline for more information.

### GET IN ON THE ACTION

Race sign-up will be conducted through our run website at [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com). The link will be emailed out and posted on Facebook. For additional information, contact our Director, Caroline.

Email: [c.agid@fieldmanor.org](mailto:c.agid@fieldmanor.org)  
Call: 321-848-0365



## Weddings and Special Events

Engagement season is officially here! Over the holiday season, many couples choose to take that next step in their relationship and begin their wedding planning journeys. Field Manor has made the most of the past few weeks, seeing numerous brides through our doors and getting countless inquiries. In just three weeks, we already have three new brides getting married on our site before the end of the year!

Lindsey Chrzaszcz, a native to Brevard County, came to visit Field Manor on January 3. She instantly fell in love with our waterfront and was ready to book her dream outdoor wedding. Kaity Hogan, another native, adored the beautiful natural canvas our venue offered, and booked nearly instantly like Lindsey. Michelle Carr can't wait to decorate our pavilion to fulfill her

Pinterest board dreams! The three are getting married in December, October, and November respectively.

This year, Field Manor hopes to expand the events we are booking. Our venue is the perfect place for a family reunion, bridal shower, or birthday party. Consider booking a luncheon here or celebrate your anniversary with us. Around the holidays, watch the house transform and use it as the perfect backdrop for your holiday Christmas party. In fact, Field Manor has already booked a large corporate holiday party for 2019. You can do it all out here, and we would be more than happy to serve you.

2019 is off to a great start, and our staff is committed to seeing the trend continue. Contact us now to learn how we can make your event shine!

# Meet our Board: Laurie McTavish

A Board of Directors is a recognized group of people who jointly oversee the activities of a nonprofit organization. Field Manor's Board of Directors is responsible for many tasks like approving annual budgets, crafting strategic plans for our organization, and working with staff to ensure the prolonged success of this historic house and grove.

Jane Templeton serves as President of the Board, and with her on the Executive Committee are Kathy Giddings and Ted Eastmoore, the niece and nephew of Field Manor's benefactress Alma Clyde Field. Other members of the Board include Harry Carswell, Bud Crisafulli, Gene Davis, Steve Gasecki, Russell Glover, Sue Nisbet Lawrence, and Frank Sullivan. Recently, we added Laurie McTavish to our Board of Directors and would like to take the time to properly introduce her to you all.

## **Q: Tell us a little about yourself.**

A: I grew up in St Louis, Missouri. I graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Kansas in Journalism and wrote ad copy before attending the Graduate School of Business Management at Harvard University. My career centered on communication, the most notable being part of the team who worked to reposition The Gap. I ended my career as the operating Vice President of a Fortune 500 company that merged with an energy company.

## **Q: How long have you lived in the Brevard County area?**

A: We have been here for 18 years, with a brief hiatus when we moved to Missouri.

## **Q: What brought you to Field Manor?**

A: When the owner, Alma Clyde Field, was still alive, Sue Lawrence brought me to see the property and meet her. Sue knows absolutely everyone. I loved hearing about the history of the area and meeting a true descendent.

## **Q: What are some of your favorite things about this organization?**

A: I love the challenges it faces, the history it is trying to preserve, and I love learning about non-profits. All of my work was in for-

profit companies. Plus, I love it that our bookkeeper has a really unique pet.

## **Q: What skills are you happiest to be bringing to our Board of Directors?**

A: I am a good long range planner, a good, if honest, communicator, and I like numbers.

## **Q: What are some of your goals for Field Manor?**

A: To see growth in sponsorships and more interest from the community regarding the treasure we have right here on Merritt Island.

## **Q: Tell us something you learned about Field Manor since you began working with us.**

A: I liked learning about the architectural tricks that have helped the house survive countless hurricanes, and thinking about Merritt Island when it was still an island with no bridges, and when a yell across the river to the mail-boat would send the owner over in a rowboat if mail had come.

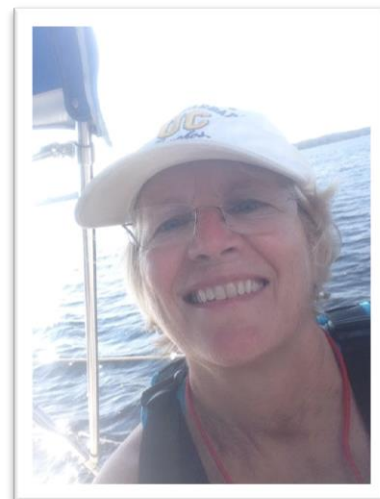
## **Q: Anything else you want to share with our members?**

A: I have a very spoiled beagle/lab mix named Maisy, and a retired engineer husband named James, and we sail a lot.

As you can discern from this interview, Laurie is a wonderful addition to Field Manor's Board. She brings in years of experience and is committed to seeing our organization thrive. We are thrilled to have her join us.

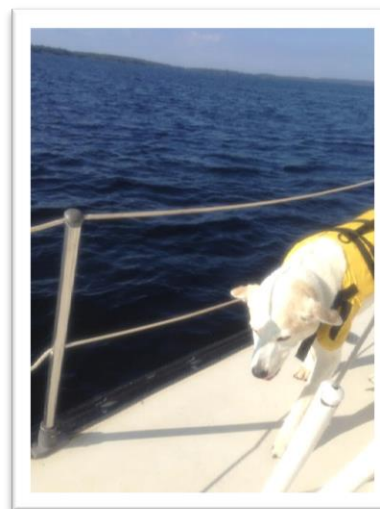
On top of it all, Laurie has already jumped in with both feet. She serves as chair of our finance committee and has worked endlessly to create our current budget and help Field Manor plan for the future. Her fresh eyes have led to great ideas on how this organization can flourish through the coming years. We love Laurie's passion for Merritt Island history and are grateful for her willingness to jump in wherever and whenever she is needed. Field Manor is blessed with an incredible Board of Directors, and in combination with our dedicated staff, we hope to serve Brevard County for generations.

## MEET LAURIE MCTAVISH



## Meet Laurie

Laurie often spends time working to help Field Manor achieve our goals. When she's not here, Laurie and her husband James enjoy spending time out on the water.



## Meet Maisy

Laurie and James are not the only ones who enjoy a little water adventuring! Maisy, their beagle/lab mix that may or may not be spoiled, is pictured above taking in life on the boat.

# History Harvest: February 24

Are you a Brevard Native? Perhaps you've lived in the area for a long while? Here's your chance to help Field Manor, the University of Central Florida, and the Indian River Lagoon all at one event!

Join us for a "History Harvest" on the Indian River Lagoon on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 11-3pm. Field Manor will be hosting science and history departments from UCF as students hope to collect and document as much information as they can about the Indian River Lagoon. Bring photographs, documents, and any story you can remember with you to share with students as they record it for future generations. We hope to create a comprehensive report for the county to better target restoration measures, and you have the chance to be a part of it all!

The Indian River Lagoon (IRL) has been the heart of Brevard County since our inception. When the area was settled, the lagoon served as a method of travel and transportation. The Field family took a flat boat (with poles) across the lagoon when they first homesteaded Merritt Island. The mail came by boat. Students traveled to school on the school-boat. When the Field family packaged up their citrus to be sold across the nation, it was sent out to the dock where it would be placed on the boat.



The Lagoon was also embraced as a food source. Fish and oysters filled the IRL to the brim. Rumor has it that fish used to jump right into the boats of unsuspecting fishermen. Between the lagoon and the 45 acre grove, there was always something the Fields could eat. Going back even further, when the family first landed, they would boil down the lagoon water to retrieve salt. This salt would then be used to trade with the local Native Americans who could provide the best information on what to grow on the new Field family property.



For as long as many of us can remember, the Indian River Lagoon has been a beautiful, natural wonder of Brevard County. It has a rich history and positions itself as a liquid backbone to our community. Sometimes we may take it for granted as we race our cars over the causeways to go to work, school, or run errands. If we don't take the time to care for it and reflect on the many benefits it has provided to this area for generations, who will? This is why we need you. Let's preserve this lagoon for generations to enjoy. Help us compile a comprehensive report on everything the Lagoon has provided for our county so that we can help save it for years to come.

## Indian River Lagoon History Harvest

You Bring It – We'll Document It  
Photographs · Letters · Stories

Help us learn about the historical wildlife of the IRL, so that it can be preserved and protected into the future!

**Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**11AM - 3PM**

FIELD MANOR FOUNDATION  
750 FIELD MANOR DRIVE | MERRITT ISLAND, FL 32953

