



FIELD MANOR HOMESTEAD

Field Manor E-Newsletter

March 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

Even though February has 28 days, the month was jam-packed with activities. For one thing, we had two days of field trips from Roosevelt Elementary School in Cocoa Beach. We continued to book weddings and have reached our goal for 2019. We're already booking events into 2020! It's never too late to get on our event calendar, so if you're thinking about hosting a special event of any size here at Field Manor, don't hesitate to contact us at our events email, events@fieldmanor.org.

On the last weekend of February, Field Manor played host to the University of Central Florida's Marine Biology students as they held their first History Harvest on our site. The goal of the harvest was to collect historic information about the Indian River Lagoon to be catalogued and kept in a comprehensive file to be interpreted and used by Brevard County to better target their

restoration initiatives. Learn more about this event on page 4.

The Month Ahead

March is going to be a very education-heavy month. Learn more about the steps Field Manor has taken to expand our educational reach across Brevard County by reading the article on page 3.

Instead of our regular Founders' Day food event, we are hosting a Fun Run/Walk on March 23rd. Spots are still available, and you can register by visiting runsignup.com and searching for Field Manor. More information is available on page 2.

Lastly, March is our last month with Caroline Agid who has served as the Director of our site since 2016. She is passing the baton to our newest staff hires Korinn Braden (our new Director) and Alexis Pernal (our new Event Coordinator) and has spent the past few weeks training them. With their transition and **effective March 18, Field Manor will have new business hours. From now on, we will be open Tuesday-Saturday from 9-4.** We hope to see you out here soon!



Education

Hear about the latest strides Field Manor has taken to achieve our educational mission!

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History Harvest

In collaboration with the University of Central Florida's Marine Biology Department, Field Manor hosted a "History Harvest" to collect information that would help prioritize lagoon preservation efforts.

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Founders Fun Run

Field Manor's first-ever Founders Day Fun Run/Walk is just weeks away! Do you enjoy spending time outside, being surrounded by history and nature? Then we are here to help!

For the past 3 years, Field Manor has marked our Founders Day with lunch and historic activities. This year, our organization has decided to take a new approach as we begin our next 150 years! Ever since Samuel Joseph Field founded the city of Indianola over 100 years ago, the community would gather together to commemorate the original landing of the Field family here on Merritt Island. Residents joined together celebrating the creation of their neighborhood, and it became an annual tradition for many years.

Fast forward to 2019: Field Manor is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, functions as a historic house museum and grove, and operates as a 501c3 nonprofit. Our mission is to educate Brevard residents and visitors about the agricultural and social history of this area. We still strive to bring our community together as the Field family would have done around the turn of the 20th



century. We also collaborate with several community groups throughout the year to bring our mission to life. This Fun Run event is brought to you on behalf of Edgewood Jr/Sr High and their senior project program. Each year, graduating seniors are tasked with completing a year-long research project and paper. One student, Thomas Seward, wanted to host a race for his project and donate all proceeds to a local non-profit. He loved the environmental significance of Field Manor and has worked incredibly hard on bringing this event to life here on our site.

We hope to see you here for the one-mile race on March 23rd beginning at 7am!

SIGN UP NOW

To sign up, please visit www.runsignup.com and search for Field Manor. All participants must complete the liability waiver. Tshirts guaranteed to those registered before March 13.

EMAIL CAROLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION
c.agid@fieldmanor.org

Styled Shoot



A behind-the-scenes snapshot of the evening's styled shoot.

On Tuesday, February 19, Field Manor held a styled shoot, collaborating with several local wedding vendors to create new marketing and publicity materials. Our beautiful property served as the backdrop to a vintage/tropical themed shoot, with every detail planned in advance to create the desired aesthetic.

Two models with previous work experience at both Disney and Universal were brought in to bring the bridal shoot to life. Fern and Curl Designs provided incredible floral displays, including two backdrops and a table top design. Sweet Miss V's provided a gorgeous cake, Nicole Maree bridal lent us a beautiful wedding gown, and Photography by V was here to take the pictures. Styled shoots are a fabulous way for local vendors to collaborate and get to know each other while creating

promotional materials that can be shared within each vendor's office/storefront.

While styled shoots can take hours of preparation, we had a blast hosting all of these wonderful local vendors. We were lucky enough to have an incredible sunset that evening, and all of the event's participants can't wait to return to Field Manor for future weddings.

Field Manor plans to use this free publicity to update our multiple wedding advertising platforms, including WeddingWire, The Knot, and Facebook. It is important to constantly update our photos so that brides can see the many ways they can adapt our site to meet their dreams. We can't wait to see how the pictures turned out! Thanks to all who participated!

HEADING 4



Professional Development

On Monday, March 11, we hosted teachers from across Brevard County for our first-ever Professional Development Day. Pictured here are three teachers working with several pieces of Field Manor's collection to learn more about the Field family's history.



Homesteading

Students try their hand at homesteading on Field Manor's front lawn.



Fruits and Veggies

Students get to decorate a pot and plant their own seeds to take home with them from our field trips.



Education

February and March have proven to be very education-centric months here at Field Manor. We strive to educate people of all ages and share the story of the Field family across several generations. There is something for everyone to learn and take with them here, and in the past weeks, we have taken new steps to ensure audiences of all ages get the most they can get from visiting our historic homestead.

Field Trips

Our field trip program is ongoing. When we started inviting students out to tour our property, we targeted a fourth grade age group as that is when students learn Florida history and really delve into the pioneer lifestyle. We still primarily cater to this age group, but have received students from ages 6 to 16. As we head into the slower summer months, it will be one of our organization's goals to expand our educational curriculum to better suit a variety of age groups to attract even more field trips for years to come.

In the past weeks, we've received public school, private school, and homeschool groups, ranging in size from 13 people to over 50. Our staff and volunteers are old professionals at executing these trips now, and trust us when we say these students, chaperones, and teachers get significant bang for their buck when they come to Field Manor.

Our field trips are broken into three sections. First, students walk to the Front Lawn of the property (on the river) and learn a brief history of the Field family, learn about the Homestead Act of 1862, and then get to try their own hand at homesteading. Each group

breaks into teams and uses sticks to outline a 12ft by 14ft square (the same size a Homestead Act house had to be in order to get their land and receive a homestead certificate) and then must discuss as a group what crops they would grow in order to feed their families. Once they complete the activity, each student receives their own homestead certificate with their team name.

In the second section, students are led through the historic home and are allowed to touch several Field family artifacts! We teach the reasons that our house was built from wood, why the doors and windows all line up to capture the natural breeze from the water, and explain how the house grew to accommodate a growing family and their growing needs.

Lastly, the students get to burn off even more energy by walking through our citrus groves and learning more about the agricultural history of our site. We lead them past our citrus trees, mango trees, grapes, and honey bees. Students get to walk around our hundred-year-old packing house and discuss what it must have been like to package up so much fruit! At that point, students get to enjoy another activity where they decorate a small pot and plant their own fruit or vegetable to take home with them.

Teachers and students alike have raved about Field Manor field trips because there are so many hands-on experiences, plus every student gets to take something home with them. We love having the flexibility to accommodate groups of various sizes and can't wait to provide more flexibility in the ages we can teach with our collection.

Professional Development Day

Speaking of teaching with collections, on Monday, March 11th, Field Manor hosted our first ever Professional Development Day. The term “professional development” may be used in reference to a wide variety of specialized training, formal education, or advanced professional learning intended to help teachers and other educators improve their professional knowledge, competence, skill, and effectiveness. Our Director, Caroline, worked with Christina Uttlinger, the social studies resource teacher for Brevard County public schools, to create a program at Field Manor to teach teachers how to better understand our museum. More specifically, we hoped to teach teachers how to teach with collections.

In “museum-speak”, a collection is the objects a museum holds as their own. Field Manor’s collection includes everything from the grand piano in the foyer, to the beds in the bedrooms, to the clocks on the walls and on dressers from room to room. It also includes letters, photographs, and other

documents left behind by the family and entrusted to our Foundation.

When most teachers visit a museum, they tend to have specific expectations, and get a general gist of an exhibit, but not all educators realize the potential for learning that is capable with just an everyday object. In fact, many of the same critical thinking skills that are pushed with STEM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) can be taught at art and history museums when given the chance.

At Field Manor’s “Teaching with Collections” Development Day, teachers from across Brevard County came to learn about interpreting objects successfully to different age groups, and they learned how to effectively teach object interpretation in their classrooms. Our evening with the teachers centered on a “playing detective” activity. Caroline hand-picked items from Field Manor’s collection (some easy, some hard) for the teachers to guess what they were, what materials they were constructed

of, who might’ve used them, where the object was likely used, etc.

This activity stressed “Visual Thinking Strategy” or VTS, a technique embraced by museums across the globe that encourages visitors to think and experience objects in their collection with no background information, only using critical thinking skills, context clues, and what they already know, and forming their own object interpretation. Once VTS is completed, a museum guide will then tell visitors what the items are and what further information can be gathered from them.

By the end of the evening, each teacher understood how each item on display at a museum has its own story to share, and by giving each item a chance and thinking about how it plays into the bigger picture, much more can be inferred and learned about the history of that place and those people. We look forward to hosting more of these professional development days in the future!

History Harvest

As many of you know, one of Field Manor’s areas of focus is our environment—more specifically, our shoreline. Since we’ve opened our doors to the public, Field Manor has striven to engage the community in our environmental endeavors, and one of the groups that has truly collaborated with us has been the University of Central Florida (UCF). They helped us establish our oyster beds and planted additional river grasses which have helped to reclaim several inches of our shoreline.

When their history and science departments asked to bring yet another collaboration

opportunity out to Field Manor, we jumped at the chance. On Sunday, February 24th, students from the UCF Marine Biology Dept. collected photos, documents, and oral histories about the Indian River Lagoon from Brevard locals. People from across the county came to Field Manor to share their experiences living on and growing up around the Lagoon. Students recorded the information to be kept in a comprehensive collection that could be used by Brevard County when it comes to prioritizing restoration initiatives.

The event was wildly successful. In fact, Channel 13 News even covered the story by the end of the day. After the “Harvest” the UCF Marine Biology Department continued to receive calls and emails from more locals with stories to share. Field Manor was thrilled to host these dedicated students and we look forward to seeing how their hard work pays



off! In the meantime, we hope to continue our efforts to restore and protect our shoreline.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Have a story that could benefit the History Harvest project? Contact UCF’s Marine Biology Department!

DR. LINDA WATERS
Linda.walters@ucf.edu



Until Next Time

My Dear Field Manor Family,

The time has finally come for me to hang up my hoop skirt. For the past nearly three years, it has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve as the Director of Field Manor. It is with a grateful heart that I leave this incredible place behind and head up to Boston to continue work on my Master's Degree in Museum Studies at Harvard.

Where do I begin? Just about a month after graduating from the College of Charleston and moving back to Florida, my mother and I came to visit Field Manor and I started to volunteer. Within weeks, Jane brought me on to the staff, and neither of us knew the journey that we were about to embark on together. This was in June of 2016.

To be completely honest, I about cried my first day of work for two reasons. One, I was actually working a job in my field right after college—a complete dream come true. And two, my job description was several pages of bullet points. I wondered what I had gotten myself into, but after spending time at this historic homestead, it was impossible not to see the potential hiding just under the surface. With the help of Jane, various coworkers, the Board of Directors, our members, and the community, the adventure began and we never looked back.

Seeing as this is one of the last things I will write as an employee of Field Manor, I wanted to take the time to truly thank all of you for everything you've given me and all you've done to support this organization for the past three years. Thank you for turning out in droves for our first ever Oyster Roast and Fish Fry back in October 2016. We had little idea of what we were doing, but 200 of you came to help our first fundraiser attain remarkable success. That event has seen over 500 attendees across these past few years, and I expect it will only grow as Field Manor continues to grow.

Thank you for sharing our story with your friends and family. Thank you for spreading the word to our community. With your help, our social media pages have over 900 followers and our contact database has swelled to over 1300. More and more people have begun to recognize us, recognize our name, and acknowledge the significance of our homestead and the validity of our mission. Of course, we are nowhere near finished with our marketing and publicity efforts, but thanks to you, we are leaps and bounds ahead of where we were just a few years ago.

One of my proudest achievements while working for Field Manor is our educational program. Creating a curriculum and initiating a field trip program was almost a pipe dream when I began, but I decided that it would be one of my central goals. Within 6 months, I had crafted a basic field trip outline, matched it to Florida's State Standards of Education, and started to promote it to local teachers. We got 3 schools out for field trips by May 2017. Since then, over a dozen public schools, private schools, and homeschool groups have come out for field trips. We received our first grant to help subsidize new field trip materials and promotion. We are really growing into an educational resource for the county.

Again, I cannot emphasize enough how thankful I am for the past few years. It has been an incredible opportunity to grow with you. Thank you for taking a chance on a 22 year old. I have learned more than I could ever imagine from this Field Manor experience, and it will always hold a special place in my heart. I am passing on the baton to some wonderful people who I hope will continue the legacy we have worked hard to achieve together for the past 30-something months. This is not goodbye, rather until next time. Thank you for the memories. I will cherish them, and you, forever.

All my love,

Caroline Agid

MEMORY LANE



First Field Trip

Our first field trip took place in January 2017. The students were from a homeschool co-op from South Brevard County.



Oyster Roast 2016

Thank you for making our first fundraiser such a successful event! This was the first time the now famed blue dress made its appearance!



Our First Grant

I am so grateful to all of you for helping Field Manor achieve our goals and make our mark in this community. Thanks for being here to celebrate with us!