

Dudley Farm Journal

Last month a bill passed by the Florida Legislature was signed into law regarding new requirements for CSO's. Many of you were aware of the proposed changes and voiced your opinions to legislators and others. It appears the law is about the same as the drafts that were before the House and Senate. Last week the Friends of Dudley Farm and all of the CSO's supporting Florida Parks were required to submit a new report and a code of ethics as part of the new law. Since we were given a very short deadline to furnish these documents and certify that the Park Service has our current IRS filing, I submitted what was required with the caveat that the code of ethic is a draft - pending approval at the next Board of Directors meeting. If anyone wants more information about these recent requirements and the response please call or email and I will give you more details.

Work continues on several of the CSO funded projects at the Park. The parking lighting project is progressing - we now have the poles, the light fixtures, and approval from Tallahassee to dig the holes and trenches. Work is continuing to make the repairs to the new syrup complex and add sections to block the wind when needed. The shelving project for the Collection Building was completed.

Another significant project in the works is the updating of the CSO website. The Website Committee is working with a local web designer to produce a website that will not only be easier for visitors to navigate, but will work on mobile devices such as phones, iPads, etc.

This next year a couple of new events are planned and some other events are being expanded.

One new event is a joint project with the Gainesville Fine Arts Association. This will be the **Dudley Farm Paintout - on October 18 and 19, 2014**. Another new event next spring will be Earth Day. Look for details of these new events and ones being expanded on the CSO website.

In closing I want to invite all of our **CSO members to an informal get together to be held at the Visitor Center, on Sunday afternoon, August 3, 2014, from 2:30 until 4:30**. This is a chance for members to catch up with friends and learn the latest Park news. Please bring a dessert to share with the group.

See you at the Park,

Art Wade-



After the morning workout.

On a hot, late July afternoon we had two very brave ladies slaving over an ancient, ok not quiet ancient, wood stove. Stephanie and Val have taken it upon themselves to restock the canning house goods with fresh food. Since there are timeworn jars dating back to 2008/2009; rusting lids and unknown food growing unidentified



things, it was time to refresh the storeroom! The two ladies have spent time picking and cleaning beans, figs, beets, and (hopefully) soon some peaches. They smashed, cooked, and seasoned the delectable food, then canned them into nice new jars! The Dudley family would have been proud of such scrumptious, and fresh vittles!



The canning process was spread over one evening and a morning. The morning canning was especially good for the workers that were there as they were treated to a delicious breakfast!

This is an example of all the great volunteer and CSO members that care so much for this park and its history! Thank you!

Volunteer of the Year—Gloria Hughes

Gloria Kucker, known to us as Gloria Hughes, was born in 1940 in Rockaway Beach on Long Island, NY. She met her future husband Jim Hughes at a church dance when his sister needed him to drive her to the dance. He was on leave from the Army, and looked very dashing in his uniform but she ignored him. He says it was love at first sight for him so he pursued. They married a year and a half later, she was 17. They have 3 children, all now in their 50's. Gloria was a stay-at-home mom until her youngest was about 9 yrs. She then worked in health related facilities on Long Island. The family moved to Alachua, FL in 1983, a niece and also a nephew lived near by. They bought, cleared and settled on 11+ acres where she and her husband still reside.

She met Sally Morrison and the Sherwoods and Moxleys, who were close neighbors to the Dudley homestead and part of the original, very active, newly formed CSO. Sally expressed a need for volunteers, and in 1997 Gloria decided to pitch in. She was also with the first group of quilters who, led by Shirley Smith, replicated one of the original Dudley quilts, the "Flower Basket" pattern. At that time the group worked in the old "50s" kitchen still attached to the farmhouse. She remembers that it was very cold in the winter time, and that you could see through the cracks in the walls of the old house. The quilters also worked on the original quilt rack that hangs in the front bedroom. The quilting was done by hand but for certain needs the old treadle sewing machine was used, Gloria remembers enjoying using it.

Gloria also remembers pulling and digging out Spanish needle plants taller than her in preparation for the return of the original kitchen to its original place on the farm. In one of the first years, she and others gathered pecans off the ground. She with her two young grandchildren, very diligently carried them around to friends and family. She laughs now at the memory of learning that all of these nuts were rotten. A picture of one of her grandkids (Ashley) with Pete the mule was featured on the cover page of the December 1998 issue of the Dudley Farm Journal. Picture taken by Marti Krause, while we were picking those pecans. She says they did whatever was needed, pulling out Oxalis, digging, chopping, weeding, volunteering at Dudley events.

In the last few years, she has been on the Dudley Board of Directors, been the chair of the publicity committee, organized summer socials, organized scouts for the National Public Lands Days, has helped **tremendously** to gather material for the newsletter,./journal, organized publicity events at festivals and volunteer days. Gloria has been volunteering for 17 years, and we greatly appreciate all she has contributed to Dudley Farm.



Precious Memories at Dudley Farm Historic State Park

Many times while working in the commissary we encounter visitors who tell us of their own experiences of living on a farm, whether in Florida, some other state, or a far-away country. It is always so interesting to hear their memories. It was my privilege to have a similar, yet more personal, experience a few years ago with family members who, at the time, were well into their 80s.

While my aunt was visiting from out of state, my parents brought her to meet me at "The Farm" after a domestic skills meeting. Joined by Clare as our impromptu tram driver and guide, we ventured past the trees to the farmhouse complex.

It was the time of year when the amaryllis was providing a stunning display among iris, glads, and roses. What a gorgeous first impression! (My family has always enjoyed flower gardens.) On our way up to the farmhouse, we enjoyed some "Oh-would-you-look-at-that!", "Isn't-that-beautiful!" and "I've-never-seen-anything-like-that!" moments. There is nothing like the sights and smells of a garden to refresh the soul and bring back memories.

Once inside the farmhouse, the comments changed slightly but were just as delightful:

"We had one of those in our house growing up!"

"Oh, I had forgotten about"

"Remember _____."

The wood-burning stove in the kitchen brought squeals of delight from my aunt. She had one just like it in Harvard. Well, not hers, but her mother's. She learned to cook on a stove just like that! The joking about their claims to have gone to "Harvard" followed with a roar of laughter (knowing, of course, that their small town had nothing to do with the famous university).

I think the highlight of the mid-day fieldtrip, however, was the sight of Mr. Tom Turkey - prancing with feathers flared to protect his sweetie. My father was so delighted at this sight that he was able to overcome his technological short-comings and figure out how to take a picture with his cell phone. I think, at that moment, they became like children once again.

The memories of that joyful hour at Dudley Farm have become even more precious to me with the passing of my aunt last December. That short time we shared together and the things I learned about their childhoods have been etched deeply in my mind and heart.

I wonder what precious memories you could experience if you take a little time to walk through the farmstead with a dear friend or loved one? It would be time well spent.

By Cindy Frost (in memory of Aunt Elsie)

To all our members/volunteers - Is there something you would like to learn more about on a topic related to Dudley Farm Historic State Park? We are looking for ideas for our monthly docent/volunteer trainings which are open to all members. It could be a topic on Dudley genealogy, rose gardening, the original historic breeds of farm animals, clothing of the time period, the building and siting of the farmhouse, old time period tools, the Indian culture which preceded the influx of settlers, etc.

Put on your thinking cap and email your suggestions to Gloria Hughes at: yousguys@windstream.net

DONATIONS ~ WE THANK YOU!!

We are fortunate to have generous people like those who contributed to the Commissary:

Karen and Al Smoke Our wonderful and creative toy makers. Their wooden toys are a greatly enjoyed feature. They are great supporters of DFHSP through their very generous donations of additional merchandise with each order filled. They are members of the CSO.

Evelyn Ethridge who cleverly sews the wonderful bonnets sold there.

Point of interest ~ Ms. Evelyn knew Ms. Myrtle and says they wore bonnets just like these.

Katherine Armstrong designed, made and donated quilted items and soft toys to the inventory of the 'old store'. Katherine was our original Commissary Keeper; she opened it and continues to contribute towards its success.

Thomas E. Sanders made an authentic wooden bucket and two Inkle looms for demonstrating and sale.

Sandy Lyons made and donated old fashioned cloth dolls.

Carolyn Robinson donated the creative and adorable 'book worms'.

Ann West donates numerous crocheted items. She is the Volunteer Coordinator and a Commissary Keeper as well.

Sharon Sweeting knits and contributes baby and children's wear. She is a Commissary Keeper too.

The Domestic Skills and Traditional Crafts Group is an invaluable asset to the success of the Commissary. By contributing

Their wonderful handmade items, from baby booties to rag rugs and so much in between, this group greatly support our park.

Susanne Bendetti in addition to knitted items she and brother **Bill Bendetti** are making 'old fashioned games for children to enjoy

at the farm. Their adorable donkey for the 'pin the tail ...' game is the cutest thing!

And those who contribute in other ways:

Ann West demonstrates weaving rugs on the large loom in the Visitors Center.

Linda Heart donated 20 Roselle plants to be grown at the farm. Linda sells native plants at an area farmers market.

Sherri Braddy donated a nice wood and glass washboard, made by The National Washboard Co.

Brenda Ricard, Janice Ramey and Sherry Bowling donated approximately 30 authentic Dudley family photos.

Suzette Cook wrote a great article, along with pictures, about DFHSP for the Alachua Today newspaper.

There are so many generous folk we are unable to include them all in this issue.

We thank all of our amazing volunteers who do so very much behind the scenes, without recognition, to insure the success of our unique state park.

Thank you!!

Like Dudley Farm on Facebook!!!

Bill Barry, for donating use of a tractor and crew to disc the soil in preparation for Spring Planting.

Hubert Davis, for fixing the Dudley tobacco cutter for display and for using his equipment to cultivate the Dudley field corn and sugar cane crops.

George Wright, for deep plowing the crops area in preparation for Spring Planting Day.

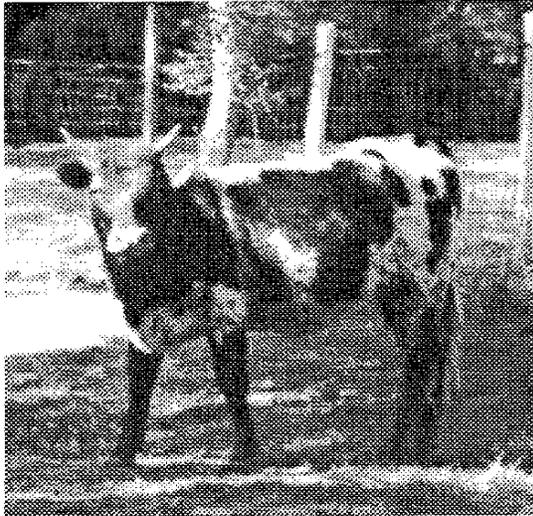
Don Davis, for donation of a fax machine.

Karen Sherwood, for donating overalls and men's shirts to our costume closet.

Joe and Bev Moxley, for donating tarps to protect our "stuff" and for their many, many hours of work each week on the gardens and crops.

Shirley Smith, for demonstrating how to make home made ice cream at the Newberry High School.

Jim Lance and His Traveling Sawmill



Pet, the sociable heifer.

Jim Lance first saw Dudley Farm while visiting with the Fort White Historical Society tour. He generously offered his services: the use of his traveling sawmill for two hours, free. The C.S.O. agreed to match his offer to make a half-day project.

Jim's truck pulled into the east pasture alongside the waiting logs of pecan, magnolia, cypress and Chinese chestnut — all cut from dead or damaged trees off the Dudley Farm. As he worked, sawing the rough logs into planks and timbers, Jim talked about the traveling sawmills of yore. He described how they were powered by water or mules and how the sawyer would set up on a person's land and make "logs into lumber." When the work was done, they'd move on to the next job.

Jill and "Mac" McGuire of Melrose, Kathy Wright, Hubert Davis and park staff helped move logs and stack lumber while Jim Lance steadily worked his way through log after log. Don Piper carefully stacked the finished lumber in the tobacco barn, using tobacco sticks to separate the boards so they would dry evenly.

Once the lumber is fully dried, there will be plenty of material for cypress benches, magnolia plank tables, and pecan and magnolia paneling for the first interpretive kiosk and for the interior of the Hodge-Jones house. The chinese chestnut wood is a beautiful yellow-gold and will be used for something special!

At the end of the day, Jim gave us one of his business cards — a fragrant cedar tile like this:

**Lumber By
Lance**
Woodmizer Portable Sawmill
Ft. White, FL (904) 497-4817

How-do, how-Do, allow me, please, to introduce myself. I am **Hugh Dudley**, the playboy member of the family, and I am most contented and pleased to appear before you, in this hot, nasty wet time of the year, in the person of Peter Chapman, a summer volunteer at the Farm.

In choosing to live at the old farmstead, Peter expressed an interest in "meeting the ghosts". I do not know if Peter is finding us among the buildings, or if he, quarreled to misery as he must be with our constant heavy rains, remains keen to discover our spirits about, but I can tell you that I am delighted to have this fine fellow to move about in, if only for the time he is here. And I must tell you, it is a rare and altogether fine privilege, to appear, as Peter enjoys doing, on the porch of the new store, gently stirring the hearts of the wonderful CSO ladies!

As you may be aware, Peter arrived in these parts several years ago. He grew up on Lake Ontario, in upstate New York, and lived many years in Maryland, on Chesapeake Bay. His habit, then, was to spend part of the winters in the Fort Myers area; his family were sailors, and they enjoyed the waters around Sanibel and Captiva islands.

He wished for a different community when he decided to live year-round in our great state, and he has not, as I can understand of him, regretted settling in the Gainesville area.

Lifeguarding at a private pool, helping feed the homeless downtown, and volunteering at the visitors center on Paynes Prairie, all of these endeavors bound this most wandering of Peters to Gainesville. And it was the Prairie, with its great savannah, that drew Peter to trying on his new life, living in a trailer and roving around in our many fine parks.

Now here at Dudley, we do things a little differently, it is true. Lacking campgrounds, our resident volunteers keep busy with chores on the farm, as there are no campsites to renew. We do ask them to keep after the public baths, but that, as I understand it, is a far easier task here than it might be in a busy campground., Think about that, Peter!

Peter admits to having no particular handiness, when it comes to repairing machinery, or building a shed or turning out our cows, so they have set him to keeping down the weeds, a responsibility he has taken most robustly to, they tell me. He raked up our abundant magnolia leaves, hauling piles and piles of them off to the north pasture in one of those dang power "mules". Then he got to yanking up the spanish nettle and the creeper vine, weeding the rosebeds, and picking our nice big figs.

Wet, tired, brought low by the heat, Peter keeps on quietly with his chores, and in return, they let him live here, without fee. He has been known to cuss and shake his fist at the skies, but darn, we all did that, and granddaddy most of all. When it's rained darn near every day for a week, and you can't get on the fields, well, you don't want to be seen out of sorts, but by golly, it'll get you down if'n you let it.

Peter's learned a bit about us all, and can take a chair at the house and chat with the visitors, yessir. He likes people and I know he'll be a good campground fellow, I believe he shall.

Well here come Miss Grace to open the new store. I'll be leaving you here. Miss Grace has a fine laugh, and I do like to tickle her so.

Thank you Peter. You do your part, and the others, god bless 'em, do theirs. They work the daylights outta this old farm, keeping it alive, and we'd be plum nowheres without em, that's a certain.

~**Respectfully submitted by Peter Chapman**, resident volunteer, Dudley Historic Farm & State Park.

MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION IS TO ENHANCE THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE THROUGH SUPPORTING PRESERVATION, AND THROUGH EDUCATION AT DUDLEY FARM HISTORIC STATE PARK, A ONE OF A KIND LATE 1800' S FARM

Commissary News

Hello fellow Dudley Farm Friends!

Ann West, the Commissary Keeper's scheduling person is finding it more difficult each month to find Commissary Keepers to tend the store. Some of our usual Keepers leave for cooler places during the hot summer months and others need to stay in the AC which the Commissary does not have. This we know and have been able to compensate for in the past with other volunteers stepping up to fill these openings.

Due to the lack of volunteers the 'store' now is not open on Wednesdays. It is now open only on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and only part of some Sundays. Due to the lack of coverage, even on some of these days the 'store' is open only for three hours.

We worked so hard and long to have the store open all the days the park is open ~ what happened? Did we give up? Aren't there enough of us who would give a three hour shift at least once each month to keep this important part of the Dudley Farm Historic State Park experience open to its visitors?

Please consider volunteering as a Commissary Keeper! **The shifts are just three (3) hours = 10:00 to 1:00 or 1:00 to 4:00.** Visitors do come to the park in the summer, kids are off from school and the new college and UF students usually with their parents check out the park, it's vacation time and people travel, lots of folk camp at the springs - hear about us and head on over (especially on rainy days).

If you can help, please contact Ann West at 352-339-5706 or westann41@yahoo.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!!

"What is it?" Can you identify this object which is a part of the Dudley Collection?



Our Vision Statement

Dudley Farm Historic State Park Preserved for the Appreciation of Future Generations

Mark Your Calendars Now!

On October 25th, we will be grinding and sifting corn into grits and meal in the morning and then that evening we'll have a FREE hot dog roast for CSO members. There's no Gator football that day so unless you're planning on a dove shoot, plan on being at the farm for some fun and camaraderie. Plans are still in the making but the grind should take place around 9:30-11:30 and we'll need some sifters and then baggers. The roast probably around 6:30. So pencil this in right now while you're thinking about it and we'll see you then. Final details will be in the next newsletter.

Notes from the Friends of Dudley Farm Board Meeting of June 16th, 2014

by Gloria Hughes

Morgan ~ * New gates were installed at the main entrance. These replaced the wooden gates with which some folk had difficulty handling.

*Our mule trainer, Bill Jones, is retiring on September 4th. A search for a new mule trainer is underway. Bill generously agreed to help at Cane Day.

* There is a new Florida statute that affects all CSO's and DSO's. Every five years each organization is subject to evaluation and approval. Morgan went on to say that our Friends of Dudley Farm CSO lives up to more stringent standards and higher expectations than most parks. "We should be in good shape!" "No one seems happy about this new law, we'll wait and see." *He also is suggested that political causes should be left to individuals not the CSO as a group. * There have already been 11 weddings held at the park this year. In the past, there were about 3 each year. Guidelines for holding weddings at the park have been developed by the staff, Sandra and Terri Newmans. The CSO could profit by hiring a wedding planner and handle all such events.

Art told Morgan that this has been the hope of the CSO. But we need the cooperation of the staff and knowledge of their guidelines.

Sandra ~ summer is a quiet time at the park. * There is a Cracker bull visiting the herd for the summer, compliments of Art Wade. * "All events went well, there were 60 to 70 kids at the May event." * Sandra is working on plans and programs for the next season of "Dudley Kids Day". It's a monthly, every second Saturday, event which runs from October thru May. * She has been interviewing and orientating new volunteers. * There will be a new event next April to commemorate Earth Day. All Florida State Parks will participate in Earth Day celebrations each year, starting in 2015.

Art ~ * addressed concerns on how to load the bull without a proper shut, when it's time for him to leave. *Chuck Collins of Santa Fe College, with students, continue to make videos at the park. We are looking forward to seeing the finished product. *The Gainesville Fine Arts group has been in contact with Art. They are discussing the possibility of having an event at DFHSP. * The Huskings Foundation has generously donated \$5,000 to DFHSP for infrastructure and maintenance. * Let's have a get-together at the park a week after the Journal is sent out, day to be discussed at the Planning Meeting. Bring a dessert to share. Possibly it will catch on, attendance will grow and it'll become something to look forward to each month. * The third Wednesday "Docent Program" has evolved to cover more area history and interesting information on a wide verity of topics. Therefore, a name change is being considered. This discussion to continued at the Planning Meeting.

Norm ~ * The Board approved spending \$1,050. for the third printing of the "Cookhouse Cookbook", this order is for 1,000 books. * He stressed the importance of keeping the Commissary open during all days that the park in open. It is an important support of the CSO, therefore supporting DFHSP. * He asked if anyone is growing a crop and would be willing to share with us for our jelly and jam maker. If so please 'phone Norm.

**Norm brought up the subject of changing the name of our Cane Day event. The week before our Cane Day there is one by the same name in G'ville, many people might not realize that our event is different and features many authentically accurate demonstrations and much more. Some suggestions were: Harvest Festival and Fall Farm Day. This was tabled to be discussed at the Planning Meeting of July 21st.

These are my notes of the meeting, not the official minutes. Try to make the next meeting.

Dudley Farm Quilt Day

Saturday, October 4, 2014

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Dudley Farm Historic State Park



18730 W. Newberry Road
Newberry, FL 32669
(352) 472-1142

www.floridastateparks.org
www.friendsofdudleyfarm.org



- * **Bed Turning Program** **11:00 am to 12:00 pm**
Featuring fabrics used in depression quilts, bring your quilts!
- * **Question and Answer Session** **Starts at 1:00 pm**
Knowledgeable quilters will answer questions.
- * **Historical Skill Demonstrations** **1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**
Volunteers demonstrate various domestic skills
- * **Also Featuring - *Levy County Quilt Museum* *Quilts for Sale***
***Quilt related Vendors* and more.**

We're on the Web: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/dudleyfarm/>
Friends of Dudley Web Site: <http://www.friendsofdudleyfarm.org/>

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Up-Coming Events:

Sept. 5 & 6—Reconstruction Event
October 4th — Quilt Day
December 6th — Cane Day

