

# Dudley Farm Journal

## Dudley Farm a National Historic Landmark

Volume 27, Issue 5

September - October 2023

### EXCITING NEWS ~ Events ~ Events ~ Events! For everyone's enjoyment!

**Halloween at the Farm**  
Dudley Farm Historic S. P.  
October 14, 2023  
10 AM to 2 PM

**A Kids Day Event**  
Hands on crafts and other fun activities.




Dudley Farm Historic State Park  
18730 W. Newberry Rd.  
Newberry, FL 32669

Halloween fun and hands on crafts  
all ages are welcome

**October 28th & 29th**  
**Twilight Walk into the Past**  
also known as ~ **The Ghost Walk**  
Tickets on-line and at the park.  
\$10 a person, \$3 age 7 and under.  
Rain or moon, no refunds.



Tours start 6:15 with 15 minutes intervals  
thru 8:15 on Sat. and thru 7:45 on Sunday

**Sweet Cane**  
Dudley Farm Historic S. P.  
November 11, 2023  
10 AM to 2 PM

**A Kids Day Event**  
Hands on crafts and other fun activities.




Dudley Farm Historic State Park  
18730 W. Newberry Rd.  
Newberry, FL 32669

Lets have fun learning about the many  
types of sugar

**The Fall Farm and Cane Festival ~ December 2nd.**  
From 9:00 to 3:00 \$8. per vehicle with up to 8 occupants




**Watching cane being pressed**      **This is the (long, slow) boiling process**

This will be our 34th year celebrating Miss Myrtle Dudley's birthday with fun for all and lots of interesting and educational demonstrations such as: Black-smithing, Woodworking, Quilting, Corn Grinding to make grits and meal, Spinning wheel skills, old timey games and toys and so much more at this authentic 1880's farm. Come and enjoy the day with us. Sing along with the old time music, visit the farm animals, admire the gardens and find something at the Commissary, the old store, to take home.




**2023**  
FIRST DAY HIKES

**Dudley Farm Historic S. P.**

Happy New Year! All 50 states are offering First Day Hikes in state parks across the country as a way to promote healthy lifestyles. Join us at Dudley Farm Historic State Park for a hike led by Ted & Mary Ellen from the Alachua Audubon Society.  
18730 W. Newberry Rd, Newberry FL

**Saturday, December 30, 2023**  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FloridaStateParks.org | #FLStateParks

### OUR VISION STATEMENT

Dudley Farm Historic State Park preserved for the appreciation of future generations.

## THE TWILIGHT WALK INTO THE PAST ~ a spectacular ~ EVENT

Pictures on our cover page are but a few of those taken Oct. of 2020 at the Twilight Walk into the Past.

This is an interesting and educational tour depicting life 'back then'.

Here's a brief description of the event and four more pictures:

**It's a quiet and chilly evening at Dudley Farm when you come for a walk to enjoy the evening sounds. Suddenly, you are transported to 1894 as a ghost from the future on this tour of the past.**

This night time walk, by lantern light, takes us through the life of a 1894 farm family of Alachua County, Florida.

Actors, re-enactors will depict, through speech, dress and mannerisms, Sharecroppers, Travelers and Horse Traders.

Watch as family and neighbors are conducting business and visiting in the Store. The farmhouse front porch is an active place to socialize, there two men talk about the "bank panic" and other timely events, politics, etc. In the parents room, the young busy parents talk of family, business and their plans. You will visit the kitchen, where, while visiting and preparing a meal, women enjoy a lively talk including how times are changing.

There are seven stops on the tour, lasting approx. five minutes each. Each tour will last about 50 minutes.



### A Note from the President

President's Note We tried to have a meeting in August for the CSO. However, the regular Monday meeting most were out of town, the next Monday was canceled because they closed the parks because of the storm, and the first Monday in September was Labor Day. It looks like September 18th will be a great day for a meeting. We actually met. We got a lot accomplished and really discussed some items in detail. We will be planning some events as soon as it cools off a bit. One of them will require some strong arms for about two hours so if you have sons or grandsons that want to help—okay strong girls also. At one time I would have been offended. Not anymore. Even people my own age ask to help me because I have a walker. It took some time and being told I have some heart issues to accept that help. The next few months will get busier at the park as the weather, I hope, cools off and we can spend time outside without feeling like we are in a sauna. We will be having a late afternoon get together at the park soon. It will be for members of the CSO and invited guests. Look forward to seeing information about that soon. I came back from a Mission Trip with Covid. I didn't know I had it and we had a meeting on the 18th. I hope I didn't give it to anyone. I haven't had any reports, so I assume I stayed far enough away from folks not to share. Please be careful, you don't want to mess with this terrible disease.

Have a great October.

Emelie Matthews, CSO President

### **THE FRIENDS OF DUDLEY FARM CITIZENS SUPPORT ORG.**

#### **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

Student -yearly -\$10. Individual -yearly -\$20. Organization -yearly -\$80. Corporate -yearly -\$200.

Family (same address) yearly -\$30. Life Individual -\$350. Life Couple -\$550.

Yearly membership runs from January 1st to December 31st.

Submit membership dues to "The Friends of Dudley Farm", at 18730 W. Newberry Road. Newberry, FL. 23669

We are the Dudley Farm Citizens Support Organization

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Mission is to enhance the visitors experience through supporting preservation and through education at Dudley Farm, a one of a kind 1880's farm.



## Sandra's been busy Planning an active event season

This is the list of what Sandra has planned for the event season, October through April:

**October 14<sup>th</sup> – Kids Day: Halloween theme** (all kids days are from 10 am to 2 pm)

**October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> – Twilight Walk to the Past:** 1st tour 6:15 (Sat last tour 8:15, Sun last tour 7:15)

**November 11<sup>th</sup> – Kids Day: Sweet Cane & Sugars,** learning about all types of sugar

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cane Day (9 to 3) The Fall Farm Festival**

**December 30<sup>th</sup> - Bird watching** with Alachua Audubon Society members, Ted and Mary Ellen.

**January 13<sup>th</sup> – Kids Day: About Milk,** learning about milk

**January 27<sup>th</sup> – Music by Moonlight: 5:30 to 7:30** an evening event

**February 10<sup>th</sup> – Kids Day: Take a Spin,** learning about cotton

**February 24<sup>th</sup> – Stories by Moonlight: 5:30 to 7:30** an evening event

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Plowing Up the Past: 10 to 3** Tractors and more.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Heritage Skills Day; 9 to 3** all sorts of old time skills

**April 13<sup>th</sup> – Partake of the Past; 9 to 3** Girl Scouts ~ girls of the 1880's

**Saturday's farmstead tours: November 25<sup>th</sup>, December 30<sup>th</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Starting at 10am (goes for about 1 to 1.5 hours)**



**Kids Day ~ file photo**



**Tractor Day ~ file photo**



**Twilight Walk ~ file photo**



**Partake of the Past ~file photo**



**Bird watching ~ file photo**

Members and friends, please mark your calendars as we will need volunteers for some of these events! Your assistance is vital to the success of our very special historic state park. It's a fabulous feeling to be getting back to offering our usual events and introducing new ones. With your help this event season will be the best yet!

## **Irma Riley has retired as CEO of the Heritage Plant Nursery**



Irma helped in leading the way to achieve the dream of having a nursery to preserve, through propagation, the many heritage plants that the Dudley family, long ago, planted in their farmhouse gardens. The creation of the Dudley Farm Heritage Plant Nursery fulfilled the remaining part of the original Friends of Dudley Farm's Unite Management Plan.

Art Wade directed the building of the nursery according to what he knew worked from experience at his and his wife's nursery. He worked very hard, especially during the initial stages. Then with the help of Resident Volunteers Jimmy Stephens and Mike Crane worked to complete the nursery area. The volunteers constructed three plant tables and another in the potting area.

Irma jumped right into the lead role immediately, directing and working with the hand full of willing volunteers. She knew exactly what was needed. Soon the nursery tables were filled with Dudley Farm plants. She located Dudley plants that had disappeared through time and added them back to the gardens. Irma planned, organized and developed a well run and very successful nursery. When the nursery was stocked enough it was time to share heritage plants with the public, therefore, bring funds back in to the CSO. Through Irma's diligent work the nursery's Spring and Fall Plant Sales have become the largest fund raising effort of our Citizens Support Org. **Thank you Irma Riley for all you have done for our organization through the Heritage Plant Nursery!**

Through the years she has contributed her time and talent in countless ways. Just to mention a couple - she's so good at taking pictures that many of the Dudley pictures you see in issues of the Journal are hers. And through the years she has written many interesting articles for this newsletter.

Irma continues supporting DFHSP in many ways: through her art work donated to the Commissary, being our Publicity person, on the Website committee. And, she's played her dulcimer on the back porch of the Visitor's Center to entertain us all.

Irma is always ready to help in every way possible. **THANK YOU IRMA!**

**A POSSITIVISM:** "Friendship isn't a big thing, it's a million little things".

~ author unknown

**Visit us at [www.FriendsofDudleyFarm.org](http://www.FriendsofDudleyFarm.org)**

**Like us on Facebook.**

## Volunteering Don'ts

by Tom Fasulo

When I did Civil War living history, one of my favorite places to do so was at Fort Clinch, another Florida State Park. If I remember correctly, the first weekend of each month was a Union Army weekend, for the one or two dozen reenactors who showed up. I arrived on Friday evening so I could sleep in the deserted fort, as everyone else arrived Saturday morning. However, one weekend a reenactor in his 20s showed up on Friday evening also. We went out to supper in town and I asked him if he enjoyed doing living history. His response was, "I love doing living history." This was great as many Civil War reenactors do not like interfacing with the public.

Unfortunately, this man spent the entire weekend talking to visitors about the Florida - Georgia football game. As a result, he robbed visitors of their Fort Clinch - Civil War experience. I never saw him again, so I suspect the park rangers or the park's CSO members let him know not to return.

I also remember my first experience with the Partake of the Past festival at Dudley. All the Girl Scouts were gathered on the back porch with their hands in their laps awaiting dinner. I thought it was nice they were praying before eating. That's when one of the lady volunteers - I think it was Miss Val - came out of the kitchen and said, "Okay girls, put the phones away." Seeing 19-century young women texting was definitely not part of what we wanted visitors to experience. The young ladies learned quickly, as at their last Partake of the Past in 2019 - before Covid - their first-person portrayal of the "Dudley girls" impressed visitors so much Sandra Cashes received many compliments.

When I do interpreting at Dudley Farm on Saturdays, I do not always stay focused on the homestead. Most visitors are there for only about 30 minutes. So I'll ask if they have been there before, and, if they have not, tell them a bit about the park's creation and inclusion on the List of National Historic Sites in 2002 and National Historic Landmark status in 2021. So I am doing third-person living history, explaining the use of the buildings, the crops, the history of the family, etc. But some visitors stay much longer and often, if no one else is at the Farm, we will sit on the back porch and discuss topics not directly related to the farm, such as where they and I are from, our careers etc. But I avoid politics, religion or other topics which might be controversial. Sometimes, I am surprised to have people ask if I now live on the farm.

However, when we do festivals, and people are visiting the homestead, where the living historians are, we shouldn't deviate from our roles as interpreters of Dudley Farm. The visitors are there to experience 19th - century life, and not to hear about our real jobs, family life, our favorite rock stars, football teams, pet peeves, or other topics not concerned with the farm. This even applies to volunteers doing third-person living history. During the festivals, there are usually so many visitors to the homestead that just discussing the Dudley farm, the family and 19th - century life should keep you busy. To do otherwise is to detract from their experience. Our visitors are already impressed to see us in period clothing, but this experience can be ruined by listening to your pet peeves, watching you texting on your mobile phone or listening to you complain to another volunteer about the price of gasoline.

A major benefit resulting from creating the correct atmosphere at the Homestead is some visitors might be so impressed they will inquire how they can support Dudley Farm, either through memberships, donations, or even volunteering themselves. At the very least, they may either plan to come again or go home and describe the wonderful experience they had to friends and neighbors who will then also visit the Farm.

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### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

**The need is great,** every aspect of our very special park depends on volunteers. These wonderful people who freely give of their time and their talents to ensure that Dudley Farm Historic State Park 'lives' to demonstrate our past to this and future generations. Our park is unique, it is a 'living farm' of the 1880's where crops are planted, grown and harvested, animals are tended, fed and cared for, flower beds are planted and weeds are pulled - Volunteers do all that! Fences are mended, pastures are mowed, visitors are greeted and made welcome - Volunteers do all that! Old time music is played, adding to the friendly atmosphere, ladies quilt and knit as in the sewing bee of days gone by, docents and store keepers interact with visitors, enlightening them of the history and special features of DFHSP - Volunteers do all that! With limited staffing volunteers are vital! With only two rangers and two part time OPS workers to take care of the farm and the Visitors Center and endless paper work, constant repairs, constant demands, etc. **Volunteers are needed! Please consider joining our great group of dedicated helpers. Contact Sandra Cashes our PSS.**

#### A riddle:

"I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I am the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space."

**"What am I?"** Answer on next page :-)



## Looking ahead to the Fall Farm Festival ~ Cane Day

Our dedicated, volunteer Sugar Cane syrup makers will be cookin' Cane at the Fall Farm Festival and, as usual, there will be even more cookin's before that special day. Dudley Farm cane syrup has always been very popular, it's sold at the Commissary year round or until we run out of it. Sugar Cane was planted in the big field in the Spring (description and pictures were in the Journal), the rows were very long, as long as the camera (and my) eye could see.

The previous planting was harvested at the end of winter. It was protected from the cold to be used this Fall. But, a totally unexpected extremely cold night, the last hard freeze of winter - got it! All the hard work of digging the trenches, laying the cane, stripping and cutting the stalks, stacking and protecting - that huge harvest was wasted in that one severely cold night.

Therefore, we have only enough sugar cane to do three boils this year. Our usual six boils would supply us with enough Cane Syrup to, possibly, last until the end of summer. Cane syrup is a top sellers in the Commissary where all sales support Dudley Farm Historic State Park.

If someone can please help by donating sugarcane so that we can have at least one more boil, it would be greatly appreciated!

## The Dudley Farm Musicians

Last week we had one of your biggest groups yet, with lots of new faces and old friends, which was a lot of fun because we sang and played some new tunes and got some nice harmonies going

~ coordinator, James Marks

### Music is a big part of Dudley Farm.

It adds a special feeling when you hear Old Time Music being played as we stroll around the farm.

What is Old Time Music anyway?

Old Time music is a genre of North American folk music with roots in the folk music of many countries including England, Scotland, Ireland and parts of Africa. It is played on acoustic instruments, generally centering on a combination of fiddle and plucked string instruments such as the guitar and banjo. The Dudley Musicians play the fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, lap dulcimer, autoharp, dobro, harmonica and more. Old time music might be considered a forerunner of bluegrass.



We greatly appreciate these wonderfully talented and dedicated musicians who enhance the old time atmosphere of this park.

## A Tidbit from the Farm

~ Tom Fasulo

"While the bronze heritage turkeys are always greeting visitors, they've been getting some help. Recently, one visitor told Tom Fasulo she saw some turkeys in the fence line near the horse corral. Tom told her the turkeys were actually over on the other side of the homestead. But Tom was wrong. A North American Wild Turkey hen was where the lady said, along with several of her poults. So this was a nice event for that visitor and her children. Since then, these turkeys have been seen by Tom, Randy and visitors on the old Newberry Road and by the tobacco barn. Hopefully, they'll continue to be a nice extra attraction for visitors."



**This issue's Featured Plant** **The Pinecone Lily** - a species of the ginger family found throughout our area. It is a clumping perennial, native to the tropics with long leafy stems growing to approx. 3 to 4 feet tall. It's beautiful deep red cone shaped flower produces a pine scented liquid which is used in many hair shampoos and conditioners. The underground stems are used in soaps and perfumes. Many of us have them in our gardens. They can be grown in containers as well. Try giving the flower a gentle squeeze, it will produce a pine scented liquid which will instantly, noticeably, soften your skin.

This lovely plant is selling at the Commissary of Dudley Farm Historic State Park.

The answer to the "What am I?" riddle on page 3. = The letter ' E '.  
The letter 'E' is the most used vowel in the English language. ( used 10 times right there! )

**The Friends of Dudley Farm  
Citizens Support Org.**

**Board of Directors**

**President:** Emelie Matthews  
**Vicc President:** Gayle Ambrose  
**Secretary:** Archie Matthews  
**Treasurer:** Joseph Malphurs  
**Past President:** Art Wade

**Board Members**

Cydney Wade; Lorraine McDowell;  
Susan McNulty; Norm Tankersley;  
Gloria Hughes

**Committee Persons**

**Membership:** Cydney & Art Wade  
**Commissary CEO:** Norm Tankersley  
**Correspondence:** Emelie Mathews  
**Webmaster:** Irma Riley  
**Publicity:** Irma Riley  
**Collections Committee:**  
Chris Smith and Pat Fitzpatrick  
**Entrance Sign:** Lorraine McDowell  
& Gloria Hughes  
**Journal:** Gloria Hughes ✍  
**Journal Proofreader:** Pat Svorinich

**Park Service Specialist**

**Sandra Cashes** ~ 352-258-6648  
**Park Office** ~ 352-472-1142

**Notes from the Board of Directors**

September 18, 2023

by Gloria Hughes

**Emelie Matthews, CSO President**, opened the meeting with a quorum present.

Reports presented according to the agenda:

**Sandra Cashes, PSS** - reported that all work continues throughout the park. The lowest of the two bid for replacement of the ADA lift, at the farmhouse, came in at \$25,000. The state allows \$20,000.

Bids are out to make repairs at the Collections Building. No significant mold was found due to the leak at the ceiling light fixtures. Ramps are being worked on. The outside walls of our buildings will be treated / painted with turpentine and linseed oil as a preservative. This is an Eagle Scout project. **Thank you Eagle Scouts!** Every couple of years this has to be done. In the past only the bottom half of each wall was painted, leaving the visual impression that a flood had gone through. Therefore, for appearance sake this new, more extensive project.

The park has a new, to us, from Gilchrist Blue Park, battery operated scooter for minimally limited mobility visitors. We do still have one big wheel wheelchair.

**Dennis Parson, Park Manager**, added that there are many projects being worked on throughout the District.

**Emelie Mathews, CSO President**, reported that our taxes will be done by an accounting firm. The long form, which is required for 'Support Organizations', is too complicated for her/us to attempt. A retainer/deposit of \$200. has been paid. She is confident that with this firm "we are in good hands".

She spoke with Allen Hitchcock about the possible benefits of our CSO joining the Agriculture Tourism Council. He is a former President of that Council, he suggested that it would afford us good publicity and we could advertise on their website. The cost of membership is \$175. per year.

We have been looking through the **By-Laws of our Org.** to discern how to make a revision so that couples could serve on the Board of Directors. The By-Laws reads that only one person of a couple can serve. A motion was made to remove that wording, after discussion, a motion was made and seconded, a vote taken and the motion passed.

A discussion ensued as to having a volunteer appreciation event. Our wonderful volunteers would be asked to invite a friend. Which will, hopefully, encourage additional volunteers and possibly increase our CSO membership. [ Every aspect of our park is in need of help. Our Commissary needs Keepers, the Heritage Plant Nursery is looking for more Soil Sisters, Farmhouse gardeners are always needed, a Volunteer Coordinator would greatly help Sandra, the Collections workers work is never done, etc. etc.] It was suggested that a **Membership Outreach** could be **included in our Annual Meeting**. The meeting will be held either at the park or the Municipal Building in Newberry. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

The **Review of the Florida Non-profit Council** needs to be completed. Dennis said that compliance review is important, it's not scary and not a "gotcha thing, but beneficial!" "Our CSO is honest and open! It is obvious that we, the Board and volunteers, love this park."

Under **Spending requests:** Emelie - the \$175, to join the Agriculture Tourism Council.

Norm is looking into purchasing additional letters for the entrance sign. He requests the amount of \$200. to purchase needed letters. Motions were made, discussed, votes taken, motions passed.

**Dennis Parson, Park Manager:** Pertaining to our OPS workers, Jacob and Randy. Now minimum wage is \$15. and hour. The State gave us \$40,000. toward paying their salaries, that is \$15,000. short of the needed \$55,000. He will request more from State. We are OK this year but next year? Joey, Treasurer, said he can't see how the CSO could ever be able to pay that amount. Emelie said that we can't afford that. "We will work harder on building up our membership. I want to see the Indoor Education Center built." She's going to look in to grants. "We need those two workers!" Dennis will push for the State to contribute more H.O.S.P. money. Sandra added, we could not do it all without volunteers, we are understaffed! Dudley is a 'working farm', without the animals, chickens, etc. we are not. Joey said "we will figure it out."

**Irma Riley, Nursery CEO**, is resigning. Her last day at the Heritage Plant Nursery will be Saturday. Irma helped lead the way from the initial planning through the construction of the nursery. She helped to assure that this part of the original Unite Management Plan for our park became a reality. We thank Irma for her dedication, leadership and hard work through these many years. The Soil Sisters will continue to do their best in taking care of the nursery. Irma will be missed! Sadly, the person who was to step up to take this position, left.

Due to this unfortunate situation **there will not be a Fall Plant Sale.**

Continued on next page:



Notes from the Board continued:

**Norm Tankerskey, Commissary CEO,** reported that inventory is low, he hasn't placed orders as sales are down during the hot months. He'll be placing orders now and planning for Christmas. The Entrance sign ladies will advertise that during the month of October our jams, jellies, honey and syrup will be selling for \$5.00 instead of the usual price of \$6.00 to \$8.00. A really good deal! The **meeting adjourned** at 4:10. The next meeting will be October 16th.

*These are my notes, not the official minutes of the meeting. I do strive for accuracy. As usual, this was a very busy and productive meeting. Please consider joining us at the next meeting.*



Soil Sisters, Irma Riley and Lorraine McDowell

A very successful Plant Sale - now, gotta await 'til spring

The Soil Sisters with Stephanie



**Join the Soil Sisters! We meet each Wednesday morning from approx. 9:30 to 12:30**

The Dudley Farm  
Heritage Plant Nursery  
2016

Created with purpose and with the desire to achieve what the Friends founders intended. A lot of work, both in the planning and in physically building this vital nursery which helps support the Friends of Dudley Farm in supporting this very special historic state park.



**: - ) Soil Sisters wonder - If a plant is sad, do other plants photosympathise with it? ( - :**

**Editorial note:**

There's a four letter word that shows up in the Journal every once in a while, it's a word where no vowel exists. But, it seems, one of the five vowels appears to have the uncanny ability to sneak its way between those innocent letters, creating an extremely unexpected and unwanted result. That result wouldn't be nearly as egregious if it were the a , i , o or u. This dastardly deed performed by the ' e ', possibly unaware of its transformative powers, will now be banned from performing this sort of mischief again through greater scrutiny by the author and proofreader of this Journal. *g*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Mission is to enhance the visitors experience through supporting preservation and through education at Dudley Farm, a one of a kind 1880's farm.



Friends of Dudley Farm  
 18730 W. Newberry Rd.  
 Newberry, Florida 32669



Sugar Cane harvesting



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