

# Dudley Farm Journal

President's Corner

In addition to the regular activities that CSO members and other volunteers perform regularly the CSO has been funding a variety of needed efforts. As reported in the last newsletter we funded the Farm Specialist Position for another year. We also purchased a hygromograph for the collections building. This device records the temperature and humidity in the regulated portion of the building. This gives us a constant record of conditions even during the times when the building is not occupied.

We also purchased a video camera and related supplies. This has already been used to capture the volunteer training sessions on the third Wednesday of each month. The captured videos can easily be transferred to a computer and burned into DVDs that can then be viewed on any television with a DVD player. This will provide a permanent record of the many outstanding programs presented each month.

We also had ceiling fans installed and purchased a new refrigerator for the commissary. The commissary committee has been very busy lining up volunteers so that the growing store can be open more hours. The fans provide a very welcome breeze for those staffing the store and the refrigerator provides storage for water and other temperature sensitive products sold through the store.

The farm also needs a stock trailer for moving the livestock between pastures, taking calves to market, etc. Does anybody know of a trailer available at a particularly good price? Also, if anybody knows of a trailer in the vicinity of the farm that could be borrowed a few times a year that would be wonderful. A stock trailer seems to be a piece of equipment that is necessary but not used frequently. This makes it an ideal candidate for something we could borrow or rent if there was a convenient way to do that. If you have any good suggestions please let me know.

Jim

**Membership Corner July / August 2009**

Anne Leivonen Hair

**WELCOME** to our 24<sup>th</sup> new member this year---**Sharon C Sweeting**.

We now have **208** members. Money received from dues is \$6565.00, from donations is \$3845.00 for a total of **\$10,410.00**.

**Money Donations thru 7-18-09**

**0 to \$24:** William & Fran Riley and Charles & Lisa Kaste

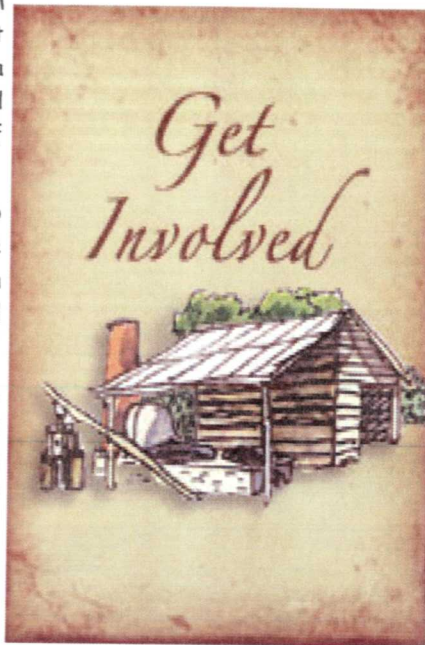
**\$25-\$49:** Al & Karen Smoke of the Non-Electric Toy Company (toys to sell at commissary)

**\$70 to \$99** Gale & Virginia Ford

**\$100 to \$124 :** Bob Spangenberg---For hand crank Ice Cream Churn

**\$275 to \$300:** Bob Spangenberg---For Collection Building printer & other items.

**\$1000 to \$1024:** The Husking Foundation



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Dear CSO Members,

I would like to thank both the volunteer mowing team that has kept the park looking beautiful this summer and the collections volunteers that have continued to do an amazing job on photographing our collections. I am hoping to have the latter project completed for objects in the collection so it would narrow the searching and limit handling by researchers in the future with our objects. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and hardworking group of volunteers working on so many different projects. The park would not be able to function without your help.

At this point we have received our operating budget for this fiscal year 2009-10. As expected it is considerably lower than last year with no project money attached to accomplish "extra" tasks (like last year's \$100,000.00 for historic restoration). This limits us to basic functions of operation. We have already begun to limit items like dumpster service (when possible) and local travel to stay within this year's budget. We will need to do much of our own maintenance and repairs "in-house" to save money instead of having items repaired outside the park. There is no information I have received of the park being "closed to the public" within the next year. So we can be relieved for that.

Our visitation rose last fiscal year to 19,922 visitors. This was a substantial increase from the 11,000 visitors the year before. This total is reported to Tallahassee and effects budgeting and legislative opinion for the future. We now need to see what we can do to keep that total up and increase visitation this year without losing any of our historical integrity. We will not have the Paint Out or the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon again this year (because they move locations annually) to assist our numbers. The CSO Board of Directors and I would appreciate any ideas for special events that could be done at the Visitor Center Area away from the historic Farmstead that would 1) get a strong public turnout, 2) be logistically manageable by staff and volunteers, and 3) fit within our historic time period for interpretation of 1870 to 1920.

There has been some concern by some CSO members recently that increasing visitation by having more special events, increasing tours, establishing a trail system, and building of an Open Air Pavilion would be harmful to the park's historic integrity. I understand and agree with their concern for the protection of the Farmstead particularly. Visitation and revenue are the two subjects in which the park is judged by the Park Service and in turn the Legislature objectively. Because school groups (our largest percentage of visitors) do not have to pay, revenue is a more tenuous matter but visitation numbers can be increased within reason. More tours if done responsibly to the Farmstead can be accomplished; opening up the park's "wilderness" areas away from the farmstead would offer the public a different aspect of recreation and appreciation for the site before the Dudley Family's arrival there, and finally the Pavilion would act as an outdoor classroom, meeting area, special event area, and rental facility located in the Visitor Center Area, not the farmstead. All of these projects had been planned, discussed, and agreed upon dating back to our original Park Management Plan in 2004. I agree with their implementation if done responsibly and protecting the rare historic features of the Farmstead. We have all come to this park because we love its unique history and character but to keep the park functioning as it should we will need to promote and share it with more visitors than before.

Two projects that are going on this summer but you may not have noticed are: 1) the repairs to the Collections Building air conditioning and cooling systems; and 2), the realignment of the West Fence line. The repairs are completed and should keep the collections cool and dry in the future. The old fence line was inaccurate to the park's detriment according to the last survey, so David and the AmeriCorps Team are clearing the vegetation from the historic fence and lane as well as the line for the correct boundary fence. We will then have a fencing contractor install the new fence on the correct surveyed boundary while leaving sections of the historic fence for interpretive purposes.

Thank you all for your support and hard work. And please remember to renew your CSO memberships.

V. Morgan Tyrone , Park Manager

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### Cane Day Committee Helpers Needed By Bill Dunk

It's time to have thoughts of our December major money raiser and the committee will begin meeting the end of August. We could really use some new ideas and welcome you to be a part of this effort. Yes, I know you're probably saying "I hate meetings" but rest assured, we only meet 4 times for about an hour or less so that excuse is hardly valid. Please come help us out by contacting me at wdunk@cox.net or at home 352-331-4551. We are looking forward to having your input.

### Letters from Home by Sally

Ice cream socials are an integral part of summer: the heat envelops us as we pour the creamy mixture into the cold canister; layer rock salt and ice; and hope that the younger, hardy, strong- armed ones amongst us will hold out through the 25 minute churning. Wild blackberry syrup was made by Clare: gathered from the farm fields on a day of threatening rain; Stephanie made a delectable peach sauce from the farm peaches just ripening. On the 4th of July, some 30 visitors and volunteers enjoyed ice cream and the dulcimer music by Agnes and Gene Bierbaum. Two weeks later, another ice cream social: this time with three churns. Becky Dean made her grandmother's old-fashioned custard ice cream; Bill Dunk made his signature pineapple rum coconut ice cream.....This time the music was by Chuck and Jeanne Lamb, Pete Schmitt and friends. Lots of familiar tunes and singing!

Yes, summer is here...the figs and peaches ripening daily. People calling from Ocala and Jacksonville, wanting to be part of the harvest. The yellow 4 O'clocks have that distinctive summertime scent that permeates the farmstead. The pig has a purpose! He is "roto-tilling" the area for sweet potato planting. Every three days or so, four of us lift Frankie's stock pen and move him to new ground.. He immediately sticks his long snout into the grass and throws clods of dirt out of the way.

Thank you to many of you who continue to support Dudley Farm, through your gifts and your time. Gene Elliott recently upgraded the wooden admission sign; Deanne Moler continues to mop and clean the farmhouse through the summer heat; Bob Spangenberg and Susan Harris continually respond to the wish list needs.

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We are pleased to report that the Oren Marchant Commissary is now open longer hours. This has been appreciated by visitors, always educationally and often profitably. Those of us who are learning to be good commissary keepers have found it a very positive experience. Meeting the public and getting to know other keepers is a delightful and educational opportunity we would like to offer more Dudley volunteers. Some of us have too many other responsibilities to be available as frequently as needed to provide consistent coverage. Nobody has complained but some do much more than their share. At present we are committed to be open from 10 to 3:30 on Saturdays and Sundays and 10 to 12 on Wednesday. We would like to extend the Wednesday time and several volunteers have wanted that time rather than the weekend. We need more people to be able to make it happen. At present we have plenty to sell but will need to replenish the hand crafted items that were donated before business picked up. If you whittle, knit, crochet or have other traditional skills you can share while keeping the commissary you are especially needed. Like the Dudleys our hands are never idle! Please consider joining our group. Contact me and I will try to answer your questions, arrange orientation and help with "suitable attire" if needed. Clare Shoemyen., 386-462-5943 or [cshoemyen@gmail.com](mailto:cshoemyen@gmail.com)

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#### National Historic Landmark update:

Consultants have been visiting Dudley Farm prior to writing their recommendations for the farm as a National Historic Landmark. Architect and author of *Classic Cracker Architecture*, Ron Haase, will be writing specifically about the farmhouse architecture and design. Connie Lester's focus will be on agricultural history and women in southern agriculture; Murray Laurie is researching archaeological significance and agricultural patterns; Kay Williams, UF landscape architecture department, will support the landscape /horticulture authenticity.

#### Historic American Building Survey update:

The HABS committee met July 24 to begin preparing the Historic American Building Survey documents for sending to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Measured drawings and field notes of all major Dudley farm buildings were completed through a Historic Preservation grant in 1991-92. 17 years later, supporting professor Susan Tate and graduate student (now AIA) Greg Hall met to review the documents and professional photos in preparation for their final destination in the Library of Congress archives. Here they will be available to others on-line and will help categorize Dudley Farm as nationally significant!

## WISH LIST & THANK YOU'S

### Thank you to:

Bob Phillips	for bi-monthly mowing of the visitor center
Gene Elliott	for new entrance fee sign
Casey Mitchell	for hog for the farm
Susan Harris	for supplies for the hog and the farm
Clare Shoemyen	for commissary staff scheduling
Linda Rengarts	for photos, slides scanning duplication, etc.!
Anne Martin-Segrini	for camcorder operating
Becky Dean	for volunteer administrative assistance
Bob Spangenberg	for spear-heading the collections detectives volunteers
Judy & Bruce Long	for plow day video
Terry Stidham	for candles bees wax and lighter'd tamper
Katherine Armstrong	for knitted shawls for staff & volunteers

Thank you to all those who have helped with volunteering and tours and supplies and support during tight budget times and threats of closing!

### WISH LIST

For the day-to-day operation of the farm, volunteers have graciously been supplying: half-pint canning jars (for jellies & preserves); freezer bags (for fig and peach harvests); bottled water. These donations are greatly appreciated and continually needed, as are: Office supplies: tape, post-it notes, legal pads, 8 x 11 archival paper holders; Animal feed: chicken, hog feed; quality hay. Stock trailer: 16 or 18 foot open trailer. Tarp cover for tractor shed

Old-fashioned looking hoes, shovels, clippers, loppers, pitchforks - for use, in good working order.

Need to borrow: Drafting board and a 24" x 36" parallel bar.

Friends of Dudley Farm State Park, Inc.

P. O. Box 245

Newberry, FL 32669

**Oct. 3rd--Quilt Show**

**Oct. 24th-Star Gazing**

**Dec. 5th-Cane Day**