

# Dudley Farm Journal

Friends,

The winter months in north Florida bring with them a special time of year at Dudley Farm. The first of these special events is "Cane-Day". The weather being great, the day began with a feeling of excitement and anticipation as everyone busied themselves with preparation for the day's events. All of the work getting everything ready paid off with a great event that provided fun for all.

Cane day always brings with it a chance to talk with old friends and meet others who are experiencing their first "Cane-Day".

This year's "Cane-Day" event had a great turn out with well over 2000 visitor. I can't say enough to thank all who worked so hard to make this event successful, both volunteers and park staff. It takes everyone doing their part to make "Cane-Day" a successful event.

Christmas at Dudley Farm is also a special time. The ladies decorated the visitor center and the farm house, while the musicians played Christmas music in the back ground.

All of these events serve to take us down memory lane to days when life moved along to a different rhythm. Once again thanks to all of you for the time you give to make all of this happen.

See you at the farm.

Joey Malphurs

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## News from the Commissary:

Dudley Farm Commissary is busy five days each week, Wednesday-Sunday. This 'Old Store', as the sign at the entrance states, is stocked with hand made items that our customers obviously appreciate. We have little cloth mice with long tails, toasty warm fingerless gloves, scarves and hats. There are kitchen towels, washcloths, place mats, floor mats, dolls and baby items to mention only a few of the crocheted, knitted or sewn creations of our talented volunteers. We carry old time wooden toys, children's nature books, Dudley T-shirts, the Dudley Cook Book and Dudley Coloring Book.

A large selection of Dudley Farm bonnets has increased the demand for appropriate aprons. We are developing a pattern and can provide fabrics to any volunteer willing to help us produce these aprons. Please call Clare at 386-462-5943. If coming to Dudley Farm is inconvenient we can deliver the material to you and pick up the finished product.

We're also looking for additional volunteers to 'man' the store, there are two shifts each day, 10:00-1:00 and 1:00-4:00. While planning the monthly schedule for the "Commissary Keepers", Clare tries not to over-use or stress-out our valuable volunteers.

We now have the capability to accept credit cards thanks to the efforts of Bill Dunk, Jim Dresser and Norm Tankersly. This addition has increased our sales. The proceeds from the sales of Commissary items go to support the farm through our Friends of Dudley Farm CSO

### **A message from the Publicity Committee:**

We're looking forward to the up-coming events and hope that our fellow CSO members will support the efforts of the park staff and volunteers. It means so very much, to those who've planned and worked to bring an event to fruition, to have generous participation. We're hoping you'll visit the farm during these events and bring your family and friends. If you are willing and able to volunteer to assist, contact the farm office. The Publicity Committee has advertised these events throughout Alachua County, the surrounding areas and beyond. We're hoping for a record turnout of visitors.

See what's happening at [www.friendsofdudleyfarm.org](http://www.friendsofdudleyfarm.org) and on Facebook.

### **EVENTS - THRU MARCH 2012**

**January 25th=Volunteer/Docent Program (open to CSO members):** "Dudley Farm: Conversion to Dudley Farm Historic State Park 10:00-11:00am The donation of Dudley Farm and how it was restored by the Park Service. By Terry Stidham, Dudley Farm Park Ranger, since 1997. The talk will include lots of before and after photographs of the restoration of the farm.

### **FEBRUARY 3RD & 4TH "PLOW DAYS"**

9:00am-2:00pm Admission is \$5.00 per car up to 8 occupants. See Dudley Farm as it was before the tractor and mechanization. Highly skilled teams of draft horses and mules plowed the fields in preparation for spring planting. See these huge, powerful and beautiful creatures hard at the work we once depended upon them to accomplish.

**February 11th—"Dudley Kids"** 10:00am-2:00pm "Lavender Hearts" We will fill, sew and stuff heart-shaped sachets with dried lavender flowers. Kids will twist cords of yarn to close the sachets. They can also make tassels to decorate the cords. It will make a nice Valentine's gift.

### **MARCH 10TH "ANTIQUÉ TRACTOR & CAR DAY"**

9:00am-2:00pm Admission is \$5.00 per car up to 8 occupants. Appreciate the past! See men on their vintage machines plow a field where sugar cane and corn will soon be planted. This event honors the innovations in methods and equipment, showing the historical significance and importance of the tractor to agriculture. As an accompaniment to the 'old time' tractors, the local Antique Automobile Club of America will display their cars for your viewing pleasure.

**& on the same day MARCH 10TH—"DUDLEY KIDS PROGRAM"** 10:00am-2:00pm. Weave an Easter basket or wind a bird's nest with vines from the Dudley property.

### **MARCH 24TH "STAR GAZING"**

Parking begins at 7:00pm. Viewing from 8:00 -11:00. Admission is \$5.00 per adult. Alachua County Astronomy Club with their high powered telescopes will assist and direct your viewing, explain the planets, nebulas, constellations and clusters. An illuminating event!

The Friends of Dudley Farm were very fortunate to have the annual Friends of Florida State Parks Forum and Workshop in our north Florida area on Jan 6, 7 and 8. The conference was held at the University Center Hilton. Citizen Support Organizations (CSO) from all over the state came to learn, share and network in an effort to better support the award-winning Florida State Parks. It also provided an opportunity to learn from State Park management and from each other. The conference featured seminars and workshops from professionals in nonprofit leadership, development, marketing and management. Just a few of these workshops were: 1) Engaging the Young at Heart Through Technology, 2) Engaging Corporate Sponsors for Your Event: How to appeal to small and large businesses, 3) Recruiting Orienting and Rewarding a Diverse Board, 4) Arts in the Park - How has Your Friends Group engaged people of all ages through the Arts? and 5) CSO Liability/ Insurance and Special Event Procedures. Six of our CSO members attended.

I was personally interested in updating my knowledge in the use of technology to advance interest and involvement in Dudley Farm. Learning new ways to utilize Facebook was very informative. Also, I learned how to "grow your Friends group through engaging with people who like you and your park." Sandra Friend presented this workshop on how to find, collect and cultivate new volunteers online using an easy to understand list software - MadMimi. And finally, I attended the Arts in the Park which showed how to incorporate promoting your state park while integrating your efforts with the surrounding community in a mutually beneficial way.

Also, all the attendees were invited to a tour of Dudley Farm HSP on Fri morning. It was a chance for Dudley to show off our one-of-a-kind historic farm, and make new friends all across the state. All in all, it was a win-win learning experience and opportunity for all those CSO members and State Park staff that came together for this annual conference. Many thanks to Friends of Florida State Parks.

Irma Riley

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### Plow Days—February 3-4, 2012



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

**Board of Directors:**

President: Joey Malphurs 352-494-8478

1st Vice President: Norm Tankersley 352-363-0918

Membership: Anne Hair 352-472-3540

Treasurer, Jim Dresser 386-454-2462

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Clare Shoemyen 386-462-5943

Gloria Hughes 352-462-2936

Stephanie Bartsch 352-256-1187

Art Wade 352-278-6399

Susan Harris 352-374-4372

Dawn Miller, 352-332-3063

Dorothea Roebuck-Hawes 352-472-3928

Journal Editor: Linda Rengarts 352-641-6225

Publicity: Gloria Hughes 325-462-2936

Webmaster: Irma Riley 352-371-9070

**Dudley Farm Phone #:**  
**352-472-1142**

**Up-Coming Events:**

**February 3-4, 2012—Plow Days**

**March 10, 2012—Antique  
Tractor & Car Day**

**March 24, 2012— Star Gazing**

