

Dudley Farm Journal

Dear Friends of Dudley Farm and Dudley Volunteers,

I hope everyone is having a happy and safe Spring with all the natural beauty and pleasant weather that this season provides us. The Farmstead and park is something to behold at this time of the year. Please get a chance to take it all in while you are working or visiting. This is the best time of year to bring family or guests to the park to see it in its splendor.

Once again I would like to commend you all for your dedication, hard work and care that you provide to the park and farm. Without you and your contributions we would not be able to accomplish the projects and duties needed at the park. I, as well as the staff graciously thank you. We have needed help with putting on the special events lately and ya'll have (as always) stepped up to the task. With a busy Spring Break at the O'Leno Campground this month and that park's ongoing special events this season we have not been able to reroute staff and O'Leno volunteers to help at Dudley as we do for Cane Day. It has been an immense help to park staff that the Dudley CSO and Volunteers have been able to fill the void. We really appreciate that.

Speaking of special events, we have the wonderful Star Gazing event next week on the night of March 26 that has received a larger turnout of visitors each progressive time it has been done at Dudley. Marilyn Walker and Susan Harris deserve the credit for putting this event together and making it happen to the satisfaction of the Alachua Astronomy Club and the visitors who enjoy it very much. Further out Geena Davis and her helpers are preparing for the next successful Evening at Dudley/Desert Gala that will be on April 16. This as you may know is a big revenue generator for the CSO and an excellent way to bring in local dignitaries and VIP's to the park to "get them acquainted with the park". This provides a great service to the park in times like these where the park's future may be uncertain. Please think in these terms when selling or offering tickets to those visitors who you would like to see attend.

I have thought about the idea of providing a different special event, separate from the Evening at Dudley for this purpose once a year in a small setting (by invitation only) to reach this goal and allow the "Evening event" to remain for the general public and purely a fundraising event, which it does very well. I have not decided at this time and think there are pros and cons to the idea which would need to be weighed in.

As you all may also know, Bill Jones our Mule Trainer is recovering from a concussion that he suffered a couple of weeks ago at work. Please give him and his family your thoughts and prayers while he recovers before his return in a few weeks. He can not remember at this time what or how it happened but we look forward to his complete and speedy recovery. And needless to say Fred can not tell us about the incident either. But Fred is okay and looking forward to Bill's return also. I would like to thank both Tony and David for the prompt service to Bill and EMS on that day. They did a great job.

With the strong possibility of a draught or near draught conditions predicted for this summer by both Forestry and the NWS we may need some help watering the crops this late spring and summer to keep them viable. To do so it will be best to water them using the Dudley Fire Truck in the early mornings or late afternoons twice a week. Would anyone be interested in volunteering for this essential job after being trained on the operation of the Fire Truck? If so please contact Ashley to schedule training. I hope that this becomes unnecessary but it does not look likely from long term weather reports and the recent and ongoing wildfire instances in the state.

And finally I would like to let everyone know about a special group of volunteers that were recently nominated last weekend at Stephen Foster SP. They are of course the Commissary Volunteers who Ashley nominated for the "Volunteer Group of the Year". Their hard work and diligence has not gone unnoticed. Not only have they improved revenue for the Friends group by selling gift items at the Marchant Commissary but also been to a large extent, the park's Ranger Station and gateway for visitors. They deserve our thanks and admiration.

I would like to end by thanking you all for your time and interest in Dudley Farm Historic State Park and the enthusiasm you give to our visitors. It is most appreciated by all of the park staff.

V. Morgan Tyrone, Park Manager

Hello Friends of Dudley,

Spring has sprung, the garden is in and the farm is really starting to flower and bud out!! We hope you will come and visit us soon. And please don't forget to sign the guest book. As you know this is how we amass recognition in Tallahassee which is so important all the time but more especially in these tight budget times.

We have two special upcoming events; Star Gazing on the evening of March 26th and the ever popular and fun event; Evening at Dudley with all those scrumptious deserts which will take place on April 16th. We will be recognizing some very important people that evening who have been a major influence in our park's growth. For tickets, contact **Ashley Pass or Gena Phillips**.

Spearheaded by **Anne Martin-Segrini** and along with the help of several board members, Morgan Tyrone and Ashley Pass, we applied for a grant to update our current video and add a bit more to it to help people better experience the farm.

Thanks to **Irma Riley** our website is updated and running smoothly. Please check it out and send her any Dudley pictures that you think would be nice to add to the site. Currently we have some Dudley photos entered in the Florida Park System contest. So go on line and vote for us. For more information on this, please contact Irma.

Thanks to **Becky Dean's** hard work logging in all our visitor's, we know that a majority come from Alachua and surrounding counties, so we have started a new outreach program to up attendance at the park. We have started speaking to local civic organizations about Dudley. Our first talk was this past Monday and was very well received by the Rotary Club of Greater Gainesville. I dressed in period clothes, showed our video and along with three of my grandchildren who had just visited the park talked about all the park has to offer.

Your board with the help of **Julie Anne Tabone** Park Program Development Specialist and By-laws committee Chair **Jim Burket**, has been working hard on updating our bylaws and bringing them in line with other similar organizations. In addition we are preparing for our 1st ever board retreat. On March 26th we are fortunate to have leading the retreat **Elaine McLaughlin** adjunct Assistant Professor for the Tourism Crisis Management Institute at the University of Florida. Elaine has an impressive resume with

many years of service to the State of Florida. For many years, she represented the state of Florida at the White House Conference on Tourism. Currently she is serving as President of The Friends of Florida State Parks. We are focusing on improving our organization so that we may become even more effective at Fundraising, Board Development and Strategic Planning. Don't forget that our board meetings are always open and take place bi-monthly on the third Tuesday at 6pm at the visitor center.

Most importantly, I and the board wish to welcome our new board member **Alicia Jenkins**. Alicia has worked at Dudley for many years as a volunteer in many capacities. She has many talents and we are looking forward to her participation on the board.

Sincerely,

Carolyn L. Hufty, President

Evening at Dudley

If dieting wasn't one of your New Year's resolutions, then by all means at least cut back on those calories for the next few weeks so that you can fully enjoy all of the treats that are in store for you at the 8th annual "Dessert Gala" which will be April 16 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the yard behind the Dudley Farmhouse. Tickets are still only \$15/person or \$25/couple and will give you admission to the park and all of the spring blooming flowers, as well as more desserts than you could possibly handle. We'll also have some great door prizes to give away. See any of the CSO board members for tickets or call these numbers: 352-472-2004 or 386-462-1760. Tickets are limited and this event is always well attended, so don't delay. The proceeds have been earmarked to provide improved signage at the front gate to advertise upcoming events.



We're on the Web: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/dudleyfarm/>

Friends of Dudley Web Site: <http://www.friendsofdudleyfarm.org/>



Dudley Farm Phone #: 352-472-1142

Up-Coming Events:

March 26, 2011-Star Gazing

April 16, 2011-Evening at Dudley

May 21, 2011-- Ice Cream Social

October 1, 2011—Quilt Show

December 3, 2011—Cane Day

Needed: Someone to take over the Dudley Farm Journal. Please contact me at rengarts@cox.net

Friends of Dudley Farm, Inc.
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