



Summer at Reflections of Manatee

Hope to see you soon.

You may have noticed that we didn't send out a newsletter in July, well we had a good reason! Some of us went on vacation (one of us stayed at a famous person's house, but we won't tell more) and others worked on spring cleaning. We had a visit from a grant committee, so we scrubbed and polished the houses while sprucing up the gardens with new seasonal veggies. We have also been working to schedule exciting new events and activities for the fall and spring. Make sure to check our calendar below!

And stop by and say hi. Hours are Thursday - Saturday, 10am to 3pm



In July Reflections welcomed Elizabeth Neily to our team as Curator of Education and Living History. She will be developing new curriculum for field trips and educational guides. Elizabeth also brings her wealth of experience with Living History and is beginning a training program at Reflections. See more about this and our call for volunteers below.

Living History Volunteers Needed! No experience necessary.

With three historic houses at Reflections plus an Underground Railroad archaeological site, Reflections has lots of opportunities to engage visitors in local stories. We plan to offer regular living history interpretation at Reflections by engaging visitors in the historic Curry houses.

In the 1860s, the Curry family, hailing from Key West and the Bahamas, joined other early pioneer settlers in establishing residences and commercial operations in the Manatee River area. Captain John Curry built the two ca. 1860 houses, and his ships operated for both the Confederacy and the Union during the Civil War Gulf Coast Blockade. Prior to the settlement period this was the site of the Underground Railroad community of Angola (1812-1818).

Living history opportunities include:

- Spanish Fishermen
- Freedom Seekers at Angola Settlement - British Colonial Marines and black families.
- Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers and sailors including the U.S. Colored Troops 1860-1890.
- Homesteaders and Pioneers
 - cattlemen, fishermen, farmers, and blacksmiths.
 - Domestic activities include demonstrating pioneer foods, spinning, weaving, sewing, quilting, and other needlework.
 - Musicians play period music.
- Volunteers are expected to wear clothing appropriate to the time period. You will be assisted in putting together clothing and accouterments. Volunteers are encouraged to research and create their own historical characters. Experienced living history interpreters plus local historians and archaeologists will be available to help.

Volunteer orientation will begin on Saturday, August 27 and September 3rd. from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Contact: reflectionsofmanatee@msn.com or you can call Elizabeth's cell at 727-744-7051.



Saturday September 24th join our craft club making Possible Bags. A possible bag was a small satchel worn around the waist by pioneers to carry their small everyday items. Class is \$20 for adults and includes a selection of fabric, thread, and instructions from a local textile artist.
SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE



News from the Gardens

We just planted new seasonal veggies in our teaching gardens. New crops include Seminole pumpkins, pole beans, collard greens, and sunflowers. We have been harvesting our Brazilian Starfish Peppers all summer and hope to feature them in the garden again next year. Are you interested in learning more about gardening in Florida? Send us an email at reflectionsofmanatee@msn.com for information on upcoming opportunities to work with our gardeners. As promised we selected a question from our readers to answer in this month's newsletter.

Dear Reflections Gardener,

I have been battling ants in my garden all season. I want to use natural or organic products to control them, but I need some help.

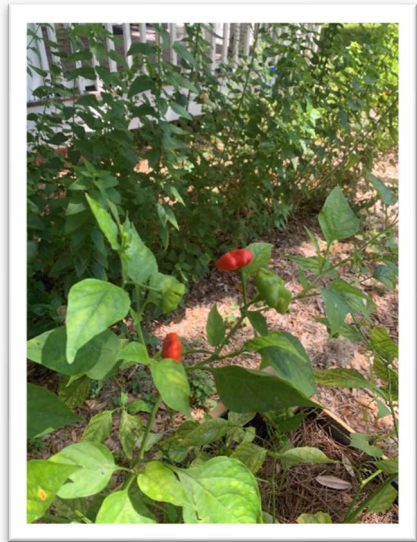
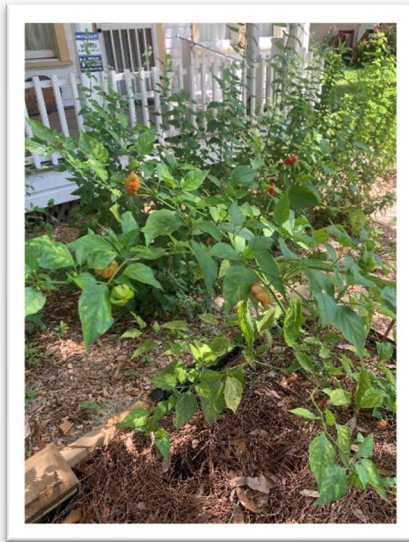
Sincerely,

Ant Bitten

Dear Ant Bitten,

We have also been battling ants this summer. In our gardens we used diatomaceous earth, a type of siliceous rock ground into powder, that attacks the exoskeleton of ants causing them to dehydrate. This product is widely available at garden stores or online and is safe for vegetable and fruit gardens. If you have stubborn ants it may be worth it to collect a sample of the ants and take them to the local IFAS office for identification. Our stubborn ants turned out to be Big Headed ants that destroy the vascular system of plants. We used a combination of butter and Borax to attract them away from our veggies and have not seen them since. We hope this helps,

Your Friendly Reflections Gardeners





Garden volunteers are needed!!!! We need people to help water plants and clear space for new gardens. We could also use a few heavy lifters to help us move the remains of a tree we had taken down. Our schedule is flexible, please email reflectionsofmanatee@msn.com for more information.

Save the Dates

We already have several exciting events on our fall calendar.
Save the date and join us for these activities.

September 10, 2022 11AM-2PM Grand Opening of Manatee Mineral Spring Park, Riverwalk East. Music, food, and friends. Reflections will have specialists on the community of freedom seekers in the park, a living history demonstration in our visitor center, and our exhibit center open for tours. See image below.

October 22, 2022, Time TBA, Back to Angola festival. Come celebrate diversity and the resilience of the Angola maroon community descendants for a day of dancing, drumming, food, and fun.

October 29, 2022, 6PM-8PM, Pioneer Spirits. This is a ticketed event featuring Americans changing relationship with death between the Civil War and the early 20th century. See a laying out, meet a spiritualist, and celebrate Halloween 1925 style. Tickets are \$25/adult and \$15 ages 10-17 (must be accompanied by an adult). Tickets will be available through Eventbrite. Watch our website and social media for more info.

BRADENTON RIVERWALK

Riverwalk East Park Grand Opening

Saturday, September 10
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

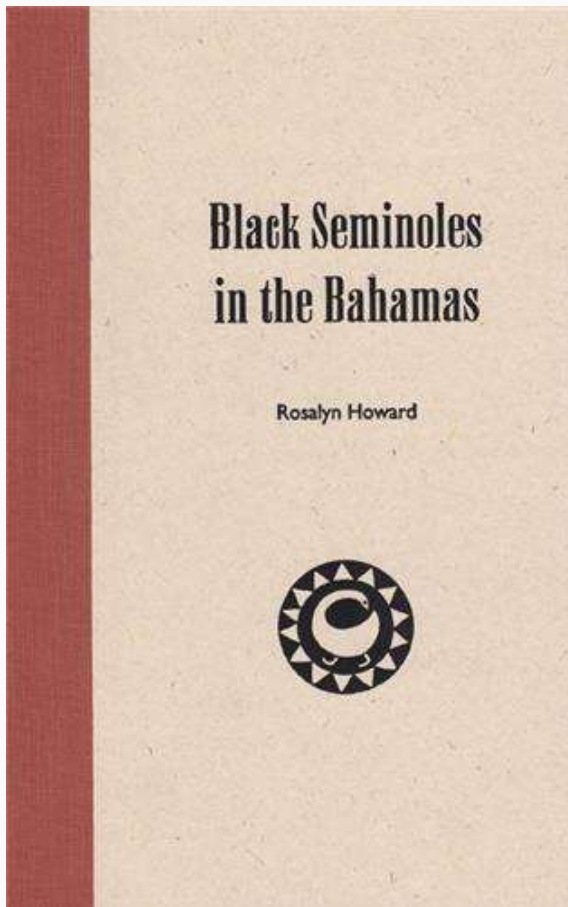
14th Street East and 2nd Ave East

Celebrate the completion the first phase of the Riverwalk expansion project. Remarks from City of Bradenton at 11:00 am followed by music and activities.



Help Reflections with every Amazon Order

Do you order from Amazon? Don't we all? If you order at the Amazon Smile page, you will be supporting Reflections with every order. There is nothing extra required other than starting your order at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and choosing Reflections of Manatee as the charity you wish to support. Bookmark that web page for your shopping and every eligible purchase will send a bit our way! View full instructions [HERE](#)



Suggested Reading

This month Reflections recommends *Black Seminoles in the Bahamas* by Rosalyn Howard, Ph.D.

Some of the many African slaves escaping from southern plantations traveled to Florida and joined the Seminole Indians, intermarried, and came to call themselves Black Seminoles. In 1821, pursued and harassed by European Americans through the First Seminole War, approximately 200 members of this group fled to Andros Island, where they remained essentially isolated for nearly 150 years. Drawing on archival and secondary sources in the United States and the Bahamas as well as interviews with members of the present-day Black Seminole community on Andros Island, Howard reconstructs the story of the Red Bays people. She chronicles their struggles as they adapt to a new environment and forge a new

identity in this insular community and analyzes the former slaves' relationship with their Native American companions.

You can purchase a copy of the book at the [University Press of Florida website](#).

LAST CHANCE... to join for only \$15. Starting in September our individual membership fee will be \$25

**Please Join Now
A \$15 membership supports Reflections' mission**

Memberships are accepted at any time and renew on January 1st.

If you aren't a member of Reflections, please join now to support our mission, museums, and programming. Memberships also make great gifts for family, friends, or students.

Benefits of membership include:

- Discount for attending special events
- Invitation to participate in our General Meeting and Board Elections (January)
- Volunteer to be nominated for the Board of Directors

Dues are currently \$15 a year. There are three ways to pay:

1. MAIL a check to the address at the bottom of this newsletter.
2. ONLINE - Use a credit card to pay by PayPal on our website (scroll all the way to the bottom of the home page). www.reflectionsofmanatee.org
3. IN PERSON - Bring your payment to one of our events.

Whew! That's everything for now! Have a great month.

We hope to see or hear from you soon!



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