



Fall at Reflections of Manatee

It has been a busy September and October here at Reflections. We attended events, hosted events, and one of us went hiking in England! Our houses weathered Hurricane Ian, and we hope all of you were just as lucky. Our November is a little quiet as we recuperate from the last two months and prepare more exciting events and activities for December and January. If you haven't stopped by in a while, come on over and say hi, renew your membership, or find out about volunteer opportunities.

Hours are Thursday - Saturday, 10am to 3pm



During the Mineral Spring Park grand opening our Executive Director, Jean Lammie, and volunteer Mary Maisel spent time with Union re-enactor Mike Bloski. Jean and Mary learned about the Henry rifle. The Henry is a repeating rifle developed in 1860 and used by Union troops from Illinois during the Civil War and later by the Federal Army in the western Indian Wars.



In September, our board President, Sherry Svekis (pictured in the right image), led the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation on a tour of our three houses. We had a wonderful morning of treats and conversation. SAHP is also our first organizational member. Call us or stop by to find out how your organization or club can become a member of Reflections of Manatee.

We all enjoyed this year's Back to Angola Festival at Mineral Spring Park in October. Daphney Townes (pictured in blue on the left below) of Oaktree Community Outreach, and the Bahamian descendants of the Angola maroon community shared their history and culture with artisans, dancers, musicians, and panelists. Save the date for next year, tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2023.



We offered our first annual Pioneer Spirits tour the weekend before Halloween. The tour featured three vignettes that showcased America's changing relationship with death from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Thank you to all of our volunteers who came out in costumes to help make the event fabulous and to our guests who gave awesome feedback and support!





SAVE THE DATES

December 10th, 2022. Find us at Manatee Village's "An Old Florida Christmas" from 10am-3pm. We will have gift memberships, candles, and info on upcoming events and tours.

December 16th, 2022. Holiday Party for members and volunteers. Come out and meet the board, make new friends, have some snacks, and see what we have on our calendar.

Our Curator of Living History, Elizabeth Neily, will be conducting living history demonstrations on Saturday November 12th and November 26th. Come out and see what she's up to next.



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 (1812-1821).

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 1860-1865.
- 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 accoutrements. 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.

For information about volunteer orientation please contact: reflectionsofmanatee@msn.com or you can call Elizabeth's cell at 727-744-7051.



Garden Spotlight

This month we find ourselves wondering if Ant Bitten managed to get their ant problem under control. We are still battling ants and ant-farmed mealy bugs. YUCK! We have noticed some natural helpers in our gardens this month. Our Executive Director spotted two different species of Ladybug, or Lady Bird Beetle, in the garden munching away on some pests. Did you know there are 98 species of Ladybugs in Florida and they like different foods. Some, like the Spotless Ladybug pictured below eat primarily aphids; however, this beetle found our Mealybugs tasty. The second was an Asian Ladybug. This is technically an invasive species to Florida, but they are generally harmless to

humans and animals and eat common garden pests. If you would like information about encouraging beneficial bugs in your gardens check out this short article from [UF/IFAS extension](#).

After Hurricane Ian, the gardens have been a pollinator hot spot. One afternoon on the porch a board member saw at least five different species of bees, three species of butterflies, and a Hummingbird. Our resident garden mascot Theo was feeling finicky about having her picture taken but we captured a #hellotheo moment eventually. Theo is a Green Orchid Bee, which are known as super pollinators. Though they are not native to Florida and typically prefer specific types of orchids, these bees seem to

be enjoying sunflowers and some of the plants in our native Florida garden. We almost missed one pollinator, a big Bumblebee, hiding in the sunflowers. His camouflage was excellent protecting him from both predator and camera. Come by during our open hours Thursday - Saturday to sit on the porch, enjoy the weather, and watch nature in action.

What are we currently growing? Eggplant, winter squashes/gourds, and some carrots just sprouted.

Florida has a year round growing season! Do you have questions about what to put in your garden now and what to be preparing to plant next? Send your questions to our gardeners at reflectionsofmanatee@msn.com.





ELIZABETH NEEDS HELP!

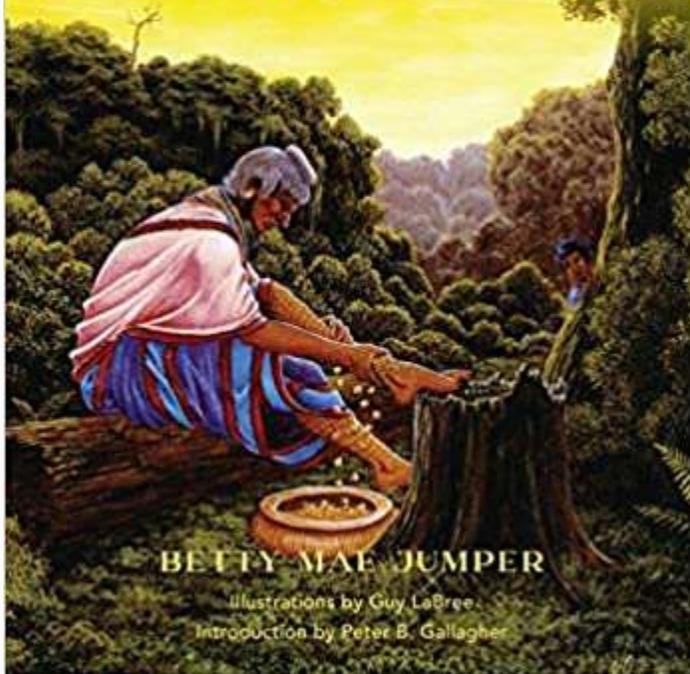
GARDEN VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!! We need people to help water plants and clear space for new gardens. We could also use a few heavy lifters to help us move the remains of a tree we had taken down. Our schedule is flexible, please email reflectionsofmanatee@msn.com for more information.

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LEGENDS OF THE SEMINOLES



Suggested Reading

This month Reflections recommends a read out loud for the whole family! In *Seminole Legends*, Betty Mae Jumper shares the tales of Mischievous Rabbit, the Corn Lady, the Deer Girl, and the creatures of the Everglades. These stories provide a glimpse into Seminole culture and are fun for readers and listeners of all ages.

You can purchase a copy of the book at [Amazon](#).

In honor of Reflections' 25th anniversary we raised our individual membership fee to \$25. We also added new membership levels. Please go to our website to join or renew.

A \$25 membership supports Reflections' mission to preserve, explore, and interpret Bradenton's complex past.

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. We are currently determining benefits by membership level but all members will receive our monthly newsletter with advanced notice of upcoming events and free admission to the museum during regular hours.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free admission to the museum
- 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 \$25 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.



Reflections of Manatee
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www.reflectionsofmanatee.org



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