



February Updates from Reflections of Manatee

Hope to see you soon.

We had a very busy holiday season here at Reflections. In December we hosted several private tour groups, had a great time at the Holiday Mixer, held our general membership meeting, and elected new members to the Board of Directors.

Coming up, we have a book launch, a Galantine's Scarf dyeing workshop, our annual walking tour of the Historic Manatee Settlement, and Manatee Heritage Days living history event. Check out all the details below.

It's never too late to update your membership online or in person. Stop in and say hi, bring your friends and family along! **Hours are Thursday - Saturday, 10am to 3pm.**

Reflections of Manatee
Invites you to
A Book Launch Party
for



Friday February 24th
6:00-7:30 pm
1305 4th Ave E. Bradenton, FL 34208

All educators in attendance will receive a free copy of this full color, 60 page book.

Reflections has been working on this book for the last year under a grant from the National Park Service Network to Freedom. It is finally in print! Join us at our book launch party on February 24th. Educators receive a free copy; for everyone else, we request a donation of \$10 to cover the printing costs.

Reflections would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest board members Maddie Westrom and David Lammie. Maddie is a architectural historian with specialization in rural communities and preservation. David has been a teacher in Florida for 20 years and has specializations in social sciences and administration. Both bring many new ideas and skills to the board and we are looking forward to working with them. Director Jean Lammie stepped down from the board to focus on her duties as Executive Director.



In December we hosted our first Holiday Mixer since we re-opened after COVID. It was wonderful to see old and new friends again. We had so much fun that we've already planned a New Year's Day Potluck for next year. Stay tuned for more information.





Reflections was delighted to host two group tours for the Discovery Greater Sarasota Meetup Group. They were wonderful guests with engaging questions and helpful feedback. We look forward to hosting Discover Greater Sarasota for more tours in the future. Are you a member with 10-20 good friends? Contact us today to schedule a private tour for your group.



Our amazing volunteers have been working hard! We would like to extend a massive thank you to Liz and JP for the landscape renovations. They have removed a ton of invasive vegetation making more room for dye gardens, vegetable gardens, and wildflower patches. Contact us reflectionsofmanatee@msn.com to find out about volunteering and future workshops. We would also like to Welcome Crystal to our docent team. She has been helping to prepare tours and the living history programs. You'll see her guiding us through Pioneer Spirits in October.





Galentine's Day Scarf Workshop February 18th: 12:30 - 2:30 - Tickets on Eventbrite

Save the Dates

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

February 18th. Galentine's Day Scarf Workshop. Dye a silk scarf with a friend while enjoying chocolates, coffee, and tea. 1 scarf/\$20 or 2 scarves/\$35. Bring the gal pal you've been meaning to catch up with and have fun at Reflections. Tickets are available at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/galentines-day-silk-scarves-tickets-523144438097>

March 11, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Back by popular demand: Walking tour of the Historic Manatee Settlement. Tours are free to the public, but donations are appreciated. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring water and sunscreen.

March 19, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Living History Demonstration: Pioneer Games and Open House. Come check out our pioneer camp with living history demonstrations, participate in pioneer games, and walk through our historic houses. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

April: Look for a workshop on starting a garden around Earth Day. If you want to learn more about how to start a vegetable or herb garden join us for some garden fun.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

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 individual, \$40 for a family. (Other categories are on our website). 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.

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