

REFLECTIONS OF MANATEE

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



Message from the Executive Director

It has been a busy start to our event season here at Reflections. We opened with the fabulous event Battle for Freedom with the USCT, we hosted a private group tour, attended the Back to Angola Festival, and hosted Pioneer Spirits. We have many events planned for the future, please see the schedule of events on the last page. November means memberships at Reflections. Our board members renew in November and we encourage you to as well. This year we will include an email with the date of your renewal and a receipt for your dues. Basic memberships include the chance to participate in our annual board nomination and elections and an invitation to our New Year's Day potluck.



Battle for Freedom 2023 2nd USCT Re-Enactors Visit Manatee

In September the men and women of the 2nd Infantry Regiment of the United States Colored Troops set up camp in the Sam Curry yard, which was occupied by the USCT near the end of the Civil War. Sergeant Major Jarvis Rosier read the Emancipation Proclamation and spoke about the role of the USCT during the Civil War.

Reflections hosted house tours, offered advice on period clothing, and opened the first installment of our new Civil War exhibit. Both the event and exhibit were funded by the Florida Humanities Council.

Back to Angola

In mid-October we celebrated the annual Back to Angola Festival with Oaktree Community Outreach at Manatee Mineral Spring Park. The celebration commemorates the community of freedom seekers that made the spring their home during the 18th and early 19th centuries and celebrates the descendants of those individuals who eventually escaped enslavement and made a new home at Red Bays, Andros Islands, Bahamas. We enjoyed a panel of speakers, wood carving and basketry demonstrations, delicious food, and a Junkanoo rush out.



Pioneer Spirits

Reflections hosted our 2nd annual Pioneer Spirits the weekend before Halloween. It featured three vignettes highlighting the changes in American traditions concerning death! The tour began in the Sam G house with a traditional pre-Civil War laying out before moving to the Mary Amelia house to witness a spiritualist from the 1890s. The tour ended with a 1926 house party featuring a tarot reader (for fun only), classic Halloween treats, and warm cider.



Living History Volunteers

We are always welcoming new living history volunteers. If you like to wear costumes, step into other roles, and explore the past in unique ways we are looking for costumed interpreters for various tours and events throughout the year. Please contact us for more information.

New Windows

We have new windows for all three National Register houses! The work was conducted by Specialized Services Group and **funded by the Bishop Parker Foundation.**

Our 1860s era Sam G and Mary Amelia houses feature two over two light, double hung sash windows. This means that both sashes open and contain two panes of glass each. They are balanced by a weight that hangs inside the window frame.

The 1926 Visitor Center features a combination of four over one and three over one, double hung sash windows. The upper sash features either four or three panes of glass and the lower sash has one. This type of window is common in historic houses constructed prior to the 1950s, but it is not the only historic window style.



News from the Gardens

We have offered three gardening workshops since mid-summer. The first was presented by Manatee County Utilities and focused on water conservation practices. We learned about the local water shed, made T-shirts, and received four water barrels for our gardens. Local artist Jakorhi Hall, and his students from Manatee Elementary, helped paint the rain barrels and they were dedicated the same day as the water conservation workshop. Our second workshop, hosted by UF/IFAS explored raised bed gardening, and in the third we learned about composting.



During the summer we did some nematode remediation in the raised beds. UF/IFAS suggested using a cover crop. Depending on what benefits are needed, there are many cover crops to choose from. We chose Sunn Hemp. It has nitrogen fixing abilities for the soil health AND when chopped up and tilled into the top layer, can create a less than ideal environment for root-knot nematodes. After we chopped the sunn hemp, we solarized (super heat with help from the sun and greenhouse-like conditions) the 2 beds with re-usable plastic sheeting for 6 weeks to further aid in an unkind environment for the nematodes. The beds are now in tip top conditions and bursting with sweet potatoes, spinach, and carrots.



Thank You

During the summer months Reflections prioritized improving our ADA ramps and stairs. We would like to thank Jeff Dunn who worked through the nasty summer heat so we had safe and compliant entrances and exits to our houses. He also helped get our grounds in shape for our event season opener. Thank you for your dedication and hard work!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If it sounds like we're having a lot of fun over here at Reflections, it's because we are! Come check out some of our upcoming events or stop by for a tour. We are always accepting volunteers and new memberships.

HERE YE HERE YE!!!! November is when the members of the Reflections of Manatee board renew their dues and we encourage our members to do the same. We have several levels of membership available, payable on our website or by check. Each membership level comes with an invitation to our New Year's Day potluck, our monthly newsletter, early invitations to special events, and discounts on group tours over 10 individuals. This year we will be sending a confirmation email with your renewal that includes a receipt for your tax purposes.

Reflections of Manatee Historic Complex 2023-2024

September

9th Battle for Freedom 9AM-2:30PM free event

October

21st Back to Angola, Stay tuned for details

28th Pioneer Spirits, 8PM-10PM, Tickets on Eventbrite

November

12th Book Talk with Peggy Donoho and Ron Prouty, 2PM-4PM, free event

18th History Walk, Begins at 10:30 at the Spring, free event

December

3rd History Talk with Hermann Trappman, 1PM-3:00PM, free event

10th Come find our volunteer at the Maritime Museum

January

1st Members and Friends potluck, free, RSVP via Eventbrite

11th Book Talk with Andrea Knies, 6:30PM-7:30PM, free event

19th, Star Gazing with Suncoast Stargazers, after dark

February

10th Galentine's Fashion Show "They Wore What?", Tickets on Eventbrite

17th History Talk with Robert Redd, 1PM-3PM, Free event

March

9 History Walk, Begins at 10:30AM at the spring, free event

23 Preservation Workshop, AM, Stay tuned for details

Spring TBD

Pioneer Field Day,, co-sponsored with Realize Bradenton, Stay tuned for details



Bradenton, FL 34208

www.reflectionsofmanatee.org

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