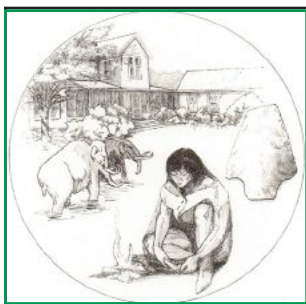




Pine Island Knots

Newsletter of the Pine Island Preservation Society
Number 40
December 2022

Holiday Tour of Historic Homes



Sams House is one of eight of the Museums of Brevard where the 3rd Annual Holiday Tour of Historic Homes will take place on three weekends in December. A limited number of tickets priced at \$70 went on sale in November through www.eventbrite.com.

The tour showcases the architecture styles of the late 19th century to the mid-20th century in Florida.

Other Holiday Tour locations include: The Moore Center, and Pritchard House, Titusville; Field Manor, Merritt Island; Cape Canaveral Lighthouse; Lawndale, Rockledge; and Rossetter House and Green Gables, Melbourne.

EEL 20-Year Bond Approved

The Environmentally Endangered Land and Water Areas Bond Referendum which was placed on the November 8 ballot for Brevard voters was approved with 175,740 votes equalling 70.43% of votes cast. Thank you to all who supported this Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL) bond which will continue to fund the EEL Program for another 20 years.



*General Membership
and
Volunteer Recognition Reception
Friday, January 6, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Sams House
6195 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island*

*Join us for the 10th annual general membership
reception for friends and volunteers of the Pine Island
Conservation Area (PICA) and Sams House.*

Refreshments - Music - Silent Auction

Please rsvp by January 2 to alexandra.schilling@brevardfl.gov, or dhunt125@aol.com

Donations for the silent auction are welcomed. Please drop off items to the Sams House on Jan. 2 or 3.

SAVE THE DATE!

11th Annual Pioneer Day

Saturday, February 11th, 2023 • 10 am - 4 pm

St. Luke's Episcopal Church • Sams House/Pine Island Conservation Area



www.mipioneerday.com • FB: Merritt Island Pioneer Day

FB: Pine Island Preservation Society/Sams House

Florida Living History Demonstrations • Guided Trail Hikes • Live Music • History Speakers
Guided Historic Cemetery Tours • 1888 Sams House Tours • Pioneer Parade • Petting Farm
Cemetery Strolls • Local/State Exhibitors: History, Nature, Wildlife, Anthropology & Archaeology
Homemade Chilis and Loaded Baked/Sweet Potatoes • Organ Recital in Historic Chapel
Crafts & Farmer's Market Vendors • Children's Games & Crafts • Food Trucks • Kettle Corn

In Loving Memory

Judith (Judy) Kline

1952-2022

Judy Kline moved to Merritt Island to be closer to family after she retired from the Port Charlotte School District. Last year she became a volunteer at Sams House serving as a docent in the cabin and gardener along the nature paths. Working for 3 hours, four days a week she kept everything immaculate and was loved by all. She became ill and quickly passed away leaving a vacancy in the cabin and especially in our hearts. We miss her so.



Elementary Students Resume Programs at Sams House



First Grade students from Tropical Elementary on Merritt Island attended a pioneer program at Sams House in November. Shannon Steele and Rob Lane, Environmental naturalists, taught them about how early-day pioneers lived including hanging clothes with wooden clothes pins on a line to dry. She also escorted them on a guided hike through Nature Center trails where they learned how the pioneers used the local plants and animals in order to survive. Everyone is excited that field trips have resumed again this year at the Sams House Nature Center.



Garnet Trail Receives Facelift

The Garnet Trail, which is accessible off of the educational loop at Sams House is 1.37 miles long and extends from the Sams House area to the Pine Island Conservation Area parking area off of Pine Island Road. EEL staff carried lumber to the trail site and created a beautiful and accessible path for visitors again. Photos below show Garnet Trail reconstruction project. Now's a good time to take that hike.



Recent Outreach Efforts by PIPS

PIPS Board Member, Martha Pessaro, reported several outreach efforts that supported the recent EEL Bond Referendum including: a Brevard Zoo teachers program, a PODCAST at Titusville H.S., YouTube and Facebook at Suntree Rotary Park, as well as canvassing neighborhoods and polling places.

She also participated in the following: Archaeologists for Autism at the Moore Cultural Center, an ECO Fest at Sandpoint Park in Titusville, a Meet the MOB event at the Valiant Air Command War Bird Museum in Titusville, and she and Denise Christopher staffed a Sams House/EEL display at the recent Ft. Christmas Cracker Christmas Festival.



New Refillable Water Bottle Station

Sams House has a new water fountain that will filter water and provide an easy way for visitors to refill their water bottles. It is on the front of the restroom/kitchen building

We will also have refillable souvenir bottles for sale in the gift shop with the EEL logo for guests to purchase.

15,000 Redfish Released at Thousand Islands

Photos and information provided by Diane Stees, PIPS Board Member



Crowd gathered for redfish release.



Redfish fingerlings in net.



Mike Knight (kayak), EEL Program Director, oversees redfish release to the Thousand Islands.

As part of a habitat restoration effort, 15,000 redfish fingerlings were released into the Banana River near the south Thousand Islands in Cocoa Beach by the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of Florida in early November. Local anglers caught redfish in the Indian River Lagoon that were bred for this effort at Duke Energy's Crystal River Mariculture Center in Citrus County. The Thousand Islands are part of the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program managed by David DeMeyer, EEL Land Manager, Central Region which includes the Sams House and Pine Island Conservation Area. More redfish releases are planned by the CCA in south Florida locations.

Upcoming Sams House Programs

(Please Call for Reservations 321 449-4720)

- **Bird Walks at Sams House** - Saturdays 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Look and listen for birds around the nature center. All levels of birders welcomed. Bring your binoculars (*we have a few to loan.*)
- **Bring Your Own Kayak** - Wednesday, Dec. 21, 9:30 to 12:00 noon. Meet at the Thousand Islands, 599 Ramp Road, Cocoa Beach for monthly water tour. Registration required.
- **Scavenger Hunt** - Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stop by the 1888 house to pick up nature hunt form and enjoy exploring the grounds.
- **House and Cabin Tour** - Every Thursday and Saturday at 3:00 p.m. Tour inside of Brevard's oldest standing home (1875) and the adjacent 1888 Florida Vernacular-style home to learn about the Sams Family.
- **Guided Hike at Cruickshank Sanctuary** - Sunday, Jan. 8, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Master Naturalist, Mark Prynoski, will guide a hike through the Cruickshank Sanctuary. It is home to native plants and animals including the Florida Scrub-Jay. Wear closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, a hat, and bring water. Registration required.
- **Frontier School: Citrus** - Friday, Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Did you know that the orange blossom is the Florida state flower? Learn all about Florida's famous crop and how it played a role in the Sams Family history. Registration open on Jan. 1.

President's Thoughts...



Hurricane season is behind us and winter is at our doorstep. Have a joyful and safe holiday season!

Thanks to all of you who voted to approve the EEL Program 20-year bond referendum. This enables the continuation efforts to protect the wildlife and undeveloped areas of our beautiful county.

Please take advantage of the December events at Sams House, and get ready for the PIPS annual membership meeting on January sixth. Our largest annual event, Pioneer Day, is coming up on Saturday, February 11th. This annual event is held in conjunction with St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Pioneer Day celebrates the history and accomplishments of early settlers on the island, with displays, demonstrations, music, food and some unique vendors. This is always a good time. Make sure you don't miss it!

One way to make sure that you don't miss it is to volunteer for the day or even a few hours. As noted on page 4, PIPS support to the Sams House and the Pine Island Conservation Area is made possible by our new and continuing memberships and our dedicated volunteers. If you haven't renewed yet, please take a few moments and fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and send it in. Volunteers are the heart and soul of PIPS, so please take the opportunity to help out.

Rick English

President, Pine Island Preservation Society

Contact Information

David DeMeyer, EEL Land Manager for Central Region; Ron Chicone, EEL Asst. Land Manager for Central Region; Alex Schilling, Education Center Coordinator, and Shannon Steele, EEL Naturalist at Sams House, and Rob Lane, EEL Naturalist can all be reached at (321) 449-4720.

<http://www.brevardfl.gov/EELProgram/Sanctuaries/SamsHouseSanctuary>

www.facebook.com/eelbrevard

Volgistics, this website which allows volunteers to sign up for shifts or projects online, as well as record volunteer hours, is located...at:

<https://www.volgistics.com/ex2/vicnet.dll/?from=53695>

The Docent Desk computer is set up for entry as well.

Website: <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EELProgram/Sanctuaries/SamsHouse>

<https://www.facebook.com/pineislandpreservationsociety>

www.nbhd.com/godo/sanctuaries/SamsHouse/

Pine Island Knots editor: Darleen Hunt, 321 452-8433, dhunt125@aol.com

Pine Island Preservation Society

Board of Directors

Rick English, President;

Vivian Shay, Vice President;

Laura Covell, Secretary;

Darleen Hunt, Treasurer

Denise Christopher, Brenda LaRoche,

Elaine Leclerc, Josie Neal,

Martha Pessaro, John Schantzen,

Diane Stees, Jerry Stubbs,

Elaine Williams

The purpose of PIPS is to promote conservation, awareness, and appreciation of the Pine Island Conservation Area and to provide assistance to the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program.

PIPS is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are deductible under Sec. 170 of the IRS Code.

Amazon Smile (same as Amazon) donates 0.5% to charitable organizations. When you make a purchase, please choose **Pine Island Preservation Society** or 45-4898209 as your donation charity. **We received \$23.96 in September!**

PIPS Dues are Due and Volunteers are Needed

This is a friendly reminder that Pine Island Preservation Society (PIPS) membership is due on February 1. We look forward to your continued commitment to our friends group. Your 13 member Board meets monthly and is dedicated to continuing to promote and educate the community about this environmental, historical and educational treasure on North Merritt Island and to provide financial support where needed. We're doing a great job!!

The EEL staff are excellent. What we need now is **more volunteers**, especially to serve as docents in the cabin museum and tiny gift shop and for our special events like Pioneer Day, Sams House has been discovered by nature and history lovers from all over who are looking for an off the beaten path treasure like our Sams House Nature Center and hiking trails.

For membership renewal contact: Jerry Stubbs at jeraldstubbs@earthlink.net; and for Volunteer service contact: Alex Schilling at alexandra.schilling@brevardfl.gov.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to any individual or organization willing to support the Pine Island Preservation Society in its activities to assist the Pine Island Conservation Area, including the historic Sams House, and the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program of Brevard County, Florida.

Your contact information will be handled as private data and will not be shared with anyone.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

PLEASE CHECK CATEGORY OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

☐ New

☐ Renewal

- ☐ Senior (55+) \$10
☐ Senior Couple (55+) \$15
☐ Individual \$15
☐ Supporting \$50
☐ Senior Couple Supporting \$75

- ☐ Student \$10
☐ Family \$20
☐ Sams Descendants \$10
☐ Patron \$1000

Corporate Memberships

- ☐ Horseshoe Crab \$100
☐ Gopher Tortoise \$250
☐ Barred Owl \$500
☐ Eagle \$1000
☐ Mastodon \$5000

Please make check payable to Pine Island Preservation Society or "PIPS" and mail check and membership application to:
 Pine Island Preservation Society, Inc., 6195 North Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, FL 32953