

The Almanac



F L O R I D A ' S P A S T A N D F U T U R E

Special points of interest:

- The Great-Florida Cattle Drive of '06
- Fred B. Miller Donates \$25K For Building Restoration
- Saving Farms An Other Rural Lands in Florida
- DONATIONS 2006

THE CATTLE DRIVE OF '06

December saw a rare glimpse of our history through the Great Florida Cattle Drive of 2006. The Florida Cow Culture Preservation Committee and the Florida Agricultural Museum organized the event which was sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Florida Cattlemen's Association, Seminole Feed, and Florida Ranchland Realty among others. About 520 people mounted on horses, mules, or wagons participated in driving 600 cattle across many miles of family owned ranches in rural Osceola County. "It ain't for sissies" was an accurate description of the event with riders and cow hunters alike camping out over the four day journey. Ranching is a centuries old Florida industry introduced during the 16th century by the Spaniards. Even with the loss of rural working lands, the cattle business still plays an important part in the state's economy and culture. The 2006 event celebrated the truly great drives of the late 19th century when thousands of head of cattle were routinely driven across the state on their way to market in Cuba and many northern American cities. The cow hunters of the past were a hardy bunch that held off wolves, bears, panthers, gators, and swarms of insects so ferocious that they could kill man and beast. To showcase this colorful and diverse tradition, the drive concluded with the Trails End Cow Culture Celebration in Kenansville. Sharing their knowledge and talents were a gathering of authors, artists, poets, craftsmen, singers, historians, and members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Doyle Conner, Jr. described it as a "glorious gathering of crackers, cow hunters, cowboys, codgers, cooks, and characters". Hopefully, enough of rural Florida will survive for yet another Great Florida Cattle Drive in celebration of a rapidly vanishing way of life.



Inside this issue:

Message From the Director	2
Saving Farms & Other Rural Working Lands	2
Grant Set For Review in March	2
Two Day Special Event Planned for March	3
Museum Additions	3
Museum Wish List	3
Contact Information	4

FRED B. MILLER DONATES \$25K FOR BUILDING RESTORATION

Fred B. Miller, a retired dairyman, of Jacksonville, Florida is donating \$25K in stock for the restoration of a building moved to the museum from Espanola. The building will be used as a country store and post office for the future campground development.

Giving of appreciated assets like stock or land can help you avoid capital gains taxes. Because the Florida Agricultural Museum is a charitable tax-exempt organization, it can accept appreciated assets and then liquidate them. The donor avoids capital gains taxes since the asset was not sold. Furthermore, the donor can take the full current market value of the asset as a deduction because it was a charitable contribution. Consult your tax advisor when making a donation. *THANK YOU FRED B. MILLER FOR YOUR GIFT!*

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

2007 promises to be an interesting year for the museum. We currently have one grant pending legislative approval for \$80K, and another set for review by the Florida Historical Commission in March for \$31K. A legislative budget request for \$1.5M will be presented in March. Should those funds be awarded they will be used to construct an entrance building, parking lot, and other facilities

needed to open the museum. Reese Moore has replaced Wanda Laundrie as the Museum Program Coordinator. He is currently organizing a program called "Walk Back In Time" scheduled for March 24-25 from 9 am-4pm at the museum property. I am pleased to announce that a monthly musical event and dance will take place at the Caldwell Dairy Barn. The last two we held there were really well at-

tended and a good time was had by all. The Florida Cow Culture Preservation Committee has donated \$5K to the museum from the proceeds of the Great Florida Cattle Drive of '06. Finally, Bill Livingston has donated 11 acres on the west side of US1 containing the 18th century British site of Hewitt's sawmill. A trail and appropriate signage is being developed for the site and soon it will be open to the public.

Board Member Clark Bailey & Family On The Cattle Drive



SAVING FARMS AND OTHER RURAL WORKING LANDS

"New Federal Law Gives Better Tax Break for Conservation Agreements to Save Farms and Other Rural Working Lands"

Congress recently passed a law to enhance the tax benefits of protecting your land by donating a voluntary conservation agreement. If you own land with important natural, historic, or agricultural resources, donating a voluntary conservation agreement can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love and protect America's natural heritage, while main-

taining your private property rights and possibly realizing significant federal tax benefits. These new incentives make it easier for average Americans, including working family farmers and ranchers, to donate land. The legislation allows: (1) A conservation agreement donor to deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income (2) Qualifying farmers and

ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (3) Donors may take deductions for their contribution over as many as 16 years. To qualify as a charitable donation, a conservation agreement must be permanent. Contact Busy Byerly at the Conservation Trust for Florida at 352-466-1178 for further information on this important program.

FLORIDA HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW GRANT APPLICATION

The Florida Agricultural Museum has a \$31K grant set for review before the Florida Historical Commission in March. If successful, the grant funds will be used to develop an exhibit entitled "Florida's Black Cowboys: Past and Present". African Ameri-

cans have a centuries long involvement in Florida's cattle industry. In fact, the term "cowboy" was introduced in South Carolina during the 18th century specifically to refer to a black male slave who tended cows. Long before that however, the Spaniards had introduced both

cattle and African Americans to Florida. The exhibit will examine the lives of black cowboys in the past and collect oral histories from present day black ranchers in Florida. A second phase of the project will involve the production of a DVD for distribution to Florida's public schools.



SPECIAL EVENT PLANNED FOR MARCH 24TH & 25TH

A two day special event entitled “A Walk Back In Time: Life and Times On The Old Kings Road” has been scheduled for the latter part of March. The event will take place on the museum property from 9AM to 4PM on Saturday and Sunday. The time line will include “visits” with Timucuan Indians, Seminole Indians, folks from the Spanish and British Periods, the naturalist William Bartram, the Civil War, as well as Florida Cow Hunters. There will also be exhibits on turpentine production and moonshine making.

Historic re-enactors, story tellers, demonstrators, vendors, and musicians will all be contributing to this enjoyable educational experience. Because the event will take place during Florida Archaeology Month, a segment of the program will include presentations on pioneers in Florida archaeology.

There will be a small fee for the general public of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve.

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL MUSEUM MEMBERS!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THIS EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT REESE MOORE AT 386-446-7630.



ADDITIONS TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

We have some new additions to the museum’s livestock collection. Mr. John Kern of west Flagler County has donated two donkeys that used to guard his sheep herd from coyotes. “Gerry”, a gelding, and “Chiquita”, a jenny, have settled into life at the museum and are welcome additions to our pasture. We will be receiving two Belgian draft horses in early February.

They are being donated by Dr. Kelly Lynch, a veterinarian from Melbourne. The mare and her filly will be put to work for various museum events such as hayrides.

On another note, our Florida Cracker filly “Paloma Linda” (or Pretty Dove) is growing at a really amazing rate. Born on September 13th of 2006, she is becoming

A real rascal. When “Paloma” is weaned she will be making her home with museum volunteer Johanna Longfellow. Johanna is currently training our two fillies “Isabel” and “Supresa”. Both are making excellent progress with their studies.



CURRENT MUSEUM WISH LIST

The current museum wish list includes a livestock trailer, saddles, harness, leather or hemp ropes, cast iron kettles and pots, and two round bale feeders. We could also use some help in underwriting the care of our livestock. Currently, we own five Florida Cracker horses, two donkeys, and one mule. On February 3rd we will be receiving two Belgian draft

horses from Dr. Kelly Lynch of Melbourne.

Yes, it’s that time of year again...if you have not already done so.....

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS TODAY! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



PLEASE JOIN US
TODAY



**FLORIDA'S PAST
AND FUTURE**

1850 Princess Place Road
Palm Coast, Florida 32137-5110
Phone: 386-446-7630
Fax: 386-446-7631
Email: FAMUSEUM@PCFL.NET

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS SO THAT WE CAN BETTER
COMMUNICATE WITH YOU. YOUR
PRIVACY WILL BE PROTECTED.

*TELLING THE STORY OF
FLORIDA AGRICULTURE*

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No.4
Palm Coast, Florida 32135

**JOIN THE FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL
MUSEUM — BECOME A FARMHAND**

MEMBERSHIP

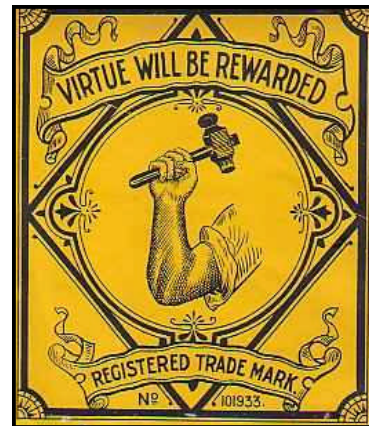
<u>Annual</u>		<u>Life</u>	
Individual	\$20	Donor	\$5000
Family	\$35	Sponsor	\$10,000
Contributor	\$125	Patron	\$25,000
Patron	\$500	Benefactor	\$50,000
Benefactor	\$1000	Founder	\$100,000

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

1850 PRINCESS PLACE ROAD

PALM COAST, FLORIDA 32137



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

**MEMBERSHIPS RENEW EACH JANUARY, IF
YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED PLEASE DO SO
TODAY. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.**