



Pine Island Knotes

Newsletter of the Pine Island Preservation Society
Number 42

June 2023

Mango Harvest Festival Set for June 24

We will have a Mango Harvest Festival at the Sams House Nature Center, on Sat., June 24 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Guests can enjoy live demonstrations of mango recipes like dehydrated mangos, green pickled mangos, mango salsa, sauteed mangos, mango sorbet and more. Following the demonstrations, guests will be invited for a taste sampling. To reserve a seat and purchase a \$5 ticket for the recipe demonstrations, please call 321 449-4720.

Mangos and mango related delicacies including jams, hot sauces, and baked goods will be available for purchase.

We're planning for live music entertainment. Brevard Tropical Fruit Club members will be available to answer questions regarding different mango species. Mango related raffle baskets and other items will be featured on the front porch of the main house.

The festival was inspired by the heritage of the Pioneer Sams family who were successful citrus and fruit (pineapple) and sugar cane growers in the late 1800s.

Everyone is excited to have the Mango Harvest Festival again this year. We had one in 2021 which was a huge success, but last year cold and wind stopped all the trees on Merritt Island from producing a mango crop. So far mango crops are looking good. Hope to see you there on Saturday, June 24!

Mango Harvest Festival!



Valencia Pride Carrie Glenn Hayden

Saturday, June 24th, 2023
10 AM – 2 PM
Sams House • 6195 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island

Tastings too!

Recipe Demonstrations
Mango Salsa • Mango Jam • Mango BBQ Sauce
Green Mango Chutney • Mango Sorbet
Pickled Green Mangos • Dehydrating Mangos
Carrie Mango Eating Demo

Mangos, Mango Delicacies, Local Honey & other items for sale
Fruit Basket Raffles
Vendors
Maps to NMI Fruit Vendors

Live Music!
12-2 PM

\$5/Person Donation • Reservations Required for Recipe Demonstrations
Call Sams House at (321) 449-4720
Hosted by the Pine Island Preservation Society

Our Gnome's Name is "Crinkleroot"



"Crinkleroot"

Drum roll, please...the winner of the Name the Gnome contest is Nola Powell who gave our gnome the name "Crinkleroot."

The colorful gnome with a beehive hat adorned with bees and flowers was placed on the desk in the Cabin for weeks leading up to Earth Day. Visitors were invited to "Name the Gnome." Altogether 61 names were submitted. Some really good ones too, like Buzz Hickory, Buzzy Ness, Bezzy, Sammy Gnome and more. At the monthly meeting the Pine Island Preservation Society's Board voted "Crinkleroot" as the official gnome's name.

Crinkleroot now lives inside the hollow of a Hickory tree near the circle drive at Sams House. The idea of acquiring the gnome came from board member John Schantzen who led the naming contest. A door and steps leading into the Hickory hollow was created by Jim Rowland, EEL program employee.



Crinkleroot's steps and door to Hickory tree hollow where he lives. near the driveway.

Student Activities Filled the Calendar this Year



Shannon Steele, EEL Naturalist at Sams House, teaches young students about gopher tortoises and their habitat during a recent field trip.



South Lake Elementary first graders learned about the lifestyles of pioneer families and then participated in activities including "harvesting chores."



Boy Scout Pack 110 energetically participates in a "Gopher Tortoise Tag" game in early April at Sams House. The game emphasizes how 350 species depend on gopher tortoise burrows for survival.



Kashanian Scholarship Available

Applicants are encouraged to apply for another \$1000.00 Masoud R. Kashanian Memorial Scholarship to be awarded this year. **The deadline to apply is June 1.** An application is available on the PIPS Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pineislandpreservationsociety/>. The PIPS Scholarship and Education committee as well as the Kashanian sons will review and select a winner in late June.

The Scholarship was established in memory of the late Sam Kashanian, a Pine Island Sams House volunteer who was instrumental in performing landscaping for a Keep Brevard Beautiful Grant, as well as many other gardening projects. The award is designed for a graduating Senior High School Student who is furthering their education in environmental or related fields at an accredited college.

Recent Outreach Update

By Martha Pessaro

As part of our outreach efforts, we are members of the Museums of Brevard (MOB) and partner with various programs including the Christmas Holiday House Tours in December. We recently provided a silent auction basket for the Field Manor Founders Day event. Vivian Shay donated decoupage Sea Shells and Martha Pessaro pitched in items from the Crisafulli's Farmer's Market and the Crisafulli's donated a jar of honey.

The Museums of Brevard is hosting a Meet the MOB event at the American Police Hall of Fame on Saturday, November 4th. Jayme DiGennaro is the host for this event. More info as the date grows closer.

Facebook visitation is growing, and we were made aware of a downed tree on the Garnet Trail following the recent storms via Facebook messaging which allowed me to forward important data to David DeMeyer for clearing the trail. Thanks to citizen Thatcher Doe for the reporting of the blocked trail!

Sabre-toothed Cat Has Arrived



A new exhibit has arrived at the Sams House Nature Center. A sabre-toothed cat, which is in the family of Smilodons (knife tooth), once roamed southern and central North America during the Pleistocene epoch 2 million – 10,000 years ago. Fossil occurrences have been found in Brevard County making this saber-tooth cat a great addition to the ice age exhibit around the educational loop at the Sams House Nature Center. Also planned, is replacement of the current glyptodon with a new lifesize one for the exhibit. The sabre-toothed cat, which was funded by our Preservation Society, will be installed in early summer.

Sabre-toothed Cat still partially crated. This scary looking beast will be installed in the ice age exhibit area at Sams House this summer.

Audubon Society Partners with Sams House Staff

By Shannon Steele, EEL Naturalist

The Space Coast Audubon Society (SCAS) has been partnering with the Sams House EEL Naturalists for the past several months.

In March EEL staff hosted a Bee Workshop, and in April they hosted a Wildlife Photography Workshop. On April 29th, Chelsea Miller from the SCAS co-presented an iNaturalist workshop with Shannon Steele, EEL Naturalist, and afterward, attendees enjoyed a small bird hike led by Rob Lane, EEL Naturalist, to the magical strangler fig. We called it magical because the fig tree had fruit on it and hundreds of birds were feeding and making their sounds including Cedar Waxwings, Blackpoll Warblers, and Cape May Warblers. Birds not commonly seen here.



Space Coast Audubon Society and Sams House naturalists hold iNaturalist workshop in cabin. (iNaturalist is a social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe.)

Upcoming Sams House Programs

(Please Call for Reservations 321 449-4720)

- **Painting Mangos with Watercolors** - Saturday, June 10, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Come learn the basics of watercolors. Local artist Darleen Hunt will teach how to paint mangos. All materials supplied. \$5 fee for the class. Call for reservations.
- **Bring Your Own Kayak** - Thursday, June 15, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Meet at 599 Ramp Rd., Cocoa Beach for Thousand Islands monthly guided water tour. Reservations needed.
- **Saturday Bird Walks at Sams House** - Saturdays 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Join the naturalists of Sams House (weather permitting) to look and listen for birds. From beginner to expert, all levels of birders welcomed. Bring binoculars if possible. Meet in front of cabin.
- **Scavenger Hunt** - Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stop by the 1888 house to pick up nature hunt guide and explore the grounds.
- **House and Cabin Tour** - Thursday and Saturday at 3:00 p.m. Tour the inside of Brevard County's oldest standing home (1875) and the adjacent (1888) Florida Vernacular-style home to learn about the Sams Family.
- **DIY Repellent** - Saturday, June 17, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Try your hand at making insect repellent with all natural ingredients to get through this buggy time of year. Reservations required.

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.

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.nbbd.com/godo/sanctuaries/SamsHouse/

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Pine Island Preservation Society

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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.

President's Thoughts...



Welcome to Summer! Although, it's not official until the solstice, the weather is ahead of the calendar as usual. With more daylight hours, this is a great time of year to go outdoors and take advantage of the programs at the Sams House and other EEL properties. Also, take an early opportunity to welcome Crinkleroot to the Sams House!

As noted above, another new resident is coming to Sams House Nature Center. We're getting a sabre-toothed cat! Once it's installed, be sure to come see the size of a predator that roamed the continent until a few thousand years ago.

Our biggest event this month is the Mango Harvest Festival on June 24th. It's great to see this event return. Make plans now to attend and learn about this amazing fruit, and how many delicious treats can be made from it.

Finally, I want to remind you to make sure your dues are up to date. They are a prime source of funds which enable us to support PICA and Sams House. That and volunteering are two of the best ways to support the activities of PIPS. Have a great summer!

Rick English

President, Pine Island Preservation Society

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

				Corporate Memberships	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (55+)	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Couple (55+)	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sams Descendants	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Couple Supporting	\$75			
<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	Horseshoe Crab	\$100
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Gopher Tortoise	\$250
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Barred Owl	\$500
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Eagle	\$1000
			<input type="checkbox"/>	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