



## DeSoto County Historical Society News

P.O. Box 1824, Arcadia, FL 34265, [www.historicdesoto.org](http://www.historicdesoto.org)

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### Sponsors Needed for This Newsletter!

We're looking for individuals, organizations, and businesses to become sponsors of this newsletter. For a donation of \$100, you, your organization, or business will have a listing in this newsletter for 12 months! Two, three, or four people can join together to make the donation.

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January - **Jack Shore**

February - **Joshua Creek Realty Group**

March - **Arlene and Warren Conley in memory of Leo and Hazel Williams**

May - **Historic Parker House B & B Kay and Leonard Higley, Proprietors**

June - **Max and Lois Fitzpatrick**

### ON SALE! at the June Meeting

Copies of the booklets: *DeSoto County Historical Society's Recollections I: A Collection of Historical Photographs, Documents, Stories, Recipes, Sayings, and Other Memorabilia about Arcadia and DeSoto County, Florida*, and *The Walking Tour of Historic Arcadia, Florida*, will be on sale during the meeting. *Recollections* sells for \$7 and the *Walking Tour* for \$5.

Acrefoot Johnson t-shirts (\$10) and tote bags (\$7) will also be on sale. All proceeds of these sales will benefit the Society.

### Historic Walking Tour Committee

Thanks to Marc Washicheck of Cherry Hill Antiques for suggesting that the Historical Society lead some walking tours of historic downtown Arcadia as an ongoing fundraiser on Saturdays during the tourist season. A committee needs to develop this idea. If you'd like to help, please volunteer!

### From Margaret Way

Dear Friends,

I find no words to express my sincere appreciation for the super, great whingding on April 2nd. Everyone had a ball from all the reports I've had.

Please use this donation wherever it's needed--I just wish it was more.

Sincerely, Margaret

### J. Morgan Ingraham House

Starting on Monday, June 8, the Ingraham House, 300 N. Monroe Avenue, will receive a coat of paint. Thanks to Leonard Higley and Harold McLeod for supervising, to the DCI prisoners for the brushwork, and to Lou's Paint Spot for giving us a great deal on supplies.

### Scholarship Committee

The Society is considering awarding one or more scholarships to seniors at DeSoto County High School. Special fundraisers will fund the scholarship. If you'd like to help figure out how to award this scholarship and how to raise the money to pay for it, please contact Mitzie McGavic at 494-5917 or online at [mitzie.mcgavic@desotoclerk.com](mailto:mitzie.mcgavic@desotoclerk.com).

### We Need You!

### in the Fourth of July Parade

Thanks to Harold McLeod and Leonard Higley for building a "new and improved" covered wagon ("ox-cart") for us to use as our "float" in downtown Arcadia's annual Fourth of July and other parades. We need people to wear their historic costumes and to walk alongside the wagon on July 4. Please sign up today!

Please send all news, corrections, and suggestions to Carol Mahler online at [carolm@strato.net](mailto:carolm@strato.net) or call 491-0286.

## **Membership Challenge**

Think about your neighbors, friends and relatives--do you know someone who should be a member of our Society? PLEASE invite one or more of them to be your guest at our next meeting!

At each table, we'll have copies of our membership application, return envelopes, and extra newsletters.

Encourage your guests to join at the meeting, or ask them to download the application at [www.historicdesoto.org](http://www.historicdesoto.org).

Clel Shore, director of membership, has also volunteered to call and invite people to become members or send them membership materials. Please contact her at 494-2701 or 558-3002 or online at [clelshore@embarqmail.com](mailto:clelshore@embarqmail.com) with names, phone numbers, and addresses.

## **The Howard and Velma Melton Historical Research Library**

The Board of Directors approved a proposal by Carol Mahler to interview Howard about the materials in the Howard and Velma Melton Historical Research Library and to digitize the collection. The interviews and electronic files will be the property of the Historical Society and will become part of the library.

## **Speakers Needed**

Program Director John Reynolds is always interested in speakers for our meetings. If you have always wanted to talk to our Society about your knowledge or experience of local history, or if you know someone who may want to, please call John at 491-0415 or 244-9360.

## **Friendly Members Needed!**

We need our most friendly members to join the newly created Welcome Committee. Members of this committee will greet those attending the meetings. They will especially welcome our guests and new members, making sure that they are introduced to and join a table of members. Please volunteer for this important committee!

## **June Meeting Announcement**

The DeSoto County Historical Society's regular monthly meeting will be held **this month only**

at the **Arcadia Woman's Club, 2288 N.W. American Legion Drive**, across the street (Old Highway 70) from DeSoto Park, and east of the boat ramp. on **Thursday, June 11, 2009.**

Lunch is \$5, beginning at 11:30 a.m., and the meeting starts at noon.

**Come early and bring a friend--or two!**

### **Bill Sullivan**

of the American Heart Association will present the history of the Association nationally and in DeSoto County, give a CPR demonstration, and show how to assemble a "disaster kit" for hurricane season.

## **July Meeting**

Historian and Archaeologist Jeff Moates of the Florida Public Archaeological Network will speak about Pine Level at our meeting on **July 9**

**at the Family Service Center Annex.**

Founded in 1850, Pine Level became the county seat in 1866 of Manatee County, which encompassed the present-day counties of Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, and

Manatee. In 1887, Pine Level became the county seat of the newly created DeSoto County, until Arcadia won that distinction in 1888. Pine Level's decline was hastened when the Florida Southern railroad bypassed it. In 1928, the post office in Pine Level was closed.

## **Mark Your Calendars: August 20**

Our regular monthly meeting for August will be the **THIRD** rather than the second Thursday: **August 20 at the Family Service Center.** Bruce Neveau and Dennis Tyson, who have restored the Ralls House at 640 W. Whidden Street, will speak about the Ralls family. After the meeting, the Ralls House will be open for tours all afternoon.