

La Creole Messenger

Summer 2020

A Destrehan Plantation Publication

Past Times Summer Camp: Educational and Engaging

Sixteen children explored early Louisiana history during Past Times Camp at Destrehan Plantation on July 20 – 24, 2020. The week started with a study of Native American traditions and the daily lives of early settlers along the Mississippi River and concluded with the firing of a Civil War cannon.



Native American Game

Campers experienced 18th and 19th century life through hands-on activities such as making butter, weaving, old-time games, vintage dancing, and candle dipping. Through interactive presentations provided by local experts, the campers learned about slavery, the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, the Civil War, open-hearth cooking, historical clothing, Louisiana plants



Vintage Dancing

and animals, flags, and much more. Numerous written and oral comments indicated that the campers, parents,

and staff thought the camp was very successful. One parent summarized her daughter's camp experience by writing, "She absolutely enjoyed camp and plans to go back every year as a camper and then to volunteer! She loved every minute of it, and I am so glad she was able to attend!"

Past Times Camp was made possible, in part, by a grant from the United Way of St. Charles. Camp activities were facilitated by Interpreters of History from Destrehan Plantation and dedicated volunteers who shared their knowledge and artifacts with the enthusiastic campers.

Grants awarded to RRHS

A huge thank you to the Greater New Orleans Foundation and the Norco Economic Development Fund for their generous grant awarded to the River Road Historical Society. The RRHS utilized funds from the grants to complete two of three projects.



Brick walkway leading to the plantation

The RRHS completed a 10 ft. wide brick walkway that leads from the Plantation Store to the end of the Manor House. This new pathway allows guests with mobility issues to safely move from the Plantation Store to the Manor House. For our second project, we completed 750 ft. of resurfacing on our main road leading

to our parking lot located at the back of our property. Both completed projects will provide increased mobility, safety and security to guests for years to come.

Fundraiser

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the travel and tourism industry. On Friday, August 14, 2020, the River Road Historical Society held a lunch and dinner fundraiser in the Mule Barn to benefit Destrehan Plantation. The RRHS and its employees thank all who came and supported our organization during this difficult time. A special thanks to the volunteers and sponsors who participated in the fundraiser. Without your services and sponsorship, this event would not have been possible.



Todd Smith prepares meat for jambalaya

The RRHS and its employees anticipate additional fundraisers in the future, and we would appreciate your continued support of our historic site. Stay informed of upcoming events by visiting our website at <https://www.destrehanplantation.org> or follow us on one of our social media networks such as Facebook and Instagram.



Dedicated to History

The River Road Historical Society is a small non-profit organization who owns and operates Destrehan Plantation. The mission of the River Road Historical Society is to preserve history and provide education on Destrehan Plantation. If you would like to become a Friend of Destrehan Plantation, please visit our website at <http://www.destrehanplantation.org>.

Built in 1787, Destrehan Plantation is a French Creole plantation and the oldest documented plantation in the lower Mississippi River Valley. The plantation is located on historic River Road less than 25 minutes from New Orleans and 10 minutes from the New Orleans International Airport. Please visit our website for more information at <http://www.destrehanplantation.org>.