



MIHS

Marco Island Historical Society

Rediscovering Yesterday

Celebrating Today

Preserving It For Tomorrow

Winter 2014-2015

**At long last our fantastic new
Calusa Gallery is open. Let the magic begin!!**



Presto Chango !!

Mission Accomplished

Austin Bell, Curator of Collections

It is my great pleasure to finally announce the opening of our new permanent exhibit: *Paradise Found: 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island*. As you know, completing this exhibit has been “priority one” since I was hired last summer. I want to thank everyone for their support and enthusiasm throughout the last 18 months – we truly couldn’t have done it without you. So many people made extraordinary contributions to this project, and when I think about where we were last June, it is truly remarkable that everything came to fruition as soon as it did.

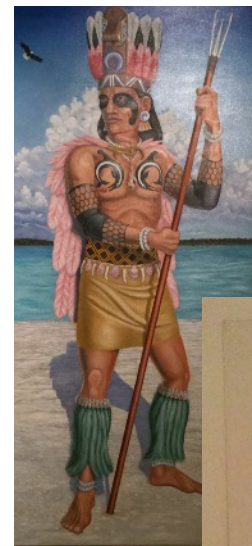
Think about this: In June 2013, we had no fossils in our collection (we now have close to 300), none of our archaeological artifacts were accessioned, catalogued, or labeled (100% of the hundreds now on exhibit are accessioned, catalogued, and labeled), the only plan for the exhibit was a rough hand-drawn sketch on a sheet of paper (we graduated to three-dimensional scale models in May), we had no usage rights to any artwork or photographs (there are now more than 100 in the exhibit from multiple institutions and individuals, including numerous original illustrations commissioned specifically for this exhibit), we had no loan artifacts (we now have 14, including 3 excavated by Frank Hamilton Cushing himself, on loan from the Florida Museum of Natural History), and the only “story” we had was a small Microsoft Word file with miscellaneous facts about the Calusa (we now have a detailed and intensely researched narrative that tells the 6,000 year story of Marco Island’s earliest residents). I am so proud of the work we’ve accomplished together, and am already looking forward to improving and expanding upon it in the future.

The amazing team from Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc. (St. Petersburg, FL) was here installing the exhibit between November 12-14 (see photos), and the exhibit officially opened to the public on November 18, 2014. Finishing touches will be made in the coming years. However, rather than play spoiler and tell you everything that’s on display, I’d like to use this column to thank some important people, without whom the exhibit would not have happened. I encourage you to come by the museum and check everything out for yourself – I promise, it’s worth the trip! I hope the exhibit instills in you the same sense of pride that I gained by putting it together – pride in being a Marco Islander. Marco Island truly is a special place with an amazing history, and it’s the people who live here, past and present, who make it that way. Again, thank you for support – and be sure to let us know what you think of the new exhibit!

Special thanks to:

- The Native American people who are the subject of this exhibit, for making the original artifacts on display and leaving Marco Island in such good shape for future generations to enjoy. Unfortunately, they are no longer here to tell their story, so we hope that this exhibit depicts and honors them in a way that they might approve. They were the original Marco Islanders.
- The City of Marco Island, the Tourist Development Council of Collier County, and the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) for generously funding the exhibit.
- The MIHS Exhibit Committee – Craig Woodward, Kathy Miracco, Alan Sandlin, Tom Wagor, and Gene Erjavec – for their input and guidance throughout the exhibit’s development. They generated the original concept years before I ever came along, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity.
- The amazing people at Creative Arts Unlimited, who designed, fabricated, and installed all of the panels, cases, walls, and displays seen in the exhibit. Their craftsmanship and professionalism is first-class, and we are very fortunate to be partnering with them on future exhibits.
- William Marquardt and Karen Walker, my mentors at the University of Florida, who generously committed so much of their own time and energy into making sure this exhibit was as good as it could possibly be. I would not be here without them, and I only hope that this exhibit lives up to the standards they trained me to strive for.

- Artist Merald Clark, who spent so much of his free-time working on original artwork especially for this exhibit. His amazing talent truly brings the artifacts to life, and we are honored to showcase his work.
- Collier County Museums, especially our past and present museum managers Lisa Marciano and Tim England, for their valuable insight and experience, as well as continual assistance in managing the logistics of installing the new exhibit.



The Marco Island Historical Society Celebrates its 20th Anniversary with the Opening of a New Exhibit: “Paradise Found – 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island.”

By Pat Rutledge, MIHS President-Elect

It was a glittering evening on November 15, 2014 as members of the Marco Island Historical Society were joined by dignitaries, elected officials, benefactors, patrons and volunteers to celebrate two milestones in the Society's history. The first was the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the MIHS and the second was the opening of the long awaited enhancement to the Calusa Exhibit entitled “Paradise Found – 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island”.

At a cocktail reception, guests were treated to the opening of an exhibit that was more than 2 years in the making. Curator Austin Bell was on hand along with members of the MIHS Board, including Craig Woodward, Alan Sandlin, Kathy Miracco and Paul Tateo of the Exhibit Committee, to guide visitors back in time to view more than 250 artifacts and replicas on display. Most of the artifacts were excavated locally by professional archaeologists within the last 10 years and are part of the MIHS collections. Others were donated by local residents. There are also fourteen items on loan from the Florida Museum of Natural History, including three excavated by Cushing in 1896.

Replicas were made by Peter Sottong, Robin Brown and Bernard Rosenberg. The miniature village diorama was made by Helmut and Hilde Nickle.



A formal ribbon cutting followed the cocktail reception. Participating in the ribbon cutting were State Representative Kathleen Passidomo, County Commissioner Donna Fiala, Collier County Museum System Director Ron Jamero, Marco Island City Manager Roger Hernstadt, MIHS President Tom Wagor, MIHS President-Elect Patricia Rutledge and MIHS Curator of Collections, Austin Bell.



After the formal dedication ceremony, guests were escorted into dinner at the Rose History Auditorium where the evenings program began with a “Short Course in the Past” delivered by such notable early members and benefactors as Betsy Perdichizzi, Lee Lindburg and Alan Sandlin.

Following dinner, President Elect – Pat Rutledge shared with the audience the four main goals of the MIHS Strategic Plan: Completing the Main Museum Exhibits, Securing Calusa Artifacts on Loan for Multiple Exhibits, Professionalizing the MIHS and Fundraising.

The fourth goal of the Strategic Plan, Fundraising, was an excellent transition point to Tom Wagor and Paul Tateo, Co-Chairmen of the MIHS Campaign Council, who jointly announced the launch of the MIHS CATapult Campaign, a three year, \$1 million dollar project to provide the core funds to bring the treasured Calusa artifacts back to Marco Island, including the Key Marco Cat.

Tom also shared with the audience plans for a project called the “Windows and Doors to History” whose idea is to work directly with local artists to create original artwork representing scenes from Marco Island's 6000+ years of history to fill the nonfunctional architectural elements that today represent the Museum's windows and doors.

Finally, although the CATapult Campaign will provide important project funding over the next three years, ultimately, the MIHS must build an endowment fund to sustain the Society and provide for future special projects. To that end, Tom and Paul announced the formation of the Cushing Society to recognize those donors now who wish to leave a legacy gift to the MIHS. The first members of the newly established Cushing Society were announced as Tom and Paul recognized Jon & Sonja Laidig and Alan & Linda Sandlin with a warm round of applause. The evening was a fitting tribute to the past, present and future of Marco Island and its Historical Society as we deliver on our mission “To preserve and to share the history of Marco Island and the surrounding community.”



Puzzling Pottery

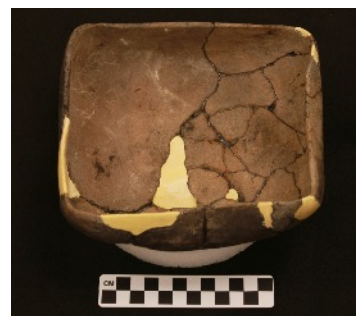
Austin Bell, Curator of Collections

Many of us know the feeling of satisfaction that comes with completing a particularly challenging jigsaw puzzle. We invest hours, days, weeks, or even months (if you're slow like me) until a puzzle resembles the image on its box. Reconstructing prehistoric pottery is a lot like putting together a puzzle— except the pieces are hundreds of years old, usually not found together, and there is no visual aid. Imagine, then, the satisfaction that Ann Cordell, Ceramic Technologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, must have felt when she recently reconstructed three nearly complete vessels from the MIHS collection. These pots are anywhere between 2,500 and 500 years old and had been lying in pieces under Marco Island shell and soil for centuries – until they were excavated in 2004. Ten years later, in advance of the Marco Island Historical Museum's new permanent exhibit, the pieces have finally been reassembled for everyone to appreciate.

Though we know the general timeframe during which these pots were used (a 2,000 year window), more analysis will give us a better idea of exactly *when*. We know that one bowl likely dates to between 1,000 and 1,100 years ago based on its design (Key Largo Incised). The other two, however, have no diagnostic markings and can only be identified as “Glades Plain.” Thankfully, Cordell had the foresight to collect residue samples from the potsherds before reconstruction. These samples will be radiocarbon dated and the results will hopefully contribute to our understanding of pottery in this region. Look for the results in future newsletters!



A rare South Florida “square” pot in May 2014
– as originally collected in 2004.



The same square pot in November 2014
– now on display at the Marco Island Historical Museum.

MIHS Newsletter

Tom Wagor, President MIHS

I am writing my last President's column for the MIHS Newsletter, in the afterglow of the 20th Anniversary Celebration and opening of the Calusa Gallery. Make sure you see the pictures and article about those events elsewhere in the Newsletter.

In December I will be completing my second year as President of this wonderful organization. As I think back over the last two terms on the Board and nine years total of involvement with the MIHS I realize how much we have been able to accomplish. Believe me, it took a dedicated effort from your Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and many, many Volunteers but we have achieved a great deal. It has been a great pleasure and honor to lead this dedicated group of people, and I would take up way too much space in the Newsletter if I were to try and thank them all by name.

Just know that I have a warm spot in my heart for everyone involved with the MIHS. I learned way back in 2004 when the Capital Campaign to build the Museum was just beginning how determined and committed to the effort the MIHS was. That same commitment and dedication shines just as brightly today as it did then.

I *would* like to take a few lines and say thank you to Mrs. Pat Rutledge. Pat stepped up to the plate last year and agreed to become my President Elect for 2014. We have spent a lot of quality time together over this last year learning from each other, just as I learned from Kathy Miracco in 2012. I can assure you that the MIHS is in great hands with Pat at the helm, and we will continue our progress toward becoming a "World Class Museum" under her leadership. She will continue to make the Strategic Plan a priority and I am pleased to tell you that progress is happening on all four of our Strategic Plan goals:

1. **Completing the Main Museum Exhibits** - Working with our partners through the Collier County Museum system we are in the process of completing the main exhibit halls. The Calusa Gallery has just opened and one year from now we plan to open the First Phase of the Modern Marco exhibit in time to be part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Marco Island. After that the Pioneer Room will be started by 2016-2017 and, of course, we will continue to bring special exhibits to the Traveling Exhibit Gallery-which is the impetus behind goal #2!
2. **Securing Calusa Artifacts on Loan for Multiple Exhibits** – This is a multi-tiered, multi-year project that involves not one, but four different institutions. During this time, while we are finishing the exhibit galleries, the MIHS is already in ongoing discussions with institutions holding the treasured Calusa artifacts: The Florida Museum of Natural History, the University of Pennsylvania, the Smithsonian, and the British Museum.

By late 2015 or early 2016, the first artifacts are expected to arrive from the Florida Museum of Natural History. There are a few updates I can tell you about this project:

- Austin Bell is headed to the Smithsonian in December and formal talks are already underway!
- Dr. William Marquardt has agreed to provide guidance and support to the MIHS with respect to the care and exhibition of the treasured Calusa objects.
- We are working closely to tie the return of the Calusa artifacts to supporting local tourism. Bringing back the Calusa artifacts for a series of special exhibits will provide a significant economic impact throughout Collier County and Southwest Florida – Museums are big business and bringing back the artifacts for special exhibits will impact our local economy.

I will just share one statistic with you from the American Alliance of Museums: **Museums directly contribute \$21 billion to the U.S. economy each year. They generate billions more through indirect spending by their visitors.**

3. **Professionalizing the MIHS** – To work with the distinguished institutions and be responsible for the care of the Calusa artifacts, over the next several years the MIHS Board will need to carefully transition from a Board that has had hands-on direct responsibilities for running the organization to providing fundraising and governing support. Staff will need to be hired (both full and part time and contractual) to manage the day to day operation and special projects necessary to execute the MIHS Strategic Plan.

And to help with this transition, your incoming President, Pat Rutledge has made a personal commitment to not only execute her duties as MIHS President, but to also act as the organization's Chief Operating Officer. We are all looking forward to Pat's guidance and Austin has generously agreed to share his office with Pat, so she will be right at the heart of the MIHS embedded in the collections.

Pat has made an extraordinary commitment to the MIHS, and our goal of becoming a World Class Museum. Stay tuned as you will hear more directly from Pat in upcoming Newsletters. Pat's willingness to lay the foundation for museum management will allow me to concentrate on the MIHS's fourth goal fundraising and my new role, as Co-Chairmen of the CATapult Campaign.

I would like to close my column as President with another thank you to all our MIHS Members and to the Board, it has been an pleasure working with you and please do read my new column; **"The View from the CATapult"** where I will share inside news from our campaign and more.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Tom



The View from the CATapult

I am pleased to be segueing smoothly into my next MIHS leadership role. Along with Paul Tateo of the MIHS Board, I have committed to be the Co-Chairmen of the CATapult Campaign. And we are joined by an all-star cast:

MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY CAMPAIGN COUNCIL

Honorary Chairmen: Alan & Linda Sandlin

Campaign Co-Chairmen: Paul Tateo & Tom Wagor

Campaign Council Members: Heidi Berge, Bruce Graev, Darcie Guerin, Kathryn Hunt, Heidi Moss, Carole Roberts, Pat Rutledge, and Craig Woodward

To support our campaign, Sally Woliver has joined the MIHS team and will be working closely with us. Her claim to fame from our successful Museum Building Campaign is to always put the FUN in FUNdraising. We are pleased to have her back and Sally is equally enthusiastic.

So how did we create this CATapult Campaign? The Marco Island Historical Society has never been afraid of big ideas, nor of putting those ideas into motion. The MIHS needed a fundraising plan to match the bold goals of its Strategic Plan, and capture the spirit of the MIHS. That is why we created the CATapult Campaign!

The CATapult is a metaphor for our next big effort, which we are calling the **CATapult** Campaign in honor of the iconic Key Marco Cat. This campaign will provide the core funds to underwrite the return of the Cat and other Calusa artifacts. We have designed this campaign to match the dreams you have helped to create for the MIHS.

Can Lighting Strike Twice in the Same Place? Sure it can, this is Southwest Florida! If we raised the funds together to build this Museum, we can do it again and this time put the Marco Island History Museum on the Map – internationally as we bring back those artifacts. We invite you to join us as we CATapult the MIHS and raise \$1.0 million over the next three years.

You will hear more about the CATapult Campaign in our Newsletters and at our programs and events. While we are using the CATapult Campaign to concentrate on the immediate future we are not forgetting our obligation to secure the future of the MIHS.

We are truly vested in our role to “Preserve the History & Heritage of Our Community”, and toward that commitment, the MIHS is building our endowment fund, to sustain the organization and provide for future special projects. To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the MIHS, we have established “The Cushing Society “ – to recognize those donors NOW who wish to leave a legacy gift to the MIHS.

Many of you may have already decided to leave a legacy gift to the MIHS or may even be considering that now. If you would like to learn more about joining the Cushing Society, please let us know. We would be honored to have you on board!

From the CATapult,

Tom Wagor & Paul Tateo
Campaign Co-Chairmen



MUSEUM GIFT STORE NEWS

By Lori Wagor MIHS Enterprise Manager

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of sterling silver and gold Key Marco Cat and Cat Mask pendants exquisitely crafted and hand carved by expert artisans at Golden Gate Jewelers. You will be amazed at the care taken in replicating these renowned artifacts. And, drum roll....matching silver mask earrings, rings and cuff links. Great gift items and they can be customized to your specifications.

We also have a new assortment of handcrafted sea glass



bracelets, necklaces and earrings from local artist Lisa Estrada to compliment and put some bling in your wardrobe. Beautiful blues and colorful coral in three ringed bracelets are the vogue, especially matched up with earrings and necklaces!



PS to all you men folk: Christmas & Valentine's Day are just around the corner and you know how much we ladies love our trinkets!

Stylish reversible women's jackets--yes indeed, a two in one from Trimdin.

They are sure to be a show stopper at your next dressy affair, and voila, you can wear the reverse side the following night! -- great assortment and sizes available for you to choose from.

The long awaited Michael Coleman book "Florida's Gulf Playground" is now available in the Gift Store. It includes excerpts from some of our own MIHS renowned historians: Betsy Perdichizzi and Marion Nicolay and you can meet the rest of the contributors at a special presentation and book signing on January 31 in the RHA.

The MIHS Store is on a roll in providing an eclectic mixture of merchandise for our members and guests to choose from. We hope you will find unique and meaningful items for your personal use, as well as gift items and keepsakes. We sincerely thank you for your support and patronage!

And speaking of support and patronage, I'd like to recognize and give praise to all the volunteers that man the gift store and docent desk. Their enthusiasm, dedication and warm welcoming smiles make every visitor's trip to the Museum a very special occasion. I witness them in action on a daily basis and they make me smile and want to be there too! Kudos to one and all!

ROSE HISTORY AUDITORIUM

As noted in the last newsletter, we have a very exciting season ahead with a wonderful assortment of great performances by local and professional re-enactors as well as world class variety shows and educational programs and presenters on tap in 2015. Please view our web site for a full listing of all these wonderful events coming your way at www.themihs.org

We had a record crowd for "Duo Romantico" and they were outstanding—with a standing ovation! If you missed it don't fret as they will be back by popular demand

THIS AND THAT

I hope you have had an opportunity to see our newly refurbished docent desk as no words can do it justice. With the artistic talents of JJ Stinchcomb and Peter Sottong we now have a prized piece of artwork in our lobby. JJ worked his magic creating the perfect background covering the desk with a blend of colors and texture that brought to life some of our most prized artifacts painted by Mr. Sottong. What an amazing collaboration of talent and gifted artists. The wow factor! Much gratitude to both JJ and Pete, and to Bill and Karen Young for making it all possible with their kind donation.



Marco Island Historical Museum

Museum Manager Timothy England

Welcome back to many of you, and hurry back those that are on their way; (for those still up North, please, if you can avoid bringing the cold air with you we would really appreciate it!). We have been preparing ourselves for your return, organizing programs and events. For those who have not yet returned, we've already had a couple of wonderful programs and events.

The Archaeology day was a booming success thanks to the great volunteers that made it possible. I would personally like to thank all of you wonderful ladies and gentlemen that made it possible. We had Karen, Joyce and Meredith helping with making pottery, Heidi and Shelley with mask making,

Betsy and Joann explaining shell tools, Pete and Mel producing their authentic looking Calusa artifacts and Russ demonstrating how to make fire using a bow and spindle.



We mentioned that we were going to have

Malenda Trick painting live in the Museum lobby over the summer, culminating with a grand unavailing on Veterans Day. Malenda's canvas wall painting, a salute to our veterans, was a huge success. This project brought



visitors to the museum

throughout the summer. The finished work has now moved to the Naples Airport after a rousing veterans evening program. We estimated upwards of 350 people attended the event; the count was very difficult to establish due to the nature of the event. I did hear that there was a constant traffic jam between the museum and the Art League, as they too had an event the same evening. There was lots of good food, singing and people. As you can see from the pictures there was a

lot of color on show that evening. I have a special shout out to my favorite ladies of the evening, my Mum, and Frick and Frack, otherwise known as Karen and Joyce for keeping the evening fluid!



Donald Sunshine's Architectural Water Colors of the Goodland Cottages with historical notes by Betsy Perdichizzi is still at the museum until Christmas. Donald and Betsy were at the museum for a gallery presentation and book signing on November 25th.

Other news: We had a couple of crazy days of extreme lows and highs as preparations for the new exhibit gallery got underway. We went from a bare room to the new permanent exhibit in two and half days. The extension/completion of the Calusa exhibit is now 95 percent complete. With just a few minor additions, the story of the first natives of this area, the Frank Cushing dig and the Calusa story has now been fully realized, a must see on your next visit. An official opening followed by a dinner was a great round-out to the opening of another part of our great museum.

January 6 through March 27, 2015 we have the "PAINTING SW FLORIDA HISTORY" Art show and exhibit, a tribute to our local history through paint. This Art Show/exhibit is collaboration between the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts and Marco Island Historical Museum. The exhibit is based around the Artist as applied to this juried show. An artist reception is scheduled for January 6, 2015 from 5.30 to 7 p.m.

January 31, Is Pirate Day! So all you deck hands, wenches and salty sea dogs sharpen swords and dust off your eye patches. Sail over to the museum and lend us a hand. If you have helped in the past or just want to help this time please drop me an email at timothyengland@colliergov.net. The more the merrier. P.S. WE NEED CARDBOARD TUBES from your toilet rolls! The tubes are a main part in building "POLLY THE PARROT" one of the activities we have during Pirate Day. Please drop them off at the museum during your next visit, ARRRR.!

Thanks and hope to see you all soon.



Other Happenings

By BJ Henning

January 6, 2015 our guest speaker will be Dr. Michael Savarese. His presentation " The Effects of Sea-Level on the Coastal environment"

The program will start at 7:00 p.m. the cost will be \$5.00 for non members and members free. This should be of great interest to all of us who either live or visit a barrier island.

January 20, 2015 our program will present: Michael Lasser, singing the songs of the Great Depression. His program title: " Building a Dream" working & Loving Songs in the Great Depression. Songs, as always, were about love; yet, at the same, reflected the attitudes, values, and behavior of their time.



We would like to thank our CATapult Campaign Contributors

Heidi Berge, Tom and Lori Wagor, Alan and Linda Sandlin, Eugene and Ann D'Onofrio
Lee and Dottie Henderson, Steve and Carole Roberts, Ronald and Patricia Rutledge

**A special thanks to these businesses who support us!
We hope that you will consider using them when
you are in need of the services they provide.**

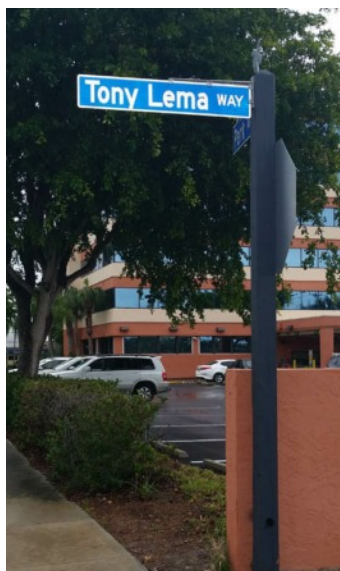
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At the suggestion of the MIHS some of the unnamed side streets on the island are now marked with street signs bearing the names of our very own historic figures.



Edited by Diane Bostick

Articles by various MIHS staff and volunteers