



Rediscovering Yesterday

Celebrating Today

Preserving It For Tomorrow

Summer 2014

Marco Island Historical Society – In the beginning...

By Marion Nicolay

Photos Courtesy of Betsy Perdichizzi

It was supposed to be just another ladies' luncheon at Eagle Creek. The featured speaker was Douglas Waitley who wrote a book about the Deltona era on Marco Island. He took one look at the women assembled there and suggested that we get up, go home and start a historical society to preserve the history of our island paradise before it was too late.

Several of us took him seriously and met later that week over a card table. The original twelve names include people who are still active today in the society, and we elected Lora Jean Young as first president. This was in 1994 and we have been going strong ever since.

Very early on, we managed and supervised a dig at the north end of the island, close to the area where the original Calusa Indian artifacts were discovered in the nineteenth century under the direction of an archaeologist named Frank Hamilton Cushing. We succeeded because we really never knew what challenges we were taking on.

Betsy and Bill Perdichizzi traveled to Washington and visited the Key Marco Cat in the Smithsonian Institution, and succeeded in persuading them to loan us the item for a show at the Collier County Historical Museum in Naples, which was a huge success. The County helped with this and later assisted in our efforts to establish a separate museum on Marco by allowing us the use of land across from the library, where our museum now stands.

Over the years, we staged many fund raising events, including a show with the famous Key Marco Cat appearing again for the millennium. This one was held on Marco Island in what was then Citizens' Bank. In fact, fund raising seemed to be our major effort for several years, but we finally broke ground, and our museum has been open for over four years now.

(continued on page 2)



Our mission is to educate, inform and broaden the perspective of residents and visitors alike about the history of Marco Island. We sponsor field trips for members and those interested in learning more about the Marco area and southwest Florida. We are a part of the County Museum Network, which includes five museums. We incorporated in 1994 and our monthly meetings feature wonderful speakers and programs in our Rose History Auditorium. Our award winning Museum Campus is something that the Society is extremely proud of.

As we pass the milestone of our 20th Anniversary, we look back with pride on all that we have accomplished together and we look forward to the exciting future of the Marco Island Historical Society. As the saying goes, "The Best Is Yet To Come!"



MIHS board members at Pat and Marcy Krutchen's penthouse party in Old Marco.

Bill Perdichizzi, Eugene Erjavec, Phil Egiseo, Jerry Masters, Lee Lindberg, Katherine Richardson, Betsy Perdichizzi, Kris Helland, Shirley Beckwith, T. J. Brownb, Kay Ziegler, Cindy Anderson, Patty Marzullo



Old Marco Days. Alan Sandlin presented check for \$25,000 to Betsy Perdichizzi (One of our first Leadership Gifts)



Very important board meeting. We met and voted to hire Sally Woliver as a consultant to help raise funds to build the museum.

MIHS members at meeting at Cindy Anderson's condo-Billy Tyson, Helmut Nickel, Kris Helland, Joan Foote, Cindy, Virginia Carlin, Betsy, Shirley Beckwith

County Proclamation

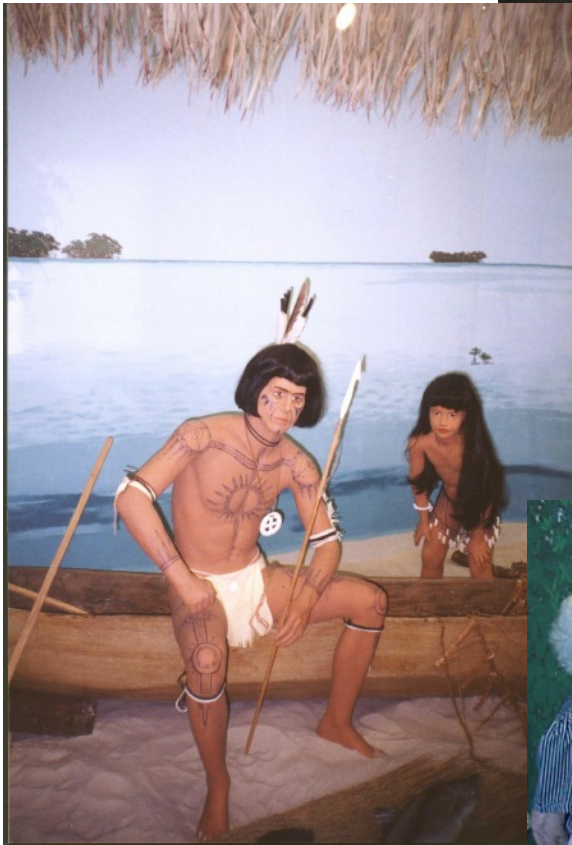




Christmas Parade 2005



Kappy Kirk used her influence with her friend Bobby Osceola of the tribe to build the little thatched roof over the diorama. Shown here with Bobby and Kris Helland. Helmut Nickel created the beautiful landscape on the wall for the background.



This is the diorama created by Helmut and Hilde Nickel. If you had seen these tacky mannequins dressed in blonde wigs, shades and swim suits you could have appreciated the transformation



Building a Collection

Austin Bell, Curator of Collections

The Marco Island Historical Society's permanent collection is quickly and quietly becoming one of the finest museum collections in Southwest Florida. Since our Spring 2014 newsletter went out in February, we have accepted numerous donations (and transfers), large and small, of important materials related to Marco Island's captivating history. Each time a donation is made to the MIHS, the donor signs a "deed of gift" and the materials are given an "accession number," which is entered into the collections management database. Each artifact is then assigned a "catalog number" within that accession and is recorded and labeled accordingly.

Different types of materials have different archival needs, so each donation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of long-term storage supplies. Generous private donations to the MIHS Collections Fund have enabled us to purchase necessary supplies for several of our recent donations, and will be further utilized in the ongoing collections storage room renovation (see Fall 2013 newsletter) for the purchase of new shelving units and cabinetry. Special acid-free boxes and trays, polyethylene bags, and labeling equipment are just some of the many supplies necessary to bring the MIHS collection up to professional standards. Environmental monitoring equipment (to measure fluctuations in temperature and relative humidity) will also be purchased for both the collections storage room and the multiple display cases in the forthcoming "Calusa Gallery" exhibit. Thank you to all of our generous donors for helping to turn these necessities into realities.

Here are just some of the materials that have been donated or transferred to the Marco Island Historical Society in 2014 alone. The archaeological collection in particular is now outstanding (take it from someone who has worked with archaeological collections for years). It has tremendous potential for attracting researchers or graduate students who may be interested in analyzing and interpreting its contents in the future. Thank you to all of our generous donors.

- 46 original B&W promotional prints from the Deltona Corporation's development of Marco Island in the 1960's by Richard Teibel.
- 35 fossils collected (mostly) in Southwest Florida and dating to the Plio-Pleistocene by Dr. Robin Brown (see mammoth vertebra pictured on the next page).
- 8 Calusa artifact replicas by Peter Sottong.
- Artifacts from the Marco Island Estates Sewer Project (Phase II and III) excavated in 2012 and 2013 by Advanced Archaeology, Inc.
- Artifacts from the North Marco Utilities Project excavated in 2007 by Brockington and Associates, Inc. (see gastropod cutting-edged tool pictured on the next page).
- Artifacts from the Boys Scouts Troop 234 dig on Bald Eagle Dr. in April 2014.
- Artifacts from the North Marco Utilities Project excavated in 2004 by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.
- The original Olds family diaries, along with hundreds of original photographs and letters, donated by Martha Adams Olds and facilitated by Betsy Perdichizzi (see Saloma Olds's diary pictured on the next page). See Betsy's book *Into the Florida Wilderness: Pioneer Life and Medicine in Southwest Florida* (for sale in the museum gift shop) for a detailed look at this important collection from the early 1900's.



Samples Of Some Of Our Donated Items



Mammoth Vertebra



Gastropod Cutting-edged Tool



Original Olds Family Diaries

Calusa Exhibit Taking Shape

Austin Bell, Curator of Collections

As the tourist season winds down here on Marco Island, things are picking up behind the scenes at the museum. In our last MIHS newsletter (Spring 2014), I updated you on the progress of our “Calusa Gallery” exhibit, which was starting to take shape after its conceptual framework had been nailed down. I am pleased to report even more tangible progress this time around.

Our fabrication and design team from Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc. is moving ahead with the construction of cases and display panels after months of detailed planning. In April, they drove down to the museum from Tampa to take precise measurements of the exhibit space (using “space age” lasers as measuring tapes) and followed that up with a three-dimensional rendering of the proposed floor plan (see pictures). For the first time, we could actually see the exhibit as we had envisioned it – exciting to say the least! However, before we could give the drawing a “stamp of approval” for construction, we first had to flesh out a number of specific details, including case dimensions, material types, case accessibility, climate control, layout, spacing, and foot traffic flow. By early May, we had achieved a plan that everyone felt great about, including myself.

With the exhibit “skeleton” (cases, panels, walls, etc.) now being assembled in Tampa, I am continuing my work on writing the script, acquiring images, selecting artifacts for display, and working with our artist, Merald Clark, on filling in the exhibit’s content. Merald, a wonderfully talented artist who has done original Calusa artwork for the Florida Museum of Natural History, has been commissioned to produce 11 original works of art for this exhibit, all portraying aspects of Marco Island’s unique history. We are fortunate to have an artist of Merald’s ability involved in this project and are excited to see his completed work.

We have also seen a dramatic increase in artifacts (see Collections Update) available for display thanks largely to Gene Erjavec, our “resident archaeologist.” Gene has assisted me in figuring out where all of our *thousands* of archaeological artifacts came from and whether we had the necessary documentation to accession them into the MIHS collection. Figuring out artifact provenance isn’t the most glamorous part of my job, but it is vital to the formulation of an exhibit like this, especially with *so many* artifacts collected from multiple sites over the years.

The pieces of the “Calusa Gallery puzzle” are fitting together nicely and for the first time, we are getting glimpses of the finished “picture on the box.” Installation of the exhibit is slated to begin in late Summer 2014, when the gallery will be closed for 2-3 weeks (the museum will be open), and we will celebrate the grand opening when our seasonal residents start to return, likely in November 2014. Stay tuned for details!





Our Friends and Dedicated Volunteers, Mary Helen and Jerry Masters

Mary Helen and Jerry Masters passed away this year, two months apart. Jerry passed away on Jan. 15, 2014 and Mary Helen passed away on March 12, 2014. Mary Helen and Jerry will always be known as the “MIHS Sweethearts.” Jerry always referred to Mary Helen as “his bride.”

They were always together-helping each other with the many historical society activities they helped to make successful. Mary Helen was responsible for creating the electronic version of the MIHS Newsletter (which she named the MEWS.) She faithfully issued this Newsletter for several years. Mary Helen always had her camera “at the ready” for the programs that Jerry planned and orchestrated. She and Jerry would always try a restaurant when they were planning a field trip for the MIHS, to make sure it was tasty. Both Jerry and Mary Helen participated in the MIHS Antique Appraisal Fairs that were held at the Marco Airport and at the museum several years ago. They also participated in the “Big Sift” last summer, working shoulder to shoulder with other volunteers cleaning the numerous artifacts that were found. They also assisted in the planning and participated in the first museum Pirate’s Day.

Mary Helen and Jerry owned an art and collectible glass business called GMasters Sales for 35 years until they retired in 2002 and moved to Marco Island.

Jerry was a teacher and eventually a principal in the Washington Local Schools. He was an MIHS Board member for many years, as the Program Chairman. He was also an officer and Board Member of the Marco Island Men’s Club.

Mary Helen was a classically trained pianist and a former board member of the American Association of University Women, the Newcomers Club of Marco Island and the Just the Friends Club of Marco Island.

Mary Helen and Jerry will always be a part of the Marco Island Society and will be missed by us all.

MIHS SUMMER NEWSLETTER
 President's Report
 President Tom Wagor
 MIHS Board of Directors

Greetings again, from the Board of Director's of your Marco Island Historical Society, and Happy almost Summer !

We are so excited to share many informative, fun and educational articles in this month's edition. You will read about what has been going on with Programs from BJ Henning, the RHA and Gift Shop from Lori Wagor, an update on the Donor Wall from Kathy Miracco, and Publicity and Communications from Pat Rutledge. There is also news from Betsy Perdichizi of the Re enactors, and Nancy Garrison. Austin Bell, our Curator of Collections has some great news to share as well!

My focus for this edition will be to update you about the progress we have made in the early stages of our Strategic Plan and the ongoing Feasibility Study.

There is a lot of news to report – the MIHS is “working” our new Strategic Plan on a number of fronts. Let me give you a sample of just some of our activities:

Budgets – Gene D’Onofrio our new Treasurer is creating a three year budget for the MIHS to match our three year Strategic Plan (2014-2016). This will allow us to follow the plan against a budget, especially as we work on long term projects in the Collections Management area, acquire the Calusa Artifacts on loan, and more. Each edition of the Newsletter will tell you more about how the MIHS plan is being put into action.

Calusa Artifacts/Calusa Gallery – Make sure you read Austin’s Columns in this Newsletter. The Calusa Gallery is taking shape and by late summer we will have some special tours as the exhibit is under construction.

Right now we are planning on the Grand Opening of the Calusa Gallery in November 2014. This will be a special celebration too of our 20th Anniversary – that is right – the MIHS is 20 years young this year!

What about the Key Marco Cat and the other Calusa Artifacts? – The plan to bring back the Cat and other treasured artifacts has officially started and this project is a BIG part of our strategic plan. Outreach is well underway to all four of the institutions which house the artifacts. This list includes the British Museum, The Florida Museum of Natural History, the University of Pennsylvania and of course the Smithsonian.

Collections – Have you ever held or seen a Mastodon Tooth? This impressive object is one of many recent donations to the MIHS Collections, as Austin states in his column:

“Our permanent collection is quickly and quietly becoming one of the finest museum collections in Southwest Florida. Since our Spring 2014 newsletter, we have accepted numerous donations (and transfers), large and small, of important materials.”

If you have something you want to donate or wonder if it is appropriate for our collections, you can contact Austin Bell at the museum by calling 239-642-1440.

Collier County Museums – I am pleased to introduce you to the new Manager of the Marco Island Museum, Tim England. Tim has been with the Collier County Museum system for many years and comes to us with great experience and ideas. We are looking forward to working closely with Tim.

In other news from the County, we have met with Donna Fiala, County Commissioner for District One, (which includes Marco Island). She is helping the permanent exhibit plan for the Marco History Museum become a reality. Back in 2010 when the Marco Museum opened, the County did not have the funding after the economic downturn to immediately fund the permanent exhibit galleries. Thanks to diligent efforts by Donna and the Collier County Museum Staff funding is expected to be included in the 2015 Collier County budget for the Modern Marco exhibit. This is great news as the MIHS will be a major player in the 50th Anniversary celebrations on Marco Island planned for 2015. Thank you Donna and the Collier County Museum team!

I look forward to reporting back to you again in the Fall Newsletter.

Thanks for your friendship and support of the MIHS.



The MIHS Museum has a new manager!

As many of you know Lisa Marciano has moved on to The Naples Depot Museum, expanding her museum experience. The new Museum manager is now Timothy England. He has over fifteen years with the Collier County museums, twelve as a full time employee and three as a volunteer/museum advocate. Tim started at the main museum, as the museum maintenance specialist/horticulturist working on the five acre native garden. The position became multifaceted very quickly, from building outside exhibits and leading tour groups, to working on major festivals and events, at the same time still keeping the native garden up to scratch.

After a couple of years, the manager position at the Museum of the Everglades became vacant. By this time he was hooked and wanted more responsibility. He strongly believed in the Museum system and what it did for our local communities.

Tim was with the Museum of the Everglades for eight years, where he oversaw the day to day running and programs, such as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival, Artist of the Month program and the Tamiami Trail celebration.

He is now looking forward to sharing his ideas and energy with the Marco Island Museum; as he says “to help it be all that it can be”. What’s that? Tim wants to see the Marco island Museum become a world class museum, at the cutting edge of museums here in Collier County, at the very least, and more.



Tim believes we have an opportunity, by using the experiences gained from building four other museums, to do it right. He would like to introduce more temporary exhibits, while the permanent exhibits are being designed and installed. In this way the museum can stay fresh and interesting, without costing a great deal of money.

He says it’s easy to see why the Marco Island Museum has come so far in a relatively short time; it’s all about you the museum supporter. He thanks you for that support as without it, his job would be that much harder and far less fulfilling.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By Lori Wagor

Everyone was a star as we dedicated the night to over 60 volunteers with great eats donated by DaVinci's, refreshments and of course a delicious dessert.

We said goodbye to our leading lady of the Museum, Miss Lisa Marciano, celebrating her successes, new position and completion of her Master's Degree. We then welcomed in Tim England, our new Manager who is full of enthusiasm for continuing our successes.

Board President, Tom Wagor did the honors welcoming everyone and then gave accolades to a group of "above and beyond" individuals so deserving of special recognition and gifts of appreciation. Many of these volunteers are behind the scenes working their magic on the web site, graphic design, eblasts, publishing the newsletter, taking care of publicity and advertising: Ron & Pat Rutledge, Nancy Garrison and Diane Bostick

Then there are some that make it possible to rent and operate the Rose History Auditorium, open and enhance the overall workings of the Gift Store and manage the ever important docent desk: Sam Miloro, Joanie Shields, Rich Kaelin, JoAnn and Joe Ferrigno; Mel Sottong and Michele Deutch; and Louise Russell

Some volunteer wherever and whenever they are needed—in the store, docent desk, ticket sales and barkeeps: Karen Brieger & Joyce Pastore

Volunteers who arrange an array of great eats for special receptions and our MIHS monthly meetings all done with a lot of planning and extra TLC: June and Bob Bridges

And the ever important role of searching out and planning monthly educational and historical presentations by renowned speakers for the MIHS: BJ Henning

A lady that has been with us from the beginning and contributed in too many roles and important ways to list: Kathy Miracco

And finally, we have some that have talents they share to entertain us and bring history to life: Kay Folsom (and all the First Ladies), Betsy Perdichizzi (along with all the Re-enactors) and Bonnie Bozzo.

A resounding round of applause to all these incredibly dedicated volunteers!

Closing the night's festivities a tribute was read that captures the true meaning of being a volunteer at the Marco Island Historical Society and Museum:

"It takes a Calusa village that is built upon a shell mound to cultivate a group of individuals that work together for the common good of all. And each and every one of you part of that historical village. Your dedication to preserving this sharing, contributing and educating is a present community. and thank

tribute to our past
We

sitting here tonight is
culture by
and our
salute you
you!"



Just some of our fine volunteers

What's Going On at the Rose History Auditorium this summer?

By B.J. Henning

The MIHS will sponsor fascinating events on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. These are free for members and only \$5 for non-members.

On **June 3rd** Steve Koski will tell us all about the artifacts he has found while diving in Little Salt Springs, which was a mortuary pond and Warm Mineral Springs which has been known for its mysterious healing waters and later developed as a spa.

On **July 1st** we will enchant you with 3 films that talk about the environment and the impact development has had on Marco Island. The films being shown are: "Florida's Emerald Isle, Marco Island" (ca. 1965), "How's The Water" (ca. 1973), and "Marco Island: Get Away From It All" (ca. 1982). Come and see just how much we have changed!

August 5th will bring Jack Joyce, an agent with the Mackle Brothers, who was also deeply involved with the development of Marco Island by Deltona in the 60's. He also, among others, claimed to have been responsible for the, at that time, totemic Mermaid Margo. (Doesn't that spark your curiosity?)

On **September 2nd** Janina Birtolo will entertain us with her portrayal of Amelia Earhart.

And also coming soon to RHA!

By Lori Wagor

In addition to the MIHS sponsored events on **June 13th-15th** the Island Theater Company presents a children's rendition of "**The Odd Couple**." Tickets will be on sale in the Museum Gift Store.

"**Deck the Doors**," a hugely successful holiday event is scheduled for an encore **November 30, 2014** from 5-8:00 p.m. It's a wreath decorating contest, that our own Michele Deutch won 1st place last year in the people's choice division. We've put a little spin on things this year so get ready to see some really creative entries for the silent auction. Come enjoy a wonderful evening of seasonal caroling, light hors d'oeuvres, cash bar....and, find the perfect handcrafted wreath to deck your doors! It is co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the MIHS.

Other upcoming events to put on your calendar for 2015:

"**Wet Paint Live**," **February, 22, 2015** with **March** bringing us encores of the "**1st Ladies**," two portrayals by **Bonnie Bozzo** and another trio of "**Dreamers and Schemers**" through a grant of the Florida Humanities Council.

"**50th Anniversary of Modern Marco**" Gala Celebration of the Mackle Brothers development of Marco Island. Friday, **May 1, 2015** held at the Marriott Beach Resort & Spa. Stay tuned for more details!

MUSEUM GIFT STORE

By Lori Wagor

“Christmas in July”

Oh come all ye faithful members to the museum store where you will find a wonderful array of great gift giving ideas for both the wee ones and young at heart. Lots of sale and close-out items to choose from and you will have the entire month to shop and save and....no bah-humbugs and last minute rushing around busy malls and streets. So come on in, bring your friends and enjoy the holidays stress free!



“Villa Sunrise”

If you haven't seen this spectacular original painting by renowned artist Inez Hudson, you are missing all the “ohs and ahs” of mother nature at her finest. Graciously donated by Gail Fischer to benefit the MIHS, it is on display in the museum store and is being offered by raffle to a lucky winner being drawn at our July 1st meeting. Raffle tickets will be on sale through Saturday, June 28th, and you don't have to be present to win.

Raffle drawing
July 1, 2014


 \$5 for 1 ticket
 \$10 for 5 tickets
 \$20 for 15 tickets

Tickets
in the
Gift Store

Villa Sunrise an original painting by Inez Hudson



donated by Gail Fischer to the MIHS

Enjoy The Inez Hudson Exhibition in the Museum April 2, 2014 through June 28, 2014

“Catherine the Great” Portrayal Brings Generous Donation to the MIHS



On April 17, 2014, Bonnie Bozzo and Madeline Zorzi of Tropical T's presented a check for \$1,000 to Lori Wagor, MIHS Enterprise Manager. This donation represents the proceeds from the hugely popular performance of “Catherine the Great” by Bonnie earlier this year. This is the third year in a row that Madeline and Bonnie have collaborated on this type of program. They have donated the proceeds each year to the MIHS.

We are extremely grateful for their time, talent and generosity to the Historical Society. We look forward to another fabulous performance next season – we can hardly wait to find out which historical figure Bonnie and Madeline will bring to life next.

Great News! We are very close to finalizing the information for the permanent donor wall that will be placed in the museum lobby and the plaque of names for those who purchased a tile that will be placed on the outside of the museum. Please watch the mail for a letter from the MIHS that will ask you to confirm the information we have on file. Please return the letter, with the requested information, as soon as possible. The sooner we get these letters back the quicker we can finalize the donor wall and the plaque. Thank you in advance!



In our **Museum Gallery** there is a treat in store for you through June 27th.



Inez Hudson's tropical vision is on display there for your enjoyment.



MIHS a Founding Member of New Cultural Alliance of Marco Island and Goodland

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots." -- Marcus Garvey

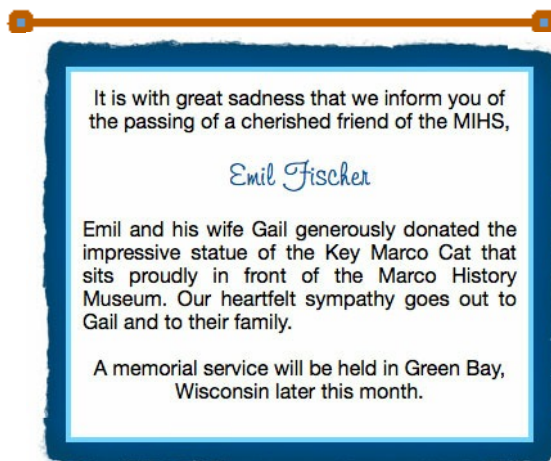
The leaders from Marco Island's premier not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations have formed the Cultural Alliance of Marco Island & Goodland (CAMIG). Each of these organizations, including our MIHS, delivers quality cultural education and entertainment to residents and visitors to Marco Island, Goodland, and surrounding areas. Although independent, they share a passion for enriching the quality of life.

There is strength in numbers, and this Alliance will serve to increase awareness about the individual organizations and their contributions to Marco Island's quality of life and economic growth; promote cultural activities on Marco Island & Goodland; and advocate for the arts using a unified voice to the community, the media, and local government.

Leading this initiative is co-chair Bruce Graev, Board Member of MIHS -- he also serves as incoming President of Marco Noontime Rotary, and Board Member of the Marco Island Center for the Arts -- and co-chair Beverly Dahlstrom, President of The Marco Players. Along with the MIHS, other founding members of CAMIG include Goodland Arts Alliance, Greater Marco Family YMCA, Island Theater Company, Marco Island Center for the Arts, Marco Island Foundation for the Arts, Marco Island Historical Society, and The Marco Players.

Not wasting any time, CAMIG's leadership has already met with Marco Island City Manager, Roger Hernstadt, and in the near term plan to introduce the group to other City, County, State, and Federal officials. In the coming months, the group plans to formalize their structure, develop a strategic plan, and seize opportunities to enhance our cultural hotbed for the arts.

Stay tuned for more information on the development of CAMIG and the role of the Historical Society in this new Alliance.



A special thanks to these businesses who support us!

Darcy Guerin at Raymond James, The Boat House Motel, Laurene Chaffee at Keller Williams, Chris Sullivan at Re/Max, Rachel and Jack DeHanas at Re/Max Affinity Plus, Marriott Resort, Traute Gentry at American Europe Realty, Dan High at Rose Marina, Judy Kennedy at Berkshire Hathaway, Bruce Graev Financial Advisors, The Sandlin Team at Re/Max Affinity Plus, Gorman's Auto Service Center, Heidi Moss at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Joann Sanborn: Everglades Artist, Little Bar in Goodland