



# THE MIHS NEWS

Fall, 2011

*Marco Island Historical Society*

*Established May 17, 1994*

## **PETER FORD TO SPEAK AT ROSE HISTORY AUDITORIUM**



Author and musician, Peter Ford will speak at the Rose History Auditorium on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7 PM followed by a book signing of his newest book **GLENN FORD: A LIFE**, and the movie "Gilda".

Peter is the son of Glenn Ford, renowned film star, and Eleanor Powell, MGM's "first lady of film dance"). He grew up with legends Eddie Cantor, Sophie Tucker, Al Jolson, Mary Pickford, Clark Gable, Bette Davis, James Mason - often his babysitter, and Charlie Chaplin who lived next door.

After graduating from Santa Monica College, Peter pursued a career as an actor and singer. He was responsible for Bill Haley and the Comet's song, "Rock Around the Clock" being used as the theme song of his father's film, "Blackboard Jungle" in 1953. He eventually formed his own group, The Creations.

Peter appeared in eight movies with his father as well as many other movies, television shows, and stage productions. He eventually left acting and singing and became a licensed contractor and built and remodeled homes for many of the most famous people in Hollywood. By the time he retired from building in 1996, his work had been published in architectural magazines across the world. Later, he hosted a successful late-night political talk show on radio.

Peter met his wife, Lynda, when they were both students at USC. They have been married for over 40 years and have three children.

His latest endeavor is his book discussing his father, **GLENN FORD, A LIFE**, which will be shared with Marco Island on November 15.

The lecture/presentation is free and open to the public.

### **Museum Wins Award For Design**

CORE Construction won the annual prestigious Sand Dollar Award in recognition for public buildings from The Collier Building Industry Association on Sept. 17, 2011. The award represents the highest industry achievement for design, engineering, site work, construction, excellence, and function.

It was given in recognition of CORE's work with the MIHS to construct the Marco Historical Museum complex therefore, fulfilling a dream of a historical museum dedicated to tell Marco Island's unique story beginning with the ancient Calusa culture, the pioneer era, and the Deltona period of modern Marco.

**Marco Moment: December 13, 1969, the Marco Pass Bridge opened.**

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."



Greetings and welcome back to our Winter Residents who are here or on the way! To bring everyone up to date, the Marco Island Historical Museum continues to have wonderful traffic. People are not only interested in seeing our one of a kind Calusa Village but also to hear and read the unique stories about the Marco Island Area.

As you may have heard, CORE Construction, the builders of the museum, won the coveted Sand Dollar Award for building excellence and design in the public building category for Collier County last month. What a tribute not only to CORE but of the many volunteers who organized the building efforts as well as the thousands of donors who gave so generously to the vision of a Marco Island Historical Museum - Congratulations!

Also, as you may have heard, The Historical Society is in need of additional volunteers at all levels, docents, set up personnel, volunteers willing to help with special events and on it goes....I want to personally thank each and every volunteer that has helped MIHS through the last year.

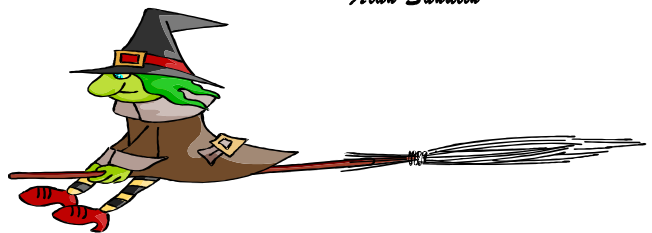
I also want to thank our very active Board of Director volunteers for the tremendous job they have done serving the Society this year. If you would like to know more about MIHS, please don't hesitate to call the MIHS office at the museum or better yet, call me personally at 239-389-3200. MIHS has a reputation of being one of the most active volunteer organizations on the Island. We are dedicated not only to preserving our unique history and artifacts, but also to telling our unique stories to educate and entertain our community and visitors. Come and help us with this awesome charge!

You will hear more about upcoming events later in this newsletter, but suffice to say, all our planners are working diligently to bring unique events to the Rose History Auditorium as well as popular traveling exhibits to the museum. Keep an eye on your email for regular blasts about upcoming events and field trips. Speaking of email, even though we are a "Historical" Society, it is important for us to use email for our communication whenever we can. It is fast, efficient, and will save us thousands of dollars a year in postage not to mention volunteer's time. If you have an email, please make sure we have your email address on file to receive newsletter and important notices from MIHS.

Finally, thank you to all our MIHS members for your dedication, participation, and your donations. For those who may be considering Estate Planning, please be aware that MIHS has an official Foundation established last year by Jon and Sonya Laidig for the express purpose of making sure our exciting museum has a base of yearly income to assure we will have funding for "world class" exhibits for generations to come. This is indeed an exciting time to be part of MIHS and the Marco Island Historical Museum.

We are on the ground floor of one of Marco Island's rising stars. What an opportunity to be involved. Thanks to everyone and see you soon!

*Alan Sandlin*



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## The Headstone Project by Craig Woodward

Who is Elizabeth (Lizzie) Weeks Sawyer? Lizzie was the wife of the first settler of Collier County, who moved here in 1862, and is buried in the Marco Island Cemetery. Lizzie

died in 1939 in the middle of the depression and although there were four generations of Weeks living on the island at the time, the family was not affluent. However, her grave site is clearly visible as her sons poured a tabby mortar slab in which they originally scratched her name into the surface.

Tabby mortar is made by burning oyster shells to make a "quick lime", (the cement), then adding washed sand along with shell as the aggregate. It is a time consuming process but is relatively inexpensive, being made solely from natural materials.

Over the years, 93 grave sites have been found, many overgrown and damaged. Now, an effort is being made to put up a suitable headstone for Lizzie Weeks Sawyer.

The cemetery is operated by the New Life Community Church and Pastor Thomas McCulley has agreed to provide a headstone at cost. So, how can you help? Faye Brown, Lizzie's great-granddaughter has donated 20 of her books, "Weeks Family Connections" to the cause. Each book sells for \$20.00 and can be purchased at the Marco Island History Museum Store. The book includes a great deal of local history including information on the family's involvement in the Seminole wars and what life was like on Marco and in Collier County during the 1930's to the 1960's.

Also, donations are being accepted to be used to provide other markers for pioneer grave sites which have been missing or have broken headstones. Checks are to be made out to the Marco Island Historical Society, Inc.



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## COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUMS

*Unforgettable*

I would just like to update the Marco Island Historical Society on the next exhibit that is going to be featured at the Marco Island Historical Museum. We will be featuring the exhibit entitled "Against All Odds: The Art of the Highwaymen", on loan from the Orange County Regional History Center. This exhibit showcases the painting of the Florida Highwaymen, who began as a group of African American artists who despite the segregated South of the 50's and 60's, prospered selling their paintings. One of the artist developed a fast method of painting that he shared with 25 others and collectively they have produced more than 200,000 paintings over a 30-year period.

This exhibit will open with a reception at 6:00 p.m. on December 9th at the Marco Island Historical Museum and will run until the end of February.

For more information on this exhibit or any other questions regarding the museum, please call (239) 642-1440.

Hope to see every one of you at the museum!

*Lisa Marciano, Museum Assistant*

**Museum Hours**  
**Tuesday -**  
**Saturday**  
**9 - 4**





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JERRY MASTERS

November 1, 2011 - Christopher Kimball, Park Services Specialist from Collier Seminole State Park, presents a talk on the "Seminole Wars"

November 11, 2011 - Field Trip to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum and Lunch

November 15, 2011, 7 pm, RHA - Peter Ford, lecture and book signing

December 6, 2011 - Christmas Luncheon and Annual Meeting

January 3, 2012 - Bert Gillespie will be speaking on "The Calusa Indians - Marco's Earliest People".

February 7, 2012 - Michael Gannon, University of Florida presents, "History of Florida in 40 Minutes."

March 6, 2012 - Paul Arsenault and Todd Turell speak on local art and will have an exhibit.

April 3, 2012 - Len Messineo: "Birds of Florida", a power point program of his photography.

Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Rose History Auditorium and are open to the public.

Watch for EXCITING details.



A MIHS cook book is in the works that will not only have scrumptious recipes but lots of historical facts and amusing pictorials. You can contribute by being one of our sponsors, by sending us your favorite recipes, and by entering our "Name our Cook Book" contest. If your title is selected, you will receive a free edition and lots of thanks from our committee and the entire MIHS!

Please send your recipes by mail to 180 S. Heathwood Dr. or [mihsrecipes@gmail.com](mailto:mihsrecipes@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.themihs.com](http://www.themihs.com).

**HELP! Volunteers Needed!**



## MUSEUM STORE NEWS.....

It's a new world in the Museum Gift Shop! We have sought and we have found lots of unique items that are handcrafted by artisans both local and from afar.

"Mariposa" uses original designs with age old techniques. Each Piece is hand made and crafted of 100% recycled material. Their "serveware" motifs arise from the sea, from the tropics, and from master designers and artisans. This dazzling collection offers serving trays, platters, napkin holders, sauce dishes, spreaders....stylish, beautiful, and fun. Great for gifts, great for adding some pizzazz to your table.

"Handcrafters", another new vendor, brings forth amazing carved creations of our native Florida alligators, dolphins, herons, sharks, and more. They are made of Chinaberry wood and the craftsmanship is truly stunning.

We also have some new novelty items that you'll just have to come in to see!

Once again Helmut Nichols came up with a grand idea! He sketched one of the historical icons that the Calusa Indians carved into wood of a circling dolphin, and if you haven't noticed it, (I hadn't), you can view it in the Calusa Room. Well, the upshot of this is that we will be making this years Museum Christmas ornament using this icon and expect it to be a keepsake for 2011. Tee shirts will surely follow and who knows what else?!!

Historical books are an integral part of the Museum store and we endeavor to continually offer new selections along with the tried and true. They are not only educational and enlightening but give us glimpses of our past so that we can better understand the present, and hopefully make for a better future.

Look forward to seeing you!

*Lori Wagon*

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."

Welcome.....  
and Thank you to our NEW MEMBERS

Elaine Michaelis  
Louis Rathje  
Betsy Beaver  
Ted and Betty Ely  
Martha Ross  
Harold and Kay Gaertner  
Robert and Mary Ellen Russo  
Thomas Trotta

### *News From the Museum Volunteers*

How grateful we are to the MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS as they reflect their enthusiasm greeting guests from around the world and explaining why we've built the Calusa type buildings.

Visitors this summer have averaged 10 to 20 per day.

We've scheduled some school classes and scout troops for tours in October and November.

As season approaches, we'll need many more volunteers. PLEASE, consider a 3 hour commitment and in return you'll get to meet and greet some very interesting people. THANK YOU!!!

Call Lisa Marciano at the museum (642-1480) or Louise Russell (394-1960).



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Ray Carroll and "Pogo"

On August 2, 2011, Lila Zuck presented "Naples Oldest Tradition - Swamp Buggy Days". MIHS stepped back in time to 1949 and enjoyed the excitement of the "Swamp Buggy Races". Everyone also enjoyed seeing and sitting on Ray Carroll's "Swamp Buggy Pogo"!



Lori Wagor, Nancy Garrison and daughter Carly



MIHS September Meeting: Mark Renz, author of Giants in the Storm after a program of archaeology and fossils.



## *How Did Marco Island Get its Name?*

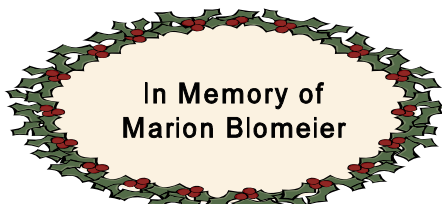
What's in a name? There is a certain amount of truth to the old saying, "a rose by any other name would still smell as sweet." So wouldn't Marco Island still be a tropical paradise by any other name? Of course it would! Still, it is interesting to explore the origins of how Marco Island received its name.

The Spaniards, in search of silks, gold and jewels christened the largest of the Ten Thousand Islands in the 1500's. The only human inhabitants of Marco Island then were scores of Calusa Indians who thrived on the abundant clams, mussels, oysters, and other seafood in the area. The Calusas thought Marco Island to be sacred because the hurricanes which came howling up from the Caribbean Sea spun counter clockwise and always seemed to move around the island. Carbon dating of artifacts unearthed from clam and oyster shell mounds on Marco indicate that man (probably Calusas) lived here approximately 5,000 years ago, well before the birth of Christ. Ancient dwelling sites have been discovered.

In the mid-1500's, when Spain was exploring most of Florida, the Spaniards stumbled upon a large island which contained two artesian springs located near what is now known as Caxambas Pass. The island became a favorite place to fill casks with fresh water for the return trip to Spain.

It eventually became known to all future sailors as "La Isla de San Marco" - the island of Saint Mark, named for Saint Mark, the Christian evangelist and traditional author of the second gospel in the Bible. As the years went by, the site became known as San Marco Island (Saint Marco's Island, and finally just Marco Island.

from The 2011 Official Publication of the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce



**MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PRESENTS A FIELD TRIP TO:  
AH-TAH-THI-KI SEMINOLE MUSEUM  
WITH LUNCH AT SWAMP WATER CAFE  
FRIDAY, NOV. 11, 2011  
PRICE: \$20.00  
INCLUDES MUSEUM AND LUNCH:  
CHE'-HUN-TAH'-MO**

**LEAVE FROM MIHS MUSEUM, HEATHWOOD AT 8:30 AM  
TOUR BEGINS AT 10 AM FEATURING MUSEUM AND  
NATURE TRAIL, LUNCH TO FOLLOW  
DRIVING DIRECTIONS WILL BE GIVEN AT MUSEUM PRIOR TO TRIP!**

**LUNCH CHOICES:**

1. INDIAN BURGER
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please contact Mary Helen Masters at 394-3917**

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## ***News from the Rose History Auditorium***

The Island Players have transformed our auditorium into a bona fide, but temporary, "theater" and their first production has been touted as a saucy stage show, with great reviews and laughs. Our own Betsy Perdichizzi is one of the "stars" of the show.

If you missed this one, they have "I'm Herbert...and Other Strangers" in February and "Saga of Roaring Gulch" scheduled in March.

Also, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", in conjunction with St. Mark's Episcopal Church, will be held at our auditorium December 8-10.

Please check our calendar at [www.themihs.org](http://www.themihs.org). We have a full state of exciting presenters and special events coming your way this season.

*Lori Wagon*

## **In the Spotlight....**

### **Videographer, Bill Hughes**



Have you ever observed the camera and the man behind it at the MIHS monthly meetings? Meet Bill Hughes!

Bill was raised in central New York on "the" farm, into an old family. He received his degree from DUNY of New York at Morrisville in Agriculture and English and furthered his education at the University of Georgia, also in Agriculture.

After school, he worked in the field of water quality and technology., personally being responsible for several of Americas heaviest industrial sites and was a certified water treatment process specialist. All this while he and his wife raised 3 children.

Before it was too late, Bill and his wife Yvonne, toured as entertainers in large East Coast Resorts and then they settled in Naples, Florida. Today, they still entertain for many groups and organizations.

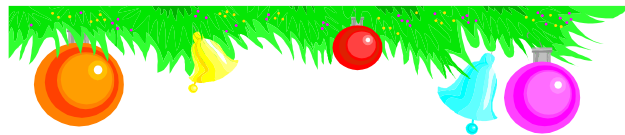
Once here, he became interested in local history and water quality. He served for 6 1/2 years on the Collier County Environmental Advisory Council, 4 1/2 years as Chairman. The EAC has direct oversight of all of Collier County's Natural Resources. Currently, he is on the Board of Directors for his residence PUD.

When he first moved here, he started Hughes Video Productions to allow him to pursue his dreams of maintaining continuity in our society. "Remember, I came from an old family. Our nation was funded by a few families at the start."

"My purpose is to preserve our common heritage and to pass it on to all to learn from." Since then, he has been working with Betsy Perdichizzi, Cindy Anderson, and the MIHS to record almost every body, the locally born, and the out of towners, befriend many founding family descendant's, and record them. He now has a tremendous resource for all to learn and share with newcomers about their new home.

"History is a living entity, not something locked away from the light but fully exposed so we of tomorrow can see with a deep insight how events truly unfold."

Bill's video's may be viewed at Hughes Video Productions and Marco Island Community TV.



## **MIHS to Participate With New Life Community Church**

The MIHS will be helping the New Life Community Church the week of December 12 - 18 to celebrate "Christmas on Marco in the Early 1900's".

As part of "Christmas Island Style", Craig Woodward will be speaking on Sunday, December 18, 6 pm at the church on Elkam Circle about the historical church and graveyard.

Renactors Ed and Kathy Miracco will be playing Dr. and Mrs. Olds on December 12.

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Photo Submitted by Glenn Dugger  
 Second Row Rear Left: Captain Bill Collier and second wife, Mary Ramsey Shaw Collier;  
 Front Row Right: Paul Bryant and Maude Rye on steps of Olde Marco Inn

### You Never Know Who You'll Meet!!!

As a volunteer at the MIHS Museum Store, there are lots of opportunities to meet the visitors as they come through after their tour of the museum. It's always interesting to find out where people come from. We have visitors from many states as well as from the UK, Germany, and other places.

Recently, while working in the store on a Tuesday, I found out that one of the visitors was the great-great-grandson of W.T. Collier and the great-grandson of Captain Bill (William D.) Collier. Glenn Dugger's grandmother, Julie Boyd Collier Parrish, was Captain Bill's daughter. He was kind enough to share some Marco Island old family photos with us plus some photos of the original Olde Marco Inn. Knowing I am passionate about genealogy, he also shared his family history. Glenn lives in Massachusetts and had never visited Marco Island. He likes it so much, he plans on a return visit.

I also worked at the store Saturday of the same week and was told that the great-great-grandson of W.T. Collier was in the museum. I checked the visitor register thinking that Glenn had returned, and discovered it wasn't Glenn revisiting, but his second cousin, Carson Bomar. His grandmother was Emma White Collier Ludlow, known as "Nanny", also a daughter of Captain Bill. Carson grew up on Marco Island and was here for the "Roots of Marco's Past", a MIHS program in 2008. He now lives in Crystal River, Florida. His wife, Jimmie Kate Powell Bomar, is a descendant of the Sawyer family who were also pioneers on Marco Island. Her uncle was Preston Sawyer, "The Caxambas Kid". Carson also shared his family history and Glenn Dugger's name is listed, but the cousins had never met. They are planning to connect in the near future.

As you can see, volunteering can be not only rewarding, but interesting as well. You never know what might happen next. Why not sign up and help us in the museum store? We have many new items in the store and our profits will be used to help with exhibits for the museum. We are in need of more volunteers as season approaches. Seasonal hours beginning in November are 10 am to 1 PM or 1 PM to 4 PM. Please contact Dottie Henderson if you would like to help at 389-5515 or [dottiehenderson@embarqmail.com](mailto:dottiehenderson@embarqmail.com).

Submitted by Dottie Henderson

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## MIHS Officers

<b>President:</b>	<b>Alan Sandlin</b>	<b>642-6690</b>
<b>VP Programs:</b>	<b>Jerry Masters</b>	<b>394-3917</b>
<b>VP Administration:</b>	<b>Kris Holland</b>	<b>389-1572</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>Patty Marzula</b>	<b>642-7664</b>
<b>Record. Sec.:</b>	<b>Dottie Henderson</b>	<b>389-5515</b>

## Membership Fees

<b>Student:</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Individual:</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Family:</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Business Ad:</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>Patron:</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Life:</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Make Check Payable to MIHS</b>	
<b>Mail to PO Box 2282, Marco Island, FL 34146</b>	

## Notes from the Editor!

Where did the summer go? Time has just flown by and all with MIHS have been very busy. From monthly programs to special events, many have been involved. Now, we are beginning "season" and many activities are being planned for all to enjoy. Remember, volunteers are always needed, so put MIHS on your list of things to do and come volunteer and visit.

*Mary Helen Masters*



Sam Miloro and David Southall at MIHS October, 2011 meeting



## MIHS MEWS

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