



THE MIHS NEWS

Spring, 2013

Marco Island Historical Society
Established May 17, 1994

"Big Sift" a HUGE Success!!!



The "Big Sift" is becoming everything we could hope for. Not only is our community coming together to help with the excitement but we are finding some incredible things. These "spoil piles" that we are sifting through were staged as several known archaeological and historical sites in the area including a large Indian village site. This larger site is what we focused on. With everyone involved, coming together for this cause, we then called on volunteers. And yes, we had many enthusiastic people from all spectrums come and get dirty with us. We had many local home schooled children and public school spring breakers. Also, many students visiting on break with their parents or grandparents. Lots of seasonal residents came to scratch one item off their "bucket list". Even some professional people could not resist the opportunity from the state of Florida and County and City organizations. Also, they came from

archaeological societies and a retired archaeologist who had done work in this state. Many members of our Marco Island Historical Society came day after day. Just anyone and everyone available were welcomed. And yes, we found some very interesting items such as bone harpoon point and bone arrowheads. Also a shell bead and shell pendant and drilled shark teeth. Many types of shell tools were also found along with stone tools and adornments. Probably most exciting for me were the numerous varieties of decorated pottery. Many fish bone and animal bones were found - example: sea turtle, dolphin, and deer.

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Museum Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday
9-4

Marco Moment: Working in the mosquito - laden heat of 1896, Cushing and his team unearthed over 2500 artifacts.

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."



Spring has sprung! If you didn't already know, the first day of spring was March 20th. You certainly wouldn't have known it by our recent weather, but hopefully we will now begin to get back to our normal patterns.

I have some great news to share with you regarding our four new Board members, Elaine Michaelis, Pat Rutledge, Bruce Graev, and Sam Miloro. We are very excited about having them and thankful to all four for joining our Board. Let me tell you, they have all jumped right in to help us out. Sam has agreed to be our new Treasurer, Elaine is heading up the Membership Committee, Pat has taken on the Publicity Committee, and Bruce has already contributed some great ideas at his first Board meeting on the 26th of March.

MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S MISSION STATEMENT:

The MIHS is organized for the purpose of preserving the history and the heritage of Marco Island and the surrounding areas, and for promoting and maintaining awareness of our area's history and its importance for its members and the community.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Mission Statement is the heart and soul of our Society, and the reason we all became involved in the first place. So, what is your Society doing right now to fulfill our Mission? The Big

Sift: The big sift will begin Phase III on April 7th and continue through April 11. In Phase II, we started sifting, we saw such great enthusiasm for the project and received so much wonderful press coverage that we

decided we have to finish sifting the remaining material. It is really exciting, especially when you find an artifact! Many of the pieces we find at the sift will become part of the permanent Calusa Gallery. Come on out and enjoy the experience. To volunteer, please contact Gene Erjavec at 239-777-5273.

Many thanks go to Marion Nicolay for housing our Archeologist Joe Mankowski during the first two weeks of the project. Thanks Marion!

Museum Accreditation: This a critical step in fulfilling our dream of creating a unique "World Class" Museum. It is also needed to bring back the Marco Cat and other Cushing Expedition artifacts to our museum. We have formed a committee to begin work on the process of achieving accreditation through the American Alliance of Museum's. Stay tuned for updates!

Permanent Calusa Gallery Exhibit: We have signed a contract with a design company to complete the Calusa, Cushing, and Spanish exploration Galleries. The design/construction time line estimates completion by the end of this summer. Can you imagine how much more exciting a visit to our museum will be once these are complete!

All three of these efforts are interrelated, and will bring us that much closer to fulfilling our mission and dream of creating the finest museum and best experience for our visitors.

Kudos to the "Special Events" committee for putting together another successful fundraising event for us...VIVA LA MARCO!

Thanks to both Craig & Bonnie Woodward for housing Dr. Bill Marquardt during his visit in March, and Alan & Linda Sandlin for arranging a boat tour of the island for Dr. Marquardt.

In conclusion, and as always, a heartfelt "thank you" to all of our volunteers, members, and donors. We could not do what we do without you.

Tom Wagon

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Editor: Mary Helen Masters
The MIHS Mews is published quarterly for members of MIHS.

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News from the Rose History Auditorium

We're on a roll in the RHA and 2013 started out with banner months of use and income. We had wedding receptions, great theatrical performances by the Island Theater Company, re-enactments, seminars, a blues concert - non stop excitement.

Of special import, "President's Wives", hosted and produced by Kaye Folsom, was standing room only and an engaging and educational portrayal of historic women. Then, Bonnie Bozzo's box office hits with "Ruth Ryan Owens" and "Out of Africa" held the audience spellbound as she morphed into her characters.

Standing ovations to both these lovely and vivacious ladies for sharing their amazing talents, their support of the MIHS, and for bringing such wonderful excitement and entertainment to our stage. Encores for next year!

We plan to continue bringing great events and outstanding service to our members and community in the coming years and we ask that you consider becoming part of our team and help us with future successes. Please join this wonderful group of set-up and store volunteers to assist us in our pledge of excellence in service and accommodations. We are rocking and it takes a gang of dedicated individuals to keep it going on behalf of the MIHS! You can reach me at lorimihs1@aol.com for the store and special events, and Pat Rutledge for RHA volunteers at prutledge49@yahoo.com. Thank you and warm regards.

Lori Wagon

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We will now complete the "Sift" April 7 through 11 and then package our finds for analysis and select specific items to help tell the story of the people who once lived here before us. This is a world class effort on a mission to offer our best to provide an inspirational experience to our people of today on this very special island.

Our story of today is just as amazing as discovering the story of the Calusa and their predecessors. Thanks to all of you. Let's stay on the right path and continue to honor the spirit of Marco Island. Submitted by Gene Erjavec

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VIVA LA MARCO

Viva la Marco was a celebration of our history complete with tasty treats by our Island Chefs, fabulous tunes by JRobert and Ralford Starke Band and a very successful fundraiser for the MIHS.

Ponce de Leon served our 500 year sheet cake with his sword, danced the two step and entertained a host of guests. Bonnie Bozzo and the MIHS re-enactors were milling about telling tales of times gone by, a swamp buggy and airboat flanked the entrance ramp and of course our Model T was center stage on the mound. Beautiful pineapple embellished centerpieces, "green flash" punch bowls misting with dry ice, amazing arrays of food and silent auction tables al la Nancy G - ambience personified and a night to remember by all who attended and we thank you for your patronage and support!

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**Be Sure to Visit Us
at Our Website:
themih.org**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BJ HENNING

May 7, 2013 - Matt Johnson returns with the "Buckingham Army Airfield"

June 4, 2013 - Larry Richardson presents, "Southwest Florida Like You Have Never Seen It"

July 9, 2013 - "Movie Mania", Dave Johnson presents "Square Grouper"

August 6, 2013 - Bill Hughes presents, "Marco In The Making", Filmography of Marco

September 3, 2013 - Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, "The Life of the Seminole"

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

\$3.00, non members: \$5.00

Watch for EXCITING details.



Ribbon Cutting of RHA, January 16, 2013

News From the Museum Volunteers

The cold weather brought in 80 guests each day and since January, we've had about 5500 visitors.

Mary Margaret, who oversees all Collier County volunteers, entertained us at the Naples Museum for lunch Monday, March 25th. We were pleased to have Karen Brieger honored for her many hours of volunteering.

The "Snow Birds" are leaving!!!! It's up to the "Sun Birds" to carry on!!! PLEASE SIGN UP!!!! Your 3 hours welcoming quests into the museum means sooo much.

Louise Russell 394-1960

"VIVA LA MARCO"

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"Success....when a group of individuals share their talents and generosity".

Special thanks to: Bonnie Woodward who brought in all the major sponsors assuring a successful fundraiser before we even got started selling tickets as well as bedazzling silent auction items - she is one amazing and dedicated lady; Nancy Garrison who once again shared her creative talents and untold hours making sure this event was top drawer; the "dream team" who worked tirelessly to make Viva la Marco successful; Sonny Cushman who miraculously pulled it all together; a host of volunteers and contributors who make it a special evening indeed. Let's all share in congratulating this amazing group of individuals who gave so much.

Lori Wagor, Event Chair



Museum Gift Store News

We're on track to have a great year of sales and have had many happy visitors who finish their tour of the Museum in the gift store with a keepsake, a historical artifact, or book, and a big smile. Our impressive and friendly group of store volunteers give the last key impression that our amazing destination is worth coming back to again and again. As the Museum evolves, we evolve, and it's only going to get better as we grow into a world class Museum.

Lori Wagor



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

Harold & Margo Bach
Doug & Margaret DeCamp
Jack & Rachel DeHanas
Jim & Gwyn Goodman
Nancy Jarrett
Manny & Vickie Jerome
Pat Page
James Robellard & Judy Chinski
Fred & Jane Schuh
Mary Schwindt
Steve Shockley
Gwen Tolson
John & Barbara Warner
Erika & Francis Waters
Lael Kilpatrick & Warren Williamson
Norman & Gwendolyn Yance



Marco Island Boat House Motel

A Heartfelt Thank you to Desiree and Nick Buhelor, Proprietors of "The Boat House Motel", Marco Island for graciously accommodating the out of town speakers for MIHS. Thank you so very much for your continuing support, reflecting the gracious hospitality of our island paradise.



Our newest exhibition at the Marco Island Historical Museum is "South Florida: A Villager's View" by Tara O'Neill. The tiny island of Goodland, Florida, has been a special source of inspiration for award-winning oil-painter Tara O'Neill for many years. This exhibition relates her most intimate views, current and historic, of a working fishing village afloat with brilliant flora and a range of feathered-fauna; where old-growth trees dwarf candy-colored cottages, docks serve as driveways, and the backyard is the 10,000 islands. The exhibition will be on display from April 3 through June 27th. For additional information, please call 239-642-1440.

Lisa Marciano, Museum Director



Pink House Motel



"President's Wives" hosted by Kaye Folsom



Seagrape Cottage, Goodland

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An Exciting Day At Tigertail Beach

A MIHS Field Trip



Marti and Debbie Roddy

On February 4, 2013, forty nine MIHS members and friends gathered together for a day of fun and learning. The morning session at RHA was a power point program teaching us about our Tigertail Beach and what gems it holds for us to enjoy. Then a quick lunch packed by Mango's restaurant and then off by car for a walking tour of Tigertail Beach. Marti and Debbie Roddy are very experienced teachers on what grows, what flies, what swims, and what we can do to help preserve the gifts of nature. We learned what plants, trees, and mangroves were important to the Indians and their food sources. Also, the secret love life of Ospreys! How a baby shell is born? What is the role of the estuary? How many different Mangroves there are.

We all left Tigertail with a sense of awe and will bring our friends and grandchildren back and back for the training the "Friends of Tigertail" are willing to give. We are so lucky to have this wonderful beach so close on our island.

Submitted by BJ Henning



News Flash!!!!

The Marco Island History Museum has won First Place in the Institutional Category for "Marco In Bloom". This is the second year in a row that they have won the prize. The official announcement will be made at the City Council meeting on April 15, 2013.



If you are not receiving the hard copy of the MIHS Mews by mail and would like to, please contact Mary Helen Masters at 394-3917

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Recent Contract Signed

It is exciting to announce that MIHS recently signed a contract with Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc., an exhibit design and build group out of Pinellas Park Fl., to start and complete the Calusa Gallery. Many of you have seen the Calusa Village which the Collier County Museum System funded and been constructed in our museum. Between the village and the traveling exhibit room will be the Calusa Gallery which will not only explain who the Calusa are but also describe the very important Cushing Expedition to Marco in 1896 and outline the discoveries made here. MIHS believes that this room is a key to our primary focus and vision for the museum to accent the important archaeological discoveries made here on Marco Island. In addition to Creative Arts, MIHS has retained Dr. Robin Brown, the author of a number of books on the Calusa, to assist us in producing the narrative for the display panels. Robin is hard at work on it and has not only started supplying text, but also has created samples of fabric and twine from native plants as part of the display. Meanwhile, recent discoveries at the MIHS "Big Sift" project are providing new and exciting artifacts for our project. The contract with Creative Arts is six to eight months for completion and we are eagerly anticipating it!

Craig Woodward, Chm. Design Committee



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The MIHS Mews

Pirates Invade Marco!

On January 26, 2013, a bright and beautiful day on Marco, a band of pirates took over the island in a brash move to return it to a stronghold of rash and robust souls. The County and MIHS joined together to present it's first annual educational program for children. Over 400 children and parents attended this event created by a party of robust pirates. The cast included: Dolly and Don Lally, Carol Rosasco, Dottie Henderson, LuWayne Arnold, Marilyn and Phil Kostelnik, Cindy and Ed Crane, Sam Miloro, Gail McNabb, Karen Brieger, Susie and David Walsh, and Mary Ann Cassidy. Included also were 7 students from the Marco Island Academy who volunteered their time. Unique activities took place at each island displayed on a map where the students would get them stamped as they completed each task. If they completed all tasks, they went to the treasure chest to receive their award. Almost all the children and even some parents came in costume. A special thank you to Lisa Marciano for working like a true pirate. Harrrrrr!!!!

Jerry Masters
Education Chairman



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The MIHS MEWS

Our Sponsors:

A special "Cat's Meow" to our supporting sponsors. We are very grateful and appreciative!



Restaurants:

Hoot's, 394-4644

Little Bar, 394-5663

Realtors:

Judy Kenney, Prudential, 860-3141

Laurene Chaffee, Keller Williams, 393-1350

Patty Carnes, Prudential, 394-2505

The Sandlin Team, ReMax, 642-4450

Cynthia A. Corogin, Sotheby's Realty, 963-5561

Chris Sullivan, Remax, 404-5548



Others:

Bruce Graev, Diagnostics Financial Group, 676-3216

Deborah Spalvins, Curves, 389-0016

Gorman's Auto Service Center, 394-3944

Heidi Moss, Mutual of Omaha Bank, 259-1436

Jo-Ann Sanborn, Artist Colony at the Esplanade, 404-9179

Karen Yuskaitis, Tender Touch Massage, 436-7766

Dr. Brent Garrison, Marco Veterinary Hospital, 394-2535

Rick Medwedeff, Marriott Resort, 394-2511

Peter Sottong, Reproduction of Calusa Artifacts, 410-980-5073

Tammy Miloro, Mary Kay Cosmetics, 588-0233

Darcie Guerin, Resident Branch Manager, Raymond James, 389-1041

Michael Kelly, Progressive Auto Center, Inc., 642-4944

Keith Pershing, Island Automotive, 394-1887

Mike Richards, Sparkle Carpet Cleaning, 394-8808

June Bridges, Distributor for Juice Plus, 389-2590

Diane Gratz, Elizabeth Evans Gallery, 970-2480

Mary Ann Sarazen, Gene and Mary Sarazen Foundation, 389-2460



MIHS Officers

President:	Tom Wager	642-3411
VP Programs:	BJ Henning	389-4495
Treasurer:	Sam Miloro	642-9186
Record. Sec.:	Heldl Moss	394-3882

Membership Fees

Student:	\$15.00
Individual:	\$35.00
Family:	\$50.00
Business:	\$75.00
Patron:	\$150.00
Life:	\$2,500.00

Make Check Payable to MIHS

**Mail to PO Box 2282, Marco Island, Fl.
34146**

Notes from the Editor!

This has been a very, very exciting 3 months for MIHS. Everything from the "Big Sift" to many excellent lectures, play time for kids, and an overwhelming successful fund raiser. This all happened because of devoted volunteers who have a sincere belief that history is important. How very lucky we are!

Mary Helen Masters



Bonnie Bozzo Portrays Ruth Ryan Owens



MIHS MEWS

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