



THE MIHS NEWS

Summer, 2012

Marco Island Historical Society
Established May 17, 1994



Artifact Cleaners Tara O'Neill, Margaret Gust, Jerry Masters, Andrew Smith, Emily Smith, Gene Erjavec, and Joe Madkowski

Looking For Another Marco Cat!

We are all familiar with the famous Marco Cat that was discovered accidentally when Captain Bill Collier was digging for soil for his garden and found wood carvings and cordage in the muck across from his house. The area was then explored by Cushing in an expedition that uncovered the "cat", well, we are looking for her mate!

Our modern day "Cushing's" are Joe Madkowski and Gene Erjavec of Advanced Archeology, Inc. who have been busy working with the City of Marco during the 7th and final phase of the sewer project, making sure precious artifacts are not lost in the process of moving tons of sand, shell, and stone.

Using the same "revolutionary archeological tactics" used by Cushing in the late 1800's, the team confirmed seven known historical sites and isolated three areas of

interest and concern. These areas are intact "middens" with the potential for a wealth of artifacts and pottery from previous native activity.

The Marco Island Historical society, through member support, has stepped up to provide funding for the important Phase II study that will further examine the three intact "midden" locations.

Watch for more news and requests for volunteers on our website: themih.org.



Andrew, Joe, and Gene "At the Site"

Marco Moment: The original Key Marco cat, carved by the Calusa Indians circa 500-800 AD, is a wooden statue depicting a half human, half panther figure thought to be religious in nature.

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."



The summer season is upon us and we are still busy! We are very excited about the archeology dig that began on June 4th. Advanced Archeology, Inc. has been retained by the Marco Island Historical Society to perform a Phase II archeology study. Volunteers will be helping to clean and categorize the numerous artifacts recovered from these sites. If you can help, please send an email to: themihis@aol.com with your telephone number and the days you can help.

I would like to send a special thank you to Carol Wood who did a fantastic job clearing out the archive area so we now have plenty of room for this work.

A meeting of the Collier County Arts Council was held at RHA on May 31, 2012. The museum and the society continue to work with the other arts groups on the Island to promote the arts. We look forward to collaborative projects in the future. During this meeting, we learned that the AAA Travel Guide for 2012 do not include any information about the arts on Marco. Thanks to Marion Nicolay's investigative work, we now have the information necessary to get into the next printed edition of this guide.

Ed and I did a shorter version of the MIHS Vintage Bridal Fashion Show for the "Just Friends" group at Hideaway on June 13. It was very successful and I want to take this opportunity again to thank Libby Milito for the donation of her mother's 1922 wedding gown to the society.

The MIHS Publicity Committee is looking for a "tech" who can work on the MIHS Facebook, Twitter accounts, and the Website. Please send an email to: themihis@aol.com with your name and telephone number, if you can help.

Thank you to all our volunteers who help keep the society and the museum running smoothly during the "Local's Season".

Kathy Miracco

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

JULY 13, 2012 - 'CORAL CASTLE'

OCTOBER 12, 2012 - SARASOTA
RINGLING CIRCUS AND ART MUSEUM
RINGLING HOME - CA'D ZAN



Possible Pendant?



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*What We Do Next Matters....
Planning for Our Future!*

Marco Island Historical Society's Finance Committee is pleased to announce the implementation of an **ENDOWMENT FUND AND INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT**. Our world class Museum and Rose History Auditorium exist due to your generosity. It is now time to plan for our future.

The Endowment Fund will grow with donations, gifts, and bequests from members and friends. The funds will be used to support exhibits, as well as historical and educational programs. Our Investment Policy Statement provides investment parameters and spending policies to assure donors that **FUNDS ARE SET ASIDE TO MEET OUR LONG-TERM GOALS AND NEEDS**.

This year we have a unique opportunity. Leaders on Capitol Hill are under pressure to solve The Federal Budget deficit problem. Many tax deductions may be eliminated or reduced. One deduction under scrutiny is the charitable deduction. In this changing tax environment, it may be beneficial to accelerate charitable giving as part of your comprehensive tax strategy.

The Museum and Rose History Auditorium exist due to the generous support of our members and donors. What we do next matters. If you are interested in creating a lasting legacy, supporting our organization, and maximizing our charitable donation, please contact a member of the Finance committee - Carol Wood, Tom Wagor, Alan Sandlin, or Darcie Guerin - for information on giving opportunities.

Submitted by Darcie Guerin, Finance Committee, and Board Member



Lavern Norris Gaynor, Bob Carr, and Jerry Masters at June, 2012 Meeting

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."

COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUMS

Unforgettable

The Marco Island Historical Museum will be hosting "The Tamiami Trail" exhibit as seen by the Miami Art Quilters from June 30, 2012 to July 31, 2012. An opening reception will be held July 3, 2012 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The reception is free and open to the public, so tell all of your friends! The Miami Art Quilters are a dedicated group of artists who explore and promote creativity in the fiber arts. Their series of small quilts document the sights along Florida's Tamiami Trail, completed in 1928, that link Tampa to Miami. Slow down and savor scenes from one end of the Trail to the other, places both old and new - excellent gas mileage and interesting sights guaranteed!

The exhibition following the Tamiami Quilts will be "Reflections of the Everglades" by Captain Don McDonald running from August 3, 2012 through September 28, 2012. The opening reception will take place on Tuesday August 7, 2012 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the museum before the monthly MIHS meeting. The reception is free and open to the public so be sure to check out the new exhibit before the lecture! Captain Don McDonald is a Miami born photographer who grew up with a camera in his hand while wading around in the Everglades and continues to do so. Come stop by the museum and check out our new and future exhibitions!

Lisa Marciano, Museum Assistant

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JERRY MASTERS

July 13, 2012 - Field Trip to "Coral Castle" in Miami and lunch; See enclosed Flyer

August 7, 2012 - Bob DeGross, Chief of Interpretation and Education at Big Cypress National Preserve presents "The Tamiami Trail - A Ribbon of Asphalt and an Engineering Feat". Plus, Keith Pershing of Island Automotive will be present with our 1922 Ford truck and will give a short talk on the restoration process.

Sept. 4, 2012 - Matthew Betz, "Pioneers and Early Historic Development of the Rookery Bay and Northern Ten Thousand Islands."

October 2, 2012 - Ron McCarty, "The Legacy of John Ringling, Ca'd Zan, and His Passion for Art".

October 12, 2012 - Field Trip, Ringling Circus Museum, Ca'd Zan, Home of John and Mable Ringling, and Their Art Museum, International Art Exhibit at Ringling Estate.

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.

Watch for EXCITING details.



NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS LEVEL!

"Summertime and the livin' is easy." Those of us "left behind" during our Marco Island summers have discovered this line from Porgy and Bess to be quite true; the lines are shorter, no need to make restaurant reservations and the water is wonderful. Dr. Robin Brown expressed that our "easy living" is one of the major links between our society today and the Calusa and pre Calusa societies thousands of years ago...Marco Island is simply an "easy" place to live all year round.

For those who miss out, I am sharing a "summer" photo of how our wonderful museum grounds look during these wetter months. Our Bald Cypress trees are in full green during the summer and grace our estuary with their classic forms. Our majestic Queen Crepe Myrtles are in full bloom and if you come to the property shortly after a good afternoon rain, you may see our estuary full of water. We designed the estuary to retain water and during this period, the estuary could greatly resemble the waterways of the Calusa age - it's beautiful! Oh, speaking of landscaping, the numbering system is now in place for our "Native Plant Walk." Next time you are on site, be sure to ask for a plant brochure at the store and walk the numbers to get a good idea of how the Indians and pioneers used some of the native plants we have on site.

You can't help but also notice the overshadowing presence of our bronze "Marco Cat" as it stands watch over our museum ground. I am happy to report the wonderful sculpture created by the late artist, Carl Wagner, and donated to the Society by Emil and Gail Fischer, has now been recoated with a clear acrylic to its original grandeur. A special thank you goes out to local painting contractors Tim Filbin and his partner for volunteering their time to do the work and to our local Scott Paint Store for donating the 2 part acrylic coating for this special project. It's great to have so many local businesses willing to donate their time and means to help maintain and improve our magnificent museum grounds.

Hope everyone has an "easy" summertime and we look forward to seeing you on the museum grounds.

Alan Sandlin



Before: 3/13/12



After: 6/20/12

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

Robert and Marie Hughes
Christina Tomasic
Betsy Condron
Robert and Judith Haig
Dan and Robin Singer



News From the Museum Volunteers

Thank you Marco Island Historical Society for our beautiful museum and thank you Collier County for overseeing our museum, paying our bills, and providing a manager, Lisa Marciano. Always check with Lisa (642-1440) when special events are planned (rules and regulations, you know). Exception - Rose History Auditorium is under the jurisdiction of the Society - Check with Lori Wagor (784-6541).

Let the docents at the museum main desk know of changes to scheduled events. We need to be able to answer the many inquiring calls with the latest up-to-date info.

The "Snowbird" volunteers have migrated, now it's the "Sunbirds" to the rescue. Your 3 hour commitment will be greatly appreciated. Check the calendar in the museum or call me.

Thanks All - Louise Russell 394-1960 or marcobullfrog@aol.com.

*update: Calusa Village
Progress
By Craig Woodward
Design Committee
Chairman*



Collier County did not renew the contract with AST who had previously done the exhibit work at the Naples Depot and also worked on the design for MIHS' Calusa Gallery and Village. Recently, hired by Collier County for museum exhibits is Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc who has offices in Boston and also in Pinellas Park, Florida. On Friday June 8th, MIHS members Craig Woodward, Alan Sandlin, and Kathy Miracco met with 3 representatives of Creative Arts, a representative of Brent Johnson Design who is a museum expert working with Creative Arts, Ron Jamro, head of the Collier County Museum system, and 2 of his staff to discuss the Marco Calusa rooms and exhibits. Creative Arts is working on finishing up the 3 life figures of Calusa Indians for our Village that are being made in a New York studio as well as having a fourth figure of an Indian making pottery. Creative Arts brings to the table a great deal of experience working on museums including the new Tampa Bay History Center as well as South Florida Museum in Bradenton, the Florida International Museum in St. Petersburg, and the Mission San Luis de Apalachee near Tallahassee. Information can be found at their website: Creativeartsinc.com as well as brentjohnsondesign.com. Meanwhile Dr. Robin C. Brown, the author of the book, "Florida's First People" and an expert on the Calusa has agreed to assist MIHS in preparing the narrative for the Calusa rooms and exhibits. This is very exciting as Dr. Brown has already done much research and historical work in regard to Key Marco and the Cushing dig and last April, 2011, spoke to our society. In addition, Dr. Bill Marquardt, the Curator in Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, and a Professor at UF who has written a number of books on the Calusa has also agreed to review the work done on our project! A quality museum does not happen overnight. It will take a lot of time and energy to be sure that the unique story of Marco Island is properly told and the groundwork is laid for future donations and loans of artifacts.

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."

Ft. Myers, Florida Field Trip Great Success!

On Friday, May 11, 2012, Mary Helen and Jerry Masters arranged and executed a fabulous day to Ft. Myers, Fl., to visit the Southwest Florida History Museum and a walking tour of "old" Ft. Myers. A group of 22 began a walking tour of the newly restored downtown area of red brick streets encompassing the huge original fort of 1850. The fort was built in anticipation of a new wave of Indians to raid the area for cattle to prevent the beef herds from being driven to Georgia to supply the Confederate army with food. In 1858, Seminole chief "Billy Bowlegs" was brought to Ft. Myers to be offered a final cease fire. He was heavily bribed, accepted the cease fire and left for Oklahoma with many of his people, as a very wealthy man. In 1830, the Indian Removal Act was passed to rid Florida of its Indians to Oklahoma and this was the final mass exodus. In 1928, when the Tamiami Trail was completed, the remaining Indians were able to get out of the swamps and become part of society.

Ft. Myers was very slow to develop. There were no roads, railroads, or bridges until the 20th century. The main industries were: #1 - cattle, #2 - cane, #3 - citrus, #4 - gladiolus. The cattlemen were called "Crackers", as they carried a long whip to crack to herd the cattle.

After a delicious and fun lunch at the Oasis Restaurant, we toured the SWF Museum of History, which was a railroad depot. Jim, our guide, gave a comprehensive history of ancient Florida back 3,000 years, The Calusa Nation, which lasted 1,000 years until the Spanish arrived. He also gave numerous tips on how to ensure Marco Island of running a successful museum. The railroad car was built by Pullman in Chicago in 1925 and has an all mahogany interior with every amenity.

This was a truly fascinating and educational day!

Submitted by Mary Ann Tittle



"The Group" at the Oasis



Old Movie Theater now Lawyer Offices



At entrance to SWF Museum

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

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."

*MIHS Host Appreciation Dinner****News from the Rose History Auditorium***

We are already looking forward to another banner season in our auditorium. Word is out that we have a beautifully appointed multi use facility. The Rose History Auditorium (RHA) was envisioned as a venue to bring in renown authorities on pertinent historical and cultural topics, educational seminars, and a whole host of other community related events - and we have accomplished this goal.

We have the Marco Sportfishing Club, the Caxambas Republican Club booked on a monthly basis throughout the year, and we have wedding and graduation receptions. Wet Paint Live, Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Marco Island, are using our facility. We have also established a mutually beneficial relationship as host for the Island Player's theater group who debuted this past year. This cooperative partnership has brought both of us valuable visibility and success. It brings people from all over Collier and Lee Counties, as well as the east coast and other visitors to our island that in turn visit our Museum and Gift Store which promote the RHA as a venue - a win-win venture!

In a recent note of thanks, the Island Players expressed their gratitude to all the members of the MIHS for their support in their inaugural year and look forward to bringing lots of great entertainment with their plays, the Soapfest and lots more. Stay tuned!

Nancy Garrison and I, along with artist Heidi Saletko, participated in Tommie Barfield's "Artists and Authors" event and what a joy seeing all these young students so engaged in the arts and culture. We are hoping to collaborate with the school in celebrating the 500 year anniversary of Florida next year at the Museum.

We also attended two separate seminars about tourism, effective use of social media, and how to brand your business. The good news is that second on the list of enticements that make people want to travel to a certain destination was "educations", namely, culture and museums.

Lori Wagon



Pictured are Kathy Miracco, Doreen & Joe Oliverio, Tom Wagon, and Guests

The Marco Island Historical Society hosted an appreciation dinner for over 80 of its dedicated volunteers. Joey Oliverio, owner of Joey's Pizzeria and Pasta House, donated a wonderful spread of pasta, salad, and pizza to everyone's delight!

With almost 8,000 visitors this season, our knowledgeable volunteers were busy making sure everyone coming to the Museum received an insightful look at Marco Island's amazing history and left with a smile and the promise to return.

MUSEUM STORE NEWS

Coming soon to your gift Store: an exciting array of new and one of a kind merchandise premiering in the fall. We will be showcasing our wares on our website and through other media outlets so you will be able to preview them and make your wish and holiday gift lists. The 2013 collectable MIHS Christmas ornament is in the works as well as a calendar/recipe combo that will not only tantalize your taste buds but will offer a historical and visual treat as well.

We're open from 11-3, Tues-Sat through Sept., and have a wonderful volunteer staff ready to assist you with enlightening history books, gifts, or selected works of art. If you haven't read "A Land Remembered" or "Killing Mr. Watson", you are missing an engaging portrayal of the life and times of SW Florida's early settlers. Worthwhile reads and both are available in the Museum store. For the serious history buff, we have William Marquardt's "Legacy of the Calusas" which is touted as the premier authority on the ancient residents of our island.



Oops.....!



MIHS Presents a Field Trip to :

Coral Castle

Homstead, FL.

Friday July 13, 2012

Coral Castle is a sculpture garden and a tribute to a lost love.

Lunch at Shivers Restaurant

Cost : \$12.00 per person

Name(s) : _____

Phone Number : _____

No. Of people x \$12.00 = _____

Make your check payable to BJ Henning

Mail to : 950 Sundrop Ct., MI, FL 34145

Carpool from MIHS Museum at 8 :30 am

Deadline : July 7, 2012



Marco Island History Museum Building Fund Tile Sales Form

The Marco Island Historical Society's eight by-40-foot tile mural constructed of 720 8" by 8" solar tiles is the largest original art ceramic tile exterior mural in North America! This tile mural is based on the original extraordinary art work of Paul Arsenault, the Calusa Village graces the exterior eastern wall of the Museum.

Each tile is \$100 and all proceeds go directly to the Marco Island History Museum Fund. To purchase a tile, please fill out the form below. Your name or the name you designate will be placed on a plaque next to the mural.

Your _____ (Unless otherwise noted acknowledgement of donation will be sent to)

Name: _____

Address: _____

If this tile is a gift, include recipient's name and address below:

Gift Recipient's _____ (Unless otherwise noted names will be placed on a plaque next to the mural)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail payment to: **P.O. Box 2282, Marco Island, FL 34146**

My check (payable to MIHS) is enclosed for \$ _____

My credit card # _____ Type _____ Exp. Date: _____

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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:

Arturo's, 642-0550

Hoot's, 394-4644

Little Bar, 394-5663

Realtors:

Chris Sullivan, ReMax, 404-5548

Judy Kenney, Prudential, 259-1246

Laurene Chaffee, Keller Williams, 393-1350

Patty Carnes, Prudential, 394-2505

The Sandlin Team, ReMax, 389-3200



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

Rich 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



MIHS Officers

President:	Kathy Miracco	389-1488
VP:	Tom Wagor	642-3411
VP Programs:	Jerry Masters	394-3917
VP Administration:	Kris Holland	389-1572
Treasurer:	Carol Wood	642-6366
Record. Sec.:	Dottie Henderson	389-5515

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!

In the "Good Old Summer Time", as you can see by this newsletter, things certainly are not quiet! Digs, displays, and dedication are still at MIHS. Everyone is having fun working hard to keep MIHS on the move. The articles written demonstrate this to all of you. Hope wherever you are, that you are having an enjoyable "good old summertime"!

Mary Helen Masters



April 2012 Meeting - Len Messineo's "Friends"



MIHS MEWS

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180 S. Heathwood
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