



THE MIHS NEWS

Winter, 2013

Marco Island Historical Society
Established May 17, 1994



Tom Wagor, BJ Henning, and Rick Smith

A Land Remembered: A Florida Legacy Revisited

The Marco Island Historical Society's first meeting of the year featured Rick Smith, the son of Patrick Smith, the author of the highly acclaimed and widely popular novel, *A Land Remembered*. "Not a day goes by that someone doesn't contact me to let me know how this book, that my father wrote almost 30 years ago, has touched their lives. Some even cry when they share with me. Several have told me that next to the Bible, this is the most cherished book they own."

Rick himself is a noted lecturer and author. His lecture included stories about his Dad, his life and work, researching his books and sharing some personal thoughts and memories and experiences he had which were necessary for him to write with such authority of Florida pioneers, the Seminoles, migrant workers, "river rats" of Mississippi, and the social injustices of the South and the challenges of the present. Rick himself is a video and media producer so his presentation was very visual with video clips, music, still photos, all of which he narrated on stage in the costume fitting for the age of Tobias MacIvey, the main character in *A Land Remembered*.

It was a fun, educational, and entertaining evening.

*Watch for MIHS
upcoming events to
celebrate Florida's
500th birthday!*

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

Marco Moment: Ancient Spanish maps indicate fresh water in the Caxambas area making it one of the oldest place names in North America.

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."



I couldn't begin my tenure as the new President of the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) without a big thank you to all of those who preceded me. In 2012, Kathy Miracco guided the MIHS to a successful year full of accomplishments. Thank you Kathy for your leadership.

My involvement with the MIHS began as a Capital Campaign sponsor back in 2005. My interest in history however, goes way back to my days in College. My bride Lori and I moved to Marco Island 36 years ago and we count ourselves very fortunate to have been here during a good portion of the "Modern History" days of Deltona and the Mackle brothers. When I think back to the early Capital Campaign fund raising days, I am struck by the fierce determination of those involved to build our Museum. I said many times while speaking to potential donors at the fund raising events that I have never been associated with a more dedicated or determined group of individuals. We now enjoy the fruits of that labor of love that all involved brought to the effort of creating the fabulous property we have now. That dedication is now embodied in our tireless group of volunteers that are busy as docents, manning the museum store, serving as set up crews for events at the Rose History Auditorium, serving on the Board of Directors, and much, much more. We wouldn't exist without their large contributions of time, professional and personal skills, and love for the Museum and MIHS, day in and day out. Our donors, large and small, deserve a resounding thank you for your generous gifts. None of this would have happened without you!

We have many "opportunities" ahead in 2013. We must continue to grow our membership base. To that end, I encourage each and every one of you to bring a friend to a program, or an exhibit, or simply walk them through the Museum. There is no doubt in my mind that once we expose people to this "world class" facility,

they will appreciate the importance of keeping Marco Island's legacy and history alive and thriving.

One of our biggest challenges will be to increase the number of visitors to our Museum.

Completing the permanent Calusa Village exhibit along with the Spanish exploration, Cushing expedition, and of course the Pioneer and Modern History areas will go a very long way towards reaching our visitor goals. The Board of Directors and Exhibit Committee will be working with Collier County to make this happen in 2013. Our MIHS Endowment fund was created in 2011, and in 2012 we established our Investment Policy and invested the initial generous gift. You may remember the very informative article submitted by Darcie Guerin called "Year - End Charitable Giving" in December. Her article described how the fund and investment policy will ensure the long term ability to support exhibits, as well as historical educational programs. It also included year-end tax planning tips through the use of charitable gifts. The challenge now is to get the word out as to the benefits of gifting to the MIHS Endowment Fund. Look for opportunities in early 2013 to learn more about the potential benefits to you and your family of gifting assets to the Marco Island Historical Society Endowment Fund.

We will continue to bring high quality programs to our membership that will add value and to the historical experience of being a member. Our Programs Committee consisting of BJ Henning, Jerry and Mary Helen Masters, and Craig Woodward have put together an entire year of exciting and historically relevant programs for you and your guests to enjoy.

Finally, with this first edition of the MIHS Mews 2013, I wish each and every one of you good health, happiness, and peace in 2013. I am honored to be your new Board President and will strive to make this year a very productive and positive one in our quest for excellence.

Tom Wagon

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34145**

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

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."

Florida's Got the Blues



All I can say is WOW! What a magnificent turnout we had at the museum on Wednesday, January 2 for the opening reception for "Florida's Got the Blues"! I want to give a very special thank you to our musical guests Renald Richard, Ray Charles' band director and co-writer of "I Got A Woman" on the trumpet, Little Eddie from "Little Eddie and the Fat Ringers" on the guitar and singing, Michael Marciano, my father on the bass, and Wolfgang Scheelen on the harmonical. This impromptu musical performance was seen and heard by over 300 guests. If you missed this event, you can still see the exhibit through March 30!

Lisa Marciano

News from the Rose History Auditorium

With our new web site forthcoming and great exposure through media, events, the Island Theater Company and word of mouth, the "word" is getting out about our incredible auditorium.

In our "outreach" efforts, we encourage you, our membership, to bring our message to your friends, your clubs and organizations. Let's make 2013 a banner year!

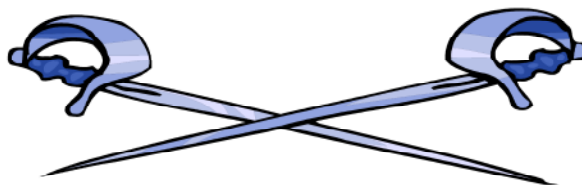


Happy New Year! We have new and exciting events and exhibitions for 2013. We opened our "Florida's Got the Blues" exhibit on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 with special musical guests "Little Eddie" from "Little Eddie and the Fat Fingers" and Ray Charles' director and co-writer of "I got a Woman", Renald Richard. Come celebrate Florida's long musical tradition and learn how a surprising number of notable blues artists got their start right here in Florida. This fun and informative exhibition is on loan from the Museum of Florida History and is displayed until March 30, 2013.

On January 19th, we have Dr. James Clark guest lecturing at 2:00 PM on how the role of the presidents in Florida have shaped the development of Florida, and how Florida has become a critical state in the election of our Presidents. Admission is Free.

On January 26, we have our first annual "Pirate Day" on Marco! Marauding pirates were a constant headache for Spanish sea captains during the 1600's, and tall tales of swashbucklers and buried treasure abound in Southwest Florida to this day. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon on the high seas, if you dare. Pirate arts and crafts, face painting, pirate songs, a treasure hunt, and real pirate stories, as told by local authors Jim and Sarah Kaserman, will make this a friendly adventure into Florida's past for the whole family. Come dressed as your favorite pirate, and win prizes from the "booty" station. We start at noon, matey, and batten down the hatches at 4:00 PM. Admission is free, if ye dare!

Lisa Marciano



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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BJ HENNING

January 19, 2013 - 2:00 PM, Special Presentation - Dr. James Clark presents "Presidents in Florida: How the Presidents have shaped Florida and how Florida has influenced the Presidents"

January 26, 2013 - Noon - 4 PM; "Pirate Day on Marco

February 4, 2013 - 10:30 am, Debbie and Marty Roddy, "Tigertail Muck About" with lecture, lunch and tour of Tigertail. Meet at RHA

February 5, 2013 - 7 PM, Dr. J. Michael Francis, "La Florida Before Jamestown"

February 23, 2013 - 1:00 PM, New World: Lost World Symposium

March 5, 2013 - Carleton Ward, "Exploring the Florida Wildlife Corridor"

March 19, 2013 - Special Presentation - Len Messineo presents "Exotic Everglades, Work In Progress"

April 2, 2013 - George Allen presents "Breaking the Barriers"

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 Museum Volunteers

The STATS for 2012:

There were 59 different volunteers welcoming visitors to the museum.

There were 11,129 visitors.

There were 22,687 visitors since we opened in June, 2010

Our need for volunteers continues. Three hours of your time is a gift to the museum. There will be a walk through training on the present "exhibit", the "Calusa Indians", the "Pioneers", and "Modern Marco".

The museum store has some great books on our history.

Please let me know if you can help.

Louise Russell 394-1960

"VIVA LA MARCO"

It's a cocktail party extravaganza with live entertainment by JRobert and Raiford Starke, the finest cuisine a la Marco Chefs....and lots of surprises! Come help us celebrate the 500th anniversary of Florida Marco style. It is happening Saturday, March 2, so mark your calendars and get ready to "Rock & Roll", do the stroll and...well, you'll have to partake in the festivities to experience all the special activities and surprises we have in store. Guaranteed to be a night to remember!



Museum Gift Store News

We have had another great year in the store and many thanks for your support and patronage. I'm attending the Museum Store Associations Gift Show in Orlando this month and will come back with fresh ideas and merchandise to keep our store up to date and thriving.

In celebration of the theme of "Valentines Day", showing appreciation, kindness, and love, the store will honor it's membership with special pricing and a raffle for something very special. So, come on in and let us show you our appreciation.

On Line Museum Store

One last item of note. In order to further grow our sales and be competitive in this world of technology, we are looking to operate an on line store. The only hitch is, we need someone to manage it. If you have computer skills and the willingness to volunteer for this worthy cause, please give me a call.

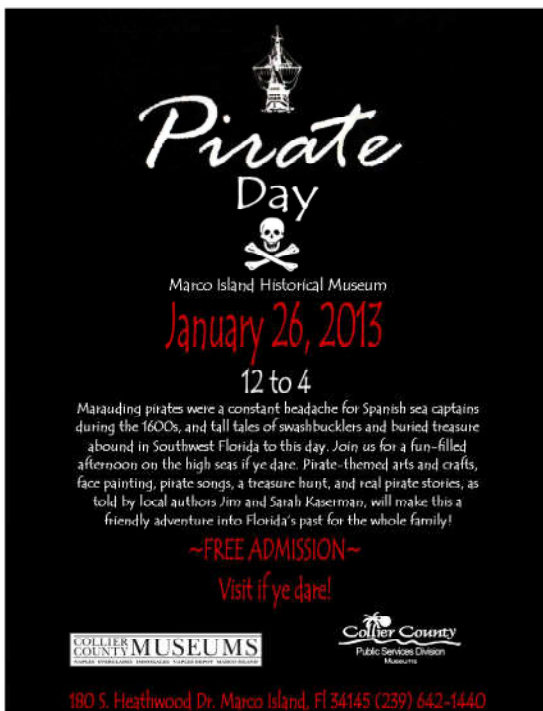
Let's ring in the New Year with great expectations and renewed enthusiasm for the MIHS!

Lori Wagon

"Preserving the history and heritage of our community."

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

Ed and Arlene Goldstein
Joan and Ann Connell
Dennis and Pam Bartolucci
Diane Rouse
Claire and Marjorie Johnson
Karina Paape
Kate Younger
George and Diane Gratz
Jeanne Ruby
Sylvia Skotny



Pirate Day
Marco Island Historical Museum
January 26, 2013
12 to 4

Marauding pirates were a constant headache for Spanish sea captains during the 1600s, and tall tales of swashbucklers and buried treasure abound in Southwest Florida to this day. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon on the high seas if ye dare. Pirate-themed arts and crafts, face painting, pirate songs, a treasure hunt, and real pirate stories, as told by local authors Jim and Sarah Kaserman, will make this a friendly adventure into Florida's past for the whole family!

~FREE ADMISSION~
Visit if ye dare!

COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUMS
Public Services Division

180 S. Heathwood Dr. Marco Island, FL 34145 (239) 642-1440

New Year Brings New Board Members

After many years and many, many hours of service, Patti Marzula and Kris Helland are retiring from the MIHS Board. We Thank You for your devotion and continuing loyalty. Welcome new Board Members:
Elaine Michaelis
Sam Miloro
Pat Rutledge

La Florida Celebrates 500 Years

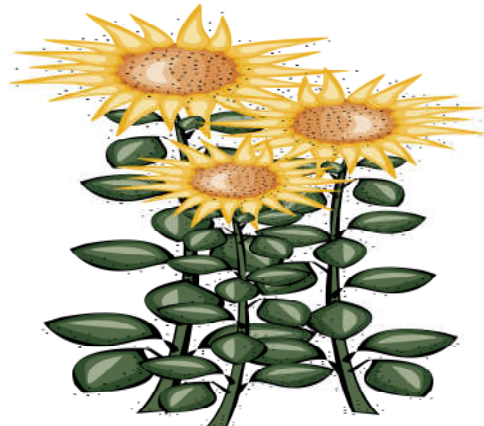
Ponce de Leon, sighted our beloved state in March, 1513 and named it La Florida. That was 500 years ago.

According to Gary R. Mormino, in a recent essay writes a Spanish historian who had access of the journal observed, "They ran along the coast seeking harbor.... Believing that land to be an island, they named it La Florida because it appeared very delightful, having many fresh groves, and it was all level, and also because they discovered it at the season which the Spaniards call Flowery Easter.... They went ashore to discover and take possession."

Other 2013 dates of interest are:

- 1873 - Barron G. Collier's birthday - 140 years
- 1923 - Collier County created - 90 years
- 1923 - Naples Daily News (formerly the Collier County News) founded - 90 years
- 1928 - Opening of Tamiami Trail - 85 years
- 1928 - Red Cross chapter formed in Collier County - 85 years
- 1933 - Deaconess Harriet Bedell arrives in Collier County - 80 years
- 1943 - First Commercial Oil well in Florida discovered in Sunniland - 70 years
- 1953 - Everglades City incorporated - 60 years
- 1953 - Ochopee Post Office moved to current shed - 60 years
- 1963 - County Courthouse Museum founded by the Collier County Historical Society - 35 years
- 1973 - First Everglades City Seafood Festival - 40 years
- 1978 - Collier County Museum founded by the Collier County Historical Society - 35 years
- 1983 - Marco Sunrise Rotary started - 30 years
- 1998 - Museum of the Everglades opened - 15 years

Dates submitted by Craig Woodward



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Oh! What A Circus!!

On Friday, October 12, 2012, the Marco Island Historical Society took us on a long but fun and fascinating trip to the Ringling Museums in Sarasota, FL. It really was a three ring circus. I can hear the opening parade music even now!

IN RING NUMBER ONE: The John and Mable Ringling Mediterranean Revival mansion, named Ca'd Zahn (House of John) was completed in 1926 and is the epitome of grandeur. At the time, the cost to build it was \$1.5 million which translated to \$16 million today. Sitting directly on Sarasota Bay, the terrace is a magnificent 12,000 square feet of imported marble. Designed by Dwight James Baum, the mansion is styled after the Doge's Palace in Venice with very ornate decor and all colored glass windows in small panes of pink, blue, yellow, and purple.

Many of us then went to lunch at the Treviso Restaurant where we had the added attraction of seeing Mikhail Baryshnikov, the famous Russian ballet dancer. He was there as a part of a special artist function being held on the grounds. He still looks very trim and boyish at the age of 64.

IN RING NUMBER TWO: The circus is coming! The circus is coming! There are two parts to the Circus Museum. First, is the original museum which holds the original circus trucks, cages, costumes, and "The Wisconsin" which was the private rail car of John and Mable Ringling. The other part is the Tibbals Learning Center. This contains the 3800 square foot replica of the Ringling Bros., Barnum, & Bailey Circus. This contains the 3800 square foot replica of the Ringling Bros., Barnum, & Bailey Circus. The "Howard Brothers Circus" is the largest miniature circus and was hand built and carved over a 50 year time span by Howard Tibbals. This was actually the highlight of the entire trip. It is fantastic and is one of the wonders in life that isn't just about money. It is about authenticity, dedication, artistic talent, and history.

IN RING NUMBER THREE: The Ringling Museum of Art has a permanent collection of Ruben's, Velazques, Van Dyke, and Gainsborough paintings among others. It emulates the footprint of the Uffizi in Florence, Italy. The museum opened in 1931 and new wings in 2007 for traveling shows. There are casts of many original antique sculptures highlighted by the towering "David" by Michelangelo.

After spending time wandering the Gardens and Grounds, including Mable's Rose Garden, The Secret Garden, Dwarf Garden Millennium Tree Garden, and thirteen historic banyan trees, we boarded the bus for the trip back home. All were tired, but very happy and pleased with this destination. Thank you BJ Henning for your time and planning of this wonderful trip.

Submitted by Dawn Henderson



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 ANNUAL MEETING/CHRISTMAS PARTY
2012



Greetings From the Ground Up!

Just a brief note to welcome back our winter residents and say I hope you will enjoy your museum this winter season. It looks to be a great winter with lots of outstanding historical speakers and exhibits, not the least of which is the State of Florida's 500th year of Discovery Celebration. Stay tuned for lots of events at our own museum in conjunction with the Collier County museums and the State of Florida.

We hope you will take notice of the new native plant walk around the mound. Thanks to George and Carol Engstrom, you can pick up a brochure in the store explaining all of the fun history and uses of many of the native plants right in our own estuary. Also, worthy to note, is one of our local young Island residents, Andrew Smith, who is working on his Eagle Scout badge and his project is to build an outside box and sign where you will be able to pick up our plant walk brochures anytime. Also, I am working to bring our local Boy Scout troop together for a "Grounds Clean Up Day" around the museum. Even though the county mows the grass and trims our native trees, there is always lots of "fine tuning" work to be done in our native plant environment. The final details have not yet been set for our "Scout's Day", but if you would like to help, please contact me. I would love to have a few volunteers to help out. I hope to see many of you very soon.

Alan Sandlin, Grounds Chairman



Bob and June Bridges, Marion Nicolay



Wilfried & Monika Lampe, Traute & JP Gentry



BJ Henning and Sam Miloro



Cindy Crane, Blair and Evelyn Case, Peggy Polson



Patti Marzula, Kathy Miracco, Kris Helland

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2012 Direct-to-Charity IRA Option Extended Until January 31, 2013



If you would like to use a required minimum distribution from your IRA funds to make gifts to your favorite charities, you may still do so for the 2012 tax year due to the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 signed by President Obama on January 2. You'll have to act quickly, however.

The new tax rules extend for 2012 and 2013 the option of donating IRA funds directly to qualified charities. By taking this path, the IRA holder or beneficiary avoids taking possession of the funds and the tax bill that would result. Because the legislation took effect so close to the end of the year, special rules validate such distributions for the 2012 tax year as long as the transaction is completed by January 31, 2013.

If you took a distribution from your IRA from December 1 to December 31, 2012, you can treat the distribution as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) as long as you forward the distribution to an eligible charity before February 1, 2013. You may also take a QCD from January 1 to January 31, 2013, and treat it as if it were made on December 31, 2012.

Briefly, a qualified charitable distribution, which can be made only by IRA participants who are at least 70 1/2 years of age, may be as high as \$100,000. A QCD can be used to satisfy your required minimum distribution. The funds, which cannot come from active SEP or SIMPLE IRA'S, must be sent directly to the qualified (IRS-approved) charitable organization. You'll be able to report the donation on your 2012 tax return.

If you wish to take advantage of this time-limited provision in the tax law, please contact Marco Island Historical Society at your earliest convenience. Or, if you're intrigued by the idea but would like to discuss the rules in more detail, we have members of our finance committee who would be happy to talk with you about it - but, please call soon!



Guests
at Rick
Smith
Lecture

"Preserving the History and Heritage of our community."

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



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



MIHS Officers

President:	Tom Wager	642-3411
VP Programs:	BJ Henning	389-4495
Treasurer:	Carol Wood	642-6366
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!

We survived!! According to the Mayan calendar, we should all be gone. It must have been the Calsua that saved us! Ha...Ha...Anyway, welcome to 2013 and the exciting year ahead for MIHS. It is going to be a great year!

Mary Helen Masters



Christmas Island Style 2013 Parade
Chuck Lynn, Keith Pershing, Karl Henning, and BJ Henning ride in MIHS's Model T Ford Truck



MIHS MEWS

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180 S. Heathwood
Marco Island, Fl 34145