



MIHS

Marco Island Historical Society

Preserving the History and
Heritage of our Community

June 2017

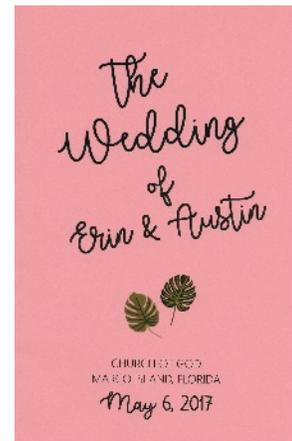
Wedding Bells Ring for the MIHS Curator of Collections



Congratulations to Austin and Erin Bell!

On May 6, 2017 at the Church of God on Marco Island, Florida, Austin Bell and Erin Wolfe were married. Their wedding was a magical blend of the historic, the tropic and the romantic. The couple chose historical Marco Island venues for their wedding and for their reception which was held at Bistro Soleil in the Old Marco Inn. They were even transported from the Church of God to Bistro Soleil in the Marco Island Historical Society's Model T.

The Church of God was built in 1939 and was Marco's first house of worship. The Old Marco Inn was built by W. D. Collier and opened in 1896. Everyone at the Marco Island Historical Society wishes Austin and Erin a lifetime of love and happiness.



President's Letter Summer 2017

Now that our seasonal members and many visitors have departed our island paradise, the MIHS has become a bit quieter. But Season was anything BUT quiet. In the first four months of 2017, over 14,000 people visited our campus...and with all of the new museum exhibits, programs, lectures, plays, re-enactors and talent performances, it's no wonder they called the Marco Island Historical Museum campus home. But there is still so much going on at the MIHS Campus. Just to mention a few:

Stay in May – On May 10th, Stay in May partnered with the MIHS to present “A Night in Paris” with Malenda Trick painting in the style of Toulouse Lautrec and Steffanie Pearce singing French Cabaret Classics.

New Gift Shop Manager - Nancy Judd has joined the MIHS staff as the Gift Shop Manager. Nancy is experienced in all aspects of retail including sales, display and management. She is committed to providing the best shopping experience for our museum visitors. Nancy has worked in the retail world for over 30 years. She has Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Merchandising/Interior Design from Western Michigan University. Nancy and her husband are residents of Marco Island. Nancy will be on campus Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Please join us in welcoming her to the MIHS/MIHM family.

2018 Appraisal Faire – Planning is well underway for our March 3th, 2018 Appraisal Faire. There will be several exciting events around the actual Appraisal Faire that you will be hearing more about in the coming months.

Things might be a bit calmer over the summer, but remember, The Past is always Present at Your Marco Island Historical Society.

With my best wishes for a wonderful Summer!

Bruce Graev, MIHS President



Marco Island Woman's Club Donates to the Historical Society Education Committee

By Pat Rutledge



On Thursday, May 4, 2017 Pat Rutledge, Executive Director of the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS), was surprised by a generous donation from the Marco Island Woman's Club. Gayle Thawley presented Pat and the MIHS with a check for \$2,000 in support of the Society's Education Committee. "I am so pleased with the Club's recognition of our efforts to instill a love of our island's history in the children of our community" said Rutledge.

The Marco Island Woman's Club, founded in 1966, is an active social network for the women of Marco Island as well as a civic-minded organization with a long, proud history of serving the community.

Welcome Nancy Judd, New MIHS Gift Store Manager

By Pat Rutledge



The MIHS is excited to welcome Nancy Judd as our new Gift Store Manager. Nancy is experienced in all aspects of retail including sales, display and management.

Nancy has worked in the retail world for over 30 years with companies such as Bailey, Banks and Biddle and, most recently, with Jewelry by Laura in the JW Marriott Hotel where she designed displays to make the store experience interactive and engaging. She is committed to providing the best shopping experience for our Gift Store customers. Best of all, Nancy has a wonderful smile.

Please stop by and say hello to Nancy the next time you are in the area.

Marco Island Historical Society Board of Directors Welcomes Two New Members

By Pat Rutledge

The MIHS Board of Directors is pleased to welcome two new members to the Board, Ellie Everitt and Melissa Scott.



Ellie Everitt

Ellie received a degree in Fashion Merchandising from Kansas State University and spent the majority of her career working at various units of Deere & Company. After 21 years of service she retired in 2010. For most of her life Ellie lived in the Midwest, but she and her husband Dave lived in Germany on two occasions for a total of nine years. Ellie and Dave relocated to Marco Island full time in 2014. Along with MIHS Board membership, Ellie serves on a committee at the Kansas State University Foundation Board of Trustees, and is on committees of other local organizations.



Melissa Scott

Originally from upstate New York, Melissa Scott currently serves as the principal of Marco Island Academy. Prior to her tenure at Marco Island Academy, Melissa enjoyed a wonderful career at Lee High School in Springfield, Virginia where she taught English; led the Student Government Association, and served as the Assistant Director of Student Activities. Melissa received her undergraduate degree in English with a Secondary Education Certification from the State University of New York at Geneseo. She later continued her education, completing her graduate degree at George

Mason University, earning a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership, Administration and Supervision in 2008.

We are delighted to have these exceptionally talented and committed community leaders join the 2017 MIHS Board of Directors which includes Tish Champagne, Donna Fiala, Bruce Graev, B.J. Henning, Kathryn Hunt, Sonja Laidig, Sam Miloro, Theresa Morgan, Allyson Richards, Linda Sandlin, Cherry Smith, Paul Tateo, Shirlee Vann Barcic, Jory Westberry and Pat Rutledge as Executive Director.

Collections Interns

Katie Romey, Curatorial Assistant

This past year our collections department has been fortunate enough to have several interns and assistants work with us on various collections-related projects. Doing everything from data entry to cleaning shell tools, these individuals have made a significant impact on the organization, documentation, and preservation of our collections. Our interns and assistants have logged over 750 hours since last summer (2016) and continue to be a valuable asset to the work being done at the MIHS.

With news of receiving a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), we knew we would need extra hands to complete this massive project of rehousing and documenting our entire archaeology collection. For the past few months we have been lucky to work with archaeology students from Florida Gulf Coast University. We are able to provide these students with real hands-on experiences working with archaeological materials in a museum setting while simultaneously making incredible progress on the long-term goals of the grant project. One student, Morgan Andrews, has been interning with us since March and since then has permanently labeled, photographed, rehoused, and cataloged hundreds of objects. In addition, Morgan will work on screening unsorted materials and continue to research and identify pottery decorations, zoological specimens, and shell tools.

The fantastic progress Morgan has accomplished these past few months has given us an incredible start on the work that needs to be done to complete the NEH-funded project. Further, two Museum Studies graduate students from the University of Florida will join us this summer to continue to work with the archaeological materials and other collections projects as needed. We are not only grateful to provide opportunities to students to gain experience, but we could not be more appreciative of all of the hard work our interns and assistants put into bettering our collections on a daily basis.



Make History with Us
Become a member of the
Marco Island Historical Society



Some of our members who volunteer and keep us going every day

Join for as little as \$75...

By becoming a member you will receive:

- **FREE** or discounted admission to our outstanding and educational monthly programs
 - **FREE** entry to our new exhibit opening receptions
 - E-mail notifications of all upcoming events and museum news
 - The joy of preserving the history and heritage of your island's community
- Make new friends and join the **FUN** by becoming a member **TODAY!**



YOU, the Members of the Marco Island Historical Society, are the HEART of MIHS and the Museum. We currently have approximately 500 members. The Membership Committee has set a goal to add 100 new members in the coming year with a long range goal to increase our membership to 1000. We need your help in achieving this goal which will insure that MIHS has the resources of "time, talent & treasure" to continue on our path as a world class museum offering award- winning exhibits and outstanding educational and entertaining programs. Here's how YOU can help:

- Invite a friend to tour the museum or attend a Rose History Auditorium Program and encourage them to become members- they will thank you- there is so much value in membership
- Volunteer to "man" a Membership Table in the Museum lobby or during Rose History Auditorium Programs- email Linda@MarcoRealtySource.com if you may be interested
- Do you belong to an organization or club that would like to have a special speaker from MIHS? Email Linda@MarcoRealtySource.com

Thank you for your partnership with MIHS in Preserving and Promoting the amazing History and Heritage of our Community.

Happy Retirement Lori!

By Pat Rutledge

On April 25, 2017 over 60 MIHS members, friends and staff gathered to wish Lori Wagor a fond farewell as she sailed into retirement. The evening began with a Cocktail Reception and Appetizers followed by an outstanding slide show of Lori's seven year career with the Marco Island Historical Society created by her good friend and colleague, Nancy Garrison. The fifteen minute tribute began with the opening of the MIHS Gift Store and moved through all of Lori's "extraordinary" contributions to the Historical Society and Museum culminating with the spectacular Windows and Doors to History. A "Special Thanks" plaque will be installed as part of the Windows and Doors exhibit recognizing Lori as Project Director and Austin Bell as Artistic Director for their leadership of this special project.

The evening also presented an opportunity for Lori to publicly thank all of the dedicated Gift Store volunteers for their contributions over the years. She presented each volunteer with a certificate, a flower and a warm hug of appreciation.

The festivities ended with the presentation of a bronze Key Marco Cat by Peter Sottong with a plaque recognizing Lori's service to the Marco Island Historical Society and Museum. Lori, we wish you well; you will be missed.



MIHS Awarded Two Important Grants

Austin Bell, Curator of Collections



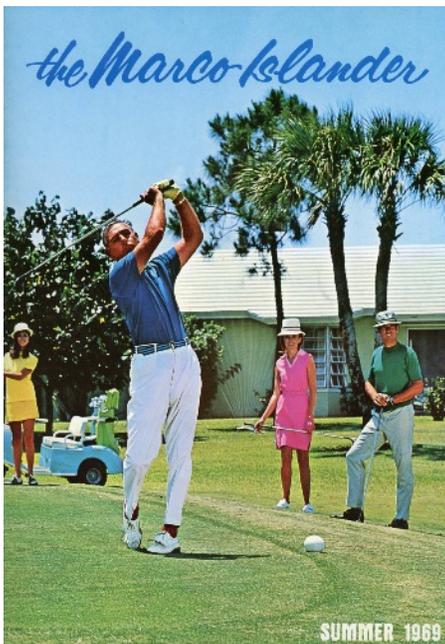
In the first quarter of 2017, the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) was the proud recipient of two prestigious grants totaling \$14,000 toward the enhancement of its collections and exhibits at the Marco Island Historical Museum.

In December 2016, the MIHS was notified that it was a recipient of a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The grant award of \$6,000 will go toward “the rehabilitation of archaeological materials from Marco Island, Florida.” The funds will be used to purchase necessary supplies, such as acid-free boxes, archival bags, and artifact labeling materials.

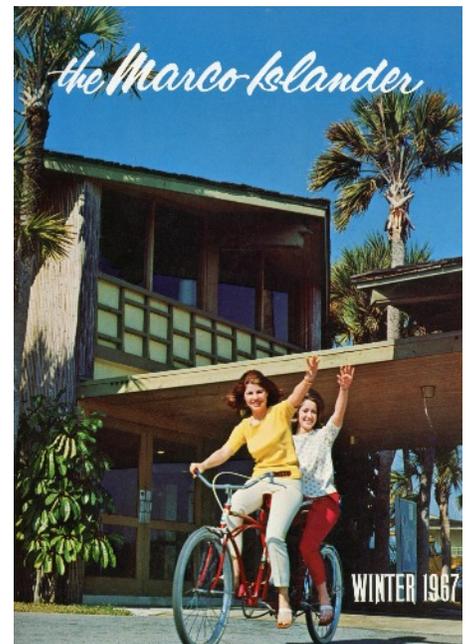
Austin Bell will act as Project Director and with the help of Katie Romey, MIHS Curatorial Assistant, Rosemarie Fusco, MIHS Collections Assistant, and student interns Morgan Andrews (FGCU), Kristin Conwill (UF), Virginia Liebrecht (FGCU), and Casey Wooster (UF), the MIHS expects to complete the rehabilitation by June 2018. In addition to providing the team necessary to carry out the project, the MIHS has committed to matching more than \$2,000 of its own funds for archival supplies.

On December 14, 2016, the NEH announced funding for 290 projects in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. There were 78 Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions totaling \$441,537 awarded in 2016. The NEH typically funds less than 30 percent of all applicants to this program. The MIHS was the only such recipient in Florida and the only non-university organization in Florida to receive an NEH grant of any kind. It is the first federal grant awarded to the MIHS.

In March 2017, the MIHS was notified that it was the recipient of an \$8,000 grant from the Island Country Club Charitable Foundation for the design, fabrication, and installation of a “digital archives kiosk” in the *Modern Marco Island* exhibit. The kiosk will showcase 35 complete issues of the popular *Marco Islander* magazine. These colorful publications, produced seasonally between 1965 and 1975 by the Deltona Corporation to promote their ongoing projects at Marco Island, capture an authentic “slice of life” on the island during a period of rapid development.



The kiosk will be designed and built by Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc., the same firm responsible for the museum’s award-winning permanent exhibits. Grant funds were provided from the Foundation’s Charity Golf Tournament held on January 29, 2017. The MIHS and Island County Club have partnered in the past, most recently on an exhibit display at the Club’s 50th Anniversary celebration and on the conservation of important clamming items from Marco Island in 2016.



Austin Bell Named Marco Island Foundation of the Arts 2017 Artist of the Year

By Pat Rutledge



The 2017 MIFA Artist of the Year is Austin Bell, our Curator of Collections. Ten nominations were received for consideration this year. However, in the end, only one could be chosen.

Austin was nominated by Pat Rutledge, Executive Director of the MIHS. Pat said, "My nominee is not a painter, a sculptor nor a photographer, but someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Marco Island in a different way."

Austin has been serving as Curator, Director, and Author of four exceptional permanent exhibits at the Marco Island Historical Museum since 2013. Most recently, he was Artistic Director of the "Windows and Doors to History" exhibit which tells the 10,000-

year history of Marco Island through 26 works of art which grace the exterior walls of the Historical Museum complex.

Austin will be honored by the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 11:30 AM during the annual Scholarship/Artist of the Year Luncheon at the Fellowship Hall, Wesley United Methodist Church, 350 S. Barfield Drive, Marco Island, FL. The community is invited to attend. Call (239) 389-0280 for more information or reservations.

WANTED, VERY ALIVE

Interested, fun-loving people with a desire to enhance the educational culture of The Historical Society by participating on the Education Committee.

Contribute your excellent ideas to entice the students and children on Marco Island to flock to our events and grow in history.

Participate as judges during upcoming writing and performing events.

Guarantee: Fun, infrequent meetings, unique ideas welcomed. No experience necessary, but welcomed. FUN!

Please contact Jory Westberry, Education Committee Chair, at westbjo@gmail.com

Battlefield of Brotherhood Receives Rave Reviews

By Jory Westberry

The play, *Battlefield of Brotherhood*, which debuted in March/April with several matinee and evening performances, was praised by attendees. Here are some of their comments:

“They did a great job. Their passion stirred emotion in all of us. To bring history to life is sensational. All the kids were very special.” (Barbara and Roy S)

“I really liked Tobias (Teaker Harris), he really portrays the character as who he is.” (Thalia M)

“Phenomenal, it was really heart-warming to see young children doing something productive.” (Lynn R)

“Amazing, so impressive. It was excellent and the best ending ever.” (Tarik A)

“I just saw it for the second time and I love how they put some comedy into a serious subject.” (Eden K)

“It was riveting. The scenes when Lincoln was drafting his speech intertwined with live action was a smart idea.” (Paul W)

Battlefield of Brotherhood was written, produced and directed by Gina Sisbarro, owner/operator of the Sisbarro Acting School, in collaboration with the Marco Island Historical Society. The objective was to engage students in learning and performing history based on real events in Florida and share this with the community.

Mission Accomplished!



Based on Sisbarro’s cultural research of a historic plantation in Florida, the story weaves through various stages in the lives of Samuel Randall Stewart, son of a southern plantation and slave, Charles Tobias Hayes. Centered in the south before and during the Civil War, relationships, torment, love and cruelty intertwine. The plantation owner’s son and a black slave, who grew up as friends, are changed by life and the conflicting forces of the war as are the people around them.

The play was a unique collaboration of new and veteran actors from three local schools to portray historical events with attention to the personal interactions between races. Students from the Marco Island Charter Middle School, Lely High School and the Marco Island Academy learned and practiced their lines diligently for weeks to perform a play that made the past come alive in the present. Some of the students have been acting since they were five or six years old.

Another play, *The Men of Rushmore* was performed in 2016, also written, produced and directed by Sisbarro. It was praised for its rich and colorful information about our past presidents and the excellent portrayals by the students.

Two seasonal residents who had this to say after the *Battlefield of Brotherhood* performance;

“We came thinking that this was a lecture, which turned out to be a play performed by students and it was most amazing. We were dubious at first, but it turned out to be the best event we’ve been to at the museum.”

Bravo!

Museum News

Jennifer Perry
Collier County Museum Manager
Marco Island Historical Museum



The Marco Island Historical Museum in partnership with the Marco Island Historical Society continues to exceed expectations. Here are some highlights of the last couple of months.

I am happy to announce that the Marco Island Historical Museum is the proud recipient of the 2017 Marco in Bloom (Commercial) Award. This award was announced and given to the Marco Island Historical Museum/Society for its beautiful landscaping a use of native plants throughout the campus. A big thanks to staff member Jessica Patel for taking the fantastic (award winning) photos!

We also celebrated our volunteers this Spring.

Once with a volunteer luncheon held at Rose History Auditorium, organized by Grant Matthews, Collier County Museum's Volunteer Coordinator. Volunteers from all five sites were honored for their service and were treated to a tour of our lovely museum.

And again, the staff of the Museum and the Historical Society celebrated our volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation week, expressing our thanks for being "tea-riffic" volunteer here on Marco.

Both the Museum and the Historical Society partnered with the City of Marco in their Spring Jubilee Festival. A special thanks to Allyson Richardson who helped facilitate the Museum/Society "booth" and Bunny Tail toss game!

The staff is happy to announce the completion of the railing system along the South side of the Museum walkway and we have begun the installation of the new security camera system. The County is making tremendous strides in investing here at the Museum to make this facility top-notch! Please help the Collier County Museum welcome our newest staff member Ryan Davis who is named the museum's Marketing and Special Events Coordinator.

Once again I could not sign off without expressing my gratitude to YOU, our supporters; it is because of YOU that we lead and succeed! WE are making history every day and are so pleased to share it! Don't forget to stay connected by following us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram!



Rose History Auditorium has been the site of several interesting programs these last few months

By Elaine Michaelis

Macomber Brings History to Life



On Tuesday, March 28th, award-winning author and historian Robert N. Macomber was back at Rose History Auditorium sharing another remarkable story about American naval history—when private yachts went to war.

In 1898, the United States Navy needed more ships and needed them fast; the United States was at war with the Spanish in Cuba. “Most in America thought the war would be a cakewalk,” he said. “The Cubans knew the terrain and the conditions. Our navy knew it’d be difficult; our army was ill prepared...I want people to know what happened,” said Macomber.

To help with the war, the Navy turned to America’s yachtsmen, expropriating 38 of their pleasure craft and arming them for war. Several of these yachts became famous, with careers that lasted well into World War II. Their speed and maneuverability made them especially useful as patrol and dispatch vessels, convoy escorts, training ships and even, in later conflicts, as anti-submarine vessels.

Macomber is best known for his 13 popular naval thrillers, known as the “Honor” series (each book uses the word “honor” in its title). The books follow the life and career of a fictional American naval officer, Peter Wake, starting with the Civil War in Florida and continuing into the early part of the 20th century when America became a global power. Wake becomes entrenched in exciting plots, based on actual events and designed to foster a better understanding of world history.

Macomber grew up on the waters of Southwest Florida. He majored in Political Science, taught history for a short time, and then went on to become a defense contractor, specializing in strategic vision and planning. He began writing for magazines and journals early on but eventually switched to books, sometimes working on several at the same time. His books center on his two main interests: his love of history and of the sea.

Defining the Calusa



On April 4, acclaimed anthropologist, researcher and professor Dr. William Marquardt spoke to a full house at Rose History Auditorium. His lecture reviewed what has been learned about the Calusa over the past 30 years and covered the newest discoveries made at Mound Key and the Pineland shell mounds, including the connection between these archaeological sites and other South Florida Indians.

The Calusa were once the most powerful people in all South Florida. For many centuries, they built their culture, accumulated huge shell mounds, engineered canals, and sustained thousands of people primarily from the fish and shellfish found in the rich estuaries west and south of Fort Meyers. Mound Key and Pineland are but two of a dwindling number of shell mound sites between Charlotte Harbor and the Ten Thousand Islands area that still exist and are studied today.

Dr. Marquardt is curator of the Archaeological and Ethnographic Collections at the Florida Museum of Natural History, located at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He is the director of the University's Institute of Archaeology and Paleoenvironment Studies, as well as a professor in the Department of Anthropology. He also is the founder and current director of Pineland's Randell Research Center, a permanent facility dedicated to learning and teaching the archaeology, history and ecology of Southwest Florida.

A Look Back at History



On May 2nd, well-known Island historian and author Betsy Perdichizzi presented the program, *Extraordinary Times Take Extraordinary People*, to a large Rose History Auditorium audience. The program consisted of a series of reenactments about several pioneers from Marco Island's past. Four other Historical Society (MIHS) Reenactors, Kathy and Ed Miracco, Linda Kropp and Judy Daye, took part in this performance. Ed and Kathy Miracco feel a special connection to the pioneers they portrayed, Drs. Mary and Charles Olds, who moved to Marco at the beginning of the 1900s. Both Ed and Kathy worked at the Food and Drug Administration in Washington for over 30 years and both share the Olds's interest in homeopathic medicine.

Dr. Mary chose not to *practice* medicine on the Island but instead focused her energy and skills on creating a "cultured home" in a hostile environment. This included home schooling her three daughters in the basics as well as in several languages and in current events, daily piano lessons, weekly family concerts and religious training on Sundays. In addition to his duties as a physician, Dr. Charles supplemented his family's income by growing and selling fruit from his groves. He also served as the Island's coroner, dentist and Justice of the Peace. Former Marco Island Academy science teacher Linda Kropp took on the role of Mollie Hamilton, who is known as Marco's Mail Order Bride. John

Louis Hamilton had little luck when it came to love; he was married and divorced twice before finally deciding to advertise for his next wife. Mary Jane "Mollie" Knight answered his ad and the two of them were married in 1917. Mollie ran a boarding house, a grocery store and a bar complete with jukebox and pool table. She seldom wore shoes, used her apron pocket as her cash register and was known for her Huckleberry cobbler and banana cream cake.

Well-known Island thespian Judy Daye played the school teacher Mary Samuel, who came to the Island in 1925 armed with a newly earned diploma from Indiana University. Samuel had accepted the position of principal of the Marco school. At first, she was elated about her move but soon had some misgivings about her new job. For \$7 a week including meals, Samuel shared a room with another teacher in a cottage behind the Marco Hotel; they also shared a double bed and took turns sitting on the only chair. Light was by oil lamp and water came from a cistern across the road. Several months later, Samuel left Marco but claimed she remembered her experience with fondness. Perdichizzi assumed the role of Thelma Heath, who came to Marco in 1936 with her husband Frank and their 3-year old son. Frank had been hired as the principal of the new Scripps School, where all of Marco's students now attended. The Heaths found the mosquitoes and sand



fleas intolerable, and one night their son woke up screaming that bears were biting him. They begged to be transferred but were encouraged to stay another week. They did and ended up staying 13 more years.

The MIHS Reenactors can trace their beginnings to the mid-90s when Perdichizzi created and starred in a performance called *Tea with Tommie Barfield*. "I realized that few people knew anything about Tommie and decided my performance was a wonderful way for them to learn about Marco's pioneers," said Perdichizzi. After a few performances, Perdichizzi's reenactment had to move from the library where it was first presented to a church with a larger venue. Since then, many other Islanders have joined Perdichizzi in her efforts, and the Reenactors have become a vital part of the Island's cultural identity.

JRobert Fiddles at Rose



Just as Key West claims the talent of Jimmy Buffet, Marco Island has its own very special Island entertainer: Julius Robert Houghtaling or JRobert as he is known by most. His latest production, *The Florida Fiddler Show*, was presented on May 10th at Rose History Auditorium to an enthusiastic toe-tapping crowd.

Singer, songwriter and musician extraordinaire, JRobert took the audience on a musical journey through old Florida via classic folk songs and fiddle tunes ("Orange Blossom Special," "Suwanee River," and "Turkey in the Straw") passed down from generation to generation. His program also included more contemporary selections ("Rhythm is Gonna Get You," "Margaretville" and "Hot, Hot, Hot"), as well as some of his own original work.

Interspersed with his musical repertoire, JRobert told stories of Florida's history, including ones about his own family. A fourth-generation cracker, JRobert boasts of a granddaddy who farmed in the Everglades and a family who still owns citrus groves in Ruskin. "I remember Immokalee when it was just a trading post, and the big

[alligator] hunters would come in with stories from Lake Okeechobee." In 1986, JRobert came to Marco for a weekend gig at the Marriott. Thirty years later, he still calls Marco his home.

Happenings at the Rose History Auditorium

BJ Hennings Program Director

May 2 Betsy Perdichizzi and her reenactors presented "Extraordinary Time and Extraordinary People" This was a wonderful and highly informative show. Our first performers were Kathy and Ed Miracco, as the Drs. Olds. We learned about their life on Marco, their family members and how they survived the simpleness of their existence. Mollie Hamilton was played by Linda Kropp, a School Marm by Judy Davis, and Thelma Heath, by Betsy Perdichizzi. You don't want to miss the next program put on by Betsy and her team. They are professionals, history teachers, funny and just plain entertaining. And, they make you glad you live on Marco now!

May 10 J Roberts, our community entertainer got out his fiddle and played us some tunes. His presentation was "The Florida Fiddler Show" In it he sang, played guitars, fiddles and also pulled out his awesome exotic steel drums to captivate us with fun songs while keeping homespun stories of our pioneer's spirit alive.

May 18 Caren Neile presented "Our Stories, Our Lives" Caren is a performance storyteller who has gathered tales of criminals, capers, heroes and hauntings and illuminating renditions of some of our state's memorable tales.

Our wonderful Florida history is brought to life by our Speakers, the first Tues. of every month. Our Master Naturalist, Bob McConville will be back on June 14th. Then in 2018 he will return the 3rd Monday of every month.

Thanks for coming and filling out our RHA Auditorium. You are always our appreciative and awesome audience

Marco Island Historical Museum Presents: “What’s Old is Not Forgotten”

By Pat Rutledge

The Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) presents “What’s Old is Not Forgotten” by the Naples Digital Photography Club (DPI-SIG), this summer.

“What’s Old is Not Forgotten” will be on display from Tuesday, June 6, to Saturday, August 26, at the museum. This exhibit is comprised completely of images captured within Collier County by local photographers. A free opening reception sponsored by the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) will be held on Wednesday, June 7, the public is invited.

“The staffs of the museum and the Historical Society collaborated on the theme of the exhibit as we thought it would be a great way to get a photographer’s perspective on history in their own County” said Museum Assistant Jessica Patel.

The Naples Digital Photography Club was formed in 2004 and meets monthly. They offer over twenty distinct membership opportunities, workshops, tips and group discussions to help one learn and develop digital camera, image enhancement and exhibition skills.



The MIHS Announces the 2018 Appraisal Faire!

By Pat Rutledge

The Marco Island Historical Society is excited to announce that it will once again hold a Spring Appraisal Faire for all to enjoy. The special three day event will feature celebrity appraisers Wes Cowan, Ken Famer and Nan Chisolm along with experienced appraisers Brad Wanstrath and Pauline Archambault. This talented group will appraise your antiques, fine art, fine Jewelry and timepieces. This not to be missed weekend will begin with a Patron event at a private home on Marco Island the evening of Thursday, March 1, 2018. On Friday, March 2, 2018 there will be a special presentation by celebrity appraisers at Rose History Auditorium. On Saturday, March 3, 2018 the Appraisal Faire itself will held at the Civil Air Patrol Hanger at the Marco Island Executive Airport followed by a festive evening gala.

Whether you are interested in having your objects appraised or would like to volunteer for one or more of the activities associated with the Faire, we welcome your participation. Just email Susan Pernini at administration@themih.org or call her at (239) 389-6447 to be added to the distribution list and receive all the latest information about the plans for the Faire.

Remember, mark your calendar for March 1 through March 3, 2018 and we’ll see you at the Faire!



Calusa Heritage Day

Katie Romey, Curatorial Assistant

On March 25, Austin, intern Morgan Andrews, and I participated in Calusa Heritage Day at the Randell Research Center in Pineland, Florida. This was an event all about celebrating and educating the Calusa people who lived and thrived in Southwest Florida for centuries. The Randell Research Center is a 67-acre preserved archaeological site containing several historic shell mounds and trails thus making it the perfect spot to host such an event. Vendors from all over Southwest Florida were in attendance along with exciting speakers, guided tours, and Calusa food demonstrations. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to educate visitors about the Calusa on Marco Island, Marco Island archaeology, and the Marco Island Historical Society and Museum.

As one of the first collections-based outreach event we have participated in, it was a huge success! For our table, we included an educational poster about archaeology on Marco Island, reproductions of Merald Clark's artwork from the Windows & Doors to History project, an example of the rehousing work being done with the NEH-funded project, pottery pieces and shell tools from our collection, and various pamphlets and brochures to promote the MIHS and museum. I talked with countless individuals who: 1. Had never been to our museum or 2. Had no idea there was a museum on Marco Island and hearing and talking with those individuals reaffirmed our decision to put together a table and travel to this event. Outreach is unbelievably important to our institution and mission and it was exciting to promote the MIHS outside of Marco Island. The majority of collections work remains behind-the-scenes, but this event asserted that we can reach a wider audience by educating and inspiring others through our collections beyond the exhibits in our museum.



The members of the Marco Island Historical Society and the Marco Island community, as well as visitors to our island, thank you all for your most generous support which makes the museum, and all of the activities on the museum campus, possible.

Corporate Partners, Cushing Society and Tommie Barfield Circle Members

MIHS Corporate Partners

A P Builders, Alex Parker
The Boat House Motel
CJ's on the Bay
First Florida Integrity Bank
Graev, Bruce Financial Associates
Horizons Companies
Kathryn Hunt Realtor
KJIMS Homes
Little Bar Restaurant
Mutual of Omaha Bank
Rose Marina
Sherri Morrison Creative Design
Sisbarro Acting School
Sparkle Carpet Cleaning
Naples Daily News

Cushing Society (The MIHS Endowment Fund)

Gail Fischer, Jon & Sonja Laidig
 Glen & Lavonne Johnson, Alan & Linda Sandlin
 Bill & Karen Young, Joyce Martindale
 Rene & Tish Champagne, George & Carol Engstrom
 David & Ellie Everitt, Jere & Anne Fluno
 Traute Gentry, Kathryn Hunt
 Paul Tateo, Craig & Bonnie Woodward
 Scot & Pat Kaufman, Oliver Travers

Tommie Barfield Circle Members

Beverly Boltz, Mary Lou Condee
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 Jean King, Linda Kropp
 Ron & Pat Rutledge, Mary Ann Sarazan
 Cherry Smith, Sally Woliver
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 Neil and Vicki Bretthauer, Gary and Robin Zentner
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 Scot and Pat Kaufman, Paul Tateo
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