

Preserving the History and  
Heritage of our Community



# MIHS

Marco Island Historical Society

September 2017

## Marco Island's Past Preserved In Historic Images

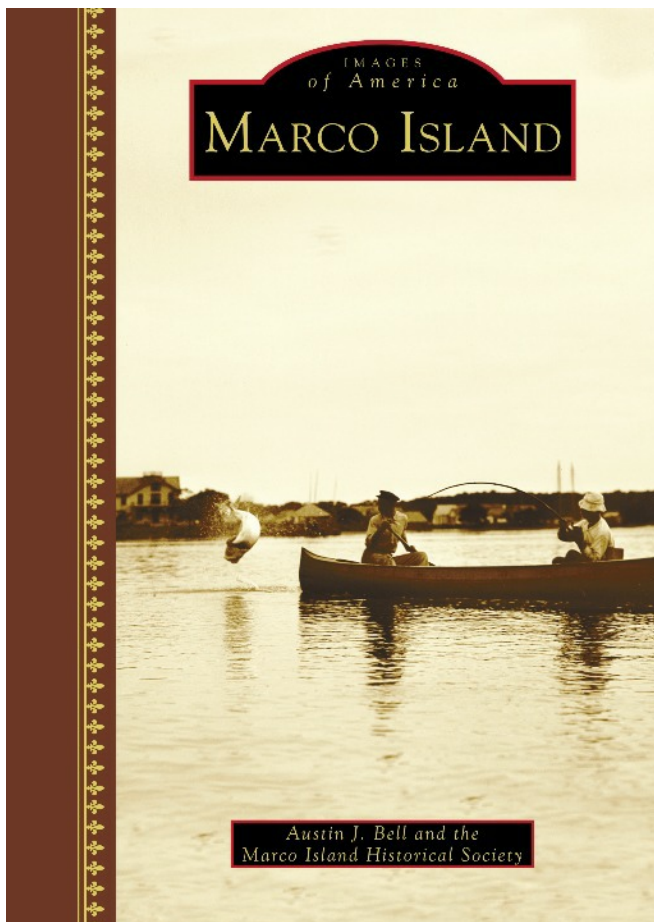
By Austin J. Bell, curator of collections for the Marco Island Historical Society,

The MIHS is pleased to announce the release date for its forthcoming book "Marco Island" in the

popular *Images of America* series by Arcadia Publishing. The book will be released October 9, 2017 and will be available wherever books are sold on Marco Island. Proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS). **Up to half of every purchase made at the museum gift shop will go directly back to the MIHS.** You can also pre-order books on Amazon.com and at other online retailers. The first 2,000 copies of the book will be printed in a special hardcover edition for \$26.99, and subsequent publications will be available in paperback for \$21.99. The author, MIHS Curator of Collections Austin Bell, will be hosting book signings (dates TBA) at the Marco Island Historical Museum and other nearby venues in 2017 and 2018. Below is a brief synopsis of the book, as published on its back cover.

Marco Island projects prominently from Florida's mainland at the peninsula's southwestern fringe, where the waters of the Everglades and the Gulf of Mexico commingle. Its tropical climate, verdant landscape, unique topography, and abundant wildlife sustained prehistoric Native American cultures for centuries. The first pioneer settlers arrived in

1870, carving out a niche on the harsh Florida frontier. Bustling villages soon sprang up on the island, bolstered by strong leaders and economies centered around farming and fishing. The crash of Florida's land boom, along with the Great Depression, devastating hurricanes, and a series of failed developments, ultimately stunted the island's growth. Most of Marco Island was sold to the Deltona Corporation in 1964, which transformed the island into a place its early residents might find unrecognizable. Despite Marco Island's common distinction as the largest of Florida's Ten Thousand Islands, there are only 12 square miles of land upon which to wander—making the enormity of its history all the more remarkable.



## Presidents Letter – September 2017

Bruce Graev, MIHS President

As Fall approaches, we have been busy gearing up for several major events at your Marco Island Historical Society...and we continue to win awards for our exhibits. I want to share a few of the highlights with you.

Our Pioneer Exhibit has received the Silver Award in the 2107 Southeastern Museum Conference Exhibition Competition. This category is extremely competitive as it is open to exhibits with a cost of \$100,000 to over \$1,000,000. As you can imagine, there were some very well resourced exhibits considered. Our selection is a major achievement for The MIHS.

In October of 2017, *Marco Island*, part of the Arcadia Images of America series will be released. MIHS Curator of Collections Austin J. Bell assembled a fascinating look at Marco Island's unique history through vintage photographs and archival material from the MIHS collection. The book will be available in our Gift Shop in time for the holidays.

On March 1-3 of 2018, we will be holding our 3<sup>rd</sup> Appraisal Faire. Our last Appraisal Faire was held in 2010 and this promises to be even bigger and better. This is an event that you will not want to miss. The three day event will include lectures, a full day of appraisals, culminating with a grand Gala. The appraisers are nationally renowned appraisers, Wes Cowen, Nan Chisolm and Ken Farmer who are featured appraisers on *The Antiques Roadshow*.

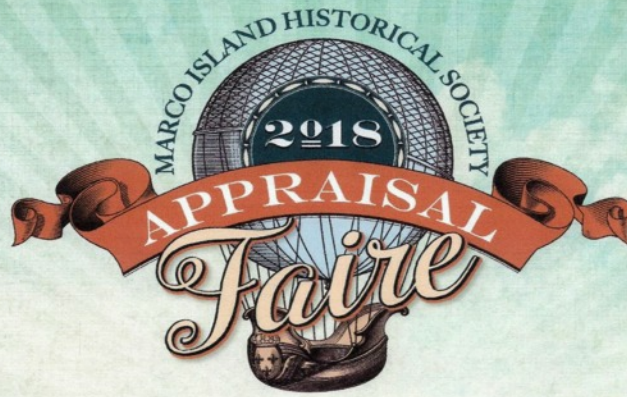
In January 2019 will be the public opening of the return of the Key Marco Artifacts. This will be the first time the Key Marco Cat from the Smithsonian and artifacts from University of Pennsylvania and will be reunited. There will be several new exhibits related to the Key Marco Artifacts that will also be premiered. Watch for more details for more specifics.

The Past is always Present at Your Marco Island Historical Society.



Kristin Conwill and Casey Wooster, both graduate students in Museum Studies at the University of Florida, interns with the MIHS team this summer, with the Marco Cat statue.





SAVE THE DATE **MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Bring Your Treasures,  
Antiques & Heirlooms

Benefiting the Marco Island  
Historical Society - For the Preservation  
of our Community's Treasures

**2018**

INTO THE EVENING

*"An Affair To Remember"*

**MARCH 3**

ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

*Gala*



The Marco Island Historical Society  
is pleased to announce that  
nationally renowned appraisers

**Wes Cowan, Nan Chisolm & Ken Farmer**

as featured on the *Antiques Roadshow*  
and introducing Pauline Archambault and  
Brad Wanstrath from Cowans Auctions  
will be coming to Marco Island

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.**

Sponsorships Available  
For more information please call 239.389. 6447

## Florida House District 106 Representative Bob Rommel Visits The Marco Island Historical Museum

By Pat Rutledge

As part of the American Alliance of Museum's campaign to invite legislators to visit museums during the week of August 14, 2017, Florida House District 106 Representative Bob Rommel paid a visit to the Marco Island Historical Museum.

Representative Rommel was welcomed by Pat Rutledge, Executive Director of the MIHS, Austin Bell, MIHS Curator of Collections and Jennifer Perry, Collier County Museum Manager. He was then taken on a tour of the museum beginning with the Sandlin Traveling Gallery where he enjoyed "What's Old is Not Forgotten", an exhibit by the Naples Digital Photography Club. From there, Representative Rommel traveled back in time with his guides as he explored 6,000 years of people on Marco Island and saw replicas of a number of the treasured Calusa artifacts that will be returning to their home on Marco for the first time since 1896 beginning in the late fall of 2018.

Representative Rommel was then transported to "The Pioneer Era, A Tale of Two Villages" by an award winning exhibit that chronicles the period of Marco Island's history from 1870 – 1960 through a combination of artifacts, interpretations, and technology. He was then able to fast forward to a new chapter of life on the island which began in 1965 with the Deltona Corporation and the massive development of Marco Island as told by the museum's Modern Marco Exhibit.

Finally, Representative Rommel experienced the history of the island through the amazing work of renowned artists and twenty six pieces of original art that tell the story of Marco Island in the "Windows and Doors to History" outdoor exhibit.

When asked how he enjoyed his tour, Representative Rommel told his guides that it was an excellent opportunity to learn not only about the rich history of our island, but also what it takes to preserve and to share our heritage for future generations.





## Fall MIHS Speaker Programs

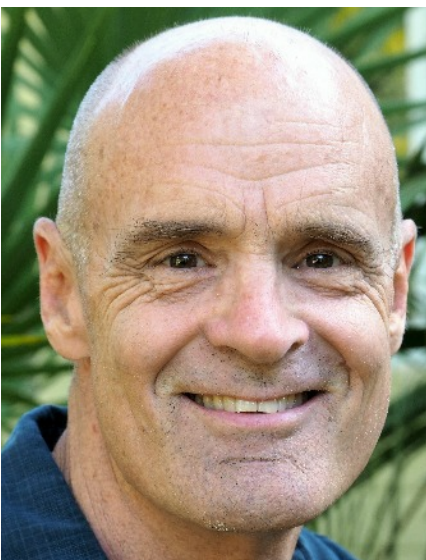
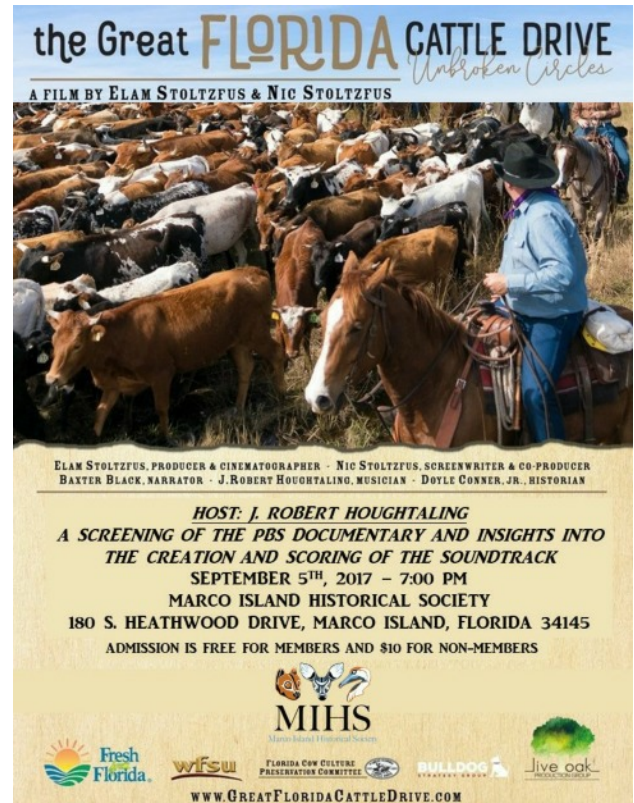
By Pat Rutledge

Admission is free to Marco Island Historical Society members and \$10.00 for non-members. All programs are held at the Rose History Auditorium, 180 South Heathwood Drive, Marco Island.

### **“The Great Florida Cattle Drive – Unbroken Circles” A Film by Elam Stoltzfus and Nic Stoltzfus Hosted by J. Robert Houghtaling**

On Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 PM the Rose History Auditorium will serve as the venue for a very special program hosted by music producer and Florida native, J. Robert Houghtaling.

The evening begins with “Insights into the Creation and Scoring of the Soundtrack” as J. Robert performs songs that he composed for the soundtrack of the film. This documentary tells the story of the Great Florida Cattle Drive of 2016, the history of Florida’s heritage cattle breed, how they almost became extinct and what is being done to preserve Florida’s cow culture for future generations. The running time of the film is 90 minutes. Following the screening, there will be time for questions and answers about the making of this extraordinary movie, a not to be missed opportunity.



### **“The Gulf of Mexico: History, Wisdom, and Hope”**

On October 3, 2017 at 7:00 PM, author Jack E. Davis presents “The Gulf of Mexico: History, Wisdom, and Hope” at Rose History Auditorium, 180 South Heathwood Drive, Marco Island Florida 34145.

Drawing from his critically acclaimed new book, *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*, Jack Davis will discuss how the Gulf of Mexico is historically significant beyond oil spills. He starts from the premise that nature lies at the center of human existence, and takes his audience on a compelling journey from the Florida Keys to the Texas Rio Grande, along marshy shorelines and majestic estuarine bays, profoundly beautiful and life-giving. At the center of his talk is the way people, from pre-Spanish natives to present-day coastal residents, have organized their societies and individual lives around nature, and how Gulf nature has been a positive force in human events.

## Celebrating the Wild Side of Florida: Portals into Nature, Culture and the Sense of Place”

On November 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM, Billie Belleville will take you for a walk on the wild side of the Sunshine State for a unique look at the nature and culture of our Florida home.

### Master Naturalist Bob McConville



Ever popular Master Naturalist Bob McConville will return on October 11<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> to present fascinating insights into the natural world of Marco Island and the surrounding area.

All of these programs offer an excellent opportunity for you to be entertained and informed about the Florida paradise that we call home. Come join us!

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## Wanted! very, very Alive

Interested, fun-loving people with a desire to enhance the educational culture of The Historical Society by participating in 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](mailto:westbjo@gmail.com)

**Membership** is the heart and soul of the Marco Island Historical Society and our •Museum. • There are so many benefits from the wonderful friendships to enjoying terrific programs and exhibits to the pride of being an important part of our award-winning museum.... Surprisingly, many Collier County residents as well as visitors do not know about the museum and when they finally visit they are “blown away” by how spectacular it is and they want to be part of it. • Please do your friends and associates •a favor and tell everyone about MIHS and invite them to join. • Our goal for the year is for every member to bring a new member. • Thank you for your membership and for helping us grow our membership, the “heart” of MIHS.

By Linda Sandlin



## **The Marco Island Historical Society and Museum Wants You!**

By Pat Rudledge

Success...when people come together to share their time and talents.

By becoming a volunteer at the Marco Island Historical Society and Museum you become part of our mission of preserving our island's rich heritage and our dedication to giving back to our community.

There are so many ways that you can help, here are just a few:

- Meet and greet our many visitors from around the country and the world as a museum docent or guide.
- Share our history with artifacts, historical books and an eclectic array of local artisan keepsakes as a volunteer in the Museum Gift Shop.
- Join our Communications and Marketing Committee and use your writing talents to promote all of the exciting happenings at the Historical Society and Museum.
- Join one of our many other committees. You can select from education, hospitality, or programs to name a few.

There is something for everyone interested in giving whatever hours, time, and expertise you have to share. We hope that you will become a part of our team, a part of our success.

Stop in for a visit at the Marco Island Historical Museum, 180 South Heathwood Drive, Marco Island or call us at (239) 389-6447.





## “Past Perfect” Is Just What We Need

By Susan Pernini



Whew! What a HOT summer it has been so far – I think we’re all looking forward to the fall.

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS), however, will remain hot with progress as we continue to implement new and improved tools to enhance our communication and connectivity with members, and supporters near and far.

MIHS administration is now using a museum software package called PastPerfect. PastPerfect includes a contacts database that tracks information about our members including membership renewals, e-mail addresses, and volunteer hours. It also aids us when creating mailings, producing letters, envelopes, and labels, as well as sending membership renewal reminders. This software is bringing us to get to the next level of communication with all our current members, and friends, our future members, and our volunteers.

We at the MIHS are always striving to deliver a first class experience. Whether you are visiting the museum, volunteering, attending a lecture, or renewing your membership we strive for the best. PastPerfect is another behind the scenes tool that helps us to continue to stay organized and deliver that first-class service.





## Museum News: Summer 2017

Jennifer Perry  
Collier County Museum Manager  
Marco Island Historical Museum

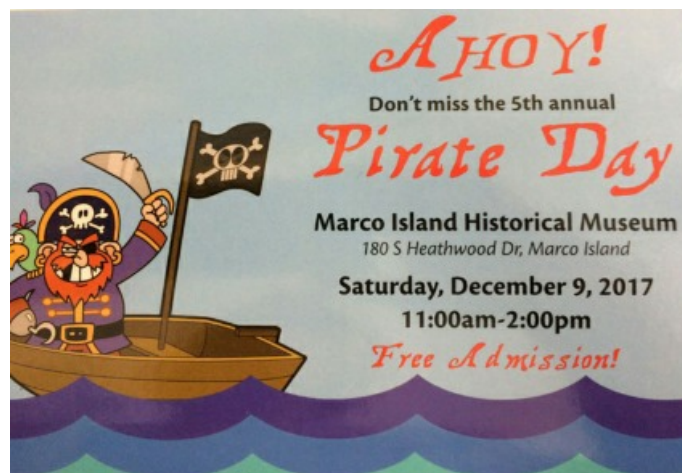
Everyone knows the expression, it's raining cats and dogs... well this summer we certainly had our share of rain but it rained the ultimate cat with the approval to bring the Key Marco Cat and four other significant artifacts to the Marco Island Historical Museum in late 2018! This was a true effort on many people's part. I would like to extend a special thanks to the Marco Island Historical Society for partnering with the County on the loan agreements, staff members from both Collier County Museum and Marco Island Historical Society and last, but not least, the Board of County Commissioners for their unwavering support!

Other Summer Museum highlights was our record attendance... comparing last year visitors number (May-July) to this year attendance, we have seen a 42% increase!!!

More good news! This is the second year we participated with the City of Marco's Camp Mackle Summer Program for elementary aged children. We hosted several days throughout the summer months. Each visit was designed specifically to coordinate with predetermined themes selected by Camp Mackle staff. The campers had an opportunity to tour the museum, discover what roles the staff has, as museum professionals, and work with hands on projects and activities. The historical society made sure each camper left each visit with a little keep sake to remind them of their time spent here at the Museum.

I would be remiss if I didn't announce a few fabulous upcoming happenings at the museum... The Sandlin Traveling Gallery presents the Florida Artists Group, Inc (FLAG) Juried Exhibition. This exhibition features works from artist who have attained national or state-wide recognition. Works include acrylic, etchings, mixed media and sculptures. This exhibit will be on display through November 28, 2017.

Help spread the word and mark ye calendars for our Annual Pirate Day... Saturday, December 9 from 11am-2pm, a family friendly event free to all!!!



Please check out the Collier County Museum Systems newly renovated website [CollierMuseums.com](http://CollierMuseums.com) and stay connected by following us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram! And as always thank you for helping us exceed expectations, Every Day!

# CAMP MACKLE





Marco Island Historical Museum presents:

## **“Florida Artists Group, Inc. Juried Exhibition”**

*Friday, September 1st, to Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>  
Marco Island Historical Museum, 180 South Heathwood Drive,  
Marco Island, Florida 34145.*

**“Florida Artists Group, Inc. Juried Exhibition”** features Southwest Florida artists whose work has attained national or state-wide recognition. The works included in this particular show range from acrylic paintings, etchings, mixed media to sculptures.



**FLAG** was incorporated in 1949, as a non-profit organization of professional artists. Made up of artists whose work has attained national or state-wide recognition, the purpose of the group is to stimulate attainment of the highest standards of creative art within the State of Florida.

A free opening reception sponsored by the Marco Island Historical Society will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, and is open to the public.



For more information about the “Florida Artists Group, Inc. Juried Exhibition”, please contact the Marco Island Historical Museum at (239) 642-1440 or visit [www.colliermuseums.com](http://www.colliermuseums.com).



## Collections Interns

Katie Romey, Curatorial Assistant

Although summer is typically the slow season on the island, our summer was anything but quiet in the collections department. Kristin Conwill and Casey Wooster, both graduate students in Museum Studies at the University of Florida, interned with the MIHS team this summer. Working a combined 600+ hours in ten weeks, they were able to make a significant impact in the MIHS collections and museum.

Kristin and Casey undertook a variety of projects, contributing substantially to the development and enhancement of collections, exhibits, and digital media. They collaborated to produce a vibrant and informative “Marco Island Driving Tour” which maps and describes several significant sites in and around Marco Island from various eras. In addition, they developed an easy-to-use online “driving tour” for anyone to access at any time. Stay tuned for the release of both of these exciting projects! Many of you may have participated in the pre-exhibit development survey at the beginning of the summer. Using the information gathered, we are pleased to announce our temporary in-house exhibit will be titled *I Remember Marco*. This participatory exhibit, co-curated by Kristin, Casey, Austin, and myself will be on display from June through August 2018 in the Sandlin Gallery at the Marco Island Historical Museum. We will continue to work on this in the coming months so mark your calendars now - you won't want to miss this!

As if that wasn't enough, Kristin and Casey undertook several collections-specific projects. They worked together to rehouse and catalog a large accession (group of materials) in our archaeology collection as part of our NEH grant. They also learned general collections management standards including permanently labeling objects, constructing archival boxes, and digitizing materials. We are thrilled with the work they completed and wish them the best of luck in their future museum careers!



Archival Box being created by Kristin Conwill



Casey Wooster photographing pottery

## MIHS Gift Shop

By Nancy Judd

Very exciting times in the Gift Shop this summer. Since starting here in May, I have transformed and re-merchandised the shop, making it more open and inviting for our museum visitors. If you have not been in the store lately, you need to stop in and take a look.

We now have ball caps and visors featuring an embroidered MIHS logo available in tan and classic white.

Then there are the amazing new mugs, postcards and magnets imprinted with JJ Stinchcomb's "Capt. Bill's Lost Map", from the Windows and Doors Exhibit. Coming soon - other images from the exhibit will be available on the mugs, postcards and magnets.

Beautiful pieces of Art Glass are just flying out of the shop. The "glow in the dark" jellyfish were so popular I ordered an octopus, dolphin and turtle, all glow in the dark. The volunteers and I have taken customers, on more than one occasion, inside the dark closet so they can see for themselves how they glow!!!

Jewelry, by several local artists, continue to be very popular and they are always coming up with lovely new necklace, earring and bracelet designs.

A wonderful assortment of children's books, t-shirts, adorable stuffed sea creatures and mermaids is sure to make the kids smile.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the coming months as our snow birds start making their way back down to sunny Marco Island. And again, for our year round members who have not been in yet, stop in to say Hi!!



**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.**

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