



MIHS

Marco Island Historical Society

Preserving the History and
Heritage of our Community

December 2017



Pioneer Exhibit Wins Major Awards

By Austin Bell, Museum Curator

The Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) is pleased to announce that it has been recognized by both the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) for work related to its newest permanent exhibit – *The Pioneer Era: A Tale of Two Villages* – which debuted in January 2017.

The exhibit, which chronicles Marco Island's "pioneer era" between 1870 and 1960, was awarded Silver in the 2017 SEMC Exhibition Competition for exhibits with a budget over \$100,000, second only to the Georgia Museum of Art. The permanent exhibit, which cost approximately \$335,000 to produce, was a collaborative effort of Collier County Museums, the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS), and Creative Arts Unlimited (CAU). Collier County funded nearly 90% of the physical exhibit, while the MIHS directed its development in partnership with CAU, which provided expert design, fabrication, and installation services.

One of the most noticeable features of the new exhibit is its innovative use of digital projection technology. For its efforts, the MIHM was also awarded Bronze in the 2017 SEMC Technology Competition under the Gallery Installation category. Other award winners in the category included the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown (Gold) and the Atlanta History Center (Silver). (Continued on page two)

The SEMC Exhibit and Technology Competitions received applications from a wide variety of museums across the southeast. Judges - museum professionals from across the southern region - were involved in the process of selecting the winners. Winning entries were expected to demonstrate innovation, effective design, accessibility, creativity and pride of work, and recognition of institutional identity.

The award winners were announced at an awards luncheon during the 2017 Southeastern Museums Conference Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana on Tuesday, September 12. There to receive the award and represent the Marco Island Historical Museum was Austin Bell, MIHS Curator of Collections, who directed the exhibit project.

Even the promotional materials for the exhibit, produced by the MIHS and designed by Sherri Morrison Creative Design, received accolades. In November, the AAM recognized the MIHS in its annual publication competition with an award of Honorable Mention in the category of Invitations to Events (Budgets less than \$750,000). Other museums receiving recognition in this nationwide competition included the Peabody Essex Museum (First Prize), the Walters Art Museum (Second Prize), and the Seattle Art Museum (Honorable Mention).

These awards recognize the Marco Island Historical Museum's contributions to professional standards in museums nationwide.



Membership

By Linda Sandlin

Last Spring we set a goal to build our membership to 600 members by the end of Season 2018. I remember so vividly, back in 2005, as we were launching the first museum fund raising campaign to raise \$4.5M, my husband, Alan Sandlin, stating with confident determination that Marco Island, with our important and exciting history, would build a world-class museum. The community and especially our members, volunteers, and donors have fulfilled and exceeded our dreams with an outstanding professionally staffed and run MIHS and Museum in cooperation with the Naples Museum System, award-winning exhibits both inside the museum and the exterior campus, excellent educational and entertaining programs in the Rose History Auditorium, and a professionally managed and growing Collections Department gaining national media attention as we prepare for the return of the Marco Cat and additional artifacts of international historic significance. A growing membership is critical to our continuing success. This is an incredibly exciting time for Marco Islanders to become members of the Marco Island Historical Society. Please share this news with everyone and invite them to join! Our goal is for every member to recruit a new member to join the MIHS family.



Marco Island Historical Society 2017 Annual Appeal

Dear Friends,

This has been a difficult time for all of our members, supporters and friends as we have worked together to recover from the impact of Hurricane Irma on our homes and on our hearts. It is a time when our thoughts and our attention are focused on returning our island to the beautiful paradise that we love.

Within the next few days, you will receive a letter from me asking for your support of the 2017 Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) Annual Appeal. This is such an important request. One year from now, Marco Island will be welcoming home several of the most significant Calusa treasures and the legendary Key Marco Cat. In order to prepare the museum, we are making an investment of \$350,000 in permanent improvements to create a special home and a world-class display for these 1000+ year old treasures.

I hope that you will join us as we make history again. Whatever gift you choose to make, it will be deeply appreciated by all of your MIHS family. Your friendship and support are the inspiration for our work.

With deep gratitude,

Pat Rutledge
MIHS Executive Director

Winter 2017 Presidents Letter

Bruce Graev - President

How time flies! Here we are with the holiday season fast approaching and the year coming to an end. We have survived a Category 4 hurricane. Although our Island was battered, we rose as a community to respond, and your Historical Society was witness to, and more importantly, captured the history that was made. But nothing has stopped us from preparing for an exciting and historic 2018 Season. So much is planned.

At our Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon on December 5th at Bistro Soliel, we will be approving the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting as well as voting on the slate of Directors for the MIHS Board of Directors. There will even be surprise entertainment.

I have written about our Appraisal Faire before, but as we get closer, the multi-day event gets more and more exciting. So please mark March 3rd on your calendars so that you can participate in this event. We will have five appraisers here including Wes Cowen, Nan Chisolm and Ken Farmer (as featured on The Antiques Road Show), followed by "An Affair to Remember" Gala on Saturday evening March 3rd, 2018. You will hear more about the events planned around our Appraisal Faire in the coming weeks.

And yes, the artifacts from The Smithsonian Institution and The University of Pennsylvania will be arriving in November 2018. The contracts have all been signed and preparations are underway to improve security and to prepare for any unexpected events. Collier County has been a great partner in this undertaking and we owe a big thank you to The Collier County Board of County Commissioners and the entire Museum and Historical Society staff and your Board of Directors. So when the opportunity arises, please take time to say thank you for everyone's efforts. This is the first time that these artifacts will be united since they were discovered on Marco Island in 1896. Several exciting new exhibits are being created to enhance the experience. These new exhibits will be completed and installed in time for the arrival of the artifacts. When The Marco Cat was last displayed on Marco Island in a bank lobby, over 35,000 people came to see it. With the combination of the artifacts from The University of Pennsylvania and The Smithsonian Institution, we expect even more visitors to view them.

Your Board of Directors is so excited about our plans for 2018 and we hope to build your enthusiasm and participation. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas or suggestions.



Marco Island Historical Society presents third Spring Appraisal Faire featuring nationally renowned appraisers March 3, 2018

Would you like to know the value of some of your family art, antiques, jewels and other treasured items? Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) announces the return of the popular MIHS Spring Appraisal Faire on Saturday, March 3, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event takes place at Frank E. Mackle Community Park Community Center, located at 1361 Andalusia Terrace on Marco Island.

Nationally renowned appraisers Wes Cowan, Nan Chisholm and Ken Farmer — who appear regularly on the popular PBS program *Antiques Roadshow* — will be on site to evaluate items brought in by the public. Appraisers Pauline Archambault and Brad Wanstrath from Cowan's Auctions also will participate.

There is a limit of three hand carried items per person. Admission is exclusively for those bringing items to be appraised. The cost is \$40 per item and \$25 per item for MIHS members. Items to be appraised include fine art, fine jewelry and timepieces, sculpture, folk art, rare books and photographs, historic Americana, decorative arts, Native American objects and Western artifacts. Firearms, stamps or coins will not be accepted for appraisal. There also will be refreshments and live entertainment.

The MIHS Spring Appraisal Faire events encompass a celebration of the love of history and preservation of items from the past. On March 2, guest appraisers will present "The State of the Antiques World" from 2-3:30 p.m. at the MIHS Rose History Auditorium on Marco Island. On March 3, following the Appraisal Faire, the MIHS will present "An Affaire to Remember" gala, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Island Country Club with fine dining, dancing, silent auction and a live auction conducted by Wes Cowan and Ken Farmer.

Proceeds from Spring Appraisal Faire events benefit the Marco Island Historical Society for the preservation of our community's treasures. For information on Spring Appraisal Faire events, call 239.389.6447 or visit www.theMIHS.org.



The poster is framed by a decorative border of candy canes and holly leaves. In the top left corner is the MIHS logo, which features three stylized animal heads (a fox, a cat, and a bird) above the text "MIHS" and "Marco Island Historical Society". The main title "Holiday Lunch & Annual Meeting" is written in a festive, colorful font. Below this, a green box contains the event details. At the bottom, a yellow box provides the contact information for reservations.

MIHS
Marco Island Historical Society

Holiday Lunch
&
Annual Meeting

Please join us for the Holiday Lunch & Annual Meeting
Tuesday, December 5th, 2017 at Bistro Soleil
 100 Palm Street, Marco Island.
Doors open at 11:30 am – Lunch served at 12:00 pm
\$35.00 per person - tax & gratuity included

To reserve, please RSVP to Susan Pernini @ 239-389-6447 and send
 your check payable to The Marco Island Historical Society and your
 entrée choices by November 27th to:

Marco Island Historical Society
P.O. Box 2282
Marco Island Fl. 34146

Upcoming events

The 2017 Holiday Lunch & Annual Meeting will be held December 5th at Bistro Soleil. Doors open at 11:30am with cocktail service available and lunch will commence at 12:00 Noon. Please bring an unwrapped toy or two for the Guadalupe kids. Specify age group and whether it is for a boy or girl. Our favorite French Chef Dennis has prepared a delicious meal featuring char-grilled chicken breast with mushrooms a la provencal or quiche with shrimp and crab on the side, both served with roasted tomato and asparagus. And let's not forget dessert! All for \$35. Please RSVP Susan Pernini @ 239 389 6447 by November 27th.

Our 2018 programs have been set for the entire year, and you'll not want to miss one! Bob McConville will present a different topic the first Monday of each month by popular demand.

Happy New Year

History Comes Alive Once More at Rose History Auditorium



Mark your calendars for two fascinating trips back in time when the Marco Island Historical Society presents “History Comes Alive with Marco Pioneers” featuring the MIHS Re-enactors on January 9, 2018 at 7:00 PM and “In the Shadow of Glory”, an original one-woman play about Mary Todd Lincoln starring award-winning actress and writer Janina Birtolo on President’s Day evening, February 19, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

The “Marco Pioneer” production will showcase Deaconess Harriet Bedell (Marion Nicolay), Tommie Barfield (Betsy Perdichizzi), Maggie Collier (Cindi Kramer), and Nurse Hazel Pettit Griffin (Evelyn Case), an evening filled with memories of our island’s pioneer past.

Since 2000, Janina Birtolo has been researching, writing and performing one-woman shows based on historical characters. Mary Todd Lincoln’s life was a compelling one that continues to fascinate the public. Through her extensive research, Janina has crafted an all too human story that highlights Mary’s achievements and stumbles “In The Shadow of Glory”.

Please time travel with us!



Museum News: Fall/Winter 2017

Jennifer Perry

Collier County Museums, Marco Island Historical Museum Manager

Dear Museum Supporter,

The Fall of 2017 will not be one to forget... Hurricane Irma made sure of that. Luckily the museum campus was nearly untouched and we were back up and running relatively quickly. We soon found that the museum became a place of restoration for residents and visitors whose spirits needed lifting. And if that wasn't enough excitement, just days before Irma's arrival we had a very special delivery of our own... Our Museum Assistant, Jessica Patel and her husband welcomed a healthy baby girl, Avaani Ava Patel.

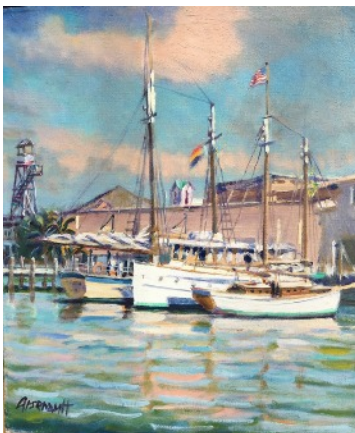
Looking forward, we welcome the 2018 Season with open arms! We have some fantastic upcoming exhibitions, educational programs and special events. All of which can be found on themih.org and colliermuseums.com websites.

December kicks off with bang.... with our 5th Annual Pirate Day, one of Marco Island Historical Museums most popular events of the year! This free event will be held on Saturday, December 9 from 11 am-2 pm and will include local pirate history and folklore, hands-on activities for families including games and a treasure hunt! Young and young-at-heart arghhh welcome!

We are thrilled to announce our major winter exhibit in the Sandlin Traveling Gallery: ***Coastal Trade... Bounty, Booty, and Boats of the Gulf and Glades from Napes to Key West*** by artist, Paul Arsenault. This exhibition opens December 1, 2017 and runs through to March 2, 2018. Please mark your calendar for the opening reception December 13, 6pm-7pm @ the Museum and come meet the artist. *This exhibit, "COASTAL TRADE...BOUNTY, BOOTY, AND BOATS OF THE GULF AND GLADES FROM NAPLES TO KEY WEST" includes not only paintings that represent the pioneer days of Southwest Florida's maritime trading networks, but folk art, posters, and artifacts that relate to this heritage from the artists private collection. It is an exhibition not to be missed!*

Also keep an eye out for another exciting event... our first ever Pineapple Festival, Saturday, January 13 from 11am-2pm, where we will celebrate Marco Island's Pioneer History, and all things pineapple! The Collier County Museums mission is to foster appreciation and understanding of our communities' unique heritage and culture development... I am very proud of the work done here and I hope you would agree! We look forward in seeing you this season!

Stay connected by following us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram! And as always, thank you for helping us exceed expectations, Every Day!





*December 9, 2017 ·
11:00am - 2:00pm
Marco Island
Historical Museum*

Ready to set sail on the high seas? Come dressed as your favorite swashbuckler and enjoy a fun-filled day out with the family at the Marco Island Historical Museum, at the 5th Annual Pirate Day! Marco Island Historical Museum is located at 180 South Heathwood Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145.



Pirate Day features family-friendly activities including Pirate-themed arts and crafts, face painting, treasure hunts, and more! Pirate Day will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 9, 2017.

Admission is free. Sponsored in part by the Marco Island Historical Society. For more information, contact the Museum at (239) 642-1440 or visit www.colliermuseums.com.



A Look Back at 2017

Katie Romey, Curatorial Assistant

Wow! I can't believe 2017 is almost over. As we're gearing up for another great season, it's been fun to look back on all we've accomplished in the collections department this year. Some of the highlights:

NEH Grant

One of the biggest priorities this year was working on organizing, re housing, and cataloging our *entire* archaeology collection. With the help of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant (awarded in early 2017), we are over halfway done upgrading 82 cubic feet of material! In addition to the tedious work of re-housing and cataloging, Austin, our awesome interns and I braved the Florida heat to dry and wet screen soil samples and unsorted bags of archaeological materials. Once completed, the entire archaeology collection will be more accessible and available to researchers and will be adequately stored for long-term preservation.



Collections Storage Room Shelving

With the continued implementation of museum standards in our collection and the need for more work space (a hot commodity!), it was time for the collections storage room to get a facelift. A designated work corner was added with two computers and more table space – a huge enhancement that has provided us opportunities for assistants and interns. In addition, we completely re-arranged our permanent collection storage area with new shelves for 3D objects, the archaeology collection, and the collection of bound Marco Eagle newspapers. We've come a long way from boxes and materials laying on the floor and have optimized our collections storage by providing the resources for museum-quality storage with the space we have. (Continued on next page)





PastPerfect Online

Did you know that only about 5-10% of our total collection is on display? The rest of our collection is safely stored in our collections storage room, however, soon it will be more readily available for YOU and anyone interested in the materials we have in our collection! How is that possible? Our collection will be published online, allowing you to browse through and search for specific topics, people, places, and much more!

Interested in early aerial photographs of Marco Island? or the Olds family? or maybe you're wanting to know the name of your Deltona model home? All of this (and more!) will be available for you to research and view online. Not only will our online catalog provide research opportunities, but you'll be able to share records with others you know who have similar interests AND request digital images. Be sure to follow us on social media for the launch of this exciting project!



The MIHS Welcomes Chris Willets to our Business Office



Chris is a talented administrative professional with a background in accounting and finance. She has extensive knowledge of Accounts Receivable/Accounts Payable, Microsoft and QuickBooks software. Chris is joining the Marco Island Historical Society staff as the Billing Administrator in our Business Office. Please join us in welcoming Chris to the MIHS Team.

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MIHS Gift Shop Holiday Jubilee

Please join us on Friday, December 1st at the Marco Island Historical Museum Gift Shop for our 1st Annual Holiday Jubilee

Browse the newly transformed Gift Shop and you'll find something for all ages!

Prosecco & Petit Fours served from 4 to 6pm

Pick up an autographed copy of Austin J. Bell's new book, "Marco Island".

Meet local artists we feature in the Shop. They are working on new and exciting designs for the coming year.

10% discount on select merchandise
(excludes consignment)

Free Marco Island Historical Driving Tour Booklet
with purchase of \$50.00 or more.

Make us your year-round shopping destination!

Gift Shop News by Nancy Judd

Here we are in fall!!! The end of summer proved to be a busy time. Even September saw visitors in the Museum and the store, a normally very slow month. It was a great beginning. Then came Irma...

With the help of several volunteers we packed up the store and got ready for the storm. We were very fortunate to have not sustained damage. Within a week and help from our wonderful volunteers, we were up and running again. Things were slow those first couple of weeks. Slowly but surely, visitors returned.

Austin's book release and 1st signing event was a huge success!!! Our October sales were through the roof!!!!

We are having our "First Annual Holiday Jubilee" on December 1st. I have invited artist featured in the store to come and set up shop that day. I have had a good response, given all that is going on that weekend with art shows and such. We are serving Prosecco and Petit Fours from 4-6. It should be a fun time!! Stop by and take a look!

Lots of new merchandise for the coming Holidays and season. Stop by and take a look.



MIHS
Marco Island Historical Society

Let Us Entertain You!

World Class Performers at Rose History Auditorium for
another Star Studded Season



Gema Pearl in Concert

Grammy nominated Gema Pearl belts out fresh sounds of Texas blues, classic rock, and new country woven with the finesse of symphonic charm. Her vocal prowess is dazzling!

Saturday, January 20th
\$25.00



Echos of the Platters

#1 Platters tribute in the USA - Nothing but classic Platters hits and production numbers!

Saturday, January 27th
\$35.00



Elton John – Tom Jones Tribute

Huge stage presence with the charisma that draws the audience right in! Revisit the 1970's with this Las Vegas regular!

Saturday, February 3rd
\$35.00



Motown Song Book Tribute

Presented by Grammy nominated members of the Schlock Stars - previously appearing on stage and television with original artists whose hits they now perform.

Monday, February 12th
\$35.00



The Bee Gees Tribute Band

Get Ready to time travel to 1977 with Night Fever and the BEST OF THE BEE GEES
Friday, February 23rd
\$40.00



Frankie Valli Tribute Artist

Take a trip down memory lane with the iconic sounds of Frankie Valli that keep audiences captivated from beginning to end!
Thursday, March 15th
\$35.00

Ticket Information:

Tickets will be available at the Museum Administration Building Monday –Friday 10am-3pm or at the door if available

All shows start at 7:30pm

Doors will open at 7:00pm

Open seating

Location: 180 South Heathwood Drive Marco Island, FL 34145

For more information please call 239-389-6447

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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