PIONEERING HISTORY

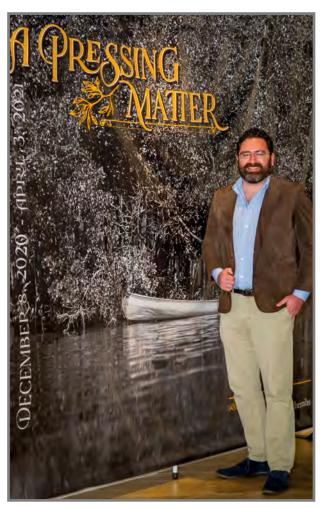
THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2021 | Vol. 28, No. 1





IN THIS ISSUE



- 3 President's Message Mike O'Rourke
- 4 Living Skiff Exhibit
 Paula Robertson
- 8 'A Pressing Matter'
 Austin J. Bell & Paula Robertson
- 11 MIHS News Caitlin Benarroch Emily Garcia
- 12 Crossword Puzzle
- 14 Volunteer Spotlight
 Bev Heeter
- 19 Collections Corner

Cover image: (L to R) Ron Rutledge and Roger Johnson inspect a skiff that was transferred from the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee to the MIHM on January 13, 2021. Photo by Heather Otis.

Images (above, left): "A Pressing Matter" exhibition at the Marco Island Historical Museum. Photos by Rael Aguilar.

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Paula Robertson Patricia Rutledge



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Michael Jakombe III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(CO (CO)

Patricia Rutledge Exec. Director

Greetings to all of our members and friends.

During the past year we have faced new challenges that many of us would not have imagined. Together we have adapted, learned new skills, and become more resilient than ever. Our wonderful members, fantastic staff, incredible partners at the Collier County Museum and dedicated board members have worked hard and demonstrated outstanding determination and creativity to support the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) and Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM)

While continuing the outstanding exhibits such as A Pressing Matter on display in the Sandlin Gallery and the new addition of the skiff, we have expanded into new platforms such as "Zoom In" series to deliver information and share programs in a new manner to a wider audience. At the same time our teammates in Collier County have done a fantastic job getting the museum grounds in excellent condition. Which you can enjoy by joining us for "Music on the Mound" February 8th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm or just coming by and visiting our incredible museum. We encourage you to take advantage of these exciting new programs.

We are also very excited to invite you to join us for a fantastic event on February 20th for an evening that is sure to be great fun. Our theme is Under the Big Top. This is a terrific way enjoy an great evening with friends and support MIHS.

I would also like to welcome our new members to the Board of Director Mary Beth Cummings, Donna Senica and Ron Saffin.

The MIHS and MIHM continue to generate an exciting energy for our community. With many people currently having limited options for activities, it is a wonderful time to introduce new guests and members to an amazing experience. They will appreciate it and thank you for the introduction to MIHS!

Your participation and continued support are critical to the success of MIHS. We welcome members interested in volunteering their time and/or participating on MIHS committees. We need your help to preserve our history and add to this incredible community. You can make a difference through MIHS!



LIVING EXHIBIT" OPENS AT MARCO SLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

PAULA ROBERTSON

arco Island Historical Society Curator of Collections Austin Bell recently traveled to Tallahassee to bring home a true Marco Island prize — a 75+-year-old hand-made skiff that traversed the backwaters of Marco Island and served as the only means of transportation and livelihood for its maker.

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) announces a new "living exhibit" at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM). Museum visitors can watch Master Boat Builder Roger Johnson as he expertly conserves this unique, hand-crafted wooden skiff made by Eugene Paul Teachout in the mid-1940s. Teachout was a printer and veteran of World War I who became a recluse and lived in the backwater islands around Marco Island.

Roger's close friend Ron Rutledge will work side by side with him in the conservation work, and act as liaison to MIHS Curator of Collections Austin Bell and Collections Manager Heather Otis throughout the process. Roger and Ron are donating their time to the project.

Roger happily takes on the task of conserving this very special artifact. He brings to the process more than 50 years of experience in building and restoring small watercraft, especially pre-war mahogany run abouts. He says he retired from "the real world" in 1993 to pursue his passion of restoration work. While, during that time, he has produced many award-winning boats, he says he views this newest restoration as his last but most intriguing project.

Until being acquired by MIHS in January, the little skiff resided at the Museum of Florida History (MFH) in Tallahassee. Austin Bell personally made the trip to Tallahassee to bring the skiff

to its new home. "It was a white-knuckle ride both ways," he notes. "I was double-masked for the flight to Tallahassee and drove the big box truck slowly back to Marco the next day. But there was no question in my mind that it needed to be done. This little skiff is a part of Marco Island history and it belongs here. We are just grateful to the staff at MFH who made it happen."

Teachout used the 11-foot skiff — likely built using cypress, mahogany and red mangrove — for more than 30 years for transportation and fishing. Of his own design, he built it using almost primitive, possibly 18th century, tools. Instead of using nails to hold the skiff together, Teachout laboriously whittled the boat's fastenings of wooden pegs one by one. The boat has a small live-well for storing bait and an ingenious folding seat that allows the operator to row facing forward. A bulbous midsection adds to its stability and provides flotation support needed for a boat so small.

Teachout was living on a mud flat surrounded by mangrove trees in what was described as a hollow log when he was discovered and befriended by Bud Kirk and his wife Kappy of Goodland, Florida. Known for helping those in need, the Kirks invited the shy hermit to live in a crab shack where Kirk made crab traps. Teachout called the crab shack home until he passed away in 1968. According to early comments by Kirk, the quiet craftsman was wonderful with wood and often did carpentry jobs around the little village of Goodland, but he described his boat as his masterpiece.

Although Kirk received many lucrative offers for the skiff, he donated it to the MFH to preserve its unique design and story. The skiff's intriguing story now continues at MIHM where the story of Eugene Paul Teachout, a recluse and craftsman who lived alone in the backwaters of Marco Island, will continue to be told for generations to come.

SKIFF ACQUISITION

Tallahassee, FL to Marco Island, FL January 12-13, 2021 Photos by Austin Bell and Pat Rutledge





MFH staff ensured the safe transportation of the skiff.



Heather Otis and Ron Rutledge assess the skiff.



Austin Bell examines the skiff after unloading at the MIHM.



MFH staff loads the skiff into a truck in Tallahassee.

EVENTS

February 8, 2021

MUSIC ON THE MOUND

Featuring musician Bill Beck

5:30PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

February 20, 2021

'UNDER THE BIG TOP' GALA

5:30PM

Island Country Club

Tickets: \$225

per person



February 22, 2021

"SWAMP DOCTOR OF FLORIDA"

Presentation by Carrie Sue Ayvar 6:30PM

Online "Zoom In" Series

March 2, 2021

"UNDER THE STARS"

Presentation by Bob McConville 6:00PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

March 5, 2021

"THE HISTORY OF THE KEY MARCO CAT"

Presentation by Austin J. Bell

2:00PM

Online "Zoom In" Series

March 6, 2021

LOCAL HISTORY DAY

10:00AM-3:00PM

Presented by Collier County Museums

Marco Island Historical Museum

March 11, 2021

'MEMBERS & MIMOSAS'

Exclusive historic skiff presentation

10:00AM

Marco Island Historical Museum

FREE to MIHS members

March 15, 2021

"Marjorie Harris Carr: Defender of Florida's Environment"

Presentation by Peggy McDonald

2:00PM

Online "Zoom In" Series

SPECIAL FLORA EXHIBITION PRESSES ON THRU APRIL

AUSTIN J. BELL & PAULA ROBERTSON

arco Island is the largest barrier island within the Ten Thousand Islands area that extends from Marco Island's 24 square miles are some of the most stunning and well-preserved natural areas in Florida — and some of the most spectacular and unique plant life found anywhere.

Marco Island's unique biodiversity has left it well-represented in the botanical record. Botanists and other scientists record and collect plants to learn more about the natural environment. Researchers from throughout the world have been making plant pressings on Marco Island since the late 1800s. Some of these pressings are preserved in the world's most important herbaria (collections of plant specimens and associated data used for scientific study).

Plant pressings from Marco Island are preserved in herbarium collections at Duke University, Florida State University, Harvard University, the New York Botanical Garden, the Smithsonian Institution's U.S. National Herbarium (USNH), the Swedish Museum of Natural History, the University of Florida and University of South Florida.

The Museum's current exhibit A Pressing Matter: Preserving Marco Island's Flora presents the history and vast variety of the island's amazing and important plants and flowers and illuminates the story of our island's unique natural environment.

The exhibit includes historic photos from the American Museum of Natural History and prints of historic and rare plant pressings from the New York Botanical Garden, the Smithsonian Institution's U.S. National Herbarium, and the University of Florida, as well as actual plant pressings

from George Wilder, botanist and herbarium curator at the Naples Botanical Garden. Visitors also can learn how plant presses work and even receive a free mini plant press while supplies last!

Marco Island is home to more than 460 plant species, roughly 70% of which are native to Florida. Marco Island's flora is unique even compared to that of the nearby mainland. Certain species found on Marco Island are not found anywhere else in Collier County. One has been found only on



Above: Prickly pear cactus, *Opuntia* [humifusa var. austrina], Sand-dunes, "Caxambas Island," (May 11, 1922). Collected by J.K. Small. Courtesy of the U.S. National Herbarium.



Marco Island and nowhere else in the world — *Lechea lakelae* (known also as Lakela's pinweed), was first found on Marco Island in 1964. It has not been observed in the wild since 1987 and may now be extinct, likely due to the island's extensive development.

According to Marco Island Historical Society Curator of Collections Austin Bell, "The unique and diverse plant life found on Marco Island has earned the island the reputation as a botanist's paradise for more than a century. Plant pressings and herbaria are important to understanding the natural world and the forces that affect it. Plants can hold answers to many of the questions about the natural world and many of these answers can benefit the lives of human beings."

"We are grateful to our exhibit sponsor, the Island Country Club Charitable Foundation, for their generous support of this important exhibit," says MIHS Executive Director Pat Rutledge. "A Pressing Matter informs and educates our visitors on the importance of these beautiful and fragile natural wonders of Marco Island to all of us and to future generations."



"A.B. in tree," Florida (August 10, 1906). Photo by Julian A. Dimock. Image #48360, American Museum of Natural History Library.



MEET THE NEWEST MIHS STAFF MEMBER

Caitlin Benarroch, Administration Coordinator

aitlin Benarroch joined the Marco Island Historical Society team as Administration Coordinator on January 4th. Her primary responsibilities include administrative and office management, support for fundraising initiatives and marketing campaigns to advance the Marco Island Histori-

cal Society's mission.

Caitlin was born and raised in Marco Island and attended Tommie Barfield Elementary as a child. She and her husband Joseph, also a Marco Island native, returned to the area at the end of 2020 after living in Orlando, Florida since 2012. There, Caitlin attended the University of Central Florida and earned a bachelor's degree in hospitality management with a minor in mathematics. She is beyond excited to be back on Marco Island and call Collier County home again.

Prior to joining the MIHS team, Caitlin worked for Hyatt Hotels in Orlando for nearly 6 years in various roles including customer service and revenue management. Most recently, she was Assistant Front Office Manager at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress where she oversaw the front office and guest service operations. Caitlin's hospitality background makes her a fantastic addition to the MIHS team with her ex-



perience in customer service and management. She is excited to interact with our members and visitors and assist in hosting events and community involvement.

In her free time, Caitlin loves spending time with her family and especially her fur babies. In April, she convinced her husband to add an additional member to the family, Sadie, a now 11-month-old lab-mix who fits right in with Arizona, their golden retriever/collie mix. Their two cats have not yet decided if they like the puppy or not... only time will tell!

MIHM LAUNCHES LOCAL HISTORY DAY

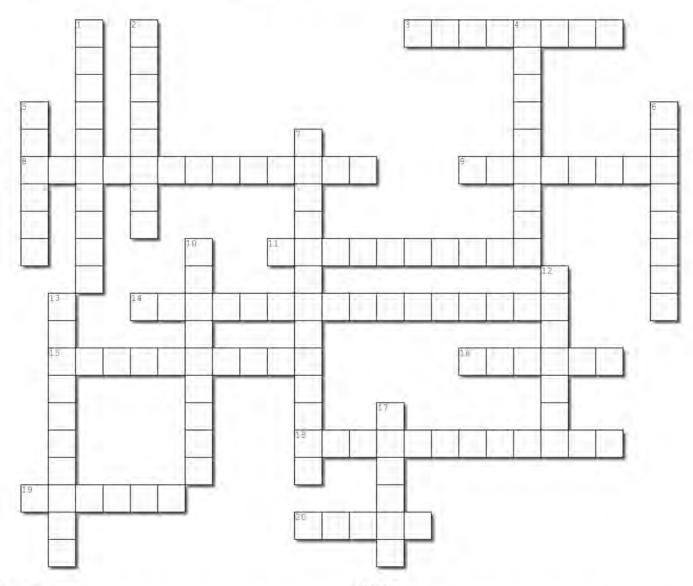
Emily Garcia, Museum Assistant

he Marco Island Historical Museum invites you to attend our first Local History Day! With many of our large annual events cancelled due to safety concerns, Local History Day has been created to hold a safe, socially distanced event. We are sticking to our roots: local history. We will present fun activities for the whole family exploring different aspects of Southwest Florida's history. We want to celebrate the uniqueness of our community and bring the most exciting aspects of the museum outside for all to safely enjoy. This event will be held on March 6th, 2021 from 10am-3pm. Family-friendly, free, food available, and live music.



Modern Marco Island

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Across

- 3. Current street of 1965 Marco Island airstrip
- 8. Deltona's chief architect of Marco Island
- 9. They owned most of Marco Island prior to 1964
- Signature style for 8 Across' Marco Island architecture
- 14. Marco Island's first newspaper
- 15. Marco Island paddle wheel boat name
- 16. Long-time Marco Island swim instructor 'Miss
- 18. Marco Island's first condominium
- 19. Hurricane that hit Marco Island in 1992
- 20. Provided public transportation to visitors (c. 1980)

Down

- 1. Location of Margo the Marco Island Mermaid
- 2. Marco Island's first touring golf pro
- 4. Married musical duo, 'Frankie Ray and _____,' that composed Marco

Island's official song

- 5. 1965 model home road
- 6. Marco Island's first full-time deputy
- 7. Popular sightseeing boat (c. 1968)
- Popular late 1960s all-purpose woman's garment created by Marco Island resident
- 12. Corporation founded by Mackle Brothers
- 13. Original Marco River Bridge toll charge
- Elevation booster for Deltona Corporation home sites

BECOME A MEMBER

Since 1994, the Marco Island Historical Society has been preserving and sharing the history and heritage of our community. Join us as we make history!

Student (\$25 annually)

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

Single (\$75 annually)

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs
- Receive NARM benefits for addtl. \$25

Family (\$125 annually)

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs
- Receive NARM benefits for addtl. \$25

Patron (\$250 annually)

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing as a Patron on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

Benefactor (\$500 annually)

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing as a Benefactor on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1000 annually)

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing in the Tommie Barfield Circle on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events
- Exclusive Invitations to Exhibit Previews & Receptions with Visiting Museum Guests
- Annual Luncheon with MIHS Staff and Tour of Collections

All Membership Levels include special Gift Shop promotions.

Yes! I/We Want to Make History & Join the MIHS!

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LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP	PLEASE PRINT CONTACT INFORMATION
\$25 Student \$250 Patron \$75 Single \$500 Benefactor \$125 Family \$1000 Tommie Barfield Circle	Mr. & Mrs. Mrs. Other:
PAYMENT OPTIONS	(=)
My/Our Check Made Payable to the MIHS is Enclosed Charge My/Our Membership to: MC VISA DISC	ADDRESS
	CITY ST ZIP
CARDHOLDER NAME	PREFERRED PHONE
CREDIT CARD NO.	EMAIL
EXPIRATION DATE CVC	Thank You For Your Support!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLICHT: BEV HEETER

How well do you know the people behind the friendly faces of the Museum? In honor of our amazing group of volunteers, the MIHS is launching a series of interviews spotlighting one of the many whose dedication and efforts are vital to this institution.

When did you start volunteering at the MIHS?

Seven years ago.

How or why did you get involved?

My husband had Parkinson's, and I would go to the library our last couple years together when they were building the museum. He was not able to get out of the car – it was too hard - so I would park so he could watch the workers because he was so fascinated with the building, you know, the construction of it all. We had no idea what it was, what was being built. Then the very last year when it opened, we were here, but he was not able to come over and see it, and our friend suggested I start volunteering here. So she talked to Louise, and Louise called me and I came over, and that's how I got started volunteering on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

What it is that you love most about volunteer ing here?

Visiting with people. I really like when families come in with their children. Their expressions and just the things they say make my day!

How long have you lived on Marco Island

Permanently, four years. We started coming down twenty-some years ago, and we leased on the main beach for a few years, and then we moved into Hideaway fifteen years ago. But we were still basically Snowbirds for six months at a time. After my husband passed, I tried going back and forth, but it was too hard, so I sold my home and moved down here full time.

What brought you here for the first time:

We had never heard of Marco Island, and my husband was a workaholic basically, so we wanted to get away but didn't know where. At my garden club, a lady said to me, Did you ever hear of Marco Island? So, my daughter-in-law looked into it. Then we made reservations at the Marriott for two weeks, and they treated us like royalty, believe me. It was worth the stay!

And my husband fell in love with Marco Island the minute we drove over the bridge. That's all he could talk about was Marco Island after that. And I am surprised at how many people, in conversations, say the same thing. They fall in love with going over the bridge. I have a dog, Walker, and I was up north for a month and a half last summer with my daughter-and-law, and as soon as we started coming over the bridge on the way back, he began whimpering, he was so excited to be back on Marco Island – he recognized it! Even to this day, I just love Marco Island. I think it's the greatest place.

What is your favorite story or moment from volunteering?

One time, a pair of grandparents had their little ones, and the little granddaughter said on the way out, "Well the next time I come I'm gonna wear my Halloween costume also!" And she was talking about the Calusa mannequins (laughs).

There was also a man who came in one day, and I am from the little town of Sligo in Pennsylvania, of 1200 people at the most, and he said he had lived in Pennsylvania, and we got to talking. He worked as a salesperson for a company and would drive through Sligo, and



Bev Heeter and Walker. Photo by Gina Day.

he knew all about Heeter Lumber Company, and that's our family. It's just such a small world.

What is the most surprising question you've been asked by a visitor while volunteering here?

I was just recently asked if I was that woman in the picture on the label for the Calusa village model over there (laughs).

What is your favorite object or item in the Museum?

I guess the Calusa mannequins – I just think they are fantastic. I could go back there and just look at them; you almost feel that they're watching and communicating with you.

What is one thing people might not know about you?

Oh, lots of things!

What is your favorite food?

Oh boy. Mashed potatoes. I love mashed potatoes. And of course, chocolate!

What is your favorite color?

Blue. It's calming to me.

What is your favorite animal?

My poodle! Walker is a miniature red poodle, and he was the only one in the litter when he was born. He was really dark red as a puppy, like an Irish setter. They told me he would get lighter because of the sun, and of course I tell everyone that's what happened to my hair then (laughs). He is the greatest little puppy, and I live out in Hideaway, and everyone there knows Walker. They don't know me that well, but they know him, so you know what a good dog he is.

Favorite place or thing to do on Marco Island?

Eating at restaurants and coming to the museum.

What are your hobbies outside of volunteering at the Museum?

I used to do a lot of hand work, and I try to read a lot, including books on the museum.

If you were to improve the museum in some way, what would you do?

I wouldn't do anything, truly. I am very pleased with what I see and do here.

15

NEW AND RENEWING · MEMBERS · C·

JUNE - DECEMBER 2020

Single Membership

Barter, Betty Bergemann, James Block, Suzanne Boy, Sandra Boyer, Nancy Brieger, Karen Bungert, Patricia Chambers, Linda Cotto, Erica* Daye, Judy Dennison, Allan Ediss, Susan Edwards, Jennifer

Egizio, Philip Emanuel, Mildred Fiala, Donna Gore, Carol Hapet, Surabian Iwinski, Mary Ann Johnson, Peggy Kiester, Jane Lachmund, Rita Markel, Barbara McIntosh, Mary Miller, Jim Miloro, Sam

Minozzi, Lynne Molloy, Patricia O'Brien, Judith O'Neill, Tara Raney, Pat Russell, Louise Sanborn, Jo-Ann Scherer, Joan Schmidt, Deirdra Silvestri, Debbie Surabian, Carol Wallen, Sandra Yance, Gwendolyn

Family Membership

Batdorf, Rich & Lori Baton, Janet & Scott Benson, Sonva Bowen, Kristen* Corkins, Margo Dyskow, Phillip & Sharon Eby, Deborah* Erker, Charles & Margaret Ford, Andrew & Rene* Freytag Jones, Wayne & Marge Garber, Susan Gaynor, Lavern Goldstein, Ed & Arlene Good, Aimee & Madden Bob Hawes, Teresa* Hess, Dennis & Georgia

Honig, Larry & Lisa

Johnson, Darryl & Linda Johnson, Penelope* Kaczka, Jeff & Donna Landis, Gary & Anne Lange, Jack & Robin Leher, Robert & Carole* Lovett, Ray & Virginia Lussenhop, Charles McCombs, Kenneth & Peggy McConville, Bob McDonnell, Richard & McFarland, Maureen Miller, Dana & McKenzie, Susan Wakenight, Matthew & Jeanne Montgomery, Charles & Marilyn O'Donnell, James & Karen Page, Sandi & Larry Patterson, Thomas & Carol

Irwin, Richard & Sharon

Pavin, Georgia Porter, Frank & Mary* Remaks, Lisa* Rentz, Thomas & Mary Ellen Saffin, Ron Schira, Gary & Mariann Senica, Donna Shmihluk, Robert & Karen Skudnig, Molly* Steiner, Gwyn & Blume, Craig Thompson, Roger & Judy Tobiasz, Dave & Carls Leesa Troha, Frank & Gwen* Walsh, Dave & Susie Weins, Deborah Yale, Jeffrey

*New Member

NEW AND RENEWING · MEMBERS · C·

JUNE - DECEMBER 2020

Patron Membership (\$250)

Anonymous

William & Mary Aronin*

Claire Buffardi

Joe & Mary Beth Cummings

Richard Dewoskin & Randi Schannon

Donna Dubev

Bertil Engh

Paul & Sandy Fernstrum

Corrie Grado

Benefactor Membership (\$500)

Anonymous

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Patricia O'Rourke

Tommie Barfield Circle¹ (\$1.000)

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Bruce Graev*

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John & Brenda McGlade

Jeffrey Lutz & MC Nowosielski Paul Tateo

Aldo & Mary Pat Palombo

*New Member

Dr. & Mrs. Huxley

Evan Jones

Richard & Julie Maly

Kimberly Porter

Louis S. Justice Rathje & Dr. Rose Marie

Costanzp

Richard & Carolyn Rosenfeld

Ron & Pat Rutledge

Arne & Julie Sandbery

Gerald Swiacki & Linda Turner-Swiacki

Jim & Allyson Richards

Myrt Rose

Alan & Linda Sandlin

Cherry Smith

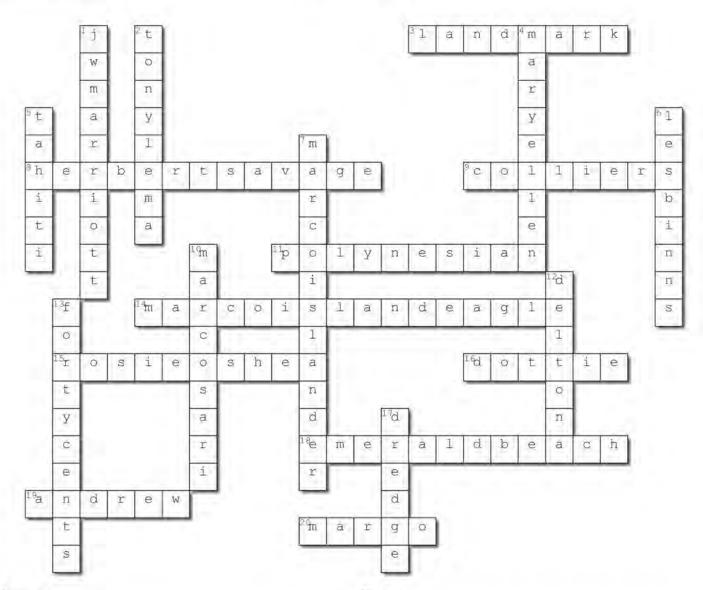
Preston & Keely Stiner

Chris Sullivan*

Artwork by Malenda Trick.



Modern Marco Island Answer Key



Across

- 3. Current street of 1965 Marco Island airstrip (landmark)
- Deltona's chief architect of Marco Island (herbertsavage)
- They owned most of Marco Island prior to 1964 (colliers)
- 11. Signature style for 8 Across' Marco Island architecture (polynesian)
- 14. Marco Island's first newspaper (marcoislandeagle)
- Marco Island paddle wheel boat name (rosieoshea)
- 16. Long-time Marco Island swim instructor 'Miss ' (dottie)
- 18. Marco Island's first condominium (emeraldbeach)
- 19. Hurricane that hit Marco Island in 1992 (andrew)
- 20. Provided public transportation to visitors (c. 1980) (margo)

Down

- Location of Margo the Marco Island Mermaid (jwmarriott)
- 2. Marco Island's first touring golf pro (tonylema)
- Married musical duo, 'Frankie Ray and ,' that composed Marco

Island's official song (maryellen)

- 5. 1965 model home road (tahiti)
- 6. Marco Island's first full-time deputy (lesbinns)
- 7. Popular sightseeing boat (c. 1968) (marcoislander)
- 10. Popular late 1960s all-purpose woman's garment created by Marco Island resident (marcosari)
- 12. Corporation founded by Mackle Brothers (deltona)
- 13. Original Marco River Bridge toll charge (fortycents)
- Elevation booster for Deltona Corporation home sites (dredge)

COLLECTIONS CORNER

Thanks to your generous support, the MIHS works every day to preserve and share the more than 50,000 items in its collections. Each issue, we will feature a new item from the collections.



Untitled

ca. 1970

Paul Billie

Watercolor and pencil on paper

Gift of Paul Tateo in honor of Helen and Vincent Tateo (MIHS 2020-15-001)

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