

PIONEERING HISTORY

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2018 | Vol. 25, No. 3



Calusa Upgrades | A Fond Farewell | Summer Fun | Intern Life



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CREDITS

DESIGN

Austin J. Bell
Kristin Conwill

EDITOR

Austin J. Bell

CONTRIBUTORS

Austin J. Bell	Meagan Boritz
Kathryn Ivanovich	Jessica Patel
Susan Pernini	Paula Robertson
Bailey Rodgers	



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Patricia Rutledge	<i>Exec. Director</i>
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Greetings to all of our members and friends.

It feels like we just ended an incredibly active and exciting 2018 season and here we are preparing for the 2019 season. There is so much going on. As we prepare for the return of the Key Marco Artifacts, there is so much activity around the Museum. Eleven new displays will be added to the Calusa Gallery. The official public opening of the exhibit will be Saturday January 26th, 2019. This will be the first time they will be displayed together since they were discovered on Marco in 1896.

The MIHS staff and volunteers are working on several new and exciting programs and educational events around the return of the artifacts. You will hear more about these in the near future. We are looking for volunteers to help with our exciting programs. If you are interested, please call the MIHS.

2019 is the 25th Anniversary of the Marco Island Historical Society. We will be celebrating throughout the year with many surprises including our "Dreams Do Come True Gala" which will be held on February 9th, 2019 at The Island Country Club. Be on the lookout for more information about that.

On December 10th, a second book on Marco Island in Arcadia Publishing's Images of Modern America Series will be published. Co-authored by Austin Bell and Kaitlin Romey, it will cover Marco Island's "modern era", from 1960 to present. The book will be available for sale in our gift shop. And speaking of our Gift Shop, Nancy Judd and her staff of volunteers are gearing up for the return of the Calusa Artifacts with many new and original items.

So as you can see, the activity at your MIHS never stops. Please come by often and see what's new. There is always something new at your MIHS where the Past is Always Present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Graev".

Bruce Graev

President, Board of Directors

EVENTS

October 2, 2018

*Marco Fire Rescue, Your
Hometown Heroes*

Presentation by Mike Murphy

7:00-9:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10 (non)

October 11, 2018

“enGULFed”

Exhibition by the Marco Island Academy

Opening Reception

5:00-6:00PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

FREE

October 15,
2018

Presentation by
Bob McConville

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) /
\$10 (non)



November 6, 2018

Museum Timeline

Presentation by Alan Sandlin

7:00-9:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10 (non)



November 19, 2018

Presentation by Bob
McConville

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10 (non)

December 4, 2018

MIHS Annual Holiday
Luncheon

11:30AM-1:00PM

Bistro Soleil

Tickets: \$40 per person (lunch included)

HERE, KITTY, KITTY: THE KEY MARCO CAT COMES HOME

PAULA ROBERTSON

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) announces that the MIHS has achieved its 25-year quest to bring “home” on loan the world-famous Key Marco Cat and other rare Pre-Columbian Native American artifacts discovered on Marco Island, Florida in 1896.

Several of the most significant Key Marco artifacts will be brought together on Marco Island for the first time since their discovery by anthropologist Frank Hamilton Cushing more than 100 years ago. The exhibit will be at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) from January 2019 to April 2021.

A free, public grand opening event for the exhibit will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, during Museum hours. It will include a morning ribbon cutting to celebrate the official opening of the exhibit, live music, an afternoon program/performance on the music of the Calusa by composer and musician Kat Epple and Anthropology Band and more.

The Key Marco Cat has been described as one of the finest pieces of Pre-Columbian Native American art ever discovered in North America. At only six inches tall and carved from wood, the Key Marco Cat is a charismatic anthropomorphic feline statuette that has captured the public’s imagination for more than a century. Other important pieces in the exhibition include a ceremonial mask, alligator figurehead, painted human figure and sea turtle figurehead.

The MIHS is mounting the exhibit in collaboration with Collier County Museums, the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The loaned artifacts will be featured within one of the Museum’s permanent exhibits — *Paradise Found: 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island*.

“This exhibition is the culmination of a long-term vision to bring these incredibly important artifacts to Marco Island on loan in order to educate and inspire people of all ages about the fascinating history of our region,” says MIHS Curator of Collections Austin Bell. “It has taken years of planning and discussions

with the lending institutions and the continuation of a public-private partnership that includes the Marco Island Historical Society, Collier County and the community.”



Courtesy of Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution (A240915)

Cushing’s 1896 Key Marco excavation produced some of the greatest discoveries in the history of North American archaeology. Because the artifacts were buried in an oxygen-free layer of muck, these rare wooden objects — between 500 and 1,500 years old — were astonishingly well preserved. Many of them began disintegrating upon exposure to the air. Those that survived, along with lifelike watercolors and field photographs of the pieces captured by expedition artist Wells M. Sawyer, provide extraordinary insight into the daily lives of the Calusa Indians and their ancestors. The Calusa dominated Florida’s Southwest Coast and controlled South (*cont. p. 6*)

Florida by the time the Spanish arrived in the 16th Century.

Since their discovery by Cushing, the returning Key Marco artifacts have been in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History and University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Others are at the National Museum of the American Indian, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the British Museum.

"The Key Marco Cat from the Smithsonian collections is an extraordinary object that attests to the unique archaeological record of Key Marco and the people and cultures who lived there for millennia," notes Torben Rick, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. "Perishable artifacts, like the Key Marco Cat, are rare in the archaeological record. Its significance lies in the information it holds about the human past, cultural diversity, and the ways that these issues can inspire researchers and the general public."

"The objects coming from the Penn Museum clearly demonstrate the remarkable preservation of the organic materials from Key Marco," notes Meg Kassabaum, assistant curator for North America at the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. "Usually these materials do not preserve on ancient sites, so the Key Marco materials show us what we're missing from most other archaeological contexts. These particular artifacts are prime examples of the complex iconography used by pre-Columbian Floridians and probably had deep ritual significance to the people who created them. In particular, the paint that remains on the wooden objects serves as an important reminder of the level of detail and skill attained by pre-contact Native artists and gives just a hint of how beautiful these pieces would have been when they were made. The fact that they have survived so long is truly incredible and provides a nearly unique window into the past."

"This is a transformative event for the Marco Island Historical Museum as well as for Marco Island and all of Southwest Florida."

-Patricia Rutledge, MIHS Executive Director

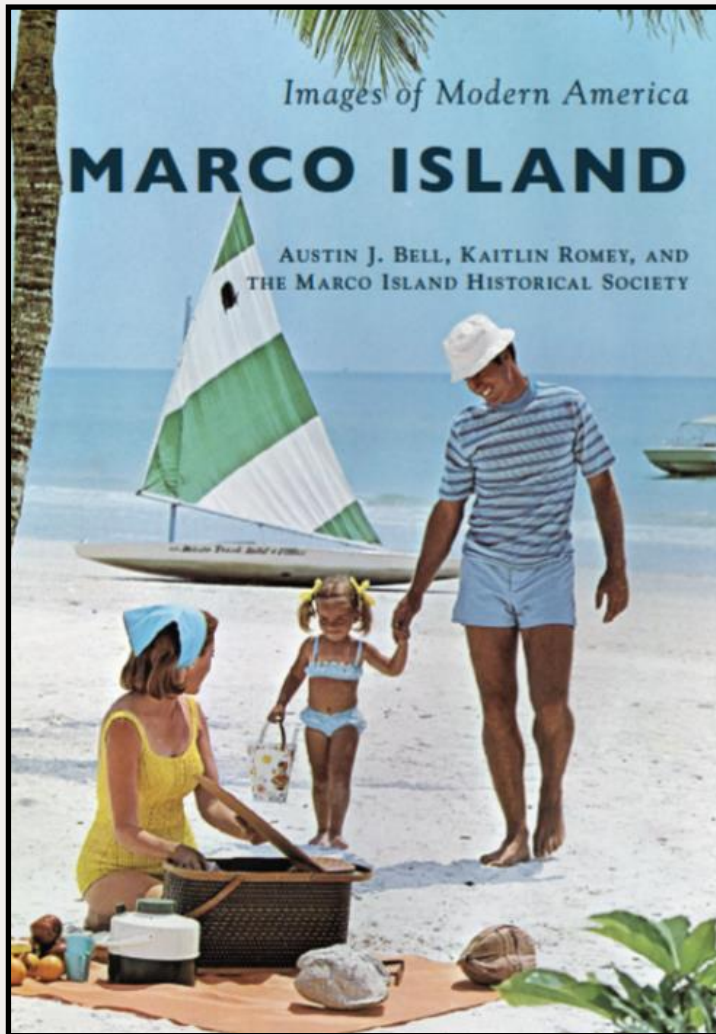
According to Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala, "Bringing the Key Marco artifacts exhibition to Collier County and Southwest Florida is a major achievement. There is no doubt it will generate increased tourism and business for local hotels, restaurants and other area businesses, as well as provide an extraordinary educational experience for residents and visitors alike. The nearly two-and-a-half-year duration of the exhibition will create a heightened awareness of Southwest Florida's early beginnings and will extend the positive impact on the area's economy."

Collier County and MIHS are providing a portion of the funds to cover costs for required security system upgrades, onsite security during the exhibition, and other costs to prepare for the exhibition. However, additional funds still must be raised from private donors and other funding sources.

Preparations also will include permanent enhancements to the museum's award-winning Paradise Found: 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island exhibit that will include interactive activity stations, state-of-the-art projections, dramatic animations, stunning new original artwork and exciting additions to the museum's immersive life-size Calusa Village.

Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc. is serving as the design and fabrication team for the exhibit enhancements. Creative Arts was the design and fabrication team for the museum's Paradise Found, Modern Marco Island and Pioneer Marco: A Tale of Two Villages permanent exhibits.

MIHS Executive Director Patricia Rutledge notes, "This is a transformative event for the Marco Island Historical Museum as well as for Marco Island and all of Southwest Florida. The next and final steps in bringing the exhibition to fruition are to raise the balance of the funds needed to prepare for the exhibition and to complete museum enhancements required by the lending institutions. The investment in security and climate control upgrades also will make it possible for the museum to present future important traveling exhibitions for the benefit of the public and community."



COMING SOON

The MIHS is pleased to announce the release of its second book, "Marco Island" (left), in Arcadia Publishing's *Images of Modern America* series.

The book is co-authored by Austin Bell and Kaitlin Romey utilizing photographs from the MIHS collections. Chronologically, the book is a "sequel" of sorts to Bell's 2017 book in the *Images of America* series, which highlighted Marco Island's "pioneer era" in more than 200 black and white images. This book will feature 168 new images, many in vibrant color, chronicling Marco Island's "modern era" from the 1960s to present.

The book will be published on December 10, 2018 and available at the Marco Island Historical Museum gift shop or wherever books are sold.

i remember **marco**

**Jun 5 - Oct 4
2018**



CALUSA EXHIBIT UPGRADE PREVIEW

Renderings and Photos by Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc.





DECEMBER 2018

New additions to *Paradise Found: 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island* will include (page left) an interactive pottery puzzle, replica shell midden profile, new artifacts cases (above), new artwork and wooden replicas (left/right), Calusa craft station (below) - and much more!



HISTORY LESSONS

MEAGAN BORITZ

MIHS INTERN
GRADUATE STUDENT, UNC-GREENSBORO

This internship has cemented my passion and love for museums. Interning at the Marco Island Historical Museum has given me the opportunity to work on multiple projects, gain knowledge and experience in museums, and the opportunity to assist Katie and Austin with projects that helped me learn the internal dynamics of public history. It was an absolute pleasure with the staff at the museum and I truly enjoyed my time there.

These projects included: exhibit artistry, installation, fabrication, exhibit evaluation, cataloging and archiving the exhibit data, re-photographing accessions, assisting in cataloguing archeological material in PastPerfect, inventorying photographs, researching primary and secondary sources, assisting in long-term preservations of archeological material, creating programs for K-12, assisting in existing programs, and presenting interpretation of the temporary exhibit with student groups, assisting with volunteer docent program planning, independently researching and designing a tour guide script for a docent handbook, and recorded a training video for docents.

Above all, this internship has engaged my curious nature for continual research and museum work. I cannot tell you how many times I would look at a photograph, and conduct extra research for myself. Personally, finding out the answers, connecting the dots, piecing together the past, has fulfilled my passion for history as well as discovery. I enjoyed the freedom of looking up the answers for myself and piecing together Marco Island's rich history.

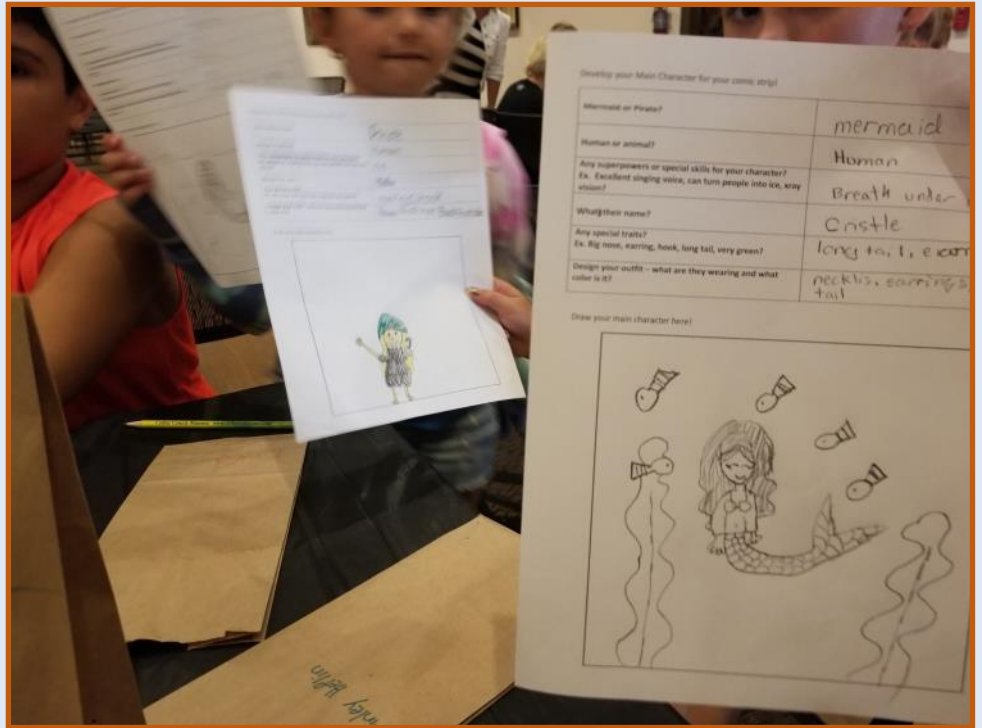


MIHS Interns Meagan Boritz (left) and Mara Reynolds (right). Photo by Susan Pernini.

SUMMER MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

Jessica Patel, Museum Assistant

It may be summer, but the Museum never slows down! Our staff, volunteers, and interns have all been busy with programming for school students. Multiple elementary groups experienced the Museum, led by our wonderful docents Kathy Miracco, Karen Brieger, and Cindy Crane. Staff planned three Camp Mackle sessions, with themes provided including Salty Pirates and Beautiful Mermaids, Treasure Hunt on Sand Dollar Island, and Shark Week. The kids learned about the legends of Juan Gomez, Margo the Mermaid, devised their own comic strips (right), participated in a game day, and learned all about the Megalodon. On July 28th, the Museum also hosted a Family Day, where visitors could learn about some of the native plants, pioneer fruits, and guess the cost of items in the late 1800's.



MIHS RECEIVES EXHIBIT AWARD

Austin J. Bell, Curator of Collections

On August 23rd, the MIHS received notification that it is the recipient of an award in the 2018 Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) Technology Competition. The MIHS is being recognized in the Gallery Installations category for its "Hashtag Hub" in this summer's *I Remember Marco* exhibit. This is the second year in a row that the MIHS has been recognized in the SEMC's Technology Competition, last year (below) winning the Bronze Award in the same category for *The Pioneer Era: A Tale of Two Villages*. For a relatively small organization competing against some of the largest museums in the Southeast, these awards are evidence that the MIHS is consistently on the cutting-edge when it comes to exhibit innovation and technology, as voted upon by a jury of museum professionals. Austin Bell will accept the award on behalf of the MIHS at the 2018 conference in Jackson, Mississippi in October.



MIHS WELCOMES FALL INTERNS

Kathryn Ivanovich
Florida Gulf Coast University

Hello! My name is Kathryn Ivanovich and I am a new intern at the Marco Island Historical Museum. I was born and raised in Staten Island, New York but have lived in Fort Myers since 2007. I am currently pursuing a degree in anthropology at Florida Gulf Coast University and will be graduating in the spring of 2019. During my time at FGCU, I have been the treasurer for the anthropology club and attended an archaeological field school where I gained hands on experience in the field with real artifacts. I plan to go on to graduate school and hope to earn a master's degree in archaeology within the next few years. While interning at Marco, I hope to gain more knowledge about the behind the scenes work at museums such as archiving and the research that goes into creating exhibits. Community outreach and partnership is also something I would like to learn more about. Marco Island has a great history behind it and I am excited to be here and learn everything I can!

Bailey Rodgers
Florida Gulf Coast University

Greetings, Marco Island! My name is Bailey Rodgers and I am one of the Marco Island Historical Museum's new interns. I was born in Denver, Colorado, moved to Sarasota, Florida about nine years ago with my family, then moved to Fort Myers about a year and a half ago to continue my secondary education. I am a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University studying anthropology with a focus in archaeology. Along with my internship at Marco Island Historical Museum, I am also working with FGCU's Archives and Special Collections office. I am helping digitize oral histories and planning and executing exhibitions. My passions in the anthropology field include physical anthropology, archaeology, and museum studies. In the museum world, my interests lie in research, community outreach, exhibition planning and designing, archival and collections work, and preservation. I am planning on pursuing my masters after graduating in both museum studies and archaeology to pursue a career at a natural history museum. Marco Island Historical Museum has been extremely warm and welcoming to me and I am looking forward to spending time at MIHM to learn more about museum work!



DREAMS

DO COME TRUE!

SAVE THE DATE

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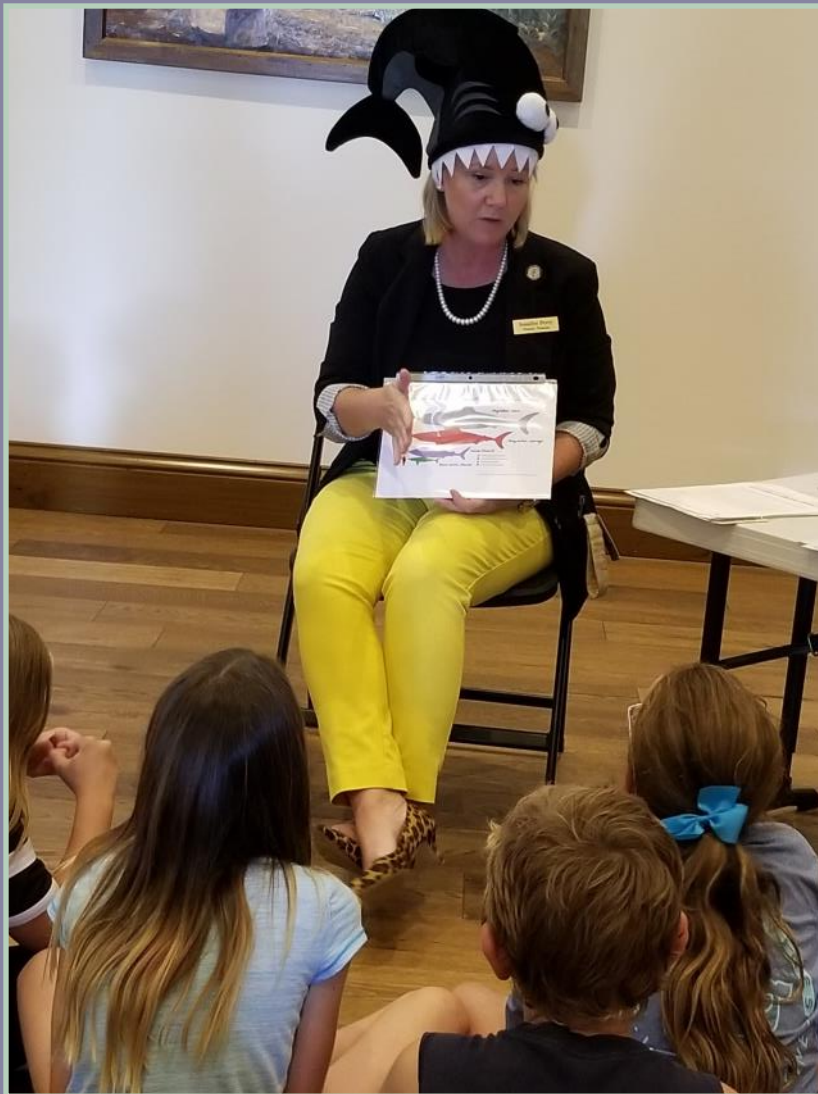


Years of Preserving
the **History**
and **Heritage**
of our Community

1994-2019



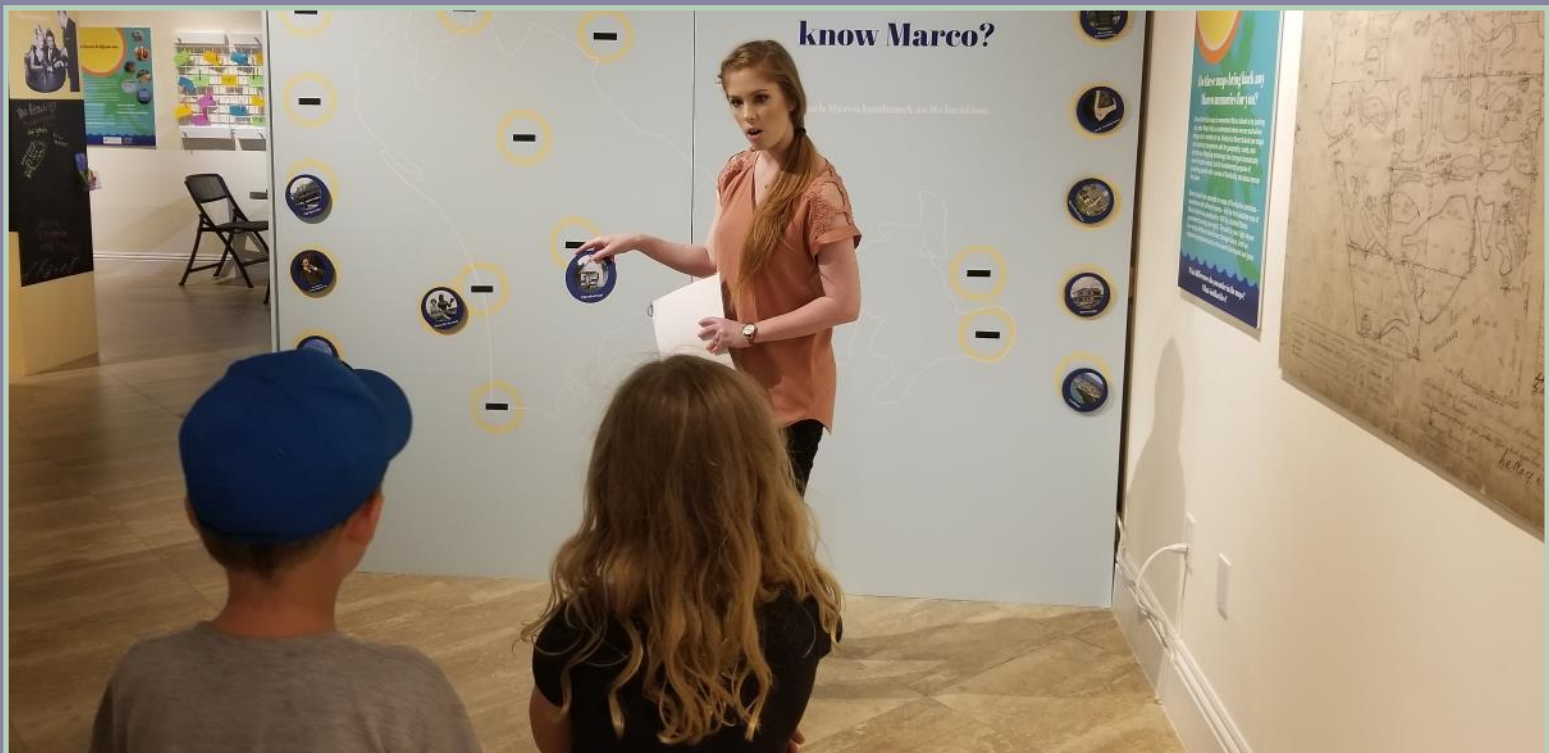
MIHS
Marco Island Historical Society



Jennifer Perry, Museum Manager, shows Camp Mackle students just how large Megalodon grew. Photo by Jessica Patel.



Volunteer Cindi Kramer discusses Spanish Moss and Gumbo Limbo trees during Family Day's Native Plant Tour. Photo by Jessica Patel.



Meagan Boritz, MIHS Intern, assists Camp Mackle with the interactive displays in *I Remember Marco*. Photo by Jessica Patel.



SUMMER FUN AT THE MUSEUM



Museum Docent Karen Brieger leads homeschool students through the Calusa Village. Photo by Jessica Patel.



Camp Mackle students explore *Windows and Doors* painting with Jessica Patel (right) during their game day. Photo by Meagan Boritz.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

JUNE - AUGUST 2018

Patron Membership (\$250)

George Benson & Gwenn Patten
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Bertil & Lena Engh
Bruce Graev
Larry & Lisa Honig
Dr. Eliot & Francine Huxley
Sparkle Carpet Cleaning
Matthew & Jeanne Wakenight

Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1,000)

Corrie J. Grado



*New Member

Artwork by Malenda Trick

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

JUNE - AUGUST 2018

Single Membership

Bergemann, James	Ferrigno, Jo-Ann	Markel, Barbara	Silvestri, Ann Deborah
Boy, Sandra	Foote, Joanne	Raney, Pat	St. Louis, Raphael
Boyer, Nancy	Goetzmann, Katie	Rentz, Thomas	Swanchak, Grace
Chambers, Linda	Hammond, Elisabeth	Robertson, Bruce	Thompson, Barbara
DaAnna, Janet	Hebel, Carol	Russell, Louise	Turton, Victoria
Donovan, Fran	Iwinski, Mary Ann	Scherer, Joan	Zinn, Adolph
Emanuel, Mildred	Kuntz, Phyllis		

Family Membership

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Alexander, Richard & Norine	Henderson, Lee & Dorothy	O'Donnell, Jim & Karen
Bottalla, Carla	Hess, Dennis & Georgia	Patterson, Thomas & Carol
Brinkoetter, John & Martha	Johnson, Darryl & Linda	Pavin, William & Georgia*
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Freytag, Thomas & Marjorie	Merlo, Paul & Marcia	Surabian, Hapet & Carol
Geberth, Vernon & Laura	Montgomery, Charles & Marilyn	Swiack, Gerald & Turner-
		Swiack, Linda

*New Member

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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

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- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

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- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

All Membership Levels include special Gift Shop promotions.

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

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- Listing as a Benefactor on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1000 annually)

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- 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

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

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|---------------------------------------|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Tommie Barfield Circle |

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A Fond Farewell to Kaitlin Romey

By Austin J. Bell

On July 27, 2018, the MIHS bid a fond farewell to Collections Manager Kaitlin Romey, who departed for her new position as Registrar at the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures in Kansas City, Missouri.



We had the good fortune of working with Katie since November 2015, during which time she oversaw a major rehabilitation of the MIHS collections and collections storage, including an upgrade of its archaeological collections via a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Katie catalogued and digitized tens of thousands of items in the MIHS collections, culminating in the publication of an online searchable database earlier this year, as well as the MIHS's first-ever Collections Management Policy. Katie also assisted in the production of the Marco Island Historical Museum's permanent *Pioneer Era* exhibit (opened in 2017) and this summer's popular *I Remember Marco* exhibit in the Sandlin Gallery. She is also the co-author of a forthcoming book titled *Marco Island* in Arcadia Publishing's Images of Modern America series, available December 10, 2018.



Katie's impact on the MIHS - and the history it is committed to preserving - will be long-lasting. The work she did over the past 2.5 years helps ensure that Marco Island's history will be preserved for future generations to enjoy and learn from. Please help us congratulate Katie on her new position and wish her well as she continues her career closer to home.



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