

# Friends of the Museum of the Everglades November 2017



Volume XVII Issue 8

FME, P.O. Box 677, Everglades City, FL 34139

November 2017

Website: [www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org)

email: [FME\\_98@hotmail.com](mailto:FME_98@hotmail.com)

## Mark Your Calendar

### Board Meeting

November 9, 2017 at 4:00 pm  
207 N. Storter Avenue

## EXHIBIT RELOCATION

Jurg "George" Furrer  
Reception Nov. 11, 2017

12 Noon to 2:00 pm

Collier County Main Museum  
Government Center, Naples

## Inside This Issue

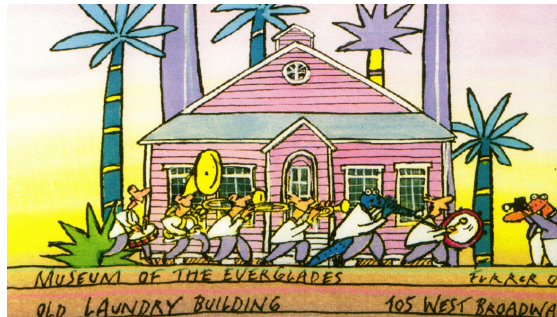
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## "A HEART FOR ALLIGATORS"

Submitted by Patty Huff

Due to the fury of Hurricane Irma the temporary special exhibit, "A Heart for Alligators: A Retrospective of the Art of Jurg 'George' Furrer" will be relocated to the Collier Museum at Government Center, 3331 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, FL 34112. The exhibit will be on display in the newly renovated Rogers Art Studio from Saturday, November 11, 2017 to Saturday, December 30, 2017.

The exhibit opened briefly at the Museum of the Everglades the week prior to the storm but was removed for safe-keeping. The Museum of the Everglades remains closed to the public while it undergoes repairs. While it is unfortunate that this exhibit will not be shown as planned in the community George loved and became a part of, the venue chosen for its relocation is nonetheless appropriate. It is a historic building that once served as the studio of E. George Rogers, a local artist, who likewise dedicated his craft to his community.



Just a glimpse of the picture above of one of George's illustrations is sure to bring about a lighthearted glimpse of our uniquely beautiful town. (continued on page 2)

## An Invitation from our FME President

Anyone interested in serving on the board of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades is encouraged to contact Patty Huff. 239 695 2397. Her e-mail is [Snookcity@gmail.com](mailto:Snookcity@gmail.com)

We need to know of your interest by November 15 to present the 2018 board members at the annual staff luncheon to be scheduled in December which is expected to be announced by Thanksgiving.

**Mark this date:** FME Board Meeting  
November 9 at 4 pm  
Patty Huff's Home

## HURRICANE IRMA'S DEVASTATING HISTORIC EVENT

On September 11 residents of Everglades City experienced the fury of Hurricane Irma. Winds gusted over 140 mph and in some areas the storm surge rose above 8 feet. The morning after saw a flooded town, as shown below, with water levels above the knee deep in the streets and over the docks. The photo below left shows resident Ron Ouellette and Mayor Pro Tem Howie Grimm assessing damage in the DuPont area. Irma will forever be remembered with pictures and personal stories to be shared for generations to come.



Photos by Marlene A. Sassaman

After Irma's visit, postmaster Meg Sotelo's smiling face was a welcome sight




The Museum is located at 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, telephone (239) 695-0008  
Open to the public Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm

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## MUSEUMING ALONG THE HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS



On your next trip out west consider a stop at La Veta, Colorado. Barely bigger in size and population than Everglades City I can promise dry, cool temperatures. According to locals and documents at the FRANCISCO FORT MUSEUM, La Veta, like Everglades City has a legendary past. It is along Route 160's Legend of Highways. You can imagine what went on in the 1500's through the Mexican American War, and the infamous Wild, Wild West.

Bonus: Members of FME get a free, personal tour of La Veta , CO. Call Marlene for details at 321 682 6288

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**“A Heart for Alligators” (continued from page 1)** "A Heart for Alligators - a retrospective of the art of Jurg "George" Furrer celebrates the works of the artist who passed away in 2014. A popular illustrator and syndicated cartoonist in his home country of Switzerland, George was a familiar face in Everglades City for many years, visiting on an annual basis and making many lifelong friendships. George brought his appreciation for the region's unique flora and fauna home with him. He seamlessly incorporated much of what he experienced in Everglades City into his art. In 1994, he published a book of cartoons with Everglades themes: "Ein Herz fur Alligatoren" ("A Heart for Alligators") from which this exhibit takes its name and included preservation and restoration in the area. Many of the places he captured in his artwork on display were badly damaged or completely destroyed by the recent storm. This exhibit, which began as a celebration of George's work has now become a tribute to our region's most colorful locations --many of them now sadly lost forever, " said the Museum of the Everglades Manager Thomas Lockyear.

**Sweet Mayberry's Café  
 and Gifts**  
 Will not re-open  
 and will be missed

In honor of George Furrer's appreciation for the Everglades we invite you to visit this heartfelt exhibit. Within this retrospective is a selection of original prints as well as copies of his books and other objects emblazoned with his distinctive alligator images.

**VANTASTIC TOURS  
 Of Goodland**

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This exhibit is timely in the context of Everglades City's current challenge to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Irma. George Furor was instrumental in the effort to restore the historic City Hall following its damage by Hurricane Wilma in 2005. Still he remained a staunch proponent of preserving historic memories and artifacts.

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**PHOTOGRAPHERS, PAINTERS, AND ARTISANS  
 ARE INVITED TO EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM  
 OF THE EVERGLADES.**

Please call Thomas Lockyear (239) 695 0008 if you are interested or if you know someone whose artistic talents deserve to be shown. Thomas will be able to give you a timeline for when the museum will re-open.

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**2017 Board of Directors of the Friends  
 of the Museum of the Everglades**

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Georgia Garrett, Treasurer	Linda Walfield, Secretary
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Greg Dupignac, Event Volunteer	Marlene Sassaman, Newsletter

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## Manager's Report by Thomas Lockyear

The phones are still down and the Museum of the Everglades remains temporarily closed as the damage done by Hurricane Irma continues to be assessed. Please direct all calls to me at the museum: (239) 695- 0008.

*The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival WILL take place as planned and more information will be forthcoming via the Friends website and Facebook page.*

Residents of Everglades City experienced the fury of Hurricane Irma. Winds gusted over 140 mph and in some areas the storm surge rose above 8 feet. Fortunately the Museum of the Everglades incurred no structural damage from the storm despite floodwaters which rose close to five feet. Because of the museum building's elevation more than 8 inches of water came pouring in covering the historic heart of pine floorboards. One of the saddest sights was the broken sign shown in the picture below center taken by Kent Daniels.



Photo by Kent Daniels

On the third day following the storm I was able to enter the building (picture above right). With shovel in hand and protection from mold, it was scary to see the floors covered with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch of slimy mud brought in with the surge. Since the storm surge of Hurricane Wilma in 2005, the dense Dade County Pine had been dry as a bone for over a decade. Wilma's surge immersed the floorboards with seawater causing them to swell to half again their size. The floor buckled in half a dozen spots.

Sensitive artifacts had been removed prior to Irma's arrival We have since removed everything from fixtures to furniture from the building as cleaning, repair and restoration takes place. Mold and moisture mitigation through the structure was also addressed and the building was given a clean bill of health. Currently we are working with historic restoration experts to preserve as much of the damaged floor as possible. It is our goal to preserve the integrity of this building..

Like many residents of Everglades City, MOE assistant Martha Hutcheson's home was hit hard by Hurricane Irma and she spent the first couple weeks literally digging out from the mud left behind by the storm surge. She has been quick with her familiar smile and kept her sense of humor throughout the ordeal— a testament to her strength and resilience. Martha is currently assisting Jennifer Perry at the Marco Island Historical Museum while Museum Assistant Jessica Patel is out on maternity leave. We are anxious to have Martha back at Museum of the Everglades when we open again, but grateful that she is available to help out at one of Collier County's other great museums.

**We appreciate your patience and determination as we navigate the rough waters ahead!**



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**Hurricane Data from 1876 to Present**  
**Everglades City, Florida**  
*(Data Taken From National Hurricane Center)*

Year	Month	Date	MPH	Storm Surge
1876	October	20	105	Details not noted
1894	September	25	95	Passed 40 miles to west
1906	October	18	120	From SW passed SE of E. City
1910	October	17	120	Passed West from SSW
1924	October	20	90	From WSW
1926	September	18	130	From East moved WNW
1929	September	28	95	From ESE; Pressure 28.95; 65 homes Damaged in Key Largo
1935	September	3 Labor Day	125	25 miles to West moved NW; Pressure 29.69
1935	November	4	75	From ENE
1941	October	6	120	From East; Heavy Flooding
1945	September	15	130	From ESE
1947	September	17	145	5.5 feet From East slow moving north
1947	October	12	85	From SW
1948	September	21	130	From SSW; Category 3; Pressure 28.44
1960	September	10 Donna	150 -175	8 foot surge; half of buildings destroyed
1964	October	15 Isabel	125	4 foot surge; Heavy damage throughout SW FL
1965	September	8 Betsy	120	Passed South after slamming Upper Keys
1992	August	24 Andrew	90 - 140	Passed South
1999	October	15 Irene	80	Came ashore in Everglades National Park 25-30 miles East of Everglades City
2005	October	24 Wilma	125	Moved quickly; damaged mobile homes in E. City, Immokalee, Chokoloskee and Plantation Island
2017	September	11 Irma	140	Storm surge up to 8 feet in some homes; many furnishings and vehicles destroyed

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## A Call for Volunteers Support Collier County Museums

A message from Grant Matthews, Volunteer Coordinator, Collier County Museums

The Old Florida Festival, our flagship event, is a celebration of 500+ years of Florida history as told through historical reactors, demonstrators, craft workers, music, food, dance and art. The two-day event will take place at the Collier Museum at Government Center (main museum in East Naples) on Saturday and Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 5 pm each day.

This is one of our largest events in the museum system and we typically bring in several thousand visitors. That being said, the volunteer needs are immense. Helping out with arts and crafts, greeting visitors with maps and information, aiding as a floating docent, helping to deliver food and water to the reenactors, pouring beer and serving food, and helping with the general set-up and breakdown of the event are just a few of the examples of what you can expect a volunteer role to be at the Festival.

We are going to need the assistance of well over 40 volunteers (a concrete number and schedule will come in the follow weeks) to help us put on this event. Most of the volunteer duties will be split up between morning and afternoon shifts each day. Of course you can choose whichever shift(s) you want. There is no minimum or maximum number of hours to volunteer at the event – all help is welcome. We will do our best to assign you to a volunteer role that most suits your interests. Volunteers must be at least 15 years old, and all volunteers under the age of 18 must have a permission slip/agreement that we will provide for their parent or guardian to sign. This is a great way to get hours for school requirements before the end of the semester!

If any of you have an interest in helping us out, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can start assigning roles. This is a big event and we are going to need all the help we can get.

Please reach out to me at: [GrantMatthews@Colliergov.net](mailto:GrantMatthews@Colliergov.net) or by phone numbers at (239) 252-8722 or (573) 620-2981 so I can address any questions and concerns you may have.

Thank you, Grant Matthews Volunteer Coordinator Collier County Museums

The Friends of the Museum of the Everglades appreciate the outpouring of goodwill shown by members of our community and those who traveled hundreds of miles to help restore individual homes, our neighbors yards, businesses, and our precious museum.

**UPCOMING EXHIBITS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS**  
 Be sure to check back with the Museum of the Everglades  
 to confirm these Exhibits and Dates

Dates	Name of Exhibit
November 17	“ <b>A Land Remembered</b> ” Presented by Everglades Society for Historic Preservation at 5:30 pm at Everglades City Hall 205 Buckner Avenue North, Everglades City. RSVP <a href="mailto:ESHHP@hotmail.com">ESHHP@hotmail.com</a> or (239) 695-2905
January 1	“ <b>Plume Hunting</b> – from the forefront of fashion to the brink of extinction”  ”60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary –Wind Across the Everglades”
February 1	“ <b>River of Grass</b> ” – Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the Art of Robert Fink
February 1	“ <b>Black History of Everglades City</b> ”
March 1	“ <b>The Trailblazers</b> ”
April 1	“ <b>Celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tamiami Trail</b> ”

**A PICTORAL REMINDER OF IRMA’S DEVASTATION and  
 the RESILIENCE/SENSE of HUMOR OF THE PEOPLE**

The photo of Raggedy Ann was taken by Patty Huff; all others by Marlene A. Sassaman



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