



# Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

Volume XVIII Number 11

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

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

### EVENTS

#### Mid-Month Movie Night **Cracker Crazy**

Friday December 14, at 6:00pm  
Museum of the Everglades

#### Deck the Depot

December 17-22

Naples Depot Museum  
see [www.colliermuseums.com](http://www.colliermuseums.com)

#### Remembering the Rod & Gun

Friday, January 4, 5-7pm

Museum of the Everglades  
*see Manager's Message*

### EXHIBITS

Pauline Reeves Gallery

#### December, January:

*Remembering The Rod & Gun Club*  
From Pioneer Homestead to Dignitary Destination  
**RECEPTION: January 4th**

#### February, March:

*Skunk Apes, Scallywags, & Swamp Spirits*  
Legends and Lore of the Everglades

*Best Wishes  
for a  
Joyous Holiday  
and a  
Happy, Healthy New Year!*

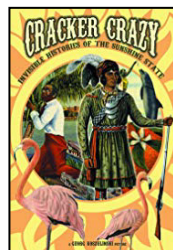


The centerpiece of the Annual Luncheon buffet was this ingenious cake in the shape of the Museum building. It was baked by Margaret Johnson who added little details like Santa arriving on the lawn.

### *The Cat Comes Home!*

The Calusa Cat has arrived at the Marco Island Historical Museum on loan from the Smithsonian. The little statue is housed in a special display case at the heart of the Museum. You can visit on Tuesday through Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

A play about the discovery of this important artifact by William Hamilton Cushing in 1896 will be presented by the Marco Island Historical Society Re-enactors on January 7-8. "The Voyage of the Silver Spray" was written by local historian Betsy Perdichizzi. For info and tickets, phone (239) 389-6447.



### Mid-Month Movie

Museum of the Everglades will be showing the 2007 documentary "Cracker Crazy: Invisible Histories of the Sunshine State" on Friday, December 14 at 6pm. The movie is free of charge and so is the popcorn. Candy and soft drinks available by donation to the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades.

Renegade filmmaker Georg Koszulinski takes on Florida's history from a different point of view. Blending archival and original footage, he brings to life a cast of historical characters spanning over 12,000 years, from Florida's ancient Indians to the migrant farm workers of the 21st century. Unmask Florida's Ku Klux Klan and don't forget about Walt Disney and Henry Flagler – perhaps the two characters most responsible for the Florida we know today.

The Museum is located at 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, 34139. Telephone (239) 695-0008.  
Open to the public Monday through Saturday, 9AM to 4 PM – Free Admission.



Everglades City School students heard Rey Becerra talk about Indian culture and made their own Calusa masks.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

by Thomas Lockyear

November was a busy month here at MOE. We hosted visits from both Leadership Monroe in the Florida Keys and Collier County Champions for Learning. We also supplied a venue for an after-hours community meeting, providing a place for a packed house of local residents to learn about zoning changes coming to Plantation Island and to have an opportunity to see the progress we've been making on the museum.

We brought two days of outreach programming to Everglades City School in recognition of Native American Heritage Month – partnering with cattle wrangler Rey Becerra who shared his passion for history and love of the Seminole culture (*see photos in left column*). Students of all ages also explored the mysteries of the Calusa, crafting and coloring their own versions of ceremonial masks unearthed on nearby Marco Island in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The famous Key Marco Cat, discovered during that same expedition, will be coming to the Marco Island Historical Museum on loan from the Smithsonian later this month (*see front page*).

Mid-month movie night featured Gary Cooper in “Distant Drums” and was our best-attended film event yet. This month we will screen “Cracker Crazy: Invisible Histories of the Sunshine State” – a documentary delving into often untold aspects of Florida’s past. Movie night is free and starts at 6pm sharp, but come early for conversation, trivia and to claim yourself a seat.

Matt Stock’s “Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades” exhibit was extended several weeks due to growing popularity as our seasonal residents returned. Currently showing in the Pauline Reeves Gallery is “The Rod & Gun Club: from Pioneer Homestead to Dignitary Destination” featuring a plethora of historic images highlighting the stages of that location’s evolution.

Join us for a reception, “Remembering the Rod & Gun”, on **Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>** from 5pm to 7pm. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served courtesy of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. This event is free and open to the public and we encourage you to come and share a memory or story about the iconic lodge that hosted visits from five U.S. Presidents. The exhibit will remain on display through February 1<sup>st</sup>.

In January we plan to hold our first outdoor movie night of the season on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>. We’ll be showing “The Cocoanuts” starring the Marx Brothers – a musical comedy set during the Florida land boom of the early 1920’s – in MoE’s parking lot under the stars. The Roaring 20’s attire is encouraged for this fun-filled evening event. Admission will be free, but donations are always appreciated. Don’t forget to bring your own chair.



210 Collier Ave, P.O. Box 380 Ph: 239-695-4499  
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## President's Message

by Patty Huff

As a new year approaches, I think back on when I joined the Friends nearly 20 years ago and started serving on the Board in 2002. Much has been accomplished over those years, thanks to the commitment of many, many volunteers and board members. In 1994 when we purchased our home and started renovating it, I remember walking by the old laundry building and watched it being transformed into a Museum. It required a lot of love, hard labor, and funds to resurrect it. With the collaboration between the County and the Friends group, we had our first successful joint venture. The building was completed and dedicated in 1998 and the Friends had increased their membership with the excitement of the opening of the Museum. Together with the Collier County Museum staff, FME started offering programs to the public and introducing many new artists to the area with their works of art being exhibited in the newly named Pauline Reeves Gallery. Artists from Miami and Naples attracted visitors from all over south Florida to our receptions. Paul Tribble and his students became an important part of our summer exhibit.

One of the most exciting projects we undertook was the purchase of the Rob Storter Collection, coordinating with his granddaughter Betty Briggs. It was an ambitious venture but again the Friends were committed to preserving the history of our area. This eventually led to another joint venture with the Collier County. The Friends group initiated the purchase and paid half, then the County paid the balance and the Friends donated the 310 pieces to the Collier County Museum.

More recently FME was able to assist the County in purchasing the additional parking lot. The cooperative spirit between the County and the Friends continues. FME exists because we love our history and our Museum. As we move ahead to the future, we look forward to our ongoing partnership with the County to do what we can to advance their mission. Although our role has evolved over the years, we have the same commitment to keep our history alive and to share it with the thousands of visitors who come to our town every year.

Please help us by inviting a friend to become a member and support our programs and events. And, thanks to everyone who has been a part of our Museum of the Everglades.

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*Editor's Note: This is Patty's last Message as President. After so many years of service to FME, she has resigned to make way for a new President. Our thanks for all her time and effort.*



The special Rod & Gun exhibit includes this lighter which was found online by Thomas and paid for by FME.

## MEMBERSHIP

We have 94 memberships including 28 who renewed for 2019 since the luncheon. FME is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation so if you would like to take a tax deduction this year, please send in the form below with your check before December 31.

We appreciate business members and recognize their support by including their business cards in the newsletter.

Welcome to new members since our last newsletter:

Kathy Flay, Chokoloskee  
Caroline Morris, Boise, ID

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

We need volunteers at the desk to greet visitors and to sell items in our gift shop. Stop in at the Museum to sign up for your preferred shift.

### ***The MULLET RAPPER***

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands  
**READ THE LOCAL NEWS!**

Kathy Brock, Publisher  
K Bee Marketing (954) 662-7003  
P.O. Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!**  
[www.swflgo.com](http://www.swflgo.com)

### **Havana Café**

**Breakfast & Lunch, Every Day**

7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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**Cuban sandwiches & coffee**  
**Lunch specials**

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### ***Learn About FME***

The **Friends of the Museum of the Everglades, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation dedicated to keeping history alive at our local Museum by providing financial and volunteer support. FME was founded in 1994 by the late Pauline Reeves who spearheaded the move to save the old Laundry building which opened on April 26, 1998, as a Collier County Museum.

Our **DIRECTORS** are

Jaye Brunner Helen Bryan Sherry Geiger Marya Repko Vicky Wells (officers to be elected in January)

Our **NEWSLETTER** is published at least six times per year. It is sent to members by email and is freely available to the public on our website [www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org). Comments and contributions are welcome at FME\_98@hotmail.com.

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## ***FME MEMBERSHIP*** (renewable annually)

date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to "FME" and send to: FME Membership, P.O.Box 677, Everglades City, FL, 34139**

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**MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:**

\_\_\_ JAN \_\_\_ FEB \_\_\_ MAR \_\_\_ APR \_\_\_ MAY \_\_\_ JUN \_\_\_ JUL \_\_\_ AUG \_\_\_ SEP \_\_\_ OCT \_\_\_ NOV \_\_\_ DEC