



Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

Volume XVIII Number 3

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

www.evergladesmuseum.org

EVENTS

FME BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 13

Tuesday, April 3

Museum, 4pm

Immokalee Cattle Drive

Roberts Ranch

Saturday, March 10

www.colliermuseums.com

MUSEUM 20th BIRTHDAY

TAMIAMI TRAIL 90th

Saturday, April 28

EXHIBITS

Pauline Reeves Gallery

Feb 17 - March 24:

Everglades: River of Grass

Art of Robert Fink

March 14 - April 28:

The Trailblazers

Tamiami Trail 90th Anniversary

Volunteers Needed!

Spend a few hours each week greeting visitors at the Museum. No experience necessary, just a smile and a friendly welcome. Meet people from around the world and around the corner. Stop in to register or phone 695-0008.

MSD Festival

The keynote speaker at the opening luncheon of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas festival on February 20 was June Cussen, Executive Editor of Pineapple Press which published the great activist's autobiography *Voice of the River*. June shared with us memories of her meetings with MSD and visits to the little house in Coconut Grove.



Of course, it would not be a luncheon without the delicious food sourced from various local restaurants. by Martha Hutcheson and enjoyed by a packed house in the Lighthouse Club at Everglades Isle. After we had loaded our plates, we were entertained with a realistic portrait of



MSD by re-enactor Barbara Hedges.

The rest of the week was full of interesting talks, walks, and tours. Our thanks to all the participants, to volunteers at the front desk, and to members of the public who swelled the audiences.



TAMIAMI TRAIL 90TH ANNIVERSARY MUSEUM 20TH BIRTHDAY



We are already planning for our big event on **Saturday, April 28**, when we celebrate a plethora of anniversaries:

- 1873 - birth of Barron Gift Collier
- 1923 – establishment of Collier County
- 1928 – opening of the Tamiami Trail
- 1953 – incorporation of the City of Everglades
- 1978 – founding of Collier County Museum
- 1998 – opening of the Museum of the Everglades

We will start off the day with a Parade featuring historical re-enactors in antique cars. There will be information booths about the surrounding parks plus arts & crafts vendors. Other activities on the schedule are a guided walking tour of historic buildings, story-telling by old-timers, live music, and local food. And, it would not be a celebration without our famous birthday cake. *Watch this space for more information in our next issue and keep up with the news at www.evergladesmuseum.org.*

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



NPS Ranger Jeff Butler as Game Warden Guy Bradley and MOE Manager Thomas Lockyear as Plume Hunter "Cyrus McGuffey" during Vintage Days at Everglades National Park on March 4.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER by Thomas Lockyear

February has been a busy and productive month here at Museum of the Everglades as visitors from around the country and around the world make their way to our city.

The natural wonders of the Everglades and the rich, unique history of the region make each visit extraordinary. Many visitors enjoy the wide variety of culture and cuisine at the annual Everglades City Seafood Festival early in the month followed our own Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival during the final week. This was our 14th consecutive year offering this event and it was, as usual, very well-attended. Guests were treated to seminars and activities ranging from explorations of environmental science to the history of Florida's Cracker Cattle.

February also saw field trips from Everglades City School – the last Kindergarten through 12th Grade facility in the state of Florida – with every grade getting the opportunity to visit both our museum and the Marco Island Historical Museum. Students explored, among other things, our exhibit on Plume Hunting in the Pauline Reeves Gallery. Later in the week, we brought an Arts Integration program promoting STEAM curriculum to the school as part of our Educational Outreach initiative. Along with Curator of Education Joy Murphy, we had the opportunity to convey a better understanding of how the industry of fancy feathers for ladies' hats drove many of our wading bird species to the brink of extinction. Students of all ages created their own plumed hats and designed new species of birds by combining different styles of wings, beaks and feet – exploring the abilities and advantages offered by each natural characteristic.

Our opportunities to partner with Everglades City School were recently expanded by the generous donation of ten iPads to the school by the Friends of Museum of the Everglades. This gift will facilitate the launch of an oral history program at the school wherein students can use these devices to record family history and help the museum to preserve local history and share more of the region's untold stories.

On April 2nd a new exhibit entitled "Seven model T's, One Elcar, and a Truck – Trailblazing the Tamiami Trail" will go up in the Pauline Reeves Gallery, telling the unlikely tale of the men who, as part of a publicity stunt, drove across the Everglades before there was a road, inspiring Barron Collier to finance the construction of a highway through South Florida's watery wilderness.

This exhibit will be expanded on April 16th with an addition titled "The Tamiami Trail – Building the Road that Connected Florida's Coasts" which will feature the return of MOE's scale model of the Bay City Walking Dredge, the mechanical wonder that made the project possible, now freshly conserved and refurbished.

MOE will celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the completion of the Trail on Saturday, April 28th with a parade, live music, and more. We hope you will join us for this historic event.

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President's Message

by **Patty Huff**

Thanks to all our Friends and supporters of our Museum here in Everglades City. The MSD Festival was a great success and now we look forward to our next event in April which will be celebrating the birthday of the Museum as well as other significant historical events.

Established to restore the old Laundry Building as a museum, the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades (FME) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to supporting the Museum of the Everglades through fundraising for programs and acquisitions as well as providing volunteer services. Our efforts brought statewide recognition to Everglades City, honored as Florida's Outstanding Rural Community of the Year 1998. As we commemorate our 20th birthday on April 28, we would like our membership to become as involved as possible with our Museum.

As stated above, FME does assist our Museum staff by providing volunteer services; however, with so many of our members having to move away after the hurricane or due to medical circumstances, we do not have the same number of individuals as we have had in the past. Thus, we are reaching out to each of you.

Volunteering includes many fun activities:

- 1) greeting visitors from around the world for 3 hours a week at the Museum desk
- 2) participating in the preparation of our annual festivities as well as assisting during the event
- 3) inviting friends and relatives to become a FME member

If you are interested in greeting visitors, please contact Martha at the Museum at 239-695-0008. For other volunteer activities, please email fme_98@hotmail.com or call me at 239-695-2397.

Again, thank you for your continued support of our little museum! You are a true "friend" just by being a member.

Comment from a visitor onTrip Advisor, 3/3/18:

Wonderful History

This small museum is a real treasure. It is very well done, features 4 short films and displays interesting memorabilia. The staff are extremely informative, I left in awe of the settlers that challenged the expanse of the Florida Everglades.

Johnson's Airboat Adventures
SPEEDY'S Airboat Tours
 621 Begonia Street
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MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to the 39 members who renewed promptly plus the 13 new ones. The breakdown by category is:

3 Business 5 Donor
 19 Family 25 Individual

You can renew or join by sending in the form at the bottom of this page with your check. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation so your donation is tax-deductible.

FME OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President - Patty Huff Vice President - Vicky Wells
 Secretary - Louise Morris Treasurer - Jaye Brunner
 Helen Bryan - membership

FME Board Meetings are usually on the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the Museum. Members are welcome to attend.

Comment from a visitor onTrip Advisor, 3/1/18:

Excellent museum- worth the time!

This is a FREE gem - so much history that is presented in wonderful display boards, artifacts, memorabilia. The staff is very helpful and if you have spent any time in the area it will explain the history and culture. There are 4 short videos that are very interesting - take the time to watch them. We spent 1.5 hours but I would even go back to see it all again. Make time to see this.

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 under the leadership of the late Pauline Reeves who spearheaded the move to save the old Laundry building which opened on April 26, 1998, as part of the Collier County Museum system.

The 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.

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FME MEMBERSHIP (renewable every January) date _____

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

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