



Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

Volume XIX Number 3

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

www.evergladesmuseum.org

EVENTS

Mid-Month Movie Night

THUNDER & LIGHTNING

Friday March 15, at 6:00pm

Museum of the Everglades

CATTLE DRIVE

Saturday, March 9

Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch

Immokalee

see www.colliermuseums.com

Museum Birthday

Saturday, April 27

Museum of the Everglades

more info in our next newsletter

EXHIBITS

Pauline Reeves Gallery

February, March, April:

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

May, June, July:

Artwork from Everglades City School

RECEPTION: ????????

NEW PHONE NUMBER!

Notice that the Museum has a new number, **252-5026**, which goes through the County telephone system. The old 695-0008 is being diverted but will only be maintained for a short time.



“Stinky” presided over the Mid-Month Movie in February which featured the Ochopee Skunk Ape. Our photo-journalist Helen Bryan is seen here in the twilight wit Dave Shealy, the star of the show.

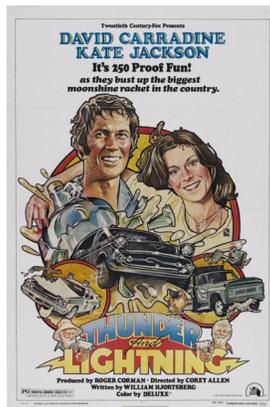
MARK YOUR CALENDAR on APRIL 27th for the Museum’s 21st Birthday (a big achievement) and the official celebration of Everglades City being nominated a Florida Trail Town.

We’re working on the details but there will be antique cars, lively music, good food, arts & crafts, and stories from older residents, plus Birthday Cake!



Mid-Month Movie

Museum of the Everglades will show the movie “Thunder & Lightning” on Friday, March 15, at 6pm . It was filmed around our area in 1977, starring David Carradine and Kate Jackson.



The movie is free of charge and so is the popcorn. Hot dogs are available by donation to the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. It is outside so bring your own chair and maybe a sweater.

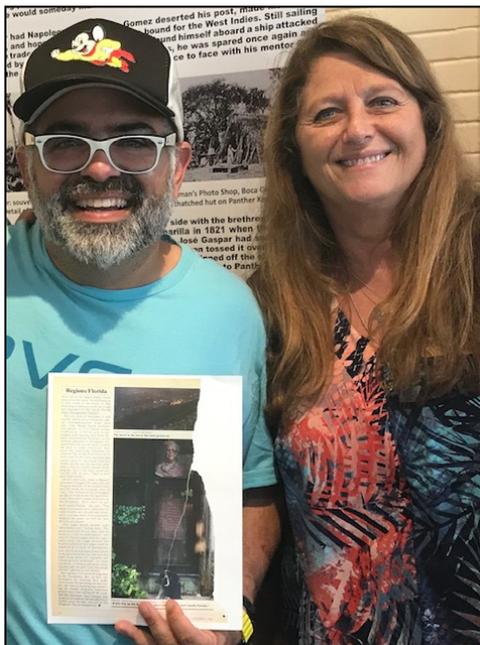
One reviewer wrote:

It's an action movie with a plot! It is pretty much an adventure comedy ... with lots of car chases, fights, banjo music, rednecks, hillbillies and moonshine. Watch for the gator-wrestling church!

**The Museum is located at 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, 34139. Telephone (239) 252-5026
Open to the public Monday through Saturday, 9AM to 4 PM – Free Admission.**



Dave Shealy, founder of the Skunk Ape Research Center, talking with a visitor in front of the special exhibit at the Museum. and outside with "Stinky"



Cesar Becerra, keynote speaker, with an old photo of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and festival organizer Martha Hutcheson.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

by Thomas Lockyear

February was a VERY busy month at Museum of the Everglades. Our new temporary exhibit in the Pauline Reeves Gallery, "Skunk Apes, Scallywags, and Swamp Spirits – Legends & Lore of the Everglades", opened to coincide with Everglades City's Annual Seafood Festival. Our 25' inflatable Skunk Ape mascot made his debut out front and was a big hit with all our visitors – everyone wanted a selfie with "Stinky"!

The exhibit features stories ranging from Southwest Florida's version of bigfoot to the true tales of the Ox Woman and outlaw Edgar Watson. Al Capone, pirate Juan Gomez, missing jockey Al Snider, German spies, and the ghost crew of a crashed plane are all included as well.

One of the most popular pieces, "The Storter Snook Spoon", builds a strong case for local tinsmith George Storter Sr., father of town founder George Storter Jr., being the creator of the very first spoon fishing lure. Stop in and let us know what you think about this lesser-known chapter of Everglades history.

The exhibit will run through May 1st when we will change over to a collection of recent artwork the students at Everglades City School that will remain on display through July.

Mid-month movie night featured the documentary "The Ochopee Skunk Ape" introduced by the star of the film, Skunk Ape Research Center founder Dave Shealy. He gave a little history and insight to his 40-plus year search for the elusive swamp cryptid and a great time was had by all.

MoE hosted our 15th Annual **MSD History & Heritage Festival** toward the end of the month. Cesar Becerra's talk at the Tuesday luncheon was definitely one of the highlights as he shared his recent discovery of Marjory Stoneman Douglas-related correspondence in the archives of a research library at Yale University. This treasure-trove included an-all-but unknown photo of Marjory seen through the screen door of her Coconut Grove cottage.

Cesar was introduced by legendary gladesman Captain Franklin Adams, who described Cesar as an "Everglades Evangelist" truly following the footsteps Ms. Douglas left behind. Bravo Cesar!

We won't be slowing down anytime soon as we zoom toward another Tamiami Trail Celebration at the end of April when we will hold our first ever laundry cart races! Meanwhile we will continue to add to and improve our permanent exhibits and programs.

Our **mid-month movie** in March will be "Thunder and Lightning" starring David Carradine (of Kung Fu fame) and Kate Jackson (one of Charlie's Angels!) as good moonshiners battling bad moonshiners. Maybe you thought we meant ghosts when we mentioned "Swamp Spirits", but these spirits are 250 proof! Filmed right here in the Everglades with car chases, airboat chases, laughs and thrills galore! Join us for another fun night and maybe share your story with us if you were one of the locals in the film. **Friday, March 15th** at 6pm in the museum parking lot. See you there!

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There was delicious food at the MSD History & Heritage Luncheon including these huge garlicky shrimp from Havana Café.

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75,131 TOTAL VISITORS IN 2018

	2017*	2018
Collier Museum at Government Center	10,416	10,913
Naples Depot Museum	14,673	16,184
Marco Island Historical Museum	19,900	20,684
Museum Of The Everglades	19,131	19,770
Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch	5,670	7,580
TOTAL	69,790	75,131



We just got these numbers in from Amanda Townsend, Director of Collier County Museums, that our Museum had 19,770 visitors in 2018, almost as many as Marco Island. See *Volunteer News* on p.4 for 2019 monthly totals ...



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READ ABOUT OUR HISTORY

Marya Repko

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The Museum is located at 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, 34139. Telephone (239) 252-5026
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VOLUNTEER NEWS

There were 4,612 people counted entering the Museum in February, many of them during Seafood Festival or attending the MSD Festival That is nearly double the total of 2,342 in January which was a much quieter month.

We need volunteers at the desk to greet them with a friendly welcome and to sell items in our gift shop. You don't have to be an expert in our history; there is always Museum staff to answer questions.

Stop in at the Museum to sign up for your preferred shift.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is still growing! Welcome to new members since our last newsletter:

Nina & Kerry Armstrong, Chokoloskee
 Jere & Claire Engelman, Everglades City
 Lois & Holly Farnham, Naples
 Robert & Helen Laidman, Naples
 Sheila Piernock, Paoli, PA
 LeeAnn Stuhlmiller, Everglades City
 Rachel Williams, Naples

Many of them joined during the MSD Festival.

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

If you want to help us support our local Museum, just fill in the form at the bottom of this page and send it with your check.

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

 Kathy Brock, Publisher
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 P.O. Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139
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www.swflgo.com

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What Is 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

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. Comments and contributions are welcome at FME_98@hotmail.com.

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FME MEMBERSHIP (renewable annually)

date _____

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