



Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

Volume XVIII Number 8

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

www.evergladesmuseum.org

EVENTS

Summer Movie Night "SHARK RIVER"

starring Steve Cochran
filmed in the Glades

Friday, Sept 14, at 5:30pm
Museum of the Everglades

HURRICANE HISTORY DAY

Wednesday, September 19 at 1pm
Museum of the Everglades

Blessing of the Stone Crab Fleet Saturday, September 29 at 10am

Rod & Gun Club, Everglades City
10:00am - Arts & Crafts Booths Open
10:30am - Blessing of the Fleet
11:00am - Games, Contests, Raffles
12:30pm - Results Announced
For info, call Marya at 695-2905

EXHIBITS

Pauline Reeves Gallery

August, September, October:

Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades
photos by Matt Stock
RECEPTION: October 27th

November, December:

The Rod & Gun Club
From Pioneer Homestead to Dignitary Destination
EVENT: January 4th

January, February, March:

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



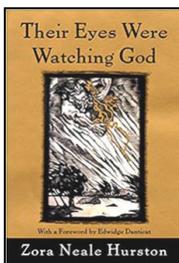
The Walking Dredge display on its new pedestal – notice the little figure of a man operating the controls (*inset*). The original dredge, which you can visit at Collier-Seminole State Park (US-41 & SR-92, road to Marco Island), is really huge! See *Manager's Report* on page 2.

Summer Movie Night

The movie "SHARK RIVER" was filmed in 1953 starring Steve Cochran as a Civil War veteran who was on the run from the law with his pals. They battle gators, snakes, bugs, and the Seminole Tribe but are saved by a swamp angel known as the "Queen of the Everglades".

The film has campy action, corny romance, some insulting stereotypes, and lots of local scenery

See this FREE movie on **Friday, September 14**, at 5:30pm in the Museum. Everyone Welcome!



HURRICANE HISTORY DAY

On **Wednesday, September 19**, Martha Hutcheson will present an illustrated program about Florida's Hurricane History at 1:00pm in the Museum.

She is followed at 2:00pm with a discussion led by a Collier County Librarian of Zora Neale Hurston's 1937 novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* based around the Great Okeechobee Hurricane.

The event is free and will be even more interesting if you have read this classic Florida book. For info, phone the Museum at 695-0008.

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.



Local residents Pam and the late Bill Mesce discovered hundreds of these mysterious green glass spheres buried in the Fakahatchee. *Can you help us identify their origin or their purpose?*



Some of the old bottles and other items found in the wilderness by Tod Dahlke of "Tour the Glades".



And, the stolen safe (left) found by Tod in the Fakahatchee swamp.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

by Thomas Lockyear

While the number of visitors to Museum of the Everglades has slowed substantially over the summer months, we have remained extremely busy with ongoing repairs and renovations. Not content to simply restore exhibits that were dismantled in advance of Hurricane Irma's landfall, we have taken this opportunity to augment and improve these displays where possible.

One of the more striking examples has been the addition of huge historic images covering some of the windows in the main gallery. These beautiful backlit panels serve double duty by not only helping us to better tell the stories, but also to protect the Museum's artifacts from damage by direct sunlight and u/v rays.

An enlargement of a colorized postcard from the early 1930s now illuminates the corner in which our collection of traditional Seminole and Miccosukee garments and handicrafts are displayed (*see photo page 4*).

Nearby, a vintage photo of a team of oxen pulling a cartload of dynamite for the construction of the Tamiami Trail created the perfect backdrop for one of MOE's most important artifacts: one of the actual ox yokes used in that project.

Immediately adjacent to this display is yet another new addition: a grand, octagon-shaped pedestal on which our scale model of the Bay City Walking Dredge (handcrafted by WWII vet Jerry Enders) now appears in its "natural habitat" – a re-creation of the swampy terrain it traversed. *See photos on front page.*

Local eco-tour operator Tod Dahlke was generous enough to loan us findings from his collection ranging from pop bottles to patent medicines. The alluring opalescent finish on several of these pieces (created by years of immersion in the swamp) gives renewed credence to the old adage that "one man's trash is another man's treasure". Tod also lent us the remains of a small safe, stolen from a local resident, that he found in shallow waters of the Fakahatchee Strand. Just another brief chapter in the region's colorful criminal history.

Another case features a collection of bricks – salvaged from the ruins of a building that once stood along the Shark River Slough in the early 1900s. These bricks tell the story of industry in the Everglades - when a tannic acid factory deep in the wilderness was producing massive quantities of the chemical for use in leather production.

Matt Stock's "Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades" photography exhibit in the Pauline Reeve's Gallery at the front of the Museum has proven extremely popular with our visitors and we recently expanded on it by including cases featuring found objects discovered in unlikely areas of the 'Glades. This exhibit runs through November 4th.

Stop in soon to explore these stories and more. ...

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President's Message

by Patty Huff

This time last year we were dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and, my-oh-my, how far we've come! Hopefully, we won't have to deal with another major storm this year!

Thomas was able to put everything, plus more, back together. That's what we're all trying to do to our homes and the City, making things better. There are residents who are still waiting for repairs and have not been able to move back into their homes, and we miss so many of our friends who left the area after losing everything. For those of us still here, we are trying to start anew, looking forward to another great season in South Florida.

It will be nice to have our winter residents returning in a few months. In the meantime, there is a lot to see in our Museum, including our current exhibit. We hope you will stop by and visit – and bring your friends.

In December we will be having our Annual Members' Meeting and electing new officers. If you are interested in serving on our Board of Directors, please contact one of us or send an email to FME_98@hotmail.com.

NEWS FROM NAPLES

The Naples Depot will hold "Museum Day Live" on **Saturday, September 22**, from 11:00am to 2:00pm. This is a free fun-filled day which coincides with International Museum Day and is hosted by the Smithsonian.

For info, see the CCM website www.colliermuseums.com or phone Joy at (239) 252-8242. Volunteers are also welcome!

MEMORIES FROM MARCO

A friend emailed us about her visit to the Marco Island Historical Museum:

I spent the greater part of Saturday morning experiencing the "I Remember Marco" exhibit. You must take in this unique interactive exhibit that not only displays recent history but, more importantly, collects stories and recollections.

One extraordinary fact is this cross-generational, multi-media interactive exhibit was curated by local MIHM staff led by Austin Bell. It is an extraordinary method of gathering local history and displaying it all in a basically low-tech interactive format.

Kudos to Austin Bell, his staff, the MIHM, and to the volunteer staff who were so gracious in answering my questions.

If you haven't, GO SEE IT! It's up until October 4th.

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.



The new Seminole window and cabinet.
 See Manager's Report, page 2.

MEMBERSHIP

Treasurer Jaye Brunner reports that we have 86 paid-up members.
 If you want to join or renew, please fill in the form at the bottom of the page and post it with your check or drop it off at the Museum.
 Businesses are welcome and will have their small ads included in the newsletter. Thanks to those who have already supported us!

The Board of Directors will meet on **Tuesday, September 11**, at 4:00pm in the Museum. Phone President Patty Huff at 695-2397 if you would like to attend or are interested in standing for election next year.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

If you want to greet visitors at the desk, stop in at the Museum and tell Martha which day you can spare a few hours.

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

 Kathy Brock, Publisher
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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

Patty Huff (President) Vicky Wells (V-P) Louise Morris (Sec.) Jaye Brunner (Treas.) Helen Bryan (Membership)

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 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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