

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Dedicated to our Unique History

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

ESHP@hotmail.com

www.evergladeshistorical.org

The **TOWN CRIER** newsletter is issued periodically to keep ESHP members and the public informed of our activities. We welcome news and feedback.

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Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. The Society is concerned with the **preservation of all historic sites, structures, documents, artifacts, and memories** within the Everglades area.

DIRECTORS

Helen Bryan (Treasurer) Tod Dahlke Mike Danosky (Vice-President)
Patty Huff (Secretary) Lynn McMillin Elaine Middelstaedt
Marya Repko (President) Craig Woodward

ESHP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

(renewable each January 1)

Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
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*Please make check payable to "ESHP" and send to
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TOWN CRIER

EVERGLADES SOCIETY
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2018
VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1



REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The year 2017 started in early January with the **White Pelican Festival** at the Smallwood Store & Museum. The guest of honor was James Billie, the Seminole leader. Despite some unpleasant weather, the event was a success.

We showed **movies** during January, February, and March including "Gone Fishin'" which was made in the area. In parallel to the screening of the film, we had a slide show of photos and clippings collected by Pam Mesce whose late husband Bill was technical advisor on wildlife.

The speaker at our **Annual Meeting** on February 24 was Rachael Kangas of FPAN (Florida Public Archaeology Network) who gave a dynamic presentation about "Historic Snowbirds", the early inhabitants of the area.

The **Historical Library** received boxes of research files from local historian Lila Zuck and the original tapes of interviews that were the basis of books by Maria Stone. Lila also donated over 100 copies of the book *Caxambas Kid* for us to sell for our benefit.

On September 5 at their meeting, Everglades City Council accepted the resignation of **Mayor** Sammy Hamilton, who had served 22 years, and appointed Howie Grimm to act as Mayor until the election in November at which his position was confirmed by the voters.

Less than a week later, on September 10, **Hurricane Irma** struck this area leaving flooded buildings and homes. We were glad to hear that the exhibits in the Museum had been moved to safety and the building did not suffer too much damage. Unfortunately, the bottom floor of City Hall and the Everglades Community Church were both still being restored at the end of the year.

We proposed moving small houses that owners do not want to repair to an **Historic Village**, a huge undertaking which we are still pursuing.

Our **Welcome-Back Historical Talk** featured Rick Smith, son of the famous author Patrick Smith who wrote *A Land Remembered* among the many books in his prodigious output. The multi-media presentation was enjoyed by a full house in the temporary City Hall cabin.

Throughout the year, we took part in **community events** such as the Seafood Festival, Art-in-the-Glades, and the Independence Day Celebration.

Finally, we were sorry to hear of the **passing** of Dorothy Ann Ivey Miller who grew up in the Ivey House and of Juanita Clifton Weldon whose family lived at the citrus farm in Deep Lake. The area also lost official Naples Historian Doris Reynolds.


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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 9-11: Everglades Seafood Festival
Feb 20-24: MSD Festival, Museum
Feb 23: Annual Meeting & Historical Talk

5:30pm, Island Café

Feb 24: Art-in-the-Glades

10am-1pm, McLeod Park

Mar 16: Movie Night

5:30pm, venue TBA

Mar 17: Hurricane Homes Tour (*details in next issue*)

11am-2pm, McLeod Park

Mar 17: Art-in-the-Glades

10am-1pm, McLeod Park

Mar 24: Calusa Days

Everglades National Park

April 28: Tamiami Trail 90th, Museum 20th

Museum of the Everglades

DOWNLOAD a handy calendar from www.evergladeshistorical.org.

ESHP BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets at 8:30 a.m. on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 6**, in our office at City Hall. Members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 78 current members. Thanks to the 31 of those who renewed for 2018 after being reminded by email and post.

To join us or renew, just fill in the form on the back of this newsletter or use a debit/credit card at our website www.evergladeshistorical.org.

New member since our last newsletter:

Carolyn Thompson, Everglades City

EVERGLADES SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

ESHP will have a booth opposite the Museum to tell the thousands of visitors how we strive to save our historic heritage. For info and schedule of events, see evergladeseafoodfestival.org.



ART-IN-THE-GLADES

You can buy local history books, as well as arts & crafts and home-made baked goods, at Art-in-the-Glades on **Saturday, February 24**, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at McLeod Park. Vendors are welcome to set up. There is no charge. For info, phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.

CITY NEWS

The new Planning & Zoning Board has regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Everglades City Hall. They consider development issues brought to them by Terry Smallwood, the City's P&Z officer.

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, February 20**, and the public is welcome to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING & TALK

Our Annual Members' Meeting will be held on **Friday, February 23**, at 5:30 p.m. in Island Café. The agenda includes a brief financial report, summary of activities, and election of Directors (see article below).

That is followed by a talk about "Living in the Everglades" by Jack Shealy who grew up and still lives in Ochopee. He will relate his experiences there and what life is like in the Glades.

There is no charge but *reservations are required* because space is limited. RSVP to email ESHP@hotmail.com or phone (239) 695-2905.

You are invited to stay for dinner at your own expense. You can select from the menu before the meeting and be served when the formal presentations are finished.

MSD Festival

The 14th Annual Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival takes place on February 20-24 at the Museum. It is sponsored by our colleagues in Friends of the Museum of the Everglades and has a packed program of tours, walks, and talks.



The opening luncheon in the Lighthouse Club at Everglades Isle features June Cussen, Executive Editor of Pineapple Press, who published Marjory's autobiography *Voice of the River*.

Reservations for the tours and luncheon are required. Phone the Museum at (239) 695-0008 to save your places. For the full schedule, see website www.evergladesmuseum.org and click on "MSD Festival".

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The ESHP Board of Directors serves for three years and is due for re-election in February of 2018.

We have received nomination forms for:

Kathy Brock, Helen Bryan, Tod Dahlke, Hydie Friend, Patty Huff, Elaine Middelsteadt, Marya Repko, Craig Woodward.

Unless there are write-ins, we will formally elect this slate at the Annual Meeting on February 23. Officers are chosen by the Directors at the next Board meeting.

News from the Historical Library

City Hall is finally open after rehabilitation and we will be working in the office, cataloging books and sorting out files which have piled up since Hurricane Irma.

If you still have old books, newspapers, or photos for the Historical Library on the second floor in City Hall where they have been safe from flooding, phone Marya at (239) 696-2905.