

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 Tod Dahlke Mike Danosky (Vice-President)
Pat Fingeroff Patty Huff (Secretary) Elaine Middelstaedt (Treasurer)
Jane Rackley Marya Repko (President) Craig Woodward

ESHP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

(renewable each January 1)

- Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
- Patron (\$100) Benefactor (\$500)
- Business (\$100) Extra (\$ _____)

*Please make check payable to "ESHP" and send to
ESHP, P.O. Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139
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- JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
- JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

DATE _____ signature _____

TOWN CRIER

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Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2013

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 6

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept 28: Blessing of the Crab Fleet

1:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Rod & Gun
parade of boats, music, kiddies' games, more!
see article inside

Nov 22: JFK 50th – Where Were You?

6:00 p.m., Everglades Community Church
Nostalgia Night, light snacks

Dec 7: Swamp Heritage Festival

Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center
3300 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee
see www.nps.gov/bicy or phone (239) 695-4748
historical talks, music, food
ESHP will have a booth

Dec 14: Art-in-the-Glades

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., McLeod Park
arts & crafts, music, food
ESHP will have a booth

The **Naples Historical Society** at Palm Cottage is showing films of their oral history program "If These Walls Could Talk" at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday – Saturday. Guided walks and house tours are also available. For info, call (239) 261-8164 or see www.napleshistoricalsociety.org where you can download a schedule of films.

ESHP BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in our Historical Library in Everglades City Hall. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, September 9** (because the first Monday is a holiday). Members are invited to attend. For info, call Patty at (239) 695-2397.

MEMBERSHIP

We have paid 56 members who will receive renewal notices by post in January 2014.

You can join or renew online with a credit/debit card at our website. If you join in the fall, your membership will be extended through the 2014 calendar year.

Welcome Back! We hope you had a good summer.



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HISTORICAL SIGNS

The historical sign in front of City Hall was unveiled at our Independence Day celebrations on June 29. This is the first large one that ESHP has provided in the City. Other old building owners will be asked to agree on the wording for their signs in October.



The Historical Sign project is funded by our Homes Tours and by generous donations from building owners. We have also installed 20 small signs for older houses.

News from the Historical Library



New books in our collection are:

Allman, *Finding Florida*
 Dos Passos Coggin, *Walkin' Lawton*
 Henderson, *Sunshine Skies*
 Schmelz, *Journey to the Edge of Eden*
 Walls, *Finding Florida's Phantoms*

The next time you have a clean-up, don't throw out old books, newspapers, or photos – they may be of historical interest. If you would like to give them to the Historical Library in City Hall, where they are safe from storms, phone (239) 695-2905.

Book Review

by Marya Repko



There's a different look at our state's past in *Finding Florida; The True History of the Sunshine State* by T. D. Allman. The author, a respected journalist who has reported from all around the world, debunks some of the "myths" that are taught in our schools and published in books.

For example, Andrew Jackson wasn't really a hero. When he invaded northern Florida before 1821, the Spanish territory was a multi-racial society. White, black, and Indian settlers had equal rights and lived together. Jackson claimed they were crossing the border into Georgia but, in fact, he was the one who violated territorial space in an attempt to annex Florida for the USA. And, Ponce de Leon did not find the "fountain of youth" in St. Augustine – that was invented as a tourist trap.

This new book, published in 2013, is available via the Collier County Public Library.

If you've read an interesting book, email us with your review.



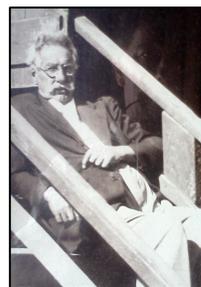
Annual Blessing of the Stone Crab Fleet

Before you know it we'll be enjoying delicious stone crab claws. The traps are dropped 10 days before the season starts on October 15.

For the 5th year the boats will be blessed by local pastors before they go out. The event was organized initially by Tod Dahlke who asked that ESHP help to focus on our history.

We invite everyone to join us at the Rod & Gun Club on **Saturday, September 28**, for an afternoon of family fun. The schedule for the day is:

- 1:00pm Arts & Crafts Booths open
- 1:30pm Frog-Jumping Contest for Kiddies
- 2:00pm Blessing of Boats by Local Pastors
- 2:30pm Coconut Guava Cake Contest
- 3:00pm Ted Smallwood Look-Alice Contest



A new activity this year is the Ted Smallwood Look-Alike Contest. We hope to have family members and neighbors present who remember Ted before he passed away in 1951.

For info, call Tod at (239) 260-4577 or download a poster from our website www.evergladeshistorical.org which also has a link to the FaceBook page.

WINTER 2014 EVENTS

We're beginning to plan events for the busy winter season, the highlight of which is the Everglades Homes & Gardens Tour on **Saturday, March 8**. We have extended it to include gardens so that householders who are proud of their plantings can talk with visitors about them.

We will also have Movie Nights with free popcorn again and at least one Historical Talk. You can download a draft calendar at our website.