



Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

Volume XVIII Number 4

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

www.evergladesmuseum.org

EVENTS

FME BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 2
Museum, 4pm

20th MUSEUM BIRTHDAY

90th TAMIAMI TRAIL

Saturday, April 28

www.evergladesmuseum.org

Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, June 30

McLeod Park, Everglades City

EXHIBITS

Pauline Reeves Gallery

April 4 - May 31:

The Trailblazers

until April 15:

River of Grass, Bob Fink

April 16 - May 31:

Tamiami Trail 90th Anniversary

June and July:

Annual Student Artwork Show

Everglades City School

August, September, October:

Abandoned Vehicles

photos by Matt Stock

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.

90TH TAMIAMI TRAIL ANNIVERSARY 20TH MUSEUM BIRTHDAY



CELEBRATE WITH US!

Saturday, April 28
in historic Everglades City



- 10:00am: **Booths Open, Coffee & Bake Sale**
McLeod Park on the Circle
- 10:00am: **Walking Tour of Historic Buildings**
Meet at the Museum
- 11:00am: **Opening Ceremony**
City Hall porch
Welcome & Introduction of Dignitaries
Collier speech read by Barron Collier III
- 11:30am: **Grande Parade around the City**
- 11:30am - 1:30pm: **BBQ (\$10), Sons of the Confederacy**
McLeod Park on the Circle
- 12:00nn: **Naples Dixieland Jazz Band Performance**
McLeod Park on the Circle
- 1:00pm: **Marco Island Historical Re-Enactors**
Museum Theatre
- 2:00pm: **Guest Speaker Jonathan Ullman**
Museum Theatre
"Trailblazers: The Perilous Story of the Tamiami Trail"
- 3:00pm: **Old-Timers' Story-Telling**
Museum Theatre
- 4:00pm: **Afternoon Tea & Birthday Cake**
Historic Rod & Gun Club
Reservations Requested.
RSVP to FME_98@hotmail.com

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

This is a free family-fun festival hosted by the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. There is no charge except for food.

April 28th was proclaimed "Tamiami Trail Day" at the Everglades City Council meeting on April 3. A similar proclamation will be put to the Collier County Board of Commissioners on April 24.

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.



One of the new cases with drawers to display even more of our history. See Manager's article, right column.



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MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

by Thomas Lockyear

The month of April brings with it one of the most important anniversaries in the history of Everglades City: the official opening of the Tamiami Trail on April 26, 1928. This year we will celebrate the 90th Anniversary of that event with a grand celebration on Saturday, April 28th – including live music of the Roaring 20s and a parade through town along with a number of other presentations and activities.

Here at the Museum we will commemorate this historic occasion with two temporary exhibits in the Pauline Reeves Gallery. “Seven Model T’s, One Elcar, and a Truck – the story of the men who drove across the Everglades before there was a road” will highlight the history of the Trailblazers – a group of men who staged a publicity stunt in 1923, successfully crossing the untamed wilderness of south Florida in their automobiles. By accomplishing what had been previously believed impossible, the Trailblazers helped convince Barron Collier to personally finance construction of the road. Artifacts that include Model T parts and related ephemera will be used in the exhibit to help illustrate this story in a particularly dynamic fashion.

On April 16th, a companion exhibit will take the place of the current “River of Grass/Art of Bob Fink” display: “The Tamiami Trail – Building the Road that Connected Florida’s Coasts”. This exhibit will focus on the construction of the road – the tools, techniques and machinery used, as well as the men who made the project a reality. This exhibit will feature the return of our restored and enhanced scale model of the Bay City Walking Dredge as well as the unveiling of a recently acquired artifact: a 1920s dynamite plunger manufactured by the Hercules Powder company – the same sort used to detonate the 2,598,000 sticks of TNT used in the construction of the Tamiami Trail.

In the main museum gallery we have also recently added, thanks to a generous donation by the Friends of Museum of the Everglades, two new exhibit cases that feature interactive drawers providing expanded display areas for new artifacts. In the case designated for items from the Rob Storter Collection we have added some previously unseen pieces of his unique folk art from Museum Archives. In the other case – reserved for artifacts related to the Seminole Tribe and their history – we have likewise had the opportunity to display a selection of authentic handmade garments never before placed on public display.

This will be a great month to not only stop in and see lots of new things, but to help us celebrate our local history.



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President's Message

by **Patty Huff**

This month on April 28 we commemorate our 20th birthday of the Museum of the Everglades, as well as several other anniversaries:

- 40th Anniversary of Collier County Museums
- 50th Anniversary of McLeod Park
- 65th Anniversary of Everglades City
- 90th Anniversary of the Opening of the Tamiami Trail
- 95th Anniversary of Collier County

The Friends of the Museum of the Everglades have been celebrating our birthday each year with music and food. Every five years we put on a bigger and more spectacular event to acknowledge the other important historic milestones in our County.

Barron Collier was a visionary and we are very excited that his grandson Barry Collier will be participating again this year to read his grandfather's speech that was delivered on April 26, 1928, during the original opening of the Tamiami Trail. We continue to recognize this achievement on the last Saturday of April.

In addition to the parade, music, and food, there will be exhibit booths, a walking tour of historic sites around town, our guest speaker Jonathan Ullman from the Sierra Club, the Marco Island Historic Players and an old-timers' talk. We will end the celebration with an afternoon tea party at the historic Rod & Gun Club. Something for everyone; hope you will be able to join us!!

We would also like to invite our members to volunteer their services on April 28. If you are able to assist, please let us know how you can help: at our booth in McLeod Park, in the Museum welcoming visitors, directing traffic, whatever!

Thanks to everyone for your support ... we'll see you on the 28th!!



Johnson's Airboat Adventures
SPEEDY'S Airboat Tours
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MEMBERSHIP

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.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

by Grant Matthews
 Volunteer Coordinator, Collier County Museums

Volunteers are an integral part of the Museum of the Everglades: they help to enhance the quality of visits for our guests and provide the creativity and manpower needed to plan and implement our programs and special activities.

As a museum volunteer, you will be greeting and assisting our daily guests, helping out with educational workshops and lectures, aiding in students' programs and group tours, staff our gift shop, assist in an ever-changing schedule of special events, and so much more!

Collectively, this special group of individuals contribute thousands of hours of service to the Collier County Museums each year and are the backbone of our organization.

Volunteers at the five Collier County Museums contributed over 4,300 hours last year alone, and over 40,000 hours in the last six years combined!

Note: You can contact Grant at (239) 252-8722.

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)

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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