

Estero Historical Society

P.O. Box 1314 * Estero, Florida 33929

June 2013

Editor Beverly MacNellis

EHS Officers and Board

Pres.: Bob Morris

VP: Dave Pryal

Secretary: Betty Shandor

Treasurer: Bev MacNellis

Board: Jean Pryal, Marlene Fernandez, Sis Newberry, Mary Ann Weenen, Carla Morris, Eileen Galvin, Ruth Mason, John Yarbrough.

In this issue:



- Very special angel to the EHS.
- A Matter of Perspective
- "Lace" - More Tea Pictures
- Trip to Mound Key with Theresa Schoeber -April 8
- Historical Kayaking & Hiking Tours
- And more and more.

The **Estero Historical Society's** mission is to learn, teach and preserve the history of Estero in order to secure the historical legacy for future generations in an effort to aid and promote a strong sense of community identity.

Join us on the Deck,
in the shade.

4th of July—10AM

**Reading of the
Declaration of
Independence**

School House— Waiting for 1 more
bid and about \$20,000 more to begin.

Make a donation to the building
Fund.

There are no membership meetings in
June, July, August. See you in September.

We have a very special guardian angel

There has been one steady factor since the Estero Historical Society wanted a headquarters to hold meetings, work out of and to display the history of Estero for everyone.

If it wasn't for Charles Dauray and the College of Life Foundation the Society would meeting and storing Estero's artifacts in someone's garage as they did for years.

It started in Feb. 2005 when our president at that time Mary Ann Weenen went to visit Mr. Dauray for his support on another matter. She left that meeting with the promise of two of Estero's historical buildings; the one room school house and one of the first homes built in Estero that were located on the College of Life Foundation's property.

With the help of John Yarbrough, then Director of Parks and Recreation, the Lee

County Board of Commissioners and many others playing a key role, an area was set aside in the about to become the new Estero Community Park.

(Continued on page 3)



Holiday Lunch at the Park, Charles, Peg, and Mary Ann Weenen.

A Matter of Perspective

By Charles Dauray

For newcomers and long-term residents of Estero, perhaps the most frequently heard question is "How long have you lived here?" Social status and credibility are predicated on the quantitative element of time; i.e., the longer one has been here, the more recognition is demanded. Domicile longevity often supersedes a person's achievements and character.

Another comment made by many when reviewing the past, is "it seems like yesterday." Obviously there is a distortion when the event(s) being described took place years and decades previously. That time disconnect is often voiced when describing Estero as a pastoral, quiet and intimate community in comparison to today's high velocity change into an urban center.

And about tomorrow? It is common to condone procrastination with terms like "Let's not plan now for things that will take place in the distant future."

The future is here. A mere decade and a half ago, who would have thought quaint Estero, Florida would become a world center for commerce and domicile? And as the Estero Historical Society struggles to preserve our history in the tempest of change, its perception of time might be "How recent the distant past. How far the near future."

Welcome the 500th Anniversary of Ponce de Leon's visit and welcome the World Headquarters of the Hertz Company....it's a matter of perspective.



These and more tea pictures may be found on our web site
at www.esterohistoricalsocietyuy.com



(Continued from page 1)

We have a very special guardian angel

"Thank you for the buildings Mr. Dauray but how do we get them to the park?" Mr. Dauray never left us 'holding the bag'. He came through with the money to not only to move the buildings but also enough to pay for the plans for their rebirth. The building were moved in 2009. It truly was a night to remember.



Now that we have reclaimed the Hall-Collier-Hanson home, one of the first post offices of Estero, and have set up our headquarters in it, Mr. Dauray has not walked away. He has been there to give direction and money for our projects and to help raise the money to rehab the Hall House (headquarters). He continues to support us by helping with the expenses of a grant writer and of our Annual Tea-Lunches. Our tea is our biggest fund raiser of the year and this year it hit an all time high with the help of Mr. Dauray's generous donation. Mr. Dauray was not feeling well and was not able to attend this past year's tea.



We truly could not have gotten where we are without his help and the College of Life Foundation. Thank you Charles Dauray and Peg Egan.

*Beverly MacNellis -
Tea Chairperson*



Tracy Mattes, Theresa Schoeber, Peg Egan, Brandy Minchew.



**13 Annual Tea-Lunch of the Society
Theme "LACE"
Shadow Wood Country Club
March 3, 2013**



Historical Kayaking & Hiking Tours

P.O. Box 97

Estero, FL 33929

www.collegeoflifefoundation.org

Peg Egan

Florida Master Naturalist

239-992-2184

Fax: 239-495-0201

EsteroNaturalist@gmail.com

After months of planning, the College of Life Foundation began offering historical kayaking and walking tours this past March. The mission of the College of Life Foundation, Inc. is to preserve and educate about history and the environment of South Florida with an emphasis on the communal Koreshan activities.

Several hundred years after the Calusa inhabited Mound Key, Gustave Damkohler first brought Cyrus Teed to Estero via a borrowed Sailboat after a meeting in Punta Rassa. Damkohler wanted to show Cyrus Teed his land, so he stopped at Mound Key for supper. From there, they used two rowboats to make their way up the Estero River to an area near the current Bamboo Landing. That was New Years Day of 1894. Today, you can trace this path in the comfort of a sea kayak with two College of Life Foundation tour guides. Peg Egan and Brandy Minchew completed the American Canoe Association River Tour Guide Class last December. In addition, Peg is recognized as a Florida Master Naturalist from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Brandy is currently enrolled in the program and has recently completed the Coastal Module. Both Peg and Brandy are CPR and First Aid certified. The College of Life Foundation is a member of the American Canoe Association

and registered as a PAC; Paddle America Club.

In partnership with the Koreshan State Park, the Foundation is offering two tours daily:

Kayaking/Archaeological Site Tour – Tours Daily

Join our Florida Master Naturalist and State Historic Site Volunteers on this historic paddle, and explore the ceremonial center of the Calusa Indians. Hike the trail as you rise more than 30 feet above the waters of Estero Bay. Paddle with dolphin, manatee, osprey, cormorants, great blue heron, as you trace the trail of our early settlers from the Calusa to the Koreshans. Exploring Southwest Florida since 1894. Reservations required 239-992-2184 (\$55) All equipment included.

www.collegeoflifefoundation.org

Koreshan State Historic Site and College of Life Foundation

Join Koreshan State Historic Site and the College of Life Foundation as we guide you through the historic beauty of the Estero River. Explore this unique ecosystem from a comfortable, secure sea kayak. Following our river tour, meander down the bank of the river via Bamboo lined trails. Walk in the path of the Koreshans as your guides interpret the lifestyle as it once was. (\$45) Reservations required 239-992-2184. Group discounts available. Exploring Southwest Florida since 1894. www.collegeoflifefoundation.org



Trip to Mound Key with Theresa Schoeber

Framed in forests of mangrove trees, the shell mounds and ridges of Mound Key rise more than 30 feet above the waters of Estero Bay. Prehistoric Native Americans are credited with creating this island's complex of mounds with an accumulation of seashells, fish bones, and pottery. Mound Key is believed to have been the ceremonial center of the Calusa Indians when the Spaniards first attempted to colonize Southwest Florida. In 1566, the Spanish governor of Florida established a settlement on the island with a fort and the first Jesuit mission in the Spanish New World. The settlement was abandoned three years later after violent clashes with the Indians. The only access to the island is by boat; there are no facilities. Interpretive displays can be found along a trail that spans the width of the island. Located in Estero Bay, several miles by boat from Koreshan State Historic Site or Lovers Key State Park.

Continued on page 6



Trip to Mound Key with Theresa Schoeber (Continued from page 5)

Five hundred years ago, when the Spanish first landed in Florida, the Calusa Indians were the dominant tribe in the state. From Mound Key on the Gulf Coast, their kings collected tribute and exerted influence from Tampa Bay to the Florida Keys.

Hernando Fontaneda, a Spanish shipwreck survivor in the 1500s, lived among the Calusa for many years. His memoir is considered the best historical record of a long-forgotten tribe.

The Calusa, Fontenada wrote, "in their language signifies a fierce people, they are so-called for being brave and skillful, as in truth they are."

They were engineers.

The Calusa built mounds and villages from Charlotte Harbor to the Ten Thousand Islands around Everglades City. "These were very accomplished people," says William Marquardt, curator of archaeology at the Florida Natural History Museum in Gainesville.

They were survivors.

The Calusa repelled the Spanish for a century and a half. They fired the arrows that wounded and later killed Ponce de Leon on his second voyage to Florida. They frustrated the efforts of later Spanish missionaries and colonizers. Only when the British began arming northern tribes with muskets were the Calusa killed, sold into slavery and scattered into history.



Our hosts,
the
Fischers
had
enough
food for a
weekend
trip for us.



Be A Friend . . . Buy A Brick

The Estero Historical Society has selected commemorative bricks as a fundraiser. They may be personalized to honor a loved one, close friend, a lost pet, your company and don't forget yourself. We can design your brick to suit you, two sizes of bricks and your choice of logo. Logos must be one color. They may be attached to this form or emailed to beverlyann@comcast.net as a jpeg. For more information and help in deciding call Beverly at 498-0678

Our next goal is to restore the 1904 School House for which the offering of commemorative bricks is just one of the fundraising efforts.

We hope that in preserving the buildings we will help fulfill our mission in providing a place where the community could come together to learn about the early life in Estero and in doing so promote a strong sense of community identity.

We want to thank all the many friends of the Estero Historical Society for all their help and generous support through the years and hopefully into the future.

Please visit our new web site which is still a work in progress to find out more about our Society. Find out future plans, trips, speakers and events that are going to take place. You will be able to join and up date your membership information, make donations, and order your "Memorial Brick" on line.

<http://www.esterohistoricalsociety.COM>

For more information on the commemorative bricks please contact Beverly MacNellis

beverlyann@comcast.net or call 498-0678

4" x 8" Brick \$75

8" x 8" Brick \$100

The \$100 8 x 8 brick price is a special until October 2013. Don't miss out.

Please print your letters as you want them to appear on the brick, using upper and lower case as desired. Please use a separate form for each order.

For more information and help on this project contact:
Beverly MacNellis at 239-498-0678 or at
[Beverlyann@comcast.net](mailto:beverlyann@comcast.net)



Be a Friend and Buy a Brick

Make checks payable to:

The Estero Historical Society

P.O. Box 1314, Estero, FL 33929

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Your Email: _____

Artwork included Emailed YES NO

Brick size:

4" x 8" \$75 _____

8" x 8" \$100 _____

Logo (Add \$20) \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

8" x 8" Brick - 6 lines of 18 to 20 letters

4" x 8" Brick - 3 lines of 18 to 20 letters

Font: Grilled Cheese or **Snap**

Membership to the EHS is due Jan. 1 of each year.

Dear Member or Past Member,

Thank you for your support in the past of the Estero Historical Society, Inc. The new year is here and we ask for your annual membership dues. Every dollar is so important to us at this time.

Renovation on the Hall-Collier Home is completed. The deck connecting both buildings and granting the public access to the buildings is also done. We need your support for the renovation of the one room school. It doesn't stop when the buildings are done. We also have to maintain them and pay the utility bills. The finished "Cottage" (Hall-Collier home) has been used for several events and rentals. It is open to the public. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM each week. Chutney and books may be bought at that time.

The mission of the society is to learn, teach and preserve the history of Estero. One way we do this is to have monthly meetings with speakers of interest to our members.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of the month from October to May at 2 PM. They are held on the new deck at the Estero Park. We have just installed Shade sails so the deck is out of the sun.

Our web site (www.esterohistoricalsociety.com) is undergoing an up date so visit it often for more information about us and to see pictures of our past events.

Annual Events this past year Included:

Feb. 11, 2013 General Membership meeting Speaker Robert C. Brooks, Park manager of the Koreshan State Historic Site - 2 PM

Feb. 23, 2013 - Antique Appraisal Faire - 11- 3 PM call Carolyn Fischer at 949-1518

March 4, 2013 - "**LACE**" Annual Spring Tea/Lunch- Shadow Wood, Tickets \$35, Chair Beverly MacNellis 498-0678

March 11, 2013 General Membership meeting -

April 20, 2013- Pioneer Picnic is at the cottage, on our deck. Co-Chairs: Dorothy Horne Evrard and Darlene Horne Johnson. 992-3178

July 4th - Reading of the Declaration of Independence- Noon - Very popular event.

June - Making of the Chutney and Jam - volunteers always welcome. Marlene Fernandez, Chair.

More activities and fund raising events are in the planning. Please watch for announcements in your email or visit our web site.

We are always looking for help in the society and you will be most welcome so let us know what you would like to do. If you have any further questions please call:

Treasurer Beverly MacNellis 498-0678

Vice President Dave Pryal 239-498-5296

President Bob Morris 992-2855

We hope that you will become a new member or renew your membership. We thank you for your past support of the Society if it was a membership or an event you attended. We could not have gotten where we are without your support at our events and your past memberships.

Beverly MacNellis - Treasurer

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Due January 1, to get the advantage of the full year.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

* E-MAIL _____

* Your acceptance of e-mails allows us to keep you up-to-date on events and saves the Society a great deal in mailing costs.

☐ Individual \$20.00 ☐ Family \$35.00

☐ Supporter \$50.00 ☐ Patron \$500.00

☐ Lifetime \$1,000.00

☐ Business \$50.00 ☐ Business Patron \$500.00

☐ Donation to building fund \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please check your personal volunteer interests below. In order to function well, the Society NEEDS the help of its members.

☐ Docent-Office: Hall/Collier Home

☐ Care of Hall/Collier Home: ☐ Inside ☐ Yard

Activities at the Hall/Collier Home: ☐ Exhibits

☐ Tea/Lunches ☐ Work Special Events ☐ Picnic

☐ Lectures (Getting speakers, set up, food etc.)

☐ Fundraising Events (Special Tea, Tours, Dance, etc) ☐

Children activities ☐ Mailings ☐ Take Pictures

☐ Phone calling ☐ Office ☐ School Projects

☐ Oral Histories ☐ Product Sales ☐ Publicity

☐ Newsletter ☐ Planning Committee

☐ Other _____

Please make checks payable to:

"ESTERO HISTORICAL SOCIETY"

PO BOX 1314, Estero, FL 33929

Annual dues are an important revenue source to cover our operating expenses.

Many thanks for your membership.

For more information please call

Jean Pryal at 239-498-5296

Visit our web site at:

<http://www.esterohistoricalsociety.com>