

Special Edition Newsletter

Reminders

December 18th - Annual Christmas Luncheon at Noon at the Villages of Country Creek Clubhouse.

January 11th - Our Annual Members Meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. in the Cottage. Immediately following, at 2:00 p.m. is our Membership Meeting with Guest Speaker, Stan Maleki.

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SCHOOLHOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT

At the beginning of this year, we still needed to raise about \$40,000 to complete the restoration of this one-room schoolhouse known as the 1904 Estero Creek Schoolhouse. In December of last year, our President, Bob Morris, established a 100-\$400 Club. Meaning, if we had 100 people donate \$400 each, we would have just what we needed to finish this restoration project.



Interior view of the furnishings of the newly restored 1904 Schoolhouse. Committee Chairwoman is Diane Wisen

Over the course of this year, we were able to complete the installation of the floors, having them sanded and sealed. Then we moved to the interior walls by installing the insulation and bead board. We continued the bead board on the ceiling

as well. Then our painter applied a white-wash stain to the walls and painted the front porch of the schoolhouse. Our last and final project was the assistance ramp for the side door. Construction began on Nov. 17th.

The next step for us, is to get the final inspection and receive our certificate of Occupancy and we will finally be OPEN for business!!!

The schoolhouse will be furnished has a 1904 one room

schoolhouse many of us remember and have read about. We will be looking for docents for the schoolhouse. If you are interested, please give us a call at 239-272-1911 or email us at EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com.

OUR MYSTERY PAINTING

One late afternoon in January, when Marlene Fernandez was leaving the Cottage, she saw something sitting on the front porch steps of the 1904 Schoolhouse. As she walked over, she found this beautiful canvas painting sitting there waiting ever so

patiently to be found. It was anonymously left there and even to this day we do not know who the artist is. If the artist is reading this, we just love your painting and have it proudly displayed in our Cottage and always tell it's unique story of it's arrival.



NEW SIGN FOR THE SCHOOLHOUSE

Since the restoration project of this one-room schoolhouse was coming along so beautifully, we knew we needed a new sign. It has to be a special and not just any sign would do. So, one of our members, Dr. Ken Wisen drew a design on paper, he wanted something made that would

compliment the schoolhouse. After finding a wood carver named, Gene Gullickson, who was all too happy to bring Doc's dream design to life. The sign was painted our signature green with gold lettering. The new sign is proudly hanging on the front of the schoolhouse

for all to see. A big THANK YOU to Doc for making this happen!!



New Wooden Sign for the Schoolhouse

ESSAY CONTEST 2015

“Due to the overwhelming success in 2015, we will be continuing the Essay Contest in 2016”

This year we partnered up with the Estero Chamber of Commerce for an Essay Contest among the Middle and High School Students. Guidelines were issued to the Students and Teachers. The Students had to write an essay on a “Significant Historical Figure”. Once the Teachers narrowed the essay's down to a few, it was

then time for the committee (folks from the Chamber and EHS) to read the best of the best, according to the Teachers and decide the winners at the Middle and High School levels. Winners received a check from the Chamber of Commerce and a collection of books from EHS. The first place winners had their essays

published in the newspaper. Due to the overwhelming success in 2015, we will be continuing the Essay Contest in 2016. We have already had our Essay Contest Kick-off Meeting, so everyone has the guidelines for the 2016 contest. Watch the website for ceremony information, EsteroHistoricalSociety.com

MANGO CHUTNEY

This June, we had Marlene Fernandez, our favorite Chutney maker, in the kitchen with her crew of dedicated volunteers helping make that delicious Mango Chutney Meat Sauce. Which is held as a secret recipe from Edith Trebell who used to make the Mango

Chutney for the locals as well as the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Each year we rely on donations of the ingredients needed to make this condiment. Depending on the amount of fruit donated depends on how much we are able to make. Some years have been more abundant than

others. We can always use Mangoes and Tamarinds as well as the glass jars in the following sizes—1/2 pint, pint and quart size. If you are interested in volunteering or donating get in touch with Marlene.



(top) Guests attending the reading.

(left) Sis Newberry.

(right) Sunny Molle and Eileen Galvin.



JULY 4TH - DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

On July 4th, we have made the Reading of the Declaration of Independence an annual tradition at our Society. We have been doing it for many years now and each year there are more and more folks that join us. The reading is done on the deck at the Cottage and Schoolhouse. The event is kicked off with the Pledge of Allegiance to

our Flag with our flag flying high from an Estero Fire Truck. The reading takes about 20-30 minutes. Afterwards, we enjoy some light refreshments including watermelon prepared by our volunteers as well as lemonade and iced tea. If you have never had the pleasure of joining us, we would love to have you this coming year.



SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

Over the summer we had two of our volunteer members put together a excellent program we called the "Summer Lecture Series". Each program begins with history on the Calusa Indians (Speaker Ellen Biella-Saggau) and then a pioneering—founding families of Estero were featured (Speaker Marlene Fernandez). For six weeks on a Sat-

urday evening, guests would come and enjoy the talks of these dedicated volunteers. The families that were featured were the Johnson family, Gustave Damkoehler (Speaker- Joann Luce), the Fernadnez/Soto/Luettich family, Flowerree family, Horne family, and we would finish up with the Campbell/Trebell family. At the end of each lecture, we do have an

open forum where you may comment or ask questions. This lecture series was so popular that we are repeating it again in our Winter program. We will be changing the program for the summer of 2016 lectures before they are changed again for the Summer of 2016 lecture series to include other fami-

"This lecture series was so popular, some of our guests came to every lecture"

PIONEER LECTURE SERIES - WINTER

Due to the overwhelming success of the Summer Lecture Series, we will be offering it again beginning at 7:00p.m. on January 16th, 2016 with the Johnson family of Mound Key. January 30 will feature Gustave Damkoehler who sold his land in Estero to the Koreshans. On February 13th we will hear about three families who are connected, Fernandez/Soto/Luettich. The Society has a book called

"Beside the Still Waters" that offers stories told by their direct descendents of these families as to what life was like in early 1900's Estero. On February 27th, we will feature the Flowerree family who were grove owners in Estero and Alva. March 12th will be the Horne family and we will finish up the series on March 26 with the Campbell/Trebell family. Seating is limited and advance reservations are required. You

may call Marlene at 239-992-3178 to make your reservations or email us at EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com. Please include your name, phone #, email address and which lecture you would like to attend. If you are unable to make it, please call us so someone else may fill the spot. A \$5.00 donation is requested.



Lecture Series Speakers, Marlene Fernandez (left) and Ellen Biella-Saggau (right) holding an original citrus picking bag donated by Andy McCullers was shown at the Flowerree Lecture.

VISIT US AT
ESTEROHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

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Program Director and Volunteering Opportunities

We are proud to announce that on May 4th of this year, Carolyn Fischer volunteered to be our new Program Director. Carolyn and her husband, Augie Fischer, have been members of the Estero Historical Society for many years. Carolyn is now in charge of our programs as well as the field trips. Carolyn has done a wonderful job this year in planning our monthly programs doing something just a bit different than what we usually do by involving our local pioneer residents to come forward and share family history, artifacts and stories. We are having more evening programs as well so that those members

who work during the day can join in the programs. We are always looking for family members that will allow us to add to our history and knowledge of early Estero. If you are interested, get in touch with Carolyn Fischer at sunny-traveler12@gmail.com.

While we have many volunteers, we are always looking for those of you who would like to volunteer your time and expertise. We have quite a few projects that need to be completed as well as a couple of committee's right now that need more volunteers. Depending on how much time you have to give, we may have a project for you. If you are interested in volunteering with us, give

us a call at 239-272-1911 or email us at EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com.



(l-r) 1904 Estero Creek Schoolhouse which is finishing up it's restoration process. 1906 Hanson-Hall-Collier House which is fully restored and is our EHS headquarters known as the Cottage.