



To educate and inspire the community by preserving
and sharing the rich history of Estero

Newsletter

July 2022



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, whether you're here in sunny Florida or have returned to cooler temperatures in the north. I wish to report that our Speaker Series was a huge success. We averaged 50 to 60 in attendance each month, with the exception of our Calusa Indian talk, where we had over 100 guests. We appreciate The Villages of Country Creek on Corkscrew hosting us each month and are looking forward to beginning again in January.

Our next event will be the return of the reading of the Declaration of Independence, which will be Saturday, July 2nd at the cottage. 9285 Corkscrew Blvd. Come join us at 10:00 am and linger a bit for a slice of watermelon at the picnic tables. A huge thank you to Publix for donating \$100 to be used toward the event. And a thank you, as well, to our favorite historian, Jacob Winge, for agreeing to do the reading, dressed in his finest 1776 clothing.

Since 1904 and 1906 buildings need constant maintenance, we will be closing for a few weeks, immediately following Saturday's event. We will open again as soon as all repairs are completed.

I've saved the best 'till last! We were shocked and honored to receive an award from the Greater Estero Chamber of Commerce at their annual luncheon on June 17th. We were chosen "Non-Profit of the Year!" We couldn't hold back our smiles and tears while accepting this fabulous award. And, board member Chloe Maros was named "Young Professional of the Year" and board member George Zalucki was awarded "Man of the Year." What a celebration! Thank you for your overwhelming support, and kind words as we have flourished in spite of the challenges over the last couple of years.

We appreciate you and your support,

Gail Langner
EHS Board President

THANK YOU!

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- A very special thank you to all of our very hardworking and dedicated highschool volunteers, your hard work and dedication is so very much appreciated.



- A HUGE heartfelt thank you to our EHS Board President Gail Langner!! We appreciate all of your time and hard work that you dedicagte to this organization, you are a true Rock Star!!

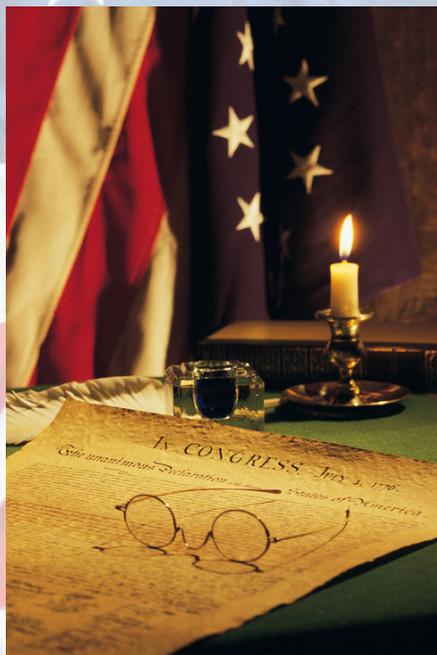


- Thank you Jacob Winge for all that you have done and continue to do to help us here at ESH, you are a true asset and we appreciate all that you do.



**Reading Of The
Declaration of Independence
10:00 am on Saturday July 2nd.**

The reading of the Declaration of Independence will return after a two year hiatus.



**Traditional Independence Day Celebration at
Estero Historical Society**

The Estero Historical Society announces its traditional Independence Day celebration beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 2, in which there will be a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Local historian Jacob Winge will be in attendance dressed in authentic 18th-century period costume and the Estero Fire Rescue team will be there to raise the flag. Following the ceremony, watermelon will be served picnic-style for all attendees to enjoy. What a great way for parents and youth to kick off their Independence Day holiday weekend, remembering the importance of what this day in American history represents.

This celebration will be held on the grounds of the Estero Historical Society museum, located at 9285 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. in Estero Park, and the entire community is invited to attend.



To educate and inspire the community by preserving and sharing the rich history of Estero

Please visit www.EsteroHistoricalSociety.com for more information.

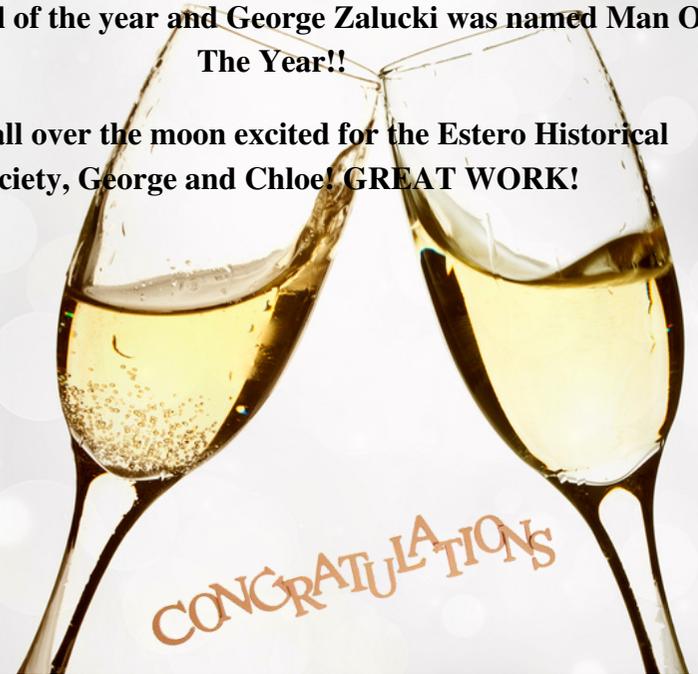
(L to R) George Zalucki, Roslyn Gula, Gail Langner,
Nancy Brodbeck and Chloe Maros.



A huge CONGRATULATIONS to the EHS Board of Directors and our President Gail Langner and all of our EHS Volunteers as the Estero Historical Society has been chosen as Non-Profit of the year by the Greater Estero Chamber of Commerce.

Also our board members Chloe Maros was named Young Professional of the year and George Zalucki was named Man Of The Year!!

We are all over the moon excited for the Estero Historical Society, George and Chloe! GREAT WORK!

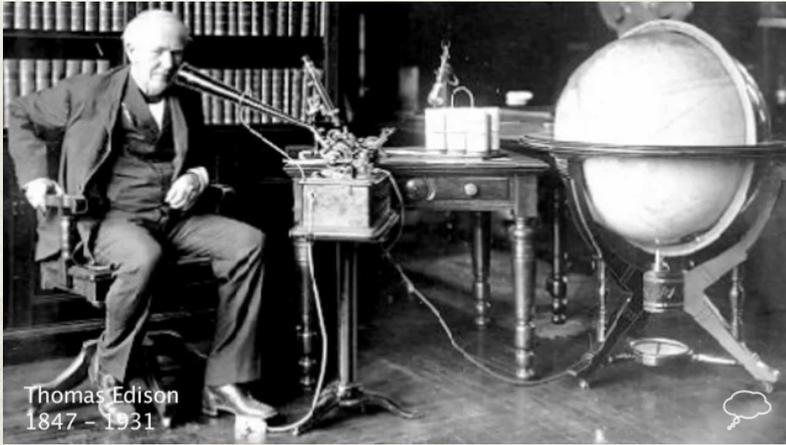


Support EHS While You Shop! Have You Signed Up Yet?

Your everyday Amazon purchases can benefit the Estero Historical Society with no additional cost to you. Smile.Amazon.com lets you choose EHS as your charity, and Amazon donates a portion of each sale to us. Here's how to get started.

1. Sign in to [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.
3. Select Estero Historical Society as your organization to support.
4. When you shop, start from the [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) page and your purchase will automatically benefit EHS!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Thomas Edison
1847 - 1931

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

- Thomas Edison -

Despite Thomas Edison living in Fort Myers, Estero didn't get electricity until 1946. This came more than 50 years after Fort Myers got electricity, and 75 years after Edison invented the light bulb!

Did You Know?

1885 — Inventor Thomas Edison first came to Fort Myers and purchased 13 acres along the Caloosahatchee River as his winter retreat. He — sometimes along with his friend, Henry Ford — would become a regular visitor to the Koreshan settlement in Estero, drawn by his interest in exotic plants.



This fan was made in 1930 and resides in our historic school house. Come to the Estero Historical Society to learn more about the history of Estero!



2022 EHS Board of Directors

Back Row (L to R): Nancy Brodbeck, George Zalucki, Gail Langner (President), Chloe Maros, Roslyn Gula, Mark Novitski
Front Row (L to R): Kristen Stuller, Bo Head
Not Pictured: Gail Schultz

Yesterday and Today Speaker Series

Targe & Tartan Celtic & Scottish Influence in Florida

Our Series for June with presenter Jacob Winge was centered around the Celtic and Scottish influence in Florida.

Presenter Jacob Winge was dressed in Colonial Jacobite costume.

Fascinating to learn (as illustrated in the two close-up photos) that the sword was designed for more than just its blade. The basket hilt was designed to protect the hand of the man carrying it. On either side of the basket there is a loop and a hook. Both were designed so that the soldier carrying it could use these to “catch” the tip of the sword of his opponent and fling it out of his hand, thereby disarming him.

The sword pictured is a basket hilt broad sword. It was used in all three of the major Jacobite uprisings that were described in his presentation.

The Blunderbuss rifle was actually invented in the early 1600's for use as a coach gun. It's short barrel made it easy to maneuver in the limited space of a coach and also easy to load and reload.



Previous Everglades Wonder Gardens restaurant facing demolition

After the Bonita Springs City Council unanimously decided recently to pursue demolishing the former Everglades Wonder Gardens restaurant on Old 41 Road, the city's Historic Preservation Board and Historical Society have been speaking out strongly to save the building.

City Council based its decision on the high cost necessary to renovate the building, which has been vacant for three years, as well as future plans to develop that surrounding area of downtown Bonita. Historians argue that the building, built in 1947, was designated historic by the preservation board in 2017.



Photo Credit:
Krishna Samoedjh

[\(Click here to see the entire Gulfshore Business article\)](#)

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ATTENTION!!

We Have CANDLES!

We are very proud and excited to announce that we are now carrying a line of the best locally made candles in our give shop from Naples Candle Company!! If you love candles or need that perfect little gift for someone, stop by and get one and help support our non-profit.



News-Press

Life in the grove: Remembering Southwest Florida's citrus industry by Jeff McCullers

When the railroad jobs went away, we all thought “Dang, it must be hard for the railroad families” and went on our way. When a new highway opened up somewhere and the chains and big boxes went up, all the Mom and Pop restaurants and hotels and groceries closed down, we all thought “Dang, it must be hard for Mom and Pop business” and began buying everything from the big box. When the net ban came along, we all thought “Dang, it must be hard for the fishing families” and we all started buying frozen fish. When the orange groves were pushed over to make way for gated communities named for faraway golf courses or trees that don't grow here, we bought lots as fast as we could.

To see the complete story, [CLICK HERE](#)



Smith's citrus packing house, Estero (Lee County) Florida in 1946. (L to R: Ray Smith, Kay Smith, Hugh Smith, George Smith, Della Smith) White guava tree in front of the packing house. Large electrical fruit washer and sorter inside. Collection of Jeff McCullers/Special To The News-Press

July EHS Board Meeting:



The next EHS Board meeting will be held on Friday July 15th at noon. This month we will be meeting at the Country Creek Clubhouse located at 21180 Country Creek Drive, Estero. TIME: 12:00 noon to 2:00pm. All are welcome to attend.



Experience History for Yourself



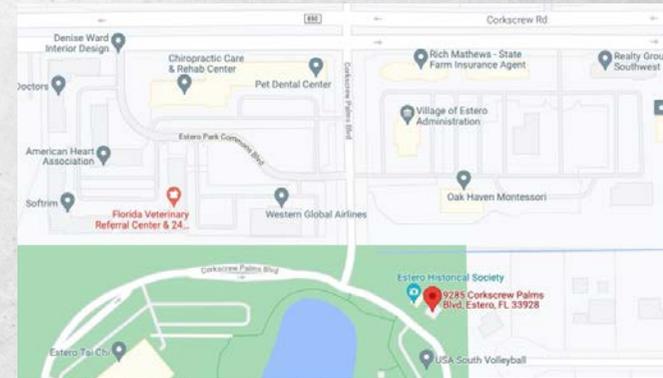
The Collier/Hall/Hansen home was donated to the Estero Historical Society by the College of Life & was accepted for placement in the Estero Community Park along with the former 1904 Estero Creek School. The rebuilding of the home has been a prime accomplishment of the EHS, and the home is used as a teaching location, an office and a meeting place.

The buildings are decorated with historically accurate furnishings. Permanent exhibits of Estero reside alongside rotating, themed exhibits.

Volunteer docents provide tours and context. Books about Estero, blankets featuring Estero buildings, and the annual crop of mango chutney are also sold at the cottage. The historic buildings are located in Estero Community Park. They are on the northeastern corner of the outer circle, on the way to the playground.



Mimi Straub, 1912 – 2013
EHS Founder



PLEASE MAKE NOTE:

Unfortunately it is necessary to do extensive repairs on both of our buildings, so we find we will need to close for the month of August. If we see the repairs do not take the entire month, we'll be certain to let you know we have reopened. If you have not seen our buildings, exhibits or gift shop, please try to drop in before our temporary closing. Keeping up buildings built in 1906 is forever ongoing.



Out & About



*Upcoming Happenings in the Estero Park and Center:
9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero FL 33928*

**Estero Park and Recreation Center:
Please Visit
<https://www.leegov.com/parks/Pages/FacilitySP.aspx?UrlSuffix=estero>**

BONITA
& ESTERO
and Neighboring Communities

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www.bonitaesteromagazine.com*

2021/22
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For up-to-date event information please visit: FGCU.EDU/ARTGALLERIES

Art & Design Special Events

For up-to-date event information please visit: FGCU.EDU/ARTEVENTS

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For up-to-date event information please visit: FGCU.EDU/CONCERTS

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Become a Proud Business Sponsor!

If your company would like to become a business sponsor of the Estero Historical Society, come by the cottage located at 9285 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. Estero, FL 33928 on Saturdays between 1pm to 3:30pm, email esterohistoricalsociety@gmail.com

or join online at:

<https://esterohistoricalsociety.com/product/membership/>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have extra time on
your hands?

The Estero Historical Society can
use YOU! We need volunteers to
help with events and special
projects. We would be honored to
have you. If you or someone you
know would like to volunteer, please
email us at:

EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

A 501 (C) (3) Non-Profit Organization

Greater Estero Chamber Magazine

This is a must have for local events, businesses and information, grab your copy today at one of the locations listed below:

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Marathon Gas Stations
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Lake Michigan Credit Union
Estero Historical Society Cottage

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