

# TIMELINES

FRIENDS OF THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

Spring 2003

3301 Tamiami Trail East Naples, FL 34112 Arthur R. Lee, editor Volume IX, No. 2

## Lees Elected President; New Directors Named

### Officers

William J. Lees III  
*President*  
Don Craig  
*First Vice President*  
Cindy Kelly  
*Second Vice President*  
Marlee Thome  
*Secretary*

### Board of Directors

David Arizmendi  
Lois A. Bolin, Ph.D.  
Sam Colding  
Tracy Jones  
Arthur R. Lee  
Larry Litt  
Mark May  
Denyse Smith Mesnik  
William Tyson  
Ron Jamro, *Honorary*

### Museums of Collier County

Ron Jamro  
*Director*  
Donna Ridewood  
*Manager*

### Museum at Naples

David Southall  
*Education Curator*  
Jennifer Guida  
*Curator of Collections*  
Deborah Langley  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Tim England  
*Horticulturist*

### Museum of the Everglades

Virginia Saalman, *Assistant*

### Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch

Lee Mitchell, *Assistant Manager*

### LEND A HAND!

Denyse Smith Mesnik, one of the Friends' oldest members in point of time of service, has these thoughts for new officers and board members:

**Yours is a proactive role.**

You are now a member of a team, and – as was pointed out at the annual meeting – our most important single job is to raise funds for Museum projects.

**Spread the word!** The Museum has wonderful grounds, world-class exhibits, imaginative, exciting programs. Let your friends and associates know about them.

**Lend a hand!** If you can spare a few hours a week, put them to work for the Museum; it needs volunteers.

### EDITOR RESIGNING

I have advised President Lees that for medical reasons I am resigning as editor of *Timelines* effective with this issue, although I hope to be able to continue serving as a director of the Friends organization. (I am the oldest serving director both in point of time and age, having been elected first in 1994.)

I have enjoyed the work, and regret the necessity of giving it up.

Arthur R. Lee

The Friends of the Collier County Museum is starting its fiscal year with a directorate substantively changed from that named a year earlier.

At a postponed annual meeting May 8 William J. Lees III, who has headed the public relations committee for some years, was named to the presidency, succeeding Charles Morgan Abbott; Don Craig was reelected to the first vice presidency; Cindy Kelly was named second vice president, Michael A. Ryan, was reelected treasurer, and Marlee Thome was elected secretary, filling a long-standing vacancy. Ryan, who has recently opened his own office, subsequently resigned. Kelly and Thome are new members of the board.

Vice president Craig, who has been a board member since 2001, opened the meeting and presided over the election of the president, after which Lees wielded the gavel. Abbott had resigned following a change in employment.

New directors are David Arizmendi, Lois A. Bolin, Ph.D; Sam Colding, Tracy Jones, Larry Litt, and Mark May. Holdover directors are Arthur R. Lee, Denyse Smith Mesnik and William Tyson.

The meeting was remarkable for the enthusiasm of the participants and their eagerness to get the new year's work started. Lees described a public relations program he has had in mind and Museum Director Ron Jamro and Manager Donna Ridewood stressed the need for supplementing income from the county, which is scheduled to be reduced from previous allocations.

## Friends is in Good Hands

### Officers, Directors, Have Much Experience

President Bill Lees has been a member and director of the Society since the year 2000, and has served on the public relations committee ever since.

He and his wife Tina moved to Ft. Myers in 1987, shortly after he received a B.A. degree in Communications Design from the University of Buffalo (N.Y.). Later, in 1989, they removed to the Naples area where they have resided since. They have three children.

From his advertising agency office in Bonita Springs (a lifelong career) he has done work nationally for U.S. Home/Lennar, the Conservancy, and the National Wildlife Federation and in 1994 he was named a member of *National Who's Who in Executives and Professionals*. He has been a member of the Bonita Springs Rotary Club since 1997 Bonita Springs Chambers of Commerce, and his company is affiliated with the Advertising Federation.

He has been active in all aspects of Museum activities and the logo for Old Florida Festival is from his pen.

Don Craig joined the Friends in 2001 as part of a lifetime of public service. He grew up in Boston's inner city and after service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War returned there to work as an electrical contractor, a pursuit which he continued after his move to Naples 26 years ago.

He has devoted a lifetime of work to the Boy Scouts of America, ranging from being scoutmaster to its national committee. He is a Little Leaguer, member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, National Rifle Association, the Elks Lodge, Moorings Presbyterian Church, Pelican Bay Rotary Club and the Centennial Committee; he is a past master of the Masonic lodge.

#### STAR PARTY PLANNED

A "Star Party" is calendared for Saturday August 30 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Local astronomers will set up telescopes on the Museum grounds to view Mars at its zenith. Public is invited.

#### Meet a new director

### Lois A. Bolin, Ph.D.

A consultant with an adventurous streak is newly-elected director Lois A. Bolin, Ph.D.

When she is not acting as a director of "Mirth and Birth" at Success Fulfillment, Inc., she is likely to be found bivouacked on a South American mountain slope or nursing blistered hands on a square rigger in the Canary Islands. The mountain climbing was part of an unsuccessful attempt to climb to the top of Mt. Aconconqua in South America last year, and the sailing was part of an Outward Bound venture earlier this year.

Her various professional and personal affiliations include Hurricane Island Outward Bound, Big Brother Big Sisters, American Business Women's association, National Womens Republican Club of Naples, S. W. Florida Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development, and various public relations firms.

Her educational accomplishments range from a Ph.D. in Administration and Management to a BA in English and Sociology.

Hobbies are tennis, jogging, rowing and other sports; she is single and has a dog, Moose, and cat, Flossie. She has lived in Naples 24 years.

### Museum Celebrates Martian Mania

In late August the planet Mars will be at its nearest to Earth for the next 11,00 years, and to observe the occasion the Museum will stage an exhibit of high-detail photos of the planet's surface taken by spacecraft and the Hubble telescope, as well as historical observations and drawings

In addition to the landscapes, the Museum is planning a series of lectures and presentations by local astronomers. Programs are scheduled for Saturday afternoons -- July 12 and 14 and August 9 and 23 -- at 1

#### Meet a new Director

### Tracy Jones

Professional and avocational interests blend nicely in a newly-elected Friends director, Tracy Jones. An award-winning author, she was introduced to local history in good part through the staff of the Museum who helped her in research and who impressed her with their "professionalism and dedication."

Originally from Knoxville, Tennessee, she moved to this area five years ago with her daughter, Dylan, and husband, Bob Jones, when he opened a record and CD store, *Silver Platter*, in Ft. Myers. She currently is a freelance writer and editor who has -- in her words -- "a real interest in Collier County history, particularly in the dynamic personalities who saw an opportunity to shape the area... it is interesting to look back and wonder what would have happened if someone else's plan had prevailed."

She was a technical writer and editor for Allen Systems Group in Naples before joining a magazine where she was assistant editor, associate editor, then editor. It was while there that she developed an interest in Collier county history and worked with the Museum staff.

Tracy studied creative writing at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where she won the department's Margaret Woodruff award for a body of poetic work and was a regular contributor and book critic for a weekly newspaper, and where she interviewed William Styron, Bill Bryson and other noted authors. Her work has appeared in a number of national publications and she wrote three romantic comedies published by Harlequin Books.

p.m.

Mars was first glimpsed by Galileo in the early 1600s, but the first serious mapping of the planet was not done until three centuries later, when Bostonian Percival Lowell in 1894 built an observatory and spent the last 20 years of his life studying the planets, including Mars. His three books influenced scientists and writers of his time including much science fiction, a new genre.

## 2003 Archaeological Week Observance:

### Marco Had Planned Community 1500 Hundred Years Ago

*Remodeling of Old Marco Inn and accompanying construction over the past three years included salvage archaeological monitoring since it is located at the edge of the Key Marco Site, source of discoveries that have attracted world attention. To the Naples museum's Craighead laboratory, operated by the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, has fallen the task of producing a complete index of recovered artifacts, under contract with the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, the Marco Historical Society and the owners of the Inn. Hence the significance of this summary of Archaeology Day remarks by Calusa authority Dr. Randolph J. Widmer.*

Key Marco Site 8CR48, the home of generations of fishing folk, now buried under modern construction at the northern end of Marco Island, is seen by a foremost archaeologist to have been a carefully planned and constructed village of more than 500 inhabitants.

In a paper presented at the Museum's 2003 observance of Archaeology Month (last March) Dr. Randolph J. Widmer, author of the standard text on the growth of Southwest Florida's Calusa tribe, pulled together insights gleaned from a number of investigations to reconstruct, on paper, what the enclave probably looked like at its zenith.

Basis for his thesis is a contour map drawn by artist/archaeologist Wells Sawyer of a 1896 excavation conducted by Archaeologist Frank Hamilton Cushing, an expedition which recovered hundreds of artifacts, sacred and profane, which provided snapshots of the lives, over several centuries, of a village of fisher folk.

(Widmer noted that the site now is the most extensively excavated in South Florida, a total of 951.5 square meters having been examined. These investigations have sampled many sections of the original site.)

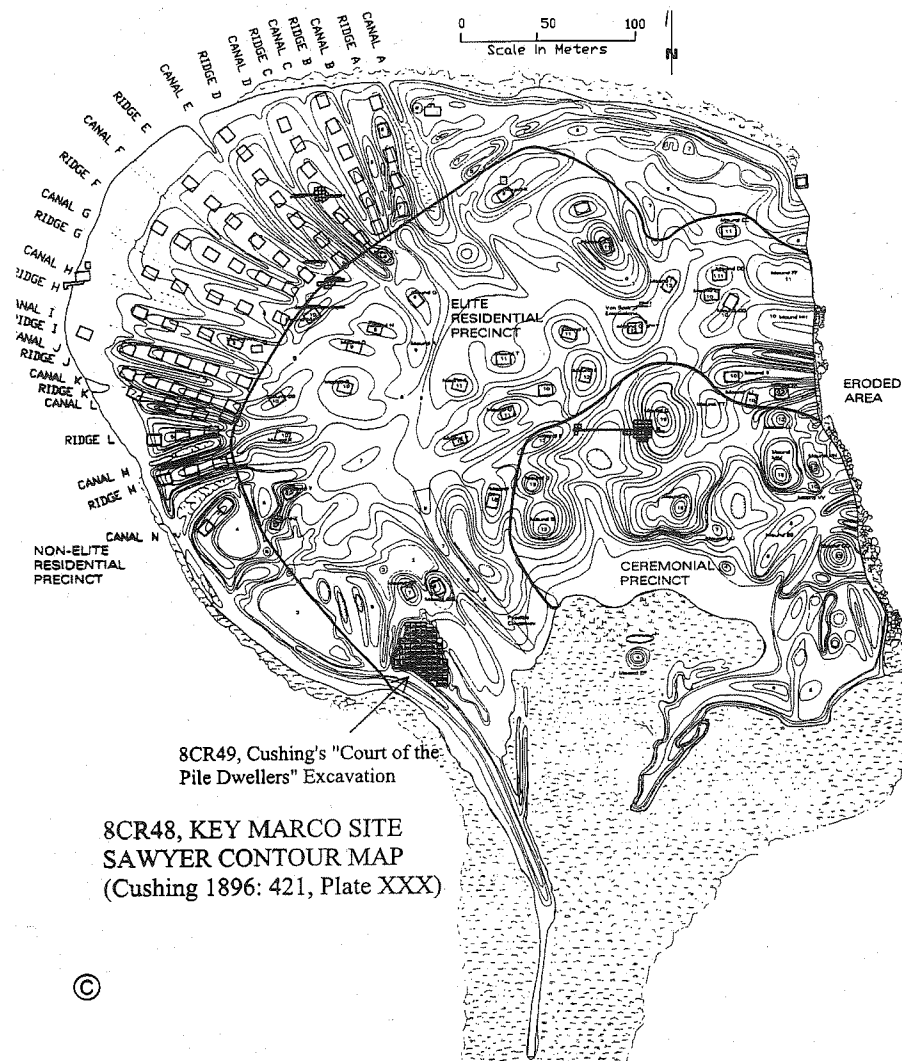
The Sawyer contour map shows a series of high mounds and ridges, on which there is evidence of the construction of buildings, separated by ravines which, during a long period of high ocean water level, served as connecting waterways. These features show evidence of repeated reconstructions, to remedy hurricane damage.

In his analysis, Widmer divides the (planned) community into three distinct sectors covering 33 acres of the original site. One, in the southeast corner, was a ceremonial precinct with 13

believed to have housed the plebeian elements of the society. Workshop areas have been identified between the house sites. From post molds and recovery of a timber with horizontal notches to form a ladder Cushing concluded, and Widmer agrees, that the houses were built on pilings, out of the reach of high waters.

Widmer is convinced that the area was occupied from about 500 to 1500 A.D., a period compatible with the development of the Calusa chiefdom. He favors additional carbon 14 testing to refine dates of objects recovered from the site, such as the famous feline fetish which has captured world attention.

### Marco Site as Reconstructed



8CR49, Cushing's "Court of the Pile Dwellers" Excavation

8CR48, KEY MARCO SITE  
SAWYER CONTOUR MAP  
(Cushing 1896: 421, Plate XXX)

Dr. Widmer's reconstruction of the Key Marco Site shows the ceremonial zone at the lower right section, a residential enclave above it to the left for the elite, and an area to the upper left reserved for the lower classes.



## Horticulturist Finds Museum Conditions Different from England's

Tim England, the Museum's newly-appointed horticulturist, is doing exactly what he has been interested in most of his life, and for which he has been educated – helping growing things take the patterns for which they were designed.

As a pre-adolescent in rural England he developed an interest in agriculture and had the opportunity to be where he wanted to be, among living things on a farm. Later, after his family moved to north Devon, he was able to put this interest to work in raising chickens, cattle and pigs on a farm which was part of a bed-and-breakfast operated by his parents; his duties included managing a five-acre woodland.

He broadened that interest in the natural world later by studying marine science, taking an honors degree (which equates to a masters degree) in marine science, specifically in interactive, dynamic, eco-aquatic systems.

At the Museum he has identified and has made a goal of perfecting its varied eco-systems: swamp, tropical hardwood hammock, pineland, sand dune (he has already ordered additional sand to help in developing it), pine scrub and freshwater marsh. He has found his early experience in managing a woodland to be of value in conforming tree growth to the size and shape of the gardens of which they are a part.

Tim admits that he finds the problem of maintaining a healthy grass cover on the heavily-used Museum grounds to be a challenge, and quite different from managing the lush green lawns of his homeland.

Tim has been in the United States for 10 years. He currently is working toward a doctoral degree in habitat reclamation from the Boy Scouts of America University of Scouting Arts.

He is scoutmaster of Troop 38, and district roundtable commissioner.

**VISIT THE MUSEUM  
STORE!**

## Goal: Raise Money to Complete Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch

### What's in a Name?

A lot, if it has to do with Marco Island archaeology.

The locus of the world-famous excavations of 1896 was referred to by its excavator, Frank Hamilton Cushing, as the **KEY MARCO SITE**.

John and Linda Van Beck in the early 1960s excavated a part of that complex and called their site *Marco Midden*, and that name has since been used by some others.

However, Calusa authority Dr. Randolph Widmer insists that **KEY MARCO SITE 8CR48** is the official, and proper, nomenclature. Moreover, he adds, the Van Beck excavation was in a temple mound, and not a midden.

### Outstanding Talent at Archaeology Day

There were demonstrations of aboriginal skills, introductions to methods used to analyze past lives, accounts of investigations into lost folkways, and analyses of the relationship of the aboriginal legacy to present-day life. The occasion was the 10<sup>th</sup> local observance of state-wide Archaeology Month, sponsored March 22 at the Collier County Museum jointly by the Museum and the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society.

Attendance suffered from a last-minute change in venue from Marco Island to the Naples museum, but the more limited attendance provided frequent occasions for personal communication between presenters and lecturers and their audiences. The program included a paper by Dr. Randolph Widmer, a leading expert on the Calusa Indians; presentations by Dr. Mike Russo of the Southeast Archaeological Center of the National Park Service on aboriginal occupation of Horr's Island; Archaeologist John Beriault of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, on the archaeol-

As the Friends' newly reconstituted board of directors firms up its future plans, obtaining money to complete transformation of the Roberts ranch buildings in Immokalee into a full-fledged living history facility will be well up on its list.

Financing the facility has been set back by a reduction of \$500,000 in funds from the county Tourist Development Council, which handles revenues from the tax on hotel rooms, reduced by the current decrease in tourism. The money had been earmarked for utilities, landscaping, a visitors center, sidewalks and restrooms.

In the meantime, restoration of the original ranch buildings will continue under a \$92,000 state grant matched by the county. The work includes repair of the main ranch house once occupied by the Roberts family, and outbuildings.

Goal is to let visitors see what a working ranch looks like; Robert Roberts, one of the first cattlemen in this area, under the name of the Red Cattle Company once ran more than 5,000 head of cattle on some 150,000 acres of land.

The facility currently is open only by appointment; call 239-658-2466 or punch up [www.colliermuseum.com](http://www.colliermuseum.com).

ogy of Old Marco Inn, and Corbett Torrence, professor adjunct of Florida Gulf Coast University, on the relationship between archaeology and the future.

### Dues Paid Up?

Just a reminder: Dues fell due March 31. The schedule is:

Student	\$10
Senior citizen	\$25
Individual	\$40
Family	\$50
Friend	\$100
Sponsor	\$500
Patron	\$1,000

Address your envelope to "Friends of the Collier County Museum, 1301 Tamiami Trail E., Naples, FL 34112."

## The Trail is Open!

*It got a little wet (a tropical downpour!), but the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail connecting Florida's east and west coasts was properly observed April 26. The antique cars scheduled to re-enact the procession from Naples to Everglades City stayed dry in their garages, but speeches were made and reception held.*



County Commissioner Frank Halas and Mrs. Halas



Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart of the 25th district is greeted at the City Hall entrance.



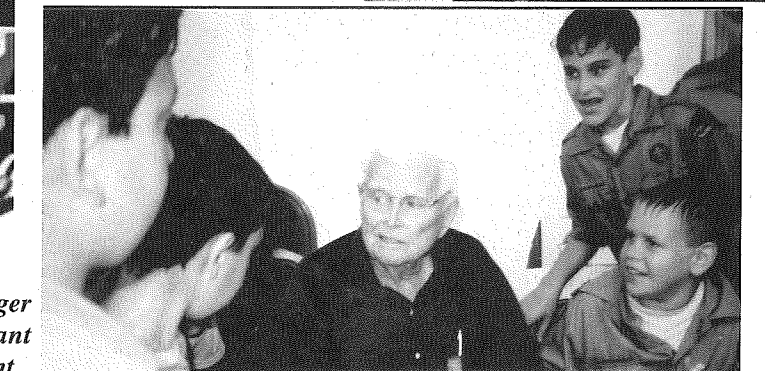
R.E. "Doc" Johnson is interviewed on the steps of the Everglades city hall.



Featured event was the re-enactment of the speech by Barron Collier at the formal opening ceremony with Fred Shinn of Marco Island portraying Collier. Note the puttees! At right County Commissioner James Coletta breaks up museum assistant director Virginia Saalman



Representative Diaz-Balart chats with Museum Manager Donna Ridewood and Everglades museum assistant Saalman. The Museum played a large role in the event.



Above: Allen Ellis tells Boy Scouts about having been a 13-year-old Scout on the day the Tamiami Trail was opened 75 years ago.

Left, attending Boy Scouts dutifully listen to speeches from the podium but one knows that whatever it is crawling in the bushes is probably much more important.



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