

# MUSEUM NOTES

A Publication of the

FRIENDS OF THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

SPRING 2007

## MUSEUM CALENDAR

### Through May 6:

**EXHIBIT:** *Journal of Light: A Photographers Search for the Soul of Florida* by John Moran At the Collier County Museum. Moran's 20-year odyssey seeking a vision of natural Florida as it must have appeared to Ponce de Leon and other early visitors. On loan from the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.

### April 1 - 30

**EXHIBIT:** *Old Photos of Everglades City Residents*. At the Museum of the Everglades. A collection of photos depicting the life, work and play of residents of this pioneer Collier County community. Prepared by Museum staff. See story elsewhere in this newsletter.

### April 28

**EVENT:** Tamiami Trail 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party of the Museum of the Everglades. On the Museum Lawn, Everglades City.

### June 21 through Fall

**EXHIBIT:** *From Sea to Shining Sea – 200 Years Charting America's Coasts*. At the Collier County Museum. A review and celebration of America's oldest scientific research organization, the Coast and Geodetic Survey. It was originally charged by Thomas Jefferson to create a "complete and accurate chart of every part of the coasts" of the US. Provided by the Smithsonian Institution and NOAA.

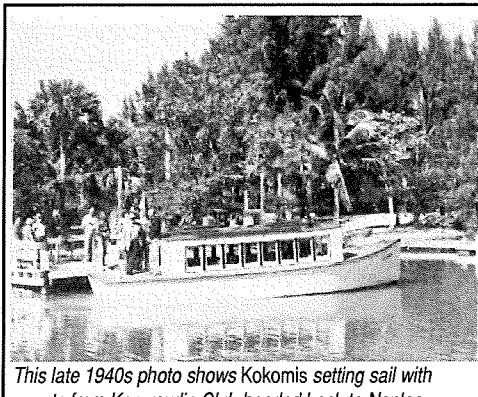
### APRIL PHOTO MONTH

The staff of the Museum of the Everglades, Everglades City is looking for old photos of the people of Everglades City and the surrounding area as they live, work and play. If you have any ... or know someone who might ... please contact Carol Moseman (239/695-2159) or Martha Schramm (239) 695-0008. They do not need the originals – only prints or copies.

The photos will make up a show of "family photos" on display at the Museum during the month of April. Should be great fun!

A vintage boat which carried residents and visitors across Gordon Pass between Naples and Keewaydin Island has been restored and is now on display at the Collier County Museum on the Courthouse grounds on the East Tamiami Trail, Naples.

The *Kokomis* is a 70 year old flat-bottomed boat modeled on glass-bottomed boats made famous at Ocala's Silver Springs which



This late 1940s photo shows *Kokomis* setting sail with guests from Keewaydin Club headed back to Naples.

Keewaydin Club's founder, Chestman Kittridge, is said to have admired. He commissioned Collier Countians Walter and Albert Surrency to build it from native yellow pine. It needed only to ply the few hundred yards of protected, inside waters from docks just north of the then Gordon Pass Fish Camp to a sheltered harbor on the northern tip of the Island.

After the closing of the Club, the boat began a life of various uses and owners until ending slowly sinking in a local marina in 2004. The Friends of the

## FRIENDS ELECTS MCMACKIN

Members attending the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Collier County Museums elected F. Joseph McMackin III to be its President. The March 8 meeting was held at the Main Museum on the Courthouse grounds. Past President Larry Litt was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President with Rick Compton as Vice President. Lisa Blankenship, Secretary, and David N. Pfaff, Treasurer, rounded out the officers list.

Other Directors are Don F. Craig, Patty Huff, Lynn Wuesthoff, Mary Kux, Nick Niles and Theodore Soliday. Museum Director Ron Jamro meets with the Friends officers and directors as liaison.

Museum president at that time, Don Craig, upon learning of the boat and its history organized its rescue and relocation to its new home. Rocky Scofield was the next "angel" in *Kokomis*' history agreeing to find funding and arrange its restoration. Mrs. Lavern Norris Gaynor, whose parents had acquired the Club in 1945 and operated the *Kokomis*, made a major initial grant to launch the work.

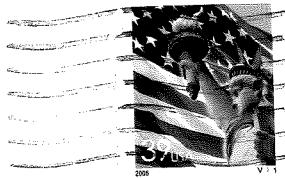
Scofield speaks with pride of the craftsmen he has been able to locate to help with the restoration, many not just skilled carpenters but men who have worked on locally created boats for years.

Although now "land-locked" and sheltered overhead to help preserve it, *Kokomis* is assuming a status as "queen" of the Museum campus and a nostalgic remembrance for many current residents of elegant dinners, holidays, even Cotillion dances held at Keewaydin, all accessible only aboard the doughty little boat.

The completion of the *Kokomis* display coincides with the arrival of another marine exhibit at the Museum, which can be seen throughout the summer. It celebrates the role and achievements of the Coast and Geodetic Survey in charting the coasts of the US for the past 200 years. See "Calendar" elsewhere in this issue.

**FRIENDS OF THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUMS**  
**3301 TAMiami TRAIL, EAST - NAPLES, FL 34112**  
**239/793-8393**

*in support of*  
**Collier County Museum**  
3301 Tamiami Trail East, Naples  
239/774-8476  
[www.colliermuseum.com](http://www.colliermuseum.com)  
  
**Naples Depot Museum**  
1051 5<sup>th</sup> Ave South, Naples  
  
**Museum of the Everglades**  
105 West Broadway, Everglades City  
  
**Immokalee Pioneer Museum**  
1215 Roberts Ave, Immokalee



**Jennifer Guida**  
**Collier County Museum**  
3301 Tamiami Trail East  
Naples FL34112-

## FLORIDA FESTIVAL A HIT AGAIN!



The 18<sup>th</sup> Old Florida Festival at the Collier County Museum on the Naples Courthouse grounds was a hit for thousands March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Festival was made possible in part by a grant from Embarq Corporation to the Friends of the Collier County Museums.

This popular annual event highlights various periods through 10,000 years of Florida history – the Civil War, the Seminoles, the settlers, World War II and other historical eras. The Old Florida Festival is the museums' largest event of the year.

Attendees roamed from camp to camp watching demonstrations and hearing stories from re-enactors about each particular era – tasted Indian fry-bread, marveled at a uniformed Spanish Conquistador on his horse, watched Indians and settlers fight at the replica Seminole Fort and more.

The Friends organization hosted over 4,000 school children and 400 educators from Collier, Lee, Broward, and Sarasota counties at a special Friday presentation of the Festival. Funds to support this special educational day are raised by the Friends throughout the year from regular and special events and by gifts from individuals and organizations. Transportation scholarships may be available for Collier County Schools lacking such funding.

Planning for the 2008 Festival begins immediately and is expected again to be scheduled in late March, according to Vice President Rick Compton who coordinates events for the Friends.

An ultimate dress-up at the Old Florida Festival!

### ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Would you be interested in....  
D *Opportunities for new friendships*  
D *The satisfaction of improving the quality of life in our community through your involvement*  
D *Invitations to VIP receptions and events at the Collier County Museums*  
D *An opportunity to learn, share and promote the history of Collier County.*

If any of these intrigues you, consider becoming a volunteer at the Collier County Museums! Positions are available at all four museums. Currently, Director of Volunteers Mary Margaret Gruszka is focusing on the Museum at the Courthouse on the East Tamiami Trail. With winter residents/volunteers returning North, the

museums need year 'round residents to help as Greeters at the Gift Shops.

Also, keep in mind that you may have a special talent that could be used: a musician to entertain at an opening reception or someone with computer skills. As the King of Siam said: "And et cetera, et cetera and so forth!"

Please call Mary Margaret Gruszka at 774-8287 to discuss the volunteering possibilities at the Collier County Museums.

### FRIENDS OF COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

3301 Tamiami Trail East  
Naples, FL 34112  
239/793-8393  
[www.colliermuseum.com](http://www.colliermuseum.com)

Officers and Directors, 2007-8:

F. Joseph McMakin, III, President  
Lawrence B. Litt, First Vice President  
Rick Compton, Vice President  
David N. Pfaff, Treasurer  
Lisa Blankenship, Secretary

Don F. Craig, Director  
Patty Huff, Director  
Mary Kux, Director  
Nick Niles, Director  
Theodore Soliday, Director  
Lynn Wuesthoff, Director

Liaison:  
Ron Jamro, Museums Director

