

# Speakers Bureau Catalogue



Bring the history of Southwest Florida to you with the Collier County Museums Speakers Bureau! The Collier County Museums are home to a passionate group of museum professionals who possess extensive knowledge on a variety of topics about our region's history and culture. We look forward to sharing our love and knowledge of Collier County with you.

Collier County Museums Speakers Bureau lectures are perfect for your organization, community, club, or class. Lectures are typically 45 minutes to 1 hour in length. They are available for free, although donations via check made out to the Collier County Museums are gratefully accepted. A minimum of 1 month notice before your preferred lecture date is required. While we cannot guarantee that your preferred date can be accommodated, we are happy to work with you to find alternatives.

To schedule a lecture please call our Curator of Education, Elaina Gyure, at 239-252-8242 or fill out the form on our website <https://colliermuseums.com/speakers-bureau>

## ***Amanda Townsend, Museums Director***



Amanda Oswald Townsend has served her community in Collier County government for 21 years. She held various roles in the Public Services Department before becoming Director of Museums in 2016. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from New College of Florida and a Master of Arts in American Studies from the University of Alabama. Her professional and academic interests are in place studies and material culture, with a focus on Florida and the Twentieth Century.

### **And Then There Were Five: A History of the Collier County Museum System**

The Collier County Museum was established by the Collier County Historical Society in 1978 to preserve and interpret the history, archaeology, and development of Southwest Florida's last frontier. The Division grew from one location to five over

the course of twenty years. Join Collier County Museums Director Amanda Townsend as she covers the passionate community-lead initiatives that lead to the creation of this special Public Services division.

### **For Oddity to Commodity: Representations of Florida in Postcards**

Collier County Museums Director Amanda Townsend discusses how postcards of Florida shaped and reshaped the world's perception of the state—from bounteous farmland to exotic vacation retreat.

### **Snowbirds!**

Each year the Collier County population swells by an estimated 20%—this year that will be almost 75,000 additional people—in peak season. Since the times of the ancient Greeks and Romans those who could afford to have traveled seasonally to the seaside for pleasure and healthful benefits. Collier County Museums Director Amanda Townsend takes a look at the origins of the snowbird phenomenon in Florida and how this annual migration touches our community today.

### **Eleven Definitive Days in Collier County's Cultural Identity**

Collier County is made up of 2305 square miles, three municipalities, unincorporated towns, and many distinct communities with a wide variety of vibes and flavors. Given its geographic size and ethnic diversity, how does one define Collier County's identity and culture? Collier County Museum Director Amanda Townsend has chosen eleven days spanning over 120 years that define what it is to be a Collier Countian. Join us as she tells the stories of those moments that make over 375,000 of us one.

## ***Elaina Gyure, Curator of Education***



Elaina Gyure has been with the Collier County Museum system since 2018 and currently serves as the Curator of Education, where she manages educational programming for all five museums. She holds a bachelor's degree in History and Historic Preservation from the College of Charleston in South Carolina, a master's in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester, and a master's in Nonprofit Management from the University of Central Florida. She has lived in southwest Florida since she was 4 years old. Elaina has a deep love for the region's history and culture and sharing it with residents and visitors of all stripes.

### **Meet the Museums: A Survey Course in Collier County History**

Collier County has so much history, that we have 5 museums dedicated to it! Join Elaina Gyure, Curator of Education for the Collier County Museums, for her "survey course" in Collier County's history, as told through the lens of our museum system. With museums in Naples, Everglades City, Immokalee, and Marco Island, there is no corner of the county left uncovered.

### **As Told by Artifacts: The History of Collier County in Historic Objects**

Join Curator of Education Elaina Gyure in this exploration of Collier County's history, as told by the historic objects in our museum's collection. From the fossils that can be found underfoot, to the tools of the mighty Calusa, to the fishing gear that made our region a tourist destination, we will span thousands of years of history of our region through our material culture.

### **If These Walls Could Talk: The Architectural History of Southwest Florida**

From the early Calusa and Seminole chickees to the cracker cabins and quaint Florida cottages of the 19th and 20th centuries, the residents of southwest Florida had no shortage of creative ideas when it came to how they built. Curator of Education Elaina Gyure will highlight the different architectural styles that have called our region home.

### **The Fierce People: The Calusa of Southwest Florida**

Curator of Education Elaina Gyure looks at the history and archaeology of the earliest identified tribe to call southwest Florida home, the Calusa. Learn how they worked with their environment to sustain their vast kingdom that stretched from Charlotte Harbor to the Ten Thousand Islands.

### **Before We Were Collier: The Pioneers of Southwest Florida**

In this lecture with Curator of Education Elaina Gyure, meet the hearty folk who chose the wilds of the region that would become Collier County as their destination for a better life. Long before the comforts of air conditioning, mosquito repellent and Publix, these families saw the potential of this region.

**Key Ingredients of Collier County**

Curator of Education Elaina Gyure highlights the food that made us Collier County. From the seafood and game that brought the most devoted of anglers and hunters to this sportsmen's paradise, to the agricultural industries of our eastern corridor, Collier County has a rich history of delicious edible resources.

**Women Who Shaped Collier County**

Curator of Education Elaina Gyure discusses some of the trailblazing women who helped make Collier County what it is today. From social changers to dedicated business women to proud matriarchs, women from all walks of life have played a pivotal role in our communities.

## ***Stephanie Long, Collier Museum at Government Center Manager***



Stephanie Long serves as the Museum Manager for the Collier Museum at Government Center in Naples, Florida and oversees museum operations, as well as educational programming and exhibit development. Before joining the Collier County Museums in 2020, Ms. Long worked as the Senior Curator of Collections for the City of Las Cruces Museums in New Mexico, Museum Director for the Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum in Texas, and Museum Manager of the Jekyll Island Museum in Georgia. She has also worked in curatorial roles with museums in Colorado, Nevada, and New York.

Ms. Long has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Duke University and a Master of Arts in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program at the State University of

New York. She also has a Master of Computer Information Systems from the University of Denver and worked a few years as a computer programmer before following her passion back to the museum profession.

Since starting at the Collier County Museums, her research has been focused on connecting Collier County history with the broader history of our region, state, and nation. Over the years, her research projects have been wide-ranging, from Apollo-era rocket development, to Gilded Age suffragists, to Pueblo Pottery, to the Santa Fe Railroad, to many other topics along the way.

### **Hercules in a Box: Dynamite, Du Pont, and the Building of the Tamiami Trail**

Stephanie Long does a deep dive into the history of one of the objects in our collection, a wooden crate from the Hercules Powder Company. The complex story of this simple object covers black powder, the wealthy Du Pont family, the slaying of a California giant, corporate takeovers, anti-trust lawsuits, and, of course, the Tamiami Trail. Come find out more about one of Collier County Museum's treasures.

### **A Journey Down Historic Route 41**

Take a road trip to explore the history of Route 41. U.S. 41 has a long history as a bridge between the Midwest and Florida. The highway crosses eight states and runs from Michigan to Miami. Although it has been bypassed by interstates today, it once was a major north/south route that brought tourists south to Florida from places like Milwaukee, Chicago, Nashville, and Atlanta. Business leaders along the route boosted it as "The Boulevard of America" or "the Main Street of Wisconsin." Here in Collier County, we came to know it as the Tamiami Trail. We'll discuss the origins of automobile highways, the creation of U.S. 41, and the mid-century road trip experience.

### **Swamp Angels: A History of Mosquitoes and Mosquito Control**

Join Stephanie Long for an exploration of our long battle to understand and control mosquitoes. There are over forty species of mosquitoes in Collier County. Nicknamed “Swamp Angels” by early settlers, mosquitoes have long been a nuisance and threat to the health of everyone living in Southwest Florida. Over the years, humans have developed different methods of controlling the insects, and mosquito control remains an important factor in making Collier County comfortable and safe for residents and visitors.

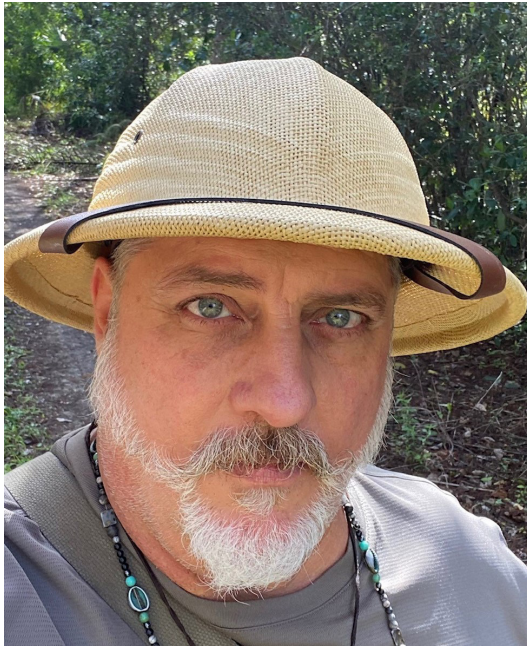
### **Barron Collier’s Luna Park**

Did you know that Barron Collier owned one of the iconic amusement parks on Coney Island? Stephanie Long will discuss the development of one of Coney Island’s historic landmarks, Luna Park. Barron Collier and his associates purchased the attraction in 1912, the year after his first trip to Florida. Opened in 1903, the park was an extravagant wonderland, known for its rides, parades, shows, and elaborate lights.

### **The History of Greeting Cards**

Stephanie Long will discuss the festive history of greeting cards. Growing out of the tradition of sending romantic verses at Valentine’s Day, greeting cards spread throughout our calendar and became a major industry in the 20th century. Explore how these modest goodwill messages got their start.

## ***Thomas Lockyear, Museum of the Everglades Manager***



Thomas Lockyear has been a museum professional for 17 years, having served as Operations Manager of the Key West Shipwreck Treasures Museum, Museum Curator and Tour Guide at Historic Pigeon Key, and Executive Director of the History of Diving Museum in Islamorada before accepting his current position as manager of Museum of the Everglades in Everglades City.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison (BS Art), Mr. Lockyear also recently completed a master’s degree in Educational Technology at Florida Gulf Coast University.

A true Everglades enthusiast, Mr. Lockyear enjoys swamps walks with his wife and 9-year-old son and continues to explore the rich history of the Sunshine State at museums, historic sites, and roadside attractions on family trips.

Mr. Lockyear’s background in art dovetails perfectly with his passion for history in many of the presentations he gives. The Collier County Museums collection includes over 400 pieces of original folk art by late Everglades City fishing guide Rob Storter and more than 50 works by primitive painter/sculptor Dick Jay – many of which are displayed at Museum of the Everglades.

### **A Brief History of Everglades City**

An overview of the town from the Calusa Indians to present day.

### **The Train, the Trail, and the Origins of Florida Tourism**

Thomas Lockyear, a former curator of the railroad museum on Pigeon Key, will discuss the roles of Henry Flagler’s railway and Barron Collier’s Tamiami Trail in opening Florida to tourism and establishing it as the state’s primary industry.

### **Dredges, Dynamite & Determination – the Building of the Tamiami Trail**

This presentation explores the rare combination of technology and tenacity that ultimately yielded the miracle of modern engineering known as the Tamiami Trail. An analysis of the machinery and materials employed as well as rarely-seen photos and firsthand accounts of the work will leave no doubt as to why the massive project was — at the time — compared to the building of the Panama Canal.

### **Legends & Lore of the Everglades**

Thomas Lockyear will explore the region’s myths, legends, and folklore. The infamous Ochopee Skunk Ape, the Ox Woman, the Phantoms of Flight 401, and even the swamp speakeasy owned by notorious gangster Al Capone will all be explored.

### **Barron Collier’s International Vision**

What inspired a New York City advertising mogul to build a city — complete with neo-classical

buildings, grand boulevards, and a European-style roundabout — in the middle of the Florida wilderness? What did he hope to achieve? The influence of Collier’s overseas travel and his involvement in the creation of a world police force will also be discussed, shedding new light on his dream of building a model city in the swamp.

### **Evolution of Airboat**

The airboat has become an iconic symbol of the Everglades, and this presentation will trace the history of these unique watercrafts from their earliest, experimental incarnations through the modern mega-boats of today seating twenty or more thrill-seeking tourists. The many uses of these fast-moving swamp-ready vehicles will be discussed in depth, with examples ranging from family recreation to air-disaster rescues.

### **The Everglades Art of Bob Fink**

This presentation discusses the history of lifelong professional artist and illustrator, Robert “Bob” Fink, whose work was first published at the age of 14. Best known for the stark, black and white block prints he created to illustrate Marjory Stoneman Douglas’ environmental classic, Fink’s career ran the gamut from architectural renderings for the Coral Gables Company to torrid covers for pulp fiction novels. This talk explores his relationship with Douglas through anecdotes about their travels on the Tamiami Trail (as shared by Fink’s daughter) as well as the story of the Museum’s serendipitous acquisition of one of the original prints created for Douglas’ groundbreaking book.

### **South Florida Folk Artists**

includes Stanley Papio, Mario Sanchez, the Highwaymen, Rob Storter, & more

### **Art in the Everglades**

The work of artists living in and around Everglades City—including Rob Storter, Dick Jay, Camille Baumgartner, Bob Klotz, and Varick Niles, as well as photographers Clyde Butcher, JohnBob Carlos and others—will be discussed and explored as it relates to the area’s unique landscape and history.

### **The Life and Art of Robert Lee Storter**

an overview of the stories and folk art of a lifelong fishing guide from Everglades’ founding family

### **Florida Pirates – Facts & Fiction**

Thomas Lockyear will explore our fascination with nautical history’s most notorious ne’er-do-wells and discuss their exploits (or lack thereof) in our coastal waters. Did Jack Rackam roam Cape Romano? Did Gasparilla really build a castle off Boca Grande? Who was the Pirate of Panther Key? Join us for this arrr-some presentation and find out for yourself.

### **The Trailblazers**

In April of 1923, a group of 24 adventurous automobile enthusiasts set out to prove it was possible to cross the Everglades in a car. This bold publicity stunt, conceived and promoted by advertising genius Barron Gift Collier, was staged to gain attention and garner support for the building of highway through the Everglades, connecting Ft. Myers and Miami. The expedition’s progress was reported by newspapers around the world, including many



fictional accounts of the party's demise. This talk will explore the facts and the fallacies of the event and how its questionable success ultimately contributed to the building of the Tamiami Trail

### **A Brief History of Plume Hunting**

a study of the illegal trade that almost wiped out South Florida's birds

### **Deaconess Harriet Bedell**

An Episcopalian missionary, she lived and worked with the Cheyenne in Oklahoma and the Gwich'in of Alaska before coming to the Everglades in 1932 in hopes of converting the Seminole Tribe. She established the Glade Cross Mission and helped Seminole and Miccosukee tribespeople develop a commercial market for their traditional wares. While recognized as a humanitarian leader and Great Floridian, the Deaconess' legacy is not without controversy. Join us in exploring her story.

### **Guides of the Glades**

a brief history of how sportfishing became the foundation of EC's economy

### **Just Across the Gulf**

Historic Connections between Everglades City & the Florida Keys

### **All About the Boats**

origins of nautical culture & commerce in Collier County

### **Trading Posts of South Florida**

Thomas Lockyear will focus on the important role that trading posts played in developing the relationships within a frontier society. The remote locations of the trading posts and accessibility only by water were a stumbling block in the evolution of commerce. As such, the Tamiami Trail had a huge impact on the trading habits of the time. Additionally, its impact on water travel by the indigenous peoples will be explored.

### **Illegal Trades in the Everglades**

a brief history from Plume Hunting to Pot Hauling

### **Bandits & Bankrobbers of the Everglades**

This presentation will recount the dark deeds of desperate men (and women!) who committed crimes and hid out in the Everglades. These true crime adventures will include the illegal escapades of the Rice Gang, the notorious John Ashley, "Queen of the Everglades" Laura Beatrice Upthegrove, and more. Was the Bank of the Everglades ever robbed? Find out the answer to this question and many others while you enjoy our region's true stories of prohibition era cops & robbers.

### **A Criminal History of the Everglades**

combines & condenses "Illegal Trades" & "Bandits & Bankrobbers"

### **Hermits of the 10,000 Islands**

The Ten Thousand Islands region has long been a magnet for those looking to "live off the grid": from runaway slaves and confederate deserters to moonshiners and armed outlaws looking to avoid the long arm of the law. But some came just to be alone - to live a simpler

life. Squatting on islands, living in trailers, shacks, or hand-built homes, Everglades hermits have carved out their own little pieces of paradise. This presentation will discuss the lives of a handful of the area's most colorful characters: Juan Gomez, the "pirate of Panther Key", alcoholic-in-exile Roy Ozmer, self-described "Phony Hermit" Al Seely, and more. A sympathetic window in the world of those who live outside of society by choice.

### **The Making of "Wind Across the Everglades"**

This presentation explores the stories behind and beyond the making of this classic film shot on location in Everglades City—and why the "dream team" of an Academy Award-winning screenwriter, director, and leading actor was ultimately a recipe for disaster. Rarely seen behind-the-scenes photos and anecdotes from the personal experiences of the principal actors will give attendees a new perspective on this 1958 cinematic gem.

### **The History of Deep Lake**

This presentation will dive deep into the history of this strangely mystical place—a sizeable sinkhole surrounded by a citrus grove that has been the home of Native American leaders, the site of a bloody battle, a retreat for millionaire moguls, and the location of a wilderness prison known as the "Alcatraz of the Everglades."

### **Bank of Everglades: an Investment in the Future**

This talk explores the storied history of the bank building as well as some of the folklore surrounding it. The neo-classical structure has stood strong near the center of Everglades City for almost 100 years but has recently fallen into disrepair and decay – can it be saved? If so, what steps can be taken? The presentation will include a discussion of efforts currently underway to preserve the building by the local historical society as well as the role it might play in the community's future and what those in attendance can do to help if they so desire.

### **The Other Side of "Progress:" The Tamiami Trail's Dark Legacy**

Although the construction of a highway across the Everglades in the mid-1920s is still celebrated as a miracle of modern engineering, the devastating effects this edifice would have on both the ecosystems of the Everglades and the culture of the region's indigenous people is often overlooked. This day-before-Earth-Day presentation will explore the unfortunate effects of the road's creation as well as the long history of schemes to drain the Everglades and recent efforts to reverse the damage done.

### **Growing in the Glades: An Agricultural History of Everglades City**

While many early settlers were attracted by the area's diverse and plentiful fish and game, it was extraordinarily fertile soil that caused them to stay. Squash, pumpkins, and cucumbers gave way to sugarcane and tomatoes — crops still grown throughout the region. Pioneer farms supplying soldiers in the Civil War would eventually grow into massive fields of tomatoes contributing 80% of fast-food industry's supply nationwide. This presentation will discuss the rich history of farming and food cultivation in the area for both family use and for profit.

### **Swamp Life – Gladesmen Past, Present, and Future**

This talk will explore the meaning behind the term "Gladesman" and the culture it defines - from the earliest frontier settlers in the Everglades region to modern-day swamp-dwellers who live, work, and play in one of the most challenging environments in the world.

### **See You Later, Alligator: Poachers, Promoters, & Protectors of the Everglades' Keystone Species**

This presentation explores the alligator as not just the keystone species of the Everglades, but its role in the evolution of the culture, economy, and cuisine of that region and as an iconic symbol of the state of Florida.

### **Totch Brown – Teller of Tales in the Everglades**

The life and legacy of local legend Loren “Totch” Brown will be discussed in this companion talk to the museum’s current “Legendary Gladesmen” exhibit. Totch’s many faceted career spanning everything from gator poaching to pot hauling will be discussed along with his colorful autobiography and the storytelling video series that made him an Everglades icon.

### **The Pirate of Panther Key & the Legend of Gasparilla**

Thomas Lockyear will dig deep into the history of hermit Juan Gomez and his long and storied life. Did he really live to be 122 years old? Did he sail with the pirate Gasparilla? Was he actually Gasparilla? Find out the answers to these questions and more, including the role Barron Collier may have played in building the myths surrounding the legendary pirate.

### **Everglades Americana – the Art of Dick Jay**

Thomas Lockyear will discuss the poignant and often whimsical way that artist Dick Jay captured historic events and personalities with paint and sculpture. Part primitive, part folk art, Mr. Jay’s prolific work captured not only the essence of life in Florida’s Last Frontier, but the spirit of the people living it.

### **Engines in the Everglades: How Men Modified Machines to Tame the Swamp**

This companion lecture to the current “Gearheads in the Glades” exhibit at museum of the Everglades explores the ways in which mechanically-inclined Gladesmen combined parts from airplanes, boats, cars, trucks, and tractors to create hybrid vehicles that could traverse the swampy terrain of South Florida.

## ***Helen Midney, Immokalee Pioneer Museum Manager***



Helen Midney is the museum manager for the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch. Helen received her Bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College in Maine. Helen has volunteered with the Union de Museos Comunitarios Foundation in Oaxaca, Mexico, working with middle school aged students to develop exhibits in their town museums. After college, Helen worked as a high school educator, college access counselor and environmental interpreter before completing her Master's in Environmental Studies with a focus in Education from Florida Gulf Coast University. Helen has since worked as an ecologist guide, educating visitors on Southwest Florida's local ecology and wildlife at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Ms. Midney has done research on community gardens and food systems through her work with Cultivate Abundance in

southwest Florida. She has also worked with Florida Gulf Coast University on restoration projects and fisheries research at Lake Trafford. Helen enjoys being outdoors, gardening, kayaking, and exploring. Helen is a resident of Immokalee and loves sharing her community and its history with locals and visitors alike.

### **A Brief History of Immokalee**

From what we know from the archaeological record, to its first European settlers to now. Discussion will include what drew people to the area, the role that it has played in broader agriculture, and the faces of agriculture, then and now

### **Cattle Ranching and Florida**

A brief history from the Spanish to modern ranching, with particular focus on the Roberts family and their Red Cattle Company.

### **Immokalee as a Model for Community Organizing and Social Justice**

From Father Sanders to the CIW, why has Immokalee been the epicenter for campaigns for increased rights for farmworkers?

### **Lake Trafford Past and Present**

Calusa settlement to Seminole, how the lake has been used and changed since the introduction of modern agricultural techniques and what the future holds for the largest lake south of Okeechobee.

### **Gardening and Agriculture in Southwest Florida, from the Pioneer Days to the Present**

What was grown in Southwest Florida before the modern agricultural revolution? How and why did this change? What is grown now and what does the future of agriculture look like?

## ***Lisa Marciano, Naples Depot Museum Manager***



Lisa Marciano has grown up frequenting museums and historic sites throughout her adolescence. Her love of history and historic structures eventually transformed into a career and for the last 13 years she has worked with Collier County Museums in many capacities such as volunteer, Museum Assistant and Museum Manager. Lisa is currently the Museum Manager at the Naples Depot Museum. She holds a bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Sociology/Anthropology and a master's degree in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Lisa is also a long-term resident of Collier County and appreciates our local history.

### **Railroading's Finest Hour-The History of the Naples Depot**

Take a step back in time to railroading's finest hour where you will be immersed in the heyday of glamorous rail travel, with a glimpse of the hard work and ingenuity it took to make it that way. Learn how the arrival of the train to Naples and the technology that followed suit transformed our glittering Gulf coast into a bustling destination.

### **End of the Line-The Budd Tavern Journey**

Since its arrival to the historic Naples Depot property in 1978, the Budd Tavern Observation Car has fascinated both locals and visitors who travel to Southwest Florida every year. Originally built for the Seaboard Airline Railroad (SAL) in 1947, by the Edward G. Budd Manufacturing Co., this observation car #6601 was one of six built for SAL that year. Through its long service history in the SAL to its final journeys on Amtrak, this symbol of American ingenuity has traveled hundreds of thousands of miles across the United States. After its retirement it began a new life as an attraction to the newly opened Naples Depot Cultural Center in 1978.

Join us as we examine the history and journey of the Budd Tavern Observation Car #6601, the origins of the Budd Manufacturing Company and its innovative stainless-steel design, the rise of the streamliners, and the exacting standards used to bring this railroading icon back to life. Now seen in its original glory, Observation Car #6601 will continue telling the story of the railroad and its history, here, at the End of the Line.

### **Cemeteries of Collier County**

Cemeteries are often thought of as a place of mourning, where one goes to remember those that have passed on. In reality however, cemeteries are also an important historical record that tell the story of those that came before us. Join us as we examine the role cemeteries play not only in memorializing those that have passed, but as a fascinating historical record of our early pioneers and their final resting place. Burial sites with their symbols and markings can give us a unique perspective on the religious and cultural heritage of our communities.

Cemeteries not only tell the story of those long buried there; they help tell the story of ourselves and the places we live.

### **Sites & Scenes- Collier County's Historic Places**

Collier County, with its sandy beaches and warm winter weather, is known mainly as a vacation destination. Yet, if one takes the time to truly explore our County, they will find a treasure trove of history. 19th century homes, railroad depots from the roaring 1920s, and an engineering marvel are just some of the sites and properties that have survived the passage of time and the inevitable allure of progress. While not every important site and structure has been preserved, this exhibition will highlight some of our County's most important historical landmarks, and the stories behind them.

### **Motors & Mud- Swamp Buggy Culture**

Collier County's signature past time has celebrated over 70+ years! The first Swamp Buggy race was officially held on November 12, 1949 and quickly became a popular attraction for the region. In Motors & Mud: Swamp Buggy Culture learn how these uniquely Naples' vehicles were modified and designed to conquer the complex swampy terrain of the Everglades and enjoy memories of Swamp Buggy Races and Parades past.

### **Rising Above the Rails: The African American Experience**

The African American railroad experience is one of hard work and little recognition. From forced labor and harsh conditions while tracklaying in the southeastern United States to the degrading treatment while traveling on the rails as porters and maintenance workers, African American history is intimately tied to the history of railroading in the United States.

In Rising Above the Rails, we highlight the oft-ignored stories, both local and national, of African Americans who used their experience to improve the lives of themselves, the African American community, and the railroading community overall.

### **Fabulous Fins & Fenders**

Take a drive down memory lane with the Fabulous Fins & Fenders! This photo series highlights images from the museum collection featuring the classic cars of yesteryear that could be seen driving around our region. From the earliest Tin Lizzies to the mid-century cruisers, come along for a ride to a simpler time in southwest Florida.

### **Naples-on-the-Golf**

Naples and golf have become synonymous, with people around the world flocking to the area to enjoy the plethora of beautifully manicured courses we have to offer. Since the first golf course was built in Naples in the early 1900s., the number of golf courses has grown at an incredible rate. Today, Naples boasts over 90 golf courses, which means we have the most holes of golf per capita of any city in the United States. Join us to learn how the game of golf has become our paradise's favorite pastime.

## ***Rebecca Mazerowski, Marco Island Historical Museum Manager***



Rebecca's interest in museum work started as an undergrad at Hartwick College where she found herself pulled between studio arts and anthropology. While she ultimately got a Bachelors' degree in Art, both disciplines have served her well in the museum world. After a short-term contract and a series of freelance jobs in exhibition installation she attended the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA for an MBA in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design.

Rebecca came to Florida to work at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum for the Seminole Tribe of Florida in 2013. After 7 years, she left as the Curator of Exhibits to join the Collier County Museum system. She is currently the Museum Manager of the Marco Island Historical Museum.

### **Camera Girl: Saloma Olds' Marco Island**

Saloma was the middle daughter of Olds family, a pioneer family consisting of Doctors Charles and Mary Olds, and Saloma's sisters Orida and Rosalie. For her 14th birthday in 1913, Saloma received a set of journals which sets off a lifelong dedication to documenting her life. Along with a brownie camera, Saloma captures life on the Florida frontier.

### **Tommie Barfield: Queen of Marco**

There are two little known facts about Tommie Barfield. She's a woman and she played a pivotal role in the creation of Collier County. Her nickname, Queen of Marco, reflects how central she was to the improvement of the villages of Marco, Caxambas, and Goodland and the people living there.