



# SPRING 2025

## February Update

**Collier Museum  
at Government Center**  
3331 Tamiami Trail East  
Naples, FL 34112  
(239) 252-8476

**Naples Depot Museum  
(TEMPORARILY CLOSED)**  
1051 Fifth Avenue South  
Naples, FL 34102  
(239) 252-8419

**Marco Island  
Historical Museum**  
180 South Heathwood Drive  
Marco Island, FL 34145  
(239) 252-1440

**Immokalee Pioneer Museum  
at Roberts Ranch**  
1215 Roberts Avenue West  
Immokalee, FL 34142  
(239) 252-2611

**Museum of the Everglades**  
105 West Broadway  
Everglades City, FL 34139  
(239) 252-5026

**All museums are open**  
Tuesday – Saturday  
9 am – 4 pm

**All Collier County Museums  
offer FREE admission.**

For more information,  
visit [CollierMuseums.com](http://CollierMuseums.com).

Exhibits and events subject to  
change.

**Greetings from Museums Director:  
Amanda Townsend**

Hello and welcome to the busiest time of the year! I read a little essay not long ago written by a person from a different country and a different faith who described their first experience participating in the Christmas season in the United States as “like having a second job.” The holidays do keep us busy, but the height of visitor season may be even more intense for those of us in Southwest Florida. We just can’t help it—we have so many amazing things for you to see, do, and learn that we want to be able to share them with the greatest number of people possible, so we capitalize on the main months when our winter residents and visitors are soaking up our delightful weather.

Packed into the spring season are four temporary exhibits so diverse that there is sure to be something for everyone. Are you a reader? Visit Museum of the Everglades for *Randy Wayne White’s Everglades*. Love art? *Memories of Collier County through the Art of Phil Fisher* at Collier Museum at Government Center is for you. Interested in photography? Head to Roberts Ranch for *Perspectives from Southwest Florida Ranch Life* by Meagan Watkins. Or if you prefer architecture, Marco Island Historical Museum is highlighting Mackle-built model homes in *The Florida House*. Of course, each exhibit is supplemented and supported by lectures and programs to shed further light on its subject. See the lineup of Second Tuesday and Third Thursday lectures for details.

We know we’re not the only entertainment in town, so before you get another offer, mark your calendars for our signature special events:

Immokalee Cattle Drive and Jamboree – March 8

Tamiami Trail Day & Museum of the Everglades Birthday Party – April 19

If you have young ones visiting for Spring Break or in town regularly, don’t forget we have children’s and family programs galore. And even if you can’t make it to a scheduled event, every museum has an activity corner or scavenger hunt or activity sheet to help make the kids’ visit to the museum more engaging. Just ask at the front desk and the friendly greeter will be sure to provide you with these materials.

Best of all—admission, exhibits, and programs at all Collier County Museums are always offered at no charge! We’ve got free stuff to do, so if you have any free time at all I’ll . . . see you at the museum!



**Randy Wayne White's Everglades — Writing the REAL Florida**  
**Museum of the Everglades | January 14 – May 3**



Best-selling South Florida author Randy Wayne White spent 13 years as a full-time fishing guide out of Tarpon Bay on nearby Sanibel Island. He had run over 3,000 paid charters ranging from Fort Myers to Flamingo when government regulations closed the bay he guided from to motorized craft. With a wife and two young sons to support and his livelihood in jeopardy, he set out to write the great American novel – and succeeded. It was 1989.

Combining his passion for Florida history with his knowledge of coastal waters, the local culture and experience with the people and places that make the region so unique, Mr. White created a protagonist for his story – Marion “Doc” Ford. A former national security agent turned marine biologist who was simultaneously relatable, likeable, and still deadly when necessary. 27 books later, the Doc Ford series is still going strong.

The action in Randy Wayne White’s books crisscrosses the state (and sometimes the globe) but the Everglades remain at the heart of many of his stories. Many readers recognize locations described in the novels and often see local personalities reflected in the books’ characters. New visitors to the area have already learned about the challenges facing what remains of “old Florida” through Mr. White’s writings when they arrive and immediately feel connections with both the people and the land.

Our new temporary exhibit, Randy Wayne White’s Everglades, celebrates and explores those connections and the author whose work brings the REAL Florida to life.



**Memories of Collier County through the Art of Phil Fisher**  
**Collier Museum at Government Center | February 1 – April 30**





Phil Fisher says, “I like to think of my paintings as a sanctuary for those who feel anesthetized by technology.” Phil has been painting in Naples, in watercolors and oils, for the past 53 years. The majority of his work is done “plein air,” so he has a visual preference for landscapes. This exhibit will feature Phil’s paintings of beloved Naples locations, as well as commissions now part of the Collier County Museum collection.

Want to discover more of the Collier County Museum Division collection and archives? Check out [www.colliermuseums.pastperfectonline.com](http://www.colliermuseums.pastperfectonline.com)!

WELCOME TO OUR ONLINE COLLECTIONS DATABASE!

Our mission is to engage residents and visitors in appreciation and understanding of our communities' unique heritage and cultural development.

SUGGESTED COLLECTIONS

			
Rosemary Cemetery	Barron Collier	1976 Time Capsule	Tamiami Trail



*Perspectives from Southwest Florida Ranch Life*

**Immokalee Pioneer Museum | February 11 – May 31**

Meagan Watkins, local Immokalee photographer and cattlegwoman, has spent the last few years cataloging and photographing the animals, women, and men that help shape our landscape and local economy on ranches throughout Southwest Florida. Come see and learn about Florida ranching through pictures and stories, as told by someone who lives it.

***The Florida House: Marco Island’s Mackle-built Model Homes***

**Marco Island Historical Museum | February 25 – June 7**

This exhibit delves into the fascinating history behind Marco Island’s Mackle-built model homes, which can be traced back to the post-World War II “Florida House” crafted by builders and developers hoping to entice Northerners to the Sunshine State. Constructed during the modern development of Marco Island by the Deltona Corporation from 1965 through the 1970s, these 72 diverse models were designed, inside and out, to embody the elegant tropical living the Mackle Brothers envisioned for the “crown jewel” of their planned communities.



***Opening Reception | March 13 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM***



# Volunteer with us!

We are looking for friendly faces to join our volunteer team!  
We have the following opportunities: greeter, tour guide, help with special events, gardener, grounds maintenance, and education assistant.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator  
Karen Connetta for more information.

239-252-8722

or

[Karen.Connetta@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:Karen.Connetta@colliercountyfl.gov)

**Soulful Chats – Immokalee's Black Church History and Tasty Bites**

**Immokalee Pioneer Museum | February 15 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**



Community member Vicki Gauze and friends will present on the history and founding of black churches in Immokalee, and their relevance and importance to the fabric of our community. We will **discuss the church's foundations** and the unique characters and leaders who they have counted as members. Light bites will be provided, and all are welcome.

**Wilderness Wednesdays at Museum of the Everglades**



**Museum of the Everglades | 2:00 – 3:00 PM**

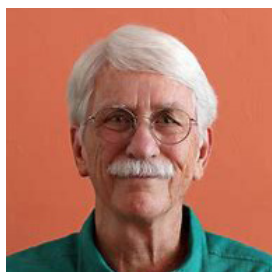
**February 5, 12, 19, & 26**

**March 5, 12, 19, & 26**

Wilderness Wednesday lectures at Museum of the Everglades are a seasonal weekly program of presentations by ranger staff from the Big Cypress National Preserve and occasionally other partner organizations. Topics center around the flora and fauna unique to the Everglades and the biological diversity of the local ecosystem.

**Florida Talks Webinars**

**Virtual | RSVP at [www.themihs.org](http://www.themihs.org) | 2:00 – 3:00 PM**



**Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Traditions by Bob Stone | February 26**

This presentation covers centuries of Florida's cattle ranching history, starting with the introduction of cattle and horses in the 16th century by the Spanish. Bob Stone illuminates themes of cultural identity, customs, and beliefs in this presentation that shows audiences that cattle ranching is not just a business, but a way of life and complete culture.

**The Amazing Architecture of Northeast Florida by Wayne Wood | March 27**

Northeast Florida has a rich and diverse collection of architectural gems. This illustrated program provides an in-depth survey of the most significant landmarks as well as many remarkable hidden jewels worthy of acclaim through three and a half centuries of architectural history in St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Fernandina, and more.

Widely regarded as one of the foremost chronicles of Northeast Florida history, Wayne Wood has been called the undisputed godfather of preservation in Jacksonville. An author, historian, and artist, he founded Riverside Avondale Preservation and Riverside Arts Market. He has published 15 books on Northeast Florida, including Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage.



Thank you to our partner organizations for their support of the Collier County Museums! Visit their websites below to learn about way you can support them and their missions to provide stewardship of our region's history.



*Friends of the  
Museum of the Everglades*

[www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org)

*Friends of the  
COLLIER COUNTY  
MUSEUMS*

[www.foccm.org](http://www.foccm.org)



**MIHS**  
Marco Island Historical Society

[www.themihs.info](http://www.themihs.info)

Visit Collier Museum at Government Center every second Tuesday for a local history lecture.

**All Lectures: Collier Museum at Government Center | 2:00 – 3:00 PM**

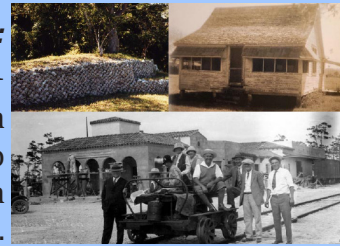


***Artist’s Gallery Talk — Phil Fisher | February 11***

Phil Fisher is one of the area’s most recognized and popular impressionist artists, as he has been living and painting here for over 53 years. He has pursued his interest in art and nature since childhood, and has sacrificed what was needed to be an artist. He portrays visual interpretations of familiar landscapes with life happening. He studied formally at the University of Toledo, Ohio, The Toledo Museum of Art, Ringling School of Art in Sarasota and the Instituto D’Allende in San Miguel, Mexico. His paintings have been in many national and international exhibitions and garnered awards. His list of commissions include several large oils for the Collier County Museum, book illustrations, magazine covers and artwork for fundraising events for charitable groups. Join Phil as he discusses his life as an artist, his philosophy toward art, and the works on display in his current exhibition.

***If These Walls Could Talk:  
The Architectural History of Southwest Florida | March 11***

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.



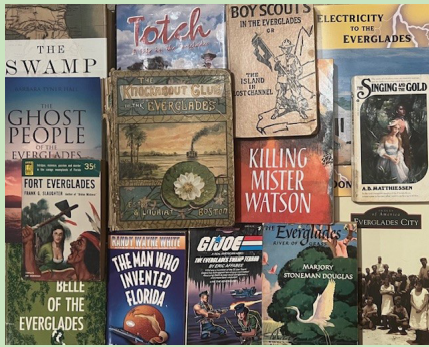
***A Painting, a Panther, and a Passion | April 8***



In this “artifact spotlight” Museum Director Amanda Townsend will explore the history behind Phil Fisher’s large-scale oil painting of Jim McMullen’s beloved panther, Tracker. A gift to the museum from William Payne in 1996, the painting is an entrance to the fascinating story of Jim and Phil and their efforts to save the Florida panther at a time when biologists estimated less than 30 of the big cats remained in the wild.

Visit Museum of the Everglades every third Thursday for a local history lecture.

**All Lectures: Museum of the Everglades | 2:00 – 3:00 PM**



***Across the Literary Landscape — An Overview of Books Inspired by the Everglades and the People Who Wrote Them | February 20***

Join us for the February edition of our Third Thursday lectures as Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear discusses everything from best-selling action novels to nearly-unknown non-fiction treatises that share the Everglades as a common theme. From Marjory Stoneman Douglas to Peter Mathiessen, Carl Hiaasen to Lauren “Totch” Brown, Mr. Lockyear will explore the way the Everglades have been used as a backdrop, a setting, a subject, and even a character by authors in every genre imaginable for well over a century. Along with touching on the works of Randy Wayne White, the subject of the Museum’s current temporary exhibit, the talk will also highlight books by local authors and even an array of Everglades-themed children’s books.

***Driving Passion — The Collier Family and their Cars | March 20***

County founder Barron Collier's involvement in the construction of the Tamiami Trail, making it possible for the growing number of Florida visitors to explore the Everglades region by car, is common knowledge. However, many remain unaware that his family's love affair with the automobile extends well beyond its utility as transportation for tourists. Mr. Collier himself was deeply involved in all aspects of traffic safety, even authoring a book entitled *Stopping Street Accidents*, and his sons became avid auto-racers, building hotrods and establishing one of the earliest and most elite racing clubs in the country. This talk will explore all aspects of the Colliers’ relationship with cars, culminating with the remarkable collection amassed by grandson Miles Collier and his creation of the Revs Institute to not only house more than a hundred vintage vehicles and scores of artifacts, but to “deepen the understanding and appreciation of automotive history.”



***Miles and Sam Collier  
Photo Courtesy of the Revs***

***By Boat, By Train, By Car, By Plane — A Brief History of the Everglades City Airport | April 17***

Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will discuss the evolution of the Everglades Airpark from a short, private airstrip used exclusively by Barron Collier’s sons to its present-day incarnation as a 29-acre public facility bringing an influx of over \$2 million annually into the local economy. The role of airplanes in the region’s unique culture will be discussed in detail — from the fledging flights of Collier County’s first airborne law enforcement officer, William Riley “Clyde” Maynard (known as the “Flying Sheriff”), to site-seeing excursions and the involvement of stolen aircraft in illegal trades of the 1980s.



## Immokalee Cattle Drive and Jamboree



**Immokalee Pioneer Museum | March 8 | 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

Experience the past come to life at the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch annual Cattle Drive event! Saddle up a chair to witness the cattle herd moo-ing on down Main Street Immokalee on State Road 29. Don't miss our lineup of live entertainment! Round up your friends and explore a marketplace of handcrafted wonders. Our vendors have something special for everyone! Come for the cattle, stay for the grazing, our food trucks are serving up delights for all tastes! Please note that many vendors only accept cash, and there is no ATM available on-site. Le

## Grapefruit Gala

**Museum of the Everglades | March 28 | 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Join us in the parking lot at Museum of the Everglades for our annual whimsical country dance. Enjoy live music, tasty finger foods, and complimentary wine along with fresh local citrus as we celebrate the birthday of county founder Barron Gift Collier. Collier's 1921 purchase of a grapefruit grove at Deep Lake ultimately shifted the local economy toward tourism and led to the creation of our county. That's why we say, "It all started with grapefruit." Stop by and raise a toast to our founder. No formal attire required at this gala. Just bring a chair and don't forget your dancing shoes.



## Tamiami Trail Anniversary & Museum Birthday Party

**Museum of the Everglades | April 19 | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

This combination celebration of the 97th Anniversary of the completion of the Tamiami Trail and the "birthday" of Museum of the Everglades (opened on the 70th Anniversary of the Trail in 1998) is a fun-filled afternoon with live music, complimentary hot dogs, and the only laundry cart races in the country! Join us early for a complimentary walking tour, sign up and take part in the races, peruse the display of classic cars, or just relax and enjoy the music with a slice of birthday cake! Everyone is welcome at this feel-good family-friendly annual event.



**Sweets and Sentiments Family Day:**

**Collier Museum at Government Center | February 15 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Spread the love, and chocolate, around with our Valentine-themed family day. We'll be creating Valentine cards using vintage images and adornments. Craft a cupid's arrow and play a game to win a prize! Try your hand at making a delectable confectionery to take home!



**Let's Get Growing! Family Day**

**Collier Museum at Government Center | March 22 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Peas join us and lettuce show you how much fun gardening can be! Gardening shows the importance of growing to sustain ourselves, responsibility, care-taking, and environmental awareness. Be-leaf me, your kids will have a great thyme! So turnip on Saturday, and let's get growing!



**Easter Ranch Roundup!**

**Immokalee Pioneer Museum | April 12 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

What do you call a Florida cowboy who's great at finding eggs? An egg-spert wrangler! Hop on over to Roberts Ranch for an egg-citing day of fun! This family-friendly event is filled with delightful activities and Easter egg hunts for all ages. Enjoy Easter crafts, sweets, and festive games that bring our community together to celebrate the joyful spirit of Easter. We'll be presenting this event in collaboration with Immokalee Parks and Recreation and the Immokalee Library.

**Calusa Coast Family Fun Day**

**Marco Island Historical Museum | April 12 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Come learn more about the Calusa Indians' artistic skills, use of technology, and ingenuity. We will have axe halving and a tools display. We will create Calusa masks and learn about the skills it took to create functional objects that were also beautiful. This event is part of the Calusa Coast Series of events sponsored by Florida Public Archeology Network (FPAN).



**Artifact Excavators Family Day**

**Collier Museum at Government Center | April 19 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

We're digging into history with activities showing how an archaeologist finds artifacts and records the findings in a field journal. Excavate your own "site" and see what's been unearthed. Learn stratigraphy by making your own edible "dirt cup!"



**Planting for a Greener Tomorrow — Earth Day Workshop!**

**Immokalee Pioneer Museum | April 26 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Join us for a hands-on workshop and explore essential topics such as native plants, companion planting, and how to identify and manage common diseases and pests. Dissect and learn about the importance of biodiversity needed in a garden, and step-by-step guidance on planting and maintaining your garden for lasting success. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned gardener, this workshop offers valuable insights to help you grow and your garden grow!





Join Curator of Education Elaina Gyure from 10 – 11 am for our preschool program! With a focus on combining history and STEM (we like to call it SHTEM!) we aim to engage your preschooler in crafts, activities, and story time. Enjoy fun themes and history tailored for the preschool age-group.

This program is ideal for ages 3–5.

RSVP at [CollierMuseums.com/Events](http://CollierMuseums.com/Events) or 239-252-8242 to ensure there are enough supplies for all participants.

**Collier Museum at Government Center | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**Presidents Day | February 19**

Celebrate Presidents Day with hands-on activities that highlight the biggest movers and shakers in our country's history! We'll be making crafts inspired by George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, learning about the process of voting, and enjoying a historically-themed storytime.



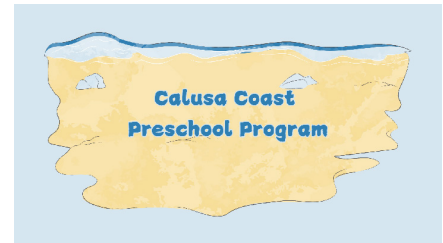
**Get Growing | March 12**

Enjoy this preschool-friendly partner to the Get Growing Family Day! We will be getting our hands dirty as we learn about plants and plant science in this exploration of all things green.



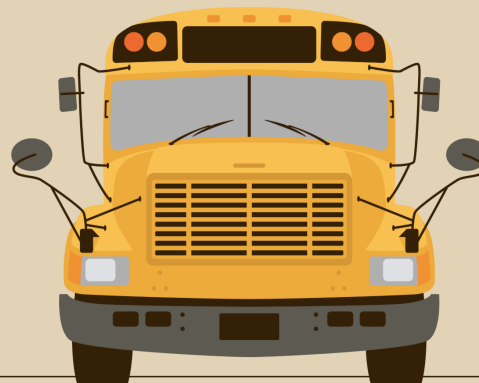
**Calusa Coast | April 16**

In this preschool-friendly introduction to our region's past, we will be learning about the world of the Calusa people who called southwest Florida home for over 1,000 years. Enjoy hands-on activities and art projects inspired by the artifacts of these ancient people. This program is in partnership with the Calusa Coast initiative.



**Interested in scheduling  
a field trip to a Collier  
County Museum?**

**Visit [CollierMuseums.com/field-trips](http://CollierMuseums.com/field-trips)  
or call Curator of Education Elaina  
Gyure at 239-252-8242!**





# SPRING HOMESCHOOL DAY: HISTORY OF FLORIDA HOMES

## *Spring Homeschool Day: The History of Florida Homes*

**Marco Island Historical Museum | March 19 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Inspired by Marco Island Historical Museum's special exhibit, *The Florida House: Marco Island's Mackle-Built Model Homes*, join us for an architectural journey through time! Enjoy hands-on activities that highlight the design, engineering, and history of what Southwest Floridians have been building and why they've been building it over the past 1000 years. From the Calusa mounds, to the Pioneer-era cracker cabins, to the Mid-Century marvels, Marco Island Historical Museum is the perfect setting for this exploration of our built environment.

This program features different hands-on activities and special exhibit exploration geared toward preschool, elementary, and middle and high school students. While RSVP is not required, it is encouraged to ensure enough supplies for students. Call our Curator of Education at 239-252-8242 or go to [CollierMuseums.com/Events](http://CollierMuseums.com/Events).

Important note: This is a drop-in style event! It is not required to arrive at 10AM nor stay for the full 3 hours.

### **About Collier County Museums Homeschool Days:**

Three times a year, Collier County Museums hosts a day where homeschoolers of all ages will be able to come for free educational programming geared toward their specific age groups. We will have preschool, elementary, and middle/early high school appropriate activities based on that Homeschool Day's theme. With a focus on combining history and STEM (we like to call it SSTEM!), Collier County Museums aims to provide your homeschooler with a holistic approach to learning about our region's history. Homeschool Days will cycle through our five museums, so your family has an opportunity to get to know all of them!





