



LLHS MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2015

LADY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 , NUMBER 2

P.O. Box 1486

Lady Lake, Florida 32158

**** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ****

JUNE and JULY: Museum open on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Closed on Thursdays

JUNE 10: 9:00 AM - 12 PM - (Wed.) Museum open Grand Opening of "Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe"

JULY 4: Museum closed for the Holiday

AUGUST: Museum closed for maintenance and installation of new exhibits

SEPTEMBER 1: Museum reopens. Schedule of Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays begins

SEPTEMBER 24: 2:00 PM - General Membership Meeting at Community Building

OCTOBER 1: 2:00 PM - "World War II" - by Dr. Donald Goldstein at Lady Lake Library

OCTOBER: Participation at Town's "Not So Scary Halloween Party" - Date to be announced

NOVEMBER 7: 8 AM - 1 PM - Community Yard Sale at Log Cabin Park.

NOVEMBER 14: 8 AM - 1 PM - Raindate for Yard Sale

Curator's Message

If you have not visited the LLHM recently, you may be surprised at its changed appearance during your next visit. You will find that our artifacts are portals to the past and are a great way of getting to know the history of Lady Lake and nearby areas. You will be face-to-face with photos of people across time, whose lives may have been different from our own, but who, like us, had hopes and dreams, frustrations and achievements in their lives. We can give you a guided tour, and, of course, you can wander about at your own pace.

Our volunteers, who completely renovated the design of the museum last year, are busy setting up and modifying displays to promote better understanding of our collective heritage. I cannot make enough positive comments about their dedication and workmanship.

This will be another busy summer at the museum. While the museum is closed for the month of August, our volunteers will be designing new exhibits, completing an inventory of the historic artifacts and non-historic furniture, and carefully cleaning all exhibits.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about the activities of the LLHS, our speakers on historical topics and the new exhibits at the museum. I have asked our officers and team leaders to provide information on events, both past and future, and the progress of team efforts. Their reports are included.

The Calendar of Events will inform you of the upcoming meetings and programs. We hope to see you at our General Meeting on September 24th when we will elect officers and talk about our goals for the next year. On October 1st, we have author and lecturer Dr. Donald Goldstein scheduled to speak on World War II to coincide with our new exhibit. Reservations are needed, as seating is limited. The Yard Sale on November 7th is a major fundraiser for the museum.

We are very pleased to have your membership in our Society and hope you will join us in our efforts to help make this museum a highlight in the Town of Lady Lake.

Norma J. Delaney, Ed.D, Curator
Lady Lake Historical Society Museum

OUR ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our President, Bob Arndt. Bob has had his share of physical problems. A stroke of two months ago put him into long-term rehab. After having prostrate surgery, Bob is receiving therapy at home and is on the path to recovery

Many thanks to our very hard-working Board members, directors and docents. Of course, special thanks goes to our ever-hard-at-work curator, Dr. Norma Delaney. Such a good team of folks doing such a great job! And not to be overlooked are the guys in the back room running the model railroad display.

We need all the help we can get in spreading the word about our great museum. Such comments as: "Oh, you have a museum and historical society!" and "Where are you located?" must be addressed, and our Marketing Committee is doing that. We also need everyone who knows of the museum to spread the word to others. The LLHS and Museum has been a well-kept secret long enough.

A museum is everyone's heritage! An appreciation of the past is best experienced at your local historical museum.

A good summer to everyone!

Richard St. Amant
LLHS Acting President

LADY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 2014-2015

President: Robert Arndt (on leave)
Acting President: Richard St. Amant
Secretary: Patrick Campbell-Gordon
Treasurer: Wray Hall
Directors: Shirley Kimmons
Jayne Sligar
Tom O'Brien

Curator: Norma Delaney, EdD

ARE MUSEUMS IMPORTANT?

"Over the past eight years, I have had an opportunity to get to know the American museum field, A to Z – art museums to zoos. And, 46 states, 600,000 miles and 500 museums later, I can honestly say that it has been a privilege to lead this tremendous organization – and the dynamic museum field – in support of the cause of museums. My time at AAM has allowed me to understand just how important museums are to our communities.

"There is no limit to the public service of museums, but we must do a better job of telling our story. Specifically, we need to work together to underscore the important societal contributions that museums make, day in and day out. We need our trustees, our visitors, our volunteers and our elected officials joining together to make the case that museums are powerful community assets. We must speak as a field."

From Farewell Speech of Ford W. Bell
Retiring President
American Alliance of Museums



INDEPENDENCE DAY



Why July 4TH? We are celebrating the Declaration of Independence and the spirit and principles that it so eloquently articulates. The Fourth of July is the date the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence—the day the founders approved one of America's most treasured documents. We could have celebrated Independence Day on the anniversary of the battle of Yorktown or the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War. We could have celebrated it, as John Adams erroneously predicted, on July 2nd, the date the Continental Congress resolved to break from Great Britain.

Happy Declaration of Independence Day, America!

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WW II

After an August hiatus for set-up of new displays and housekeeping by its volunteer members, the Lady Lake Historical Society's museum will re-open in September with a unique exhibit.

"It commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II that occurred on August 14, 1945, and Florida's participation in the war effort," said Tom O'Brien, the museum's exhibit coordinator.

The exhibit will not only recognize this important anniversary, but it also will feature the folks on the home front and their incredible response to the men and women in the various military services.

To this end, the museum is requesting any World War II souvenirs that veterans, their families and area residents might wish to loan to the museum for this exhibit. All items will properly identified, protected under lock and key and returned to their owners following the exhibit's conclusion.

"In addition to military uniforms, weapons, letters, photographs, documents, medals and other awards," O'Brien said, "Home front items such as ration books, Civil Defense items and recollections of Florida wartime industry will be welcomed."

"Should anyone wish to donate items to our museum's permanent collection", said Curator Dr. Norma Delaney, we shall be most grateful and donors will receive appropriate recognition."

To loan or donate World War II artifacts and for additional information about this event, please call Tom O'Brien at (201) 406-9752 or send an email to tobcons@aol.com.

Bill Stokes

MUSEUM VISITING HOURS: Tuesdays and Saturdays in June and July - 10 AM until 1 PM. Also, call to schedule a different day and time for special group tours. We do guided tours for Boy Scouts, Service Clubs, Red Hats, Civil War Groups, History Buffs, and other clubs.

Visit this summer! This will be your last chance to see the popular Civil War Amputation Kit, used for emergency surgery on the field, loaned by Nancy Carter of The Villages. It will be returned to Ms. Carter on July 28th. Also, expect other changes!

EXHIBIT COMMITTEE

The Exhibit Committee will be at work this summer updating the current exhibits and adding new ones in preparation for a September opening.

We will install a very special War II 70th Anniversary exhibit. You can help! WWII items from the community will be included in the display. (See Bill Stokes' article for a list.)

We will also be celebrating, with a smaller exhibit, the 80th anniversary of the building of the Lady Lake Log Cabin by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), created by the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1935.

It appears that the Exhibit Committee and our other volunteers will have another busy summer. If you would like to come and play with us, let us know. It is a rewarding experience!

Tom O'Brien

LADY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

That's right; the Society will soon have a Web presence on the Internet. We are hoping this will assist in promoting the Museum and Society events. The opening page provides information about the Society with some interesting old pictures and stories to quickly peak a reader's interest. Easy navigation buttons take you to pages on Lady Lake history, an introduction to the Museum exhibits, events planned, and research materials available in the Museum library.

The Webpages have been reviewed by the LLHS Board and Lady Lake Township officials. The site is undergoing final editing and it should be available for you all to see very soon. A separate email message will be sent to the membership when it is up on the Internet which will include a link for you to click on to get you to the site. Please take the time to access it and provide us your feedback.

Ray Russomano

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Over the last year we have been expanding our marketing effort to introduce the general public to Lady Lake's best-kept secret, the Historical Society, the museum and the programs we sponsor. Currently our target markets are: Lady Lake and area residents, The Villages residents, and tourists and visitors to the area. This amounts to over 100,000 potential visitors. Our challenge is to reach out to **all** of these people and entice them to come to our museum, enjoy the exhibits and learn more about the Lady Lake Historical Society and its programs.

You may have noticed the electronic billboard just north of 466 on Route 441 flashing advertising of the Society's museum and activities, or have seen our brochures in the lobbies of the local hotels. We will continue to give our local businesses the opportunity to join in our efforts to increase Lady Lake's economic development and tourism as we develop innovative ways to let the world know about us!

Tom O'Brien

GUEST SPEAKER GARY CORSAIR

Local author and journalist Gary Corsair presented a well-attended program entitled "The Long Overdue Redemption of Dr. Swan" on April 23, 2015 at the Lady Lake Public Library. Olive Worcester Swan, MD, Florida's first licensed female medical doctor, practiced medicine in the Lake, Marion and Sumter County area from 1884 until her death in 1926. A tireless advocate for preventative medicine and hygiene, Dr. Swan paid a high price for her principles: expulsion from local medical societies and ridicule from male physicians. In spite of her treatment by the male-dominated medical profession, Dr. Swan persisted in her hygienic practices and advocated for them at medical conventions and in correspondence with colleagues. She has since been proven right. According to Mr. Corsair, Dr. Swan should be celebrated and remembered for her courage and service to her patients.

Randa Robinson-Anderson

SPECIAL PROJECTS STANDING COMMITTEE

This committee is a tool to involve more people in the museum activities and spread out the workload. The committee works with the Executive Board to develop ideas and concepts that will help the museum carry out its mission. Outcomes from this committee are the Exhibit and Marketing committees.

Jayne Sligar

GUEST SPEAKER ROBERT LOVELL

Longtime Leesburg resident and former mayor, Bob Lovell, accompanied by his wife Jewell, was guest speaker at the General Membership Meeting of the Lady Lake Historical Society on May 28th, 2015. Born in Pedro, a small community in Sumter County named for his great-grandfather and town founder Peter Lovell, Bob entertained members and guests with vivid tales of growing up in rural Florida prior to the development boom that occurred after World War II.

Among interesting facts related by Mr. Lovell was that Florida, discovered by Ponce de Leon in 1513, has spent more time under Spanish rule than it has been part of the United States. Mr. Lovell is the co-author, with Dr. Nancy Lee King, of a memoir, *Cracker Outlaw*. He agreed to return to tell more of his personal story and the history of Florida at a later date.

Randa Robinson-Anderson

[A copy of *Cracker Outlaw* may be purchased at the museum for \\$20.](#)

PUC PUGGY HISTORIC MARKER

The Puc Puggy Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has submitted an application to have a Historic Marker created for the Train Depot. Members of the Lady Lake Historical Society, the Town of Lady Lake and DAR discussed the details. The acceptance of the application will take several months. We will keep you updated on the details. The DAR marker will be a great honor to the LLHS, in recognition of the historic preservation that is being done at the museum.

Brenda Weaver, Ed.D
DAR Historic Preservation Chair