

JAILHOUSE MUSE

Spring 2022

Water/Ways Exhibit

From above, Earth appears as a water planet with more than 71 percent of its surface covered with this vital resource for life. Water impacts climate, agriculture, transportation, industry, and inspires art and music. The Amelia Island Museum of History, in cooperation with Florida Humanities, will examine water as an environmental necessity and important cultural element as it hosts Water/Ways, a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program. Water/Ways will be on view at AIMH from May 7 through June 29.

The exhibit is part of *Museum on Main Street*, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions.

The exhibit will open with two exciting programs. At 1pm, there will be a panel discussion with representatives from local environmental groups, including the Amelia Tree Conservancy and Amelia Island Sea Turtle Watch. Then at 2pm, the Museum will conduct a live oral history with the *Foar From Home* team about their experiences rowing across the Atlantic. Both of these programs will be held on the Main Stage at Amelia Community Theatre, next door to the Museum.

Admission to AIMH and both programs will be



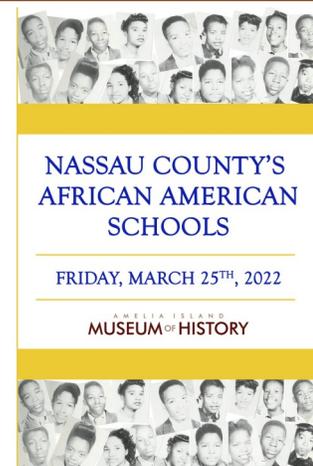
offered free of charge. Seating is limited on a first come, first served basis. These programs and the exhibit are wheelchair accessible.

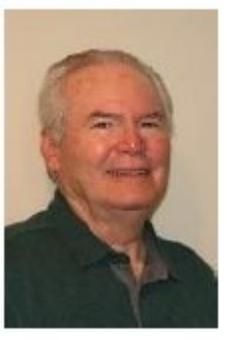
Support for the exhibition and programming was provided through a grant from Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Watch this program remotely at
www.twitch.tv/ameliaislandmuseumhistory
For more information contact Summer at 904-261-7378 x.102 or Summer@AmeliaMuseum.org

Student Exhibit Update

Curated through the Museum's annual Student Exhibit Program in which local high school students curate and design a museum exhibit, "Nassau County's African American Schools" explores the stories of Peck High School, Bryant Academy, and Pine Forest Community School, Nassau County's all-Black public schools in the mid-twentieth century. The exhibit is open until May 13, 2022. Come see it while you can!





CHAIR

Rob Hull

Normally, a Chair would look back over his/her tenure to identify how he or she moved the organization forward - improving its financial situation, introducing new products, bringing in new and dynamic leadership, and introducing initiatives that will lead the company into the future. In the case of a small, non-profit organization such as this museum, these objectives are somewhat skewed since they are not supposed to turn a profit and, in most situations, offer little if any opportunity to introduce new leadership.

With my term soon to come to a close, I have been reflecting on what has transpired at the museum during my two years as vice chair and two years as chair. During those four years we completed our \$400,000 capital campaign; performed a renovation of the building and the installation of all new exhibits;

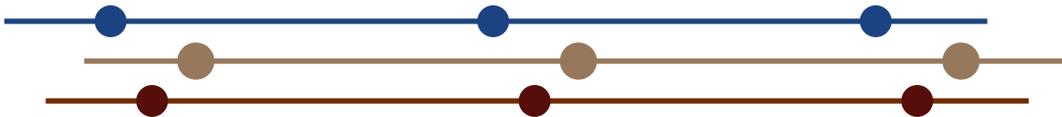
battled the COVID epidemic, which included the cancellation of our Annual Golf Tournament, the City's cancellation of one Shrimp Fest and the postponement of another, major procedural changes to our Holiday Home Tour, and forced closure or reduced hours to museum operations. And we have come through all of this relatively unscathed and, I believe, in a much stronger position to undertake the future.

The survival instinct which the Museum has demonstrated over the past two years of the COVID epidemic reflects the determination of Phyllis and her staff. With the support of a committed Board of Trustees and hundreds of volunteers, the staff has been able to continue to provide high quality programs, events, and services.

A goal established by the Board of Trustees at a strategic planning session held in 2019 was to have the Amelia Island Museum of History recognized as the best small town museum in the nation. We may not be there yet, but we are making significant strides. I hope to be a member of the board when this goal is achieved.

It has been my privilege to work with such a committed staff, a truly diversely-talented board of trustees, and a dedicated group of volunteers. I thank them as well as the museum members for the opportunity to serve as Board Chair over the past two years.

Rob Hull
Board Chair



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Phyllis Davis

Thank you to our members, donors, volunteers, board, and staff for your support.



"Spring drew on...and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which, freshening daily, suggested the thought that hope traversed them at night and left each morning brighter traces of her steps."

– Charlotte Brontë

2021 Report from the Archivist



Reviewing artifacts for the exhibit renovation.
Left to right: Executive Director Phyllis Davis,
Georgia Fasano, and Curator Summer Bias.

2021 brought a return to the “New Normal” for the library. Covid protocol for wearing masks and frequent cleaning of the library allowed the public to feel more comfortable returning for research and volunteering. January saw the return of “in library” visits which continued to improve throughout the year. Volunteers also returned compiling an average of 95 hours/month for 2021.

The archives were also busy gathering artifacts, photos, and audio files to support the exhibit renovation. Many artifacts and multiple photos were needed to provide the visual experience to the exhibits. Multiple audio files to support the “push to listen” stations were gathered, edited, and programmed into new technology to add another dimension for visitors. New items as well as some legacy loaned items were added to the catalog to ensure proper tracking.

Methods to standardize collection of oral histories through the Heritage Keepers Project and Veterans History Project were initiated in January. Meetings were held with long time interviewers to improve methods, and forms were revised to reflect best practices. Through efforts from staff Curator Summer Bias, and the archive staff, performance of this activity was greatly improved. 10 Heritage Keepers interviews and one Veterans History Project interview were added to the collection.

Large collections were provided to the museum to digitally scan and protect valued history. Some of these include: The Women’s Club Scrapbook collection, The Camellia Club Scrapbooks, a 250-page scrapbook from the Waas family, a 16-year collection of Pat Turley’s Wildways weekly articles from the News Leader, 18 books from Poet Laureate author Nola Perez, and multiple high school yearbooks from our community.

Other enhancements to our digital collection included conversion of 20 interviews documented on cassette tapes in 1998, to a digital format and scanning of 478 folders of information from the Vertical Files Biography Cabinet to be produced online.

The City of Fernandina Beach in partnership with the Museum received a grant to create an exhibit at the Peck Center honoring the legacy of Peck High School. To support the exhibit, multiple meetings were held with committee members and a Peck Day was held at the Peck Center to collect oral histories, memorabilia, scrapbooks, and favorite photos from school years past. Processing of these interviews are in progress and will be part of the exhibit slated for 2022. Digital images of these acquisitions are now in Past Perfect.

At the close of 2021 the archives contained a total of 1271 objects, 4968 photos, 4271 artifacts, and 1457 library books for a total of 11,967 items in the archives capturing and ensuring the continuation of our rich local history.

Visit our online Resource Library and Archives at
<https://ameliaisland.pastperfectonline.com/>

Find us on the Web

www.ameliamuseum.org

FACEBOOK: Amelia Island Museum of History

TWITTER: AmeliaMuseum

INSTAGRAM: ameliamuseum

TWITCH: AmeliainlandMuseumHistory

YOUTUBE: Amelia Island Museum of History

Volunteer Spotlight

Susan Bowen



Susan out and about on one of her travels. Image courtesy of Susan Bowen.

A native of Ohio, Susan Bowen has spent her adult life seeking warmth. She happily landed on Amelia Island in September 1996 - and has been warm ever since. (Sometimes a bit too warm!!!) Career-wise, Susan has worked in the leadership development field - working with for-profit, not-for-profit and governmental organizations. When the opportunity to volunteer as a walking tour guide for the Amelia Island Museum of History came around, she jumped at the chance. The history of Fernandina and the chance to share that history with locals and visitors alike align with Susan's passions of learning and educating. Susan and her husband, Joe, are now retired. They enjoy spoiling their four-legged children (Abby and Daisy), traveling, and "relearning" how to play golf.

STAFF

Director - Phyllis Davis
Media & Operations Manager -
Jennifer England
Curator - Summer Bias
Education Director - Thea Seagraves
Archivist - Ronda Outler
Operations Asst. - Christopher Collins
Assistant Curator - Briana Gonzalez

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Chair - Bill Tilson
Co-Chair - Susan Bonnett
Secretary - David Roeser
Treasurer - Joe Anderson
Past Chair - Rob Hull

BOARD MEMBERS

Berta Arias Peggy Bulger Sylvia Chandler
Millie Colucci Paul Condit Neil Frink
Jennifer Harrison Rob Hicks
Susan Martin Frank Ofeldt

Calendar

May • June • July

SATURDAY May 7th

Water/Ways Exhibit Opening

1 PM - 3PM

FREE ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMS & AT THE MUSEUM

See article on the exhibit on page 1 for more details. Program to be held at Amelia Community Theatre.

FRIDAY May 20th

3rd on 3rd at 6 pm

Atlantic Amelia Exhibit Opening

with Julie Hausermann

"The Man Who Swam Inside the World"

Program to be held at Amelia Community Theatre.

MONDAY May 30th

MEMORIAL DAY

The Museum is open 10 am - 4 pm

WEDNESDAY June 1st

Brown Bag Lunch at Noon

with Brandy Carvalho

"White Oak Conservation"

Program to be held at the Peck Center.

FRIDAY June 17th

3rd on 3rd at 6 pm

with Victoria Machado

"Sacred Waters: Exploring the Protection of Florida's Fluid Landscapes"

Program to be held at the Peck Center.

SUNDAY June 19th

JUNETEENTH

The Museum is open 1 pm - 4 pm.

MONDAY July 4th

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Museum is open 10 am - 4 pm

WEDNESDAY July 6th

Brown Bag Lunch at Noon

with Jennifer England

"Railroads vs Wreckers: David Levy Yulee vs Stephen R. Mallory"

Program to be held in Baker Hall



MONDAY July 11th -

FRIDAY July 15th

SUMMER CAMP

Reuse & Redo: MASH 2.0

Ages 6-11, \$65 per camper

Contact Jennifer England at

info@ameliamuseum.org for more information or visit <https://ameliamuseum.org/events/summer-camp-2022/>

FRIDAY July 15th

3rd on 3rd at 6 pm

Speaker TBA

Program to be held in Baker Hall.

Special events and programs are subject to scheduling and cost changes, for the most up-to-date information please visit our website www.ameliamuseum.org or contact our Curator, Summer Bias, at summer@ameliamuseum.org or call 904-261-7378 x 102. Seating at all programs is on a first come, first served basis.



LUIS SAYS:

"Annual Fund is right around the corner! I'm gonna see what I can dig up and give to support the Museum."



Find us on the web!

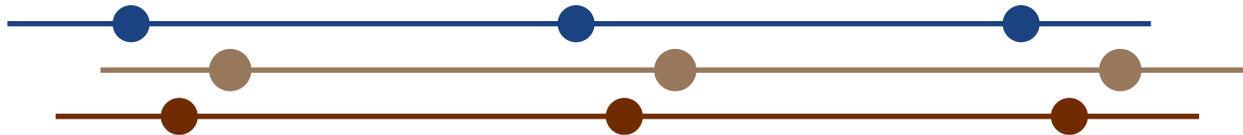
Website: www.ameliamuseum.org

Facebook: @ameliamuseum

Instagram: @ameliamuseum

Twitter: @ameliamuseum

Twitch: AmeliainlandMuseumHistory



DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Spring has sprung and it is time for our Annual Fund Drive. In the next few weeks you will be receiving a letter from the Museum asking you to support our programs such as 3rd on 3rd, Brown Bag Lunch, and Veteran's History Project. You can do this by check or credit card or, there is a third option. You can join the growing ranks of our sustaining donors and we will make a monthly deduction from your designated account.

For more information contact Phyllis:

phyllis@ameliamuseum.org
904-261-7378 ext. 101

Hours

Mon - Sat: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Sun : 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Location

233 S. 3rd St.
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034

Admission

Adults - \$10.00
Children - \$5.00
Seniors & Active Military - \$8.00
5 and Under - Free
Docent led tours at
11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Included with Admission

Contact

Phone - 904-261-7378
Fax - 904-261-9701
E-mail - info@ameliamuseum.org