

# BEACHES TIDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BEACHES MUSEUM & HISTORY PARK



## Lana Shuttleworth Exhibit

### Page 2

Education  
Boardwalk Talks



## Volunteer News

### Page 3

Heritage Garden  
Archives and Collections



## Fletcher All Class Block Party

### Page 4

New History Exhibit  
Train Day



## From the Archives

### Page 5

Chapel Concerts  
Visit Jax Help Desk

## Lana Shuttleworth Exhibit



The Beaches Museum & History Park is pleased to host "Nature Reconstructed" by artist Lana Shuttleworth.

Her highly original art uses common plastic castoff materials, particularly traffic safety cones, to create lavish landscapes and sculptural figures that challenge the viewer's comprehension. The Los Angeles Times said that in her work "you find yourself looking at these everyday plastic objects in a whole new way." From the gutter to the gallery, *Nature Reconstructed* is Lana Shuttleworth's whimsical and creative approach to cultivating man-made nature.

Lana has exhibited throughout the West coast and the East coast, with reviews in the Los Angeles Times, Huffington Post, ArtScene, Florida Times-Union and nationwide Associated Press articles. Her artwork was also featured on the quiz show, Jeopardy. She was recently the cover artist for the prestigious art and literary journal, Cincinnati Review, which featured an eight-page spread of her work. The Beaches Museum is proud to showcase the thought-provoking work of this astonishing and talented artist.

"Nature Reconstructed" will be on display at the Beaches Museum through June 3, 2018. We look forward to sharing it with you during your next visit!

## Education



The Education Committee is excited to present the "Tent Camps and Cracker Cabins" Traveling Trunk for the 2018-2019 school year. The Traveling Trunk Program allows the museum to reach out to students through a new and exciting format so that we may further share the distinct history and culture of this area.

## Upcoming Boardwalk Talks:

### May 3: The History of Golf in Florida

The Beaches Museum will host Billy Dettlaff, former TPC Sawgrass National Director of Golf, as he shares his Boardwalk Talk: The History of Golf in Florida. This talk will take place Thursday May 3 at 6 p.m.

### June 21: The Summer of '64

The Beaches Museum will host Scott Grant as he shares his Boardwalk Talk: The Summer of '64. How the Beatles and the World's Fastest Man changed the First Coast forever. This talk will take place Thursday June 21 at 6 p.m.

### July 19: History of the Lifeguards

The Beaches Museum will host Rob Emahiser as he shares his Boardwalk Talk about the Volunteer Life Saving Corp of Jacksonville Beach. This talk will take place Thursday July 19 at 6 p.m. at the Jacksonville Beach Lifeguard Station. Following the talk, take a brief walking tour down the boardwalk.

\*\*\*

Boardwalk Talks are held in the historic Beaches Museum Chapel unless otherwise noted and are free to Museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. Please call (904)241-5657 or visit [www.BeachesMuseum.org](http://www.BeachesMuseum.org) for more information.

This trunk will inspire students to understand how individuals lived during this time and to think critically about how our understanding of history has changed. The program was created with the cooperation and dedication of the local community, the Duval County Master Gardeners, and the Beaches Museum & History Park Education Committee.

"Tent Camps and Cracker Cabins" explores the lifestyles of those who settled in the Jacksonville Beach (Ruby Beach) and Palm Valley (Diego Plains) area in the mid to late 1800s. It includes academic lesson plans and interactive activities that cover housing, diet, language, work, and play. Lessons are primarily taught through anecdotal stories and first-hand accounts of the people who lived during this time with supplemental reading materials and articles.

If you have questions or are a local teacher or parent interested in participating, please contact Jordan Cuevas at (904)241-5657 ext. 114 or [education@beachesmuseum.org](mailto:education@beachesmuseum.org).



## Volunteer Corner

It has already been a busy 2018 for the Beaches Museum volunteers. Docents and front desk volunteers – along with the Duval County Master Gardeners – have welcomed more than 850 students and adults visiting the Museum on field trips and group tours. Volunteers have had a particularly good time using the Museum's Lower Elementary Field Trip program with pre-kindergarten through second grade visitors. The program includes a scavenger hunt throughout the permanent exhibit and an interactive storytelling activity alongside the 1911 Train Locomotive. Students end their trip by designing a paper quilt square in the 1873 Oesterreicher McCormick Homestead based upon something they've learned during their tour.



Archives volunteers have been hard at work making updates to the Museum's permanent exhibit. Under the direction of Archive and Collections Manager, Sarah Jackson, volunteers

have formed a committee to devise and implement short and long-term plans for improvements. Pictured is volunteer Heather Ketron arranging and labeling Mineral City artifacts currently on display.

Volunteers recently took a well-deserved break and met for happy hour at European Street Café in Jacksonville Beach. Two hours of good conversation and lots of laughs was a great way to spend a Tuesday evening.



## The Heritage Garden Turns 10

April, 2018 marks the 10 year anniversary of the Beaches Museum's cherished Heritage Garden. This thriving and beautiful patch of soil would not exist without the UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners who are its stewards.

The UF/IFAS Duval County Extension Office is a partnership between the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), the City of Jacksonville, and the United States Department of Agriculture. The group offers research - based education in family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development.

The mission of UF/IFAS Duval County Extension is to

continually enhance the quality of life for a unified Jacksonville through strengthened decision making, knowledge application, economic security, environmental care, and leadership skills for all citizens.

Master Gardeners at the Beaches Museum are an integral part of helping to preserve and share the distinct history and culture of the Beaches area. Through the Heritage Garden, they educate visitors to the Museum in the history of edible landscapes and sustainable garden practices, and promote awareness of Florida's natural resources and their conservation.



Thank you to this group for their enrichment of the Beaches Museum and the community. More information on the Master Gardener program can be found at <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/duval/>.

## News from Archives and Collections

The historical collection of the Beaches Museum is constantly growing with new artifacts, information, and photographs to preserve our area's unique and exciting history!

Special thanks to Ms. Leslie Meshaw and Mrs. Chelly Bull Schembera for the donation of two early 1900s wicker chairs from the Continental Hotel, which was later known as the Atlantic Beach Hotel. Additional thanks to Mrs. Carol Williams for the donation on a fantastic photograph of the Jacksonville Beach Boardwalk (ca. 1930s).



Thank you to those who continue to contribute to our collection of the rich history of the Beaches communities.

## Fletcher All Class Block Party

The Fletcher All Class Block Party, an annual event celebrating the island's only high school and supporting the Beaches Museum & History Park, will be held on Saturday, April 21 from 6-10 pm.



Tickets are \$25 each with VIP tickets available for \$45. VIP tickets include 4 drink tickets and VIP bar access. Tickets may be purchased at the Beaches Museum website or by visiting the Museum. The ticket price the week of the event will be \$30 and \$50 respectively.

Proceeds from this event benefit the programs, exhibits and operations of the Beaches Museum & History Park. For more information please visit [beachmuseum.org](http://beachmuseum.org) or call (904)241-5657.

### Presenting Sponsor:



### Media Sponsor:

**THE BEACHES LEADER**  
**PONTE VEDRA LEADER**  
*... your community newspaper*

### Purple Pride Sponsors:



### Senator Supporter Sponsors:

Building Faith Play Therapy Toys, Inc.  
Flashes of Brilliance  
The Hancock Firm, PA



## New History Exhibit: The Boardwalk



Join us on June 8 for the opening of our new history exhibit about the Jacksonville Beach Boardwalk from early 1900s to the late 1970s. The Boardwalk was the heart of entertainment at the Beaches for several decades. It offered games, food, and dancing. Iconic locations like the Lifeguard Station and the Amusement Park made for great meeting places and spectacular photos.

The Boardwalk wasn't perfect though, segregation prevented many from enjoying its attractions, and storms and fires destroyed it more than once. The exhibit will feature artifacts from the beach and Boardwalk, and old photographs.

A Storyteller event held on August 11 will also feature long time residents as they describe and retell their first hand accounts of life, and the experience of growing up, at the Boardwalk.

## Upcoming Event: Train Day



Join us on September 8 for our annual Pablo Beach Train Day! The event will cover the lifespan of the Florida East Coast Railroad from 1885 to 1932, and will feature operating and historical model trains. Food will be provided by the Boy Scouts of America.



## From the Archives

By: Johnny Woodhouse



Before Prohibition ended in 1933, people took the law into their own hands by manufacturing their own booze or stealing someone else's. Even federal prohibition agents were not safe from harm.

In July 1927, two agents were ordered by the deputy prohibition administrator of Florida to investigate an anonymous phone call that a cache of whiskey was at a certain spot in Palm Valley awaiting transportation to Jacksonville.

According to a newspaper account, the agents, traveling in a Ford sedan, were followed to Palm Valley by a Buick sedan driven by a former prohibition agent named A.J. Ryals, who was accompanied by three other men, including former Jacksonville policeman Charles Lee.

The agents located the cache of liquor in the woods near Mineral City and were on their way back to Jacksonville with it when they were stopped on the beach by a dozen men and forced from their whiskey-laden vehicles. While the disarmed agents, including Ryals and Lee, were fighting off their assailants, a few of the ambushers hijacked the Buick and headed south on the beach.

Now, this is where the tale gets interesting.

Rex V. Sweat, a Duval County traffic officer at the time, accompanied by a federal agent named J.C. Ray, were driving north on the beach when they passed the speeding Buick hightailing it for St. Augustine. But before the lawmen could turn around, they noticed a big fight in progress farther up the beach, and proceeded to that location.

When Sweat pulled up on the scene, he jumped from his vehicle and pulled a shotgun away from a

man who was beating Lee with it. "While he was bringing order to the chaos, a shot rang out and one of the assailants was hit," the newspaper reported.

After order was restored, the Ford filled with whiskey was driven back to Jacksonville, and the confiscated liquor was stored in the Duval County jail for safekeeping. Later that night, the Buick filled with hooch was stopped on Atlantic Boulevard by Constable C.H. Reed, a sworn deputy of Justice of Peace James L. Gavagan of Mayport. When Reed asked the driver for his ID, the man gave his name as Ryals and produced a credential identifying him as a prohibition agent. With none the wiser, the Buick was allowed to proceed.

Over at St. Vincent's Hospital, a 40-year-old man named William Moore was suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg. The victim said he sustained the wound at the beach, but refused to give any more details, the newspaper said.

Sweat went on to become the sheriff of Duval County, serving from 1932 to 1957. According to former Sheriff Dale Carson, Sweat's "most important contribution" in those years, was that "he never let organized crime get a foothold in Duval County."

But on that day in 1927, the final score read Police 1, hijackers 1.

### Upcoming Chapel Concert:

#### Betty Fox, Monday May 7

The Beaches Museum and Lazzara Family Foundation will be wrapping up the Spring Concert Series with the Betty Fox Band in the Beaches Museum Chapel, Monday, May 7 at 7 p.m.

Individual tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 day of the show. Tickets can be purchased website or by calling 904-241-5657.

Refreshments and beverages are available beginning at 6 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m.

### New at the Museum

Visit Jacksonville now has a staffed desk in the lobby and are available for questions about

and recommendations for things to do in the Beaches area. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday - Monday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## Jean H. McCormick FOUNDERS' FUND

As the Beaches Area Historical Society approaches its 40th Anniversary in 2018, an endowment fund has been established to help to ensure the future of our mission: *to preserve and share the distinct history and culture of the Beaches area.* The fund, named the **Jean H. McCormick Founders' Fund**, honors those individuals who had the foresight to begin preserving the history of the Beaches decades ago.

Many thanks and appreciation to those who have contributed, at these contribution levels, so far.

### **Preservationist**

Helen Coppedge  
Jack & Lori Schmidt

### **Historian**

Margie Horvath  
Bill & Holly Hillegass  
In Memory of Gavin Moore

### **Archivist**

Jerry & Susan Miller  
The Wainer Family  
The Mary E. Haverly Foundation  
Bob & Suzanne Taylor

### **Collector**

The Voiselle Family:  
In Memory of Chad Voiselle  
Robert Kastner  
Beaches Museum Board of Directors and Staff  
Jean & J.T. McCormick Family  
Preston and Joan Haskell  
The Bull Family:  
George, Beverly, Chelly, Dick and Chuck  
David & Valerie Pickett:  
Slider's Seafood Grille  
Carl & Sue Cofer  
Randy & Lisa Hayes  
Michael & Linda Lanier  
Neil & Kathie McGuinness  
William & Christine Carter  
Bruce & Suzy Barber  
Thurston Roberts Charitable Fund

## **Beaches Legacy Circle**

A planned gift to the Beaches Museum & History Park will further education, preservation and cultural programs in the future. Ways to leave a future gift to the Beaches Museum & History Park include:

**Bequests** - Bequeath a monetary sum, securities, or a percentage of your estate in your will or trust.

**Gifts of Retirement Funds** - Name Beaches Museum & History Park as the beneficiary of your retirement plan assets.

**Create a charitable trust** - Funded with cash or appreciated property or stock. This option can provide annual income for yourself and/or other beneficiaries.

**Life Insurance** - Gift your fully paid life insurance policy, or make Beaches Museum & History Park the beneficiary of an existing policy.

Remembering the Museum through a planned gift can also be earmarked to a specific fund or program. Whether you would like your gift to support



the Museum's endowment, preservation efforts or education programs, you can be assured that your gift will go far to invest in the mission of the Beaches Museum & History Park.

**For more information on supporting the future of the Museum, please contact Chris Hoffman at 904-241-5657 x 113 or [director@beachmuseum.org](mailto:director@beachmuseum.org)**

## San Pablo Society

Thank you to all of our members, donors, and supporters. We would like to recognize those who have gone above and beyond by joining our San Pablo Society. This list represents a very dedicated group of supporters who not only give financially, but are also very involved in the events and activities of the Museum. THANK YOU for your generous donations of time, talent, and treasure!

### Historian

Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell Dickinson  
 Ms. Helen D. Coppedge  
 Mr. Walter D. Dickinson  
 Dr. & Mrs. Gasper Lazzara  
 Vicar's Landing

### Mapmaker

Baptist Medical Center Beaches  
 Mr. & Mrs. William G. Hillegass  
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Schmidt  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Taylor  
 Jean H. McCormick  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor  
 Mr. Robert Kastner  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Miller  
 Christ Episcopal Church

### Explorer

Mrs. Dana Voiselle  
 Dr. John G. Bordelon & Mr. Gerry Williamson  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Carter  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Wainer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hana  
 Dr. & Mrs. Randy Hayes  
 Ms. Margie Horvath  
 Mr. & Mrs. Darby Brower  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Lanier  
 RADM & Mrs. Tim Jenkins

## Board of Directors 2017-2018

Jack Schmidt	President
Linda Lanier	Vice President
Randy Hayes	Treasurer
William (Bill) Carter	Secretary
Bruce Barber	Susan Miller
Claudia Estes	Chris Pillinko
Sam Hall	Chris Shea
Brant Lambert	Noriko Stern
Brigetta Lamsback	Dana Voiselle
Bill Lynch	Michael Wainer
Neil McGuinness	Jacqueline Williams

## Emeritus Board Members

William G. Hillegass      Dr. Don Mabry  
 Jean H. McCormick      Dwight Wilson  
 Maxwell & Edna Dickinson      Rob & EJ Taylor



*Unveiling of the Historic Marker at the site of the Continental Hotel: Alison Brown, Meade Coplan, Chris Hoffman, Sarah Jackson, Kevin Hogencamp*

### Staff

Christine Hoffman - Executive Director  
 Brittany Cohill - Museum Operations Manager  
 Sarah Jackson - Archives & Collections Manager  
 Jennifer Krechowski - Membership & Marketing Manager  
 Jordan Cuevas - Education Coordinator



## Museum Hours of Operation

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday  
 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday

# BEACHES MUSEUM & HISTORY PARK

BEACHES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

381 BEACH BOULEVARD, JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA 32250

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 1515

Jacksonville, FL

## Calendar

**April 21** Fletcher All-Class Block Party

**May 3** Boardwalk Talk: The History of Golf in Florida, Billy Detlaff

**May 7** Chapel Concert: Betty Fox Band

**June 8** Opening of History Exhibit: Boardwalk and Piers

**June 21** Boardwalk Talk: The Summer of '64, Scott Grant

**July 19** Boardwalk Talk: History of the Volunteer Life Saving Corp, Rob Emahiser

**August 11** Storytellers Event: Memories of the Boardwalk

**September 8** Pablo Beach Train Day

**September 21** Beach Legends Gala

**October 13 - 14** Beaches Art Fest!

For more information, please visit [beachmuseum.org](http://beachmuseum.org) or phone 904-241-5657