

FOR INFORMATION

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CALUSA DAY COMING SOON TO HISTORICAL VILLAGE

March 7, 2014 – Any discussion of Sanibel's history must include its first inhabitants, the Calusa. To honor the Calusa and their culture, the Sanibel Historical Village will hold Calusa Day on March 26 during regular hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A number of activities are planned, including fun for the children. Museum volunteers and Calusa experts Susan Schmidt (in the morning) and Bonnie Frankel (in the afternoon) will talk with visitors in the museum's Calusa Room in the Rutland House. This room contains artifacts, shell tools, and a diorama showing how the Calusa lived. They created small villages and worked with natural resources (shells and native wood) to build their homes and, later, shell mounds. They most likely numbered in the many thousands from what is now Charlotte Harbor, to the Keys, and the east and west coasts of Southern Florida.



Museum volunteers and Calusa experts Bonnie Frankel and Susan Schmidt.

Karen Nelson, Calusa enthusiast and communications coordinator for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, will speak at approximately 2:45 p.m. Her topic: Calusa/Spanish Interaction in the mid-1500s. Most of the known information about the Calusa comes from Spanish records of that time.

The Calusa eventually died first at the hands of Spanish explorers, and later of European illnesses, leaving behind shell mounds, skeletons, bones, wood carvings and pottery shards.

As the Historical Village celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year, much work is under way to make the village better than ever. A 30th Anniversary Campaign is in progress with a \$200,000 goal. A dollar-to-dollar Challenge Match has begun for all gifts made from February 1 up to \$45,000. All are invited to participate.

The campaign will culminate in a party March 20 beginning at 6 p.m. on the village grounds. In addition to cocktails, dinner, and a live auction, music will be provided by Island Jazz. Victor Mayeron will serve as master of ceremonies. Reservations are required by March 17, and tickets are \$150 per person. To make a reservation, call museum manager Emilie Alfino at 472-4648. Seating is limited, so don't delay.

The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village is located at 950 Dunlop Road (next to BIG ARTS). Admission is \$10 for adults 18 and older; those under 18 and members are free. Docent-guided tours are available at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at no extra charge, based upon docent availability. There is handicap access to all buildings. Admission to go to the Gift Shop only is free. For information, call 472-4648 during business hours or visit www.sanibelmuseum.org.