

FOR INFORMATION:

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SANIBEL HERITAGE TRAIL AND STORIES AT HISTORICAL VILLAGE TWILIGHT TALK



March 14, 2017 -- The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village Twilight Talk at the Sanibel Community Center, Monday, April 3, at 7 p.m., will be a historic event in Sanibel's history, revealing the new Sanibel Heritage Trail and featuring six panelists sharing their personal experiences with the history of the island.

When completed this spring, the Sanibel Heritage Trail will feature 21 outdoor reader panels along the mixed-use path, a free map-guide, a web page, and a cell phone app. The panels will have text and historic photos addressing many aspects of Sanibel's unique heritage, including its pioneer settlers, agriculture, architecture, causeway, commerce, community, conservation, education, and environment. Trail users also will become acquainted with the history of Sanibel's governance, preservation efforts, racial integration, recreation, wildlife, and worship. The beginnings of the fishing and hospitality industries also will be addressed.

The Heritage Trail is sponsored by the City of Sanibel, its Historical Preservation Committee, and the Sanibel Public Library, the Lee County Tourist Development Commission, the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, and the Florida Humanities Council. It will be accessible to all island residents and visitors and will emphasize the resourcefulness, persistence, hard work, and strong values of those associated with Sanibel's heritage.

The program will open with a PowerPoint presentation by Craig Chandler of the Sanibel Planning Department, followed by Don Adams, Heritage Trail coordinator, who will discuss how the trail was developed, including the extensive research that was conducted over a period of five years to assure the accuracy and inclusiveness of the trail's presentations. He will introduce a panel of Susan Cassell, Sheila Fortney, Deborah Gleason, Yvonne Hill, Jim Pickens, and Ty Symroski, who will share their personal behind-the-scenes experiences from decades of living Sanibel's history.

Twilight Talk tickets are available for \$10 per person. Make your reservation by calling Emilie at 472-4648, or email info@sanibelmuseum.org. Proceeds support the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village.

The historical village is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The 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 except the Post Office. For information, call 472-4648 during business hours or visit www.sanibelmuseum.org.

END

Sanibel's Heritage Trail 
Community

The Community House - A Gathering Place

The Sanibel Community House was built in the late 1920's by island volunteers, on land donated by the Nutt family. Seasonal resident, Curtis Perry walked the island, visiting every dwelling to solicit funds for the building.



When the community House opened in 1927, it became the home to Sanibel's Shell Fair, the largest and longest running Shell Fair in the world. At Saturday night soirees, islanders conversed here for dinner, square dances, games and conversation. Other activities included silent movies, talent shows, dart competitions, shuffleboard tournaments and card games.

Elections took place here for many years, including the historic referendum on November, 1974, that led to the incorporation of the City of Sanibel. Early City Council meetings were often held here prior to completion of City Hall in 1983.

The Community Association

Sanibel teacher, Cordie Nutt organized the Sanibel Civic Club, which, in 1928, evolved into the Sanibel Community Association. Its purpose is to enrich community spirit through educational, cultural and social gatherings.

Sanibel's Heritage Trail 
Preservation

Sanibel Historical Committee

At its first meeting on January, 1975, the Sanibel City Council approved Elmore Dornier's request to form a historical committee. A major goal of the new committee was the establishment of a historical museum. This goal was achieved in 1982 when the Muesch family donated the former home of Sanibel pioneer, Clarence Rutland to the city. Two years later, it was the first building to be moved to the village and was designated the Island Historical Museum.



The Clarence Rutland Home

The Historical Museum and Village

Since 1984, the site has expanded into the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village that addresses our history from the Calusa and Spanish eras to the early pioneer families. The grounds currently include: 1895 School for White Children, 1898 Bernay Cottage, 1912 Rutland House, 1925 Swankman Dutch Colonial House, 1925 Morning Glories Cottage, 1926 Post Office, 1928 Miss Charlotta's Tea Room, 1927 Bailey's General Store and 1930s Caretaker's Cottage.