The NOTIFLYER

Newsletter # 52 The FRIENDS of the MIMS / SCOTTSMOOR LIBRARY June 1, 2012

MEMORIES OF BREVARD

Laurilee Thompson, a fifth-generation Floridian, wowed the audience at The Mims/Scottsmoor Library Meeting Room with her happy memories of growing up along the beautiful and teeming-with-life Indian River Lagoon. In the 1950s and 1960s, the lagoon was pristine, and Laurilee recalled dipping shrimp from the crystal clear waters. Can you imagine, today, a crystal clear Indian River Lagoon? She enjoyed seeing abundant numbers of oysters, fiddler crabs, and jelly fish. Indeed, thousands of horseshoe crabs covered the shoreline, waving their tails! The water was so clear that she could see round "moon jellies" from Scottsmoor to Stuart, and blowfish were plentiful.

As a youngster, fishing (all by herself!) from her small boat, she observed six-foot stingrays and delighted in seeing bottlenose dolphins, manatees and turtles. She lived an idyllic life, fishing under the stars for food and for bait, while also earning money to buy bigger and bigger boats. As she ventured father away from shore, she sometimes battled alligators alongside her boat---they wanted to steal some of the fish she had caught!

Fishing was popular, of course, and her grandfather made money by selling bait and fishing poles from the fishing pier. Springtime shrimp runs were a big event. The Indian River Lagoon of the 1950s and 1960s offered clear water, nature's unspoiled beauty, healthy and abundant marine life, an opportunity to fish for food and/or bait, and for those fortunate enough to live here, a relaxed and productive lifestyle.

Unfortunately, The Indian River Lagoon of then is not the Indian River Lagoon of today. The waters have changed for the worse, due to pollution from bridge building (all the dirt and debris when the causeway went in), to the pollution from pesticides, fertilizers, and other materials harmful to the lagoon.

Laurilee emphasized that we protect what we love. People say that we love natural areas, and property values tend to increase the nearer the property is to natural areas. Yet, as more and more of our land is developed, and as more and more waterways are polluted, it is more important than ever to protect the wild, natural areas that we love. We must landscape with native plants to reduce water usage, and prevent fertilizer and pesticide run-off that is killing the lagoon. Coastal estuaries, which are important to both our local economy and to our national economy, are well worth saving.

"How can we put a price tag on a child's chance to see a turtle or a manatee in the wild? How can we bring back this natural habitat unless we realize how beautiful and clean it used to be?" Indeed.

BREVARD'S HISTORY

If you are interested in learning more about Brevard County and about the Indian River Lagoon, there are many books available on these topics at our library. Brevard has an interesting history. Most of Brevard County was submerged at one time or another during the Ice Age. Did you know that numerous prehistoric animals, including the now-extinct mammoth, mastodon, saber-toothed cat, and giant sloth once lived here? "Arrival of the railroad in late 1885 gave impetus to the village of Mims. Its depot was adjudged 'as fine as any' when completed in 1886, only a few months after the first trains began running." (See: "History of Brevard County, Vol 1" by Jerrell H. Shofner, 1995)

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COMPUTERS, THE EASY WAY

Learn beginning computer, step by step ---Classes are only $5.00! Contact Beth, our friendly Reference Librarian, to sign up today. Beth teaches a series of four computer classes most months. Class size is limited to five. Call **(264-5080)** to learn class dates and to register for each class. Classes offered are: Introduction to a Computer (starting with how to turn it on); Internet Basics; Using E-mail; and Word Processing.

THE POT OF GOLD at the end of the rainbow . . . is our library.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the **May 10** meeting of Friends of the Mims/Scottsmoor Library, we elected officers for the 2012-2013 membership year. Our President will be Sunny Creel. The Friends, a volunteer group, have provided financial support for some children's programs; for some book, DVD, and computer purchases; for some furniture; and for some other library activities. Won't you join us? Membership is only $5 a year.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Preschool Story Times: **Fridays** at **10:30am**

CHILDREN'S FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS (elem. school age)

"Dream Big" is the theme for this summer's Reading Program. All children are welcome!

June 6 – 10:30am – Owls
Learn all about owls with Susan Boorse from Brevard County Parks & Recreation

June 13 – 10:30am – I Dream of Ice Cream
Presented by Beth Shephard from Brevard County Extension Service

June 20 – 10:30am – Camp Out
Camp out stories, s'mores and a craft

June 27 – 10:30am – Magic
Magic Show with Barry Hinnant

July 4 – Library is closed due to July 4th Holiday

July 11 – 10:30am – The Night-time Sky
Presented by Doc Clingenpeel

July 18 – 10:30am – Concert
Music by The Spacecoast Homeschool Band and Liz Hyers

July 25 – 10:30am – The Talako Indian Dancers

August 1 – 10:30am – End of Summer Party
Come join in the fun. Your reading log is your ticket to the party.