

THE NORTH BREVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

(Located at 301 South Washington Avenue)
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OFFICERS

President - Bill Baldwin
 Vice President - Amy Spillers
 Secretary - Judy Davis
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 Michael Knight
 Katie McQuade
 Susan Nelson
 Esther Vulpus
 Herman Wattwood, Jr

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

(Newsletter Editor – Judy Davis)

• May 10th	Downtown Titusville event
• May 11th	Downtown Titusville Sea Turtle Festival
• May 20th	Board meeting at 10 am (Museum)
• June 17th	Board meeting at 10 am (Museum)
• July 15th	Board meeting at 10 am (Museum)
• August 19th	Board meeting at 10 am (Museum)

to supply the muscle needed for the heavy lifting or furniture shifting. And guess who sometimes takes the monthly newsletters to Cocoa for mailing? Erich! So, you can see that he has become an invaluable asset to our Museum.



President’s Message

by Bill Baldwin

Do you know how to tell that summer is almost here? Sure it’s getting hotter but a good indicator is that this is the last newsletter until Fall (September to be exact). That gives some of the writers a little rest and well deserved if I do say so. However, that does not mean that the Museum Board gets a vacation. Actually, that time is spent catching up on those things in the Museum that just can’t seem to get done during the year. The only project on the horizon is the Fox Lake outing (a/k/a “BBQ” or “Afternoon in the Park”) and Susan Nelson will start planning that around mid-summer. She does such a great job.



Way to GO Erich!

At the April Member meeting, the Board was proud to announce that Erich Konjevich was the recipient of the annual **Volunteer of the Year** award. For the past couple of years, Erich generally could be found manning the Museum for both shifts almost every Tuesday (that makes it much easier for Judy Davis to fill out her monthly docent-manning chart). Erich has also been known



Wanted! (still)

by Bill Baldwin

The position of **Museum Facilities Manager** is still open. Any takers? The duties were described in the last newsletter so I won’t reiterate them. Also, we are looking for a couple more docents to man the Museum during opening hours (generally works out to be about 2 ½ hours a month). Again, let me know if you feel you can contribute your support in any of these capacities.



Don't Miss the Sea Turtle Festival May 10-11

by Katie McQuade

Mark your calendars for the festivities surrounding the 9th annual **Sea Turtle Festival** in downtown Titusville on May 11th! On Friday, May 10th, the Downtown Titusville Merchants Association (DTMA) will kick off the event with a "Thirsty Turtle Beer Crawl" from 5-9 pm. The Beer Crawl will be similar to a Wine Walk, with individual businesses pouring beer instead of wine. The museum will be open Friday evening as is usual for one of these events (but opted out of serving beer). On Saturday, May 11th, from 10-6, local environmental groups, vendors and performers will create a fun family event that educates while entertaining.

The Museum will participate in the DTMA's "Hidden Turtle Hunt" on Saturday May 11th from 10-6. As in previous years, a "sea turtle" will be hidden somewhere in the museum for young visitors to find. Anyone who finds all the turtles hidden in downtown businesses will be put into a drawing for a prize basket. This hunt is a very popular event and brings lots of visitors to the museum.

Greater Titusville Renaissance, Inc. a local organization supporting the revitalization of North Brevard, is sponsoring the IBEX Puppetry "Endangered Species Puppet Parade" and activities. Heather Henson, Creative Director of IBEX Puppetry, and her team will perform with large puppets featuring manatees, whooping cranes, sea turtles, kites, flags, costumed dancers and musicians representing the elements, environment and heartbeat of the planet. Titusville has access to three great waterways: the St. Johns River, the Atlantic Ocean where the sea turtles nest each summer on the beaches of the Canaveral National Seashore and the Indian River Lagoon home to Green and Loggerhead turtles. This year's festival will focus on protecting these water resources. The Sea Turtle Preservation Society, Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge, Canaveral National Seashore, Native Plant Society, St. Johns Water Management District, Marine Resource Council and more will be on hand manning booths, making presentations, and bringing crafts for kids. Festival goers can attend educational Turtle Talks, visit environmental

outreach booths, listen to live music and partake in the varied wares of artisans, vendors, and food trucks. Kids activities include face painting, sidewalk chalk art, dance groups, photo ops with a live mermaid, a bounce house and a touch tank. For a schedule of appearances or more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/titusvilleseaturtlefestival> or call 321-268-0122. Don't miss this fun event in support of some of our most interesting local marine inhabitants!



From the Back-Room Files

by Amy Spillers

One of the perks of being a member of the Museum is that you have access to a wealth of information regarding Titusville and North Brevard history. Here are a few things you may not know:

- Many years ago, there was a beekeeper in Titusville whose name was Woodrow Whidden. Mr. Whidden extracted a unique substance called "Royal Jelly" from his honey bees. He promoted it and sold it throughout the United States as an aid in fighting arthritis. Many believe that Royal Jelly consumption is the reason the Queen Bee lives 8 times longer than the worker bees.
- In 1922 the fishing industry in Titusville was bigger than the citrus industry! Apparently, mullet brought \$26 a barrel which must have been more than the going rate for citrus at that time. *The mullet is considered a vegetarian and is the only fish that has a gizzard, much like a chicken, and was also known as "The Indian River Chicken". Commercial harvesters use a cast, beach or haul seine net to catch mullet.*
- Laughing Waters Cemetery was a black community cemetery North of Haulover Canal. Many founding black families such as the Jackson's (Kate), Campbell's, Taylor's, Holmes and Young's were buried there. Many graves were relocated to the mainland

after the acquisition of land by NASA. *Kate Jackson was a daughter of Douglas Dummitt. Before his death, Dummitt signed his land on Merritt Island over to his daughters and sister. Col Titus and Miles Burnham signed as witness' to his will.*

- In 1969 there were no delays in the construction of the “Beeline”. *Yes, that is right. State Road 528 was originally named the “Beeline” and later the name was changed to the “Beach Line”.*
- Cape Canaveral was originally a village called Artesia.
- Titusville was originally named Sand Point.

The Museum is full of information and it's FREE! We are open Tuesday and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from. 10:00 am-3:00 pm.



Cracker Day No Longer

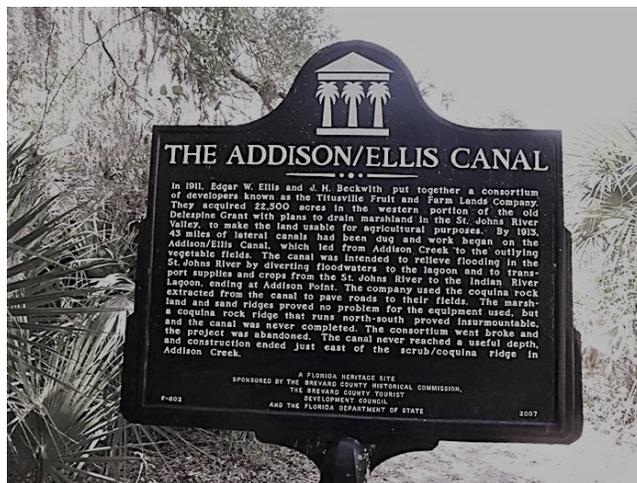
For 50 years, *Cracker Day* was a reason for local friends and neighbors to get together. The event closed primarily due to natural attrition. It's sad to say but the Museum has financially benefitted from the closing. Laura Ward (probably with prodding from Harry and Betty Bennett) presented the Museum with a \$3,300 check from the Cracker Day account. Their only request was to use the money for a good cause. The closing is definitely sad since many Museum members were “*Crackers*”.



The Addison-Ellis Canal

The Nature Center at The Great Outdoors (“TGO”) property is located on the bank of the picturesque Addison Canal, as most people refer to it today. When the water level is low, you might spot a heron, egret and/or ibis fishing for a meal. When the water level is high, alligators have been seen in the canal. The history of the Addison/Ellis Canal dates back to the early 1900's. A consortium of developers was established by Edgar W. Ellis and J. H. Beckwith in 1911 and was known as the Titusville Fruit and Farm Lands Company. A total of 22,500 acres was acquired in the western portion of the old Delspine Grant. To make the land usable for agricultural purposes, the plans were to drain the marshland in the St. Johns River Valley. Two years later, in 1913, 43 miles of lateral canals had been dug. Work then began on the Addison/Ellis Canal leading from Addison Creek to the outlying vegetable fields. The canal was to relieve St. Johns

River flooding by diverting floodwaters to the lagoon. This would allow transport of supplies and crops from the St. Johns River to the Indian River Lagoon, ending at Addison Point. The Titusville Fruit and Farm Lands Company paved the roads to their fields using the extracted coquina rock. There were no problems for their equipment in the marshland and sand ridges; however, a coquina rock ridge which runs north to south was insurmountable and work stopped and the canal was not completed. The consortium went broke and the canal project was abandoned with construction ending just east of the scrub/coquina ridge in Addison Creek near the Enchanted Forest. The Addison/Ellis canal never reached a useful depth. Today, you can enjoy the natural beauty of the canal and the TGO Nature Center grounds. Visit and relax on the bench or bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at a picnic table, where you can walk, bike or drive a golf cart across the bridge built over the Addison Canal. Look upstream and admire the scenic “Old Florida” view of moss covered trees bordering the canal. At that site, you can also see the original wood bridge that was used to access the *Old TGO Nature Center* before it was torn down and the *New TGO Nature Center* was built in its current location.



<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/historical-markers-addison-ellis-canal/>



Check us out on **Facebook** and on our **website** below. If you wish to be added to any of our occasional e-mails, please contact us. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments at all.

- Email: titusvillemuseum@aol.com
- Website: www.nbbd.com/godo/history/
- Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthBrevardHistoricalMuseum



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OR PRESENT OCCUPANT



Another Gentle Reminder

Don't forget to check your name/ mailing address on the newsletter. If (by our records) you have **NOT** paid your dues, an asterisk (*) will be placed by your name. Delinquent dues and registration can be sent (or taken) to the Museum anytime. Checks should be sent to the North Brevard Historical Museum, PO Box 5265, Titusville, FL 32783 along with a **new registration form** to allow us to validate your phone number and address.

So, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES ASAP!

