



South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1966

E Newsletter

April 2022

***SATURDAY, April 9th**

3:00 pm

MELBOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

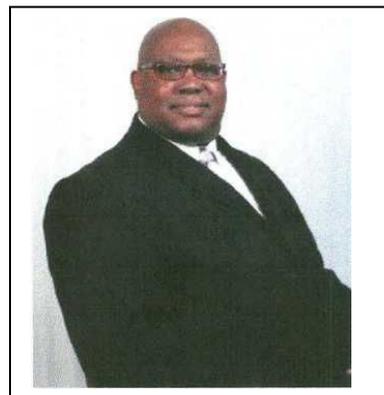
Mask wearing may be appropriate

Join us for our monthly program meeting:

THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTH BREVARD CHAPTER OF THE NAACP

Presented by James Minus, President of the South Chapter of the NAACP

James H. Minus, Sr. is a native Floridian, born in Ft. Meade, Florida. He is a retired Air Force Veteran of 21 years, is active in the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church and in other community organizations. Founded in 1909, the vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.



***IF, FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS, THIS PRESENTATION MUST BE CANCELLED, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA AN E-ALERT PLUS IT WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE: southbrevardhistory.org.**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

May 14th Roz Foster, Founder and President of the North Brevard Heritage Foundation and member of the Brevard County Historical Commission. Roz will update us on activity at the Pritchard House in Titusville and the creation of Heritage Park.

June 11TH John Hughes, Executive Director of the Florida Surf Museum and lifelong Brevard surfer will present the History of Surfing.

It's good to be in program planning mode again. If you have any ideas about program topics and/or presenters please let us know via an email to: "contact@southbrevardhistory.org". You can just send a brief message that you have a suggestion and your message will be forwarded to Barbara Arthur our Program Chairman. She'll contact you to discuss your suggestion.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

March 12th of this year was a day that would be well described by Edgar Allen Poe. It was dark and dreary with storms threatening. "Will lightening strike if I step out of my doorway?" I pondered as I prepared to attend our SBHS board and program meetings.

My bravery was rewarded with a well attended board meeting followed by an inspiring program by Linda Jump. Her "Write Your History" presentation was interactive and fun. It took us beyond the simple narrative of names, dates and where you have lived to your meaningful experiences and the stories of your life that describe who you are and how your life may have been affected by the events of your lifetime. It reminded me of the wonderful interviews of Weona Cleveland who recorded the "his and her" stories of local folks.

Beyond my own story I want to record the memories of family and close friends I have known over my lifetime. I'll use Linda's book as a guide to search my memory for conversations I have had with them as well. So much to do!

We are very pleased to present this month's program on the South Brevard Chapter of the NAACP. It was originally scheduled for March of 2020 but had to be postponed. Who knew it would take so long to return to a regular schedule of programs!

I hope to see you soon.

Carol

**Carol Andren, President SBHS
(321.725.4115)**

UPDATES

GREEN GABLES

DOES GREEN GABLES HAVE ALL THE FUNDS FOR PURCHASE YET???

Please take a moment to write a message to Governor DeSantis to let him know that you enjoyed your visit and experience of Green Gables and how important it is to save history. The Florida State Legislature has approved full funding for the Special Category Grants for this year's budget. That means, if Governor DeSantis approves it, we will receive the grant that will finally allow us to purchase and save Green Gables. Please send him an email today telling him how important it is that he agrees to fully fund the Special Category Grants. His email address is GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

Come out to the Vintage Motorcycle Show - April 16th from 10am - 2pm

Green Gables will be hosting an Antique Motorcycle Show from 10am - 2pm on our riverfront property. This event is open to the public and only \$5 to see some amazing vintage motorcycles. Parking available next door at Reflections.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE HISTORY OF GREEN GABLES, ACTIVITIES, HOW TO DONATE AND NEWS ABOUT THE GRANT FUNDING GO TO: <https://greengables.org/>

FIELD MANOR

Springtime Fundraiser Sunday, April 24th 10AM-3PM

Relax and enjoy the waterfront grounds of historic Field Manor while you sip a drink from the coffee or smoothie truck. Fifteen local vendors will be there to present their wares. Browse the work of artists, artisans and you may even find the perfect plant you've been searching for.

BOOK REVIEW by Kathi Harbaugh

THE ORCHID THIEF by Susan Orlean

It is amazing how different lines of one's life can come together. I was thinking about writing a review of The Orchid Thief for the newsletter but uncertain. Also I was reading a most phenomenal book about fungi. It made my mind go back to a wonderful opportunity I had many years ago to visit the Fakahatchee Strand in the Big Cypress of the Everglades. I went with members of the local chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and teenage students from Miami high schools. We were to see the Fakahatchee and maybe some of the rare Ghost Orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*). That cinched it. The Orchid Thief it is.

This non-fiction book describes a very different experience from mine in the Fakahatchee Stand. John Laroche, a local self-taught, entrepreneurial horticulturist wanted to make a killing selling an endangered species of orchid to orchid fanatics. This orchid only lives in the Fakahatchee. In order to get some plants to breed, Laroche convinces some Seminoles that they have to right to take as many plants out of the Fakahatchee as they want. After all, orchid fanatics generate a \$10 billion trade world-wide and Laroche and the Seminoles want to get in on it. Instead they are arrested and tried for stealing a protected species out of its natural habitat.

This book is filled with many entwined aspects. Besides John Laroche, the fanatical orchid collecting industry, the Seminole nation, crazy orchid fanatics, and Florida real estate scams, there is the Fakahatchee itself. The swamp was logged for its wonderful cypress. Between 1957 and 1970 the Gulf American Land Corporation sold thousands of plots in the undeveloped swamp. What roads and canals the corporation built devastated the environment into an alligator swamp. It is now a Florida State Preserve.

When I went to the Fakahatchee I experienced some of the aspects of its misuse. As you walk through the murky water, you are not on a flat surface. There are ruts in the mud where years ago cypress logs were pulled across the swamp bottom to get them to the rail line. It is like walking through an over-sized piece of corduroy fabric in the dark.

For further investigation:

[Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park](https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fakahatchee-strand-preserve-state-park)

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fakahatchee-strand-preserve-state-park>

<https://orchidswamp.org/>

[Fungus and their relationship with orchids](#)

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures--
ISBN13:9780525510314

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entangled_Life

Both books are available at the Brevard County Libraries. Make sure you get the Orchid Thief about the Fakahatchee and not the Nancy Drew mystery.(who would have thought I would need to make this warning)

SBHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: President, Carol Andren; Vice Presidents, Denise Bozeman and Jim Poulos; Secretary, Barbara Arthur; Treasurer, Annita Full. Directors: Martha Beaujean Collins, Rick Dillen, Wiley Elliott, Kathy Harbaugh, Janey Stewart.

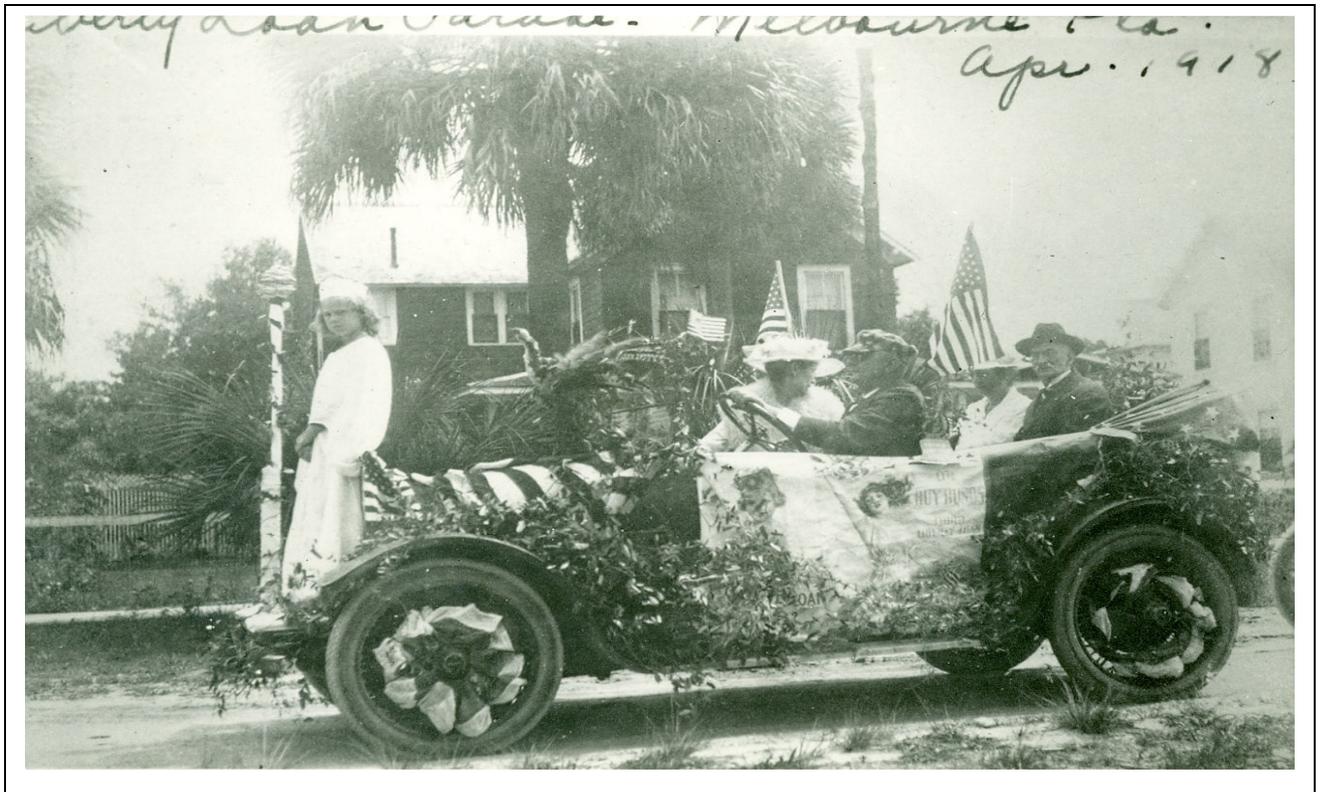
The South Brevard Historical Society, Inc., is a non-profit corporation and an IRS 501 (C) 3 organization. All contributions are tax-deductible by limits of law. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-HELP FLA. P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, Florida, 32902-1064

Visit us on:

www.southbrevardhistory.org

MEMORIES OF "OLD MELBOURNE"

Photo of Front Street Melbourne before the fire of 1919



Liberty Loan Parade April 1918