

MUSEUM MUSINGS

ISSUE 38 SPRING 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, I'm Fred Hulett. On January 12, the board elected me President of the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

For those who don't know me, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I live in Orange Park with my wife Tracey and our three children Corey, Bailey, and Riley. We enjoy playing sports and camping together.

I was raised in Daytona Beach and attended Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C., graduating with degree in business management in 1985. I began working at General Electric in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1993. I went to work for Publix in Atlanta, Ga, where I became a customer service manager at the gro-

cery store chain. In 1998, I moved to Orange Park. In 2002, I began working with Folkner Training and Associates, the franchise holder of Dale Carnegie Training in northeast Florida and southeast Georgia. As a senior trainer consultant, I have conducted training sessions for companies such as Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, and BMW. I also volunteer with the Clay County School Board as a tutor and fundraiser.

Although it seems odd that an Orange Park person would be leading the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society, it does coincide with the organization's mission of preserving and promoting the history and ecology of the St. Johns River. As the organization looks at becoming a regional re-

source, likewise, its leadership must be drawn from all along the river and have a passion for the rich history that swirls in its currents.

I would like to thank former president, John Cooksey, for his past leadership. His vision and drive guided the organization through our county's most difficult economic time since the Great Depression. Although many non-profit organizations have succumbed to these challenging times, John has kept our museum doors open to an ever growing number of visitors.

I look forward to serving the MMHS over the next year and helping guide the Mandarin Museum and the Walter Jones Historical Park into a first class educational facilities.

RIVER CELEBRATION DAY—SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Grab your kayak paddles and your fiddles. It's time for the 2010 River Celebration Day. Come join the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society, the City of

Jacksonville, and the St. Johns Riverkeeper on Saturday, April 10 for a day of music, food, vendors, programs, boat rides, kayaks and much more. The event

is an opportunity for the community to learn about the history and ecology of the St. Johns River at the Walter Jones Historical Park in a (cont. page 4)

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Museum Musings is produced by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society, Inc.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED

At the January General Meeting of the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society, the 2010 Board of Directors was elected to continue as the governing body. The directors and their terms are:

ONE YEAR TERM

(expires 12/31/2010)

John Cooksey
Virginia Barker
Anne Morrow
Bo Philips
Sandy Arpen

TWO YEAR TERM

(expires 12/31/2011)

Fred Hulett
Susan Ford
Beth Meyer

Karen Roumillat
Debbie Harmon
Gabrielle Dempsey

THREE YEAR TERM

(expires 12/31/2012)

Steve Rawlins
Mark Cowart
Sandy Webb
June Weltman

The officers elected by the membership:

Fred Hulett-President
Mark Cowart-Vice-President
Anne Morrow-Treasurer
Gabrielle Dempsey-Secretary

New members elected to the board include: Sandy Arpen and Deborah Harmon.

The board would also like to

thank our outgoing board members who put in the time and effort that kept the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society going. These included Ben Stradley, Carolyn Williams, Mary Ellen Potter and Jim Towart.

We wish to extend a special thank you to Jim, who has served on the museum board since 1990, and Mary Ellen, who has served on the board since 1996. Their many years of service helped form the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society in to organization that community enjoys so much today. We applaud your dedication and hard work.

ANTIQUÉ GUNS AT THIRD THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES ON MARCH 18

Please join us as we welcome Jacksonville attorney Phillip A. Buhler, a collector of antique firearms, who will exhibit and talk about some of his historic guns at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, at the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road.

Buhler, an attorney with Moseley, Prichard, Parrish, Knight & Jones, said he will bring an exhibit of more than 20 firearms that show advances in U.S. military development in the 1800s well as important and rare firearms from the major European powers during that time. He

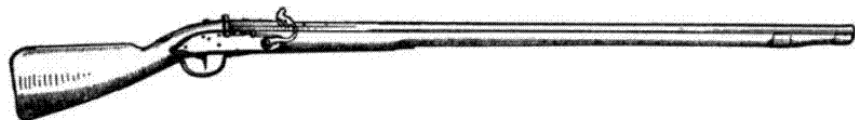
will demonstrate the progress of firearms from the end of the flintlock era in the late 1700s through the breech-loading military muskets and rifles of the 1800s and early 1900s. He will also address the impact of these firearms on American and European history.

Buhler started collecting antique firearms in the 1980s. His collection includes firearms from the early 1800s through World War II. He is also known for conducting living history programs and reenactments that focus on the Seminole War,

Mexican War, and the American Civil War.

Buhler is the second speaker in the new Third Thursday Lecture Series being sponsored by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society and the Mandarin Community Club. Refreshments will be served starting at 6:30 p.m.

Subsequent lectures will include the Florida Public Archaeology Network on April 15 and the Southern Genealogists Exchange Society's lecture "Bare Bones: Getting Started in Your Genealogy" on May 20.



CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER...BY JANET SHELFER

The St. Johns Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization whose mutual interests invite a collaborative relationship with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. It offers a unique opportunity twice annually to cruise the St. Johns River, step back into time and reflect upon the crucial importance of this river in the development of civilization dating back to antiquity. The most recent journey occurred October 22-23 and I was fortunate to be a guest.

With Riverkeeper Neil Armington as host, the journey began in Palatka as we drifted back 12,000 years into the world of the Paleo-Indians. The river's water resources, wildlife bounty and fertile basin enticed their attraction. Life as hunter-gatherers meant constant competition with species such as the Saber-toothed cats, mastodons and giant sloth. Native Americans claimed this region

as home for thousands of years with archeological evidence supporting a connection to cultures as far away as modern day Oklahoma. These relics of early people have yielded the only North American totems found outside of the Pacific Northwest.

The river facilitated power struggles for territorial possession spanning almost 450 years between the native population, French, Spanish, English, and the United States. The river carried our young nation through the dark days of the Civil War, and served as a preserver of history as evidenced in the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society's collection retrieved from the sunken steamboat *Maple Leaf*.

In spite of bloody and cruel conflicts, preservers of beauty and inspiration were drawn to this river leaving us a portrait of extravagant bounty and awe. William Bartram observed as he traveled along



Egret on the St. Johns courtesy of Janet Shelfer

the St. John's River "...herds of sprightly deer, squadrons of the beautiful fleet Siminole horse, flocks of turkeys, civilized communities of the sonorous watchful crane, mix together, appearing happy and contented in the enjoyment of peace, till disturbed and affrighted by the warrior man." Fellow travelers and storytellers, Wayne and Jane Sims allowed us to gaze through the eyes of the famed Philadelphian turned naturalist William Bartram and author Constance Woolson, whose (cont. page 5)

MISS AGGIE DAY MARCH 20

Please join us as we present the annual Miss Aggie Award on Saturday, March 20, 1-3 p.m. at the Old Mandarin Store and Post Office, 12471 Mandarin Road.

The free event will include tours of the historic building and free Moon Pies and RC Cola, favorite snacks when the store served the Mandarin

community from 1911-1964. The award honors a female Mandarin resident who has contributed to the community in the areas of business, civic, educational or charitable accomplishment.

The recipient will be selected by the museum's board of directors from a slate of nominations from the com-

munity. We will be accepting nominations until March 8.

If you know a Mandarin woman who deserves an award, please request a nomination form through the museum at mandarinmuseum@bellsouth or call 268-0784.

RIVER DAY CONT.

festive environment. The program is a component of the "Jax Parks...Get Out There!" that features free events at various parks throughout the city and offers a sample of the environmental and recreational programs held year-round at these parks.

The day will begin early with the third annual Olde Mandarin Biathlon. The benefit for the MMHS begins at 7 a.m. Participants will challenge themselves as they kayak around Mandarin point to Mandarin Regional Park and then run back to Walter Jones Historical Park. If you wish to participate, or know someone who does, please get your registration form through 1st Place Sports, Black Creek Outfitters, or the museum. You can use your own equipment or rent a kayak through

Black Creek Outfitters. Last year, 50 people participated in the event. Even if you don't want to participate, please come out and cheer.

The main event will begin at 11 a.m. This year, the North Florida Folk Network will be providing an array of musicians to entertain throughout the day. There will be information booths all throughout the park. Hop aboard a river-taxi for a trip up the St. Johns River to the site of the *Maple Leaf* shipwreck with ecological and historical lectures along the way. Black Creek Outfitters will also offer the use of kayaks for visitors to explore the river on their own.

As a new activity, the city will produce a Geocaching event that will incorporate the Walter Jones Historical Park. Geocaching is an outdoor activity in which the partici-

pants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers called geocaches.

Finally, Dr. Jillian Smith will screen "Placed By the River." The compilation of shorts produced by UNF documentary film students paints a portrait of the St Johns River by people who are affected by the river. Included are river pilots from Mayport, a cab driver who journals by the river, and JJ Grey, lead musician of the swamp rock group Mofro, and others.

We need lots of extra hands to produce this fun family event. If you would like to volunteer for all or part of the day, please contact the museum at 268-0784.

We'll see you on the river!

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS

March 20 Miss Aggie Day at the Store & Post Office, 1-3 p.m.

April 3-4 Mandarin Art Festival at the Mandarin Community Club

April 4 1:30 p.m. MMHS and Mandarin Community Club Easter egg hunt at the Walter Jones Historical Park

April 10 River Celebration Day

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Members are welcome to attend.

March 9, April 13, May 11

THIRD THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES

MANDARIN COMMUNITY CLUB , 7 P.M.

March 18 Phillip A. Buhler-Evolution of Breech Loading Rifles

April 15 Florida Public Archaeology Network

May 20 Southern Genealogists Exchange Society-Bare Bones: Getting Started in Your Genealogy

DOWN RIVER CONT.

combined writings, sketches and documentation awaken us to the vibrancy of the land during our nation's early years.

As we traveled around Murphy Island, we enjoyed the native grandeur of the protected hardwood swamps. We spied bald eagles surveying their domain, majestic blue heron in flight, the beauty of a great egret as he glided by on a bed of hyacinth, and a gentle manatee as she meandered in a spring. We witnessed water swirls left by American alligators and shy turtles seeking refuge in the depths of their home. Our journey takes us past Silver Glen Springs, Lake George and to an evening of rustic elegance at Blair's Jun-

gle Den motel on the banks of the river.

On day two, naturalists and authors Bill Dreggors and Bill Belleville escorted us to Hontoon Island, Blue Spring, through Lake Munroe and to our final destination of Sanford. They offered insight of modern culture and development of the River over the past one hundred years with personal experience, stories and modern day concerns.

Because of its place in history, the St. Johns River is designated an American Heritage River, one of fourteen in the United States.

As water supplies diminish and population demand expands, exploitative efforts abound seeking the modern

day resources of this river. Such efforts often have permanent, destructive elements, which require scrutiny and direction allowing future generation's enjoyment and appreciation of the river's heritage and magnificence. Such oversight is the mission of the St. Johns Riverkeeper organization.

For a most memorable experience, consider taking the next St. Johns River Eco-Heritage Boat excursion, scheduled for April 8-9, Palatka to Sanford and April 10-11 Sanford to Palatka. For more information please visit the St. Johns Riverkeeper's website:

www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

MUSEUM MUSINGS IS GOING DIGITAL!

MMHS has signed up with Constant Contact to keep members informed of upcoming events, as well as distributing issues of Museum Musing straight to your email inbox. If you would like to keep up-to-date of what's going on at the MMHS, please contact the museum to get signed up. It's quick, easy, and helps the organization save on production costs.

Thank You!

GOT KIDS? SEND THEM TO RIVER CAMP!

Need something to entertain your children or grandchildren this summer? River Camp is a visionary new program produced by the St. Johns Riverkeeper and the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

The program will expose rising 3rd and 4th graders (8-

10 years old) to the history, culture, and ecology found along the St. Johns. Camp activities include: fishing, kayaking, crafts, archaeology and a river boat trip. Age appropriate learning objectives have been applied to all activities using Sunshine State Standards. Tuition is \$250

per participant. The camp will be conducted in four, one-week sessions: June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 5-9, and July 12-16. 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Tracey Manno at tracey@stjohnsriverkeeper.org or 256-7613.

MEMBERSHIP

The MMHS wishes to welcome our newest members:

Shirley Kemp
Dan and Dinah Kossoff
Liz Papenbrock

Tracey Phelps
Patricia A Moore
Sharon and Buzz Wagand

ACCESSIONS

The MMHS accessioned the following donations this quarter:

2009.09 Susan Ford—Collection of Mandarin Weekly Advertiser Vol.1-4

2009.11 Joseph Walsh—Civil War canon ball, 7 bottles

2009.16 Pat Danese—Cant hook (log roller)

2010.01 Susan Ford—7 books related to Florida history

2010.02 Edward Mueller —DVD “Ocklawaha River Steamboats”

2010.03 Museum purchase—5 Southern Genealogist’s Exchange Quarterly

2010.04 Museum production—74 videos tapes of various subjects relating to local history

2010.05 Jim Towart—Civil War Bayonet

2010.06 Museum purchase—Book “Beyond the Call”

Thank you very much for providing MMHS with unique artifacts for our collection.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS UNDERWAY

We have kicked off our annual membership renewal for 2010. Your membership not only allows you access to our great programs and discounts at the museum store, but also

keeps the organization operating. If you have not already renewed, please mail the application on the back of the newsletter, along with your payment, to Mandarin

Museum & Historical Society
P.O. Box 23601 Jacksonville,
Florida 32241. Thank you for
your support!

FROM THE ARCHIVES BY ANDREW MORROW

People bring all sorts of interesting artifacts through the doors of the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Probably one of the more common items that we see are old bottles that have been found in yards or in the St. John’s River. Old bottles seem to have a strange attraction for people. Perhaps it is their jewel-like appearance. Or perhaps their familiarity and commonality to our own age that helps our imagination bridge the gap of “what it was like back then.”

But where did all these bottles come from? Although we may think that glass is fragile, and it is when you want to

preserve a piece in it’s entirety, it is actually a very stable and durable material. Organic material, like paper, kitchen scraps, and wood tend to decay fairly easily. Metal rusts. But fired items like ceramic and glass can survive for thousands of years. Glass vials and statues have been recovered from ancient Egyptian tombs. Glass bottles and vases were often recovered from Roman ruins. Even walking along the beach, you may find a piece of sea glass, although etched by the harsh environment of sand and sea, still discernable for what it is. Glass tends to stick around. And we throw a lot of it away.

It wasn’t until the latter part of the 20th century that garbage collection was available to Mandarin residents. Most families were tasked with their own trash removal. Sometimes trash was simply burned. Until fairly recently, the Morrows still had cinderblock incinerator on the family property where, many years ago, accumulated household trash would be burned. Other families would dig pits in unobtrusive places to deposit their trash. Once the pit was full, it was covered over and a new pit dug. As more developments began springing up around Northeast Florida, people began to

encounter these burial and burning places on their property that were full of trash accumulated over years. And, of course, people have been depositing their trash in the great St. John's River for thousands of years. So by its nature and numbers there are lots of old bottles in and around Northeast Florida.

One of the most intriguing bottles that people encounter in the area are round bottom bottles. These bottles date from the 1870s to the 1890s. They are typically of thick, aqua colored glass with a blob or taper lip and a pronounced rounded bottom that prevents the bottle from standing upright. The bottles are sometimes embossed with a company's name and their city of origin.

These types of bottles are often referred to as "ballast" bottles since it is commonly believed that they were used as weight in ships coming to the United States. Although this may have been true in some instances, it does not appear to have been a common practice.

The vast majority of these bottles were designed and used for non-alcoholic, carbonated beverages, the most popular being Ginger Ale. The round ends are often attributed to a shipping and storage necessity. At the time of their use, corks secured with wire bale were a popular closure for bottles. Standing

upright, the corks could dry out, shrink, and allow the carbonation to leak out or the product to spoil. Storing the bottles on their sides (or even upside down) kept the cork swollen and the bottle sealed. When served, the bottles were placed in stands to keep them upright.

Round bottom bottles were usually produced in a two-piece hinged mold where the neck, shoulder, body, and entire base (and sometimes all or a part of the finish) were produced by the two halves of the mold. The mold often left a seam that runs from one side of the body, around the base, and then up the other side. A blob of glass was added to finish the top of the bottle.

The majority of round bottom bottles originated in Great Britain, particularly Ireland. Examples of American manufactures are scarce and can be valuable. Most came from Boston or Savannah. Even today, antique malls will usually have some examples of the British bottles and none of the American. When embossed with a name or in a color other than aqua, the bottles can be quite valuable. When unembossed, as the majority of examples are, the aqua bottles sell for very little.



"Ballast" bottles from the MMHS collection

The first, third, and fourth embossed, round-bottom bottle pictured above were produced by the Irish company Cantrell & Cochrane. The company, popularly known as C&C, was the largest exporter of soda water in the late 1800s. It was founded by Dr. Cantrell and Mr. Henry Cochrane. C&C began exporting ginger ale to North America in 1866. Their flavored soda water, particularly the ginger ale, became very popular and millions of bottles were shipped. C&C started using round-bottom bottles with their name embossed on the sides in 1877. C&C's ginger ale continued to be sold in America into the 1950s in cans whose tops were shaped like cones. The company is still doing business as C&C Group LLP, producing a wide variety of alcoholic beverages.



Mandarin Museum
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.MANDARINMUSEUM.NET

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Members of the Mandarin Museum
& Historical Society



Clip and Mail

Have a friend or family member with an interest in local history? Bring them to the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society
Even better, present them a gift membership to the MMHS. Make the story of Mandarin your story!



Yes! I want to support the Mandarin Museum &
Historical Society and be a part of Mandarin history!

() New Member () Renewal

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

- () Orange Picker\$100
- () Maple Leaf Society.....\$500
- () Stowe Society\$5000

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- () Orange Picker\$35
- () May Garner Society\$50
- () Maple Leaf Society.....\$100
- () Walter Jones Society..\$500
- () Stowe Society\$1000

◆Here's extra support to help the Mandarin Museum! \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

() Send me information on becoming a volunteer!

WE'RE MAKING HISTORY...YOU'RE A PART OF IT!

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

() My check is enclosed for \$ _____, payable to the
Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

Please charge my: () Visa () MasterCard

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date ____/____ CVV2 from back of card _____

Authorized Signature _____

Daytime Phone # (____) _____

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