

A collaborative effort to educate people about the archaeology and ethnography of the Indigenous peoples of southwest Florida.

March 2023



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4
	Marco Island Historical Society \$ 6 p.m. "Key Marco In Living Color, Part 2"		Marco Island Historical Museum 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Family Fun Day
8	9	10	11
Randell Research Center and FPAN 10 a.m. Knowing the Calusa – Turning Anthropology on its Ear"			Collier County Museums 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Southwest Florida Archaeology Day
15	16	17	18
	Koreshan State Park ☎ ⌘ 10 a.m. Tales of Southwest Florida: Archaeology of the Calusa	Koreshan State Park ☎ ⌘ 9 a.m. The Art of the Calusa	Bonita Springs Historical Society ☎ \$ 10 a.m. Calusa History Walk: Land of the Calusa
22	23	24	25
	Koreshan State Park ☎ ⌘ 11 a.m. - 1.p.m. Junior Archaeologist Program		Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium ☎ 10 a.m. Keynote Address: Austin J. Bell

The Calusa Coast event series takes place annually throughout March to celebrate Florida Archaeology Month. These events are organized as a collaborative effort to educate people about the archaeology and ethnography of the Indigenous peoples of southwest Florida.

During Calusa Coast events this year, participants will have the opportunity to journey into the past and learn about the Calusa and their Indigenous relatives through a variety of hands-on activities, lectures, and guided walks.

Some of these events require pre-registration or a nominal fee.

Donations to fund portions of these events may be made out to the Southwest Florida Archeological Society (SWFAS) by mailing a check to:
 SFWAS
 27655 Kent Rd.
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135.
 Please note in memo section of check: "Calusa Coast Donation"

☎ = Registration Required ⌘ = Free with park entry fee \$ = Nominal Fee ① = Virtual

see following pages for detailed event schedule



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Calusa Coast 2023 Schedule of Events

- **March 2nd 6 p.m. Marco Island Historical Society Talk – “Key Marco in Living Color, Part 2”**
 - The Marco Island Historical Society invites you to join them for a lecture with artist and anthropologist, Merald Clark. His talk is titled “Key Marco In Living Color, Part 2” and will largely be about his work interpreting and illustrating the Calusa and their ancestors for Southwest Florida Museums.
 - Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for non-members and free for Marco Island Historical Society members.
 - Location: 180 S Heathwood Drive, Marco Island FL 34145
 - For more information, please contact April Holland at 239.389.6447 or administration@TheMIHS.org

- **March 4th 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Marco Island Historical Museum Family Fun Day**
 - Marco Island Historical Museum is sharing the story of the Calusa people and their indigenous relatives. Children will learn about the Calusa peoples’ creativity using shell tools with hands-on examples and opportunities to build their own. Activities will guide children through the history of the Calusa people and their connection to other indigenous peoples in this area. Take home activities will also be provided.
 - Location: 180 S Heathwood Drive, Marco Island FL 34145

- **March 8th 10 a.m. (Virtual Event) Randell Research Center and FPAN**
 - Hosted by the Florida Department of Greenways and Trails as part of their Outdoor Webinar Series. The theme of the month is, “Protecting and Promoting Cultural Sites on Trails”. Annisa Karim will make a virtual presentation entitled, “Knowing the Calusa – Turning Anthropology on its Ear”. Also presenting will be FPAN’s Regional Director, Barbra Clark.
 - This virtual event is free, but registration is required. Register [here](#).

- **March 11th 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Collier County Museums - Southwest Florida Archaeology Day**
 - We’re celebrating Florida Archaeology Month with Southwest Florida Archaeology Day. Guests of all ages can get hands-on with archaeology at this free outdoor event. Meet archaeologists and learn how they study the ancient and historic people of Southwest Florida. Practice using the tools and techniques used to uncover the past with hands-on activities. Try to hunt using ancient tools and pick up some new skills with traditional and historic crafts. Archaeology is fun for the whole family!
 - Location: Collier Museum at Government Center. 3331 Tamiami Trail East. Naples, FL 34112

- **March 16th 10 a.m. Koreshan State Park – Tales of Southwest Florida: Archaeology of the Calusa**
 - Presented by Natalie De La Torre Salas from the Florida Public Archaeology Network
 - Join Natalie De La Torre Salas of the Florida Public Archaeology Network and Florida Atlantic University for an in depth look at the Calusa. The Calusa were called “the fierce people” in part because they held off Spanish domination for almost 200 years, but is the nickname really warranted? Learn about the engineering, trade, and power that made the Calusa a dominating force in Southwest Florida long before the Spanish arrived.
 - Location: 3800 Corkscrew Road. Estero FL 33928. This special presentation will begin in the Art Hall at 10am.
 - This program is free with park entry fee.
 - Reservations are required and can be made by going to Eventbrite.com. Link [here](#).

- **March 17th 9 a.m. Koreshan State Park – The Art of the Calusa**
 - Presented by Robert Hughes, Museum Curator at Koreshan State Park
 - Join the Museum Curator of Koreshan State Park for an interesting and informative talk about the history, culture and art of the Calusa. The Calusa were a tribe of Native Americans that ruled Southwest Florida for hundreds of years before the arrival of the Spanish in the 1500s. Their highly complex society and bountiful environment supported tens of thousands of people and their many skilled craftspeople created beautiful works of art. This presentation will highlight the art recovered from excavations across Southwest Florida.
 - Location: 3800 Corkscrew Road. Estero FL 33928. This special presentation will begin in the Art Hall at 9 a.m.
 - This program is free with park entry fee.
 - Reservations are required and can be made by going to Eventbrite.com. Link [here](#).

- **March 18th 10 a.m. Bonita Springs Historical Society - Calusa History Walk: Land of the Calusa**
 - As part of Archaeology Month in Florida, we offer a special opportunity to learn about the archaeology of the first peoples to live in Bonita Springs beginning over 8,000 years ago. Hear the stories of the mighty Calusa Chiefdom, which controlled all of Southwest Florida and whose capital was Mound Key in Estero Bay, including their contact with the Spanish starting in 1513. See demonstrations of the tools the Calusa used to prosper: the atlatl (an ancient device to throw a spear for fishing) shell tool making, weaving, and more. Walk to Depot and Island Parks and learn about our native plants used by Native Americans.
 - Meet at 10am at the Liles Hotel in Riverside Park, 27300 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs, FL
 - Total walk distance is about 1 mile and tour duration of 1.5 to 2 hours.
 - Register and pay for event [here](#).

- **March 23rd 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Koreshan State Park - Junior Archaeologist Program**
 - Join Florida State Park rangers for a fun kid's program on archaeology! Find out what an archaeologist does to locate historic and prehistoric sites, find and identify artifacts, and help us all learn more about our past.
 - Location: 3800 Corkscrew Road. Estero FL 33928. This program will begin in the in the picnic area at 11 a.m.
 - This program is free with park entry fee.

- **March 25th 10 a.m. Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium – Calusa Coast 2023 Keynote Address: Austin J. Bell: The Nine Lives of Florida’s Famous Key Marco Cat**
 - Austin Bell is curator of collections for the Marco Island Historical Society and a consulting scholar at the Penn Museum. Bell shares an in-depth look at the Key Marco Cat.

Bell explores nine periods in the life of the six-inch-high wooden carving, beginning with how it was sculpted with shell and shark-tooth tools and what it may have represented to the ancient Calusa—perhaps a human-panther god. Preserved in the muck for centuries on Marco Island and discovered in pristine condition due to its oxygen-free environment, the Cat has since traveled more than 12,000 miles and has been viewed by millions of people. It is one of the Smithsonian Institution’s most irreplaceable items. In this fascinating account, Bell traces the clues to the Cat’s mysterious origins that have emerged in its later lives.

The Nine Lives of Florida’s Famous Key Marco Cat is the story of a timeless masterpiece of staggering simplicity that has prevailed over impossibly long odds.
 - Location: 3450 Ortiz Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33905
 - This program is free, but registration is required. Register [here](#).