

December 4, 2018 – February 16, 2019

Mountain Lake: A Look Inside Building a Legacy

The Lake Wales Museum presents a historical exhibit about the story of Mountain Lake Estates, one of the oldest private golf and estate communities in the country, located in Lake Wales, Florida. This exhibit will feature stories, photographs, original illustrations, maps, and memorabilia about how the community of Mountain Lake has greatly contributed to the historic preservation, economic development and social causes of the small town of Lake Wales, Florida. Highlights will include displays of more than a century of Mediterranean-style architectural designs, the development of the citrus industry, and building the first hospital. Free to the public.

Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6 PM

Florida Humanities Council Speaker Series

Featuring Cypress Gardens: America's Tropical Wonderland by Lu Vickers

Lu Vickers' talk on Cypress Gardens will feature a slide show of vintage photographs from the Garden's archives that will take the audience on a journey through Cypress Garden's history from the 1930s to 2009 when it was sold to Legoland. When Dick Pope transformed the swampland on the edge of Lake Eloise in Winter Haven into Cypress Gardens, he created an attraction that would become world famous, and in the process, cemented Florida's reputation as the land of sun and fun. He achieved these feats with the unlikely combination of flowers, water skiers and Southern Belles. Vickers will discuss the creation of the world famous waterski show, the Gardens, and the iconic Southern Belles, and will explain how Dick Pope, Cypress Garden's flamboyant owner, became known as the "Man who Invented Florida." Light refreshments included. Free to the public. Please RSVP.

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 from 6 – 8 PM

Exhibit Reception – Mountain Lake: A Look Inside Building a Legacy

See our new exhibit about the history and legacy of Mountain Lake Estates, talk to our curator, enjoy live music, complimentary food, and donation cash bar with fine wines and craft beer. Free to the public. Please RSVP.

January 23, 2019

Museum Book Club – Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson

Dedicated to non-fiction, you'll discover the truth can be much stranger than fiction. Join us every month to discuss new book! Read the book and come ready to discuss the best non-fiction books. Free to the public and all the books are available to check out free of charge at the Museum while supplies last.

January 31, 2019 at 6 PM

History Talks: Mountain Lake Estates

See our new exhibit about the history and legacy of Mountain Lake Estates and hear about the unique history of Mountain Lake Estates. Light refreshments included. Free to the public. Please RSVP.

February 2, 2019 from 10 AM – 12 PM

Town & Country History Bus Tour

Join us for a tour through old Florida history, driving through the heart of downtown Lake Wales and stopping at historic building of the Lake Wales Arts Center. Along the way, participants will learn about the historic district, buildings and lakes of Lake Wales. Enjoy an air-conditioned ride on the new History Bus! \$15/person. Seating limited. Advanced registration & payment required.

February 20 – March 20, 2019

Black History Month Exhibit - Freedom Riders

The museum will host a traveling exhibit by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. This exhibition was created in partnership with WGBH Boston/The American Experience, which developed a major television special of the same name to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this seminal moment in civil rights history. The self-proclaimed “Freedom Riders” challenged the mores of a racially segregated society by performing a disarmingly simple act—traveling together in small interracial groups, and sitting where they pleased on buses and trains. Demanding unrestricted access to terminal restaurants and waiting rooms, they were met with bitter racism, mob violence, and imprisonment along the way. But their courage and sacrifice over eight months in 1961 changed America forever.

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Black History Month Presentation

Featuring *Strange Fruit in Florida* by Dr. Tameka Hobbs

Despite its reputation as the “Sunshine State” and a tourist destination, Florida harbors a lengthy and painful history of racial violence. Dr. Tameka Hobbs examines the history of lynching and racial violence in Florida, outlining the overall arc of the “lynching era” in the United States, normal dated between 1882 and 1930, as these instances of extralegal violence became more sporadic in the 1940s. She also highlights the role of Harry T. Moore’s advocacy against lynching and in favor of civil rights for African Americans in Florida.

Light refreshments included. Free to the public. Please RSVP.

February 27, 2019

Museum Book Club – *Notes of a Native Son* by James Baldwin

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