

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 28, 2018

CONTACT: Jennifer D'hollander
863-676-1759; jdhollander@lakewalesfl.gov

Mountain Lake Historical Exhibit at the Lake Wales Museum

Featuring images and materials from the exclusive Polk County estate community



Private estate home at Mountain Lake Estates. Lake Wales, Florida, 1917.
Photographer unknown. Courtesy of Nancy Hale Hoyt.

LAKE WALES, Florida – Now on display at the Lake Wales Museum is a brand new exhibit, **“Mountain Lake: A Look Inside Building a Legacy.”**

The exhibit will be on display through February 16, 2019, and was curated and designed by museum director, Jennifer D'hollander and museum curator, Bartholomew Delcamp.

Mountain Lake Estates is one of the oldest private golf and estate communities in the country, located in Lake Wales, Florida. This exhibit

features 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.

“This is a story about preservation, perseverance, and philanthropy, as the exhibit personalizes how Frederick Ruth, the founder of Mountain Lake, had a beautiful vision and made it a reality,” states Jennifer D'hollander, director of the museum. “And, today, the people of Mountain Lake continue to support that vision inside and outside the gates of the community. Lake Wales is greatly indebted to the benefactors who regularly support our community’s philanthropic efforts. This exhibit acknowledges those efforts and celebrates the historic preservation of this unique community.”

Bartholomew Delcamp, the museum’s curator, worked with the Mountain Lake Corporation to secure the use of unique artifacts and documents from the community’s archives. Those items are on display in the exhibit, and many have never been seen before. Others who contributed to the display are The Vanguard School, Bok Tower Gardens, and Dr. Andrew Mutch.

The exhibit will be on display now through Saturday, February 16, 2019. The Lake Wales Museum is free and open to the public Tuesday – Saturday from 9 AM – 5 PM.

-more-

Activities at the museum during the exhibit:

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. 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 the 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.

About the Lake Wales Museum

The Lake Wales Museum features historical exhibits, train cars, educational programs and group tours, and is open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is free. Parking is free and the first floor is accessible for persons with disabilities, wheelchairs and strollers. For more information contact the Lake Wales Museum, 325 S Scenic Highway, Lake Wales, Florida 33853; 863-676-1759 or visit www.lakewalesfl.gov.