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The development and submittal of these materials is timely since FDOE is currently considering revisions to the statewide social studies curriculum.

Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway's Antique Appraisal Fair

So, you have inherited a wonderful “what is this thing” from your great aunt Ruth, or perhaps you brought a terrific “thing-a-ma-jig” several years ago at a local garage sale or flea market.

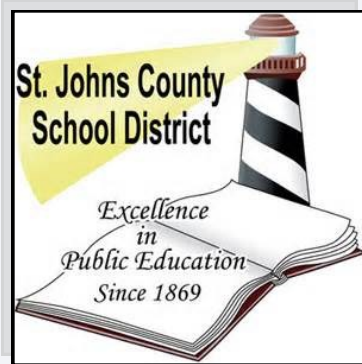
But what is it, is it worth anything, and is it a collectible? A collectible by definition "an item that is collected or desirable because of its age, rarity, condition, utility or some other unique feature, usually an object that represents a previous era in human society."

Wm. Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway - Educating St. Johns County

A key component of the recently completed William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway master plan was to develop history lesson plans for the St. Johns County School district. These lesson plans are designed to help educate students, the local community, newcomers and visitors about the history of the county and the scenic byway, as discussed in the December 2014 issue of the Byway Buzz.

Completed lesson plans along with a DVD containing the local history and travels of William Bartram were presented to School Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner, and the school board on January 27, 2015. Both were enthusiastic about the materials presented. One school board member, an educator himself, related a personal story about the importance of students learning local history, seems he grew up in a historic city and never learned much local history until adulthood.

At the suggestion of the county school district we are sending a copy of the lesson plans to Commissioner Pam Stewart Florida Department of Education and staff for review. We have also asked our local county school teachers for their feedback on the materials developed by WBSHH.



St Johns School District



Antique being appraised

Nearly 100 people and their collectables participated in Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway's first Antique fair held March 31st. Chris Dudley and her appraisal team were available and eager to inspect anything from old guns to porcelain dishes. Dawn Cary, Secretary for the byway called the event a great success.

The smiles on people's faces that day were impressive and it seems a good time was had by all that participated.

So gather all your antiques or what you might think is an antique and bring them to the next Appraisal Fair scheduled for November 14, 2015 at the Lake Panasoffkee Recreation Center.

Friends A1A Scenic & Historical Byway Annual Kids Ocean Day

Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway hosted its annual Kids Ocean Day on May 15th for students from Bunnell Elementary School. Partnering with Marineland Dolphin Adventure and the University of Florida Whitney Laboratories educational program, 170 3rd grade students spent an action packed morning learning about sea turtles and other marine life.

"We were so excited to be able to partner with Marineland and Whitney Laboratory to offer students who may have never had the opportunity to experience these locations a day of fun and education," said Danielle Anderson, President of Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway.

Students were treated to photos with the dolphins at Marineland. They toured Neptune Park and learned about sharks, rays and an aerial photo was presented by Jack Howell of Teens in Flight.



Fun at Marineland

While relaxing under the big tent at Marineland, Hammock Beach Resort was creating lunch for the students, and a local author Marybeth Jeitner read aloud to the students about "Saving Libbie the Lobster".

"Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway is blessed to have strong community support and those who stepped up to help make this day possible showed their commitment to the students of our communities and the Friends of A1A. It is through partnerships like these that we can increase awareness of our environment and the importance of protecting and preserving our natural resources," said Anderson.

District Scenic Highway Coordinators Meet



On April 22/23 the District Coordinators from around the state met in the town of Mt Dora, located on the

Green Mountain Scenic Highway to discuss the future direction of Florida's Scenic Highway Program.

It was a great opportunity for the Coordinators to meet their counterparts from the other FDOT districts.

Several of the coordinators are new to their role so it gave them the opportunity to interact with the programs' veterans. Both the Mayor of Mt Dora and Greg Gensheimer, Green Mountain Scenic Highway Chair were on hand to welcome the participants.

The meeting agenda was full of topics important to the byway community including the Annual Reporting process, enhanced program communication and training needs. The Coordinators got the opportunity to review and discuss the most recent draft of the Scenic Highway Program Handbook and Procedure.

While in Mt Dora many of the coordinators took the opportunity to visit the newly opened Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trail developed as a partnership between the St Johns River Water Management District and the Green Mountain Scenic Highway.

Sand Sculpting and Letter "S"

Visitors and residents headed outdoors to enjoy live music, art, food, classic cars, sand sculpting and much more at the annual Islamorada's Keys Island Fest held March 28-29 at Founders Park, in the village of Islamorada.

The Sand Sculpting Letter Competition was back and the chosen word was "ISLAND".

The Florida Scenic Corridor Alliance team participated in the Sand Sculpting Letter Competition, and they selected "S" to represent the word "SCENIC". They decorated their sand sculpture to look like US 1 including mile markers, lane delineators, pedestrian crossings and their Byway Logo.



Team admiring the finished sculpture

As the alliance team found out the contest is pure, creative fun on pure white sand beach and is a popular event attended by all age groups and skill levels; and some fantastic creations arise as contestants compete for prizes.

Sand Sculpturing continued

Although Team Alliance did not win first place in the competition they were clearly the most passionate about the creativity of their letter, and clearly had the most fun.

Congratulations to Gina Boilini President of the Alliance and her dedicated team for their hard work.



Gina Boilini accepts her Sand Letter Certificate for a job well done.

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and World War II An Author's Experience

Commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II with the presentation *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and World War II: An Author's Experience* at the Matheson History Museum on Thursday, July 16, 2015 from 6-8 pm.



Attendees will learn what Rawlings' role was in the fight for democracy and democratization of literature with a presentation by Valerie Rivers, Park Manager for the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. As the Pulitzer-Prize winning author of *The Yearling*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings was

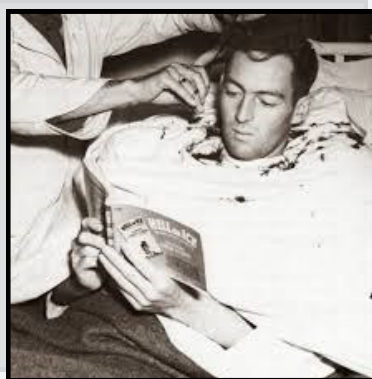
not isolated from the war in her Cross Creek home, outside of Gainesville. She patrolled the beaches in Crescent Beach for U-boats. When her husband was hospitalized overseas, she used her connections to have him flown to the United States to receive the best medical care.

Rawlings also contributed *The Yearling*, *South Moon Under*, and *Cross Creek* to the Armed Services Editions (ASE), a program that distributed more than 123 million copies of over 1,300 books to troops who fought against the book-burning regimes of Japan and Germany. Many people thought that the battle-hardened troops would not be interested in sophisticated literature. However, the Council on Books disagreed, and published the great literature traditionally reserved for hardback books as pocket-sized,

lightweight Armed Services Editions. The books were a huge success. As many troops fought for democracy, the Council on Books pioneered cheap publishing practices to fight for the democratization of literature. Before World War II books were an expensive luxury; two out of three counties in America had no bookstore. As the troops returned from the war, a shelf full of books became an emblem of America's middle class.

The ASE program was one of the largest wide-scale distributions of books in history. In an era without portable music, iPhones or television, books were essential to maintaining troop morale. Letters praising Rawlings, poured into her Cross Creek home from around the world. One soldier wrote, "You are writing about the simple things that we in the army are fighting for." Rawlings both inspired and was inspired by the troops. A few servicemen admitted that her description of Cracker cooking made them hungry. This was her inspiration for writing *Cross Creek Cookery*.

Several of Rawlings' ASE books will be on display at this event. Tickets are \$5 per person, and can be purchased at the door. Save the Date **Thursday July 16, 2015**. For more information: [352-378-2280](tel:352-378-2280) or email info@mathesonmuseum.org.



Armed Services Edition 3



Rawlings Signing Books At Jax

News from around the Byways

From Scenic Overlook

Expert says gateways, and community character are key drivers of tourism. An article in *Virginia Town & City Magazine* says that communities looking to attract responsible, sustainable tourism should focus on their character and authenticity, and that the appearance of the gateways leading into those communities is just as important.

News from around the Byways Continued

Edward T. McMahon, senior resident fellow at the Urban Land Institute and former president of Scenic America, said: "First impressions matter. Some communities pay attention to their gateways others do not. The more a community does to enhance its uniqueness, the more people will want to visit."

McMahon says to attract and retain tourists, local officials need to become much more aware of the overall character of their community. "Many communities have gotten used to ugliness, accepting it as inevitable to progress," he said. "But the more a community does to enhance its uniqueness, the more people will want to visit." [For more information.](#)

Florida Scenic Highway Facebook

Photo Essay: Florida Keys Overseas Highway — By Tony "Capecchi"

"Island-hopping to land's end, this one-of-a-kind highway offers the promise of radiant seascapes, exotic underwater worlds, and animals found nowhere else in America."

Such praise for Florida's famed Overseas Highways—in Reader's Digest coffee table book *The Most Scenic Drives in America*, no less—inspired me to rent a car in Miami and drive to the Florida Keys this May. I am grateful I did.

The drive from North Key Largo to Key West, the southernmost tip of the continental U.S., spans 42 bridges, hundreds of hotels and restaurants, and countless options for ocean-fun under the sun. [Read More..](#)

ByWay TidBits

- **Good Luck**—Lori Marable in her new position, and Garry Balogh who is retiring the end of June.
- **Old Florida Heritage Highway**—will participate in a special event on Saturday July 18 at the Matheson Museum (513 E University Avenue, Gainesville). "Mad About Science Family Fun Day" is FREE from 1 - 4 p.m. [More Information](#) or [Facebook](#)
- Check out this new video [Welcome to the River](#) about Bartram travels.
- Read More about [Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings](#).

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