



The Historian

The Newsletter of the Boynton Beach Historical Society



Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf and all areas of West Boynton, in addition to supporting the preservation of the history of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida as a whole.

2019 VOLUME 3

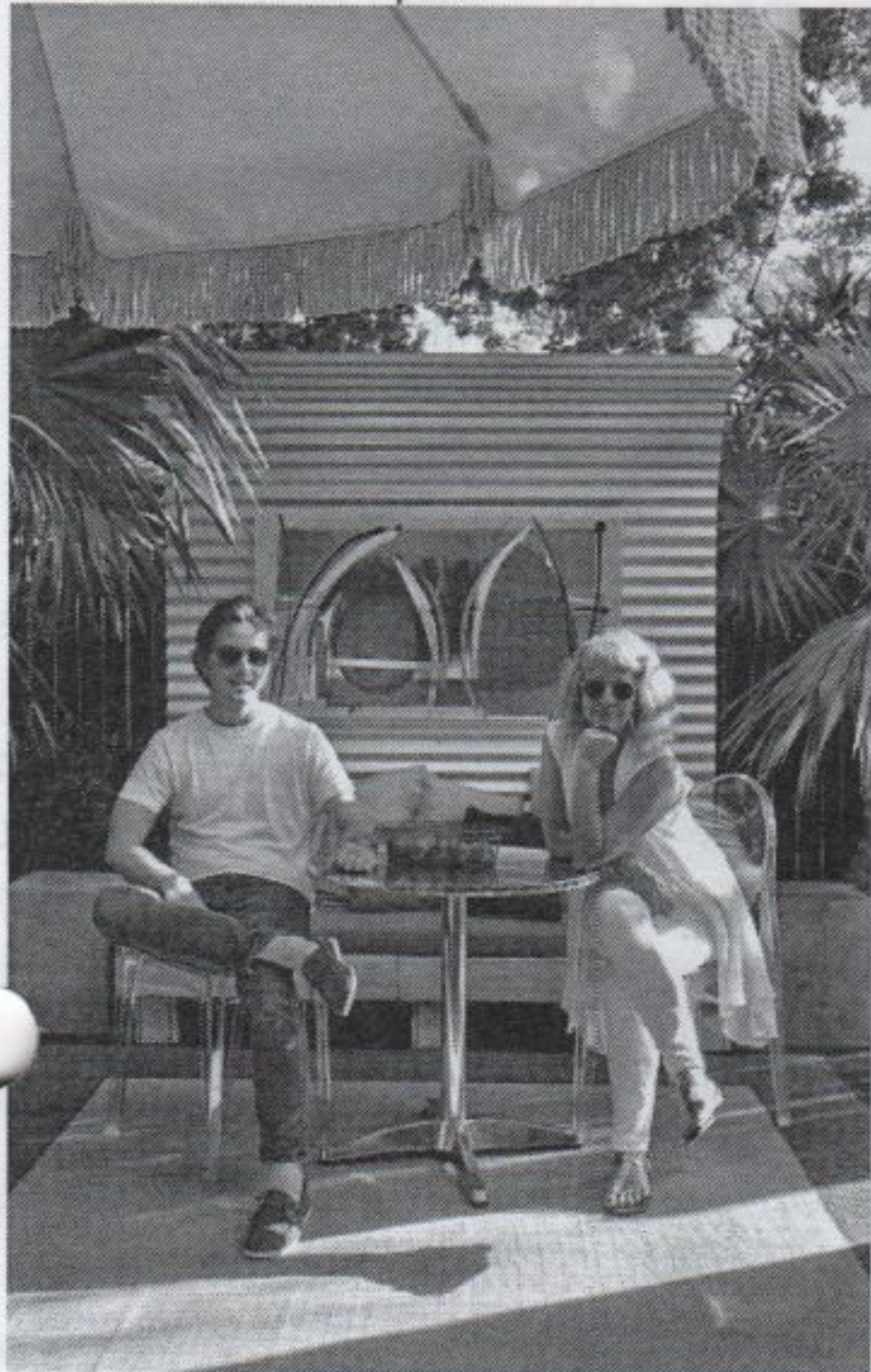
MARCH 2019

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY to hear The ART of SPACE: Creating Sophisticated Coastal Gardens with Mature Native Species by Debra Yates and Benjamin Burle

This was the program we had scheduled for January, but because of a technical equipment failure which prevented the showing of slides, the speakers could not present.

Debra Yates creates highly curated, carefully detailed spaces for special clients. She considers her 3-dimensional work to be The Art of Space. She and her son Benjamin Burle are internationally known for their subtle spaces that blur the line between outdoor and indoor living. Their vision is for space to feel warm, like it belongs and is in perfect harmony with the surroundings. Whether they be boutique hotels, coastal estate gardens, sculptural pools, or indigenous custom selected plantings, the art is in the design. Burle Yates design is award winning and often published with projects featured in the New York Times, Garden Design, House Beautiful, Florida Design and other garden design books.

About the Speakers: Debra Yates, a 4th generation Conch born and raised in Key West, received her BA from Florida State University. Her first Art in Public Places project was a 100' x 8' abstract mural for Miami International Airport. Yates has completed over 13 Art in Public Places projects, created 25 large-scale mosaic tile garden/pool walls and has had 23 solo exhibitions of her abstract paintings. Her completed design projects have been widely published. Benjamin Burle born and raised in South Miami, has a BA in Interior Design from Miami International University of Art and Design and attended the Master's Program in Landscape Architecture at FIU. Also an award winning designer, Burle has tremendous knowledge of the indigenous coastal landscapes of Florida and a passion for creating naturalistic landscapes.



March Program Meeting

WHAT: "THE ART OF SPACE,"
Presented by Debra Yates
and Benjamin Burle

WHEN: Monday, March 18,
6:30 meet and greet
7:00 Program

WHERE: 1st Presbyterian
Church, 235 SW 6th Ave

**All programs are Free and Open
to the Public**

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2018-19

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Our website is www.boyntonhistory.org. The e-mail address is boyntonhistory@gmail.com

Please mail inquiries or information to our local address

P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach



HistoricBoyntonBeach

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@BoyntonHistory

The Historian is usually mailed eight times a year—September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May—to all members. No copies are produced in December, June, July and August. Copies from past years are posted on the website.

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CORPORATE MEMBERS - 2019

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2019 DUES

The membership year for the Boynton Beach Historical Society is from January 1 to December 31 of each year. The

mailing label on your copy of *The Historian* should remind you of what your membership status is and those who have joined to date should be listed in the newsletters for January, February or March of this year. The names of those members for 2019 who were not printed in January or February are listed below.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Candy and Doug Brueggemann

PATRON MEMBERSHIP:

Ron and Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:

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Robert and Linda Susan Hayes
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Library Archivist
Jeff Morgan
Lillian Ostiguy
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Linda Louise Stabile
Dan Winters

We are delighted to welcome from the three months listings new members Jane Burke, Joan Epton, Nancy Fillion, Pat Garland, Steven Grant, John Jackson, Neil Omenn, Sandra Palchanis, Vito and Helen Rinaldo, and Candy and Doug Brueggemann. We are also pleased that the Brueggemanns and the Beseckers (Easy Pay Tire Store) have elected to become Life Members.

And a special thanks to everyone who has elected to join us in membership for 2019. Thank all of you for supporting The Boynton Beach Historical Society !

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY

We hope the following will provide a better understanding of why most of us are dedicated to seeing that Boynton Beach has a historic society. The primary purpose of the Boynton Beach Historical Society has been, of course, to preserve items, activities, and information of historic significance in the development of the City of Boynton Beach.

But what have we done? In the furtherance of this purpose we have contributed to the preservation of such structures as the 1913 Schoolhouse and we made an all out effort after the City was deeded it by the School Board in the 1990s to see that it was developed into a Children's Museum. At the same time we were attempting to help find a use for the 1927 historic High School building which had also been deeded to the City at about the same time. Some of our members had been actively involved in persuading the School Board to turn over these properties to the City when they became obsolete for public school use. We have helped provide financial support for the Boynton Woman's Club and have encouraged surveys of existing older properties within the City. We have compiled records, photographs, letters, memorabilia and other papers belonging to long time residents and community leaders. We have pushed long and hard to convince the City to create an Historic Preservation Board with a paid director to help identify, restore and preserve historic structures and sites. We have erected or encouraged the erection of public markers to identify points of significance, and we have undertaken restoration of art works and films of historic importance. Sometimes we have had much frustration and required many people to be involved for several decades to achieve some of our goals.

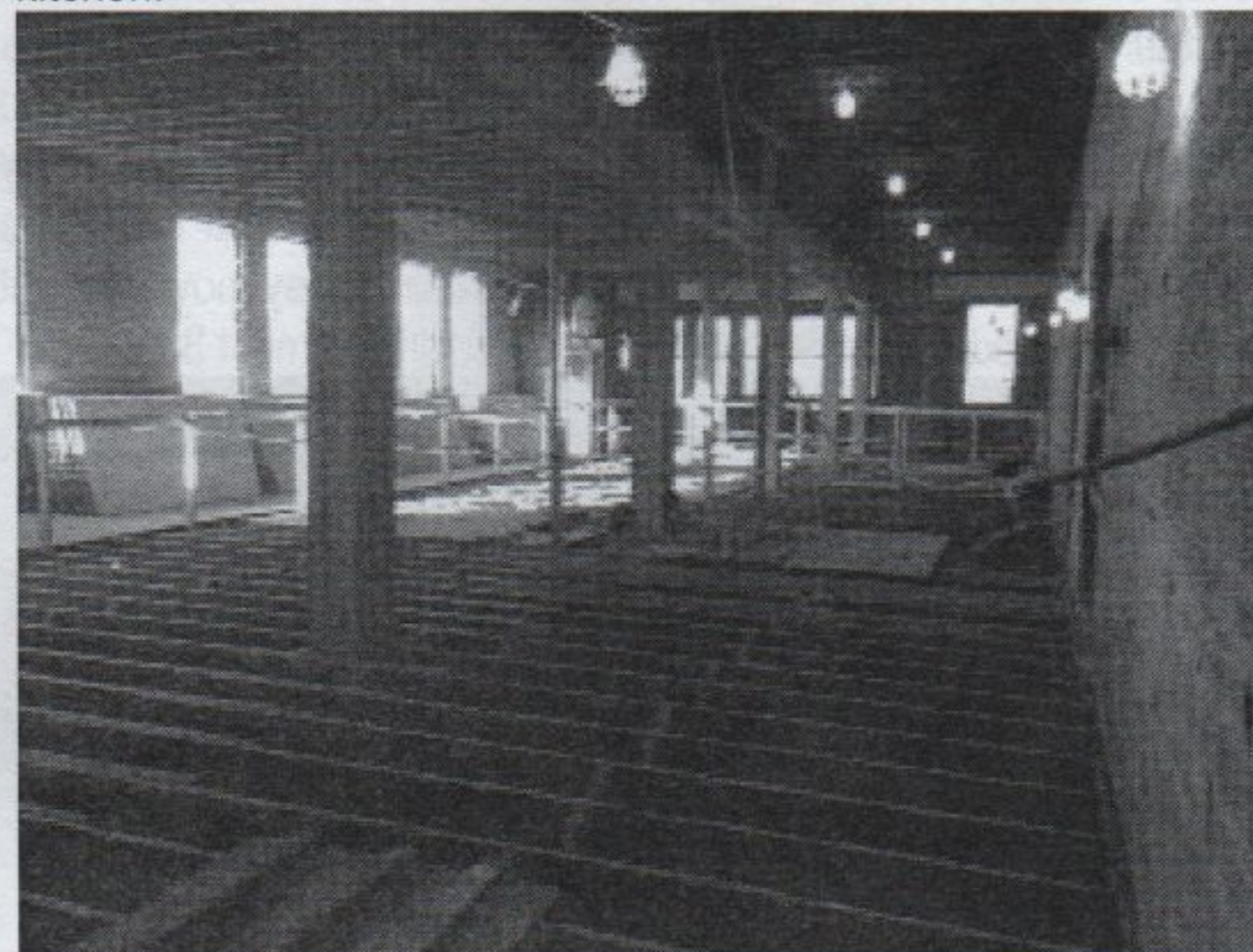
One of our long-time objectives had been to see the 1927 High School saved and repurposed to serve the community. That wish is gradually coming to fruition and we have previously printed several photos showing progress on the rehabilitation of this building. The completion of the remodeling is now scheduled to occur sometime this summer. One of our members, Barbara Ready, recently toured the interior and took the following photographs.



This is the sand that was beneath what had been a wooden floor near a door. The flooring, the roof, the electrical system and much of the interior of the building was severely damaged by years of neglect by the City. Much work on restoring the interior is still in progress.



Area beneath the gymnasium. The area originally provided locker, dressing and storage facilities for the physical education and sports programs and also provided space for the cafeteria and kitchen.



Formerly 1st floor hall and classrooms.



The new ceiling in the second floor gymnasium showing the new wooden planks. The stage is in the lower right corner of the photo. The room and none of the building was originally air-conditioned. The silver pipes on either side running the length of the ceiling serve the new air-conditioning outlets.

100 YEARS A BUSINESS BUILDING

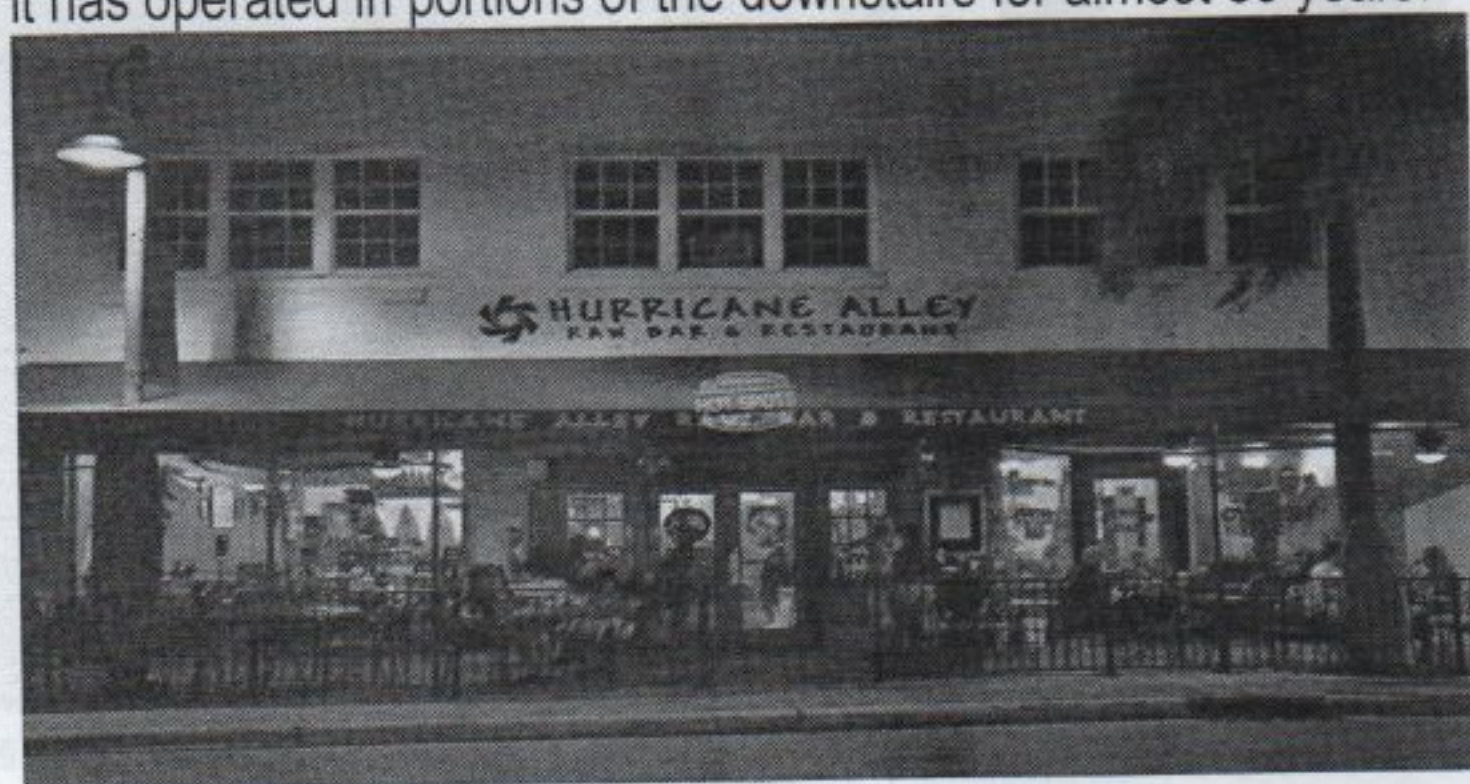
The Oyer building which houses Hurricane Alley Restaurant and some other business offices is 100 years old in 2019. In the late 1920s it was owned by the Boynton Methodist-Episcopal Church, South as property adjacent to the site of what was to be the Cassandra Hotel. The builders of the hotel bought the property from the Methodist Church which had some years before built a church on the site. The hotel builders razed the Church building and began the hotel. The hotel framework is visible on the corner of what is now East Ocean Avenue and Federal Highway.



The 1928 Hurricane demolished the framework and the Hotel builders defaulted on their mortgage to the Church but by court order managed to salvage and sell the metal framework much to the annoyance of the Church. The brick building in the center of the photograph managed to ride out the storm and survive many others since then.

After selling the corner lot to the Cassandra's builders the Methodist Church had acquired the lots where the current United Methodist Church stands on Seacrest Boulevard and SW 1st Avenue and erected what was to be a temporary tabernacle. The 1928 storm destroyed the tabernacle too and for several years the church used the 1919 building for some of its Sunday School classes and business offices. Later the church sold it to Harvey E. Oyer, Sr. and Ray Wilcox. Eventually, Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. bought it from his father and Wilcox. Today it is owned by Harvey, Jr.'s three children, Harvey E. Oyer, III, Susan Oyer, and Christian Oyer Macoviak.

Over the years the building has housed a number of businesses. Before he built his clinic, Dr. Nat M. Weems had his medical offices on the second floor. At one time there was a beauty shop on the second floor. Various stores and boutiques and other restaurants have been located on the first floor. From the 1930s to the 1950s, Melton and Mary Partin had a soda fountain and sundry store in a part of it. Later this was replaced by breakfast/lunch restaurant Lou & Marty's. After Lou & Marty's closed, several years elapsed before Hurricane Alley moved in, but it has operated in portions of the downstairs for almost 30 years.



In 2019 Hurricane Alley Restaurant occupies all of the first floor of the building. Office space is available on the second floor. Outdoor tables are available on the sidewalk in front for the restaurant patrons.

At one time, the back portion of the second floor was converted into several small live-in apartments with full kitchens and baths. Other modifications have occurred. The semi-circle top windows of the earlier store front are long gone, but vestiges of them can still be found in portions of the framework. Of course, air-conditioners have become essential and additional toilet facilities have been required. Some of the original wooden floors are still visible on the first floor and are prevalent on the second floor. And Hurricane Alley has extended an awning with drop down rain panels over most of the sidewalk the whole width of the building in the front.

FUNDRAISER TO HELP 1913 SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

SCHOOLHOUSE BASH

Too Cool For
SCHOOL

Save the Date

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019
5:30PM - 9:30PM

Benvenuto

1730 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach

CHAIRS

Paula Melley and Allan Hendricks

Join us for an evening of
great music, food, libations,
dancing, silent auction and lots
of surprises!

BENEFITTING THE

Schoolhouse Children's
MUSEUM & LEARNING CENTER



Join some of the members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society to help support Boynton's oldest public building. Sponsorships are available. Tickets at 561-742-6780 or at schoolhousemuseum.org.

SOME FLORIDA TERRESTRIAL PREDATORS

In population Florida has become the third largest state now behind only Texas and California. This influx has had a negative impact on some of our native animals as demand for housing, increased farming and water supplies has forced loss or shrinkage of habitat for many species. High speed automobiles are also a hazard. This article will take a brief look at some of these animals. Two which we will consider have been affected negatively—the Florida panther and the Florida black bear. Four others we discuss have proved adaptable and are apparently in no danger of extinction. Two are native to Florida—the Florida gray fox and the Florida bobcat, and two adapted species are the red fox and the coyote.

The Florida Panther



The Florida Panther Wildlife Refuge estimates that the panther population was down to an estimated 30 in the mid 1980s. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recommended bringing in some cats from other cougar subspecies to revitalize the gene pool. Florida panthers were suffering seriously from inbreeding. The Florida panther is a North American cougar subspecies and when the range was wide in earlier times it naturally strengthened its gene pool by occasionally mating with wide ranging members from other subspecies. These animals are sometimes called mountain lions, cougars or pumas. They are carnivores whose diet consists of large and small animals. Smaller prey are hares, mice, racoons and waterfowl and larger prey are wood storks, deer, wild boar and even at times, alligators.

They are also opportunistic hunters and may prey on livestock and domesticated animals including cattle, goats, horses, pigs, sheep and dogs and cats. In South Florida it lives in pinelands, hardwood hammocks, and mixed swamp forests. The male may weigh up to 160 lbs. They usually live within a range that includes Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

The Florida Black Bear



The Florida black bear faced a serious decline and was down to a few hundred bears in the 1950s to the 1970s. Then better wildlife management and a decrease in wildfires helped turn the situation around. There are a number of bear populations within the state and the larger populations are noticeably increasing. The population in Ocala National Forest is the largest. The total population in the state is estimated at several thousand. The bear is part of the subspecies *Ursus americanus floridanus*. It differs from other subspecies in that it has a highly arched forehead and a long narrow braincase. Its range has been throughout Florida and southern parts of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. It is typically large bodied with shiny black fur and a short tail. It is Florida's

largest terrestrial mammal with the average male weighing around 300 lbs. It has lived primarily in forested areas.

The Florida Bobcat



The Florida bobcat is much smaller and far more common than the Florida panther. It is not unusual to see one in one's yard or other less secluded place. They eat only meat—rabbits, rats, mice, racoons, hogs and moles. They consume about 40 different animal species including ground dwelling birds and occasionally feral cats or domestic chickens. Their fur ranges in color from reddish brown to grey, but they have spots of white fur on all parts of their fur. Their name is derived from their short, bobbed tails. They are well adapted to urban development but prefer to make their homes in forest, swamps and hammocks. At present they are in no danger of extinction.

The Foxes

The Gray Fox: The gray fox is found throughout Florida though it occurs much more frequently in northern Florida usually in wooded areas where it prefers more dense, inaccessible cover. This animal is found throughout the United States, but the ones in Florida are considered native. Like all foxes they are members of the dog family. They have an omnivorous diet so in addition to eating meat, they eat invertebrates such as grasshoppers, beetles, butterflies, moths along with birds, eggs, fruits, nuts and grains. Their main predators are coyotes, bobcats, the golden eagle and the great horned owl. And they can climb trees, a trait shared with only one other member of the dog family—the Asian racoon dog.

The Red Fox: Red foxes are usually a mahogany red and commonly have a white-tipped tail. The gray fox has a wide red-orange stripe along both flanks and on the sides of the neck, and a black-tipped tail. Because of this red coloration, it is often confused with the red fox. Both foxes are similar in size and weigh 7-11 lbs. The red fox is essentially a nocturnal animal and is believed to be non-native to Florida



Gray Fox



Red Fox

The Coyote



They are not native to Florida, but the coyote has been tracked in all 67 Florida counties. They belong to the same family as dogs, wolves and foxes. Coloration can range from reds to grays and browns. Black and albino coyotes do occur but are rare. The coyote population appears to be growing and efforts to control it with poisons, guns and traps have met little success. They seem to adapt to urban and suburban life. Attacks on humans are very rare, although they do eat cats and small dogs and might attack a small child if very hungry.

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member's
Name _____

2nd Member's Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

The Society is a 501(c)(3) organization so dues are tax deductible.

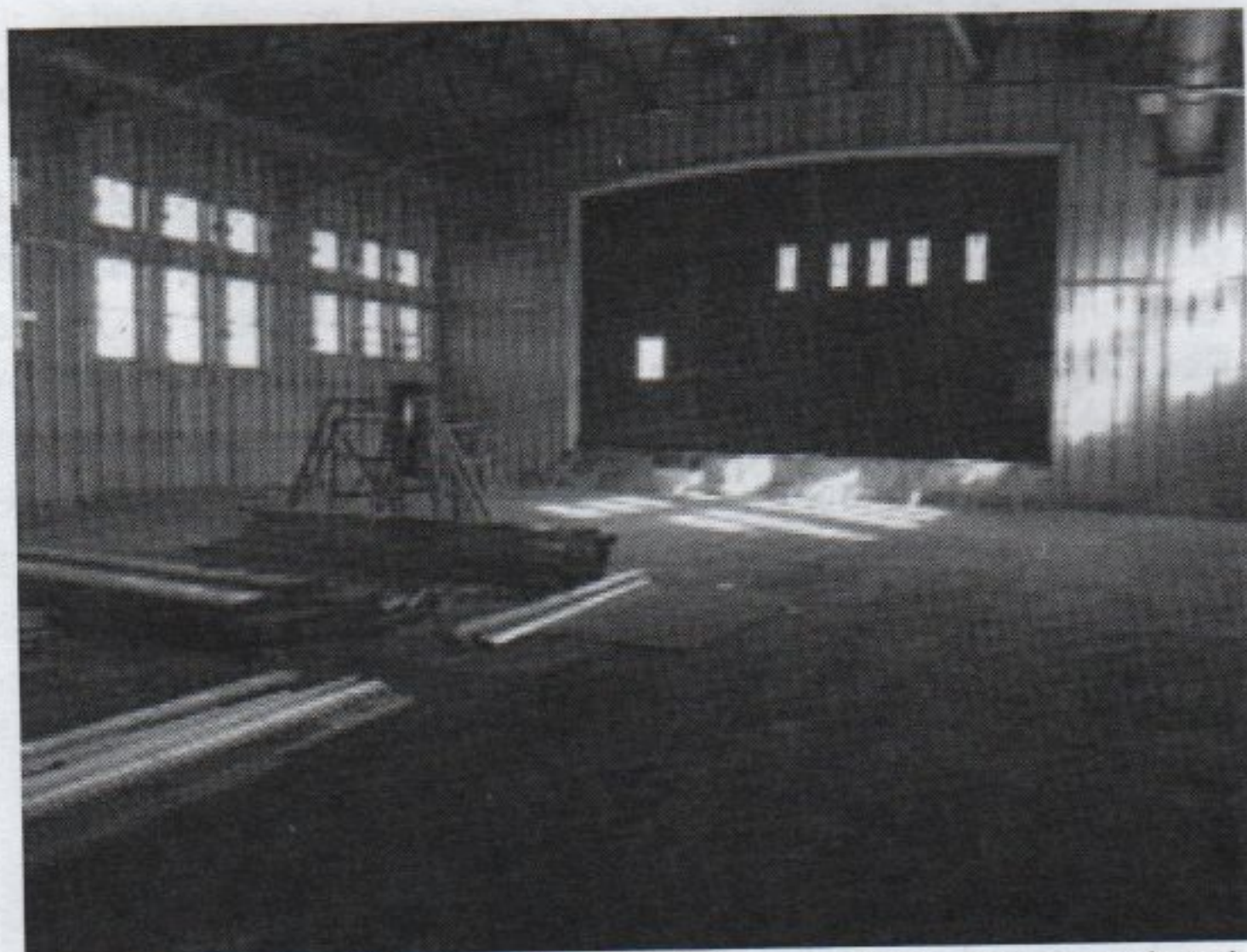
Type of Membership:	INDIVIDUAL	(\$25.00) _____
(Check one)	FAMILY	(\$35.00) _____
	PATRON	(\$50.00) _____
	CORPORATE	(\$100.00) _____
	STUDENT	(\$10.00) _____
	LIFE	(\$500.00) One time Payment only

Membership year is January 1 to December 31. Dues are not pro-rated. Membership Expiration Date on Mailing Label.

Complete this form and mail with payment to
Boynton Beach Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012

WEST PALM BCH FL 334

Boynton Beach Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012



1927 High School Restoration, the Stage and the Gymnatorium in March 2019. The entire floor and the support joists have to be replaced. Ceiling and roof are finished.



The south end of the old Gymnatorium opposite the stage. This room will probably be used primarily as an auditorium.