



THE CORTEZIAN



Volume 40, Issue 2

April 2024

Message from the CVHS Board President Cindy Rodgers

Welcome to the March issue of the Cortezian! In this issue, you'll find:

- Updates on our activities (President's message)
- A Cortez restaurant review by a happy visitor
- A giving opportunity that will double your contribution (Giving Challenge)
- A fun, free event April 20th – We hope you'll plan to join us!
- Membership and volunteer forms
- My editorial on clean (or not so clean) water
- And more! Please read on:

February and March have been incredibly busy months for CVHS. Although the number of visitors to the Cultural Center has declined, primarily due to temporary closure of the Florida Maritime Museum while it undergoes building rehabilitation, CVHS volunteers have nevertheless been very active. Here's a quick summary of what we have been up to:

Relaxing at the Miller Dock in Cortez, just got more comfortable thanks to donations for a sturdy, comfortable bench, made by family and friends of John L. McDonald Jr. The bench, dedicated to John, who passed away in January 2023, looks out onto the "Kitchen." John was a "True Son of Cortez," having grown up here. He was also a founding member of the Maritime Museum and the Cortez Cultural Center. The bench was installed in a ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 7th.



The John McDonald memorial bench sits at the end of the Miller dock, inviting people to relax and enjoy the view

Although the second day of the Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival was cancelled due to a driving rain, (the first time in 42 years), festival goers, CVHS volunteers and Manatee School for the Arts Key Club student volunteers had lots of fun at the one-day festival, Saturday, February 17th. For the second year, Detwiler's Market generously donated strawberries, which were then prepared by Cortez Park volunteers, and sold by MSA Key club student volunteers! During the festival, FISH delivered awards to Kaye Bell (Pioneer Award), Bob Hooper (FISH volunteer service award) and Linda Molto (John Stevely memorial award; this was the first time this award has been given and will now be an annual award). All three awardees are also CVHS volunteers. Our raffle prize went to Kathy Baker of Cortez and Raleigh, NC.



Volunteers were ready for the crowds!



Cortez Park volunteers prepare 30 flats of Detwiler's strawberries

If you have news of Cortez natives or things to share about Cortez history, send it to us and we will try to include it in the next issue.

Cortez Cultural Center

11655 Cortez Road
Hours: Friday & Saturday
10 am - 4 pm
Admission and parking are free

Tours or Groups by Appointment
Ph 941-840-0590
Email for details: cvhs2016@aol.com

Be sure to check out our web page
www.cortezvillagehistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: Cortez Village Cultural Center
CVHS MONTHLY MEETINGS
Cortez Cultural Center
Second Tuesday of each month @ 4 pm.
Call ahead to confirm.

Subscribe to the CVHS News blog at:
<https://cortezvillage.wordpress.com>

Did you miss out on your chance to buy one of the much sought after Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival tee-shirts because both the second day of the Festival and the Nautical Flea Market were cancelled? Worry not! FISH volunteers will be selling the shirts on Saturday, April 20, 10:00 a.m. – Noon, at the Cortez Cultural Center, 11655 Cortez Road West.

2024 CVHS BOARD MEMBERS:

Dave Beccue
JB Crawford, Emeritus
Paul Dryfoos, Vice President
Valeri DeCastris
Lynn McGinnis
Linda Molto, Emeritus
Pat Potts, Treasurer
Cindy Rodgers, President

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cortez Village Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and disseminate the history and heritage of the Village of Cortez and the Cortez peninsula on which it is located. We also collect memorabilia reflecting the history of the commercial fishing industry and fishing as a way of life.

Cortez Village Historical Society
PO BOX 663
Cortez, FL 34215

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Manatee School for the Arts Key Club volunteers cheerfully prepare and sell shortcakes.



Kathy Baker of Holiday Cove and Raleigh, NC was the happy raffle winner of the framed fabric art

In early March, Steve Huber stopped by the Center and offered a few hours of help! Steve quickly got to work, mowing the yard, picking up trash, and painting the yellow bridge. Steve rewarded us with a beautiful drawing of what our front yard could look like. His drawing inspired us to write a grant proposal (thank you susynne mcelrone) for the purchase of native plants and other materials to (hopefully) bring Steve's vision into a reality. We're always saying whether you have 1 hour or 100, we're happy to have your help! Thank you, Steve!



Bob Hooper with his much-deserved award



Steve brightens the way!

CVHS was in good company of 14 other community-based non-profit organizations when we were awarded a grant January 25th, from the AMI Chamber of Commerce “Trolley Giving Back” fund. Our proposal (written by volunteer susynne mcelrone) was to rehab and enhance our 10-foot traditional fishing diorama. We made one phone call and quickly local artists Judy Vazquez and LuAnn Widergren were at the Center to work on this project. An unveiling of their beautiful work will be held at the Cultural Center on Saturday, April 20, 10 – Noon (see accompanying story).



CVHS volunteers attend the 1/25 grant awards ceremony

“Got Mullet? Manatee County’s Marine Heritage” was the title of a presentation given at the Center on February 15th to a standing room only crowd. Angela Collins is the Florida Sea Grant Advisor and FISH Board member.



Angela Collins delivers a fascinating presentation at the Center

Cindy Rodgers

In Memoriam: Tribute

Kaye Bell, 82, longtime resident of Cortez, died the evening of February 22. Kaye was a pillar in the village community, known for selfless service and dedication. She served as president and board member of the Cortez Village Historical Society, where she played a crucial role in shaping the future and preserving the past. Days before her death, Kaye was recognized by the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage (FISH) with the Pioneer Award, Feb. 17th at the Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival. Kaye was predeceased by her husband, Sam Bell, and is survived by sons Kevin and Nathan, both of New Port Richey, and brother Russell Glidden of Chicago.



Artists at work!

Mary Fulford Green is honored in Cortez Cultural Center Dedication

The Cortez Cultural Center was dedicated in honor of Dr. Mary Fulford Green (July 1, 1925 – June 9, 2022) in recognition of her lifetime commitment and visionary work to preserve and communicate the cultural history of Cortez. The dedication ceremony was held Saturday, March 16th, the same date that the Cortez Historic District was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 and the birthdate of Capt. Billy Fulford, Mary's grandfather, in 1867.



Plaque

The dedication ceremony included speeches by the Honorable Carol Whitmore, the Honorable Jane von Hahmann, and Allen Garner. Mary's daughter Carol Kio-Green and CVHS President Cindy Rodgers unveiled the dedication plaque now affixed to the front of the Cultural Center.



Cindy Rodgers and Carol Kio-Green

Jane von Hahmann, Allen Garner and Carol Whitmore

Unable to travel to the event, Dr. Karla Maddox prepared the following remarks:

It is only through Mary Green's dedication and perseverance that Cortez has been able to persist with so many of its original structures intact and such vast knowledge of our heritage and links with one another documented. During the years when I was thinking through and working on my dissertation, I spoke to Mary on the phone regularly, and she would always tell me stories of my old house, The first Captain Billy Fulford House, and all our relatives who were born there; stories of Sally Adams and of my grandmother, Sue Turner Maddox, and she shared my excitement about my project. She would also leave me resources and make me gifts; for instance, she knitted my newborn son a light green blanket in 2020.

After she passed away, I was able to access her personal archives, and this aided me greatly in tracing the communicative practices of multiple Cortezian Organizations, namely the Cortez Village Historic Society, The Florida Institute of Saltwater Heritage, and the Florida Maritime Museum throughout my dissertation, Organizations Ensuring Resilience: A Case Study of Cortez, Florida.

What I was able to see was a commonality in the communicative practices of all these organizations, and the assertive involvement of strong-willed women who have used creative and multifaceted approaches to ensure our survival. These were the questions I set out to answer:

1. What female-founded organizations and feminist rhetoric therein contributes to resilience in communities?
2. What ideologies, perceptions, and/or goals inspired the creation of sustaining organizations in Cortez such as F.I.S.H. and how do these beliefs influence organizational rhetoric and public communication?
3. What knowledge, heuristic, or advice might Cortez hold as a case study for other threatened community-ecosystem-cultures (CECs), especially within Florida?

The common practices present through a variety of the activists with whom I spoke, as well as the communication practices that came through Mary's newsletters and communications at large, both inward and outward facing. In every version of every document that Mary created I saw evidence of her assertion of Cortez's intrinsic value - value of the people, the work, the culture, and heritage that makes Cortez unique and special.

Intrinsic value is one of the three pillars of the resilience heuristic I was able to create by studying Cortez's women, activists, and communication practices. The other two are preservation and attuning to space and place. Each of these pillars permeates the communications of the organizations being analyzed: FISH, CVHS, and FMM.

This analysis reveals an approach that could serve other threatened community-ecosystem-cultures (CECs) as an approach to securing their resilience. It is only recently that ecological resilience scholarship (2015) has come to recognize the insight provided by a variety of stakeholders, and I believe that Cortez, our organizations, and our female activists, especially Mary, can continue to be of value. There is not a worthier recipient for this dedication than Mary Fulford Green.

Are you concerned about clean water?

Water is called the “building block of life,” and Cortezians know that clean water = a healthy estuary = sustainable commercial fishing = Cortez.

Ironically, on Thursday, March 22, “World Water Day,” approximately 6,000 gallons of untreated industrial wastewater spilled during a power failure at the Piney Point site (the former phosphate fertilizer processing plant in Palmetto), according to a notice filed by Manatee County with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. While the county wrote that “the discharged water soaked into the ground and didn’t leave the plant’s site,” that can’t be good, right?

Due to a tripped breaker on Thursday morning, there was a loss of communication and control at the plant. When the plant lost power, the offsite transfer pump, which sends the industrial wastewater from the Piney Point facility to the pretreatment plant, continued to pump, causing an overflow from the tanks. Staff are working to determine why the backup power source and fail-safe controls didn’t kick in. (Source: Bradenton Patch, 3/23/2024)

You may recall that this is the same site that experienced a significant wastewater reservoir breach of more than 200 million gallons of contaminated water which was released directly into Tampa Bay in 2021.

Also, just in time for Spring Break, on February 28, the Bradenton Water Reclamation Facility at 1810 1st Street W. spilled 1.2 million gallons of sewage into the Manatee River on Feb. 28. The facility experienced an “operational failure.” “The filter system had a blockage of the media causing 1.2 million gallons of partially treated wastewater to be bypassed into the Manatee River,” the city wrote.

The Suncoast Waterkeeper, a Sarasota-based environmental conservation organization issued a “no swim warning” for the area of the spill. (Source: Bradenton Patch, March 5, 2024)

WAIT A MINUTE! What’s going to happen when Lake Flores, Peninsula Bay and Hunter’s Point are all completed? These 3 developments are adding 8500 new homes, 3 million square feet of retail and office space and 500 hotel rooms? It seems like the “wild

west development,” is running roughshod over the current residents and we will experience even greater threats to our waters. Below is a list of local organizations that are working for clean water. CVHS is working with many of these groups to ensure that the public is aware of the importance of estuarine health. If you have specific thoughts about possible CVHS actions, please let us hear from you!

Captains for Clean Water: grassroots 501©3 nonprofit organization that fights to restore and protect our water resources. <https://www.captainsforcleanwater.org>

FISH: dedicated to the promotion, education and preservation of Cortez and Florida’s commercial fishing and other traditional maritime cultures including the environment upon which these communities depend. <https://fishcortez.org>

Islanders 4 Clean Water: an AMI campaign to bring attention to issues that contribute to the quality of our waters. <https://www.islanders4cleanwater.com>

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program: dedicated to restoring our area’s greatest and most important natural asset – Sarasota Bay. We strive to improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and enhance the natural resources of the area for use and enjoyment by the public. [https:// www.Sarasotabay.org](https://www.Sarasotabay.org)

Suncoast Waterkeeper: protect and restore the waters on Florida Suncoast for the benefit of all through community and stakeholder engagement, environmental monitoring, advocacy, and responsible legal action. <https://www.suncoastwaterkeeper.org>

Cortez Eats!

We've been visiting Cortez, on and off, for thirty years. A month in Cortez? Even without seeing our beloved daughters, son in law, and dog, it's the best part of the year.

By now, we have our routines. First night? We check out the inimitable Cortez fish chowder and hush puppies at Star Fish. I say inimitable, because I've had a knock-off chowder at a pricy AMI restaurant that I won't name, and Star's is infinitely better, more generous, and less expensive. A cup of chowder? It may not seem like much, but it's a pile of fresh off the boat assorted seafood, spiced just right, and covered with a wee bit of rich seafood broth. Hey, would you please dip that ladle way down to the bottom of that huge boat, and give me more spice please?

If it doesn't have outdoor seating and a view of boats and the bay, I won't eat there. But in addition to Star, such other wonderful choices too.

Swordfish Grill, on the upper end of my modest budget, but those crab cakes are to die for. And real, old fashioned, baked peanut butter pie. So, so good.

Hey, how about those grouper bites at Tide Tables? But better yet, maybe you'll be lucky and go

there on a day when grouper cheeks are served. Meatier, even more groupery than the bites. And where else can you get them?

If you dare cross Cortez Road, there's the inimitable Annie's Bait and Tackle. Huge fried grouper sandos, hot-hot-hot fries to go with it.

Shhh. I'll admit to regular visits to Breezy's Bakery (You'll have to ask my wife about her Tyler's Ice Cream addiction.) Breezy's muffins—strawberry almond, blueberry, and cranberry/orange—may be the best ever. Oatmeal cookies, yes please. And don't forget those key lime tartlets.

I'm ready for next year, and hopefully we'll all have a rain-free, cool Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival so that I can make a few stops for strawberry shortcake at the Cortez Historical Society Booth.

Dan Friedman

Dear Friend of Cortez Village Historical Society:

Thank you for your past support of the CVHS. We need your help! The 2024 Giving Challenge is just around the corner! As you know, the Cortez Village Historical Society (CVHS) preserves the past and protects the future of this unique fishing village. CVHS is an all-volunteer, community based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We have no "regular" stream of income and we need your support to "keep the lights on" and continue to provide free programs for all. Last year we:

- Greeted 1217 visitors at the Cultural Center,
- welcomed 75 new members,
- logged 4,076 hours of volunteer service,
- hosted numerous clubs and school groups,
- participated in the annual Commercial Fishing Festival, Suncoast Remake Learning Days, annual Arts and Crafts Fair, hosted Christmas in Cortez, the Community Picnic
- sponsored 4 Coffee Hours,
- produced 6 newsletters,
- and hosted several meetings for the preservation of the Cortez community.

Your help will continue our work. Your donation between \$25 – \$100 to CVHS through the **Giving Challenge, from noon-to-noon April 9 - 10** will be matched, dollar for dollar through the generosity of The Patterson Foundation. What a great way to double your money.

To make a donation, please visit our Giving Challenge page: <https://www.givingchallenge.org/organizations/cortez-village-historical-society-incorporated-dba-cortez-cultural-center>

For questions or more information, please contact us at: cvhs2016@aol.com.

Thanks for your support, and please come visit us soon!



Cortez Village Historical Society
Cortez Cultural Center
PO Box 663
11655 Cortez Road
Cortez, FL 34215
Website: cortezvillagehistoricalsociety.org
Facebook: Cortez Village Cultural Center

*Please join us and spread the word:
Eco-adventurers Wanted
For an Earth Day Celebration!*



Saturday, April 20th 10am-Noon
Cortez Cultural Center, 11655 Cortez Road West, Cortez

FREE hands-on learning activities focusing on our natural environment @ the FISH Preserve! Learn about protecting our natural resources and the history of the unique Cortez fishing village. Prizes for the first 50 kids to complete the Eco-adventurer's scavenger hunt.

10:00 AM - Noon: Giveaways and fun activities for all organized by:

Cortez Village Historical Society
Early Learning Coalition
Longboat Key Coast Guard Aux.
Manatee County Public Library
Mote Marine

Havenworth Coastal Conservation
Save Our Seabirds
Tenoroc Youth Conservation
Center/FWC

10:30 AM: Anna Maria Elementary School poster contest awards.

11:15 AM: Unveiling of historic fishing practices diorama.

The much sought after 2024 Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival Tee-Shirts will be available for purchase!

Food available for purchase.

Location: Free parking at the FISH Preserve (Search "FISH Parking on Google maps)

Any questions? Contact: cvhs2016@aol.com

#RemakeDays #SuncoastRemakeDays #CortezVillageHistoricalSociety

Cortez Village Historical Society
PO BOX 663
Cortez, FL 34215
cvhs2016@aol.com

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to receive the CVHS newsletter? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you prefer to receive it via Email or USPO _____

Annual Membership in the Cortez Village Historical Society is \$15.00 per year for an individual or \$20.00 for a family. If you would like to join, check the appropriate place and include your membership dues with this form.

____ Individual - \$15

____ Family - \$20

____ Lifetime - \$ 100

____ Senior Lifetime - \$50

____ Business Lifetime - \$500

____ Benefactor - \$1000

CVHS VOLUNTEER FORM

The CVHS is an all-volunteer organization. We are always looking for more volunteers. Want to join our team of volunteers passionate about Cortez? Some volunteers come weekly on specific days while others drop in when time allows. Whether you have one hour or 100, we need you! Here are a number of opportunities, please check all that apply:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

_____ Gardening: Planting, trimming, weeding, etc.

_____ Greeter: Welcoming visitors. We will train you.

_____ Maintenance: General maintenance, as needed.

_____ Office: Mailing, filing, data entry, etc.

_____ Newsletter: Contribute articles.

_____ Social Media: Assist with Facebook and website

_____ Educational: Developing displays.

_____ Special Events: We sponsor several special events throughout the year (Booth at annual Fishing Festival; Annual Picnic; Arts & Crafts Festival; Christmas in Cortez)

_____ Special Interest Do you have a special skill not listed? Please describe:

Name _____ Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Please mail to: CVHS, PO Box 963, Cortez, FL 34215 or call 941-840-0590 and leave a message.