

Scenic Watch



December
2019

Florida's Scenic Overseas Highway: Garry Balogh Inspiring Excellence Award



Photo: Keys Weekly

"Traversing over the bridges overlooking the blue waters of the Florida Keys never gets old, especially for Islamorada Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director Judy Hull.



Fun Festivals and Events

Central

Thru Jan 1
Space Coast Light Fest,
Melbourne
Jan 5
Oviedo Farmers Market,
Oviedo
Jan 5-6
Dade's Battle Re-
enactment and Trade

'I think my favorite part is driving to work or to meetings and looking out the window at the gorgeous view and just thinking how incredibly lucky we are to be living, working and playing here,' she said.

Hull played a major role in enhancing the scenic image of Overseas Highway, and her leadership and efforts went rewarded in early November as she received the 2019 Garry Balogh Inspiring Excellence Award during a Florida Scenic Highways meeting in DeBary.



Photo: Keys Weekly

The award honors the late Balogh, a state Department of Transportation employee who was responsible for the designation and successful implementation of many Florida Scenic Highways. Recognizing leadership, innovation and achievements that have made a lasting impact on a scenic highway, the award was destined for Hull, who played a key role in resurrecting the byway organization in the Keys and achieving All-American Road status for Overseas Highway.

'Judy is the one-and-only Floridian to get a road recognized nationally as an All- American Road, the highest designation possible by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation,' said Jeff Caster, program

Fair, Bushnell
Jan 5-6
The Venice FL Antiques Show, Venice
Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26
Winter Music Series at the Lakeridge Winery and Vineyards, Clermont
Jan 6
Annual Epiphany Celebration, Tarpon Springs
Jan 10-20
19th Annual Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival, Tampa
Jan 12
Gasparilla Ball, Tampa
Jan 15-20
Yeehaw Music Festival, Yeehaw Junction
Jan 16-19
Florida Flywheelers 32nd Annual Antique Engine and Tractor Swamp Meet
Jan 17-20
Fellsmere Frog Leg Festival, Fellsmere
Jan 18-20
Sarasota Seafood and Music Festival, Sarasota
Jan 19
Florida Key Lime Pie Festival, Merritt Island
Jan 19-20
Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, Winter Springs
Jan 19-20
Brooksville Raid Re-enactment, Brooksville
Jan 19-21
Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks Art and Craft Festival, Tarpon Springs
Jan 19-20 and 26-27
4th Annual Brevard Renaissance Fair, Melbourne
Jan 23-28
Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival, Titusville
Jan 25-27
Images, a Festival of the Arts, New Smyrna Beach

coordinator for the Florida Scenic Highways Program. 'And 10 years later, it remains the state's only All American Road, one of only 31 nationally.'

The Florida Keys Scenic Highway was designated as a Florida Scenic Highway in 2001. The byway was managed by Clean Florida Keys, but after two years, it disbanded and the organization was no more. That's when Hull stepped in to bring life back to the group, thus establishing the Florida Keys Scenic Corridor that assumed management and responsibility.

Once established, Hull worked to reestablish long-neglected partnerships up and down the Keys. From the chambers of commerce to the county and Florida Department of Transportation, she led updates to an outdated corridor management plan while guiding the organization and its missions and vision into the future.

That vision led to All-American Highway status for the 110-miles of road from Key Largo to Key West. Designated by the Federal Highway Administration in 2009, Overseas Highway is the only All-American Road in Florida, and one of 30 in the U.S. The designation brought significant research and coordination, and Hull says the application filled a three-ring binder. In achieving an All-American Road status, the thoroughfare must possess characteristics of national significance that don't exist elsewhere — making it a visitor destination in and of itself...

Originally completed in 1938, the Overseas Highway incorporates 42 bridges over the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Florida Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. They include the Seven Mile Bridge at Marathon, which stretches 6.79 miles across open water and was referred to on its completion as 'the eighth wonder of the world.'

-- Jim McCarthy, Keys Weekly

Jan 26-27

Blue Spring Manatee Festival, Orange City

Jan 26

Kumquat Festival, Dade City

Jan 26-February 3

Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities,

Orlando/Eatonville

Jan 31-February 2

World Quilt Florida, Tampa

South

Jan 5-6

Las Olas Art Fair, Fort Lauderdale

Jan 5-6

Downtown Naples New Year's Art Fair, Naples

Jan 11-12

Florida's Creative Coast Weekend, Pine Island

Jan 12-13

Cape Coral Festival of the Arts, Cape Coral

Jan 12-13

Bonita Springs National Art Festival, Bonita Springs

Jan 10-20

Uncorked Key Largo and Islamorada Food and Wine Festival, Key Largo

Jan 11

Shakespeare in the Park, Miami

Jan 12-13

Broward Shell Show, Pompano Beach

Jan 16-20

Art Palm Beach 2018, West Palm Beach

Jan 18-19

Historic House Tours, Key West

Jan 18-20

Art Deco Weekend, Miami Beach

Jan 18-20

BayGrass Bluegrass Festival, Islamorada

[Read entire article](#)

"Brooksville mural tour offers low-key stroll through local history"



Photo: Michele Miller, Tampa Bay Times

"Jan Knowles...is the docent for a new mural walking tour offered by the Hernando Fine Art Council.

The Livery Stable Mural, painted on the Lowman's law firm at 32 S. Main St., is one of eight murals featured on a new walking tour sponsored by the Hernando Fine Arts Council. It features the livery stable, which housed the Bell Fruit Company, one of the most important businesses in early Brooksville.

Knowles is steeped in local history, having entrenching herself in several organizations over the years. She served as chair for the annual Brooksville Raid Reenactment, was an 18-year president of the Hernando Museum and a member of the now-defunct Mural Society that worked with the city to produce and fund the eight murals featured on the tour. She also is project coordinator for the Hernando Fine Arts Council and co-chair of Brooksville's annual Art in the Park event.

The mural tour is way to bring light to art that might have been forgotten, she said, or that people might be wondering about — especially if they are

Jan 18 - Feb 3
South Florida Fair, West Palm Beach
Jan 19-20
Florida Keys Seafood Festival, Key West
Jan 19-20
Downtown Delray Beach Festival of the Arts, Delray Beach
Jan 20
21st Annual Key West Half Marathon, Key West
Jan 25-27
International Chocolate Festival, Coral Gables
Jan 26
Port Salerno Seafood Festival, Port Salerno
Jan 26-27
ClamJam of Southwest Florida Seafood and Music Festival, Cape Coral
Jan 26-27
Key West Craft Show, Key West
Jan 27
Florida Challenge Half-Marathon and 5K Trail Runs, Lithia

North

Jan 5-6
Las Olas Art Fair, Fort Lauderdale
Jan 5-6
Downtown Naples New Year's Art Fair, Naples
Jan 11-12
Florida's Creative Coast Weekend, Pine Island
Jan 12-13
Cape Coral Festival of the Arts, Cape Coral
Jan 12-13
Bonita Springs National Art Festival, Bonita Springs
Jan 10-20
Uncorked Key Largo and Islamorada Food and Wine Festival, Key Largo
Jan 11
Shakespeare in the Park,

new to the area...

It's also a way to put to use the Civil War dress she bought years ago for the Brooksville Raid...

This tour promises to be a more low-key, casual walk through art and local history, with one modern caveat. Those who go can use their cell phones to access QR codes located on special plaques that include information about the murals and the artists.

'The tour takes about an hour,' Knowles said, adding that the murals are all within three blocks. 'There's nice places to have lunch or shop so people can make a day of it.'

-- Michele Miller, Tampa Bay Times

[Read entire article](#)

Palm Beach: Planting native trees



Photo: Kim Frisbie, Palm Beach Daily News

"...Trees protect coastal communities from severe flooding and storms by slowing water's strength and absorbing excess water in the soil, preventing billions of gallons of runoff annually. And let's not forget ecological restoration; a tree can be home to

Miami
Jan 12-13
Boca Fest, Boca Raton
Jan 12-13
Broward Shell Show,
Pompano Beach
Jan 13-14
22nd Annual Sullivan
Street Craft Festival,
Punta Gorda
Jan 16-20
Art Palm Beach 2018,
West Palm Beach
Jan 18-19
Historic House Tours, Key
West
Jan 18-20
Art Deco Weekend, Miami
Beach
Jan 18-20
BayGrass Bluegrass
Festival, Islamorada
Jan 18 - Feb 3
South Florida Fair, West
Palm Beach
Jan 19-20
Florida Keys Seafood
Festival, Key West
Jan 19-20
Downtown Delray Beach
Festival of the Arts,
Delray Beach
Jan 20
21st Annual Key West Half
Marathon, Key West
Jan 25-27
International Chocolate
Festival, Coral Gables
Jan 26
Port Salerno Seafood
Festival, Port Salerno
Jan 26-27
ClamJam of Southwest
Florida Seafood and Music
Festival, Cape Coral

[For many more events and details please visit the Orlando Times Travel Calendar here](#)

hundreds of species of insects, fungi, moss, birds, mammals and plants...

But not just any tree; we need to plant natives if we are to create sustainable habitats for our indigenous insects, birds, and mammals...

The following native trees all thrive in South Florida and will bring a wealth of bees, butterflies, birds and clean air back to your gardens.

Let's start with *lignum vitae* (*Guaiacum sanctum*), often considered the 'royalty' of native Florida tropical trees, and also known as the tree of life due to the resinous wood that was once thought to possess magical qualities. With a canopy of dark green leaves, this excellent multi-trunked shade tree, sprinkled with lovely blue flowers in spring and summer, deserves a place of honor in any garden. Yellow fruits split open to reveal bright red seeds loved by a variety of birds. Skipper butterflies frequent the flowers while new growth provides larval food for the lyside sulphur, a rare butterfly of the Florida Keys.

Tolerant of full sun or part shade, not particular as to soil type, and oblivious to wind and salt, this is also ideal for seaside plantings. Slow growing, reaching only 10-15 feet, this is not found farther north than coastal Palm Beach, so we are fortunate to be able to include it in our gardens. As the exceptionally hard black wood is prized by woodworkers, it has been over-collected and is now considered endangered, having disappeared from most of its original habitat. All the more reason to add this to your landscape!

Black ironwood (*Krugiodendron ferreum*) is a 25-foot evergreen tree with the densest wood of any North American plant. Slow growing, with shiny, oval, dark green leaves and a narrow crown, it's exceptionally drought tolerant and will thrive in full sun to part shade. The greenish flowers are extremely fragrant and attract a variety of pollinators. Juicy, sweet black fruits ripen in fall and are coveted by birds,



who find good cover in the dense branching habit. Cold tolerant to the mid 20s, this is adaptable to a wide range of landscape conditions, and makes a wonderful accent tree or understory specimen. Plant it where it's wonderful fragrant flowers and interesting form will be appreciated.

Bahama strongbark (*Bourreria succulenta*) is a rapid growing, shrubby evergreen tree 10-20 feet tall, with clusters of fragrant white flowers in summer followed by abundant orange-red berries in fall and winter. Hummingbirds, butterflies and a multitude of pollinators are drawn to the flowers while the fruit provides food for numerous birds and small mammals. I saw one in a friend's garden last week and its canopy was literally alive with butterflies. Medicinal tea made from the leaves was used by native Bahamians to give them strength and a 'strong back.'

Cinnamon bark (*Canella winterana*) is a wonderful small tree for a sunny or partly shaded landscape. With a dense rounded crown, lush, glossy aromatic leaves, and clusters of beautiful maroon flowers that become bright red berries, this is loved by birds and wildlife and is a nectar source for the beautiful Schaus swallowtail. The bark produces a lovely cinnamon fragrance when bruised. Tolerant of most landscape conditions, this will make a wonderful addition to your garden as a specimen or used as informal screening.

Gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*), is one of my favorite native trees, with its spectacular cinnamon bronze-colored peeling bark. Mature specimens given room to show off their magnificent coppery trunks and lovely broad canopies are simply stunning. This thrives in any soil, in sun or shade, and is an exceptionally fast grower, reaching an ultimate height of 60 feet. Tolerant of salt spray and cold temperatures into the 20s, it will do well in any landscape setting, and can be propagated by simply sticking a cut branch into the ground. While the rich green foliage is deciduous for a short period in late winter, small white flowers appearing at that

time attract numerous insect pollinators and the reddish fruits are loved by birds and mammals.

There are many more excellent natives: palms, oaks, maples, magnolias, pines, cedars, acacias, and the list goes on. We just need to recognize the importance of adding these diverse species to our landscapes..."

-- Kim Frisbie, Palm Beach Daily News

[Read entire article](#)



Citizens for a Scenic Florida

www.scenicflorida.org

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