

## Florida's Lost Attractions

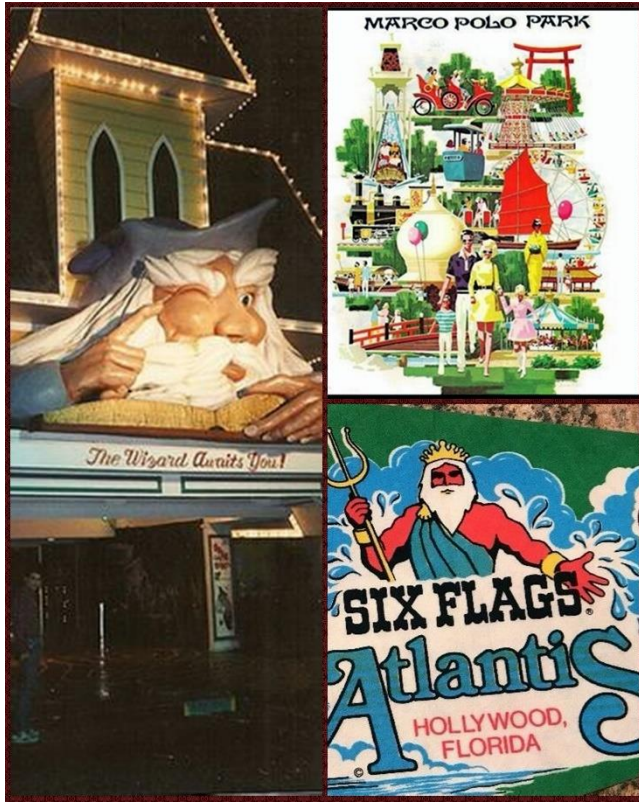
Date/Time: Saturday, October 26, 2024 @ 10:00 am

Place: Anderson-Price Building, 42 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Presented By: James C. Clark, Ph.D.

Event Type: In-Person

Free Admission: (Open to the Public)



Everybody knows about Disney World, Universal, EPCOT, Sea World and a slew of other Florida attractions. But how about bygone Sunshine State attractions such as Texas Jim's Sarasota Reptile Farm and Zoo, the Skull Kingdom, the House of Mystery or Dixieland Amusement Park. Many were roadside stops started by families as an extension of a fruit stand or market. Oranges and sodas in the front, alligators in the back. Many of the attractions were free, designed to lure customers for the fruit stand or store. Others charged a small fee. Some became nationally known, such as Cypress Gardens, where Johnny Carson not only broadcast, but water-skied. The roadside attractions had their heyday from the 1920s to the coming of Disney in 1971. It was a much simpler time, and a large tree known as The Senator could become a top attraction, along with a St. Petersburg drug store.

James C. Clark, Ph.D. is a Senior Lecturer in the University of Central Florida History Department. He has emerged as one of Florida's leading historians, noted for his books and research. He is the author of nine books, and the editor of a three-volume anthology of Florida Literature. He is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College, holds a master's degree from Stetson University, and a doctorate in Florida history from the University of Florida.

*Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Florida Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.*



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