

**John Telischak**

**St. Cloud State University  
St. Cloud, MN**

**Graduated Cum Laude (2005)**

**Bachelor's Degree  
Dual Major: History and Anthropology**

**John is originally from Northern NJ but grew up in Apple Valley, MN. He first gained a love for history and museums visiting the American Museum of Natural History in New York City as well as the Jamestown Settlement and Colonial Williamsburg, VA as a kid.**

**John studied History and Anthropology at St. Cloud State University where he graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He worked for seven years for the Minnesota Historical Society at the Minnesota History Center Museum where he worked in their Education Department teaching local students about various subjects pertaining to Minnesota history, creating interpretive stations for visitors to engage in, and speaking at offsite speaking engagements. In addition, he also worked at the Fort Snelling historic site interpreting many aspects of its history from 1827 to 1946, showcasing period skills including blacksmithing, carpentry, and period firearms, including cannons.**

**In 2011, John moved to Southwest Florida and worked at the Edison Ford Winter Estates historic site where he served as a guide to the historic site's property as well as on boat tours on the Caloosahatchee River in a partnership between Edison Ford Winter Estates and Pure Florida. John worked in their Education Department as well as with their Marketing Department, going offsite to promote the historic site at tourism trade shows throughout the state of Florida. In 2015, he began working for Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida recruiting, training, managing, and coordinating volunteers. He collaborated with Collier County Public Schools to bring financial literacy programs to local students of all ages.**

**In 2017, John began working at Naples Historical Society, where he is currently the Society's Education Manager.**

**John's work as Naples Historical Society's Education Manager includes a plethora of responsibilities. He recruits, trains, coordinates, and manages all of the Society's dedicated and essential volunteers. In his time at the Society, John streamlined the interpretation, development, and presentation of historical content and programming. Currently, he is collaborating in the development of the exhibits for the forthcoming Smith Exhibit Hall as well as the interpretive signage that will be along the meandering pathway that will be on that piece of the Society's property.**

**John also is the creative writer for both the Society and outside media publications. He is the liaison between the Society and Print media (Including The Wall Street Journal, The Library Of Congress, The Times of London, Florida Weekly, Gulfshore Life, Naples Illustrated, Naples Daily News, and The Naples Press) John also serves as a liaison between the Society and Broadcast media (including NBC,**

FOX, CBS, and other outlets both local and national). He has been interviewed numerous times on TV as well as on CBS News's *Peter Greenberg's Eye on Travel* radio show.

John also coordinates and conducts Naples Historical Society's Pupils at Palm Cottage™, a free program for local 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in Collier County. John is proud to have been a part of one of the Society's major achievements in collaborating with Collier County Public Schools in creating a virtual tour for our local students during the Covid 19 Pandemic. This virtual program, reached over 3,000 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in Collier County. It is still in use today by Collier County Public schools, educating our local young people about their local history.

John is also the presenter of the Society's *Talk Of The Town*™ lecture program, which is about Naples history and features various historic photos from the Society's archival collection. This in-demand presentation has had John present throughout Southwest Florida for various organizations and communities.

John's love of history, especially local and Florida history, has also led him to volunteer in St. Augustine, and has given him opportunities as an extra in a few documentaries.

When not furthering his knowledge of history, John enjoys fishing, Zone 10b gardening, reading, swimming, woodworking, going to the beach, and generally enjoying the beautiful outdoors and culture of Southwest Florida with his history-loving wife and their children.