

MICA *wave*

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association

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February 2013

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News and Reviews
of What's Really
Happening on
Marco Island



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President's Letter

by Dick Adams

We are happy to see that our little island is bustling with the influx of snowbirds and visitors. Welcome back to all!

Since the last issue, Marco Island citizens have elected a new City Council. Four newly elected candidates replaced incumbents. We wish them the best of success in accomplishing their campaign visions as presented at MICA's standing room only "Meet the Candidates" event.

On January 22 MICA held its Annual Meeting at the Robert Sessions Pavilion at Residents' Beach, and our MICA members turned out in record numbers. After a brief update of the past year's events and financial overview, the 2013 Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to the very deserving Jack Simmen (please see page 3). The excitement was followed by a buffet and terrific entertainment by one of Marco's favorites, Johnny Fusco.

We are pleased to welcome Donna Wood to our Residents' Beach members. Donna is the new

operator of the Paradise Grill. Everything you love about Paradise Grill will remain the same, and Donna tells us that we can look forward to some exciting additions. More about Donna and the Paradise Grill in the next issue of the MICA WAVE!

Speaking of exciting, MICA's Concert Series has something for everyone this year. In February, we will welcome back "Music of Marco Big Band," and Johnny Fusco to get you in the dancing mood. March roars in with the Million Dollar Quartet and SATISFACTION, a Tribute to the Rolling Stones! The schedule appears on the back page, so be sure to mark your calendar and join us for some wonderful entertainment "On the Green" at Residents' Beach.

Many of our members and/or their families were in the path of Superstorm Sandy up north. Please know that your friends from Marco Island truly sympathize. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Please enjoy your membership benefits, and thank you for your continued support.



Your MICA Board of Directors

We'd like to thank MICA's Nominating Committee, which consisted of Kathy Sullivan, Linda Shockley, and Lori Curran, for submitting a very qualified slate of nominees to run for the MICA Board of Directors. The nominees for the MICA Board of Directors are: Dick Adams, Betsy Beaver, Barbara Dasti, Christine DeSantis, Dianna Dohm and Maria Lamb.

The Nominating Committee also submitted the following names for the 2013 Nominating Committee: Bernardo Bezos, Lori Curran, Bill Moors, Bridget Vignari and Mike Vignari.

MICA members will receive a ballot in the mail, which they should complete and return to MICA. We thank you for your participation in the voting process, which is vital to the strength of your civic association.

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<p>Marco Island Civic Association 1770 San Marco Road, Suite 204, Marco Island, FL 34145 Phone: 239-642-7778 Fax: 239-642-8663 www.marcocivic.com</p>	<p>MICAwave is the periodic publication of the Marco Island Civic Association for the benefit of its members. Copyright 2013© Marco Island Civic Association, Marco Island, FL.</p> <p>All opinions expressed in this MICAwave are solely the opinions of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the Marco Island Civic Association. MICA does not guarantee or endorse any contributing participant.</p> <p>All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher.</p> <p>Cover photo courtesy of The Marco Review</p>
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MICA's 2013 Humanitarian of the Year Award

On January 22, at MICA's Annual Social board member Steve Stefanides presented MICA's 2013 Humanitarian of the Year Award to Mr. Jack Simmen. He was honored for his more than 25 years of volunteering on behalf of the less fortunate residents of Marco Island and Collier County.

Jack Simmen has a strong sense of service, preferring to work quietly behind the scenes, wishing to personally serve individuals who need a helping hand. Coincidentally, Jack is a gate attendant at Residents' Beach and sees hundreds of people on a daily basis, and he always has a smile at the ready.

The MICA Humanitarian of the Year Award was first presented in 1998 and has become one of the most prestigious awards on Marco Island. It honors the unsung heroes of our island, the people who do so much for so many. Past recipients include Mimi Torbush, Shirlee and Brian Barcic, Ward Bradeen, D'Ann and David Brandt, Dr. Sam and Mary Ann Durso, Judy Barney, Arturo Perez, Maury Dailey, Art Segal, Stevi Walthour, Luise Romano, Jane Williams, Karen Saeks, Nicki Davis, Bert and Jann Brewer, Maria Elena Pujol and Howard Jordan.

Since the late 1980's Jack has volunteered many, many hours, offering compassion and a friendly face to children and adults alike.

For years he has made home visits with Hospice patients and worked every Saturday morning at "Hospice Treasures," a second hand Hospice store in downtown Naples.

He regularly visits with a number of men in nursing homes in our area, offering them a little conversation and friendship.

Jack has delivered "Meals on Wheels" on a weekly basis for more than 20 years. He brings a meal and a smile to those who have difficulty getting out and preparing meals on their own. If manpower was short, there were times when he delivered meals several times per week.

Even Jack's dog, Julie, is special, as she is a rescue dog from the Humane Society of Naples.



Jack Simmen proudly displays his MICA Humanitarian of the Year Award

Of course, Jack has done all of this while working his regular schedule at Residents' Beach. Jack plays a very special part in the lives of many Residents' Beach members as well. Did you know that Jack's picture is on many a Christmas card? Families that come to Marco every year with their children and grandchildren seek out Jack. They are thrilled to see Jack, and he is thrilled to catch up with them and their activities and to see how the children are growing!

Quietly working behind the scenes for the past 25 years on behalf of the every-day guy, Jack has exemplified the meaning of the word "humanitarian."



Calling All Sunset Singers

by Ruth McCann

So many of us have such fond memories of sunsets at Marco Island Residents' Beach due in part to a wonderful gentleman by the name of Mr. James Greeley. For years, every evening in season as the sun set, Mr. Greeley would charm us with his smile and bring out our patriotism as he sang "God Bless America." As you may know, Mr. Greeley passed away and sunsets just haven't been quite the same. Some say, "it's been a little flat lately."

We are hoping to change that. MICA is calling all singers and would-be singers to test their pipes at Residents' Beach. We'll start small and see how far we can go. Is there a song that is your favorite and you'd like to test it out at the

beach? Then come on down! We'll start this grass route challenge each Monday at sunset and possibly expand to other evenings as well. I know there is a lot of hidden talent out there amongst our members. (I'm not one of them!)

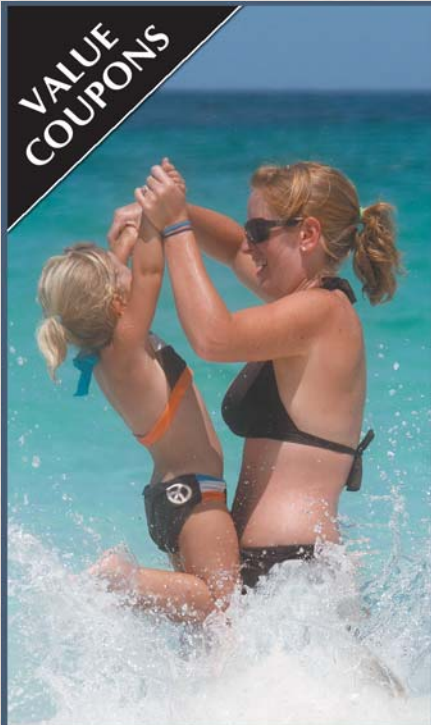
At sunset on Monday, February 18, a very special, long time island resident will start the ball rolling with his no-microphone-required rendition of "God Bless America." Have an idea of whom I'm speaking? You will have to come down to the beach to find out for sure!

If you are interested or have a good idea to push this along, please call me at the MICA office at 239-642-7778.



Sunset captured from the disabled platform at Residents' Beach by Debbie Barker

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The Case of the Rugose Spiraling Whitefly

The Rugose Spiraling Whitefly (*Aleurodicus rugioperculatus*), believed to be from Central America or Mexico, is a slow moving, approximately 2.5 mm in size, insect that has infested South Florida. First attacking the gumbo limbo trees, there are now documented up to 90 host trees, palms and canopy species for the pest. The two prevalent tell-tale signs that a tree is infested are easy to spot. First, underneath the leaf or frond of the tree: a distinctive spiral pattern of white, waxy tracts are present (see photo). This is the path of the whitefly's egg deposits. The other evidence of infestation is the presence of black, sooty mold on shrubs, driveways, docks, chairs, boats or anything that is under a tree. This whitefly species secretes sugary honeydew (liquid waste) that attracts and is colonized by a black fungus called sooty mold.

This is an island-wide problem and all property owners must be on board in order to defeat the spiraling whitefly. To that end, the City of Marco Island authorized emergency funds to inoculate city-owned trees due to the critical nature of the infestation of the pest. Prioritizing the inoculation is as follows: the Collier Blvd. city-owned trees, both palms and canopy species, then Veterans Park trees, then all other city-owned trees. In accordance with the city-owned trees inoculation program, the City recommends residents use professional landscapers to evaluate their trees for the pest and to treat accordingly.

To protect the major investment in trees at Marco Island Residents' Beach and Sarazen Park, MICA has recently inoculated all palm trees, gumbo limbos and hedges, quite a project!

A workshop was hosted by the city which in-



cluded a presentation by expert entomologist, Dr. Doug Caldwell, PhD, University of Florida-IFAS Extension (UF-IFAS), Collier County. The large attendance at the workshop by residents and contractors alike reflects the awareness and concern of the outbreak of this pest in the landscape on the island.

For more information, please contact Nancy Richie, Environmental Specialist, City of Marco Island at 239-389-5003, nrichie@cityofmarcoisland.com or visit the Collier County Extension UF-IFAS website at <http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu>. Videos, photos and additional information on identification and treatment are available.

Photos courtesy of Charlette Roman



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The Eagles have Landed!

by Sandi Johnson, President, Marco Island Foundation for the Arts (MIFA)

Have you noticed the activity near the entrance to MICA's Sarazen Park on the south end of the island? What's going on? We're getting ready to install a significant piece of sculpture on the existing base that's left over from ArtQuest. The magnificent bronze sculpture we found is of a pair of Eagles, wings unfurled, golden beaks engaged in conversation. Could they be fighting? Could they be courting? You'll have to wait for the unveiling to see for yourself!

The quality of the craftsmanship of this piece is unparalleled, with beautiful, subtle patinas worthy of these symbols of our nation. It will endure our salt air and give pleasure to residents and visitors for many years to come.

The theme of two eagles is appropriate for this park which honors golf legend Gene Sarazen. It was in the 1935 Masters that Sarazen would shoot the only Double Eagle ever shot to this day in a Masters' Event on the 15th hole, which created a tie and Sarazen went on to win the tournament. The Boards of Directors of MICA and MIFA enthusiastically agreed to place this sculpture at this location and provide temporary funding of \$30,000 for acquisition and installation.

The next challenge facing our two organizations is to accept donations from members and the com-

munity at large to fund the sculpture and provide future funding for its maintenance. Several fundraising events are being planned. Watch for announcements in the local press and in your email inbox.

Here's how you can help now: your tax-deductible donations in any amount are being gratefully accepted. Donations of \$500 or more will be memorialized on a plaque. Please make out your check to the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts and drop it off or mail it to the MICA office. Please note on your check that this is for The Eagles.

About the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts (MIFA): MIFA is a charitable non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to promote the arts in public places in Marco Island. Founded on March 17, 2003, MIFA sponsors performances, art exhibitions, film series, grants scholarships to island students who desire to study a branch of the arts at the college level, and places sculptures in public places. Our first project was to replace the little girl which had disappeared from "The Happy Travelers" bronze trio at Leigh Plummer Park. To date we have placed well over \$100,000 worth of sculptures in public places, including two at the entrance to Residents' Beach.

More information is available on our website: www.marcoarts.org.

The Double Eagle bronze sculpture will be installed at MICA's Sarazen Park and is a joint project of the Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) & the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts (MIFA). Donations of \$500 or greater will be memorialized on a plaque. Please make checks payable to MIFA, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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Email Address: Telephone Number:

Name to appear on plaque if donation is \$500 or greater:



News from Across the Bridge

by Donna Fiala, Collier County Commissioner

For those of you who loved Erin's Isle and Mike Ward and were sad to see they had lost their lease after all these years, I have good news! Erin's Isle is moving to the clubhouse of Hibiscus Golf Course off Rattlesnake Hammock Road. He officially opened the second week of January, when he welcomed all of his regular, loyal customers from over the years. The new location has the same, fun loving, welcoming atmosphere we all grew accustomed to.

Good news for many people who enjoy bird watching at Tigertail Beach. There are three boardwalks which have been rebuilt and two more brand new ones, allowing easier access to the beach. The largest parking lot will be improved and a new bathroom will be installed (hopefully by the end of February) at the far end of the parking lot for people just wanting to go to a beach – which should take some of the parking problems off of South Beach and along the swales. With a great viewing deck and terrific concession stand, this should help attract tourists and visitors as well.

Another great asset I have personally been pushing for is an upgrade to the store at Caxambas Boat Ramp. It has sadly been lacking many of the items fishermen needed, or “water watchers” were looking for. The couple who are vendors at Residents' Beach, and have done a fantastic job, have won a contract with the County to manage all four of the marina boat stores, Caxambas, Goodland, Port of

the Islands and Cocohatchee River. This will be a great and added improvement to these marina stores. Stop by and say hi when you have a chance.

The Marco Island Historical Society will be presenting their new exhibit “Florida's Got the Blues” from January 2nd to March 30th at the Museum. It will celebrate Florida's long musical tradition and demonstrate how a surprising number of notable blues artists got their start right here in Florida. Featured topics include Early Blues, Florida Women and the Blues, Blues Clubs, Depression Blues, Popular Music and Contemporary Blues. This fun and informative exhibit is on loan from the Museum of Florida History, and admission is free.

The Marco Island Branch Library will also be hosting many very interesting programs and lectures, including “All Around Florida – Kennedy Space Center”; “Presidents in Florida: How the Presidents Have Shaped Florida” and more. To get a full line-up for the museums in Collier County, which include Everglades City, Naples Depot, Collier County Museum, just drop by our own Marco Island Historical Museum for their program brochure, and then cross the street to the Branch Library for their program booklet for all the libraries which list all of the lectures, programs, plays and so much more.

And.....Happy New Year to all!

Donna Fiala – donnafilea@gmail.com



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Marco Island...

A Great Place To Raise a Family

A great variety of wildlife species frequents Marco Island's Residents' Beach. From the gulf shore in the west to Collier Blvd in the east - some call it their permanent home, whereas others, like the Mottled Ducks pictured on the cover, visited and raised a family. Sounds a bit like the human population on Marco, doesn't it? Dennis McCann, Residents' Beach manager kept a close eye on this family through August, 2012 making sure they all survived.

The mottled duck is a non-migratory resident of the southeastern USA and northeastern Mexico, with two distinct populations which do not overlap. The Florida mottled duck is resident in central and south Florida (south of Tampa) and occasionally strays north to Georgia.

Hurry Up And Find a Mate!

Compared to other species of ducks, pair formation occurs early, with nearly 80% of all individuals paired by November. Breeding starts in January, continuing through to July and usually peaks in March and April. A relative of the mallard, which were introduced in the area as pets, they now frequently interbreed and the species is consequently in danger of losing its identity. The offspring of these cross-breed pairings are fertile, which will eventually create an entirely new species.

One of the most banded waterfowl, due in part to the fact that it is mostly non-migratory. Approximately one in twenty mottled ducks is banded making it an extremely sought after bird among hunters.

The mottled duck populations are stable for



now, with 50-70,000 individuals. However, habitat destruction and excessive hunting pose threats and as compatible mates become more and more unavailable, hybridization will increase, which could further reduce its gene pool and eventually it could disappear as a distinct taxon. This applies particularly to the Florida mottled duck. Within its small range, urbanization and draining of wetlands has reduced available habitat.

This article by Stephen Barker is the first in a series on wildlife seen at Residents' Beach. Photos by Debbie Barker.

Ducky Details

Size 17 - 24" from head to tail
5 - 13 eggs, dull white to olive
Nests in a depression in the grass
Dabbles, filter-feeds at surface of the water,
tips-up in shallow water
Feeds on seeds of grasses, aquatic vegetation,
aquatic invertebrates and a few small fish



House of Mozart

by Ruth McCann

Gaby and Robert Hofbauer, Vienna born and raised, first visited Marco Island in 1991 while on their honeymoon. They loved the beauty of Marco so much that they made a pact to visit at least every 10 years. In February 2012 during dinner at House of Mozart, they discovered from the then owners, Manuela and Alfred Schinagl, that the business was for sale. Since Robert is a chef, it was a dream come true for the Hofbauers! Arrangements were made and the Hofbauers moved to Marco full time and purchased the House of Mozart in September 2012. They reopened the restaurant on October 1, and now every evening they take diners on a culinary journey of European and American cuisine.

Gaby and Robert kept the best items from the old menu and introduced new Austrian dishes as well. Each day they prepare homemade sausage from a traditional Vienna recipe. They offer Wiener schnitzel; Zwiebelrostbraten, a slice of New York strip steak, grilled in a burgundy sauce, served with traditional deep fried potatoes and onions; Vienna Goulash; paprika chicken; and sauerbraten from Germany. American style dishes are also available, such as roasted Long Island duckling; steak; their very own, served-nowhere-else creation of chicken wellington; pasta dishes and shrimp, salmon and grouper from the sea.

The House of Mozart has some wonderful appetizers and salads available and a lunch menu consisting of burgers and sandwiches. If you go for lunch, you have to try their crepe stuffed with spinach and feta cheese in marinara sauce!

As a chef, Robert has studied food allergies, including gluten, dairy and nuts. He can explain the

ingredients in each menu item and prepare special items to accommodate any food allergy.

Did I forget to mention the magnificent dessert menu? Any one of their desserts would be outstanding, but Robert did point out that Kaiserschmarrn is a traditional Austrian dessert that can also be prepared as a dinner!! Dessert for dinner? Perfect - scrambled pancake with raisins, topped with applesauce. Or there is the Vienna crepe with apricot jam or with vanilla ice cream, chocolate sauce and whipped cream.

The restaurant, with classical music playing in the distance, is charming with a definite European feel throughout. Beer and wine is served, including German and Austrian wines by the bottle or glass. Warsteiner, Spaten Octoberfest and Spaten Dark Optimator are German beers made from barley; and Weissbeer is a Bavarian beer made from wheat.

When you visit the House of Mozart, you will see familiar faces from years past along with Robert and his cousin, Thomas, in the kitchen, Gaby at the hostess stand, and daughter, Connie, as a server. Beginning January 23 and continuing every other Wednesday through season, you will experience an extra special treat of live entertainment by members of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

The House of Mozart, a member of MICA's Members Discount Program, is located in the Shops of Marco near the "Big Publix," at the corner of San Marco Road and Barfield Drive. Open for lunch and dinner Monday to Friday and for dinner Saturday and Sunday. Visit their website at www.houseofmozart.com to view their menu, entertainment schedule or to make reservations. Feel free to email Robert or Gaby at info@houseofmozart.com or call 239-642-5220.





MICA'S Annual Meeting Tuesday 22nd January, 2013



Collier County Voters Turned Out in Record Numbers



Collier County voters made history in the 2012 General Election, setting a new county record for voter turnout. 83.27% of registered voters in the county participated in this election, the highest ever in Collier and the highest rate in the state of Florida!

More than 150,000 ballots were cast, also the most ever in the county. In the 2008 Presidential Election, approximately 143,000 Collier County voters participated. Of the total ballots cast, nearly 49,000 were absentee/mail ballots; over 52,000 were cast in early voting; and over 49,000 were cast on Election Day.

“Our office is extremely pleased with the number of voters who voiced their choice this election,” said Jennifer J. Edwards, Supervisor of Elections. “Collier County voters demonstrated their dedication to the civic process and we applaud their impressive participation.”

Over 850 election workers staffed the precincts, early voting sites, and call centers, including 39 “Adopt-a-Precinct” non-profit groups. Additionally, 66 locations opened their doors to be polling sites during early voting and on Election Day.

For more information, visit www.CollierVotes.com or contact the Supervisor of Elections office at 239-252-8450.



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Busy Season Coming Up!

By Sandi Johnson, President, Marco Island Foundation for the Arts

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful, relaxing summer, enjoyed beautiful holidays, and that you're now ready to enjoy all Marco Island has to offer this season.

Beyond the Beach

No doubt about it. Marco Island has the most beautiful beach in this part of the world, and we're so fortunate to have it in the capable hands of MICA.

What do you do after you've been to the beach? Are you looking for a little cultural enrichment? If so, MIFA has a plethora of free or inexpensive activities for you to enjoy. For free fun, how about taking in one of our art shows at the Esplanade? Dubbed Left Bank, due to their proximity to the water, just like Paris on the Seine, these shows have been getting better and better. Attracting top-notch artists through the efforts of young nature photographer/painter Tyler and his mom Priscilla MacDonald, the show has grown from one Left Bank Art Fest in its first year to seven art fests this season. We've already sponsored art fests in October, November, December and January. But you can still enjoy the Left Bank on February 3, March 17 and April 21, 2013. All Sundays, these shows run from 10am to 4pm. March 17th is MIFA's 10th birthday, and a celebration is being planned to coincide with the Left Bank Art Fest being held that day.

We've brought back our popular winter Film Series. This four-film series is on Wednesdays at 10am at Marco Movies. Nick Campo has generously agreed to run these films at no cost to MIFA. So your ticket price supports the great things we do. Dates are February 20 "The Turning Point", February 27 the opera "Turandot", March 13 "Mao's Last Dancer", and March 20 "The Red Shoes." Series tickets are only \$20, opera included! Call Lindy 389-1333 or Veronica 389-4852, or mail your check to MIFA, PO Box 1091, Marco Island FL 34146. Looks like this year will be a sell-out!

Marco Masters is back. This all-pro juried art show is scheduled for April 6th and 7th at Veterans Community Park, and benefits MIFA scholarships.

Scholarship applications are available on the website or at high schools throughout the area. If you

know of a student who would like to major in any of the arts at an institution of higher learning, be sure to have him or her apply. We award up to \$1000 per student, and may consider returning students, not just incoming freshmen, and also multiple year awards, depending on need. Check our website for more info: www.marcoarts.org.

You may have noticed that we no longer have an office at the Esplanade. The commercial spaces were purchased by a company in Maryland, which decided to do away with sponsoring MIFA as well as the Artist Colony. Strangely, after several months the former MIFA office remains vacant. What were they thinking? MIFA has gone back to our roots of meeting in conference rooms. Our board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:30pm at the Lutgert office in the Esplanade. Many of the former colony artists are seeking inexpensive or free studio space. If you have any ideas, or would like to sponsor an artist, call me: 239-642-0015. Thank you!



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Respecting Our Beaches

by Natalie Strom, Coastal Breeze News

Recently, I had the pleasure of becoming a Volunteer Beach Steward for the City of Marco Island. A training session for those interested in this position of great power was held at the Marco Island Police Department Community Room on Tuesday, November 20. Marco Island beach ordinances, wildlife, sea turtle nesting season and neighborhood watch aspects were taught at the two-hour session. As I get ready to hit the beach with my new knowledge, I thought I would share some of it with you, the beach goer, so that during my volunteer time I can do as little as possible.

The training session was led by Marco Island Community Resource Police Officer Al Schettino and Marco Island's Environmental Specialist, Nancy Richie. Beach Patrol Officer Sal Pernice and Marco Island's "Sea Turtle Lady," Mary Nelson, also offered words of wisdom.

Addressing the volunteers as "Ambassadors of Marco Island," Officer Schettino explained that the goal of the Beach Steward is to "provide verbal information about the City of Marco Island Beach Ordinance and assist beach goers with wildlife, directional, and/or public inquiries." It was made perfectly clear that as Ambassadors, we are NOT law enforcement - but we can and most certainly will call them on speed dial if we see beach goers in violation of an ordinance.

Here are some Marco Island ordinances you should be sure to follow:

- Please don't take living shells - they have a family.
- Glass is not allowed on the beach AT ALL - bring a can instead.
- Cigarette butts are garbage. Please dispose of them properly. Especially at South Beach; there seems to be an issue with beach goers smoking near the bench at the end of the boardwalk. Beach clean-ups have



Photo courtesy of Natalie Strom
Coastal Breeze News

This Beach Steward is teaching children about Marco's shells

found an alarming amount of butts in this area.

- No pets allowed on the beach. Sorry, but no dogs, cats, guinea pigs, canaries, hamsters or goldfish - or any other pet for that matter. However, service dogs are permitted.
- Wheeled vehicles are prohibited. This includes bicycles, strollers and roller-blades. But seriously, NO bicycles on the beach.
- You CAN drink alcohol on Marco's beach! But, not in glass and not at an alarming rate. Bring cans and please, don't get belligerent. The police are also understanding about this. As Officer Schettino explained, last Fourth of July, beach goers were offered plastic cups by officers when they were seen with glass containers. The officers even recycled the glass bottles for them.
- No shark fishing - people are trying to swim here! You are allowed to fish, but only with the right tackle and the right permit. "Everyone needs a fishing license, even from the shoreline," stated Nancy Richie.
- No open fires or barbecues.
- No overnight camping.
- No removal of sand. We paid for it! On a serious note: please fill in holes that are dug in the sand. This causes a major safety hazard. Large or small, holes along the beach can cause serious injury.
- The dunes are protected, so please don't disturb them.

The 24 Beach Ambassadors will be walking the beach to remind people of these ordinances and also to discuss the unique and diverse wildlife on the beach. "We have one of the top five critical beach areas in the world," explained Nancy Richie, regarding Sand Dollar Beach, located just north of Tigertail Beach. This protected stretch of beach is home to myriad migratory birds



Photo courtesy of Nancy Richie,
Marco Island Environmental Specialist

Sea Turtle nests are clearly marked during nesting season



Photo courtesy of Debbie Barker, The Marco Review

A Black Skimmer, a species of special concern, skirts low over the breaking waves at Residents' Beach

that nest there every year. "A dog is like a freight train to a bird." Nancy again stressed the importance of keeping dogs off of the beach.

Beach Stewards are prepared with information about these special bird species: black skimmers, least terns, snowy plovers, willets and more.

Just as the migratory bird population utilizes Marco's beaches for nesting, so does the Loggerhead sea turtle. A threatened species, the Loggerhead's nesting season is from May 1 through October 31. Mary Nelson is Marco Island's sea turtle monitor and she explained the life cycle of the sea turtle and the importance of keeping our beaches dark and clean. Mary stressed the importance of respecting the nests - do not go near marked nests and do not approach sea turtles if seen on the beach. Beach Stewards will be able to answer questions during sea turtle season and are on high alert when it comes to protecting the roped off nests.

The session commenced in a "graduation" where we all received orange t-shirts, labeling us as beach stewards and orange packets filled with pertinent information for our new roles as "Ambassadors of the Beach."

The program was developed in May of this year with the Marco Island Community Affairs and Police Departments and the Beach Advisory Committee. Each volunteer is asked to donate at least one two-hour shift per week, once a month. They may be called in for special events, such as holiday weekends when the beaches are more crowded, marine mammal strandings or other beach events that may need volunteers.

Stewards monitor the beach, making it clear that they are there for questions, and answering those that may arise. The Stewardship allows the volunteer to become familiar with Marco's beaches while interacting with beach-goers in a friendly, courteous and educational manner. For those interested in becoming a Volunteer Beach Steward, contact Nancy Richie at (239) 389-5003.

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City Council Unanimously Approves Veterans' Memorial Enhancements

On December 20, 2012, the Marco Island City Council unanimously approved Phase II enhancements to the Veterans' Memorial. The Veterans' Memorial is the centerpiece of the popular Veterans' Community Park.

An ambitious plan for a new Memorial Fountain and Flag Plaza was outlined by Lee Rubenstein, Veterans' Memorial Fundraising Committee Chair, and Bryan Milk, City of Marco Island Community Affairs Director. The Committee's goal is to dedicate the Phase II enhancements next Veterans Day - 11/11/13. Members of the Committee are confident that adequate private funding can be raised, and the Phase II enhancements installed in time to meet this deadline. No taxpayer dollars will be required.

Rubenstein and Milk presented a comprehensive design plan recommended by the Committee, and developed by Kimley-Horn and Associates, the original designers of the Veterans' Memorial. While

the firm is still determining the final cost of the proposed enhancements, it is estimated that Phase II will cost less than \$150,000.

Per the Kimley-Horn plan, the distinctive new Memorial Fountain will face the entrance to the Veterans' Memorial. The new Memorial Fountain will be approximately 20 feet in diameter, featuring a bronze eagle at the top. It will incorporate symbols of the five branches of the military, and provide ample space for individuals to inscribe names in honor or in memory of Veterans. The cost of inscribing names will be determined by the final cost estimates of the overall project.

Adjacent to the new fountain will be four benches, similar to those surrounding the existing Veterans' Memorial. The opportunity to dedicate these exclusive benches in memory or in honor of a Veteran will be decided through a limited bidding process.

continued on page 18



Veterans' Memorial Enhancements
continued from page 18

A new "Flag Plaza" will be created, incorporating the flag poles of the existing American Flag, Marco Island Flag, State of Florida Flag, and the POW/MIA flag. Kimley-Horn has designed pavers and a walkway to connect this area to the Memorial and the new fountain, utilizing the original Phase I design. The "Flag Plaza" will provide a small seating area and planter with patriotic flowers.

According to Rubenstein, "Opportunities to donate for the Phase II enhancements will be announced shortly. Without question we are a patriotic and giving community. Marco Islanders, local organizations, businesses, and visitors have displayed their dedication to the Veterans' Memorial by their tremendous response to fundraising efforts over the last few years. Donations totaling over \$300,000, including \$60,000 of City funds, have been and continue to be contributed for the Memorial's commemorative flag poles, benches, and pavers."

It took more than seven years, from the initial proposal by the local VFW Post to completion of Phase I of the Memorial. Rubenstein reminded Council Members that the first phase of the Memorial was dedicated last year on Veterans' Day – 11/11/11. A more extensive Memorial site was initially approved as part of the Veterans' Community Park's Master Plan, but due to the weakened economy was scaled back.

Veterans' Memorial Fundraising Committee Chair Lee Rubenstein, a Vietnam era Veteran, is a former Commander of VFW Post 6370, and headed the highly successful effort that brought the Traveling Vietnam Wall to Marco Island in 2011.

Other members of the Fundraising Committee include: Bill Duncan, Doug Hartman, Lee Henderson, Don Hopkins, Patty Mastronardi, Bryan Milk, Carole Roberts (co-chair), Ray Rosenberg, Mike Stapleton, and Keith Wohltman. They represent the various branches of the military, local veterans organizations (the Marco Island VFW Post, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Civil Air Patrol), families and friends of veterans, as well as the Parks and Recreation Department.

Rubenstein reminded the community that the sale of inscribed pavers and military branch medallions at the Memorial is ongoing, and they are encouraged to contribute to the Memorial now. Applications are available at the site of the Veterans' Memorial, at the Veterans' Memorial table at Farmer's Market (every Wednesday), as well as by calling Patty Mastronardi at 239-389-5035. Funds raised by the Committee are held in a restrictive account by the City of Marco Island, and are tax deductible to contributors. Questions should be directed to Chairman Lee Rubenstein (marcoump@aol.com).



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Friends of Tigertail 2013 Beach Clean-Up Schedule

Saturday, April 13th - Friends of Tigertail is hosting the "23rd Annual Bay Days - Keep Collier Beautiful - Earth Day Event" from 8 a.m. until noon.

Saturday, July 13th - Friends of Tigertail is hosting a Beach Cleanup from 8 a.m. until noon.

Saturday, September 21st - Friends of Tigertail is hosting the "28th Annual Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup Event" from 8 a.m. until noon.

Saturday, December 7th - Friends of Tigertail is hosting a Beach Cleanup from 8 a.m. until noon.

On each occasion volunteers will meet at the Tigertail Beach kiosk. Garbage bags and work gloves provided. Wear shoes that may get wet. Contact Susan at 239-394-1470 for more information.



Sophie and Caroline Caragiulo enjoyed combing Tigertail beach for garbage during a recent Beach Clean-Up

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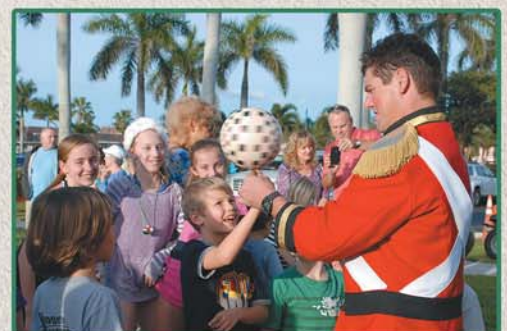


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Residents' Beach

Friday 23rd December 2012



Marco Island Shell Club Shell Show

by: Jae Kellogg, 2013 Marco Island Shell Club Shell Show Chair

The 33rd annual Marco Island Shell Club shell show will be held on March 14-16, 2013 between 10 am and 4:00 pm at the United Church of Marco - Disseler Hall, 320 N. Barfield Drive, Marco Island. Mark your calendars for this spectacular event!

2700+ people visited our three-day show last year! With over 150 Scientific and Artistic exhibitors participating last year - this year hopes to attract even more exhibitors from the state of Florida and beyond. 19 trophies will be awarded in our Scientific and Artistic Divisions, with numerous 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons presented by our fantastic judges.

What does "Scientific and Artistic Divisions" mean in the exhibit part of our show?

In the Scientific Division, our categories range from one single shell, self-collected right here on Marco Island, to magnificent collections of shells from all over the world. You will not believe where our exhibitors have traveled to find that one, extraordinary shell! One of my favorite categories is the Anomalies - albinos, abnormal structures, and dwarfs - unbelievable finds. Did you know that some of the most beautiful and well-preserved fossil shells and sea life are found right here in Collier County? We also have a category for fossils and you will see some that are amazingly perfect even though they are over 500,000 years old. Don't forget Land Snails! They are certainly an interesting bunch and depending on where they have been gathered - the colors and designs are those that only Mother Nature knows how to produce!

In the Artistic Division, whether you enjoy shell-flower/sea life arrangements, needlepoint, fabulous mollusk/sea life photography, sailor's Valentines, shell jewelry, lamps with shells/sea life, wreaths,



What could be more exciting than joining the Marco Island Shell Club for the highlight of our season - our annual, juried Shell Show? Whether you are interested in the scientific aspects of local mollusks (shells) and sea life in our island paradise (and from around the world) or exhibits of some of the most beautiful shell art you have ever experienced - our show is the place for you. An amazing



shell decorated apparel, mirrors, holiday decoration, novelties - there will be something for you. Our Novice class (first year exhibitors) is stocked with new talent. When you see their exhibits, you will see what a great class of beginning artists we have in our club. The Hobbyist Class - those who make shell art, but do not sell and the Professional Class - those who sell their art through galleries, shows, websites, home, etc. - are our other two classes. Many of the Professional exhibits will be for sale, but must remain in their exhibit area until the end of the show on Saturday. These two groups offer some of the most creative shell art you will ever see.

“A Gift Shop Like No Other” - this comment made by one of our members sums it up! You can find our shell artists busy every Tuesday morning in workshops at the United Church of Marco’s Dis-seler Hall. Our artists begin in early November and continue producing beautiful inventory that will be for sale at our annual show. “The Gift Shop” is a “must” on your way out of the show.

Do you have family coming in to visit for the season? The Shell Show is one attrac-



tion that is for everybody. This year we are featuring a “live shell tank” at our show (compliments of Rookery Bay). Kids and adults alike will love to see the actual life and living of these breathtaking animals! Would you like to take some “first quality” local shells home to enjoy all summer? In our Gift Shop, we have beautiful local shells from our outer islands that are waiting for you!

We have four very talented judges for this year’s show. They will be at our show all day on Thursday. Come and meet them. Scientific - Wayne Harland - renowned shell show judge, collector and world traveler, and Jim Cordy - Curator of Mollusks,



Brevard Museum of Natural History and shell collector. Artistic - Sharlene Totten - experienced shell show judge, shell artist and jewelry maker, and Audrey O’Donnell - award winning shell artist and sailor’s Valentine maker.

Proceeds from the show support the scholarship and grant programs for marine biology students at Florida Gulf Coast University.

www.marcoshellclub.com - Please visit our website!

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Million Dollar Quartet to Appear at Residents' Beach

The music of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins starring "Million Dollar Quartet" off-Broadway production star and "Legends In Concert" tribute artist "JOE MARINO" and his show band, "ALL THE KING'S MEN."



This stunning, turbocharged high-energy tribute to the original "Million Dollar Quartet" of 1956 Sun Records fame, will appear at Residents' Beach on Saturday, March 9, 2013 between 5-7pm. Joe Marino is a professional look-alike tribute artist, musician and entertainer who has performed as Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Buddy Holly, Ricky Nelson, and Dion DeMucci in numerous other tribute shows around the world.

Do not miss this super exciting, theatrical costumed show and dance party that is always a sellout! As an added bonus, several other famous music celebrities will also make appearances at this show!

Please Remember....

No Glass at the Beach!

Guy Harvey is Rookery Bay Honorary Event Chair

Marine wildlife artist Guy Harvey is Honorary Chairman of the 4th annual Batfish Bash for the Bay, being hosted by the Friends of Rookery Bay on Saturday, March 16 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road in Naples.

"We are honored that Guy Harvey has joined us in this capacity and will attend our signature event," said David C. Gordley, Batfish Bash chairman and Friends of Rookery Bay board member. "People throughout southwest Florida are familiar with his artwork that depicts many species found in local waters and that celebrates fishing, boating, conservation and other recreational activities enjoyed by people in our community. It's a natural tie-in with the work done at Rookery Bay to protect our environment."

A resident of Grand Cayman, Harvey combines his artistic talents with his background as a marine biologist, diver, photographer and angler to create marine wildlife art with an unmatched authenticity and visual appeal.

Self-taught, Harvey's artistic roots can be traced back to his childhood in Jamaica, where he spent many hours fishing and diving with his father along the island's south coast. His obsession with the creatures of the sea inspired early drawings of the many different fish he observed.

The Batfish Bash features Olde Florida fare by Russell's Clambakes and Cookouts, dancing to the Raiford Starke Band, and live and silent auctions. The Patron Party on Feb. 28 at Hamilton Harbor Yacht Club includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a private sunset cruise.

Proceeds from the Batfish Bash support youth science education, environmental research activities and community outreach programs provided by the 110,000-acre Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Tickets to the Batfish Bash are \$175 for the March 16 event only or \$250 to also attend the Patron Party.

Corporate sponsorships are also available. For more information, call 239-417-6310 x409.



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Calusa Garden Club Sponsors Two Area Students

by Nancy Reynolds, Calusa Garden Club

This past year the Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island sent two area students to Wekiva Youth Camp, located in Apopka, Florida. The girls, Avorie Anderson of Marco Island and Karla Ramirez of Naples, each attended a one week session during the summer.

Camp Wekiva is a residential nature camp for third through eighth grade youngsters and is sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs with the purpose of instilling a love and respect for Florida nature; as well as knowledge of nature, the importance of conservation, and the protection of our environment. Additionally, Critter Camp, a two night mini-camp experience, is also offered for students who have completed second grade. Seventh and eighth grade programs are more advanced and include tent camping, cooking over an open fire, and the value of teamwork. Typical camp activities include: Crafts, field



Avorie Anderson was awarded a Camp Wekiva scholarship last April. (Left to Right) Marianne Foley, Shelley Anderson, Avorie Anderson, Lindy Kowalczyk

sports, bicycling, swimming, night rides, skit night, evening programs, and campfires with s'mores. Sessions are non-profit and self-supporting, and are accredited by the American Camp Association. Scholarships are available based on financial need and merit and are awarded on a first-come basis.

The Calusa Garden Club meets at 1:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month from October through April in Fellowship Hall of Wesley United Methodist Church, 350 S. Barfield. Optional workshops on a variety of design topics are held at 11:00 a.m., followed by a social time prior to the meeting. A variety of programs are presented after the meeting - ranging from floral design and landscaping to environmental issues. Membership information can be found on the Calusa.org website or by calling 239-404-5746.



Karla Ramirez (right) with one of the Camp Wekiva counselors

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Parts & service for customers in
WM computer, 785 Bald Eagle Dr

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Dr. Constance Aria, 394-5599
Licensed Psychologist, Royal Palm Mall

Avon by Lucinda
Cosmetics, 642-0297, 821-7976

Diva Boutique, Pamela Broad
10% off facials & purchase of skin care
or makeup, Marco Walk, 642-0506

DoctoRxpess
10% discount to MICA Members
Same day medical care to home, condo,
hotel, resort or office - avoid long waits
while on vacation.
Dr. James Klein, 239-642-8989

Jeffery M. Bogan Insurance Agency,
15% off annual prem. for long term care,
261-6533

**H.I. Studios, Ltd. Memorable
Keepsakes**, 821-9458

James Karl & Associates
Free initial consultation
678 Bald Eagle Dr, 642-9988

Lotus Blossom Feng Shui Designs
First consultation, 404-0678

Marco Island Photography
Portrait sitting & finished portraits by
Peter Berec, 642-3500

**Vaughan & Associates,
Financial Planning Services**
Dennis M Vaughan, CFP, 970-2800
Dennis@vaughanassociatesllc.com

Veronica McNally, Ind Beauty Consultant,
10% off every order, plus free lipstick with
new customer facial & makeover. 389-4852

The above businesses participate in MICA's Members Only Discount Program and extend a minimum 10% discount to MICA & Residents' Beach members. Please present your card at time of purchase. Discounts are not valid with any other offers. Discounts are for MICA & Residents' Beach members' purchases only.





An unusual view of Residents' Beach captured by Charlette Roman

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239-248-2095

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Kiwanis Club of Marco Island Car Show

Fast, old, new, loud, crazy colors, the Kiwanis Club of Marco Island Car Show is set for February 17th at the Marco Healthcare Center, San Marco Road and Heathwood Dr. The starting time has changed this year from 10am to 9:30am.

The club expects over 150 cars and has added space this year to accommodate up to 200 cars. Refreshments (hamburgers, hot dogs and sausage and peppers), soda and water will be available for purchase. The Italian American Club will be on site selling cakes, pastries and preparing Zeppoles (Italian donuts).

The Marco Charter High School guitar group will be performing as will the Marco Players young actors. Of course Steve Reynolds will be back to play those great oldies from the 50s and 60s. The \$6 table will also return with great buys on purses, jewelry and assorted items.

The proceeds from the show are used to benefit children with such things as scholarships, books and computer equipment.

This is a great time for car owners to bring out their pride and joy and help Kiwanis help kids. There is a \$5 spectator donation but there is no charge for children under 12.

If you have any questions or would like further information please call John DeRosa at 239.272.0816



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MARCO ISLAND RESIDENTS' BEACH 2013 SEASON ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE



**Wednesday, February 13, 2013,
5-6:30 pm
Music of Marco Big Band**



**Sunday, February 24, 2013, 4:30-6:30 pm
Marco's Favorite Entertainer
"Johnny Fusco" in Concert**



**Saturday, March 9, 2013,
5-7 pm
Million Dollar Quartet**



**Sunday, March 24, 2013, 6-7:30 pm
SATISFACTION -
Tribute to The Rolling Stones**

**These events are for Residents' Beach members and their guests only.
Please bring Residents' Beach ID, lawn chair & blanket.
Paradise Grill at Residents' Beach offers a special menu!**