
MICA WAVE

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association.
News and Reviews of What's Really Happening on Marco Island.

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June, 2007
2007 Issue 1

A Toll on the Jolley Bridge??

First, let's ask the question – are four bridge lanes necessary for Marco Island? During season, two to three months out of the year, two to three hours per day, it would be nice. But is it necessary? Are repairs needed to make the bridge safe and secure for those crossing it? The engineers will let us know.

A toll on the Judge S.S. Jolley Bridge – Just what does it mean? The State of Florida has stated that the most likely location for a toll booth for the Jolley Bridge would be south of the traffic signal at Isles of Capri Boulevard. A bridge toll would only aggravate any traffic, creating back ups for the residents and visitors of the Isles of Capri, a situation which does not currently exist.

The MICA Board of Directors is concerned that a toll on the Jolley Bridge would result in an increase in costs for services, such as landscaping and home repair, etc. Imagine you've

picked out a lovely couch at ABC Furniture of Naples or Ft. Myers. Already the delivery fee to Marco is \$75 to \$100, and with a toll of \$5 or possibly even \$10 for a larger truck, do you think ABC Furniture will absorb the cost of the toll? Service personnel coming from off the island will almost certainly pass the cost of a bridge toll along to the homeowners and residents of Marco Island.

Imagine again that Tom and June Jones, who reside in a new community along State Road 951 and who just don't feel like cooking dinner tonight, would really enjoy a delightful dinner cooked by someone else. "Let's see," they ponder, "should we drive up the road four miles to Fish House North or drive down the road four miles to Fish House South and add an additional \$4-5 onto our dinner cost?" All things being equal, other than the toll, Mr. & Mrs.

Jones would probably head north. Now imagine that all the other Joneses and Smiths are faced with the same decision seven days per week. You will find that over the long run, restaurant and other trade business will be down, which could result in Marco Island businesses closing and offering fewer choices and more expensive services to the residents of Marco Island.

Also consider the many people one encounters every day on Marco Island, the cashier at the grocery store, the server at a favorite restaurant, the manager of the drug store, the cell phone store employee, a child's favorite teacher. Will they still be there to help islanders with their needs if they have to fork over \$4-5 every time they cross the bridge to work? \$25 per week or \$100 per month is a big chunk of an employee's salary.

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President's Letter

by Kathy Sullivan

As I begin my second year as President of MICA I am putting together a list of goals for myself and the organization.

Our number one priority is, of course, to strive to maintain our beautiful beach for the enjoyment of our members. In the past year we have celebrated the opening of our new pavilion, built a new and safer children's playground, improved the food service, completed our final hurricane repairs, added a volleyball net and hosted a wider variety of events, including the dancers from Liechtenstein. In the next year we plan to secure and improve our hurricane preparedness, improve our entrance, have more special performances and pay down as much of our debt as we can afford. We expended our hurricane reserves so we plan to put some money aside for repairs.

As a homeowners association we will continue to take a stand on community issues that affect our members. MICA surveys the members to gain input and uses that information to formulate

positions. We don't comment on all the issues because on some issues there is not a clear direction or the board cannot agree on a position. Because of the number of members and the number of surveys that are returned we feel MICA is a powerful voice in the community, and we need to respect and use that position judiciously. The Board of Directors is very careful not to use the MICA voice to push our own personal agendas. When we publish our survey results to members, we use actual numbers rather than percentages. We do this to highlight the number of respondents we get. It's important to return the surveys as it is our primary source of member input on the issues.

Recently we took a position opposing the toll on the Jolley Bridge. We think that a toll will increase congestion, cause traffic delays and hurt island residents financially. Most of the service personnel come from off the island and will build the tolls into increased fees to homeowners. The businesses will suffer, too.

If they can't survive financially on Marco Island, we will find it necessary to go off island to shop, dine, etc.

MICA will continue to monitor and take action to enforce the deed restrictions on Marco Island. Residential neighborhoods will be protected. We monitor the creeping usage of residential units into commercial areas in the form of mixed use. This trend has the ultimate result of increasing density, something our members have repeatedly opposed.

MICA is engaged in dialogue with Naples Community Hospital regarding the hours of operation at the Marco Healthcare Center. We remain committed to having the facility opened 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, staffed by a physician for the health and wellbeing of the community. There are deed restrictions on the property which MICA intends to enforce. Without a commitment to reopen the Healthcare Center 24/7, we will not consider amending the deed restrictions.

MICA is an organization of volunteers. I am personally committed to ensuring the continuity of the organization by developing a pool of interested people who are willing to volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of the community. If you are interested in helping out, I welcome hearing from you.

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Sunset with Mr. Greeley

by Ruth McCann

The sunsets on Marco Island are always wonderful and special. However, they are particularly exceptional as Mr. James Greeley, Sr., stands and begins singing “God Bless America” as the sun goes down at the Marco Island Residents’ Beach.

Mr. Greeley has always enjoyed singing, noting that, with no television, years ago everyone either sang or played an instrument as a means of entertainment. He has kept singing through the years and has a wonderful repertoire of old songs that many of us learned from our parents and grandparents, as well as a collection of clever Irish ditties. It is truly amazing that Mr. Greeley knows all of these songs from memory and at close to 89 years of age, he has no problem remembering the words to a long string of songs! Jim



Greeley has a lovely, melodic voice and a wonderfully charming smile!

From 1941 to 1945, Jim Greeley, Sr., served in the United States Navy and spent a few

years stationed at Pearl Harbor. A couple of years after World War II, he met the love of his life, Irene, and they lived and worked in Massachusetts, raising their four children. The family has grown and now includes grandchildren as well.

Jim has been coming to Marco Island since 1980 and also joins in the entertainment poolside at his condominium complex, the Seawatch. Jim’s now a snowbird and spends about six months on Marco each year. This year he was accompanied by one of his sons, Jim, Jr.

From the handicapped platform at Residents’ Beach in 1999 he began singing “God Bless America” and “Goodnight

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It's Season on Marco Again! Sea Turtle Season, That is!

Female loggerhead sea turtles began arriving to nest on Marco's beachfront in May and will continue through August. Hatchlings will begin emerging 60 days after the nests are laid and continue through October.

Loggerheads are one of 10 reptiles in Florida that are protected under the Endangered Species Act. For this reason, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection requires sea turtle nest monitoring on beaches that have raking activities during nesting season or have been recently renourished. The Collier County Sea Turtle Protection Program monitors most of Collier's beaches. On Marco Island Mary Nelson, a.k.a., The Turtle Lady, monitors the beach daily for sea turtle activity and stakes and places caution tape around each new nest. Then after each nest hatches, Mary excavates the cavity to count the egg shells left behind and record data to be analyzed for an annual sea turtle report.

Florida alone contains 90% of the loggerhead nesting in the United States. Each summer hundreds of nests are laid by loggerhead sea turtles on Collier County beaches. The use of these beaches by sea turtles is vital to their continued survival in Southwest Florida. As the sea turtle is guided by the light from



the moon, stars or towards the brightest horizon, please remember a few simple things to help protect these magnificent creatures.

Beachfront property owners must shield lights that shine on the beach and turn off unnecessary lighting.

Do not use flashlights or flash photography on the beach at night.

Limit night activities on the beach during nesting season; your presence may discourage females from approaching the beach.

Do not disturb marked sea turtle nests.

Take back what you bring to the beach, including trash, chairs, umbrellas, coolers, etc.

In the event of an injured or dead sea turtle, immediately notify Collier County Environmental Specialists at 239-213-2952 during the day or page 239-890-6486 evenings and weekends. Mary Nelson can be reached at 239-298-9736 or page 239-513-5374.



Election of MICA Board Members

by Ruth McCann

Each year four MICA Board seats come up for election for three-year terms. A Nominating Committee recommends six fellow MICA members to run for election. Ballots are then mailed to all of the MICA members so they may select the four individuals they want to represent them. Members take their responsibility to cast their ballots seriously. 2007 was no exception, as our members performed their voting duties with diligence and returned their ballots to be tabulated.

The 12 members of the MICA Board of Directors are elected by the membership and volunteer their time and exceptional talents to work on behalf of the members of MICA and the Marco Island Residents' Beach. Already serving on the MICA Board are the following island residents: Jim Arnold, Shirlee Barcic, Maury Dailey, Ed d'Alessandro, Jim Johnson, Howard Jordan, Clark Morton, Kathy Sullivan, Beverly Trotter, and JoAnne Youman. The results of the February ballot tabulation revealed that Shirlee Barcic and Ed d'Alessandro were re-elected. Joining them as new members to the board were Bernardo Bezos and Linda Shockley.

With their board terms expiring, Jack McGowan and Steve Ostrow left the MICA Board with the sincere thanks of

the rest of the MICA Board members and the association for their many years of dedication to the membership.

Before any business was conducted at the March meeting, MICA Board members elected officers. Continuing to serve as MICA's President is Kathy Sullivan, as Vice President is Howard Jordan, and as Secretary is JoAnne Youman. Bernardo Bezos has taken on the reigns as the Treasurer of the association.

From there other appointments were made to the various committees of MICA. There are a couple committees which many members are already aware of, such as the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) and the Residents' Beach Advisory Committee. The ARC performs a valuable function by reviewing construction plans to be sure they comply with the Deltona Deed Restrictions. The Residents' Beach Advisory Committee oversees projects and policies at the Residents' Beach and Sarazen Park, of course. The MICA Board takes these functions of the board very seriously and strives to protect both the Deed Restrictions and Residents' Beach properties for the benefit of the residents of Marco Island.

Other committees continue to kick into gear, such as Community and Government Affairs, Finance, Legal Affairs, and Mem-

ber Affairs. All of these committees serve invaluable functions as well and all work together to form the Marco Island Civic Association as you know it.

MICA Board members serve on at least one committee, if not two. They serve along with other volunteers for the civic improvement of Marco Island and to advance the best interests of the citizens of Marco. There are always opportunities for MICA members to participate within the organization. Should you wish to volunteer, please call the MICA office at 239-642-7778.

Sunset with Mr Greeley Continued from page 3

Bless America" and "Goodnight Irene," in honor of his wife, Irene, who passed away in 2000. Then September 11, 2001, happened, and Jim began to put all his efforts into performing this beloved song each and every evening, representing his country proudly.

Each day, just before the sun goes down, Mr. Greeley sets his sights on the handicapped platform at Residents' Beach. He rarely misses a sunset during season, and he has a following of Residents' Beach members who rarely miss his singing! As the sun sets, it is hard to tell if the clapping is for another breathtaking sunset or for another brilliant rendition of "God Bless America."

Tanzarena Liechtenstein



Performs at Residents' Beach



Native Plants

by Cathleen Feser, M.A., M.S., Urban Horticulture Agent II
Collier County UF/IFAS Extension

The promotion of native plants for SW Florida landscapes makes a great deal of sense. Naturally, a plant native to a particular area is adapted to the environmental conditions of that area, and in general, will perform well in the landscape. This is not to say that certain species of non-native plants won't perform well, but there seems to be a good deal of confusion surrounding the word 'native'.



Wild Coffee Tree

I was recently very surprised to hear a landscape professional recommend Hibiscus as a native plant, suggesting deep pink and yellow for the color combination. True, Hibiscus grows very well in our area, as it will in any tropical climate, but the Hibiscus used in SW Florida landscapes (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*) is native to China. Scarlet Rosemallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*) and Great Rosemallow (*H. grandiflora*) are the only two hibiscus' native to the swamps of Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida. Both are much smaller shrubs, both come in only one color (scarlet and pale pink respectively) and neither shrub has been spotted in any local landscapes, although this might not be such a bad idea.

Over-use in the landscape does not automatically elevate a

plant to 'native' status, nor does the term native mean the plant grows only in Florida. The term native refers to pre-Columbian plant material. In other words, native plants are the ones already here when Columbus landed.

Many of the plants currently in vogue as 'Florida' natives are actually native to a variety of regions throughout the country and not all of those regions have the subtropical climate of Florida. For example, the Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) is a native found from Virginia south to Florida and west to Texas. Yes, Virginia has a warm climate, but it can hardly be considered subtropical. Firebush (*Hamelia patens*) is also a highly recommended native shrub, and again, this doesn't mean it is exclusive to Florida. Firebush is native to not only Florida, but the West Indies and as far south as Bolivia and Paraguay.

Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) is native from Virginia west to Texas and south to the West Indies. Although it dies back in northern winter climates, Beautyberry can be grown as far north as Massachusetts. Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*), another outstanding native shrub, has a less extensive range and is found in South Florida and the West Indies. Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*), a very attractive shrub (or small tree) gaining in popularity, is native to the West Indies.

The same holds true for large trees. Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) is possibly the best known native shade tree in Florida, but least known as

native from Virginia west to Texas and the northern regions of the Chihuahuan Desert. Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is native to over three quarters of the continental United States, and not even the Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) can be hailed as 'Florida only' because its native territory ranges from Delaware south to Florida, and west to Arkansas and Texas.



Fiddlewood Tree with Flowers

It is not my intention to shatter any illusions or foster disappointment in those who are trying to 'go native' with their landscapes. All efforts in this direction are enthusiastically applauded, but the word native is somewhat misleading. Of the many people requesting recommendations for native trees and shrubs more than half are under the impression 'native' plants grow only in the state they have moved to, in this case Florida. Others have expressed confusion because the plants touted as Florida natives were considered natives in other states such as Georgia and South Carolina. Perhaps it would be easier, and certainly less confusing, to simply consider these plants as natives of North America. In truth, it would be more accurate.

The Beachfront Report

by Tony Sans

We made it! We survived another “season” of over-population and traffic gridlock. When you look at it logically though, traffic could be worse. Take Chicago, New York City, Los Angeles, and others. Did you ever sit in traffic for an hour or two and only move a couple miles? Nonetheless, you need to handle things in a rational manner with safety in mind. Road rage and aggressive driving are never wise decisions. And obscene gestures are hardly ever effective and more importantly immature.

Though the above actions are rarely observed on the beach, we must respect one another. Bringing glass containers (beer bottles, wine cooler bottles, bottles of wine, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, it is a State of Florida law. Glass containers must be kept off of the sand (**“If your feet are in the sand, you should not have glass in your hand”**).

Following is an excerpt from <http://www.municode.com>,

Sec. 54-36. Regulation of use and conduct on the beach.

(a) *Possession of glass containers prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any person while on the beach or beach access areas to possess or utilize any glass bottle or container.

The volleyball net at Residents’ Beach is available for use by members. You can bring your own ball or leave your driver’s

license or Residents’ Beach ID with the gate attendant in order to borrow a volleyball.

There are other conditions to also be aware of on the beach: Smoking on a breezy day; installing your umbrella safely and properly; your radio; and fishing in the unofficial swim area.

For smokers, when you arrive at the beach, verify where the wind is coming from. Once you determine the wind, “stake your territory” at the beach and keep in mind the wind will blow your smoke.

Protecting yourself from the sun is extremely important in Florida. We always stress the importance of using a “sun-screen” to protect your skin from the sun’s harmful rays. Although it will not substitute using sun screen, an umbrella will provide cool shade. Umbrellas come in various sizes and styles. One thing that each of them share is the danger they pose. If an umbrella is not properly installed, it could become a flying projectile on a breezy or windy day. When installing your umbrella, make sure that it is anchored into the sand (recommended 12” – 24” deep). Once the umbrella is 12-24” deep, pack the sand at the base to increase the stability. If you leave your spot on the beach, close the umbrella while you are away.

Although they are permitted

on the beach, radios should be kept at a reasonable volume. Disrupting those around you can interfere with the enjoyment of the beach for all.

Recreation fishermen love the thrill of snatching that “big catch” in the Gulf. When they can do that at the beach, it is the best of both worlds. As of yet, no law or ordinance exists that prohibits fishing from the beach. Fishing in swim areas, however, poses a great danger to the swimmers. If a hook or tackle lure break from the fishing line, does it magically bury itself underneath the sand? Not likely. It remains in the ocean until it is washed ashore, or possibly stuck in a child’s foot or hand. Please be courteous to your fellow members and move to where swimmers are not present.

Please be safe while enjoying your beach and have a great summer!

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To Toll or Not to Toll, That is The Question

by Donna Fiala, Collier County Commissioner

First I must start off by telling you I'm not a believer in tolls, so you already know my message.

There are two tolls lurking out there; one for the Jolley Bridge and the other for the two "free" lanes about to be built on I-75.

The Collier County Commission was approached to create a Toll Authority to study how to build an additional four lanes on I-75, over and above the two lanes that are about to be built, which are already funded. This Toll Authority recommended tolling the funded lanes to pay for the additional four lanes. Part of the funding received was from the Federal Government, specifically to build these two lanes. I felt it

was wrong to even TRY to divert dollars received for one project to another, and argued that point. I lost quite miserably in a 4-1 vote.

One reason I dislike tolls is they NEVER go away! They use them for other roads in other parts of Florida, and when we need the dollars they magically disappear. Yes, we are a donor county, and we don't complain about it (very much), but we shouldn't have to toll ourselves when WE need a road...and a bridge.

Since that first vote the tide has changed. We now have a 4-1 vote against tolling I-75. As I look around the state of Florida, I really don't see ANY County with ten lanes on I-75 or any other roadway. You begin to wonder what the urgency is. Do they need the \$\$\$ for other projects? Seems to me I've read a lot about developers wanting to open up the middle of the state by building a new road called the Heartland Expressway. Makes me wonder if they were hoping to bond some of these toll dollars to build that road.

So now, let's talk about tolls close to home...a toll for a new bridge. I've read a lot about the urgency to build a new Jolley Bridge, so I decided to check into the life of our present bridge. I asked City Staff, who confirmed that the original bridge was designed for a 50 year life span. Then I checked with

the Florida DOT. They said "The bridge is in satisfactory condition and shows the kind of wear expected during its service to date." "Regular inspections and routine maintenance have occurred since construction of the bridge." "Although lifespan for the Jolley Bridge when constructed was estimated to be 50 years, the bridge is structurally sound, and, with continued maintenance, would serve the City of Marco Island and Collier County for approximately 20 years or more." "Today, of course, the Jolley Bridge is a two lane structure, and the department understands interest from local elected officials and the community in having a four lane bridge. As you know, we are designing plans now for a four lane Jolley Bridge; however, the construction phase is not funded in the department's five year work program....."

I truly believe that if we agree to toll ourselves the state will step aside and let us. If we do not toll ourselves and the bridge nears the end of its life, the state will have to come in and fund it. They cannot be responsible for an unsafe bridge and the lawsuits that would follow if problems occurred. It just seems to me we should continue to work with our legislators and the federal government, keeping the pressure on and the awareness in front of them until they find a source of funding.

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since 1983*

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Olde Marco

Reservations please 394-6262

MIFA Receives \$10,000 Grant for ArtQuest 2007

by Sandi Johnson, MIFA President

Mary Ellen Barrett, Vice President of Programs for The Community Foundation of Collier County (CFCC) recently notified the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts, Inc. (MIFA) that CFCC has awarded MIFA a \$10,000 grant to support ArtQuest 2007. CFCC also awarded MIFA a grant to support the 1st ArtQuest project.

Following on the heels of the wildly successful 1st ArtQuest public art exhibition, ArtQuest 2007 organizers envision a similar program with up to a dozen high-quality sculptures by national and international emerging and well known sculptors. The People's Choice Award, a cash award, will

be given to the creator of the most popular sculpture. A call to artists has been published in major national artist magazines. Submissions will be juried by MIFA's Fine Arts Committee.

These sculptures will be brought to the island with the help and cooperation of the business community, and will be placed at prominent locations around the island. Because of the limited number of sculptures available, some businesses were disappointed to miss the chance to participate in the 1st ArtQuest project, and are eager to get on board with ArtQuest 2007. Many businesses have already expressed an interest in sponsoring a sculp-

ture or the People's Choice Award. Residents and organizations are also welcome to become sponsors.

The unveiling of ArtQuest 2007 is expected to take place in mid-November with numerous celebratory events. An artist symposium and luncheon following the unveiling, docent tours and other events are being planned. The exhibit will conclude in April 2008.

MIFA Past President Jo-Ann Sanborn said "We are thrilled to be able to present ArtQuest 2007. (CFCC's) generosity allows us to grow, expand, and fulfill our mission of supporting the arts on Marco Island."

For more information, contact Jo-Ann Sanborn at 239-642-6367.

Thank You, Tanzarena Liechtenstein

by Ruth McCann

Tanzarena Liechtenstein danced a spectacular one and a half hour show on Friday, February 23, at the Marco Island Residents' Beach. This all-female dance company traveled from the small principality of Liechtenstein, and they performed beautifully for the members of the Marco Island Residents' Beach. Set to an outstanding musical score, the 14 young women from Liechtenstein

performed ELEMENTS and Oldies but Goldies on the stage at the Robert Sessions Pavilion.

Barbara Kindle, a part-time resident of Marco Island and a Residents' Beach member, is the founder choreographer and Artistic Director of Tanzarena Liechtenstein, and she was gracious enough to bring the young women to Marco as part of the dance company's thirtieth anniversary.

Our thanks must also go to

Residents' Beach member, Kathy Mulvahill, for bringing this outstanding dance company to our attention and for making us aware of their wonderful talent.

A show of this type, which featured jazz and modern dance, had never been attempted before at this venue! What a treat it was for all who attended! The pictures on pages 6 and 7 are a testament to the talents of Tanzarena Liechtenstein.

Fishing For a License?

Recreational fishing licenses and permits for residents and nonresidents are available at all Collier County Tax Collectors' offices. In addition, they are available from subagents, such as sporting goods stores or other retailers selling fishing equipment. All license, permit and issuance fees may be subject to change pending the outcome of this year's legislative session. Prices listed include tax collector's fee. In addition to the cost of the license, an issuance fee of \$.50 may be charged by the subagent selling the license or permit. Fees for licenses and permits are shown in the chart below.

Additional licenses and permits are available for archery, crossbow, turkey and Florida Waterfowl, etc.

With a major credit card, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission offers you two ways to buy your fishing license without leaving your home: www.myfwc.com/license/ (\$2.25 + 2.5% surcharge of total sale per person will be added to your purchase) or 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356) (\$3.25 + 2.5% surcharge of total sale per person will be added to your purchase). With either method, you'll have a temporary license number within minutes, enabling you to fish right away. Your permanent license will be mailed within 48 hours.

You do not need a license if

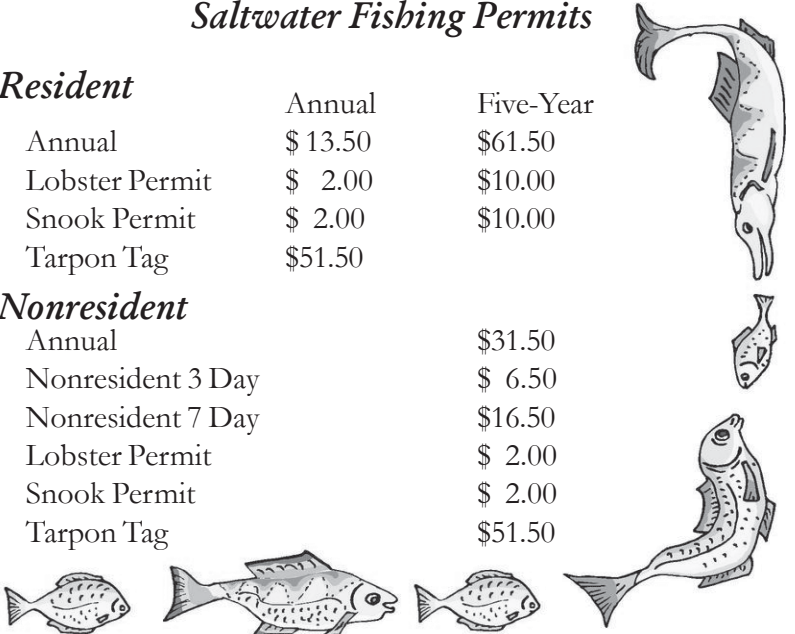
you are:

Under 16 years of age;
 a resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and not stationed in Florida, when home on leave for 30 days or less;
 a client for developmental disabilities services by the Children & Family Services;
 a resident fishing in saltwater from land or from a structure fixed to land; fishing from a vessel, the operator of which has a valid vessel license; a person holding a valid saltwater products license (SPL); fishing for recreational purposes from a pier that has been issued a valid pier saltwater fishing license;
 a resident fishing for a saltwater species in fresh water from land or from a structure fixed to land;
 a resident fishing for mullet in fresh water who has a valid Florida freshwater fishing license; a

resident 65 years of age or older who has in his or her possession proof of age and residency or a no-cost Florida Resident Senior Citizen license; an employee of the commission who takes freshwater fish, saltwater fish, or game as part of employment.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's mission is to manage Florida's fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well being and the benefit of people. Every license sold contributes to this mission and provides the public with outstanding marine recreational opportunities. Purchasing a saltwater fishing license will help support valuable programs such as Fisheries Research and Management, Fisheries and Artificial Reef Enhancement, Law Enforcement and Education.

<i>Saltwater Fishing Permits</i>		
<i>Resident</i>	Annual	Five-Year
	Annual	\$61.50
	Lobster Permit	\$ 2.00
	Snook Permit	\$ 2.00
	Tarpon Tag	\$51.50
<i>Nonresident</i>	Annual	\$31.50
	Nonresident 3 Day	\$ 6.50
	Nonresident 7 Day	\$16.50
	Lobster Permit	\$ 2.00
	Snook Permit	\$ 2.00
	Tarpon Tag	\$51.50



Where on Marco Island is Tract K?

by Ruth McCann

The name “Tract K” has been bounced around for years. I was recently asked a very simple question from someone who has lived on Marco Island for about four years, “Where in the world is Tract K?”

Tract K, which is 11.6 acres in size, is located in the Tigertail neighborhood of Marco Island. It fronts Tigertail Court, between Century and Hernando Drives, and backs up to single family homes on Diplomat and Somerset Courts.

In 1989 the Deltona Corporation donated Tract K to the District School Board of Collier County for a school site. Over the past 18 years, every now and again, Tract K has made its way into the newspapers, with headlines such as “Marco Island School

Property Up for Grabs,” or “School Board Declares Tract K Surplus Property” or a more recent headline “Marco Has Its Eye on Tract K.”

The present Collier County School Board understands that the Tract K parcel was given by Deltona for the benefit of the residents of Marco Island. Other land given by the Deltona Corporation continues to be used by the residents of Marco as intended, such as the churches, Mackle Park, the Caxambas Boat Ramp, and Residents’ Beach.

Tract K is a unique and undeveloped parcel of land that may serve our community for generations to come. The Marco Island Civic Association has surveyed its members on numerous

occasions with regard to the use of Tract K, and with the results of each survey, it is clear that Tract K should remain in the public domain as a school site, a park or a cultural center.

The City of Marco Island has proposed a land swap with the School Board, the Belle Meade property in Naples for Tract K. To date the School Board continues to evaluate the proposal to exchange Tract K for the Belle Meade section, which totals 160 acres.

And now that everyone knows where Tract K is located and how significant it is to Marco Islanders, let’s hope that this land will soon be zoned “public/community use,” as opposed to its present “residential single family” zoning.

The Water Management District has imposed mandatory water restrictions for Collier County, including Marco Island.

The restrictions limit lawn watering as follows:

Odd Number Addresses:

Wednesdays and Saturdays, 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., with hand watering allowed from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and

Even Number Addresses:

Thursdays and Sundays from 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.; with hand watering allowed from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.,



Please take note:

There is a new vehicular exit procedure at the Marco Island Residents’ Beach!

All vehicles exiting the property must make a right turn. You can no longer make a left turn when exiting the property.



Hurricane Season is Upon Us Again

Do you have a current Resident Re-Entry Sticker? If not, you may obtain one at the MICA office, City Hall or the Fire Department.

Please bring your driver's license or property tax statement and your vehicle registration.

Copies of MICA's "Barrier Island Hurricane Preparedness Manual" are also available.

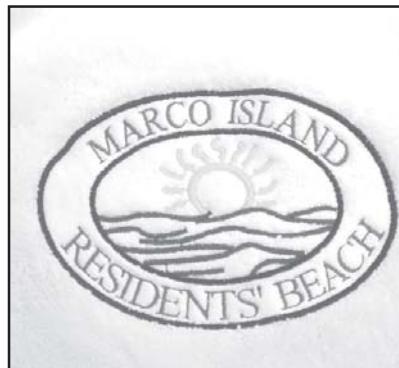
Remember.... No Glass at the Beach

A Snazzy Gift for Your Favorite Residents' Beach Member!!

The Ultimate Luxury Beach Towel:

4 pounds
40" wide and 80" long
100% combed cotton
\$59.00

These luxurious towels are available at the MICA office



A Toll on the Jolley Bridge?? Continued from page 1

I recently met a couple who lives in Everglades City and once or twice a month they drive to Marco Island to get their hair cut. They make a day of it, running errands, shopping, going out to dinner, listening to a little music, before heading back to the Everglades. If there was a toll, would they continue this little ritual? It's hard to tell. State roads and bridges have been expanded and repaired in the past in Collier County without a toll to the local residents and service personnel. What is different about the Jolley Bridge from all the other bridges in Collier County?

The results of past Marco Island Civic Association membership surveys are very clear. MICA members have consistently and overwhelmingly been opposed to a toll on the Jolley Bridge. In years past and again in 2005 MICA members were asked if they favored a toll on the Jolley Bridge to facilitate the completion of a second bridge at an earlier than anticipated date. Each time 75% to 80% of the respondents were opposed to a toll on the Jolley Bridge.

After considering the many affects of a toll, the Marco Island Civic Association Board of Directors does not believe a toll on the Judge S.S. Jolley Bridge would be in the best interest of the homeowners and residents of Marco Island.

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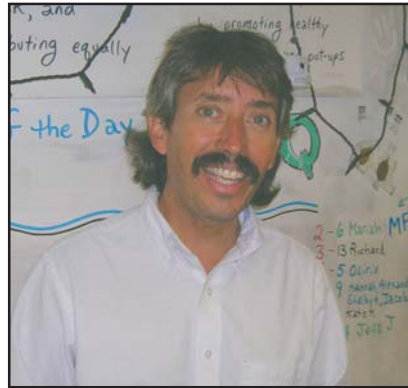
MICMS Science Teacher Credits Students, School with His 2007 Golden Apple Win
by Jenna Buzzacco

Madison Helmick needed a box to stand on to reach the microphone at the Naples Philharmonic Center of the Performing Arts.

The Marco Island Charter Middle School seventh-grader had something important to say about her science teacher, Shane Totten, and she wanted all of Collier County to hear it. “Mr. T is a dedicated science teacher, not to mention a great guitar teacher,” she said as she flashed a smile to Totten, who was waiting in the wings. “His exclusive teaching (methods) and authentic way of being himself are why he is a winner tonight.”

Totten, a Marco Island Charter Middle School science teacher, was one of six Collier County teachers honored at the annual Golden Apple awards ceremony Tuesday evening. In addition to the six Golden Apple winners, the Education Foundation of Collier County also recognized the 2007 Teachers of Distinction.

Totten had been nominated five times for the award, and was told in March that he had finally won. Totten on Tuesday told hundreds of colleagues, students and supporters that the award wasn't just for him, it was also for his school. Totten is the first Golden Apple teacher at the Marco Island Charter Middle School.



“Receiving this honor is a celebration for my school,” he said. “Nine years ago, our school was a field of sand, a field of dreams.” Nearly 10 years later, students are scheduled to move into the permanent campus in August. Totten said he's excited to take his version of science into his new, permanent classroom. “My students enjoy coming to class each day,” he said.

They also enjoy seeing Totten smile. “Every morning my students ask me ‘Why are you always smiling?’” Totten explained. “I tell them it's because I woke up this morning, but I'll get back to that later.” There once was a chance that Totten wouldn't wake up, and it's a story he makes sure he shares with his students each December.

Fourteen years ago, Totten was diagnosed with leukemia and was given a five percent chance at survival. He said he continued to teach, and whenever his students asked what they could do to help him, he told them to plant a flower. “I asked them to



plant their favorite flowers inside my bone marrow,” Totten said. “Whenever they pray for me, their roots join with the roots (of other students) and now, 14 years later, I have a beautiful and very healthy garden.”

This is the 17th year The Education Foundation of Collier County has honored six teachers with the award. To be considered, a teacher must be nominated by a student or community member for the honor. In September, about 4,000 students and community members nominated nearly 1,400 teachers for the award. Once nominated, 225 teachers chose to apply for the award. In December, 40 of those were named Teachers of Distinction. They were then put through a 24-week selection process, which included unannounced classroom observations and an interview by a committee to get to the final six.

This article was reprinted with permission of the Marco Eagle.

Spring Celebration at



Residents' Beach!



Conservation Collier Opens Otter Mound Preserve On Marco Island

*by Alexandra J. Sulecki, Coordinator,
Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Program*

On March 7, 2007 the Collier County Conservation Collier Program formally opened and dedicated the Otter Mound Preserve on Marco Island to the people of Collier County. This 1.78-acre Preserve, located in Marco's Caxambas section, was purchased by Collier County in July 2004 as one of the first of the Conservation Collier properties. The opening was the culmination of several years of hard work by staff, many local groups and government agencies, including the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS), The Calusa Garden Club, The Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Southwest Florida Archeological Society (SWFAS), Archeological & Historical Conservancy Inc., Boy Scouts of America, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Marco Island, Collier County Sheriff and the Collier County Board of County Commissioners.

Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala, Marco Island City Council Member Terri DiSciullo, Conservation Collier Committee Chairman Bill Poteet, and the Preserve Manager Melissa Hennig, spoke to a crowd of about 100 residents, neighbors



and visitors who attended the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. After the formalities, visitors meandered along the trail, enjoyed refreshments, and viewed Native American artifacts displayed by the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. Local archaeologist John Beriault, of the Archeological & Historical Conservancy, gave a guided tour of the site. Before and after pictures, positioned along the trail, demonstrated the hard work done by staff and volunteers to clean the site and ready it for public enjoyment.

Originally zoned for residential development, this property was chosen for preservation by

Conservation Collier primarily because it contains tropical hardwood hammock, a type of habitat rapidly disappearing in Collier County and considered by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as globally rare and imperiled statewide. This habitat provides shelter and food for many bird species. Both osprey and cooper's hawks have been observed nesting there and over 56 species of birds, including many rare and neotropical migrating species, have been documented there.

However, in addition, the site contains unique historic features, a 700-foot shell wall constructed by resident Ernest Otter in the 1940s and 50s and the last

remaining outhouse in Collier County. The site is also part of a 70- to 80-acre complex recognized by the State of Florida as historically and archeologically significant due to the presence of pottery, shell and stone tools dating from 2,000 years ago.

Three interpretive signs positioned along the trail provide a history of the site and its former occupants. These were made possible through a Florida Humanities Council (FHC) grant, provided to public programs throughout the state that explore Florida's history, folklore, environment, literature, music, and art. Native tropical hardwood hammock plants are also identified by signs.



One of the tasks undertaken by staff during the site preparation phase was the removal of exotic vegetation, which had severely infested the property. Then in 2005, Hurricane Wilma blew through and toppled a number of large trees. Between these two events, the site needed some restoration! During the hottest days of summer, in June and July 2006, program staff and dedicated volunteers planted over 200 native trees, shrubs and understory plants, which are now established and thriving.

Visitors are welcome to visit the Preserve between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to dusk. A small parking area is planned for the entrance but until constructed, parking is permitted along Addison Court. Visitors are asked not to bring pets unless they are leashed, as the preserve is meant to be a sanctuary for wildlife.

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The Animals Inside Seashells

by Linda Shockley

We are very fortunate on Marco Island to have an abundance of lovely seashells that roll ashore on our beaches and near-by sandbars. Few works of architecture can match the beauty and elegance of these shells. What creatures produce such works of art?

Seashells are constructed by animals called mollusks, which is a name derived from Latin and means “soft-bodied.” Mollusks make up the second largest phylum in the animal kingdom; only the arthropods, which include insects, outnumber them. There are more than 50,000 living species of mollusks today.

The various species of mollusks have adapted to live nearly everywhere—on land, in fresh water, and in the sea. They can be found from the polar zones to the tropics and from the highest mountain peaks to the deepest ocean trenches. There are herbivores and carnivores, parasites and mud-eaters, giant clams that garden algae in their tissues, deep-sea mollusks that culture bacteria, and others that bore into wood, shells and coral.

Mollusks are further divided into seven classes, based upon physical characteristics. The class we see most often around Marco are the gastropods, which have a single coiled or cap-like shell. The body of a gastropod con-

sists of four main parts - the head, foot, mantle, and visceral mass, which contains its digestive, respiratory, excretory, and reproductive systems. The head is well-defined with a mouth and two or four sensory tentacles. Eyes may be present at the tip of the tentacles, at the base, or somewhere in between. The mouth contains a radula, a ribbon-like organ made up of numerous tiny teeth (as many as 250,000), which scrapes against a horny plate in the upper part of the mouth to shred food. The gastropod’s easily recognizable foot, which gives the class its name (Greek *gaster*, stomach, and *poda*, feet) is a broad, flat muscular organ used primarily for locomotion. Most species have an operculum attached to the foot that operates as a trapdoor to close the shell. This is usually made of a horn-like material, but in some mollusks it is shell-like.



Large Horse Conch stranded on the Kice sand bar by the receding tide. Note its large, orange foot and small head with a pair of tentacles.



Close-up of Horse Conch head. Notice the little dark eye in the middle of the right tentacle.



A Fighting Conch seems surprised to find itself on Sand Dollar Spit! Note the well-developed eyes at the tip of each tentacle.

The mantle is a fold of tissue that covers the visceral mass and lines the inside of the gastropod shell. This organ takes calcium



This Lightning Whelk may have been in the process of producing new shell. The mantle is the black tissue all along the edges of the opening in the shell (the aperture).

and other chemicals from the ocean and uses them to produce calcium carbonate. The mantle secretes this in liquid form at the edges of the existing shell, where it solidifies to create new shell, with all its colors and patterns.



Lightning Whelk completely withdrawn into its shell, closing the aperture with its operculum.

Shell Collecting is a great hobby, but remember that the seashell you find on the beach may be inhabited by a living creature. Live shelling is NOT



Lettered Olive climbing out a container on Sand Dollar Spit. Note that the colors and pattern of the animal match those of its shell.

permitted on Marco Island or any Collier County beach park. So be sure to “check before you collect, or the stink later will make you regret!”



Moon snail from Tigertail Lagoon. The animal appears too large to fit into its shell, but is able to expel water from its tissues and fit completely inside.

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