

MICA *wave*

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association

May 2013

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

Read by
Over 20,000
Members



Your MICA
Board of Directors

The Science of
Naming Storms

Nesting Shorebirds
on Our Beaches
& Tips for
Responsible
Photography

The Eagles
Have Landed
...Again!

Beach
Renourishment

Mackle
Park
Update

www.marcocivic.com

President's Letter

by Dick Adams

As we wind down the 2012 – 13 season, it is the general consensus that Marco Island had one of the busiest winters in recent history. We hope that all members, regardless of whether seasonal or full-time, are refreshed for the balance of the year.

In this issue, we outline the latest situation with the community center at Mackle Park. This article will serve to surface some questions for MICA's 2013 Membership Survey. If you have supplied your email address, the survey will be emailed to you. Otherwise you will receive it in the mail shortly.

The MICA survey is relied upon in the community by our citizens and City Council members.

In fact, several City Council members submitted questions for inclusion in this year's survey. We look forward to tabulating the surveys and relaying the information to all.

Don't forget that Residents' Beach and Paradise Grill will be open all summer for those laid-back summer siestas! Come on down to the beach.

One day that will be hopping at Residents' Beach is July Fourth. Games are planned, music will be played, hot dogs and hamburgers will be grilled, ice cold beer and wine will be chilling, and fireworks will thrill the crowd. Bring your Residents' Beach ID card and sunscreen. We'll see you on the Fourth to celebrate our Great Nation's Independence Day!

Marco Island Civic Association

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Cover photo courtesy of The Marco Review



Live Sand dollar & shell with hermit crab inside



Collectible bleached sand dollar



Live Lightning Whelk

Welcome to our Beautiful Beach

...please leave only your footprints

Live organisms create and live in sea shells. Please check each shell to ensure there isn't an animal inside before removing it from the beach. If unsure, place them gently back in the water.

Shelling tips...

- The best time to shell is half an hour before, to half an hour after, low tide.
- Live sand dollars range from brown to green in color and have tiny hairs on their outer edge. If they are bleached white they are collectible.
- Check the underside of sea urchins and sea stars for any signs of movement.
- Always check inside shells for hermit crabs.

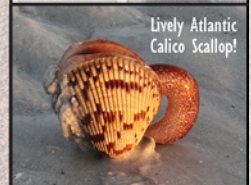
No Live Shelling



Live Florida fighting conch



Live short spined sea urchin
Collectible short spined sea urchin



Lively Atlantic Calico Scallop!

Your MICA Board of Directors

by Ruth McCann

A very talented and dedicated Nominating Committee, consisting of Kathy Sullivan, Linda Shockley, and Lori Curran, took on the task of assembling a slate of six individuals who would be willing to work toward the betterment of Marco Island on behalf of the members of MICA. They succeeded in their task and presented an exceptional slate of nominees to run for election to the MICA Board of Directors. We thank the Nominating Committee for nominating Dick Adams, Betsy Beaver, Barbara Dasti, Christine DeSantis, Dianna Dohm, and Maria Lamb to run for the board.

Ballots were mailed to all MICA members, who diligently performed their civic duty and returned their votes to MICA. After the ballots were counted, the four individuals with the most votes were elected to the board, and they were Dick Adams, Barbara Dasti, Christine DeSantis, and Dianna Dohm.

Dick, Barbara and Christine are incumbents who were reelected. Dianna Dohm is newly elected to

the board, and we welcome her to those 8:15 a.m. Board of Directors' meetings! The four elected individuals join those already on the board: Allan Bristow, Jim Curran, Ed d'Alessandro, Jim Johnson, Brian Kudis, Phyllis Marco, Charlette Roman, and Steve Stefanides.

We are sorry to see Bernardo Bezos, past president, leave the Board but MICA's bylaws allow an individual to serve only two consecutive terms. Bernardo will stay on as Residents' Beach Advisory Committee Chair and Finance Committee Chair.

The MICA Board of Directors is a volunteer board with a goal of civic improvement of our beautiful island. Anyone who may be interested in serving on a committee of the board is asked to call Ruth McCann at the MICA office (239-642-7778) or email at rmccann@marcocivic.com. The Marco Island Civic Association is always on the lookout for industrious, talented individuals to work on behalf of the residents of Marco.



MICA President Dick Adams and Executive Director Ruth McCann present check for \$4,200 to City Council Chairman Joe Batte. MICA has been the largest contributor toward the July Fourth Fireworks Display for the last several years. Councilman Honig looks on.



The Science of Naming Storms

by *Ruth McCann*

As we all know, “Hurricane Season” begins June 1 and closes November 30 each year.

The list of names of the Atlantic Hurricanes has been released and some 18 named tropical storms are expected this year. This year the names are: Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van and Wendy.

Of the 18, nine are expected to become hurricanes with four to be major hurricanes, says the latest Atlantic Basin Seasonal Hurricane Forecast by noted forecasters at the Colorado State University, Philip J. Klotzbach and William M. Gray.

“We anticipate an above-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the United States coastline and in the Caribbean,” said the release. “Coastal residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them, and they need to prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much or how little activity is predicted.”

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Atlantic tropical storms had been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center beginning in 1953. They are now maintained and updated through a procedure by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which is a specialized agency of the United Nations.

How is the list of names arrived at each year? There are six lists of names that are used in rotation and recycled every six years, i.e., the 2013 list will be used again in 2019. The only time that there is a change in the list is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on another storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity. If that occurs, then at an annual meeting by the WMO committee the offending name



Photos taken by Debbie Barker on South Beach after TS Isaac, August 27th, 2012

is stricken from the list and another name is selected to replace it. Many names have been retired since the lists were created. Some of the most recent and memorable names retired include Sandy, Irene, Thomas, Gustav, Dennis, Katrina, Wilma, Charley, Frances, Ivan, Georges, and Andrew.

Experience shows that the use of short, distinctive names in written as well as spoken communications is quicker and less subject to error than the older, more cumbersome latitude-longitude identification methods. These advantages are especially important in exchanging detailed storm information between hundreds of widely scattered stations, coastal bases, and ships at sea.

The use of easily remembered names also greatly reduces confusion when two or more tropical storms occur at the same time. For example, one hurricane can be moving slowly westward in the Gulf of Mexico, while at exactly the same time another hurricane can be moving rapidly northward along the Atlantic coast.

Equality of the sexes arrived on the scene in 1978 when the practice of naming hurricanes solely after women came to an end when men’s and women’s names were included in the Eastern North Pacific storm lists! In 1979, male and female names were also included in lists for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

In the event that more than twenty-one named tropical cyclones occur in the Atlantic basin in a season, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet.



Community Center at Mackle Park

by Dick Adams

As many readers may recall, the community center replacement was a subject of MICA's 2010 membership survey.

At that time, the City of Marco Island was advocating for replacement of the community center because it was obsolete and in need of repairs. The proposed budget for replacement of the facility was \$4.2 million and it included a two story 20,000 square foot building with an indoor track and gym.

There was much opposition to this plan and it reflected in the 2010 MICA survey results with 69% of the respondents against replacement and 91% saying the decision should be made by referendum.

The question of replacing the facility was a question posed to candidates at the City Council Candidates Forum sponsored by MICA. Most of the candidates expressed a concern for the cost of the proposal, the timing and if in fact, it was needed.

Three presentations have been made this year by City staff with much pointed dialogue in a public forum. It is fairly evident that City Council members do not support the type of facility envisioned

by staff as to design and cost. Staff was directed to survey the existing structure to determine what renovations would be required to bring it to standard and what it might cost to do repairs rather than replacement.

There was general consensus that something had to be done with the facility, and City Council approved authorizing City staff to obtain construction proposals for a downsized facility design.

Some public sentiment expressed at the meeting indicated support for a community center if it could be done for substantially less than the original proposal. The question of having a referendum was discussed with concern for the cost of holding a stand-alone referendum, which is estimated at \$30,000. Thinking of alternatives, Councilman Sacher wondered if an island-wide survey of all property owners would serve in lieu of a referendum. MICA plans to include this question in the 2013 membership survey.

Proposals for repair and/or replacement are being gathered, and it is expected to have that information in the next few weeks.

Good NEWS! Marco's Tide Turns!

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Herb Savage continues the tradition of singing "God Bless America" at sunset, Residents' Beach on Monday February 18th

City Beach Advisory Committee 2013 Beach Clean-Up Schedule

May 19th	Publix		South Beach
June 23rd	Mutual of Omaha Bank		South Beach
July 13th	Friends of Tigertail Beach	Quarterly Clean Up	Tigertail Beach
August 11th	CJ's on the Bay and Rick's Salon		South Beach
September 21st	Friends of Tigertail Beach	International Coastal Clean Up	Tigertail Beach
October 19th	Marco Island Civic Association		South Beach & Residents' Beach
November 16th	Marco Island Women's Club		South Beach
December 7th	Friends of Tigertail Beach	Quarterly Clean Up	Tigertail Beach

Publix supplies gloves, water and trashbags;
MICA supplies the beach vehicle to haul trash to the dumpster.

News from Across the Bridge

by Donna Fiala, Collier County Commissioner

You can tell the economy is recovering. There is building going on everywhere, and new businesses are waking up and thinking it's time to look around for a location. One of those businesses is the Fresh Market! They will be moving into the Shoppes of Eagle Creek, right next to the Staples. They have already started construction and plan to open for business in October. People are very happy to see Fresh Market come to this area of the county, and I'm sure once they see how well they are received, they'll be happy they chose this location. They'll draw from Marco Island, Isles of Capri, Fiddler's Creek, Eagle Creek, East Naples, Lely Resort and Golden Gate. The market should be pretty busy almost instantly.

Another new addition will be the Outback Steak House, planned for Triangle Blvd, across from the Carrabba's location, near the lake. I understand construction is not far off and that they hope to be open for business by season.

Speaking of construction, when everyone returns next season they will see a transformation beginning at the intersection of US 41 E & Collier Blvd/951. The entire intersection will be reconfigured to be a much safer intersection and also designed to someday accommodate an overpass. The state assures us that they won't have the funds to build it before 2030, but until then the state is also widening US 41 E from 951 out to Greenway Road/Fiddler's Creek east entrance. They are planning a 6 lane highway

in that stretch of road. The intersection improvement construction is to begin in October, and the widening of U.S. 41 E is planned for late Spring.

Meanwhile, existing developments are building and selling faster than we would ever have expected. Treviso Bay says they are selling faster than they can build. Fiddler's Creek and Reflection Lakes are just alive with excitement and construction. The new development off US 41 E and Rattlesnake Hammock Road – Isles of Collier Preserve – is shaping up quickly and expects to have a sales center in operation before the end of the year. It looks like it will be another gorgeous community, with 10 miles of hiking, biking and walking pathways, plus 4 miles of kayaking waters, and over 1000 acres of fragile land held in preservation forever along the back of the community along the water. Also, another community is coming out of the ground on 951 across from Rattlesnake Hammock Rd., near the Swamp Buggy lands. Its name is Hacienda Lakes and looks to be another very nice community. Although there are more developments planned, I must also mention The Arlington, a continuum of care community being built by the Lutheran Life Communities, is planning to start construction by early summer in Lely Resort.

That should be enough to tell you all that it seems to be going very well here in Paradise! How lucky we are to live where we do!



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The Eagles have Landed... Again!

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

The Sarazen Park Double Eagles have been on the move since first landing on Marco Island back in January.

From the grand preview on January 29 graciously hosted by Iberia Bank, they were proudly on display for a few weeks. The Double Eagles then appropriately migrated to the Clubhouse of the Island Country Club. They nested there and were viewed by thousands of golfers and members of the Country Club community during their month long stay.

In mid March the Double Eagles arrived in the lobby of the MICA office building at the Mutual of Omaha Bank. They will be on display for several months, so please stop by to admire their beauty and strength.

The Double Eagle Project is a joint project of the Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) and the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts (MIFA). The two organizations acquired this magnificent bronze sculpture, which will ultimately be installed in front of MICA's Sarazen Park on the south end of the island, for permanent public display on the corner of Collier Boulevard and Swallow Avenue.

This brilliant bronze sculpture, a pair of Eagles, wings unfurled, golden beaks engaged in conversation, stands over seven feet tall, almost 6 feet wide and weighs in at over 600 pounds. 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 for many years to come.

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

*MIFA is a charitable non-profit 501(c)(3). Your donations may be tax deductible (consult your tax advisor)



The Double Eagles 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:

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About Gene Sarazen's 1935 Masters Tournament Double Eagle, Golf's "Shot Heard Round the World"

As Gene Sarazen approached the fifteenth hole, in the final round, he needed three shots to tie. Gene chose a 4-wood. His second shot, a 220-yard spoon shot went all the way and rolled into the cup for a two on the 485 yard par 5 hole, a double eagle, the first ever in the Masters. Gene's double eagle gave him the tie and forced the tournament's only 36-hole playoff. He won the tournament by 5 strokes. Gene

said, "It was the greatest thrill I have ever known in golf, or ever expect to get again."

A double eagle is extremely rare; much rarer than a hole-in-one. Only three other double eagles have been played at the Masters Tournament. In recognition of Gene's double eagle, the Augusta National Golf Club named a footbridge "the Sarazen Bridge." Players must cross the Sarazen Bridge to get onto the 15th green.

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Clyde Butcher Photos on Exhibit at Rookery Bay Reserve this Summer

Living Waters: Aquatic Preserves of Florida, a collection of 29 black-and-white photographs by preeminent Florida photographer Clyde Butcher, will be on exhibit from May 2 through Nov. 14 at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center Art Gallery, 300 Tower Road in Naples. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Since 2004 the artistic and educational exhibition has traveled the state to increase awareness of and appreciation for Florida's 41 aquatic preserves. The 110,000-acre Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve encompasses two of those aquatic preserves and part of more than five million acres of diverse water landscape and coastal areas that are critical to Florida's future.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the companion one-hour nature film documentary, "Living Waters: Aquatic Preserves of Florida," will be shown in the auditorium at 11 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays. The film includes an introduction and closing remarks by Butcher and was produced and directed by cinematographer Elam Stoltzfus.

The exhibition and video highlight 12 preserves, with local images of Cape Romano, Mound Key and the iconic Keewaydin Island beach with a log prominently in the foreground. Other coasts, rivers, lakes and wetlands captured by Butcher with his large format camera include Big Talbot Island near Jacksonville, Cayo Costa Island in Boca Grande, Dunes in Cape San Blas and the Loxahatchee River within Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound.

Butcher, who has been a friend of the Reserve for more than a decade, donated an 18-by-22 foot, black-and-white landscape of mangrove trees that has been permanently housed in the exhibit hall of the Environmental Learning Center since its opening in 2004. Guests visiting Rookery Bay may purchase the Living Waters DVD and award-winning films by Stoltzfus. Butcher also makes a cameo appearance in the newly produced Stoltzfus film about Rookery Bay Reserve, which debuted on Earth Day, and is shown throughout the day every day in the center.



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Also during the summer, Rookery Bay will host its annual “Kids FREE Fridays” programming. Every Friday during June and July, children ages 12 and younger are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Activities include stories, crafts, a touch tank, face painting, nature film and presentation on topics such as sea turtles, manatees, sharks, and skulls and bones.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas in cooperation with NOAA, encompasses 110,000 acres of coastal lands and waters surrounding Marco Island. Designated in 1978, the Reserve serves as an outdoor classroom and laboratory for students and scientists from around the world, and also provides some of the best outdoor recreational opportunities in the region. For more information visit www.rookerybay.org.

Cape Romano #10
©2004
Cape Romano

I have always loved photographing mangroves, but it is difficult to get the “feeling” of the rhythm and reach of the mangrove roots. As I cruised along the coast of Cape Romano in my boat, this mangrove jumped out at me. I turned around and headed back to photograph it. The day was windy, and the water was choppy, so I had to wait quite awhile before things calmed down enough for me to take this photograph. This is one of my favorite pictures I took during my adventure photographing the Aquatic Preserves of Florida for the PBS documentary.
– Clyde Butcher



Marco Urgent Care Center



The Marco Urgent Care Center is open 7 days a week from 8am - 7:30pm for the treatment of non-emergencies, illnesses, and minor injuries. Our center is staffed by board-certified physicians and licensed clinical professionals. The Urgent Care Center is a part of the NCH Healthcare System - the first in Florida to become a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. That means our medical staff has access to all of the world-renowned resources NCH and Mayo Clinic have to offer our patients. If a condition arises which you feel cannot wait until you can schedule an appointment with your physician or it's after hours, urgent care may be an appropriate choice for you. Some reasons you might choose to come to the Marco Urgent Care Center include:

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- Cold & flu symptoms
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- Migraine headaches
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- Sore throat
- Sports injuries
- Urinary infections
- Vomiting/diarrhea

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Moving Around a Little Sand

by Ruth McCann

The South Beach Renourishment Project was completed by May 1, just in time for the start of “Turtle Season” in Southwest Florida. The project consisted of 2,700 linear feet of beachfront and 80,000 cubic yards of sand placed in the completed project footprint. The beach was widened to a “6 year design” to maintain an approximate one hundred foot width.

The project was funded with Tourist Development (TDC) funds and was performed by Cavache Inc. out of Pompano Beach, Florida. Cavache mobilized equipment and pumped sand out of Caxambas Pass onto South Beach from Beach Monument G-2 to R-148 (the jetty groin area to just north of the South Beach access). Work took place 24 hours per day, seven days per week, in order to finish on time.

The rocks of the two jetties and three breakwaters offshore will be refurbished by the contractor Florida Marine Construction. Each rock is tested at 145 pounds per cubic foot drop test, and placed accurately for stable erosion control structures.

Gary McAlpin, Director of Collier County Coastal Zone Management, advised that the project was done to control beach erosion, defined by the state as “upland structure control,” and also for tourism by the permitting agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). He also reported that all sand used was tested and qualified as “beach quality” sand.

Gary McAlpin thanked the Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) for allowing access to the beach for the Collier County beach projects and surveying. Without the MICA accessibility, the projects would have to be completed via barge, adding a huge expense to the projects.

Laser grading of the entire beach, except the area between south of the Marriott Hotel to the Somerset Condominium also occurred in April. It was an approximate 95 acre project, costing \$1,000 per acre. Laser grading is done to create a positive slope toward the Gulf of Mexico in order to remedy the low spots that hold water on the beach.



Tilling and raking took place on the entire length of the beach from south of the Tigertail Lagoon/Sand Dollar spit area to Cape Marco. Laser grading was done during working hours only, starting at sun up and ending each day at sundown. Tilling was done where sea turtles generally nest and not up to the dune area. PSI tests were done to determine where tilling was actually necessary for sea turtle nesting habitat.

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Calusa Garden Club - How to Produce a Flower Show

by Nancy Reynolds, Calusa Garden Club

From March 15 to 17 Marco Island's Calusa Garden Club held its annual flower show at the Marco Island Center for the Arts. Judging was held on Friday, March 15, followed by a reception for members and participants. Saturday and Sunday the show was open to the public, free of charge, as a gift to the community.

By Monday afternoon, March 18, the Center for the Arts was back to normal with no signs of a flower show. Did the "garden fairy" fly in on Thursday evening, wave a magic wand and then return on Sunday evening to reverse the process? There would be a lot more flower shows across America if it was that easy! In reality, this year's flower show, Asian Fusion, took a full year, a tremendous amount of energy, almost unimaginable cooperation, a multitude of details, and an indescribable amount of work to create.

In March 2012 Sandy Wallen was selected to be chairperson for the March 2013 flower show. She and other club members immediately began considering a variety of themes for the show.



**Flower Show Chairperson,
Sandy Wallen with her
winning design**

continued on page 24



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Spring and Summer Means Nesting Shorebirds on Our Beach

***By Nancy Richie, Environmental Specialist,
City of Marco Island***

Marco Island's Sand Dollar Island and Tigertail Beach Lagoon ecosystem is one of the most important habitats in the world for shorebirds – both wintering and nesting species. In the fall and winter months, migrating shorebirds use this area as a resting and feeding site as they migrate from as far away as the Arctic Circle heading to South America. In spring, this area is vital for nesting shorebirds.

For many years now, Marco Island has had the most important nesting areas in Collier County and Florida, for the federally listed and protected shorebirds: Least Terns, Black Skimmers, Wilson's Plover and Snowy Plover. The sites are monitored and managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) due to the state designation of a Critical Wildlife Areas (CWA) located on Sand Dollar Island, called the Big Marco Pass CWA.

Another area, located outside of the Big Marco Pass CWA and on the main beach of Marco Island, typically located between Beach Monuments R-138 and R139 (on the beach adjacent to the South Seas Condominiums, south of the Tigertail Beach Lagoon) is monitored and managed by FWC and the City of Marco Island, which has become one of the largest nesting sites for Least Terns and Black Skimmers.

Black Skimmers and Least Terns nest in flocks and need open, un-vegetated sandy areas. Their nests are scratches in the sand. They

continued on page 18

Photos by Debbie Barker...

Top: an Osprey guards the posted area on Tigertail Spit

Middle: Red Knots take a much needed break from their long migration

Bottom: Black Skimmers & their chicks, Tigertail Spit





nesting Black Skimmers disturbed by beach walkers

Spring and Summer Nesting

continued from page 17

typically have two or three eggs per nesting pair. Wilson's Plovers nest as individual pairs, not in flocks, hiding their nests in the dune or vegetation edges of the beach. Snowy Plovers will nest in small flocks, but this species has not been observed on the Marco Island beaches for a few seasons now. They have been seen in good numbers on Fort Myers Beach, so perhaps we will see them back on our beaches too. All these species are listed federally and state as protected. Their nests, eggs and young are fragile and hard to see in the sandscape of the beach; posting the areas for protection is part of the conservation management to ensure the species continue to produce young and to thrive.

This season, the Big Marco Pass CWA, was posted the first week of April and the Marco beach area was posted April 19th. No access will be closed and beach goers will be able to get to all parts of the Marco Island beach. Due to changes in the Sand Dollar Island environment, the posted areas are determined by FWC. Many changes to the CWA have occurred since last nesting season. Sand Dollar Island beach, which is really a "spit" of sand attached to Marco Island's main beach, has become thinner due to vegetation growth and erosion. Also,

a breach was formed in July last summer and stayed open for many months on the Sand Dollar Island "spit", creating an island to the north of Sand Dollar. The breach area was wide, deep and had strong currents; this season, to date, the breach is filled in and one can walk to the very end of the "spit". As the shorebird season progresses, it will be interesting to see where the birds can and will "set up" to nest. It will not be surprising that the posted areas could change over the season, as the shorebirds find the right area to nest.

Posted areas are temporary, and remain between mid-April through late August, the typical shorebird nesting season. If grasses or vegetation grows during the posting period, it will be removed by the rake operation after the nesting season, restoring this area of beach to the original condition. Posting a nesting area is required by federal and state rules (Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Act) and consists of posts, string, flagging and signage. Volunteers, Shorebird Stewards, spend time near a posted area to provide informational handouts, answer any questions from beach goers and provide an opportunity to view the birds' behaviors and just hatched chicks through a scope. Some volunteers are trained to count and monitor the nesting shorebirds. Data is provided to FWC for future conservation management plans and practices.

Please share the beach and help ensure survival of our nesting shorebirds and their young:

- Keep your distance – If a bird leaves its nest, the eggs or chicks will not survive
- Respect posted areas – Please do not enter a posted area; no areas of the beach will be cut off to beach goers
- Never intentionally force birds to fly – When birds are chased or disturbed, they use energy they need to reserve for nesting, feeding young and migration.
- No dogs on the beach – No dogs are allowed on any beaches within the Marco Island incorporated limits; this includes the entire Sand Dollar Island “spit”. If you have your dog on your boat, please keep them aboard when beaching on Sand Dollar Island.
- Leave only your footprints – Whatever you bring to the beach, please take it home at the end of the day. Leaving trash attracts predators, such as ants, crows or raccoons which destroy shorebird and sea turtle eggs and hatchlings.
- Spread the word and volunteer – If you see



DO NOT ENTER




TEMPORARY POSTED AREA.
 The area behind this sign is an important bird nesting site. Disturbance by people or pets can result in nest abandonment and death of young birds, and is strictly prohibited.

Harming or disturbing these birds, their eggs, or young is a violation of State (Chapter 68A-27 F.A.C.) and/or Federal law (16 U.S.C., 50CFR). Report violations, call 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).

Posted by City of Marco Island
 For more info call the City of Marco Island at 239-389-5003

people disturbing resting or nesting birds on the beach, gently remind them that their actions may hurt the birds’ survival and cause mortality. If they continue disturbing the birds or enter a posted area, please call the FWC’s Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).

For any additional information or if interested in volunteering, please contact Nancy Richie, Environmental Specialist, City of Marco Island at 239-389-5003 or nrichie@cityofmarcoisland.com.

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Tips for Responsible Photography of Nesting Shorebirds



article and photos by Charlette Roman

In past nesting seasons, some photographers in search of the perfect shot, have gotten too close to the birds in the posted areas, disturbing them and causing them to fly away from their nests. The Florida Shorebird Alliance, in an effort to help educate picture-takers, has just released a new brochure on “How to be a Shorebird-Friendly Photographer.” Tips for nesting season in the brochure include:

When photographing a bird on a nest, remain behind the posted area. Nothing should go beyond the string or signs. If the area around the nest is not staked off, you should remain far enough away to avoid disturbing the birds (typically 300 feet). If the birds show any sign of agitation as a result of your



Shore birds make scrape in sand for their eggs

presence, please quietly and slowly retreat until the birds no longer appear disturbed.

Never get close enough to cause the bird to leave its nest. Please back off immediately if you flush a bird. Sometimes birds nest near the edge of a posted boundary, so even if you are outside the string, if the bird responds to you, you're too close!

Don't exceed 10 minutes. Too much time near the nest may unduly stress the birds. Be considerate and do not spend more than 10 minutes near the nest. If other photographers are present, try to



Last year's nesting colony early in the season

coordinate your time near the nest, and leave the area together, so the birds have at least three hours of undisturbed time.

Don't specify the nest's exact location when sharing or publishing photos. Advertising the birds' nesting location may draw additional disturbance to the nest.

When photographing birds that are away from their nests or birds with chicks, The FWC recommends:

Stay at least 100 feet away from the birds. Wait for the birds to approach you for closer shots.

Don't “push” the birds around the beach. Birds need to be able to feed and rest without disturbance. Shorebird chicks must constantly forage to gain enough weight to fledge in time, so any time



Wilson's Plover moves along the beach

continued on page 27

Planning for Storm Season

submitted by LCEC

In Southwest Florida, hurricane season officially takes place from June through November but LCEC storm restoration planning takes place year-round. An aggressive maintenance and vegetation program minimizes the impact to the electric infrastructure. A collaborative restoration plan ensures efficient and prompt restoration if power interruptions do occur.

After a storm has passed, LCEC quickly begins to assess the damage to the electric system. LCEC then begins restoring power to essential services such as hospitals, traffic signals, shelters, communication centers and law enforcement. Next, power is restored to the greatest number of customers in the least amount of time. Finally, individual services or services that need to be reconnected after repair to the customer's damaged electrical system are restored.

Just as LCEC has a plan in place, it is essential to have a family disaster plan to keep your loved ones safe. It is important to talk, decide, prepare and pack.

- Talk about emergency options.
- Decide when and under what circumstances it will be necessary to evacuate.
- Prepare a central list of emergency contact information including both medical and out of town family members as well as important medical needs and notes.
- Pack a ready-to-go kit in case the safest option is to go to a shelter or an out of town relative's home. Also, make a ready-to-stay kit in case staying home is the best or only option.

After the storm has passed:

- Stay clear of downed power lines. They may still be energized and dangerous. Puddles of water contacting downed lines are just as dangerous.
- Help keep utility telephone lines clear for emergency calls by only calling to report downed power lines. However, if your neighbor's power has been restored and yours is still out, please call to report.

- If your home is without electricity, turn off circuit breakers or remove fuses at the electrical panel. This will protect your family, home and appliances. You can leave one breaker on to operate a light to let you know when power is back on.
- Don't trim trees or remove debris located near downed power lines. If you must remove debris from in or around your home, don't pile it under or near electrical lines or equipment.
- If operating a portable generator, keep the machine in an open area. Carbon monoxide emissions can be harmful. Follow all instructions regarding safe operation. Do not connect directly to main electrical panel. If installed incorrectly, power could flow into outside lines and injure you, your neighbors or unsuspecting utility crews working in the area

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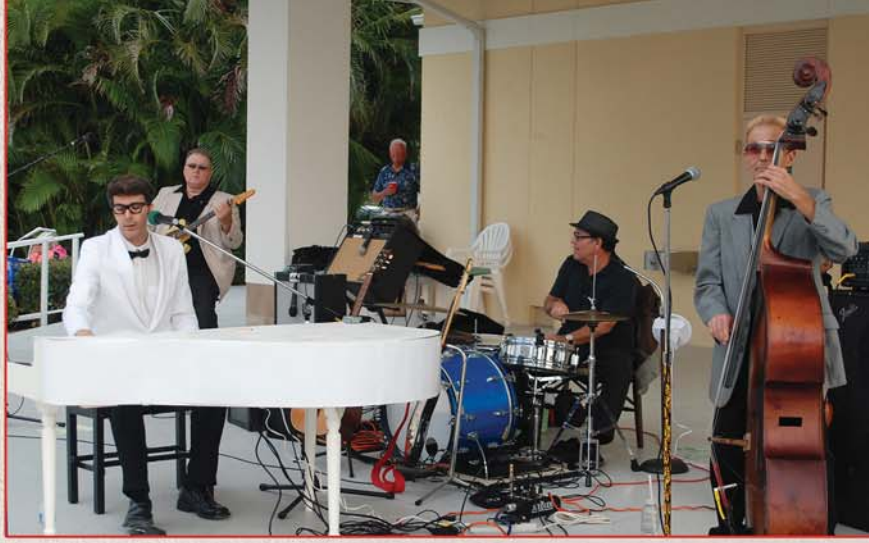
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Saturday, March 9th, 2013





**Floral Design
winner**

How to Produce a Flower Show continued from page 16

By April Wallen was researching locations for the show and eventually chose the Marco Island Center for the Arts, which allowed the club to use its facilities at no charge. She also began investigating organizations that would loan costumes. In the process she met with Dot Auchmoody, costume director of the Naples Players, Sugden Community Theatre. Wallen realized the number of Asian costumes available would be enough to produce an Asian-themed flower show, so Auchmoody had the costumes pressed and stored until they were needed. The costumes were loaned free of charge. Also in April, the name, Asian Fusion, was chosen because designs would be a combination of Asian and American designs.

Early in May Wallen had developed a list of committees necessary to produce a standard flower show and committee chairs were secured. Committees included: Artistic Crafts, Awards, Clerks (assistants to the judges), Floral Design, Horticulture, Hostesses, Judges, Photographer, Publicity, Raffle, Reception, Schedule (the program received when entering the flower show), Schedule Layout and

Printing, Signs, Banners and Exterior Signs, Special Exhibits, and Staging.

Over the summer phone calls and e-mails to and from committee chairs were used to refine planning. Wallen spent many hours deliberating many staging design options; eventually drawing blue prints. Beginning with a committee chair meeting in October, Wallen continued to coordinate between the committees, offering advice and suggestions.

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In January Wallen began a series of meetings with Lynn Holley, Director of the Marco Island Center for the Arts, to fine-tune event particulars. She finalized staging plans and purchased materials needed. At this point she contacted Bobbie Reiman of RK Reiman Construction, who built the staging items and delivered all of the props in March, free of charge. Also in January Wallen paid a visit to the garden club storage unit, bringing back any items she felt might be useable in Asian Fusion; then she painted everything black. By the end of January Wallen, Lindy Kowalczyk, Connie Lowery, and Barbara Messner had met with Gail Pica of the Naples Garden Club for advice regarding schedule preparation. Black table coverings were ordered from Party Time Rentals. The Print Shop on Marco Island was contacted to arrange schedule printing. Twelve accredited judges were secured.



Marcie Gorski and Barbara Messner greeted visitors at the raffle table

Beginning with Monday, March 11, all built, borrowed, and rented items began to arrive at the Center for the Arts. On March 14 Calusa Garden Club members spent the day and evening arranging all staging items. Floral designers in the club fine-tuned their designs. Those providing horticulture headed to their lanais and yards to snip samples to enter and display. At 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 15, floral designs and horticulture were placed for display. By 11:30 twelve flower show judges arrived



Horticulture entries

for an Asian-themed luncheon, followed by judging. By 4:00 p.m. judging was complete and awards received. At 5:30 p.m. club members and guests began arriving for a reception and a chance to view the winning entries.

On Saturday and Sunday the flower show was visited by approximately 1,500 guests. When the show closed at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, club members immediately removed their entries and began the "take-down." The few items not removed Sunday evening, were removed on Monday morning ... and the Marco Island Center for the Arts returned to normal.

Sandy Wallen was recently seen looking for the "garden fairy" to help with next year's flower show!

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Turtle Tattle

the second in our series on wildlife seen at Residents' Beach by Stephen Barker

The Loggerhead sea turtle is the most frequently observed turtle in SW Florida waters and with courtship activity occurring in late April to early June, nesting isn't far behind. Females nest a few weeks after mating with most activity on Marco beaches between May 1st and the end of September. Mating is triggered by the Gulf water temperature and, with the cooler weather in March this year leading to cooler Gulf temperatures, it is possible we won't see the early start to nesting season that we did in 2012.

Hind flippers for digging, front flippers for covering... The female crawls ashore at night, digs a shallow pit for her body and begins digging the hole for her eggs with her hind flippers. She then deposits between 70 and 150 white, ping pong ball sized eggs and fills in the hole. To camouflage the nest, she roughs up sand in a four foot area around it using her front flippers.

CSI crime scene or has Mary been here? Some of you may wonder what the yellow tape and sticks are that suddenly sprout up overnight on the beach. It isn't a CSI crime scene, it's there to mark a new turtle's nest so that beachgoers don't accidentally interfere with the nest and eggs. Mary Nelson, aka The Turtle Lady, has been monitoring turtle activity on Marco beaches since 1995 and (together with 10 local volunteers) is responsible for the tape and sticks. Mary has a wealth of knowledge about turtles and is out every morning in turtle season, so if you see her at a new nest, false crawl or on her ATV, say hello and see what she is up to.

Please.... Keep the beach dark • Don't leave holes in the sand • Take your litter home

How you can help... All being well, that first nest should hatch sometime towards the end of June/beginning of July. Once hatching starts, the race is on. As though a starter gun went off, the hatchlings all come out at once. They must find their way to the surf in the darkness by heading toward the brightest horizon. This is why it is extremely important to regulate beach lighting to prevent hatchlings from becoming disorientated. You should also keep the beach free of litter and barriers, take away what you bring and clear away sandcastles or trenches that you or your children might construct.

Summary of Turtle 2012 nesting season Figures in () show figures for 2011

Total hatched nests on Marco beaches:

Hideaway: 4(10) out of 5(11) - 439 (871) hatchlings
Main Beach: 10(17) out of 11(20) - 794(1,458) hatchlings
Sand Dollar: 5(20) out of 24(33) - 220(1,713) hatchlings
N Sand Dollar: 0 out of 12

A total of 1453(4,042) hatchlings from 19(47) successful nests. A further 32(17) nests were either washed out or inundated.

Most number of eggs in one nest: 142(174)
Most hatchlings from one nest: 129(154)
Highest percentage of eggs hatched in one nest: 99%(98%)

First nest: April 27th (May 2nd)
Last nest: August 4th (August 13th)
First nest to hatch: July 8th (July 8th)
Last nest to hatch: September 6th (October 17th)
Shortest incubation: 57 days (52 days)
Longest incubation: 73 days (68 days)



A false turtle crawl on Sand Dollar Spit



A baby turtle rescued from a hatched nest excavated by Mary Nelson



A marked turtle nest on Sand Dollar Spit

Tips for responsible photography
continued from page 20



Nesting Black Skimmer on Marco Island beach

taken away from foraging can be harmful to their health and survival.

Wildlife photographers can be important advocates for birds, if they follow these simple guidelines and help educate their peers on the beach. However, if you observe someone disturbing shorebirds and seabirds, and they do not respond to a polite request to stop, please immediately notify Marco Island

Police Department and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-3922.

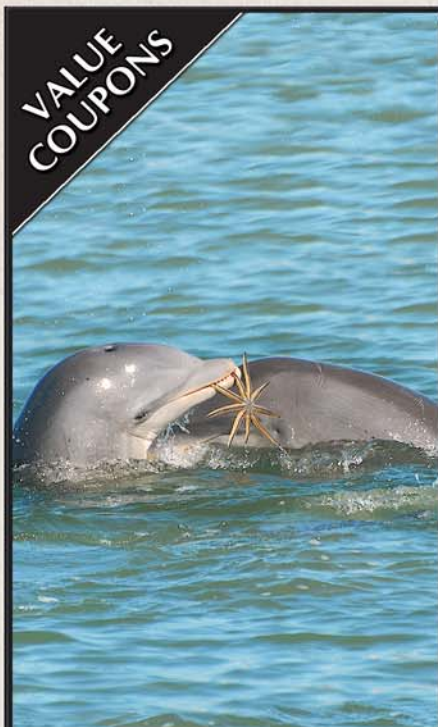
The FWC needs your help to ensure these posted areas do not draw excessive attention or prolonged disturbance to nesting birds.

For more information pick up a "How to be a Shorebird Friendly Photographer" brochure at the MICA office or visit www.MyFWC.com.

The Florida Shorebird Alliance web site: FLShorebirdAlliance.org



Male Least Tern brings small fish to female as part of courtship behavior



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