

# MICA*wave*

**A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association**  
***Read by Over 20,000 Members*** **February 2019**

**MICA's Holiday Celebration**

**The Key Marco Cat  
Returns to Marco Island**

**Planet or Plastic?**



**[www.marcocivic.com](http://www.marcocivic.com)**

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



# President's Message

*by Kathryn Sullivan, MICA President*

When I sat down to write the first President's Column of the new year, I knew immediately what I would write about. Several years ago, my granddaughter Rosie started a Gratitude Jar. Every day she would write on a little piece of paper something that she was grateful for and put it in the jar. No jar, but this is a letter of gratitude to all the wonderful people who serve the community through MICA.

Our Board of Directors are all volunteers elected by our membership. I am happy to report that everyone on the board is actively engaged and contributes their time and expertise to the operation. I am grateful for all of them. Two of our board members, Megan Olsen and Andy Lazo, are completing their three-year terms, and will be leaving the board shortly. They will be sorely missed. Megan was responsible for our Membership and Marketing Committee and Andy headed up our new Technology Committee. Megan brought us the lending library, photo contest and a soon-to-be-released MICA app! She's creative and follows through with her good ideas. Andy has dramatically improved our website, [www.marcocivic.com](http://www.marcocivic.com), and inserted counters so we can now track usage. I encourage you to access the website for informational needs and applications.

Ruth McCann, Executive Director, and Dennis McCann, Facilities Manager, oversee the day-to-day operations in the MICA office and at Residents' Beach. Everyday I am grateful they are on the job. They care about our members and are fully committed to keeping Residents' Beach the community jewel. Our gate attendants and office staff work diligently to satisfy our members and at the same time ensure our policies are

implemented. It's not easy when they must deny a member's request.

However, I am happy to report that through enforcement of the policies, the parking situation has improved. Only on a recent concert day did we have to close the lot and turn cars away. As always, we encourage walking, biking and carpooling to the concerts.

The ballots for election of four seats on the MICA Board of Directors will be mailed to members in February. We have six excellent candidates for four three-year terms. Please read the short bios that accompany the ballot, and make an informed decision, mark your ballot and return it to MICA. We appreciate our members' interest and passion. You are also in my "Gratitude Jar!"

Welcome back to all our seasonal visitors and enjoy our beautiful beach.



*Kathy Sullivan, President,  
MICA Board of Directors*

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Cover Photo: taken at Residents' Beach by Debbie Barker, The Marco Review





# The Key Marco Cat Returns to Marco Island

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the culmination of its quest to bring home the enigmatic Key Marco Cat and other rare 500 to 1,500-year-old Pre-Columbian Native American artifacts discovered on Marco Island in 1896. The artifacts returned on loan from the Smithsonian Institution and University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. They will be showcased in an exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum from January 2019 to April 2021.

MIHS presented a free, public grand opening event for the Key Marco Artifacts exhibit at the

Marco Island Historical Museum on Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The day included music in the courtyard by Anthropology Band, “Calusa-inspired Music & Storytelling,” by Kat Epple and Nathan Dyke, and family friendly activities.

*The Marco Island Historical Museum is located at 180 S. Heathwood Drive. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call 239.389.6447 or visit [www.theMIHS.org](http://www.theMIHS.org).*



*The Key Marco Cat, one of the finest pieces of Pre-Columbian Native American art ever discovered in North America.*

*Photo Courtesy of Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution (A240915)*



*Renowned composer, musician and storyteller Kat Epple presents “Calusa-Inspired Music & Storytelling” at the grand opening event for the long-awaited Key Marco Artifacts exhibit.*

*Photo by Vandy Major.*





# Planet or Plastic?

*by Maria Lamb*

Ocean and beach trash is a huge problem and in Marco Island, volunteers for the monthly beach clean-ups get their “hands dirty” with the top plastic offenders. Plastic water bottles, caps, cigarette butts, filament fishing lines, nettings, plastic wrappers, plastic straws, cups and lids top the list. Unless plastic trash is picked up quickly, it will likely start to degrade into many pieces.

The Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee has been sorting the trash picked up during the monthly beach clean-ups. The use of single use plastic straws is banned on Marco’s beaches, and though there are fewer plastic straws found during clean-ups, cigarette butts and bottle caps are still collected in the bucket load along with plastic water bottles and plastic cups and lids.



***Plastic bottle caps collected during two hours of beach clean-up on Marco Island.***

Take the journey of a plastic water bottle left on the beach on a warm sunny day. Baked by the sun, it will start to break down. It will eventually crack into chunks and on a windy day, the plastic pieces will get blown to the ocean and sea turtles and fish can mistake the debris for food, leading to digestive issues and starvation. Every piece of plastic trash found on our beaches was left there by someone.



***Katie O'Hara of Marco's Chamber of Commerce and beach clean-up volunteers sorting through the trash collected during a beach clean-up.***

Artists all over the world have taken notice and using ocean and beach trash as a medium, they have created artworks as a “Call to Action” to protest plastic pollution on our beaches and oceans.

Currently on display at the Naples Zoo, “Washed Ashore to Save the Sea” larger than life artworks are made completely from plastic trash collected from beaches in Oregon. There are 11 marine structures conveying the message “Ocean trash is a huge problem.” Angela Haseltine Pozzi, Director of the Washed Ashore to Save the Sea Program, has taken her artworks on an educational road tour. According to Angela, “until we run out of plastic on the beaches, we will keep doing our work.” Her artworks are huge so as to reach as many people as possible.

Karen Swanker, a local artist, enjoys assembling and creating art from commonly found objects she finds on the street and from the beach. Her husband walks the beach every morning and brings back mostly plastic items such as toys, sunglasses, straws, doll pieces, bottles, and flip flops. Friends often would drop off a bag of “treasures” on her doorstep.

Karen appeared before Marco’s Beach and Coastal Resource Advisory Committee in December to share her artwork. She plans to team up with





fellow artist, Tara O'Neill, to create art structures of commonly found beach trash as their "Call to Action" to the problem of beach trash on Marco Island. Spread the word about our plastic problem;

be environmentally kind to our island. Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Reinvent and Refuse. Join a beach clean-up! Washed Ashore Art will be on display at the Naples Zoo until April 21, 2019.



*'Natasha the Sea Turtle' at the Naples Zoo with a collection of rubber boots, flowers and shovels.*

Photo by Karen Swanker



*'Toys Come and Go' by Karen Swanker, plastic toys were collected from Marco's beaches.*

Photos by Maria Lamb



*Exhibit from the Naples Zoo – 'Whale Tail' adorned in plastic trash washed ashore from the beaches of Oregon.*





# Our Daily Bread Food Pantry Serves over 25,000 Annually

The Family Church Food Pantry, also known as “Our Daily Bread Food Pantry”, has experienced exponential growth since opening its doors almost three years ago. By God’s grace, the Food Pantry has served over 25,000 people annually in the Greater Marco/East Naples area. Beginning sometime early in January 2019, Family Church Food Pantry will become its own stand-alone non-profit organization and will officially change its name to “Our Daily Bread Food Pantry”.

During this transition, the goal and vision of the Food Pantry will remain as it has always been: “to share the love of Christ by reducing hunger and building relationships in our community...”. This change from an external perspective will have little to no effect on any day to day operations in the Food Pantry such as meeting times, location, etc.

The Pantry will continue to operate at the Family Church annex building located at 1450 Winterberry Drive and be open the second and fourth Saturdays of each month starting at 10 a.m., as well as our ongoing various outreach programs.

The Family Church and Food Pantry leaders want to thank you for your prayers and continued support as both desire to bring God Glory as we move forward into 2019. God Bless and have a wonderful New Year!

*For further information,  
additional questions,  
or to find out how you can get involved,  
please call Family Church  
at 239-394-1646 or email them at  
[info@fbcmarco.com](mailto:info@fbcmarco.com)*





# News from Across the Bridge

*by Donna Fiala, Collier County Commissioner*

Well here we are in a brand New Year with new challenges and new beginnings. Let's make this the best year we can for our family, for our jobs (or volunteer work), for our hobbies, and for ourselves. It's good to start right away! We've already lost a few days and we've only just begun. Let's face it – we are living in paradise, and we can show it in our actions. I'm smiling a lot more, and that helps.

I hope some of you have been able to attend the Marco Island Historical Society's speaker's series on the 4th Tuesday of every month. You do not have to make reservations in advance, but the series usually focuses on the environment in our own back yard. We hear about dolphins, burrowing owls, vegetation, etc. Try it one time. You'll be back for more.

Many people do not even realize we are at the edge of the Everglades, an area with huge swaths of land in preservation forever. One of those "parks" is the Fakahatchee, the home of more orchid varieties than any place else in the world. The untouched beauty is breathtaking and more people are discovering this preserve every day. It's just a short drive – east of Collier Blvd, on U.S. 41 E - drive down about three miles on U.S. 41 E and you are there. Yes, you have to look for it right now, but within a year the Friends of Fakahatchee, working with the State Department of Environmental Protection, will have an easy to reach and see parking lot, boardwalk, shelter and bathrooms, plus plaques describing what you are looking at and what you can expect.

People are often troubled with all the traffic and crowds in our area and complain loudly about the "critters and birds" and where they will go. They do not know that Collier County has 78% of its land in preservation forever! They just don't see it because it is not along the coast, where we all live. If they take a little drive (at least it's a little for us living in this area, but not for the people in the northern part of the county) away from street lights, traffic, restaurants, attractions, etc.; they would find these hidden gems. There are also bicycle paths where you can ride through areas out in the Everglades or in the Fakahatchee or the Picayune Forest and see nature

*Continued on page 27*



*Donna Fiala,  
Collier County Commissioner,  
Marco Island Representative*

## *Presenting Magical Marco*



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# What You Need to Know When Living and Constructing in a Special Flood Hazard Area

*by Kelli DeFedericis, CFM, Floodplain Coordinator, City of Marco Island*

## *What is a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)?*

The land area covered by the floodwaters of the base flood is the Special Flood Hazard Area on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). The SFHA is the area where the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP's) floodplain management regulations must be enforced and the area where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies. The SFHA zones that apply to Marco Island include Zones AE and VE. <https://marco.maps.arcgis.com>

## *National Flood Insurance Program and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).*

FIRMs are official maps of a community on which FEMA has delineated both the special hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. The City of Marco Island's current map effective date is 05/16/2012. This is the current FIRM information your flood insurance agent should be using to rate your policy. FIRMs were established for the Island on 09/14/1979.



*Marco Island's Townhouse Square Condominiums during a flooding event  
Photo credit: Steve Stefanides, Coastal Breeze News*





NFIP coverage is available to all owners of eligible properties located in a community participating in the NFIP. For more information please visit <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/272?id=1404>

If you have questions regarding your flood insurance premium, please feel free to schedule an appointment to review your policy. Recent results of helping one Island resident correct their flood insurance rating:

*"Thanks to you, here are the results: my flood insurance premium is now \$895; compared to \$1,700.00 previously. FEMA awarded me a \$2,155 refund and my insurance carrier awarded me a \$1,610 refund."*

It is very important that you check your flood insurance premium annually to ensure you are being rated correctly to avoid overpaying for years. FIRM maps can change, and the insurance carriers do not always update the policy accordingly.

Currently, all insured structures on the island that have flood insurance through the NFIP receive an automatic 25% discount off their flood insurance policy's annual premium.

As referenced above, not only is the FIRM utilized for rating of the flood insurance premium, it is also utilized in floodplain management regulations when constructing or altering a structure in a SFHA.


Major components of a floodplain review consist of:

1. Finished floor elevation
2. Elevation of all machinery or equipment servicing the structure
3. Enclosures/garages are vented appropriately with hydrostatic flood vents
4. Commercial structures have proper flood panels, when flood-proofed.

The required elevation for all machinery and lowest finished floor is determined by which flood zone the structure is located within. An Elevation Certificate is the only form utilized to confirm lowest finished floor and machinery elevations. An Elevation Certificate is required to be submitted with the building permit application.

All structures on Marco Island are subject to a floodplain review as part of the building permit process. Any structure located in a SFHA that does not meet the above referenced requirements is subject to FEMA's 50% rule, and additional paperwork is required. The 50% rule is based on the market value of the structure, and planned improvements or repair of damage cannot exceed its 50% value. If the work or damage exceeds the 50% value, it will be considered Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage and will be required to be brought up to current floodplain guidelines. For more information on the current floodplain management guidelines or your NFIP policy, please schedule an appointment.

*Kelli DeFedericis, CFM,  
Floodplain Coordinator and  
CRS Coordinator for the City of Marco  
Island can be reached at 239-389-3926 or  
[kdefedericis@cityofmarcoisland.com](mailto:kdefedericis@cityofmarcoisland.com)*



marco island  
Annual Publication of the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce  
2019

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## Residents' Beach Holiday Party - December 30<sup>th</sup> 2018







*See more pictures on pages 20 & 21*





## Letter from Our Daily Bread

*Dear Ruth,*

*Thank you for all of the donated food from the New Year's event on December 30 at Residents' Beach!*

*The support of MICA is so important to us!*

*Best wishes to you and your staff in the new year.*

*Vicki, Nancy, Joanne & Liz  
Our Daily Bread Food Pantry*

## Letter from a Member

*Hello... We just want to thank the entire wonderful staff at Residents' Beach for a job well done!*

*Our 3 month visit has come to an end... and we can't say enough about how super we believe Residents' Beach is...from the friendly staff...to the well kept grounds!!*

*My pass was the best money I spent in Marco!!! And we look forward to our return next fall!!*

*Keep up the great work!!*

*Most sincerely and with much appreciation,*

*Ben and Barbie Epp*



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# Friends of the Marco Island Library Welcomes Author Kathy McKeon

*by Nanette Finkle, Board Member, Friends of the Marco Island Library*

The Mission Statement of the Friends of the Marco Island Library is "To support Collier County Public Library; to obtain greater usefulness or wider use of library; and to support the literary and educational needs of the community through the Public Library."

The Friends Board Members annually plan events at our local library branch to achieve that goal. One example is the Books & Brews event. On Friday, March 8th at 10:00 a.m., we will have a wonderful local author, Kathy McKeon present her recently released memoir in Rose Hall at the library. The doors will open at 9:30 a.m. and refreshments will be served. Admission is free and the author will offer both hard copy (\$20) and paperback (\$15) versions of her book at the conclusion of her presentation.

The fourth of eight children, Kathy McKeon was a 19-year-old Irish immigrant newly arrived in New York City when Jacqueline Kennedy hired her as a personal assistant in 1964, nine months after JFK's assassination. McKeon soon became a trusted employee, helping to raise young Caroline and John and witnessing life from inside the fabled apartment at 1040 Fifth Avenue. For over five decades, McKeon never spoke publicly of her experience. But now the mother of three and grandmother has written a memoir, Jackie's Girl, My Life with the Kennedy Family.

Kathy was just a teen when she arrived in the United States in 1964 as a young immigrant from Ireland. At the age of 19, she found herself in her new role as Jacqueline Kennedy's personal assistant. It was through a cousin who was a policeman and had contacts with one of Jackie's Secret Service agents that connected Kathy with the job. Kathy said she earned the title of "Jackie's Girl" from Rose Kennedy.

When Kathy arrived to work, the Kennedy family was still grieving over the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963. Although Jackie did not talk of it and Kathy never saw her cry openly, she said that she wore "widow's black" when going out.

McKeon also noted that "Madam," as she was hired to call Mrs. Kennedy, had little appetite and was very thin at that time.

There are many behind the scene secrets that Kathy will share in her presentation about her memoir. She and Jackie became very close friends and she remained in contact with the Kennedy family well after Jackie's death. You won't want to miss this interesting presentation.



*Author, Kathy McKeon*

*The Marco Island Library is located at 210 S. Heathwood Dr, Marco Island, FL 34145. They can be reached at (239) 394-3272.*

*"An incredible venue!"*

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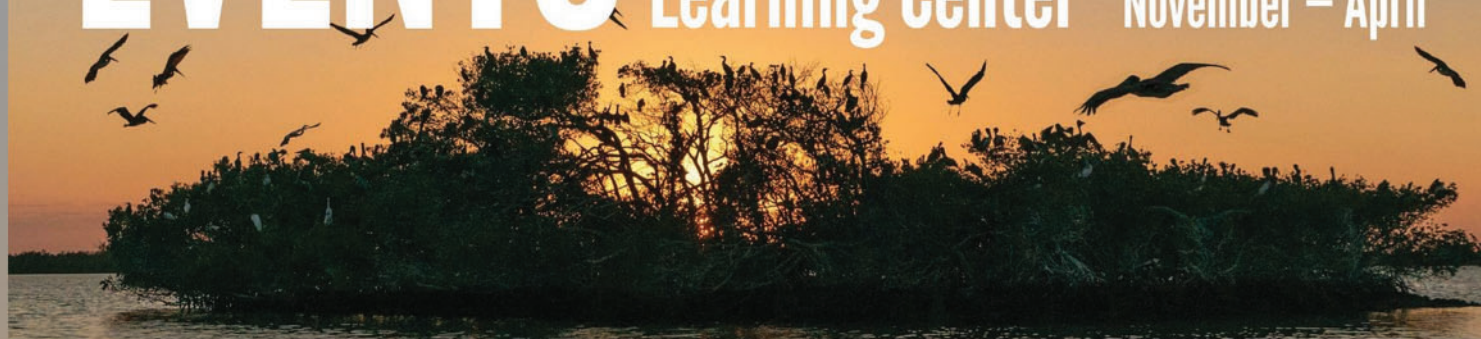
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# EVENTS at Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center November – April



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**Science**  
**SATURDAYS**  
November – April [RookeryBay.org](http://RookeryBay.org)





# So, You Think You're a Clean Boater?

*by Samantha Gibson, Collier County Pollution Control*

Spending the afternoon on the water can mean something completely different for each of us. It might be a leisurely sunset with the spouse, fishing with the kids, skiing and tubing with out of town guests, or just an excuse to get out on the water! No matter which activity, boating is not fun without clean water. By being a Clean Boater, you can enjoy your time on the water while maintaining it for you, and everyone else's, enjoyment!

The Clean Boater Program is offered through the Department of Environmental Protection as a way for each boat owner, boat renter, or even just a guest on a friend's boat to help prevent water pollution.



So, what does it mean to be a Clean Boater? The basics are easy! When filling the gas tank prevent spillage by being attentive, listen to the sounds and never leave the pump unattended. There are also devices you can buy for the boat to prevent a fuel spill while fueling.

Keep absorbent pads on your boat for accidental oil spills at the pump or dock. Use nontoxic cleaning agents when cleaning the boat since anything that goes onto your boat will enter the water during the next excursion; and always be mindful of where wash water may end up. Secure food, fishing gear, trash and other personal items so that it does not

blow off the boat. Minimize impact to natural grasses and other sea life by not running into the seagrass beds or other sensitive areas. And support local Clean Marinas that have gone through certification to ensure their facilities do not pollute.

For more tips and suggestions on how to prevent water pollution through hurricane preparedness, proper fueling and oil change techniques, proper boat cleaning and the use of nontoxic cleaning products, minimization of impact on plant and sea life, solid waste management, fish waste management, the use of pump out facilities and gray water management, or to take the Clean Boater's Pledge visit: <https://floridadep.gov/fco/cva/content/clean-boater-program>.

Think you're already a Clean Boater? Great! If you take the Clean Boater pledge at the above weblink we'd like to give you a sticker for your boat that shows that you're a Clean Boater. We've also got the most up to date list of the Clean Marinas in Southwest Florida, so you can easily support those facilities that take the extra step to keep our waterways clean. E-mail Collier County Pollution Control at [pollution\\_control@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:pollution_control@colliercountyfl.gov) for your sticker or any other questions about the Clean Boater program or general pollution prevention.





# Becoming Part of the Fire Service Family

by Dianna Dohm

*"As we walk through life, occasionally we come across people that make a lasting impression on us. The Fire Rescue Foundation, are those individuals to whom saying thanks could never be enough."*

*- Mike Murphy,  
Marco Island Fire Chief*

In the twelve years of its existence, the Foundation has supported many Marco Island Fire Rescue families in times of need. The Foundation came to the aid of a firefighter and his family dealing with cancer, a firefighter's child born with a rare disease and heart defect, firefighters' injuries and the son of a firefighter after a serious motorcycle accident. The Foundation was able to help them financially with expenses not covered by insurance. After Irma, the Foundation presented each member of the Department with a \$1,000 check thanking them for all their dedicated time and efforts away from their families during this disaster. Our First Responders put the Island community first, once their families were secure. More importantly, the Foundation was there to support them emotionally. Foundation members know they make a difference in the lives of these families. An all-volunteer board oversees the funds entrusted to its care by those members.

## ***The Beginning***

The Marco Island Fire Rescue Foundation was incorporated in July 2007. It was one of a very few similar organizations operating in the State of Florida or in the United States. It began as collaboration between the Marco Community Bank (now Mutual of Omaha Bank) and the Marco Island Fire Rescue Department. The bank's president approached Fire Chief Mike Murphy with the idea. He wanted to organize a group of citizens that would



***Mike Murphy, Marco Island Fire Chief***

provide positive recognition for the department and financial relief in times of emergency or need for its personnel. This conceptual organization also would educate Marco Island residents about the many activities and achievements of the department. He believed the community would come to better appreciate the island's fire rescue personnel and the risks they take. Chief Murphy and the department were excited that a group of citizens would volunteer their time and energy to the department's welfare and spirit. The two men agreed to give it a try. The bank's advisory board immediately got involved, selecting a start-up number of directors for the Foundation. Today, the board is made up of 17 community leaders and ex-officio Fire Department members.

## ***Fundraising***

The Foundation's primary mission is to provide financial support for Marco Island firefighters and their families when need arises. The Foundation has developed a cash reserve and is always working to be prepared to meet those needs. Yearly, fundraising events are scheduled to build the reserve. In 2007, the Foundation held its first fundraiser at the Island





Country Club, inviting the public and members of the business community. Florida's Assistant Governor was the guest speaker. The attendance was gratifying, resulting in the Foundation's initial community membership. Shortly thereafter, the Marco Community Bank (now Mutual of Omaha Bank) donated a signature motorcycle to be raffled as a fundraiser. The motorcycle brought a handsome price, and the Foundation's initial cash reserve was established. Since that time, many events have contributed to the fund, including the annual cruise raffle, semi-annual pancake breakfasts, fall chili cook-off, 50-50 at Stan's Restaurant in Goodland, and donations from businesses, members and grateful citizens who have used the department's services.

### ***Community Activities***

The Mission of the Foundation is multifaceted, including financial assistance to fire rescue personnel, recognition of their accomplishments, fundraising, public safety awareness and fire prevention education. The Foundation holds a number of community activities to raise funds, but not all events are intended as fundraisers. Some are designed to create awareness in the community and provide for new initiatives. Proceeds of the annual cruise raffle endows the Foundation's scholarship program for Marco Island fire rescue personnel and their families. The Foundation also sponsors CPR and basic first aid training at the Fire Station along with pet CPR. Annually, more than 400 island residents have received training conducted by local firefighters. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to call the department and schedule a group CPR session. The Foundation also supports the "Dial Don't Drive, Call 9-1-1" initiative to promote prompt lifesaving medical response in emergencies.

### ***Become a Member***

The Foundation is proud to be a community partner and liaison for Marco Island's fire rescue personnel and its members. Each year, the Foundation invites new members to become part of this thriving community organization. New member applications are available at the Fire Station and through any board member. They are also available



***Marco Island Fire Department's traditional  
"Push In" Ceremony for new fire truck***

at Foundation events. Donations to the Foundation also are accepted. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

The Foundation uses 100 percent of contributions and membership dues to support the families of fire rescue personnel and the Foundation's community programs. Annual memberships are available for families and businesses. We are honored to have the business community represent a significant amount of our membership and look forward to publicly recognizing them throughout the year.

Each year, the Foundation holds an annual luncheon in February. At this event, firefighters entering the department are welcomed with a pinning ceremony, and the Firefighter of the Year is announced and honored. Local businesses are awarded for outstanding activities related to the health and welfare of the community.

***For more information, please visit  
[marcoislandfirerescuefoundation.com](http://marcoislandfirerescuefoundation.com)***





# Owl Watch: Outstanding Conservation Project of 2018

At the Audubon Assembly in West Palm Beach, Audubon of the Western Everglades' Owl Watch won the 2018 Outstanding Conservation Project Award. The award recognized Owl Watch's "extraordinary efforts building partnerships and monitoring the Burrowing Owls of Marco Island."

Jean Hall and Allison Smith accepted the award on behalf of AWE. They thanked the 50 volunteer monitors on Marco Island for their hard work and dedication in gathering data and protecting Marco's burrowing owl population. "We even have a waiting list, if you can believe it," said Hall.

AWE's Executive Director called the award a "huge honor and comes on the heels of the most successful Burrowing Owl nesting season in Marco's recorded history." A record 423 nestlings flew the coop in 2018.

Owl Watch couldn't have done it without the incredible volunteerism on Marco and generous donations from people on Marco who care about protecting this State-Threatened bird.

Congratulations, Owl Watch!

## Hootenanny Attracts Marco Islanders

To raise awareness about burrowing owls, AWE held its first annual Hootenanny at Mackle Park on Marco Island, November 3rd. Admission was free, and attendees were treated to a lively bluegrass band (the "Paddle Fasters"), fresh doughnuts, apples and cider. And of course plenty of information about the stars of the show – burrowing owls. Hope to see you next year.



AUDUBON OF THE  
WESTERN EVERGLADES

### Marco Island Speaker Series

Tuesday, February 8, 2019  
10:00-11:00AM

#### BIRDS AND CRITTERS ON RANCHLANDS OF FLORIDA

Speaker: Dr. Raoul Boughton, UF Assistant Professor, Ranch Cattle Research & Ed. Ctr.

Wednesday, March 6, 2019  
8:00-11:00AM

#### BIRDING 101 AND EBIRD TRAINING

Speaker: Arthur Sissman, Expert Birder

Friday, April 5th, 2019  
10:00-11:00AM

#### SHOREBIRDS AND CHICKS AT TIGERTAIL BEACH

Speaker: Adam DiNuovo, Audubon Florida Biologist

Our talks are presented monthly from November through April at **various times** at **Mackle Community Park, 1361 Andalusia Terrace, Marco Island, FL 34145. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL TALKS.** Audubon of the Western Everglades (AWE) members, non-members, and guests are welcome. There will be a \$10.00 charge for non-members, and donations are graciously accepted.

Register online at [www.audubonwe.org](http://www.audubonwe.org)

(239)643~7822; [AudubonWE@live.com](mailto:AudubonWE@live.com)





# Record Breaking Number of Sea Turtle Hatchlings Emerged from Cape Romano Complex in 2018

*~More than 10,000 hatchlings emerged, nearly twice the number of hatchlings recorded in a single season since monitoring began in 2006~*

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Rookery Bay Research Reserve recently completed assessment of nesting efforts for the 2018 sea turtle nesting season and reported more than 10,000 loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings made their way out of their nests at the Cape Romano Complex, south of Marco Island. That is nearly twice the number of hatchlings as any prior year since monitoring and nest caging began at the complex in 2006.

"This was an amazing year for nesting," Rookery Bay Research Reserve Director Keith Laakkonen said. "Even though there were 29 fewer nests this year than in 2016 – a banner year for sea turtles – we had very good results. We have increased hatching success by close to 100 percent since we started installing cages, which help prevent predation by raccoons or other animals."

The total number of hatchlings to emerge from 146 nests this year was 10,752, with an estimated 74 percent emergence success. Since 2006, the highest number of hatchlings to emerge from nests at the Cape Romano Complex was 6,046 in 2014, which was a relatively quiet year for storm events.

"We have noticed that beachgoers along the Cape Romano Complex have done a great job of picking up after themselves," Rookery Bay Research Reserve Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring Coordinator Sarah Norris said. "Anything we can do to prevent predation and obstacles on the beach can help ensure nesting females and hatchlings make their way to the water safely and efficiently."

DEP's Rookery Bay Research Reserve monitors sea turtle nests at the Cape Romano Complex in cooperation with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and Collier County Parks &



Recreation. The program also has support from the local community through the Friends of Rookery Bay, the citizen support organization for the reserve. Their Adopt-a-Sea-Turtle-Nest program provides funding for a summer intern, with the help of volunteers, to patrol beaches every morning, find nests and install cages. Once the eggs have hatched, the turtle team goes back to each nest to remove the cages, excavate the nests and count the empty shells to determine the actual number of hatchlings.

During nesting season, beachgoers should always remove beach furniture, fill in holes and smooth out sandcastles before leaving the beach to help prevent nesting females from encountering obstructions, and to ensure hatchlings successfully reach the water.

***Did you know. . .***

***Volunteering two hours a week can boost your well-being.***

***Research shows this helps combat loneliness, which has been linked to dementia.***

***Check out [volunteermatch.org](https://volunteermatch.org).***







## Residents' Beach Holiday Party - December 30<sup>th</sup> 2018







*See more pictures on pages 10 & 11*





# Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

*Andrea McKenna*

Homeownership will become a reality for 100 new families each year thanks to their hard work and partnership with Habitat Collier and generous volunteers and donors in our community. Habitat Collier continues to be one of very few resources for an affordable safe and decent place to live within Collier County. Since we began building here in 1978, more than 2,100 families and 5,100 children have realized the independence and stability that come from having the security of owning their own home.

Some recently approved applicants will be delighted to move into our newest community, Dockside, located off 951 near U.S. 41. Building is well underway and we welcome volunteers to join us on the job site. This will be a convenient location for those working on Marco Island. Dockside is Habitat Collier's first multi-unit, town-house style complex with both three and four bedroom condominiums. When complete, 44 families will call this home. Some may be familiar faces to those who live on Marco Island.

## About Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

This year for the second time, Habitat for Humanity of Collier County is among the 1% of charities to have earned a perfect 100 score from Charity Navigator, the largest and most utilized evaluator of charities in the U.S. Additionally, 14 times Habitat Collier received a four-star rating. In 2014, Habitat Collier was recognized as #1 in the nation for Housing and Community Development. 95¢ of every donated dollar is used to build homes and serve families.



*The Casillo Family at their home dedication ceremony*

Febec is one of the many applicants who work on Marco but she is one of just a few who live there as well. Raising two children on her own, Febec works full time at Publix and part time cleaning with A & S Resorts. When Febec told the cleaning company owners she planned to leave, they persuaded her to continue working with them. They said she is one of their best workers! In addition to her own work, Febec manages others, making sure their work is done well and on time. Though carrying a heavy workload, Febec is happy to have the extra income.

This family of three has been living in a house owned by extended family members. Six others live in the house. The living room has two beds plus





two sofas. Febec's son shares a room with his mom and her daughter shares with a cousin. They look forward to the day when they will have their own space, privacy and a place they can call "home".

Each year, we continue to have about eight families who work on the Island apply for a Habitat home. Nearly 100 families who support the Island lifestyle now live in a Habitat home or soon will be moving into one. They are working their required 500 hours of sweat equity, anticipating the day when they too will be safely settled in a home of their own.

Please consider attending a Habitat home dedication ceremony to hear first-hand from families the impact their Habitat home has had on their lives. Details about future dedications are below:

- February 9, 2019 10 a.m.  
Golden Gate City – 2590 47th Terrace SW
- February 23, 2019 10 a.m.  
East Naples – 3124 Areca Ave.
- March 9, 2019 10 a.m. Golden Gate Estates

A number of families will have their homes blessed and dedicated on these dates. The ceremony lasts about one hour.

An opportunity to learn more about the need for affordable housing in Collier County and the work that Habitat does is to attend a Habi-Tour.

Tours depart from the Habitat office at 11145 Tamiami Trail, Naples, FL 34113 after a light breakfast and video. Tour dates are:

- February 19, 2019
- March 19, 2019

Habi-tours run approximately two hours. To sign up or get more information, please contact Andrea at [amckenna@habitatcollier.org](mailto:amckenna@habitatcollier.org) or 239-775-0036.

We at Habitat Collier are humbled and grateful for the generous support we receive. Much has been done, but so much remains. Nearly 20 families inquire for each home we are able to fund, build and sell, leaving 19 families to return to their untenable living conditions. Thank you to all who have volunteered or donated their time, talents and treasures. If you haven't done so already, now is the perfect time to get involved with Habitat Collier. Every helping hand makes a difference! All of us at Habitat Collier are grateful to all who have helped us get one step closer to the day when everyone has a simple, decent place to live.

Keep up to date on what is happening by visiting our website [www.habitatcollier.org](http://www.habitatcollier.org) or contact Andrea at 239-775-0036 or [amckenna@habitatcollier.org](mailto:amckenna@habitatcollier.org).

Follow Habitat for Humanity of Collier County on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.



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# Sixth Annual “Art Flicks” Film Program Announced

The Marco Island Center for the Arts has announced the launch of its sixth annual, highly successful “Art Flicks” program, featuring foreign, independent and “art” films. To be shown at Marco Movies, 599 S. Collier Blvd at 10 a.m., the series features FREE theme-based films, refreshments and lively discussions for both residents and island visitors who are interested in the art of film. There are no reservations for seating. It is on a first come, first seated basis.

Nick Campo, owner and operator of the Marco Movie theater, donates his time and the largest theater at the complex for the Art Flicks program.

## **The theme for 2019 is “Spirit” and will feature the following movies:**

January 22: “Paper Clips”

February 5: “Jean-Michel Basquiat: Radiant Child”

February 19: “The Chorus”

March 5: “Ladies in Lavender”

“The Art Flicks program has been extremely popular since we launched it in 2014,” commented Jo-Ann Sanborn, Art Flicks Committee Chair. “Our committee spends all summer researching and watching films, discarding some, until we finally come down to a select few that we feel are good enough and interesting enough for this program. We then develop a theme around the films.”

The Art Flicks theme this year is “Spirit”, featuring documentaries and films that depict the hope, resilience, and magic of the human spirit. The first documentary, to be shown on Tuesday, January 22, will be “Paper Clips”, initially released in 2004. It tells the story of three middle-school teachers in Whitwell, Tenn. (pop. 1,500), who came up with a project for the eighth-grade class to learn about intolerance by studying the Holocaust. The students read *The Diary of Anne Frank* and did internet

research, discovering that during World War II, the Norwegians wore paper clips in their lapels as a silent gesture of solidarity and sympathy with Hitler’s victims. The story goes on from there. “Paper Clips,” is not a sophisticated or very challenging film, nor should it be. It is straightforward, heartfelt and genuine and we get the sense that the documentary, like the project itself, grows directly out of the good intentions of the people involved. Whitwell at the time had no Jews, five African-Americans and one Hispanic we learn; there weren’t even any Catholics. By the time the project was completed, the horizons of the population had widened considerably.

## **Art Flicks**

“Art Flicks” was designed to help create a more well-rounded appeal for an already robust art, instructional classes, and exhibit schedule for the Art Center. While the movie and refreshments are free, donations are happily accepted at the end of each film, after the discussion, with 100% of the donations presented to the Art Center to continue their important work here on Marco Island.

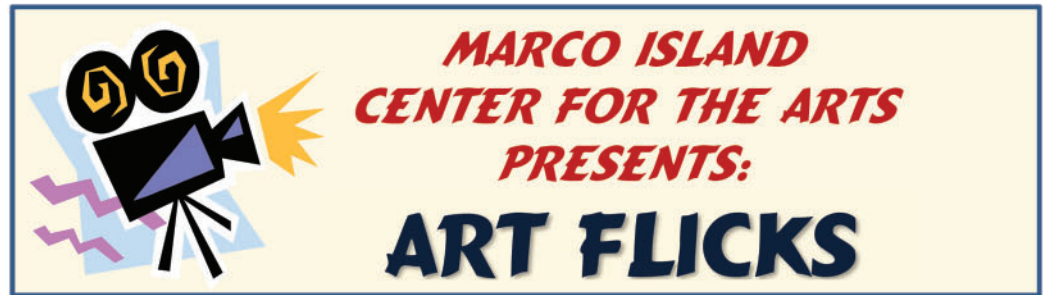
## **About Marco Island Center for the Arts**

Founded in 1969 by a dedicated group of artists and patrons, the non-profit Art Center has developed into a place to gather, to learn and to become inspired. The program offerings include classes and workshops for adults and children. The Art Center brings a wide variety of arts to the community including visual, music, literature, and special presentations. It is a showcase for local, national and international artists in many disciplines.

*For more information, contact  
Jo-Ann Sanborn at 239-404-9179.  
Marco Island Center for the Arts is located  
at 1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island,  
and they can be reached at 239-394-4221,  
or visit their website - [marcoislandart.org](http://marcoislandart.org)*







Come join us as we celebrate the 6<sup>TH</sup> year of **ART FLICKS**.

**FREE** movies, **FREE** refreshments and **LIVELY** discussions!

**COME JOIN THE FUN!**

## **2019 Theme: "Spirit"**

**It's Free!  
But  
Donations  
Happily  
Accepted!**

**Showing: 10AM at Marco Movies  
599 S. Collier Blvd., Marco Island**



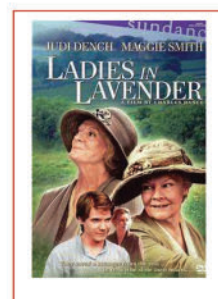
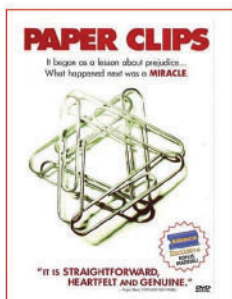
**Tuesday, January 22: "Paper Clips" (2004)**

**Tuesday, February 5: "Jean-Michel Basquiat: Radiant Child" (2010)**

**Tuesday, February 19: "The Chorus" (2004)**

**Tuesday, March 5: "Ladies in Lavender" (2005)**

**For more information: Call 239-394-4221**



Thanks to the following  
additional Marco Island  
Center for the Arts  
sponsors:



This project is sponsored in part by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida." (Section 286.25, Florida Statutes).



# FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL



Incorporated in 1998, with a mission to preserve and protect Tigertail Beach and bring education to the public on birding and other environmental issues that may be of concern.

## DON'T MISS THESE EXCITING FREE EVENTS!

### **Discover Tigertail**

**Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, 9am to 12 noon**

This annual event is a program for all ages. It encompasses the marine life and other wildlife that inhabit the Tigertail Beach lagoon. With 10 'interactive information stations' along the boardwalk, lagoon and viewing tower. Feel the shell of a loggerhead turtle, spot the wading birds with a telescope, see the ospreys in their nest from the wildlife viewing tower, hear about wildlife rehabilitation. Learn about the birds, plants, and seashells that are found here. Meet the specialists from Collier County Sea Turtle Program, the Marco Shell Club, Conservancy of Southwest Florida and Friends of Tigertail.

Enjoy our popular scavenger hunt.

### **Friends of Tigertail Beach Cleanup Annual Keep Collier Beautiful Bay Days - Earth Day Event**

**Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 8am to 11am**

Call Susan on 239-394-1470 to sign up early for a free Bay Days T-Shirt

Volunteers will meet at the Tigertail Beach kiosk. Garbage bags, work gloves & water provided.

Wear shoes that may get wet, sunscreen or hat recommended. All youth volunteers receive certificates for participating.

Please bring a grabber! Also reusable water container, to help reduce waste.

## FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL 2019 ACTIVITIES

**Programs on the Beach:** Breakfast and Birds Winter/Summer, Discover Tigertail

**Beach Cleanups:** Volunteer Certificates awarded, Partner with Keep Collier Beautiful/Ocean Conservancy

**Youth Summer Camp Scholarships:** Awarded Annually/Scholarship Winners attend Conservancy of Southwest Florida Summer Camp for one week

**Member Events:** Welcome Back Picnic, Rookery Bay Boat Ride, End of Season Gathering

For more info, all events and membership information visit [www.FriendsofTigertail.com](http://www.FriendsofTigertail.com)

Like us: [Facebook.com/FriendsOfTigertailBeach](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTigertailBeach)

Collier County Beach Pass Info:

<http://www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=2665>





**Donna Fiala,**  
*continued from page 7*

at its finest. Then there is the Collier Seminole State park with all sorts of outdoor activity in which all can participate in. And we have it all down in this part of the county! Of course, you would have to love nature, hiking, camping or paddling, but there is a different life out there if you just reach out and find it.

I was so pleased to read that Congressman Frances Rooney has introduced a bill to permanently protect the Florida Gulf Coast from Offshore Drilling!! This bill would permanently ban oil and gas leasing, preleasing, and related activities in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. A few years back I saw a map of the Gulf of Mexico along the Louisiana border, and it was filled with oil drilling rigs: so much so that if you wanted to lay on the beach and look at the beautiful Gulf, all you could see were oil rigs! It was an awful picture, and that would certainly affect our tourism business greatly! I know it took a lot of courage for him to introduce that bill, but it is so important to our part of Florida, and we thank him. Florida's economy is dependent on clean water and a healthy environment! Let's hope that he can carry it through Congress to the winner's circle! I don't care which party you belong to, this is a positive for everyone in Florida or who visits Florida!

You've probably seen construction going on near the corner of Collier Blvd (951) and US 41 alongside the shopping center. In case you are curious, it's going to be another Aldi's Grocery Store. This store offers less "frivolities" such as bags and boxes, (so you bring your own) and the prices are supposed to be reduced, you can save money on groceries. I've heard (but not seen with my own eyes) that their products and service are on the order of a Trader Joe's, and they have great quality of meats and produce. Many in our area have requested a Trader Joe's in notes to me. Here is your chance to see it they measure up to them. I must try them once they open.

In case you haven't heard: There is a First Watch about to be built in the shopping center that houses Carrabba's, in the section called Restaurant Row. We are getting some pretty good things coming our way at this end of the county.



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Also, along Bayshore Drive in East Naples, where 360 Market Restaurant and The Real Macaw are located, there is a lot of new activity taking place and more to come! The owner of 360 Market bought the property across the canal from her restaurant and has built and opened the Celebration Food Truck Park, and it's a huge hit with everyone. She has eight permanent owner-operated food trucks on the property and an outdoor bar and tables. Parking can be a challenge, but then again we're used to that. There is parking across the little street from the park, plus parking and a shuttle at the shopping center on the corner (Gulf Gate Shopping Center). It's such a big hit, she had no idea how much parking she would need, but people are finding a way. There is also a new craft beer facility and permanent food truck down the road just about a quarter of a mile. And at the end of that street what do you find? The beautiful Naples Botanical Garden! That area is really picking up and moving ahead rapidly. Drop by some time. It's really an experience!

Happy New Year to all. (Watch out for that nasty flu bug!)





# Your American Cancer Society - Wish Upon a Cure with a Magical Night to Finish the Fight!

*By Maureen Chodaba, ACS Publicity Lead*

For more than 70 years, the American Cancer Society has aided research in the fight against cancer. For the past 25 years, the death rate from cancer in the U.S. has declined remarkably. During the most recent decade of available statistics (2006-2015), the rate of new cancer diagnoses decreased by 2% per year in men and stayed approximately the same for women. The death rate in the time frame of 2007-2016 declined 1.4% per year for women and 1.8% for men. The decrease in cancer mortality rates can be attributed in part to a reduction in smoking and to advances that have been made in early detection and more effective treatments. This is good news, but the fight against cancer still must go on. In 2019, a total of 1,762,450 new cancer diagnoses and 606,880 deaths from cancer are expected to occur in the U.S.

The Marco Island office of the American Cancer Society is delivering a powerful punch in the fight against this deadly disease. In 2018, the Relay For Life of Marco Island, presented by Robert J. Flugger and chaired by Cathy Nelson, placed first in fundraising for the state of Florida. This team



*Debra Shanahan, Chair of Imagination Ball and ACS Volunteer Board*

event raised well over \$325,000 that is being used right this very moment to make a global impact on cancer through research and patient services. In 2019, we are planning to do it all again with a little help inspired by the wonderful world of Disney. “Wish Upon a Cure”, the 2019 Relay For Life of Marco Island will be held March 30, 2019, at Mackle Park. This community event, featuring food, music and fun will be a celebration of life for the whole family. Survivors, their families and caregivers are invited to be our guests at a celebratory dinner inside the Mackle Park Community Center. The dinner will feature delicious food donated by many of our community’s finest restaurants.

The true message of Relay may best be found in the Luminaria Ceremony. Beacons of light in honor of survivors and in memory of loved ones lost will



*Relay For Life 2019 will be held on March 30th*







*Stuffed Animal Campaign, sponsored by  
John R. Wood Properties*

light up the Marco Island skyline, sharing our wish upon a cure with the stars. It is a heartfelt reminder that Relay is a global force, uniting all of us in one small world after all.

At the time of writing this article, excitement is in the air as the 2019 ACS Imagination Ball, “A Magical Night to Finish the Fight” is just days away. This gala fundraiser at the JW Marriott, presented by Phoenix Roofing and chaired by Debra Shanahan, will feature fine food, music, both live and silent auctions, a magical “Diamond Dig” from Katheine Jewelers and many other opportunities to donate. John R. Wood Properties is once again sponsoring the Stuffed Animal campaign. Your \$100 donation can purchase a stuffed giraffe, monkey or elephant that will be delivered to a child in the hospital along with your personal message of healing. The Grado Award, in honor of individuals who have contributed significantly in the fight against cancer, will be presented to Marco Island philanthropists Gary and Anne Landis. Cancer survivor Lauren Ross of Mango’s Dockside Bistro will inspire the crowd with her personal story and powerful message of hope.

The magic of the evening will continue way beyond the actual event. From now through June 30, Marco Island Candle Co. will shine light in the darkness by donating \$1 from each sale to the ACS Imagination Ball.

That light will shine forever when we find a cure. We believe the day is coming when we will finish the fight against cancer once and for all, but we can’t do



*Marco Island Candle Co. shining  
light in the darkness*

it alone. We need your help. You can become a part of this amazing organization. We are 2.5 million survivors, patients, advocates, volunteers, caregivers, and researchers doing everything within our power to save lives. Please join us in the fight!

*For more information, please contact your  
American Cancer Society at 239-642-6217  
or Sue.Olszak@cancer.org.*

**Kiwanis Club Hosts**  
**The Marco Island:**

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual CAR SHOW

**Sunday, February 17, 2019**  
**9:30 am - 3:00 pm**  
**\$5 Spectator Donation**  
**Car Entry Fee: \$20, includes Lunch**

**DJ: Steve Reynolds**  
**Food & Drink Vendors**  
**Trophy Awards**

**New Location!**  
**AT Veterans Park    Park Ave. & Bald Eagle Drive**  
**Contact John DeRosa - 239-272-0316**





# Prescribed Burns Planned Near East Naples January - March, 2019

Resource management staff at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve have released plans for their first prescribed burns in 2019. Prescribed burns will commence each day around 9 a.m. as weather permits starting January 19 through the end of March.

Fires are planned for the following areas: west of Collier Boulevard and south of Henderson Creek, along Powerline Road (adjacent to Artesia and Treviso Bay), along Shell Island Road, and north and south ends of Keewaydin Island.

Rookery Bay Reserve staff coordinate burns with the Florida Forestry Service and work with partnering land managers and local fire departments to ensure the burns are conducted safely and efficiently.

Residents in the adjacent areas will see and possibly smell smoke from the fire. Fire personnel will contact visitors in the area to ensure their safety while traveling near activity areas and will carefully monitor the fire throughout the day until it extinguishes.

“The main purpose of these burns is to reduce fuel loads and manage wildlife habitat,” said Rookery Bay Reserve Resource Management Coordinator Jeff Carter. “Prescribed burns also help to increase ecosystem diversity, while assisting in invasive plant control.”

According to Carter, a major portion of Collier County is comprised of plants that are dependent on fire to maintain species composition and diversity. These species are the same as those that are prone to lightning-strike wildfires and the controlled reduction of those fuels will prevent catastrophic wildfire damage. Fire-dependent plants include, the South Florida slash pine, gallberry, saw palmetto and scrub oaks.



There are several reasons why prescribed fire is used as a management tool in natural areas, including:

- Reduction of fuel load to decrease threat of wildfires;
- Stimulation of food and seed production and opening areas for wildlife feeding and travel;
- Ecosystem diversity;
- Enhanced endangered and threatened species habitat; and
- Invasive plant control.

*For more information about Rookery Bay  
visit [www.rookerybay.org](http://www.rookerybay.org).*





# Listed Species Ordinance

*by Ruth McCann, Executive Director Marco Island Civic Association (MICA)*

The City's Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee recommended changes to the City of Marco Island's ordinance to protect endangered, threatened and listed species. The Marco Island City Council unanimously approved the amended ordinance on January 7, 2019, which also brings the ordinance into compliance with all state and federal requirements. Highlights of the updated wildlife ordinance are listed below.

## ***Burrowing Owls:***

- Prior to construction, protection zone of silt fencing on 2-3 sides 10 feet from a burrow during non-breeding season (July 11 to February 14).
- Prior to construction, protection zone of silt fencing on 2-3 sides 25 feet from a burrow during breeding season (February 15 to July 10).

## ***Gopher Tortoises:***

- Prior to construction, protection zone of silt fencing on 2-3 sides 25 feet from a burrow.

## ***Ospreys, Bald Eagles & Brown Pelicans:***

- All state/federal protections at nests, roost sites, and buffer zones will be enforced.

## ***Manatees:***

- All state/federal protections, including manatee speed zones in the City, will be enforced.

## ***Beach nesting birds & migratory flocks:***

- No trespassing in posted or closed nesting habitats.
- No fireworks, dogs or lethal disturbances on beach.
- No drones, kites or aerial disturbances within 500 feet of posted areas of listed species.

In addition, trash bins must be closed at all times to wildlife, and all food waste must be in closed containers. Feeding wildlife is prohibited, except bird feeders. Mangroves, dunes and dune vegetation are protected from damage and destruction.

## ***Penalties for violation of the ordinance:***

- First offense – minimum of \$150, not to exceed \$500
- Second offense - \$1,500
- Third offense - \$2,000

## Central Beach Regrade Project

**When:** February through April, 2019

**Why:** To create a more natural slope to Marco's Beach, to reduce ponding and to create more natural conditions for nesting shore birds and sea turtles

**Where:** From north of Sand Dollar (near South Seas Towers) to south end of Madeira Condominium

**What:** Collier County Coastal Zone Management, utilizing an Army Corps of Engineers' grant, will move sand from within the Gulf of Mexico near beach up onto the dry sandy beach. The sand will then be redistributed from the dune berm west toward the water, creating a naturally sloped beach. There will also be a shorter walk to the water's edge.

**Misc:** The project will be completed in three sections, beginning at the northerly point. Beach access may be diverted during that time, but all will still have access to the sandy beach and Gulf of Mexico.





# A Plastic Ocean

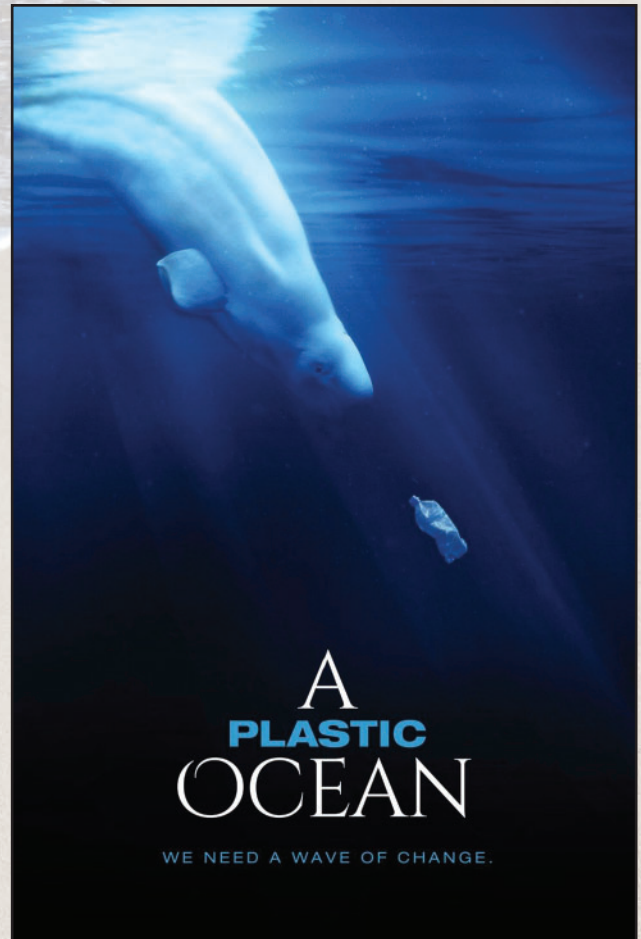
*by Ruth McCann, Executive Director Marco Island Civic Association (MICA)*

The Marco Island Civic Association, in conjunction with the City of Marco Island's Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee, recently sponsored the showing of the movie, "A Plastic Ocean." Of the approximately 50 people who attended, all left the room intending to make changes to their everyday life.

Did you know that 5% of plastic is single use with an average usage of 12 minutes? What can you do to reduce your plastic footprint? Make these easy swaps:

- Replace plastic food wrap with reusable wrap, such as bee's wax coated fabric or silicone bags.
- No more plastic straws! Switch to the infinitely reusable stainless steel straws.
- Plastic water bottle? No. Options are many to replace the single-use plastic bottle. Find one that is comfortable for you and use it!
- Bamboo toothbrushes are becoming more plentiful and bamboo is naturally renewable.
- No more plastic bottles of body soap, shampoo and conditioner. All of these products come in bar form. Go for it.

I am sure you can think of more ways you can reduce your plastic use. Take responsibility for your plastic consumption.







*The “Lending Library”, “Kids Don’t Float” and “Beach Borrow Box” located at the walkway to the beach at Residents’ Beach.*

*Borrow a book, a life jacket, and kids’ toys for your day at the beach, and return for the next family.*



*Remember...  
No Glass  
at the Beach*





# Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center Events

## ***Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center Hosts Science Saturdays***

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center welcomes the entire family on Science **Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., through April**. Kids and grown-ups alike can explore and discover the plants, fish and wildlife that call Rookery Bay Research Reserve's 110,000 acres home. Science Saturdays is a fun way to learn about environmental science and the natural world through actual hands-on experience with marine-life touch tanks, exhibits and scientific displays.

## ***Rookery Bay Naturalist-Guided Boat and Kayak Tours***

Experience the nature of Rookery Bay Research Reserve up-close and personal with one of our naturalist-guided kayak or boat tours. These tours run **November through April**. The relaxed pace and emphasis on learning is designed to help visitors develop a true sense of place and a deeper connection to this unique coastal wilderness. All tours provide a chance to see a diversity of native wildlife and offer a comfortable platform for photography. Pre-registration required. Visit [Rookerybay.org/calendar](http://Rookerybay.org/calendar) for dates, times and themes.

## **February, March & April Events**

### ***Birding Basics***

**February 8, March 8 and April 12, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., \$40**

Enjoy this fun and informative class designed to help you identify birds around you. Oriented toward the beginning birder, the classroom session explores how to use birds' plumage, shape, behavior and habitat to recognize various species. It also covers the effective use of binoculars and field guides. During the second part of the class you will learn more tricks of the trade during a field trip to a nearby park where you can enjoy practicing new skills. Registration is required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

### ***Birds of the Beach***

**February 9, March 9 and April 6, 2019, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., \$40**

Southwest Florida is a critical stopover site for thousands of migrating and wintering shorebirds. In this class, Adam DiNuovo of Audubon Florida will discuss the life history of these birds and the amazing journeys many of them make annually. Winter shorebirds are notoriously difficult to ID, so practicing the skills learned in this class is essential. You will learn how to use plumage, size, and behavior to help with identification.

The classroom session will take place at the Rookery Bay Field Station on Shell Island Road. It will be followed by a trip to Tigertail Beach, one of the most important winter shorebird sites in Florida, where we will see many of the birds discussed. Be prepared to wade in water up to your knees, with adequate footwear that will protect your feet (no flip flops). Collier County beach parking fee applies (\$8, free with sticker). This class is geared toward those with some birding experience. If you are new to birding, we recommend taking the Birding Basics class first. Registration is required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

### ***Essentials of Digital Photography***

**February 11, March 11 and April 8, 2019, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., \$55**

If you want to get the best pictures possible, and truly understand your camera's features, this camera workshop is for you. The class covers the essentials of your digital camera. You will learn how to use your camera's shutter, aperture, ISO control and the drive modes to create images with impact and creativity. Sonny Saunders has over 35 years of experience in photography and instruction and is renowned for his ability to communicate to a wide variety of students. Registration is required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)





## February Events

### *Darwin Day*

**February 12, 2019**, BOGO (Buy one, get one free) Admission

Commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin on February 12, 1809. Darwin Day is used to highlight Darwin's contributions to science and to promote science in general. No registration necessary.

### *Annual Members' Night*

**February 13, 2019**, Free to members of the Friends of Rookery Bay

Annual Members' Night is a free open house for the Friends of Rookery Bay Members. It is an opportunity for members to learn how the Friends of Rookery Bay are meeting their mission in supporting Rookery Bay Research Reserve. Registration is required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

### *Lunch & Learn Lecture: Rookery Bay through the Eyes of the Staff*

**February 26, 2019**, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m., \$15 (includes lunch)

Please join us for the fourth in a series of six lectures in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Rookery Bay Research Reserve. Renee Wilson, Rookery Bay Research Reserve's Communications Coordinator, will give a multi-media presentation from a staff member's perspective on human and natural resources, important events, special visitors and memorable moments in the reserve's history. Registration is required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

## March Events

### *World Water Day*

**March 12, 2019**, BOGO (Buy one, get one free) Admission

Learn about the water around us in honor of World Water Day. World Water Day is a day to reflect on the importance of water and to remember those lacking adequate drinking water supplies. No registration necessary.

### *Bash for the Bay*

**March 15, 2019**

The 10th Annual Bash for the Bay is an opportunity to have a great evening out and support Rookery Bay Research Reserve's 40th anniversary. Guests will enjoy music, cocktails, dinner and other delights!

### *Lunch & Learn Lecture: Rookery Bay through the Eyes of the Researcher*

**March 19, 2019**, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m., \$15 (includes lunch)

Please join us for the fifth in a series of six lectures in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Rookery Bay Research Reserve. Stephen Wilkie, Masters Candidate in Environmental Science at Gulf Coast University, will present on his effort to replicate the 1970's fish population study by Dr. Bernie Yokel. Registration is required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

## April Events

### *Lunch & Learn Lecture: Rookery Bay through the Eyes of the Filmmaker*

**April 16, 2019**, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m., \$15 (includes lunch)

Please join us for the finale in a series of six lectures. Elam Stotzfus of Live Oak Production Group has been filming in Rookery Bay Research Reserve for more than 20 years. In his talk, he will share clips from his upcoming, full-length documentary film about the reserve and its 40th anniversary. Registration is required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

### *Earth Day*

**April 22, 2019**, BOGO (Buy one, get one free) Admission

Visit the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center in celebration of Earth Day. No registration necessary.





# Interest in Ocean Habitats' Mini Reef Continues to Grow

*by David Wolff, President/Executive Director Ocean Habitats, Inc.*

The popularity of the Mini Reef continued to explode around the Gulf of Mexico in 2018. Over 800 Mini Reefs were deployed in Florida, Alabama, Texas and the Bahamas during the year. In Florida alone there are now Mini Reefs in 74 different coastal cities. Marco Island's waterways now contain over 600 units. The Mini Reefs in Marco Island will filter and clean over 20 million gallons of water every day. The units will also help produce over 200,000 fish and 150,000 crabs and shrimp this year alone. As residents of Marco Island continue to have more Mini Reefs installed, the impact of the units will only increase around the beautiful island. Many owners, after witnessing first-hand what a Mini Reef can do, are having additional units installed under their docks. There's a bright future ahead for the waterways of Marco Island and the Mini Reef will be making a big contribution towards that future.

Many city governments and concerned citizens groups are also noticing the positive impact of the Mini Reef. Gulf Port, FL will be installing units at its city pier this winter and in the city's municipal marina later in the year. Fort Myers Beach, FL is about to install 50 Mini Reefs in a canal on the island to show island residents what the Reefs can do and to encourage residents to install more behind their homes. Many other cities around Florida are also considering installing the Mini Reef to help their canal systems overall health. Residents in Cocoa Beach, FL plan to install 400-500 units this spring to combat the ever dropping fish and crab populations of the Indian River Lagoon.

Even local businesses are looking to help out. Marco Island's own Marco Canvas has partnered with Ocean Habitats to help the island's and state's waterways. Owners Edward and Tammy Skrzynski have pledged to donate one Mini Reef for every one of their amazing boat cover systems people purchase. Over the next 18 months, they plan to



*Ocean Habitats' Mini-Reef before deployment*

donate 1,000 Mini Reefs to the coastal waterways of Marco Island and other cities across Florida.

Mote Marine Laboratories has even taken notice of the Mini Reef. They will be conducting water sample analysis around our units in Sarasota and Boca Grande as well as using our sampling units to bring filter feeders back to their lab for study. Mote Marine plans to find out just how much red tide different filter feeders like oysters and sea squirts can eat in a given day. This work has never been performed before and Ocean Habitats is honored the Mote Marine Labs will be using our Mini Reef design for part of their important work on solving the ever growing problem of red tide in Florida. Other nonprofit groups throughout South West Florida will also be deploying Mini Reefs to try and combat the harmful effects of red tide in their areas.

Have you been thinking of installing Mini Reefs under your dock in Marco Island? There's no better time than the end of winter/early spring to have





your Mini Reef installed. This is a great time of year to get many of the fast growing filter feeding animals onto your Mini Reefs as this is when they reproduce. Your Mini Reefs will be filtering over 30,000 gallons of water everyday by the summer. They will also be able to help all the young fish that are born as the local waters begin to warm up from the winter. Installation is as simple as visiting Ocean Habitats' websites [oceanhabitatsinc.com](http://oceanhabitatsinc.com) or [oceanhabitatsinc.org](http://oceanhabitatsinc.org) and placing your order. Your donation for your units is partially tax deductible as Ocean Habitats, Inc is a federally recognized 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Have questions? Simply email Ocean Habitats at [hello@oceanhabitatsinc.com](mailto:hello@oceanhabitatsinc.com) or call 800-674-2593, and we will be more than happy to assist you. Delivery and installation is included and your installation date will be set up as soon as possible. Now is the time to join your neighbors and make a



***The Mini Reefs in Marco Island will filter and clean over 20 million gallons of water every day.***

positive contribution to Marco Island's waterways and to enjoy the natural beauty of this amazing island.





# Look Out, Slow Down for Florida's Migrating Manatees

*Florida Wildlife Commission*

Look out and slow down for manatees to help them as they begin migrating to warmer waters. Florida has more than 6,600 manatees swimming in rivers, bays and coastal waters. These large aquatic mammals can weigh over 1,000 pounds.

As the weather cools, manatees are on the move, searching for warmer waters to survive the winter. Remember: Disturbing manatees at warm-water sites may cause them to leave those areas at a time when it is critical for them to remain there.

"Boaters who look out for migrating manatees and follow posted manatee protection zones contribute to the conservation of this threatened species. They are reducing the chance of manatee injuries and disturbance, while enjoying their time on the water," said Carol Knox, who leads the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Imperiled Species Management Section.

Seasonal manatee protection zones also go into effect in the fall, depending on the county. The zones are marked by waterway signs, and maps of local manatee protection zones are available online at [MyFWC.com/Manatee](http://MyFWC.com/Manatee) by clicking on "Data and Maps."

## *How can you help manatees?*

- Wear polarized sunglasses to spot them moving, grazing and resting in the water. Keep a lookout for the circular "footprints" or ripples they leave on the surface of the water.
- Follow posted manatee zones.
- Observe manatees from a distance to limit disturbance. Disturbing manatees at their warm-water sites may cause them to leave these areas during the winter.



*Look out, slow down for Florida's migrating manatees. Photo by Tim Donovan.*





- Report injured, entangled, orphaned or dead manatees to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922), #FWC or \*FWC on your cellphone or text Tip@MyFWC.com.
- Access and share A boater's guide to living with Florida manatees and Guidelines for successful manatee watching in Florida that focuses on paddlers.
- Purchase the manatee decal and license plate, and tell everyone how the decal and license plate support the FWC's manatee conservation efforts.
- Contribute to the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida's Marine Mammal Fund by visiting WildlifeFlorida.org and clicking on "Support Us," "Funding Priorities" and "Marine Mammal Fund." Florida invests over \$2 million annually in manatee conservation, with FWC biologists, managers and law enforcement working with partners to research, rescue and manage Florida manatees.



*Want to see a manatee? Go to [MyFWC.com/Manatee](http://MyFWC.com/Manatee) and click on "Where Can I See Manatees?"*

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## Beach Stewardship Training

**Wednesday,  
February 6, 2019**

**in  
The Bald Eagle Room  
at Mackle Park  
from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.**





# Winter is a Perfect Time for the Beach and for Collecting Seashells

by Amanda Nalley, "Gone Coastal" FWC Column



*Moon snail egg casing.  
FWC photo by Karen Parker*

When most people think of Florida's sandy beaches, they think warm, sunny summer. But what the locals already know is that winter at the beach has tons to offer.

The sand and water may be cold, but it's a perfect time for looking for seashells.

Maybe it's because fewer people are on the beach, or maybe it's the cold weather and winter storms washing them ashore, but the beach always seems full of seashells and other great finds during the winter months.

As a former island dweller, seashells have become an integral part of my home decorating scheme. They make great containers for Q-tips, candles and jewelry. Some act as decoration atop a cabinet, while others have been turned into craft projects such as a necklace or wind-chime. Little jars of sharks' teeth collected throughout the years are tucked away. I even have a shell from my daughter's first trip to the beach, labeled with the date. A little reminder of paradise.

While collecting is fun, leaving behind seashells and other marine organisms can also benefit our beaches, which is why I always limit what I take. Shells provide protection for creatures such as

hermit crabs and can be hiding places for small fish. They also help stabilize beaches and anchor seagrass.

But if you do want to take home a few souvenirs, it's important to know there are some rules when it comes to recreational seashell collection on Florida's beaches.

The major thing to keep in mind when you are collecting is, if it's dead, it most likely is OK to keep.

Do not keep anything that is federally protected (i.e. sea turtles, sawfish or parts thereof).

If a seashell has a living organism inside it or is a living organism (think sand dollars and starfish), you must have a Florida saltwater fishing license (unless exempt) and you must adhere to state and local limits for that species.

It's also good to know that there are a few species prohibited from harvest, such as the Bahama starfish and live queen conch. You may collect queen conch shells when the shells do not contain any living queen conch at the time of collection.

To learn more about FWC's regulations on recreational seashell collecting, visit [MyFWC.com/Marine](http://MyFWC.com/Marine) and click on "Recreational Regulations" and "Sea Shells." For a fishing license, visit [GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com).

## *My top favorite beach finds:*



*Sea beans. FWC photo by Rich Abrams*



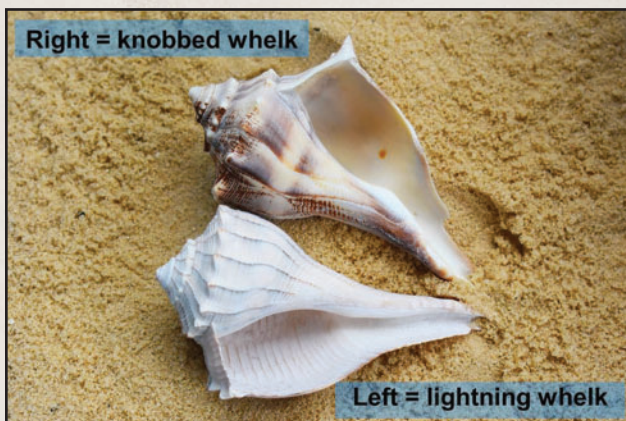


**Sea Beans:** I love that these rare finds often elicit a “whoa, what is that” from fellow beachgoers. Sea beans or drift seeds are common names for a variety of seeds that frequently wash up on the beach. Our ocean currents are amazing, and sea beans are proof of that. Many of these seeds come from faraway places, such as the Amazon River.



**Cockle shells.** FWC photo by Amanda Nalley

**Cockle shells:** These beach show-stoppers are often the size of your hand and strong enough to remain in one piece, which make them great for collecting. It’s also always “warmed the cockles of my heart” that the two shells of this bivalve form a heart shape when whole.



**Lightning whelk versus knobbed whelk.**  
FWC photo by Amanda Nalley

**Lightning whelk vs. knobbed whelk:** I love a good whelk. They are big, beautiful, strong enough to not easily break and look great on a shelf. My favorite beach party whelk trick is showing people the difference between a lightning whelk and a knobbed whelk. Lightning whelks open to the left, whereas the two other commonly found whelks, the channeled and knobbed, open to the right.



**Channeled whelk egg casing.**  
FWC photo by Amanda Nalley

**Egg casings:** Another favorite “whoa, what is that?” beach moment often comes from finding the egg casings of whelks and moon snails. While these finds aren’t great for decoration (moon snail casings are very fragile, whelk casings and skate egg casings –sometimes called mermaid purses – that have already hatched can be smelly and need to dry out), they are definitely fun to look at and talk about.



**Skate egg casing (mermaid's purse)**  
FWC photo by Rich Abrams

Share your seashells and beach finds with us on our social media pages. Learn more at [MyFWC.com/News/Social](http://MyFWC.com/News/Social).





*Mark Your Calendars !*  
**39<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Marco Island Shell Show**

*Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

*United Church of Marco - Disseler Hall  
320 N. Barfield, Marco Island*

- ***JURIED Scientific and Artistic Exhibits***
- ***Shells/Shell Art for Sale***
- ***Saturday - Kids Day/Live Tank***
- ***Adults and Kids - Largest Shell Contest -  
The Shark Eye (Bring your biggest Local Shark  
Eye/Nautica)***



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Eddie Ciaramello & Joy Burdick  
Valerie Maerker  
Kim Porter  
Dr. William O. Reid

***Artistic Judges:***

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***Scientific Judges;***

Dr. Ed Petuch and Robert Pace

***Show Proceeds Benefit the MISC Scholarship Fund  
[www.marcoshellclub.com](http://www.marcoshellclub.com)***







*Memories from the 2018 Shell Show - "Pictures are worth a 1000 Words!"*



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# Marco Island Civic Association "Members Only" Discount Program

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*Present discount card before ordering*

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10% off bill with purchase of 1 entrée per person Sun thru Thurs. Complimentary valet parking. Other offers do not apply, no discount weekends & holidays.  
400 S Collier Blvd, 642-2695

### CJ's on the Bay, Esplanade

www.cjsonthebay.com  
Excludes Gazebo Bar, 389-4511

### Cold Stone Ice Cream,

Esplanade, 393-0046  
\$1 off purchase or \$3 off ice cream cake

### Dolce Mare

Marco Walk #302, 389-9000  
www.dolcemaresweets.com

### Marco Island Princess

www.themarcoislandprincess.com  
Rose Marina, 642-5415

### Nacho Mama's Tex-Mex American

2 Happy Hours: 3-6 & 10-midnight  
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www.thenachomamas.com  
Marco Walk, 389-2222

### Napoli on the Bay - Marco

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www.marcoislandpizzapasta.com  
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### Ne Ne's Kitchen

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### Snook Inn

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### Yo Marco Sweets & Treats

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## RETAIL STORES

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1001 N Collier Blvd,  
642-4888

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www.OMGthatschic.com,  
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www.sunshinestitchers.com

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**Esplanade:** Collier Blvd & Elcam Circle. **Marco Walk:** South Collier Blvd & Winterberry Drive.  
**Shops of Marco:** North Barfield Drive & San Marco Road. **Town Center:** N. Collier Blvd, & Bald Eagle Dr.





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951 Bald Eagle Dr,  
394-2502. 10% off Clothing & footwear only.  
All else excluded.  
www.rosemarina.com

**Sea Tow Marco Island**  
Sea Tow Membership, 394-1188

**Walker's Hideaway Marina**  
10% off excluding gas, food & rental boats,  
705 E Elkcarn Cir, 394-9333  
www.walkershideawaymarina.com

**Walker's Marine**  
642-6764 Parts & service for customers in WM  
computer, 785 Bald Eagle Dr

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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

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

**Global Computer Services, Inc.**  
601 E Elkcarn Circle B12,  
389-9140  
No trip charge for on-site visits, free  
analyze/diagnose of all equipment, free  
pre-sales consultation + 10% off service fee

**Hera Lynn Music**, 314-825-4414  
10% off music performances for house parties,  
corporate events & weddings  
www.heralynn.com

**H.I. Studios**, 821-9458  
Personality Portrait Painting by Heidi

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

**Marco Island Computer Service**  
Computer, Photography & Web Design  
816 E Elkcarn Circle,  
239-537-0523  
www.marcocomputers.com

**Marco Island Living**  
10% off advertising-web site hosting & services.  
802-221-1498  
www.marcoislandliving.com

**Marco Island Photography**  
Portrait sitting & finished portraits by  
Peter Berec,  
642-3500  
www.marcophotography.com

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







*Philip & Maria Lamb's family from Pennsylvania brought joy to the MICA office in December!*

## Beach Clean-up Schedule

- **Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Beach clean-up at South Beach  
*sponsored by Vacasa Vacation Homes*
- **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Beach clean-up at South Beach  
*sponsored by Marco Island Sail & Power Squadron*
- **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Annual Keep Collier Beautiful Clean-up at Tigertail Beach  
*sponsored by Friends of Tigertail*
- **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Beach clean-up at South Beach  
*sponsored by Marco Island Area Assn. of Realtors*

MICA supplies gloves, water, trashbags and the beach vehicle to haul trash to the dumpster. Bring your own reusable bottle for water to fill up from our Igloo water dispenser. Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce supplies buckets and grabbers.







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THE SURROUNDING AREAS AND INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO RESIDENTS

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1770 San Marco Road, Suite 204, Marco Island, FL 34145

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# Marco Island Residents' Beach Members Only Concerts



Sunday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m.  
The Ben Allen Band



Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m.  
The Long Run -  
Eagles Tribute Band



Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m.  
The Galaxy Band\*

\*Please bring non-perishable food for  
"Our Daily Bread Food Pantry" to the  
final concert of the season.

Please bring your Residents' Beach ID card to gain entrance to all events