

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

JULY 10 – JULY 23 , 2009

© 2009, Snook Publications P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139 Volume III • Issue #85



Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart paid a quick visit to ECity on July 1 to present Mayor Sammy Hamilton with a framed flag, as seen in the above photo by Miguel Otero, District Director to the Congressman.

This is the very same flag that was given to the Mayor during the Restoration Celebration on January 27, 2007, for the re-opening of City Hall. The flag was flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C.



Independence Day Celebrations

Hundreds of people gathered around the circle to watch the 2009 parade on Sunday, July 5, and then crammed under the pavilion to eat hot dogs, buy raffle tickets, and wait for the kiddies' best-dressed contest. Parade winners were Backcountry Cafe for their intricately-made float (they spent weeks decorating it), Wooten's giant swamp buggy, Jim Bryan's homemade swamp buggy, the Marco Island Historical Society, the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), and Mike & Debbie Trujillo with their golf cart. The Marco visitors were dressed up as "Barron and Juliet Collier" (Ed & Kathy Miracco) who rode on Jim's buggy and "Tommie Barfield" (Betsy Perdichizzi), and "Deaconess Bedell" (Marion Nicolay) in Adela Butler's car.



The SCV not only paraded in costume but fired off their canon in front of City Hall to start the celebrations. At the opening, the Collier County Sheriff's Office Color Guard raised the flag, Elaine Middelstaedt led the pledge of allegiance, Pastor Dantin gave the invocation, and the Mayor welcomed everyone. Despite the heat, it was a good family-fun day out and ended dramatically with fireworks after dark.

With thanks to Helen Bryan and Martha Hutcherson for photos.

CONTENTS			
Calendar	p. 2	Fishing	p. 8
Tides	p. 3	Green Gator	p. 8
Events	p. 3	Local History	p. 9
School	p. 5	Museum	p. 9
Recipe	p. 7	Savannah	p. 9
Angel	p. 7	Restaurants	p.11

FEATURE: "SAWFISH" page 10

If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email mulletrapper@gmail.com or phone 695-2905.

JULY/AUGUST 2009

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
5 Independence Day Celebration	6 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	full moon ● 7 Congressional Visit Hot Summer Nights	8 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	9	RAPPER 10 Hot Summer Nights see p.3	11 SCV Depot, 6 pm
12	13 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm OFCD Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm	14	15 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	16	17	18 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3 Miccosukee Music & Crafts Fair, see p.11
19 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3	20 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7pm	21 BigC ORV mtg 3:30-8 pm see p.3	new moon ○ 22 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	23 Copeland Civic 7 pm	RAPPER 24	25
26	27 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm Copeland Baptist Vacation Bible School see p.3	28	29 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	30 Wildlife Crossing mtg 5:30 pm see p.11	31 BigC ORV rest period ends	AUGUST 1
2 Copeland Baptist Awards see p.3	3 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	4 City Council City Hall 5:30 pm CCSO National Night Out	5 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	full moon ● 6	RAPPER 7	8 SCV Depot, 6 pm

Aug 10-14: "Build-a-Boat"

Aug 24: Back to School

Sept 2: FME mtg

Sept 5-7: Butcher "Muck About"

Sept 9-11: FWC mtg

Sept 17-19: Anglers Cup

Sept 15: Reach Out mtg

Sept 15: BigC ORV mtg

Oct 2-4: RedSnook Tournament

Oct 10-17: 10K Island Refuge Week

THRIFT SHOP: Thurs, Fri, Sat; 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri & Sat; 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

MUSEUM: Tues-Fri; 9 am to 5 pm; Sat; 9 am to 4 pm

SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily; 11 am to 5 pm

FOOD PANTRY: Sat; 8:30 to 10:30 am, Community Church

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Sat; noon, Community Church

SHAMROCK BANK: Tues; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: closed for the summer

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tues, 7/14 (1-2 pm)

Mon, 7/20 (1-2 pm)

Fri, 7/24 (11 am – noon)

ORV MEETING

The Big Cypress National Preserve Advisory Committee on ORVs will meet on **Tuesday, July 21**, in the Everglades Community Center (behind the fire station) from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. For info, phone 695-1103.

BIBLE SCHOOL

Copeland Baptist Church will hold a Vacation Bible School from **Monday, July 27**, through **Friday, July 31**. The times are 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. with food served between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. There will be an awards ceremony and pot-luck lunch on **Sunday, August 2**, at 11:00 a.m. For info, phone Sue Doster at 239-821-5864.



NEW BANKING HOURS

Shamrock Bank will be open on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. starting on **July 13**. The new hours are only for the summer. The bank will be open again for two days per week after September 14.

If you have a deposit, you can always leave it in the secure safe in the hall outside the bank so don't keep lots of cash around. Checks can also be mailed to the Naples branch.



Little Taylor Mayberry seems to be overwhelmed at receiving the "Little Miss Firecracker" trophy for being the most patriotically dressed 2-4 year old.

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

The Collier County Sheriff's Office is hosting a series of events for youngsters over the summer and will be in ECity on **Friday, July 10**, at McLeod Park with a variety of activities from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

"Hot Summer Nights" are open to all youths ages 10 through 17.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 06/24/09: Administered CPR, 52105 Tamiami Trail East
- 06/24/09: Person Fell, 102 Copeland Ave South
- 06/26/09: Vehicle Accident, 53mm on I-75
- 06/25/09: Emergency Medical, 32330 Tamiami Trail East
- 06/27/09: Vehicle Accident, 61mm on I-75
- 06/27/09: Emergency Medical, SR-29 & US-41
- 06/27/09: Emergency Medical, 33100 Tamiami Trail East
- 06/27/09: Vehicle Accident, 65mm on I-75
- 07/01/09: Vehicle Accident, 71mm on I-75
- 07/01/09: Person Down, SR-29 and US-41
- 07/02/09: Emergency Medical, 63mm on I-75
- 07/02/09: Grass Fire, 80mm on I-75
- 07/02/09: Emergency Medical, 65mm on I-75
- 07/03/09: Vehicle Accident, 57mm on I-75
- 07/04/09: Emergency Medical, Plantation Island
- 07/04/09: Public Assist, Everglades City
- 07/04/09: Vehicle Accident, 54mm on I-75
- 07/05/09: Vehicle Accident, 76mm on I-75
- 07/05/09: Vehicle Accident, 53mm on I-75
- 07/06/09: Vehicle Accident, 60mm on I-75
- 07/06/09: Vehicle Accident, 71mm on I-75
- 07/06/09: Vehicle Accident, 70mm on I-75
- 07/07/09: Bee Sting, Everglades City Fire Station
- 07/07/09: Brush Fire, 73mm on I-75
- 07/08/09: Structure Fire, Plantation Island

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Baker will be here on Saturday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in McLeod Park, Everglades City, and from 2 to 4 p.m. in Copeland. She will also be here for surgery on Sunday, July 19 by previous appointment only. You can phone her at 777-PETS (7387). For more info, see www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

INFORMATION FROM <http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

07/10/2009	Fri	12:16AM	-0.1	L	05:44AM	2.4	H	12:03PM	0.7	L	04:37PM	2.9	H
07/11/2009	Sat	12:48AM	0.0	L	06:19AM	2.5	H	12:43PM	0.6	L	05:17PM	2.7	H
07/12/2009	Sun	01:19AM	0.1	L	06:53AM	2.5	H	01:29PM	0.6	L	06:06PM	2.5	H
07/13/2009	Mon	01:50AM	0.3	L	07:26AM	2.5	H	02:25PM	0.5	L	07:08PM	2.3	H
07/14/2009	Tue	02:21AM	0.4	L	07:56AM	2.5	H	03:33PM	0.4	L	08:26PM	2.1	H
07/15/2009	Wed	02:56AM	0.6	L	08:29AM	2.6	H	04:46PM	0.3	L	10:00PM	2.0	H
07/16/2009	Thu	03:44AM	0.7	L	09:10AM	2.7	H	05:54PM	0.2	L	11:39PM	2.0	H
07/17/2009	Fri	05:00AM	0.9	L	10:08AM	2.8	H	06:57PM	0.0	L			
07/18/2009	Sat	01:06AM	2.1	H	06:19AM	0.9	L	11:16AM	3.0	H	07:54PM	-0.2	L
07/19/2009	Sun	02:07AM	2.2	H	07:26AM	0.9	L	12:20PM	3.2	H	08:48PM	-0.4	L
07/20/2009	Mon	02:52AM	2.3	H	08:26AM	0.9	L	01:16PM	3.5	H	09:39PM	-0.5	L
07/21/2009	Tue	03:31AM	2.4	H	09:22AM	0.8	L	02:09PM	3.6	H	10:26PM	-0.5	L
07/22/2009	Wed	04:07AM	2.5	H	10:14AM	0.6	L	03:00PM	3.6	H	11:12PM	-0.4	L
07/23/2009	Thu	04:42AM	2.5	H	11:04AM	0.5	L	03:52PM	3.5	H	11:55PM	-0.3	L
07/24/2009	Fri	05:18AM	2.5	H	11:55AM	0.4	L	04:47PM	3.3	H			

SERVING EVERGLADES CITY SINCE 1998
Family Owned and Operated



4735 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, (239) 417-5000


MARSON SAFETY SYSTEMS, INC.
A FULL-SERVICE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR



Herb Kehoe
Licensed & Insured
State Reg #ER000-7098

SERVING THE EVERGLADES CITY AREA

P. O. Box 708 cell (941) 809-0998
Chokoloskee, FL, 34138 (239) 695-2357




GLADES REALTY
"Your Everglades Connection"

JAN BROCK
Broker/Owner

611 Collier Avenue
P.O. Box 599
Everglades City, FL 34139
www.gladesrealty.com

239-695-4299 (Bus)
239-695-0418 (Res)
239-695-3849 (Fax)

CAPT. TONY BROCK (239) 695-4150



AMERICAN HERITAGE
OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

10,000 ISLAND EVERGLADES NAT'L PARK GUIDE
SNOOK • TARPON
RED FISH • TROUT
SCENIC TOURS

P.O. BOX 599 • EVERGLADES CITY, FL 34139
CaptTBrock@aol.com

Knitting with Nancy
Yarns and Hand Knits · Lessons

3804 E. Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34112
239-793-8141

knittingwithnancy@embarqmail.com

Bob Wells Real Estate
www.bobwellsrealestate.us

Fran Tiftt
Broker/Associate

210 S. Copeland Ave
Everglades City, Florida, 34139

Office: 239-695-2660 Fax: 239-695-0967

RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET




Pizzeria
695-FOOD
(695-3663)

Fresh Ingredients!
Cooked to Order for You to Take Out

TOM JOHNSON
H2O ENGINEER - Culligan
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL WATER TREATMENT
42 YRS EXPERIENCE

cell: 239-470-1915 off: 239-482-2213
fax: 239-541-8008 off.fax: 239-482-3187

email: cultec@comcast.net
www.culliganman.net



GLADES REALTY
"Your Everglades Connection"

KAREN COCHRAN
Broker - Associate

611 Collier Avenue
P.O. Box 599
Everglades City, FL 34139
www.gladesrealty.com

239-695-4299 (Bus)
239-695-0418 (Res)
239-695-3849 (Fax)

Everglades Seafood Depot



RESTAURANT
OPEN DAILY
10:30 AM
to 9:00 PM

"Live Island Music"
Cabana Bash, Saturday, 4-7 pm

102 Collier Avenue, Everglades City, FL
Billy & Crystal Potter, (239) 695-0075

Hardware
Marine Supplies
Knives



T-Shirts
Caps
Unusual Gifts

WIN-CAR, INC.

Post Office Box 247
Everglades City, FL 34139
wincar123@earthlink.net

Carolyn Thompson & Jim Webb
239-695-3201
Fax: 239-695-3334

RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET

- Hats / Shirts
- Films / Batteries
- Wines / Beers
- ICE
- Medicine
- Groceries
- Meats
- Produce



104 S Buckner Ave. Everglades City
Tel. 239-695-4535

LAURA'S SITTING



TENDER CARE AND ATTENTION LICENSED-BONDED-INSURED

House Cleaning * Errands
Wash and Fold Laundry Services
Bank Deposits * Pet Care Services

Laura Dudley (239) 695-2730 • www.petandplantsitting.com



Kenny Brown
Resort Manager

OUTDOOR RESORTS
OF AMERICA, INC.

OUTDOOR RESORTS
Chokoloskee Island
Hwy 29 South

P O Box 39, Chokoloskee, FL, 34138
(239) 695-2881 & 695-3788

Everglades Area
Chamber of Commerce, Inc.



website: www.evergladeschamber.com

Post Office Box 130
Everglades City, FL, 34139

239-695-3172 Business
239-695-3171 Fax

MUSEUM OF THE EVERGLADES



105 West Broadway, Everglades City, FL
OPEN: Tuesday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm
Saturdays, 9 am - 4 pm

Donations Welcome
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Contact Martha at 695-0008

First Assembly Ministries
Chokoloskee



SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM
Faith Based, Court Approved

Casual, Caring, Contemporary, Committed
Pastors Rodney & Lessie Raffield
Call for dates & times: 695-2646

Capt Bill Lindsay

**SNOOK
TARPON & REDFISH**
IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

FLY • PLUG • SPIN
239-695-0314

WWW.CHOKOLOSKKEEFISHING.COM
CHOKOLOSKKEE, FLORIDA

SCHOOL & SUMMER CAMP NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

website: www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg

IMPORTANT DATES

- Thurs, July 16: Summer Camp/School Ends
- Fri, July 17: Summer Camp Trip to Wannado City
- Mon, Aug 24: School Starts



See Savannah's Column on page 9.



Summer Campers are seen marching in the Independence Day Parade on Sunday in this photo by Martha Hutcheson.



Summer Camp also gives youngsters some quiet time in which they can teach themselves and be creative.

Photos thanks to Helen Bryan



On Tuesday, June 30, the Ochopee Fire Control District brought one of their trucks to Summer Camp and the City of Naples had its "smoke house" which the kids could go into to get an experience of what a real fire is like.



On the following Tuesday, July 7, Lt Mike Dolan of the Collier County Sheriff's Office gave an animated lecture about good character and how to avoid being tempted by bad people.



FREE INSPECTION

with this ad ...

- Lawns
- Termites
- Mosquitoes
- Rodents • Pests



Larry Smyth, Sales Inspector
Phone (239) 389-1238



TRULY NOLEN
PEST CONTROL
1101 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, FL, 34145
1-800-GO TRULY
www.trulynolen.com

DEANO'S
A/C and HEATING

Sales
Service
Maintenance

CALL ANYTIME

239-253-2882
239-253-4860

Licensed CAC 1815185

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
BOAT TOURS

Sole authorized concession on Gulf Coast
Everglades National Park
Open 365 days



Mangrove Wilderness
10,000 Island Tours
Canoe Rentals
Gift Shop
Located at Ranger Station
½ mile South of Traffic Circle
1-866-NAT-PARK



City Seafood

702 Begonia Street, Everglades City
OPEN ALL YEAR ...

We are one of the most affordable
restaurants with one of the most
beautiful waterfront locations.

Daily downstairs: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Book a private party: phone Richard or
Candice at 695-4700.

FRESH FISH FOR SALE
IN OUR MARKET

Everglades Area Tours
Guided ECO Adventures



9:00 1:30 Sunset

239-695-9107

Tours • Rentals • Outfitters

20% discount to guests staying in
the Everglades/Chokoloskee Area

@ JT's on
Chokoloskee Island

SEA GULL
STUDIOS



Shells • Gifts

Paintings

Virginia Klotz, Owner
201 S. Copeland Ave
Everglades City, Florida
(239) 695-3908

CONTACT US FOR ALL YOUR

- Screen Enclosures
- Hurricane Shutters
- Impact Windows
- Car Ports
- Aluminum Fencing / Railing

Christopher O'Neil
1-800-730-4510
ddalum@bellsouth.net
www.weshutter.com



License #SCC131149998



Everglades
Community
Church

*"The friendly church
on the circle"*

101 S. Copeland Avenue
Everglades City, Florida

Rev. Dr. Bob Wallace, Pastor

Adult Sunday School 9:45-10:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am

www.evergladescommunitychurch.com



True Home-Town Banking

- ♣ Personal Checking/Savings
- ♣ Business Accounts
- ♣ Certificates of Deposit (CDs)
- ♣ Equal Housing Lender
- ♣ FDIC Member

895 Fifth Ave South, Naples, FL 34102
Phone us at 239.919.5199
www.shamrockbankfl.com

Visit Us in Everglades City Hall!



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

Jamaican Caper

Capparis cynophallophora

As a Florida native, the Jamaican Caper plant is the perfect ornamental plant. Its shiny light green leaves and rounded shape are easy to maintain, requiring little or no pruning. In addition, it is salt and drought tolerant although it should have some protection from the wind and cold. It needs sun to part shade.

The Jamaican Caper grows to an average of 15 feet and has long brown pods that split open revealing glossy brown seeds. This plant blooms in the spring with fragrant white flowers.

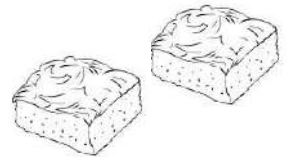


See the Rapper in full color!
Visit our website.

Recipe for Good Eating

Maxine's Cookies

submitted by Sunny Burke



Boil lightly:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup corn syrup

Then add:

- 1 ½ cup peanut butter
- 7 oz or 6 cups Special K cereal

Mix and press into 8 x 13 inch pan.

Melt:

- 1 cup butterscotch chips
- 1 cup chocolate chips

and spread on top of cookie mixture in pan.

Refrigerate for 10 minutes before cutting and serving.

Sunny Burke is a full-time resident on Plantation Island and is known for her baking. She is a regular contributor to the Rapper.

Angel of the Swamp

by Patricia Huff



Are there pet angels (or angels for pets)? This angel has been coming to our area once a month for the past six years, taking care of our cats, dogs, and any other needy animals. Dr. Dena Baker graduated from the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine in Gainesville, Florida, in May of 2000. In 2003, she started the Mobile Pet Vet and has been providing high-quality veterinary services to not only the Naples area but also in Everglades City and Copeland. Dr. Baker has helped those who need local care with her mobile van and dedication. In one of our earliest issues (11/24/06) she told the *Rapper* that she wants to be of help to the community, especially those residents who just can't get their animals to clinics over 30 miles up the road. Having a facility here in ECity or Copeland is less stressful to both the pets and their owners. Dr Baker even does surgery in a perfectly-equipped modern facility at the back of the van. Of course, routine operations have to be scheduled in advance but emergencies are handled anywhere and anytime because this exceptional angel wants to heal all the four-legged creatures that she can. She is a special friend to our Feral Felines charity and provides a sympathetic service to the cats brought to her for our local neuter/spay & release program. You can phone her at (239) 777-PETS (7387) or visit her website for info www.naplesmobilepetvet.com. She's one of a kind and certainly an angel in our swamp.

Tupperware Benefits Reach Out

A new "Fun' Raising" catalog from the popular household supplier offers useful items for sale ... and Reach Out Everglades will receive 40% of the proceeds! The drive is being organized by Kathy Forbes who has put a notice about it on her website <http://my.tupperware.com/KATHYL612>. You can pick up a catalog at Right Choice Supermarket or phone her at (239) 465-1716.





GREEN GATOR PET

Charlie Bartlett has stories to tell!

Stop in at the Green Gator Variety Store and chat with him about his "pet" alligator named "Stubby" because he was missing part of his tail.

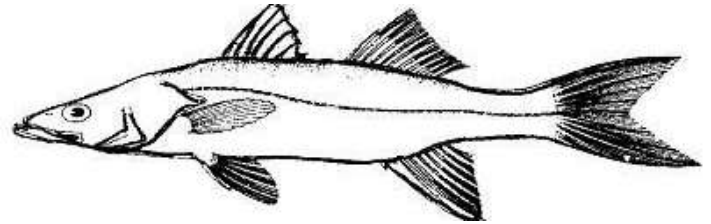
While working at Mitch House's Everglades Private Airboat Tours on the Trail, Charlie would pole over to the 12-foot gator but it took a long time for Stubby to warm up to his visits. However, over the next few years around 1994-96, Charlie gained Stubby's confidence and the gator became very friendly, allowing him to be petted. When Stubby had an infected eye, Charlie was able to remove an ant and Stubby actually purred in gratefulness.

When working at Speedy Johnson's Fun Cruises, Charlie befriended a raccoon that he nicknamed "Ralphie". This raccoon, who was later determined to be a female, would wave at the tourists when Charlie waved to him!

Take some time to say hello to Charlie and Marilyn, along with Marg, at the Green Gator located behind Backcountry Cafe. This popular retail location in ECity has just about everything you may need for your home as well as little gift items for your friends.

Green Gator also has good deals on Florida souvenirs so make sure you let visitors know about them.

The store is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The phone number is 695-0327.



Big Snook Challenge

Registration for The Anglers Cup opens on **Wednesday, July 15**. The tournament is limited to 50 teams who will start out to fish in the order they made their reservations.

The event takes place on **September 17, 18, and 19** with the opening banquet on Thursday at the Seafood Depot followed by fishing on Friday and Saturday. Each team will weigh in 2 legal Snook per day.

The slogan this year is "Fishing for a Cure" and a donation will go to the American Cancer Society.

For info, see www.TheAnglersCup.com.



RedSnook Catch & Release

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida announces that the 2009 RedSnook Catch and Release Charity Tournament is scheduled for **October 2-4**. This International Game Fish Association certified tournament is open to teams, individuals and junior anglers under age 16.

Roland Martin, legendary angler and television host of the "Fishing with Roland Martin Show," will again host the three-day tournament. Thomas M. Wagor, community bank president with M&I Bank, will serve as chairman of the event. Last year the tournament netted more than \$60,000 for the Conservancy.

The RedSnook tournament benefits a juvenile game fish study being conducted by Conservancy biologists. The study will examine juvenile game fish living within the mangrove tidal creeks and salt marshes of Ten Thousand Islands. The goal is to learn more about how to conserve and restore juvenile game fish habitat.

For info, see www.conservancy.org/redsnook or phone (239) 403-4200.



The theme of our parade was "Fishing for Fun" and there were plenty of patriotically-decorated boats.



photo courtesy Florida State Archives

LOCAL HISTORY

The Episcopal General Convention meets this week (July 8-19) and it is expected a new Saint will be voted on: Deaconess Harriet Bedell will be added to the list of Lesser Feasts and Fasts.

A new book about the Deaconess and her long life is titled "Angel of the Swamp" (perhaps it should have been "Saint of the Swamp"). You can buy copies at the Museum and other outlets around town. To download an order form, visit www.ecity-publishing.com.

OCHOPEE SETTLERS

Clarence "Griff" Griffin, born 82 years ago in Ochopee to Hazel and Alto Griffin, passed away in Ft Myers on July 5. He is survived by his wife Jewel and five children plus many grands and great-grands. His brother Robert and parents predeceased him.

HISTORY ON TV

The "Untold Stories" episode on **Friday, July 24**, at 8:30 p.m. on WGPU-TV is "The Sanctuary Islands: the Sanibel Legacy" about preserving wilderness in places like the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

MUSEUM NEWS



The Friends have some new products in their Gift Shop including three episodes of the WGPU-TV "Untold Stories" local history series, for sale at \$15 each:

"Watery Wilderness"
(the Ten Thousand Islands)

"Unconquered Seminoles"

"Protecting Paradise"
(Conservation in Collier County)

To buy copies, visit the Museum or download an order form on the Gift Shop page at www.evergladesmuseum.org.



From Savannah's Eyes

What a wonderful vacation I had going to North Carolina! My parents and I went to a place called Maggie Valley and we brought my cousin Houston with us. On the way up there, Houston and I played games and watched movies and other things. We stopped at a motel call the Marriot to rest for the night. Then, the next day, we were off to North Carolina. When we hit the border of N.C. I rolled down my window to smell the sweet smell of the mountains. When we got to Maggie Valley, we headed to my Uncle Arvid's house because that was where we were staying. We got all of the luggage out of the truck and put it in our bedrooms. Houston and I put on our overalls and went down to the creek that is in my uncle's backyard. We built two little swimming pools for ourselves. It was so cool.

The next day Houston and I went back to the creek but we were in our bathing suits and it was 70° outside. Houston brought a tube so we could go tubing in the creek. My dad went down there, too, so he could catch us when we came down the creek. Well, the first time we tubed, Houston and I got in the tube together because it was big and on the way down the creek we kept bumping into rocks so we kept falling off and then we hit a big rock. Houston fell off and I went down the creek by myself that time! It was so funny. Then my dad had to get out because the water was like 30° and his legs were as cold as ice cubes. So Houston went inside the house and got him some waders! Then we tubed a few more times but it was just too cold and about five minutes of tubing made us feel like we were Frosty the Snowman. We would have to get out of the creek, lay in the sun to thaw out, and get back in.

The next morning we went to Cherokee. On the way we visited the National Park and it has a working farm village there like back in the 1800s. Then we were in Cherokee. We bought a few souvenirs and ate lunch and then went back home to the creek again. Oh, I forgot to tell you that we saw prairie dogs in the farm village. They looked really fake as if someone was holding a puppet out of the hole. By the time we got home, it was just in time to catch fireflies! We got a little jar and caught ten, with a little help from our friends that we met, Spencer and Russell. Then we played football in the yard. It got really dark so we said bye to our friends and went to bed.

The next day we went to Cataloochee to see all of the old houses and some elk and other animals. Well, we saw a lot of elk even with babies! The babies looked like fawns but a little bigger. We followed them into the woods. When Houston and I got close to them, the dad would look at us and I would tell Houston "statue" and we would stand very still. But we got a little too close and the dad was coming toward us! We were really scared! Then we went home. My parents and I were leaving the next day and Houston was going to stay and keep Uncle Arvid company.

The next morning we were going back to Florida. We stopped in Steinhatchee to see my Aunt Ila and Uncle L.C. My dad is from Steinhatchee so we decided to stay there for a few days. The next day was the Fourth of July and we went to see some of the family at the Mud Bog that was opening. And, we all got dirty and muddy! Then that night we watched the fireworks with our friends that live in Everglades but have a house in Steinhatchee. The next day we went scalloping with the same people and it was so much fun. The scallops were so cool and to find one you have to put on a diving mask and a snorkel and flippers. You look for stuff that is blue because inside a scallop's mouth there is something blue. Then we watched how the people clean them and it is so awesome! Then we said goodbye. My Uncle L.C. has cancer and needs a lot of prayer. We left for Everglades the next day and got back at about 10:30 a.m.

I loved my vacation! And, if you ever get a chance to go Mud Boggin or scalloping, go for it! They are both really fun!

A scalloping girl,
Savannah

Savannah Oglesby will be in the 7th grade at Everglades City School and is a regular contributor to this paper.



Recovering the US Population of Smalltooth Sawfish

by Dana M. Bethea

Smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) is one of six sawfish species that occur worldwide in tropical and sub-tropical rivers, lakes, and coastal areas. Sawfish are characterized by a long life span, slow growth rates, late maturation, and low fecundity (birth rates). In addition to these traits, sawfish also become easily entangled in fishing gear, thus making all sawfish species extremely vulnerable to overfishing and slow to recover from population depletion.

This animal was once common in the Gulf of Mexico and off the southeast coast of the United States. Decades of fishing pressure, both commercial and recreational, and habitat loss caused the population to decline by up to 95% during the second half of the twentieth century. Today, they exist mostly in southern Florida. In 2003, smalltooth sawfish was listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Smalltooth sawfish are the first marine fish and first elasmobranch to receive protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The completion of the Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Plan in early 2007 brought about a new phase of research and management for the US population of smalltooth sawfish. One of the high priority research areas identified in the Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Plan is monitoring of the number of juvenile sawfish in various regions throughout Florida to provide a baseline and time series of abundance. One of the more important regions for smalltooth sawfish identified in previous research is the section of coast from Marco Island to Florida Bay, FL. This region encompasses the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park.

Scientists from NOAA Fisheries Service Panama City Laboratory conduct monthly surveys in southwest Florida to capture, collect biological information, tag (both internally using PIT tags and externally using roto- or dart-tags), and release smalltooth sawfish. Some results from research to date indicate that juvenile sawfish are highly specific to certain areas and that they may not only return to the same natal estuarine system but the same specific mangrove habitat. Genetic identification of individuals indicates that sawfish caught on the same mudflat, for example, are siblings and a single adult female sawfish may give birth on that same mudflat year after year.

See the article on the right for information about what to do if you encounter a sawfish.

Sawfish Encounters – What to Do

by Dana M. Bethea and Joana Fernandez de Carvalho

Because smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) is protected under the Endangered Species Act, it is illegal to harm or harass it in any way except with a permit or in a permitted fishery. However, accidental captures do occur while fishing for other species. Use caution if you hook or net a sawfish as they are large powerful animals that can cause serious injury. Below is advice for a safe release. Remember *never* remove the saw!

If hooked:

- * Keep sawfish in the water at all times.
- * Untangle and remove as much of the line as possible.
- * Remove any hooks only if you have a long-handled de-hooker or can do so safely.

If tangled in a net:

- * Keep the gills of the sawfish in the water as much as possible.
- * Remove all net and release the animal quickly.

Sighting reports are a very important tool for the monitoring of the population. They assist in the evaluation of the species abundance and habitat range, helping us not only to estimate the population size but also to identify their habitat preferences. As a result, sawfish sighting reports are vital for the success of the Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Plan. Recently, the National Sawfish Encounter Database moved from Mote Marine Laboratory to the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida (www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/sawfish).

Your report can greatly help conservation efforts by providing the following information:

- * Your name, phone number, and e-mail address.
- * Date, time and location of the encounter.
- * Number, size and behavior of the sawfish.
- * Your activity at time of encounter.
- * Information on any tags, scars, or distinguishing marks (especially the 4, 5, or 6-digit tag number!).

Remember, no record is too old. Old pictures, newspapers, magazines, books or historic reports are welcome!

You can report sawfish information in four different ways:

- * Online at:
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/sawfish/sawfishform1.htm>
- * By phone: (352) 392-2360 or (352) 871-8230
- * By e-mail: sawfish@flmnh.ufl.edu
- * By U.S. Postal Service mail:
National Sawfish Encounter Database
Florida Program for Shark Research
Florida Museum of Natural History
Dickinson Hall, Museum Road
PO Box 117800, Gainesville FL 32611-7800

Dana Bethea works at the NOAA Fisheries Panama City Laboratory, Panama City, FL, and sent us these articles after we talked to her team who were in ECity with their boat last month. Dana took the photo above of Kelcee Smith, Alicia LaPorte, and Alyssa Napier in Faka Union Bay.

Joana Fernandez de Carvalho is from the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida at Gainesville.

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Backcountry Cafe (695-2552):**
6:00 am - 3:00 pm.; daily
- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
Closed for Summer
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
11:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily
Fish market also open
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):**
11:00 am – 5:00 pm; Mon - Sat
- Gator Express (695-3937):**
7:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
7:00 am - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2746):**
6:00 am - 6:00 pm; Sun – Thurs
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
Food service stops 1 hr before close
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):**
8:00 am – 3: pm; Mon - Fri
Fish market (grouper/pompano)
- Havana Cafe (695-2214):**
Closed for summer
- Ivey House (695-3299):**
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Cold breakfast buffet
- Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (695-2682):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Wed - Mon
Closed Tuesday
- JT's Cafe & Gallery (695-2630):**
12:00 noon – 4:00 pm; Sat, Sun
Gallery & Gift Shop also open
- Leebo's Rock-Bottom Bar:**
3:00 pm; Mon - Sat
noon; Sunday
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):**
Closed for summer
- Port of the Islands (239-394-3101):**
7:00 – 10:00 am; Mon-Sat
7:00 – 11:00 am; Sun
Hot and cold breakfast menu
- Right Choice Pizzeria (695-3663):**
5:00 - 9:00 pm; Thurs-Sun (takeout)
- Rod & Gun (695-2101):**
7:00 - 10 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Seafood Depot (695-0075):**
10:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
Cabana Bash: 4 - 7 pm, Sat
- Susie's Station:**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood (695-0722):**
Closed for summer

For a list of church service times and park openings, see our website or phone us for a copy.



Winner of the babies group on Sunday, July 5, was "Little Miss Firecracker" Shaylee Deleon who seems to be enjoying the cup on her trophy.

NPS FREE WEEKEND



There will be no entry charges at National Parks on the weekend of July 18/19.

BUILD A BOAT



Sign up now for the "Build-a-Boat" project which will be held in ECity during the week of August 10 for kids aged 13 to 17. The course is free.

Places are limited so contact Lisa at 695-3781.

WILDLIFE CROSSINGS

A workshop for the public has been scheduled for **Thursday, July 30**, to learn about the proposed wildlife crossings on US-41. The informal meeting will be held at the Everglades Community Center from 5:30 to 7:30 in the evening.

For more info, phone Debbie Tower at the Florida Department of Transportation on (239) 461-4300.

ILLEGAL SALES



There has been news recently about arrests in Collier County for selling alcohol to minors. A free course is available for business owners from "Drug Free Collier". For info, phone 377-0535.

Native American Festival



The Miccosukee Indian Village on the Tamiami Trail is host to a Music & Crafts Festival on **Saturday, July 18**, from 9:30 a.m. onwards. There will be Country and Classic Rock music, demonstrations, airboat rides, a Miccosukee fashion show, and native food for sale. Admission is \$25 and proceeds benefit the tribe's educational fund. For info, see their website www.miccosukee.com or call (305) 223-8380

Paws to Reflect

by a Squeediliferous Pusslet



Amazingly, the sun shone the entire holiday weekend. Nearly. Saturday, two raindrops ventured from the sky, but I bit them both and the rest stayed put way up there where the Thunder Puss makes her home. Mom and Dad rowed the Whitehall to Pine Island, across the harbor. It has few trees, but lots of beach roses, horsetail, beach peas, sea lavender and many small yummy birds. Mom has trouble getting in and out of our little rowboat, but she doesn't mind getting her feet wet. Not like me. After she'd collected some shells and sea glass, back they came. Mom said she'd get out at the tiny beach where they launch dinghies rather than try to hitch herself onto the pier. Dad backed the Whitehall in until the keel scraped the bottom. Mom got one foot out but the other remained in the boat. She hopped after the Whitehall as it slowly drifted deeper. She finally swung her second haunch out, lost her balance and flopped into the water. I laughed so hard I nearly coughed up a hairball. Fortunately, only two people were near enough to admire Mom's acrobatics, so it took all day before the whole boatyard knew it.

Pusslet is assisted by "Constant Waterman" whose book about boating is available for sale around town.

SNOOK CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: House and Barn on 1.02 Acres. Zoned (A). Sale price \$139,000 (\$59,000 below appraised value) or for rent at \$900/mon. For more info, call 321-439-7635.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 3 lots in Chokoloskee, 2 on Calusa Dr, Lot M-4 \$105,000, Lot M-5 (filled) \$135,000, Lot by cemetery \$79,000. Phone owner at (419) 441-2068 or (740) 864-2179.

FOR SALE: 2-bedroom 1-bath mobile home with a dock and boat ramp, Plantation Island. Make an offer!!! Phone 239-825-4502.

FOR RENT: Mobile Home on Canal, 29 Plantation Drive, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, unfurnished, \$500 per month or \$600 per month with lawn maintenance. Call 239-250-0668

FOR SALE: Deeded waterfront home on a quiet canal; 2 kitchens, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, remodeled, furnished, new A/C, new dock. \$525,000 (owner licensed realtor). Call 239-860-6369

FOR RENT: Nice furnished hotel condo efficiency at Port of the Islands, includes ALL, only \$900/mon. Phone (239) 269-2511.

FOR SALE: Mini-refrigerators. Several available. \$50 each, willing to negotiate on price. The refrigerator/freezer units are made by Danby, weigh 77 lbs, and have a power input of 85 watts. Call Brady at 695-3299.



Helen Bryan sent this photo with an email: *Daily when I see these two campers, they are saving the lizards. I ask "what are you doing?" They answer "saving the baby lizards, because the boys step on them if we don't." Can't imagine that, but each day they preserve the lizards, put them in a safe box, then release them before going home.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Greet Visitors in the Museum
Meet people from around the corner or around the world!
Phone Martha 695-0008.

JOBS VACANT

HOUSE NEED CLEANING? Cheryl's Cleaning Business is the helping hand you need. Call Cheryl at 239-745-6291.

*Put your job ad in the Rapper.
No charge - phone 695-2905.*

The **MULLET RAPPER** What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

PUBLISHER

Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications
P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139
(239) 695-2397, mulletrapper@gmail.com

EDITORS

Patty Huff & Marya Repko

CONTRIBUTORS

Helen Bryan, Barbara Daniels, Bill Lindsay
Lisa Marteeny, Shirley Leonard, Savannah Oglesby
Mike Klein, Phill Lawry, Trina Mitchell, Sunny Burke

PRODUCTION

layout: Marya Repko, printing: Snook Publications

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

We aim to provide local news of interest to the extended community of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome, and Ochopee.

We strive to present the facts accurately without political bias or personal opinion.

The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

25¢ per issue or \$38 per year by US Post

© 2009, Snook Publications.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission.

www.evergladesmulletrapper.com

EVERGLADES LIONS CLUB

Serving our community with eye and hearing assistance since the 1950's.
Call us with your needs.
New members welcome.
Come join our unique organization.
Phone Elaine 695-2695 or email emiddel@aol.com

*To Place Your
Message Here*

phone 695-2905
or email
mulletrapper@gmail.com

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

date _____

Please make check payable to "Snook Publications" and send to Snook Publications, P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

___ *The MULLET RAPPER* by post (\$38)

___ *The MULLET RAPPER* by email (\$10)

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

STREET / P.O.BOX: _____

ALTERNATE ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS

___ JAN ___ FEB ___ MAR ___ APR ___ MAY ___ JUN ___ JUL ___ AUG ___ SEP ___ OCT ___ NOV ___ DEC

7/10/09