

The MULLET RAPPER

AREA INFO
TIDES ~ EVENTS
RESTAURANTS

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
AUGUST 24, 2019 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

NEWS
25¢

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P. O. Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume XI • Issue # 345



Keep Your Eyes Open for Fire Ant Mounds...They are Coming Back (and they bite and sting!)

Hurricane Irma did do one or two "decent" things. The storm and surge that came with it helped wash out some of the salt marsh mosquitos, which is why we have not seen as many since.

The storm surge also helped eradicate some of the fire ant mounds in town...but they are making a comeback, so be on alert when you are walking about.

Fire ants or *Solenopsis invicta*, are originally from South America. They are also referred to as Red Imported Fire Ants or, RIFA by environmentalists.

RIFA have found their way to the US and in parts of Australia, the Bahamas, USVI, and islands throughout the Caribbean.

As is true in most ant species, there are several sizes of ants within the species, each with their own purpose. Ant colonies have a single queen and worker ants. The lifespan for each subgroup within the species differs.

The lifespan of RIFA workers depends on their size. Minor workers may live 30 to 60 days, median workers 60 to 90 days, major workers 90 to 180 days, and queens may live two to six years. The complete lifecycle from egg to adult takes between 22 and 38 days (Hedges 1997).

Mating flights are the primary means of colony reproduction.

When the colony reaches one year of age, reproductive alates are produced. Alate flights take place when the weather is warm and sunny typically following rain.

Mating occurs during flight and the males die soon after mating with females.

After the female alate has mated, she will use her legs to rake off the wings and then find a spot to start her colony.

Within 24 hours of mating, the queen will have laid between 10 to 15 eggs, which will hatch in eight to 10 days. The newly-mated queen will not stop laying eggs until the first batch of workers mature.

The worker ants forage for food for the colony. They will eat almost anything, plants, animals, insects, plant honeydew, and other ants.

What makes the fire ant so dangerous is that they attack intruders by swarm. They are aggressive and fast. The RIFA both bites and stings.



The sting of the RIFA contains a protein and an alkaloid type venom. Approximately 95% of the venom is composed of these alkaloids, which cause the pain and white pustule that appears the following day. The rest of the venom contains a solution of proteins, peptides, and other small molecules that produce the allergic reaction in hypersensitive individuals.

When walking in grass, always look for telltale mounds of dirt. Keep children and pets from coming into contact with them, and always inspect the ground where you may place a stroller or tie a pet up or let your children play.

Above photo: a typical RIFA mound next to a sidewalk.

3rd Annual Fishing Tournament Benefits Everglades City School September 21st

The 3rd annual Hook'em in the Glades fishing fundraiser will take place on September 21, 2019!

Participants will fish the 10,000 islands for a chance to catch the biggest Snook, Redfish, and Seatrout while supporting our school.

The fundraiser will help generate much needed funds for the students and programs including the new Leader in Me program for students (and staff)!

Here are the tournament details:

◆ September 20, 2019 CAPTAIN'S MEETING: - Captains' meeting will be at Everglades Isle, located at 803 Collier Ave, Everglades City, Captain's Check-in & Happy Hour starts at 5:30pm.

◆ Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Captains must attend to receive their official tournament measuring device and tournament rules.

◆ SEPTEMBER 21, 2019: - Photo Fishing tournament begins at 7:00am. Boat check-in is between 1:00-3:30pm at Everglades Isle, located at 803 Collier Avenue (lighthouse).

◆ Junior Angler SHORE DIVISION must check-in by 2:00pm.

◆ Awards Ceremony at 3:30pm

◆ \$200 Boat Registration 2-5 Crew Members. Captain and Crew will fish for the longest Snook, Redfish, and Seatrout in 2 divisions: Adult and Junior Angler (18 and under)

◆ \$50 Student Boat Registration CCPS students that have their own boat may enter this category with a signed release from their parent or guardian.

◆ NEW!!! \$50 On-Shore Student Registration (18 yrs. & younger)

For more information visit:
www.hookemintheglades.com

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FEATURE - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, P.5

AUGUST 25, 2019 — SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August 25	26	27	28 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	29	30 New Moon	31
September 1 Snook Season OPENS	2 Labor Day No School	3 City Council Mtg 7 pm	4 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	5	6	Rapper 7
8	9 ESHP Mtg., 8:30 am	10	11 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a City Council, 7 pm	12	13	14 Full Moon
15	16	17 P & Z Meeting, 7 pm	18 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	19 Museum Event, See p. 3	20	Rapper 21 Fishing Tourney, See pgs. 1 & 3
22	23	24	25 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	26	27 Fishing Tourney, See p. 3	28 New Moon Blessing of Fleet See p. 3 Tourney, P. 3

Oct. 8: Safe Community Night

Oct. 15: Stone Crab Season Reopens

Oct. 26 & 27: Swamp Walk, p. 10

November 15: ESHP Talk

November 16: Art-in-Glades

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: Dec 1st, Every Sat, 9 am to 2:00 pm
 DR DEMARTINO: Little Gator Clinic, See info on page 3.
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738
 LIONS CLUB: No meetings until fall
 MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for summer
 REACH OUT: No meeting until fall
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily 11 am to 4 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Saturday 11 am to 3 pm, p.3.
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

AIRPORT: 239-695-2778
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UPCOMING EVENTS

SNOOK SEASON REOPENS



September 1, 2019

Sunday, September 1st will mark the opening of the Gulf Coast Snook season.

Anglers must possess a saltwater fishing license and a snook stamp to harvest the fish. Regulations: 1 per harvester per day, or 2 per vessel. Slot size: Not less than 28", not more than 33". For all regulations visit <https://swflgo.com/fishing-regs-2019/>

MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

Florida Pirates, Fact or Fiction?

September 19

2 PM - 3 PM

Join us at the Museum of the Everglades every month for our Third Thursday lecture series. Presented by museum staff or local authority, these lectures will explore the lesser known and often-overlooked areas of our region's past.

Every lecture is free, begins at 2 pm and will include an opportunity for questions and discussion. Museum of the Everglades, 105 Broadway, Everglades City, FL, 239-252-5026. Next Talk: Florida Pirates, Sept. 19th.

Romp in the Swamp Fishing Tournament

Sept. 26. & 27

Come join us for some great fun on Friday, followed by some even greater fishing on Saturday!

Kick-Off party on 9/27 for Team Angler Registration in the Port of the Islands hotel lobby. Raffle tickets to go on sale during the buffet, prior to the Captain's meeting. Sign up online: www.RompInTheSwampNaples.com



BLESSING OF THE FLEET

Saturday, September 28th

- 10:00 am- Arts & Crafts booths open
- 10:30 am- Blessing of Fleet by Pastors
- 11:00 am- Kids contests, bakes sale, music, frog races & fun for the family.
- 12:30 pm- Contest winners announced

Make your plans to come out and support our local crabbers & fishery. This is a great time to show your appreciation to those who get up at 3 am to make sure we have the seafood that makes our area (almost) famous.



Hook'em in the Glades Fishing Tournament

September 21, 2019

Help support Everglades City School and win great prizes for the longest Snook, Redfish and Spotted Seatrout.

To register visit the website: www.hookemintheglades.com

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL

September 17th, 8 am to 4 pm

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on September 17th, from 8 am to 4 pm, at the Everglades Community Center (by Thrift Shop) parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more info or to schedule an appointment: call 239-202-7005.

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN!

Wednesdays noon to 2pm

Everglades Community Pantry, a proud partner agency of the Harry Chapin Food Bank, is open every Wednesday from noon to 2 in Jinkins Fellowship Hall at Everglades Community Church. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC



Dr. Kirk DeMartino is seeing patients in his Marco Island Office. You may call his office to schedule an appointment at his Marco office: Call to schedule an appointment: (239) 642-5552.

NATURAL MEDICINE



Dr. John Martin can see patients in Everglades City on Thursdays. Appts: from 10 am to 6 pm. Call to confirm: 813-787-9738.

CEDR Hurricane Disaster Recovery Aid

Communities of Everglades Disaster Recovery works in conjunction with disaster case managers from several agencies and have a team set up in Everglades City Hall (in the old council room). They will have advocates there from 10 am to 3 pm on Mondays to assist people still in need of help. Stop in the office or you can call Elaine at 239-695-2695 for more information.

E-CITY THRIFT SHOP

Open Saturday 11am -3pm

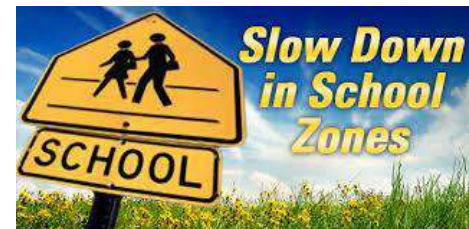


The Everglades City Thrift Store is open Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Come see the new store located between the fire station and community center.



A Message From Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt

With the end of summer here and our children and grandchildren going back to school, it is more important than ever to think about driving safely around school zones.



According to a recent study by Safe Kids Worldwide, approximately 100 children in the United States are killed every year while walking to or from school, and 25,000 others sustain injuries as a result of school zone crashes. Help keep pedestrians, especially kids, safe in school zones by following these tips:

- ◆ **Adjust your route to avoid school zones.**
- ◆ **Slow down!** Speed limits in school zones tend to be five to 10 miles per hour below the normal posted speed.
- ◆ **Stop for buses.** Passing a stopped school bus is against the law.
- ◆ **Watch for pedestrians,** especially on sidewalks and around driveways, intersections and residential neighborhoods.
- ◆ **If you must drive through a school zone, give yourself extra time.** Being in a hurry near pedestrians is never safe. Especially in highly populated areas, pedestrians may assume that because they can see your vehicle, you can see them and will stop.
- ◆ **Avoid distractions** like using a cellphone or looking for something in your car while driving in a zone with pedestrians.

While the United States has seen the deaths in school zones has decreased over the past 20 years, many experts are concerned that distraction and other forms of crossing behavior post additional risks for students traveling in school zones. As more students engage with their smartphones and other media as they travel through school zones, there are increasing risks of incidents involving pedestrians.

Parents and caregivers who drive in school zones, on campus and in neighborhoods near schools can play an important role in enhancing safety near schools by embracing safe driving practices.

Please do your part to protect our most precious resources.

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Decisions that Shape Florida Bay
By Antonia Florio, Science Communications Liaison,
Everglades National Park, Part II
(Part I is available online in the Aug. 10 edition)



“When we first started to map out Florida Bay and identify management options, we set out to find ways to enhance both visitor use and seagrass protection,” said Fred Herling, Supervisory Park Planner for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks. “We used several years of aerial photo imagery to look for prop scar damage to seagrasses and evaluated that data along with other variables, like water depth and high boat use areas. We found that areas with water depths less than two feet accounted for more than 90% of prop scar damage.”

With that finding in mind, a team, including just about every division in the park, worked closely with the public to put together a preliminary plan for the bay. After over 100 public meetings and several rounds of formal public comment periods, a revised plan was finalized in 2015.

The final decisions all became part of the Park’s General Management Plan, an effort that includes ensuring channel markers are in place, setting up strategic zoning, and creating educational opportunities for boaters.

A lot of progress has been made. A little over half of the channel markers I was helping to inventory two years ago have already been replaced. Boaters can now use them to avoid boating in shallow waters. The work will be completed later this year.

Zones have also been designed based on water depth. For example, pole and troll zones are located in the most shallow areas where seagrass is most at risk for damage from boating. You can only use push poles, paddles, or electric trolling motors to move.

“The park has set up 103,000 acres of pole and troll zones, which represents about 25% of Florida Bay,” Herling said. “The key driver for the pole and troll zones is to protect the seagrass beds.”

But do the pole and troll zones work to protect the seagrasses? So far, it seems like they do.

In January 2011, a popular 9,000-acre area east of Flamingo called Snake Bight was designated as the first pole and troll zone in Florida Bay. Since that decision was made, park and partner agencies and university scientists have been monitoring the area with images captured with aerial photography.

“Results are still preliminary, but seagrasses do seem to be recovering nicely and boat operator behavior has changed,” said Matt Patterson, Marine Ecologist for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks. “If we can educate the boating public about the pole and troll zone locations, in conjunction with the Boater Education course, we should see a reduction in seagrass scarring.” Patterson said.

The public is a major reason the park now has a Boater Education course that introduces boaters to the unique Florida Bay ecosystem. It was one of the most highly supported plans to protect Florida Bay during public meetings.

The course has been available since last year, and there have been over 3,000 people who have completed the course and received their permit. On August 1, it becomes mandatory for all boaters in the park’s marine waters.

I didn’t know about all of these plans when I took my first trip out to Florida Bay in 2017. But I did notice that day that the bay was a special place. And I think a part of me unconsciously decided to become an advocate for Florida Bay.

In doing so, I joined many others who are also making decisions to keep the bay healthy. You don’t need to be a park manager to make decisions that put Florida Bay first. We all can do that.



THE EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL CORNER

P: 239-377-9802, F 239-377-9801 www.evgschools.com



The First Day of School
By Principal Cherie Allison

There are absolutely no words that can encompass the first day of school here at Everglades City School. This school hit the ground running on the very first day.

The smiling faces and excitable voices reverberated through the hallways and the teachers' enthusiasm was absolutely contagious. Every classroom was actively engaged and the energetic participation of students was incredible. If this in any indication, it is going to be an incredible year to be a Gator! Enjoy the pictures from the first day of school!

Go Gators! Cherie Allison



A Message from Vice-Principal
Ed Laudise

Teachers reported back to work on August 6, and hit the ground running. Dr. Cherie Allison, Principal of Everglades City School, arranged to

have a presenter from Franklin Covey came to kick off the Leader in Me school wide program.

Faculty, staff, and community members began the journey on August 6. Everglades City School is working to become a Lighthouse School within 6 years.



A Lighthouse School is a school that meets the highly-regarded standards set by Franklin Covey. At

present there are a little more than 300 lighthouse schools throughout the world. The stringent lighthouse criteria includes learning and living the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People as well as sharing leadership with students and community.

During our August 6th session we learned about the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People which are:

- ◆ Be proactive
- ◆ Begin with the end in mind
- ◆ Put first things first
- ◆ Think win-win
- ◆ Seek first to understand, then to be understood
- ◆ Synergize
- ◆ Sharpen the saw

The group began our effort with an in-depth examination of the first 4 habits.

Everglades City School decided to invest in this program because of its proven track record and fit in our community. We intend to periodically provide status reports and updates while continuing an open dialogue with our community.

Mullet Rapper Donations to
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Thank you to everyone who buys the Mullet Rapper every two weeks. Remember, the Mullet Rapper donates 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the print edition of the paper to Everglades City School to help fund the Leader-in-Me Program!

When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot!

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FWC Enforcing New Airboat Regulations



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is responsible for enforcing airboat regulations that went into effect last month. Per F.S. 327.391, airboat operators carrying passengers for hire must complete an Airboat Operators Course.

“Our officers will continue to be vigilant and proactive in checking airboat operators. In addition to routine checks, we’re launching a statewide detail to ensure compliance,” said Col. Curtis Brown, director of FWC’s Division of Law Enforcement. “We cannot overstate that with this popular recreational activity and economic opportunity comes our critical duty to protect boaters on Florida’s waterways.”

A tragic airboat accident in south Florida was the impetus behind House Bill 1211, known as “Ellie’s Law,” requiring all airboat operators carrying passengers for hire to complete an Airboat Operators Course. At its June 2018 meeting in Sarasota, the FWC approved the course requirements. There are currently six course providers for this requirement.

“We expect the number of course providers to continue to increase,” Brown said. “This will provide more opportunities for members of the industry to comply with regulations and protect the safety of their passengers.”

For more information, visit MyFWC.com/boating. For a list of course providers, go to <https://myfwc.com/boating/airboat-course-providers/>.



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Solution to August 10, 2019 Puzzle

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9	E	U	R	O		10	R	E	V	A		11	M	12	P
13	I	D	O	L		14	S	T	E	R	E	O			
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			34	R	A	M	S			35	E	E	L	S	



My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock

Not a week goes by (it seems) in between more bad news about the negative effects of pesticide and herbicide use. Just this week, the FWC issued a request for information, photos, or video showing panthers or bobcats suffering from some type of neurological disorder. Video of the animals has been caught on camera showing kittens struggling to walk. One of the suspected causes could be rat poison or some other pesticide. There is an outside chance it could be some type of disease affecting the cats, so more research is needed for sure (Let's hope they get to the bottom of it quickly, there are not that many panthers left).

It is hard to escape seeing the class action lawsuit TV spots regarding the weed killer glyphosate, more commonly known as Roundup®. When Glyphosate was first introduced, it was strictly sold for commercial applications. The molecule "glyphosate" was patented by Monsanto in the early 1970s as the active ingredient in the popular herbicide Roundup. Roundup was introduced to the consumer market in 1974 as a broad-spectrum herbicide and quickly became one of the best-selling herbicides.

In the United States alone, over 100 million pounds of the herbicide is used every year. More troubling, Glyphosate is used as a desiccant on crops like wheat to make the plant crop dry at the same time making harvesting easier.

Just reading that made me scratch my head. Really? Doesn't that just sound wrong? They are spraying it on edible crops...to speed ripening and to reduce the cost of harvesting. It makes you wonder if the "gluten intolerance" epidemic is related to the herbicide? I don't remember people avoiding bread when I was a kid.

When I dug a little deeper, I read that Glyphosate is used on over 700 edible crops. In fact, GMO crops were designed to "not die" when sprayed with Glyphosate, meaning we are potentially eating all of that Glyphosate-contaminated produce as well.


A veterinarian I know posted some research on Facebook that confirmed that over 90% of dog food and dog products contain traces of Glyphosate. This may help explain the skyrocketing number of cancers found in modern day dogs. We know from the lawsuits that the herbicide is tied to human cancers. Monsanto (who sold to Bayer in 2018) has already settled one class action lawsuit for \$2 Billion. More settlements are on the way.

In Florida where our lawns and weeds grow so rapidly year around, it is hard not to use the stuff. I am guilty of it as well. It is just so easy to spray and walk away versus struggling with the weed-whacker for hours in the hot sun.

The State and some parks also use the herbicide. Take a drive on I-75 and you will see that the herbicide is used along the canals, around trees and in medians. Spraying directly onto the canal bank certainly leaches this into the water meaning the fish become tainted, and everything that eats them and the plant life is exposed to it as well.

It seems like talking about it now is a bit like closing the barn doors after the horses already got out. It seems that this is just a part of farming and lawn maintenance now. It makes it quicker and easier... which translates to more profitable. However, taking the easier road in the short term is starting to show its longer-term consequences in our health and the health of everything pesticides and herbicides touch.

Island Life Recipes
By Kathy Brock
Calamondin-Ginger Marmalade



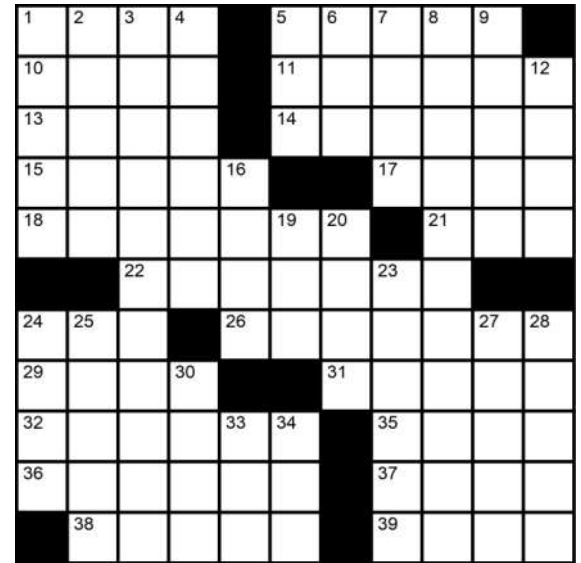
Whole Calamondins, washed
Fresh Ginger
Sugar

This is about as easy as it gets...and it is delicious!
Cut the calamondins in half and remove the seeds.
Put into a food processor to chop finely.
Measure the amount of calamondin you have in a measuring cup.
Add an equal amount of sugar, and 1 teaspoon of fresh ginger. In a saucepan, cook over medium heat for about 20 minutes until the jelly sticks to a spoon when you test it. Be sure you check the mixture frequently so that it does not burn. Place into sterilized jars, and invert until cooled.
You can also freeze the fruit after processing for future use. If you freeze in 1 cup portions, it makes planning a snap. This is great on toast, in yogurt and in recipes. Enjoy!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

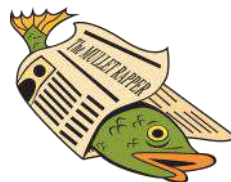
- 1 "Let's get going!"
- 5 Relax in a tub
- 10 Not on time
- 11 As a matter ---, ...
- 13 Pine
- 14 "The Thinker" is one
- 15 Drops
- 17 BBQ fav
- 18 Omen
- 21 Devour
- 22 Ottawa chief
- 24 Malt beverage
- 26 Not the hero
- 29 Ocho ---, Jamaican resort
- 31 Mecca man, for example
- 32 To an extent
- 35 Walked
- 36 California racetrack
- 37 Bring on board
- 38 Thin
- 39 Top guns



Down

- 1 Embrace
- 2 Rambo-like
- 3 Hell is ---, (Jean-Paul Sartre)
- 4 Must
- 5 "Mayday!"
- 6 Many times
- 7 At a distance
- 8 Has hosted TV shows on all the Big Three networks
- 9 Diving gear
- 12 Dry run
- 16 Mailed
- 19 Ultimate degree
- 20 Even scores
- 23 An aunt on Bewitched
- 24 Desert-like
- 25 Challenge for a shortstop
- 27 Worship
- 28 Beach cleaners?
- 30 Identical
- 33 Radiation measure
- 34 Endeavor

8/24/19





Poetry Street™

When the world is going haywire and your day seems to be out of control, what can you do? How can you try to find peace and tranquility? That is the theme of my poem entitled "Our Calm Place."

Stay Calm

Let's all find our calm place in our heart and soul
This should be an important goal
Calmness is an important thing for us to feel

When we have it in our life we know life is real
Let's all find that special place
With peace and loving grace
With all the turmoil in the world today
A calm attitude will help us pave the way
Think now of a beautiful sunrise
The peace in your soul will be a surprise
With waves rolling in onto the beach
It is a calm place you may want to reach
Calmness is a special thing, for sure
It can help us feel secure
So let's find this special place in our soul
Something to make our life whole
In so doing we will be in a happier place
We may even decide to slow down our pace
We may feel the guiding light
And we will know that everything is all right!



Look for #PoetryStreet on Twitter or at PoetryStreet.com
Kathythepoet@gmail.com

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FREE Ranger Led Programs at Big Cypress. Reserve Your Spot Now

Join us as we get out and explore the wonders of the Big Cypress Swamp! Protecting over 729,000 acres of this vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive Florida panther.

For general information call 239-695-4111.
For reservations call 239-695-4758.

Big Cypress Releases Film Series: Fire Stories of Big Cypress National Preserve



Fire and water are the essential elements of Big Cypress National Preserve. The series of three movies will be released over the next two months to share some of the fire stories of the Preserve.

You will find them on the official Big Cypress YouTube and Facebook sites (<https://www.facebook.com/BigCypressNPS>). Each film delivers a unique story about fire, an important but least understood force shaping the biodiversity of Big Cypress National Preserve.

Released on July 27th:

'*Fire Swamp*' offers a front row seat to fire flowing through our interwoven ecosystem of high and dry pinelands to cypress swamps with two National Park Service professionals who manage this landscape. Down here in the Big Cypress, the borders between fire, water, people, limestone, plants, and animals creates an exquisite mosaic of beauty.

Released on August 10th

'*Burn Boss: A History of Fire & People in Big Cypress*' digs deep into the human history of the Preserve from the early days of hunters burning to lure game to modern day prescribed fires. How does one become the boss of fire? What causes wildfires? This film presents a fascinating look into the relationship between people and a flammable ecosystem.

Released on August 24th:

'*Behind the Flames*' looks beyond the yellow and green protective clothing on the fire line to the Big Cypress firefighters working to keep the Big Cypress ecosystems vibrant. We feature the powerful insights of two experienced firefighters. What draws these people toward flame? This is their story.

The FWC Seeks Public's Help Documenting Disorder Affecting Panthers & Bobcats in SWFL



The FWC is investigating a disorder detected in some Florida panthers and bobcats. All the affected animals have exhibited

some degree of walking abnormally or difficulty coordinating their back legs.

As of August 2019, the FWC has confirmed neurological damage in one panther and one bobcat. Additionally, trail camera footage has captured eight panthers (mostly kittens) and one adult bobcat displaying varying degrees of this condition.

Videos of affected cats were collected from multiple locations in Collier, Lee and Sarasota counties, and at least one panther photographed in Charlotte County could also have been affected.

The FWC has been reviewing videos and photographs from other areas occupied by panthers but to date the condition appears to be localized as it is only documented in three general areas.

"While the number of animals exhibiting these symptoms is relatively few, we are increasing monitoring efforts to determine the full scope of the issue," said Gil McRae, director of FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

"Numerous diseases and possible causes have been ruled out; a definitive cause has not yet been determined. We're working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a wide array of experts from around the world to determine what is causing this condition."

The FWC is testing for various potential toxins, including neurotoxic rodenticide (rat pesticide), as well as infectious diseases and nutritional deficiencies.

The public can help with this investigation by submitting trail camera footage or other videos that happen to capture animals that appear to have a problem with their rear legs.

Files less than 10MB can be uploaded to our panther sighting webpage at MyFWC.com/PantherSightings. If you have larger files, please contact the FWC at Panther.Sightings@MyFWC.com.

To report dead or injured panthers, call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC or *FWC on a cell phone.

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Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak

Snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*) Other names: linesiders, robalo, sergeant fish / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=NE / Life span: to 7 years / Length: 12-40 in. (30-101 cm) / Weight: 2-25 lb (.90-11.3 kg); Florida record: 44 lb 3 oz, IGFA: 53 lb 10 oz / Spawns: in the inshore waters / Found: In all inshore and near shore waters of Southwest Florida.

A magnificent game fish, the snook is not only exciting to catch, but also beautiful in design. It has a long, thin body with a distinctive black stripe running along the lateral line the length of its body. This solitary line gives it the nicknames: sergeant fish and linesider. Its lower jaw has a clear underbite, allowing the snook to feed on surface minnows and lures.

In the late spring and summer, the large female snook moves into the passes to spawn. Some of these fish top 40 pounds and are all but impossible to land in the tangled root system of the tidal creeks. When hooked, the snook is just about as frenetic as the tarpon. It jumps, twists, and dives, but it is most famous for heading straight toward the oyster-covered roots of the mangroves, which can cut fishing line faster than a razor blade.



The snook ranges from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to North Carolina. A good time to spot a large snook is during a strong winter cold front. It is a tropical species and cannot tolerate cold water. When the water temperature drops below 56 degrees Fahrenheit, snook begin to expire. Severe cold snaps have been known to kill thousands of snook locally. During these cold snaps the snook seeks shelter in the warmer canal systems and under boats and docks in marinas, where it lies dormant. Before it

became a game fish, islanders used to scoop snook up with large nets for dinner.

The snook is predominantly an inshore fish, although very large specimens have been caught on the nearshore reefs located in less than 40 feet of water. It feeds on threadfin herrings, scaled sardines, pinfish, grunts, shrimp, and crabs. It readily takes surface lures such as Zaraspoons and slow-sinking Mirrorlures, as well as silver and gold spoons. There is possibly no more exciting strike than a 20-pound snook inhaling a surface lure on a calm summer evening in the back bay.

Bottlenose dolphins, sharks, and cobia prey upon the snook. Immature snook are taken by ospreys, herons, and egrets. Because of declining stocks of this much-desired game fish, strict regulations govern its harvesting, including a special snook stamp. Before targeting this exciting game fish, check for the latest updates at <https://swflgo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/fishing-regs-2019.pdf>

Charles Sobczak is an author and photographer from Sanibel Island that authored the book, "Living Sanibel, a Nature Guide to Captiva and Sanibel". Photo of the snook being released by Charles Sobczak.

More about snook:

One unique fact about the common snook is that it is a "protandric hermaphrodite," meaning that it changes from male to female after maturation. This means that most large snook are female because the chances that a snook is female increase with size and age.

Snook typically spawn on the new and full moons from May to September. The fish generally gather in passes and other places with a strong current that will take the eggs towards the sea.

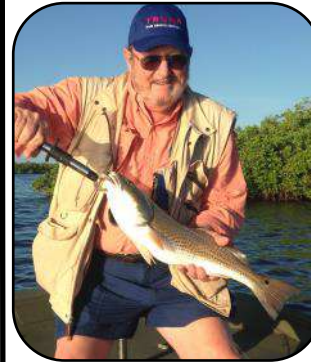
The smaller males bump into the females, causing them to release the eggs, which are then fertilized by the "bumping" male. During the spawn, the fish's fins turn a bright yellow. When the eggs hatch, the tiny fish return to inshore waters, finding their way to small creeks and marshes where they can better avoid their many predators.

Snook is a tropical and subtropical species, and they are very temperature sensitive, particularly when the water dips below 55 degrees. In the winter of 2010, low temperatures persisted for two weeks and it was a disaster for Florida's west-coast snook population, with up to 1 million fish killed. The cold also killed sea turtles, manatee and other tropical fish species.



The Everglades Backcountry Experience with Captain Rodney Raffield

Fishing this past month has been very productive with quite a few small Reds and Snook.



Trout have been slim pickings for us with only a few decent sized fish each trip.

Weather has been a challenge with scattered storms from morning to evening on most of my charters.

The most productive lures continue to be Mr. Wiffelure with Zman coming in a close second.

We are mating these baits to 1/4 oz jig heads for the most versatility but 1/8 oz. works good around the shallow oyster reefs, which is where most of our Reds and Snook are being caught.



Water and air temps are very hot so make sure to get out early to get the most out of your trip - not to mention beating the rain storms.

One last thing, don't be ashamed to use a shrimp tip on your jig as with this very hot water it can make the difference.

So, till next time, tight lines my Mullet Rapper friends. ~Capt. Rodney

Fish With Captain Rodney Raffield
239-695-4626
captrodney@centurylink.net

Download the Fishing Limits Guide
[/swflgo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/fishing-regs-2019.pdf](https://swflgo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/fishing-regs-2019.pdf)



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EXPERIENCE THE SWAMP!

CLYDE BUTCHER SWAMP WALKS
October 26 & 27, Big Cypress
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Vermont has its leaf-peepers. Munich has Oktoberfest. Here in South Florida, we celebrate the fall season with swamp walks in the

Big Cypress National Preserve. Join us on October 26 & 27 at Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery and take a walk on the wild side!

Clyde and Niki Butcher host a fall festival at their Big Cypress Gallery in October every year. As part of the fun, special swamp walks behind the gallery are available for the brave (and not-so-brave) of heart.

The walks are \$50 per person (kids 17-and-under are free, no tickets required) with 100% of the proceeds supporting the Swamp Water and Me Program (SWAMP) in Big Cypress National Preserve. SWAMP is an outdoor science education program that introduces thousands of 6th-grade students from Collier County to the Big Cypress every year on school field trips.

Walks are offered both days in the morning and afternoon. Sign up to arrive between 9 AM and 12 noon for a morning walk, or between 12 noon and 3 PM for an afternoon walk, and you'll be assigned to the next available walk when you arrive on Saturday or Sunday. Walks will leave every half hour, rain-or-shine.



What to know: Be prepared to get wet. The walks are approximately 2-hours long and water levels may be waist deep in places with submerged obstacles and uneven terrain. Wear closed-toe shoes, clothes that can get wet and/or muddy (long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and shoes with laces that will stay on your feet), and bring some dry clothes to change into after your walk. Children must be over 48 inches tall for the standard 2-hour walk. We will have special walks that are less strenuous for families with young children.

Questions? Call office for details: 305-665-4769. Visit the Gallery (location of the swamp walk): Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery, 52388 Tamiami Trail, Ochopee, Florida 34141

MUSEUM NEWS

By Marya Repko

There was a full house in the Museum on August 15th to hear about "Edison & Ford in Southwest Florida" from Matt Andres, curator of their Winter Estates in Fort Myers.

After giving some biographical background about the two great men, the speaker showed slides of them venturing into the Everglades where they endured spiders, snakes, and downpours.

Mr. Andres showed a copy of Barron Collier's 1929 book "How Is Business in the United States" which Collier had signed personally to Thomas Edison.



The new exhibit in our Museum displays some of the pictures and has a unique photo-op – take a selfie with these historical icons! The next Third Thursday talk is on September 19 at 2pm when the topic will be "Florida Pirates, Fact & Fiction". There is no charge and everyone is welcome. For info, call the Museum at (239) 252-5026

Visit the Museum of the Everglades to See Incredible Artwork & Artifacts

Summer is a great time to visit the beautiful Museum of the Everglades. The museum routinely changes their feature displays, so you will want to schedule multiple visits each year to see the County's most popular museum.

The Museum is open daily from 9 am to 4 pm and is located at: 105 W. Broadway, Everglades City. www.colliermuseums.com

Stargazing in the Everglades
Meteor Showers Light Up the Sky



Southern Taurids: Next period of activity: **September 10th to November 20th.**

The Southern Taurids are a long-lasting shower that reaches a barely noticeable maximum on October 9 or 10. The shower is active for more than two months but rarely produces more than five shower members per hour, even at maximum activity. The Taurids (both branches) are rich in fireballs and are often responsible for increased number of fireball reports from September through November.

Next Peak - The Southern Taurids will next peak on the Oct 9-10, 2019 night. On this night, the moon will be 87% full. Next Peak night Oct 21-22, 2019.

Orionids: Next period of activity: **October 2nd to November 7th.**

The Orionids are a medium strength shower that sometimes reaches high strength activity. In a normal year the Orionids produce 10-20 shower members at maximum.

Next Peak - The Orionids will next peak on the Oct 21-22, 2019 night. On this night, the moon will be 45% full. (Note: Everglades City & Chokoloskee and the surrounding areas are recognized dark sky locations and are great sky-gazing locations!).

Geminids: Next period of activity: **December 4th to December 17th.**

The Geminids are usually the strongest meteor shower of the year and meteor enthusiasts are certain to circle December 13 and 14 on their calendars. This is the one major shower that provides good activity prior to midnight.



We are closed for the summer. See you in October!



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EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Monday - Wed 5 to 11 pm,
Thurs to Sun Noon - 11 pm, see ad on p. 6

Camellia Street Grille (695-2003):

11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Mon to Sat

City Seafood (695-4700):

8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast
Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner

Glades Haven Marina (695-2091):

Deli Closed. Marina is open.
Live bait available at marina

Havana Café (695-2214):

Closed for Summer. See you in October!
See our ad on page 10!

Island Café (695-0003):

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (695-3299) (Private)

7:00 am – 9:00 am; daily (for guests only)

Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Open: Mon., Fri., Saturday & Sunday

Rod & Gun (695-2101):

11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):

We are Closed for Summer
See You in October

MARKETS

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):

Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm

Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):

Closed Until October

Fresh Produce

Right Choice Supermarket

See listing under "markets"

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Family Church

Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship
Sun. 6 pm & Wed. 7 pm Bible Teaching

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 11

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City

9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study

Holy Family Catholic Church

Closed for Summer, See San Marco

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

More Tide Locations On: www.SWFLGO.com!

8/24/19	Sat	3:27 AM	1.03	L
8/24/19	Sat	9:13 AM	2.74	H
8/24/19	Sat	5:46 PM	0.37	L
8/24/19	Sat	11:25 PM	2.22	H
8/25/19	Sun	5:22 AM	1.1	L
8/25/19	Sun	10:25 AM	2.85	H
8/25/19	Sun	6:47 PM	0.23	L
8/26/19	Mon	12:45 AM	2.32	H
8/26/19	Mon	6:36 AM	1.09	L
8/26/19	Mon	11:34 AM	3.02	H
8/26/19	Mon	7:44 PM	0.08	L
8/27/19	Tue	1:41 AM	2.47	H
8/27/19	Tue	7:37 AM	1.03	L
8/27/19	Tue	12:37 PM	3.26	H
8/27/19	Tue	8:36 PM	-0.04	L
8/28/19	Wed	2:22 AM	2.61	H
8/28/19	Wed	8:30 AM	0.92	L
8/28/19	Wed	1:31 PM	3.5	H
8/28/19	Wed	9:24 PM	-0.11	L
8/29/19	Thu	2:57 AM	2.73	H
8/29/19	Thu	9:19 AM	0.79	L
8/29/19	Thu	2:19 PM	3.67	H
8/29/19	Thu	10:10 PM	-0.11	L
8/30/19	Fri	3:32 AM	2.83	H
8/30/19	Fri	10:06 AM	0.64	L
8/30/19	Fri	3:07 PM	3.74	H
8/30/19	Fri	10:55 PM	-0.04	L
8/31/19	Sat	4:07 AM	2.92	H
8/31/19	Sat	10:55 AM	0.49	L
8/31/19	Sat	3:58 PM	3.68	H
8/31/19	Sat	11:39 PM	0.1	L
9/1/19	Sun	4:43 AM	2.99	H
9/1/19	Sun	11:45 AM	0.38	L
9/1/19	Sun	4:54 PM	3.5	H
9/2/19	Mon	12:22 AM	0.28	L
9/2/19	Mon	5:20 AM	3.04	H
9/2/19	Mon	12:36 PM	0.31	L
9/2/19	Mon	5:53 PM	3.23	H
9/3/19	Tue	1:05 AM	0.49	L
9/3/19	Tue	6:00 AM	3.06	H
9/3/19	Tue	1:30 PM	0.29	L
9/3/19	Tue	6:56 PM	2.92	H
9/4/19	Wed	1:49 AM	0.7	L
9/4/19	Wed	6:44 AM	3.03	H
9/4/19	Wed	2:30 PM	0.32	L
9/4/19	Wed	8:07 PM	2.62	H
9/5/19	Thu	2:40 AM	0.9	L
9/5/19	Thu	7:37 AM	2.97	H
9/5/19	Thu	3:39 PM	0.36	L
9/5/19	Thu	9:28 PM	2.4	H
9/6/19	Fri	3:46 AM	1.04	L
9/6/19	Fri	8:43 AM	2.9	H
9/6/19	Fri	4:53 PM	0.37	L
9/6/19	Fri	11:07 PM	2.3	H

Florida Governor Ramps Up Efforts to Control Burmese Pythons

Governor Ron DeSantis joined the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to announce new efforts to remove pythons from the Greater Everglades.

"I'm excited to announce our efforts to more aggressively tackle the problem of this invasive species and to further protect the Greater Everglades," said Governor DeSantis. "Pythons are a threat to native wildlife and removing them is an important component of Everglades restoration."

The Governor is directing FWC and SFWMD to collaborate to do the following:

- Ensure python removal training programs are interchangeable.
- Share and jointly pursue research on new technology to help detect and remove pythons from the wild.
- Jointly host a Python Challenge every year as opposed to every third year.
- Develop agreements with local governments to expand access for state python removers on lands owned by local governments.
- Engage the public through a targeted education and outreach campaign that focuses on the importance of removing pythons from the Everglades.
- Create additional incentives for veterans to remove pythons.

The Governor's administration is actively working with the Department of Interior to increase the federal lands accessible for python removal, particularly within the Big Cypress National Preserve, which is largely inaccessible.



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Sunday School Nov. 17th – April, 9:45 A.M.
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CLASSIFIED ADS

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The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands

JOB: Florida National Parks Association is seeking a sales associate for our store in Big Cypress National Preserve. This is a part-time, year-round position and candidates are expected to be available to work weekends and Holidays.

Qualifications: excellent customer service skills, strong communication and computer skills, sales and cash handling experience. Email resume to corey@evergladesassociation.org.

FOR RENT: Newly renovated modular home on Plantation Island canal lot. Long term lease 6 month minimum. Sleeps 2-3. See it on: <https://tinyurl.com/y96k2c73> For more information contact Chip Chipman 281-358-7884 or Bob Chipman at 239-695-0007.

FOR SALE: Great commercial investment - The Oyster House Restaurant and Glades Haven Marina and Store in Everglades City. The Oyster House had seating capacity of 200. Dining room, bar / lounge, banquet room with private bar. Buy separately or together! Hurricane Irma damage, being sold As Is. Call Karen at Glades Realty 239-695-4299 for more information.

FOR SALE—GOLF CART: 2011, Star. 48 Volt, with lights, blinkers, seat belts. Candy apple red, battery charger, AM/FM/CD player and cover. Excellent condition. \$5000 OBO. Call 239-232-0053 or 239-206-6980 for information. The cart is located on Plantation Island.

RV HOOKUPS, Everglades City. Two Sites, 30 and 50 amps. Service, water, no sewage. Rent nightly or weekly. Rough boat ramp, 100 ft. dock. Private & secure. Contact Capt. Wayne of Fish Hunt Charters at 239-695-2445.

FOR SALE: Canal front vacant lot on Lopez Ln, Chokoloskee. Quick & easy access to the Chok. Bay and Gulf no bridges! A stilt home could offer views of the Bay. Zoned for homes or mfg. homes. Asking \$115,000. Glades Realty 239-695-4299 www.GladesRealty.com

RV PAD FOR RENT: In Everglades City RV park. Full hook-up, 30 amps, 25 x 35 pad, restroom, shower, laundry & rec. privileges, 55+. Quiet time 10 pm. Weekly, monthly. Call 269-214-8623 or 941-374-0277.

FOR SALE: Condo @ The Estuary. Corner unit, 2 BR 2 BA + den. Nicely furnished. Large double car garage. Boat ramp & pool onsite. Glades Realty, 239-695-4299, www.GladesRealty.com, \$274,000.

FOR SALE: Condo #418 in Captain's Table, 1bed/1bath, totally renovated, fully furnished, new appliances, high impact windows/door, community pool. \$109,500. Call Vivian 786-395-9253. **MLS 218025142** **For Rent:**

FOR SALE: Two canal lots side by side in Chokoloskee. For more information call 561-622-6011.

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Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications

PUBLISHER/ EDITOR

Kathleen Brock

PHOTOJOURNALIST

Helen Bryan

CONTRIBUTORS to this Issue

Marya Repko, Elaine Middelstaedt,

Katherine Tullie, Rodney Raffield

Charles Sobczak, Antonia Florio

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We provide local news of interest to the extended communities of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island,

Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

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

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"The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet." ~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas
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