

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

APRIL 25 – MAY 8, 2014

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume VIII • Issue #210



MESCE WINS AWARD!

Bill Mesce was given the prestigious Mel Finn Award at the Friends of Fakahatchee Dinner on April 13 "for reflecting the spirit of the Founding Father of the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park."

Mel Finn, a Miami attorney who identified 43 different orchids in the Fakahatchee, campaigned to make the territory a preserve which finally happened in 1974. The award in his name is given by the Friends annually.

Bill Mesce certainly deserved it this year. He was a founding member of the Friends, has led swamp walks since they were initiated and volunteered numerous hours to help the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park over many years.

To learn more about Friends of Fakahatchee, see www.orchidswamp.org.

Photo caption: Bill Mesce (left) is paid tribute by Fakahatchee biologist Mike Owen.



CONGRATULATIONS

The Everglades girls' varsity softball team won Class A District 10 Softball Championship, beating Seacrest in Naples with a score of 25 – 15. The last time Everglades City School won a district softball championship was in 1986.

Good luck to the team at the Regionals to be played (after this publication goes to print) in Everglades City, behind the Catholic Church, against Southwest Christian School at 4:00 p.m. on **Thursday, April 24**. The Sports Banquet will be held on **May 3** at 5 p.m.

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Deaconess Bedell is 1st Runner Up

Deaconess Bedell reached the finals and lost by just 200 votes (out of a total of 7,014) to Charles Wesley who wrote 6,000+ hymns, among them "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing." The "Golden Halo" award was part of the Episcopal Church's Lent Madness which included 32 contestants. Many people in Everglades City remember Deaconess Harriet Bedell for her devotion to God and to the people she served in this area, especially her work with the Seminoles.

Her "Rules of Life" were: 1) God is first; 2) Don't worry; 3) Put all in the hands of God; 4) Don't think or talk about troubles; 5) Don't hurry; 6) Don't eat too much between meals; 7) Don't do two things at the same time; and 8) All life involves sacrifice. That sacrifice serves as a remarkable example. Harriet Bedell, who died in 1969, never saw a movie or owned a radio. She lived a life solely focused on her call from God.

Thanks to everyone who voted for the Deaconess. She will always be our "Angel of the Swamp."

APRIL / MAY 2014

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
20 EASTER Sunrise Service National Park 7 am	21 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm CAC Meeting	22 Wildflower Walk Weight Loss ORV Meeting	23 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	24 Regional Girls' Varsity Softball Game, 4 pm	RAPPER 25 VA Support Group 10 am <i>see p.3</i>	26 Area Cleanup Operation Med. Pancake Fly-In Museum B'day Art-in-Glades <i>see p.3</i>
27	28 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm	new moon ○ 29 Weight Loss Support Group <i>see p.3</i>	30 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am Fak Comments <i>see p.3</i>	MAY 1 National Day of Prayer <i>see p.3</i> Snook Season Closes	2	3 Sports Banquet <i>see p.5</i>
4	5 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm ESHP Meeting Smallwood Mtg <i>see p.9</i>	6 Weight Loss Support Group <i>see p.3</i> FME Mtg <i>see p.9</i>	7 Ladies Coffee Sweet Mayberry's Café 8 am	8	RAPPER 9 VA Support Group 10 am <i>see p.3</i>	10 Museum Reception <i>see p.9</i> Fish Fry <i>see p.3</i>
11 ORV Comments <i>see p.3</i>	12 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm OFC D Mtg <i>see p.3</i>	13 Weight Loss Support Group <i>see p.3</i>	full moon ● 14 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	15 Stone Crab Season Closes SAC Mtg <i>see p.5</i>	16	17
18	19 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	20 Weight Loss Support Group <i>see p.3</i>	21 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	22	RAPPER 23 VA Support Group 10 am <i>see p.3</i>	24
25	26 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm	27 Weight Loss Support Group <i>see p.3</i>	28 Ladies Coffee Sweet Mayberry's Café 8 am	29	30	31

June 2-14: Sales Tax Holiday

June 28: Independence Day Celebration

THRIFT SHOP: Tuesday and Sat, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
 DR DEMARTINO: Fri, 1:30 to 4:30 pm
 FOOD PANTRY: Sat, 8:30 to 10:30 am, Community Church
 AL-ANON: Thurs, 12 noon, Community Church
 MUSEUM: Mon – Fri, 9 am to 5 pm; Sat, 9 am to 4 pm
 VA SUPPORT: Fri, April 25 and May 9, 10 am
 CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2nd Sat, 9 am to 1 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat, 7-10 pm
 LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: *Closed until October*
 AA: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church
 NA: Sat, 11:30 am, Community Center (Skating Rink)
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 10 am to 4 pm (May 1: 11-4)
 WEIGHT LOSS: Tues, 5 to 6 pm, Community Church

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tuesday 4/29 (10-11 am); Tuesday 5/6 (10-11 am); Tuesday 5/13 (10-11 am); Tuesday 5/20 (10-11 am)

POST OFFICE HOURS: Everglades City 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m.; Sat: outside pick-up 3:30 p.m.; Chokoloskee 9 a.m. to 12 noon; 1 to 3 p.m. Sat: outside pick-up 3:30 pm; Ochopee 8 to 10 a.m.; 12 noon to 4 p.m. Sat: Open for service 10 to 11:30 a.m.

SHERIFF: 252-9300

CITY HALL: 695-3781

PUBLIC LIBRARY: 695-2511

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 695-3941

AIRPORT: 695-2778

FAKAHATCHEE: 695-4593

BIG CYPRESS: 695-2000

EVG NATIONAL PARK: 695-3311

CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (FRIDGES, WASHING MACHINES, TVS): 252-2380

COLLIER COUNTY: 252-8999

APRIL 26 Events

Copeland Area Cleanup

Code Enforcement in conjunction with the CCSO and the local Community will hold a cleanup in Lee Cypress/Copeland from 8:00 a.m. till noon. Dumpsters will be on hand along with personnel to help residents dispose of unwanted items.

Operation Medicine Cabinet

The Collier County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with Drug Free Collier, will hold Operation Medicine Cabinet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A collection box will be set up manned by the Sheriff's Office outside of Everglades City Hall to dispose of your unwanted drugs.

PANCAKE FLY-IN



The last pancake breakfast this spring, hosted by Wings 10,000 Islands Tours, will take place at Everglades Airport from 10 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome. For more info, call 695-3296.

Museum of the Everglades 16th Birthday Party

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Antique Cars, Walking Tour
Old-Timers Story Telling
Arts and Crafts, Live Music
Free Hot Dogs, Birthday Cake
For information, call 695-0008 or visit
www.evergladesmuseum.org

ART-IN-THE-GLADES

Support local vendors from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Art-in-the-Glades across from the Museum. Call Marya Repko at 695-2905 for more information.

Public Comments

Public comments for the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park proposed management plan will be accepted through **Wednesday, April 30**. A copy of the draft plan is available at sharepoint.dep.state.fl.us/PublicNotices.

Please email any comments to Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us.

WEIGHT LOSS SUPPORT

Success Weight Loss class is held **every Tuesday** from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Community Church on the Circle. The class is a Christian-based support group for wellness.



Thursday, May 1

12:00 noon - City Hall Lawn
followed by a light lunch
Pastors from Local Churches
Mayor Sammy Hamilton
Collier County Sheriff's Office
Ochopee Fire Control District
Music by Mitch Mitchell
EVERYONE WELCOME!
For information, call Elaine at 695-2695

FISH FRY



Mayor Sammy Hamilton
invites one and all to the Sixth Annual
Everglades City Area 'Thank You Fish
Fry' to honor the members of our EMS,
Fire, & Sheriff's Departments and the
U.S. Military. Please join us for a
Community-Wide Fish Fry Cookout
Saturday, May 10, 5:00 p.m.
McLeod Park

Backcountry Access Plan

This plan is to provide ORV secondary trails, non-motorized trails, and camping plan and to establish a permanent route for the Florida National Scenic Trail. Comment period ends **May 11**. See <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=49334> for more info.

Big Cypress Zone 4 Closure

Zone 4 airboat access within Big Cypress National Preserve was closed on April 7 due to low water conditions. This began the 60-day ORV closure for this management unit within the Preserve. Pending water levels, this unit will re-open for airboat access on **June 6**.

Join the Parade!



Come celebrate Independence Day on **Saturday, June 28!** The theme of the parade will be "Celebrating Our Heritage." For more information, call Elaine at 695-2695. The festivities are organized by a small group of volunteers. If you can help with the kiddies' activities? arts & crafts? fundraising for the fireworks, please contact Dottie at 695-3781.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

04/10/14: Emergency Med, 66 MM I-75
04/10/14: Emergency Med, Janes Scenic Dr
04/10/14: Vehicle Accident, 74 MM I-75
04/10/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland
04/10/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland
04/11/14: Emergency Med, Everglades City
04/12/14: Vehicle Accident, 80 MM I-75
04/12/14: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
04/13/14: Public Assist, Carnestown
04/13/14: Vehicle Accident, 78 MM I-75
04/14/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland
04/15/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland
04/16/14: Emergency Med, Port of Islands
04/16/14: Vehicle Accident, US 41
04/17/14: Emergency Med, SR 29 & US 41
04/18/14: Brush Fire, Everglades City
04/18/14: Emergency Med, Everglades City
04/18/14: Emergency Medical, 73 MM I-75
04/19/14: Brush Fire, 54 Mile Marker I-75
04/20/14: Plane Crash, Everglades Airport
04/21/14: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
04/21/14: Vehicle Accident, 63 MM I-75
04/21/14: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
04/21/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland

The next OFCD Advisory Committee Meeting will be **Monday, May 12**, at 4:00 pm in Port of the Islands Realty Office at 24998 Tamiami Trail, Naples.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino will see patients in Everglades City every Friday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the office behind the Fire Station. For info, call (239) 642-5552.

THRIFT SHOP HOURS

The Thrift Shop, located behind the Fire Station, is open every **Tuesday** and **Saturday** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please do not leave items outside the shop. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Annie at the Thrift Shop.

Veterans Support Group

The Veterans Support Group meetings are held every other Friday. The following are the next dates: **April 25** and **May 9** at 10:00 a.m. Veterans and family members of veterans meet in the Jinkins Fellowship Hall at the Everglades Community Church.

THE SHELTER FOR ABUSED WOMEN & CHILDREN

If you or someone you love is in an abusive relationship, call the confidential 24-hour crisis line: (239) 775-1101/TTY or (239) 775-4265; the Shelter provides all services free of charge. Visit www.naplesshelter.org for more info.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

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IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, April 24	Regional Girls' Varsity Softball Game
Monday, April 28	Kindergarten Registration Begins
Thursday, May 1	Kindergarten Round-Up, 3-4 pm
Saturday, May 3	All-Sports Banquet, 5 pm, Cafeteria
Thursday, May 15	SAC Meeting, 6 pm, Media Center



TAYLOR'S CORNER

On Saturday, April 19, there was an Easter egg hunt at the park and boy were there a lot of kids there! There were so many Easter eggs you could not believe your eyes. They were everywhere! My friend Alycia and I both got 30 eggs and Jerry found the most, 37. Thank you to everyone that came out to

help and make the day special for all of us.

On April 17 my class found out who was going to the Little Bits competition. So let's give a big hand to Brady Bowen, Case VanLewan, Charlie Pace, and me! We'll all be going to the competition at Edison State College on May 10.

Our class will be visiting the new Aquaculture project this week. My friend Morgan will take some pictures, and I'll have a full report in the next *Mullet Rapper*.

Big congratulations to Coach Roberts and the girls' softball team who won the district championship. Nice work lady gators!

Taylor Dahlke is 10 years old and in the 4th grade at E-City School.

We had a wonderful donation from Wanda Story. She gave Easter baskets to all our students in first, second and third grade! They were so surprised and appreciative of the fun gift! Ms. Story handed out the baskets to the children.



Katie Collins received a special Reading Counts program award. Katie earned over 200 Reading Counts points! This is a great accomplishment! It is incredible for Katie to earn this many points in the 2nd grade! We are extremely proud of her! To celebrate she was awarded a catered lunch with a friend and Mrs. Owen! The entire cafeteria cheered her on and celebrated her victory!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Everglades City School would like to recognize another volunteer who is frequent volunteer at EVG. Thank you, **Candice Way**, for all your efforts and help.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,
The month of April is a very busy time for us. FCAT is here and our students are ready for it. We will be anxious see the results!

We want to congratulate Teddy Smallwood for being ranked 13th in the country on Ticket to Read. Ticket to Read is a computerized reading program that helps bring up student reading skills. This ranking was accomplished due to the time and effort Teddy has put into the program. We are very proud of you Teddy.

We also want to congratulate our girls' softball team. They are the first team to win a district softball championship since the 1986 girls' softball team. This will be our first district championship in any sport since 1998 when our girls' basketball won the district. We are proud of you Coach Roberts, Coach Jacque and all of the girls. Team: Kristin McMillin, Ana Roldan, Savannah Oglesby, Sierra Dungan, Savannah Humphreys, Megan Williams, Tawny Wood, Haylee Ellison, Ashlyn Goff, Jasmine Lucas, and Natalie Thompson.

Our Juniors and Seniors are preparing for the prom which will be held at the Marco Marriot this year. A big thank you goes out to Ms. Secory for her efforts to organize this event.

As always, please feel free to call or stop by with any questions you may have. Gratefully, Bob Spano, Principal

The Wild Everglades: "Florida Cotton Mouth"

by Claybrook Story

The Florida cottonmouth



(*Agkistrodon piscivorus*), also known as the water moccasin and by other names, is one of the most common venomous snakes in Florida. This is possibly the most aquatic species of the genus (*Agkistrodon*), and is usually associated with bodies of water, such as marshes, streams, creeks, swamps and the shores of ponds and lakes. The U.S. Navy describes it as inhabiting swamps, shallow lakes and sluggish streams, but it is usually not found in swift, deep, cool water. The cotton mouth is a carnivore; its diet includes birds, mammals, amphibians, snakes, fish, small turtles and small alligators. Cannibalism has also been reported. Normally, though, the bulk of its diet consists of frogs and fish. This is the largest species of the genus *Agkistrodon*. Adults commonly exceed 31.5 in in length, females grow smaller than males. The broad head of this snake is distinct from the neck, and the snout is blunt in profile with the rim of the top of the head extending forwards slightly further than the mouth. Though the majority of specimens are almost or even totally black, (with the exception of facial and head markings), the color pattern may consist of a gray, brown, tan, yellowish-olive or blackish ground color, which is overlaid with a series of 10-17 dark brown to almost black cross bands. Juvenile and sub adult specimens generally have a more contrasting color pattern, with dark cross bands on a lighter ground color. The ground color is then brown, tan or reddish brown. The tip of the tail is usually yellowish, becoming greenish in sub adults, and then black in adults. When agitated the cottonmouth will open its mouth to show the white tissue in its mouth which is why it is named the cotton mouth.

Claybrook Story is 13 years old and in 7th grade at Everglades City School.

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Who You Are

by LeAnne Bedford



The sparkle in your eye
Shines brighter than the sky
Shines brighter than a star
Just showing who you are
You should always be true
To others and to you
It doesn't matter when or where
As long as you're yourself, you shouldn't
you care
Don't act like something that you're not
If you do, you know you will be caught
Just be yourself
Who cares what people say
They don't know your life
They don't know your way
Shining brighter than the shy
The little sparkle in your eye
Keep that thing that's called a star
Shining less than who you are!

LeAnne Bedford is 16 yrs old and in the 10th grade at Everglades City School.



On April 11 Mayor Sammy Hamilton hosted the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting at City Hall in Everglades City.



The Mullet Rapper wishes to extend our best wishes to Ruth Ann and Pastor Jim Fross (shown above at Easter Sunrise Service). Jim will be serving as Pastor of the Athens Baptist Church in Lake City. Ruth Ann states that they have made many new friends who have loved and supported their ministry at the First Baptist Church in Everglades City. Her words were "Thank you, Everglades City, we love you and will miss you. You will be forever in our thoughts and prayers."

Recipe for Good Eating

CABBAGE SOUP

submitted by Kathy Kronk



3 cups nonfat beef or chicken broth (beef is the best) or 3 cups nonfat vegetable broth	
2 garlic cloves, minced	1 tablespoon tomato paste
2 cups chopped cabbage	½ yellow onion
½ cup chopped carrot	½ cup green beans
½ cup chopped zucchini	½ teaspoon basil
½ teaspoon oregano	salt & pepper

Spray pot with non-stick cooking spray; sauté onions carrots and garlic for 5 minutes. Add broth, tomato paste, cabbage, green beans, basil, oregano and salt & pepper to taste. Simmer for a about 5-10 minutes until all vegetables are tender, then add the zucchini and simmer for another 5 minutes.

If you have a favorite recipe to share, please email us at mulletrapper@gmail.com.



From Savannah's Eyes

Sports season is almost over, and I had such a great and exciting year playing Volleyball, Softball, and Cheerleading! Our Lady Gators Softball team played in the Districts against Seacrest. It was a long game but it is something that we will treasure forever. WE WON DISTRICTS!! The first time in 28 years! I was at Edison so I wasn't there for the first inning, but you can bet I was there from then on. I rushed to get my uniform on and ran as fast as Forrest Gump to get to the dugout. When it was my turn to bat, I had butterflies in my stomach; I was trying to jump up and down to shake them off but they wouldn't go away. Finally, as I got into the box beside home plate, they went away. I hit the ball on the first pitch and ran to first base, running as hard as I could and made it.

A few innings later Seacrest started to catch up to our runs, "Almost too close for comfort," our Captain Kristin McMillin said to us in our huddle. We quickly shook it off and got back into the zone because we knew we weren't going home without that trophy. A few of our players caught balls by diving on the ground, like our short stop player Jasmine Lucas, only she didn't break an elbow like I did, haha! I wasn't keeping track on what inning it was; I was so in the zone to hit the ball and make it to base again as I was waiting for one of my teammates in front of me. All of a sudden, as I was practicing swinging the bat to get my timing right, I hear someone yell "Line up!" I turned around and saw my teammates running to 3rd base to line up. I quickly joined them; we were all so excited all we could do was squeal!

After we all said "Good game!" to each opponent, we went back to 3rd base to receive our award. A man comes onto the pitcher's mound with two trophies. He gives the 2nd place one to Seacrest and then looks over at us. "And taking home first place as District Champions is Everglades City School!" We all clapped and cheered as our coach and captains ran out to collect the trophy and take pictures with it. Our assistant coach Jacque tells all the rest of the girls to tackle them when they're done with pictures. I take this as a challenge, but I think she meant it as a joke. So when the photographer was finished, I sprint over to them and tackle our captain Kristin (who is also one of my best friends) to the ground as I give her a huge hug. Then we all did a little dog pile on our other Captain Ana when we got up. It was such an amazing day, and the feeling was overwhelming. Our coach started crying when we handed her the trophy.

After the game we headed over to Il Primos to celebrate and we ate delicious pizza as we laughed and told jokes at the table. To make it even better on the ride home the first song we listened to was "We Are the Champions" by Queen.

Also I was so upset about missing the Red Blood Moon that happened that morning at 3 o'clock because I was going to stay up to see it but I forgot it was that morning; but I finally saw it that night on the ride home! One of the girls said, "Look at the moon!" I almost slammed my face to the window looking for it because I was so excited to finally see it. But all in all, I am so glad that I was a part of this team and was able to help them win Districts; our school really deserved it and so did we! And now our Lady Gators are off to play in Regionals which we will be hosting at our home field in Everglades City! It will be on **Thursday, April 24**, at 4:00 p.m., so come out and support our team!

So happy that we won Districts and that I got to see the Red Blood Moon!

Love, Savannah

Savannah Oglesby is a student in the 11th grade at Everglades City School and a regular contributor to this paper. Savannah has been writing for The Mullet Rapper since she was in the 4th grade.



May Fishing Report

by Captain Bill Lindsay

Snook season is closed on the 1st of May, but you can still catch and release them. Fishing in April was below average. Late season fronts made fishing difficult. As the month comes to an end, fishing has improved. Early in the month trout were hard to find; now they are moving into the backcountry. If you get tired of fishing for them with a jig, try a top-water plug or weighted fly. Big snook will hit top-water plugs well in the morning and late in the afternoon. During the middle of the day, go deep with jigs or cast into shady areas under the mangroves. A lot of bait is washed down the rivers at this time of year. On falling tides, tarpon will feed late in the day in these passes. Offshore permit, grouper and snapper fishing on the shallow Gulf wrecks will be excellent. Make sure you have bug spray on the boat; sometimes the fish and the mosquitoes are in the same place.

Capt. Bill Lindsay lives in Chokoloskee and has been fishing in the Everglades National Park for over 35 years. In 1992 he was Master Angler of the MET Tournament. Captain Bill's telephone number is (239) 695-0314.



April 2014 Smalltooth Sawfish Abundance Survey

by Dana M. Bethea NOAA
Fisheries Panama City
Laboratory Panama City



The April research expedition was successful. In Everglades National Park, five newborns were captured and tagged on the mud flat on the west side of the mangrove island in

Mud Bay and four newborns were captured and tagged on the west-side of Chokoloskee Island. The research team was joined by Changing Seas from WPBT2 in Miami, filming for an upcoming episode that is scheduled to air in July. The Smalltooth Sawfish Abundance Survey field team will be back in Everglades City May 5-9, 2014.

Smalltooth sawfish were listed as endangered in 2003 under Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act. Remember, it is illegal to "take" (harass, harm, pursue, target, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap or capture) this animal. The current core population is limited to waters off the coast of southwest Florida and incidental encounters between smalltooth sawfish and fishermen do occur. If you incidentally hook or net a smalltooth sawfish, do not remove the animal from the water, cut the line or gear as close to the animal as possible, and release the animal immediately. Please exercise caution and never remove the saw. If you see or encounter a smalltooth sawfish, please contact the International Sawfish Encounter Database at (352) 392-2360. All input and cooperation from the public is greatly valued.

This research follows permits EVER-2014-SCI-0009 and ESA-17787. Funding is provided through the NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office in St. Petersburg, FL.

Photo caption:

NOAA field crew and WBPT2 film crew with a young-of-the-year female smalltooth sawfish (74 cm STL) on the west-side of Chokoloskee Island on April 9, 2014. L to R: Intern, Cosette Larash, Fishery Biologist, Kelcee Smith, Sean Hickey and Alexa Elliot from Changing Seas, and Research Fishery Biologist, Dr. John Carlson.

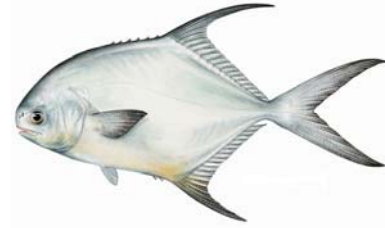
Photo credit: Dana M. Bethea, NOAA Fisheries Panama City Laboratory



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Permit (*Trachinotus falcatus*)



Other names: cobbler, Mexican pompano / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=NE / Life span: to 23 years / Length: 14-48 in. (35-122 cm) / Weight: 4-20 lb (1.8-9 kg); Florida state record: 56 lb 2 oz, IGFA: 56 lb 2 oz / Spawns: in the offshore waters / Found: Throughout the nearshore and offshore waters of Southwest Florida.

The permit is one of the most sought-after game fish in Florida. Anglers have been known to fly into the Keys from everywhere on the planet to catch one of these elusive members of the jack family. In the Florida Keys, the permit is stalked in flats boats while feeding over grass flats. It is most often taken with small crabs, but it is also targeted by fly fishermen, and, because of its cautious nature, is considered (along with bonefish) to be one of the hardest fish to catch on a fly. Because of its similar shape, the immature permit is readily confused with the pompano. The best method of identifying one from the other is to remember that the belly of a pompano is yellow, and the back anal fin region of a permit is a distinct orange.

Locally the permit is almost never found in the back bays and estuaries. The most likely place to find large schools of permit is over the near shore and offshore artificial reefs of Lee County. In the early spring, though, the summer permit congregate in large schools at the Doc Kline, Belton Johnson, Edison, and Pace's Place reefs. (For a complete list of these reefs, go to [Lee Reefs.org](http://LeeReefs.org)). Few anglers ever attempt to take them on a fly in deeper water, and the baits of choice are two- to three-inch crabs or fresh, live, hand-picked shrimp.

The fish over these reefs tend to be large, averaging 15 to 35 pounds. Fluorocarbon leader, light tackle with good drag systems, and buried hooks are a must. The permit is a sight feeder and has sharp eyesight. Any sign of a hook and it will not bite. Extremely wary, the permit has to be approached slowly, and care must be taken not to spook the school. Coming upon one of these schools, even if you are not trying to catch a permit, is a true marvel. They often number in the hundreds of fish per school, and their bright, silver sides flashing in the sunlight make for a fantastic sighting.

In the wild the permit feeds on mollusks, crabs, and shrimp. It seldom feeds on small fish but has been known to do so on rare occasions. Once it reaches adult size, which can top 50 pounds, the only fish capable on feeding on permit are large sharks. A tireless fighter and considered good table fare, the permit will always be a top-notch catch in Florida waters.

Authors note: Permit are just now starting to appear on the offshore reefs of Lee and Collier Counties. They will remain over these reefs in large numbers through mid-summer. Anglers interested in catching these amazing fish should head out in April or May for the best opportunity of landing this outstanding Florida game fish.

This article is an excerpt from Living Sanibel-A Nature Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands. Charles Sobczak lives and writes on Sanibel Island. To find out more about the author and his books, visit www.indigopress.net.

Florida Tales

by Chester Keene



"Snake Salesman of Florida"



Rattlesnakes were everywhere back in the day when the Prairies were not fenced. They stretched from Arcadia east to Lake Okeechobee and on to the east coast.

Hunters complained there were so many of them when bird hunting they had to wear metal leggings around their legs to protect from snake bites. The dogs wore no protection and many were struck by snakes and died if not given proper treatment. It was almost impossible to get them back to a place to save them. Some did survive though. The county of Desoto offered a .25 cent bounty on them. Payment was upon producing the rattles from their tails. There was a man named George End and he paid between \$1.50 and \$3.00 each depending on the size. It was not hard to capture the snakes in the palmettos once they were set on fire. The snake crawled out of a hole and with a long pole with a wire loop on the end they were caught, put in sacks tied up and taken in. His business was so good during the depression that he opened up a rattlesnake processing plant and cannery. He sold canned cooked rattlesnake and made products from the skins, like they do now with Alligators. He even designed and made outfits from jackets to shoes and purses.

To be continued...

Chester Keene is a retired law enforcement officer and Florida native. He retains the copyright to this article.

ESHP News

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation will hold a Board Meeting on **Monday, May 5**, at 8:30 a.m. in City Hall. The agenda includes a report on Historical Signs and a discussion of next year's events. Members are welcome. For information, call Marya at 695-2905.



On April 11 a red truck drove through the front lawn of City Hall, knocking down the sign purchased by ESHP. This will be replaced and more signs will be installed at other historic sites around town.



MUSEUM of the Everglades

The celebration of the Museum's 16th Birthday and the 86th Anniversary of the Opening of the Tamiami Trail will be held on **Saturday, April 26**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is an annual community event sponsored by the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. Everyone is invited and enjoy the antique cars, live music, arts and crafts, a walking tour, free lunch and cake, and old-timers storytelling. Don't miss it!

The current exhibit in the Pauline Reeves Gallery "Florida Nature: Through the Artist's Eye" by Christine Reichlow will continue through **April 30**. Beginning in **May** Muffy Clark Gill will exhibit her work titled "The 20th Century Seminole Experience: Paintings from the Florida Indian Tribes Series" through the end of May. Everyone is invited to meet Muffy at a reception hosted by the Friends of the Museum on **Saturday, May 10**, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please join us!

The Museum of the Everglades is now open **Monday** through Saturday. Jennifer Perry has been assigned the new manager. She will be featured in our next issue.

The meeting of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Museum is held the first Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in City Hall. All members are welcome to attend. Visit www.evergladesmuseum.org for more information or pick up a brochure in the Museum.

SMALLWOOD STORE & MUSEUM

A committee has been organized to find ways to assist in fundraising events for the historic Smallwood Store & Museum. The first meeting was held on April 7 and several ideas for speakers, events and music festivals were discussed. If you are interested in learning more and helping with these proposed programs, please attend the next meeting on **Monday, May 5**, at 9:30 a.m. immediately following the ESHP meeting in City Hall. For more information, call Patty at 695-2397.



Art in the Lift

by Iris Schwartz

Michelangelo needed a scaffold but Ruth Andrus, an Ohio native, and her children needed only a ladder, and of course, paint. She and her two youngest children, Rachel, now 19, and John, 16, both students at Palmetto Ridge High School in Naples, created a modern day work of art in of all places, an elevator shaft. From the manatee and snook in the water to the crabs and oysters on the mangrove roots to the feeding spoonbills, raccoons, ibis and great blue heron, visitors are treated up-close to a rendering of the natural environment of Everglades National Park (Park) when visitors use the two-story elevator to access the Gulf Coast Visitor Center at the Park. As the elevator goes up, the view also includes mangrove islands in the distance and osprey, both perched and carrying their prey, as well as vultures circling overhead.

Ruth and her children are no strangers to public art. For years, she and her children have been volunteering their time and talent in numerous public places. From her eldest daughter who worked in chalk on sidewalks to raise money for charity (one of the family's first such projects) and the murals on the climbing wall in Marco's Mackle Park, a number of projects have the family's mark. Ruth said that "The elevator project began as an opportunity for Rachel and John to volunteer their time. The Park had published a volunteer opportunity early last summer to decorate the elevator at the visitor center in Everglades City." Ruth loved the idea and submitted the photos of previous work, a conception of the work and a statement from the artist, as outlined in the call for volunteers. Ruth noted that "this was a challenging assignment! The elevator shaft was warm without air conditioning and it is a relatively tight space." Park Supervisory Ranger Susan Reece said, "It is always a pleasure to have volunteers assist us here at the park, and special projects such as this help to enhance the visitor experience."

This project got underway in late October and was complete by December in time for the Park's busy season. Of course, there may be yet a bird or two to add—after all, there are over 300 species of birds in the Everglades.

Iris Schwartz volunteers at the Gulf Coast Visitor Center at Everglades National Park.

TAXING THINGS *by Mike the Tax Guy*

What Are You Doing With My Money?



Now that we have struggled through another tax year, it might be somewhat consoling to have some idea of what the federal government does with our money. According to an analysis by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget that was published in the Wall Street Journal, most of our hard earned goes to Defense and Social Security. Some of the hot button issues like foreign aid, Supplemental Income, Food Stamps, and other seemingly questionable expenditures are pretty far behind these two items. If you take a look at the distribution of every ten dollars in revenue it looks like this:

Defense:	\$2.38
Social Security	2.34
Medicare/Medicaid	2.22
Interest	0.64
Veterans Benefits	0.40
Transportation	0.27
Civilian Retirement	0.27
Food Stamps	0.24
Tax Credits	0.24
Unemployment	0.20
SSI	0.15
Housing Assistance	0.14
Education	0.13
Foreign Aid	0.10
Agriculture	0.09
Congressional Salaries	0.004
Other miscellaneous	0.022

If we had to pay for all of the federal spending in 2013 it would have added an additional \$2.45 for every \$10.00 to our tax bill.

Mike, The Tax Guy, provides income tax services. Telephone 695-0595.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

to everyone who made our annual Everglades Bike ride such a success, especially the following: Mayor Hamilton and Everglades City for the use of McLeod Park; Everglades City Motel for parking facilities; Collier County Sheriff's Department for signage and support; Snook Publications for sponsorship; Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park; Pam and Triad Seafood for the wonderful seafood lunch; HC and Jane Rackley and Linda Williams for set-up, clean-up, desserts and all their help throughout the event; Matt Walthour with Marco Island Bike Shop; and the Naples Pathways Coalition volunteers Maureen Bonness, Karen Walters, Patrick Ruff, Jane Cheffy, Larry Mutter, Joe Bonness, Alan Ryker, and Cathy Faerber. All 129 participants enjoyed the ride, on and off road. This event brings to attention the River of Grass Greenway project, a proposed pathway across the Everglades from Naples to Miami. For more information, visit www.evergladesROGG.org.

My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock



Some Common Landscape Plants Hazardous to Pets & Humans

I love plants. For whatever reason, I get satisfaction and comfort from planting and growing healthy plants. It seems many people are just like me, visit any garden center and you'll see cart after cart filled with greenery and flowers.

Most of us shop for plants based on how they will enhance our landscape and how easy (or difficult) they are to grow. In the store, the tags on the plants describe where to plant it, whether it is an "easy" or "difficult" variety and how big it will get.

People who know me, also know I am crazy about dogs. I have pretty much had a dog my entire life. A perfect day for me is a day outside with my dog(s) as I tinker in the garden.

One evening a while back, I was reading a pet blog and learned about a deadly fleshy seed produced on a common landscape plant. Seems this seed causes almost immediate liver and kidney failure in dogs...and my yard was loaded with them! What's worse, it seems dogs are actually attracted to the taste of the fruit. That evening I would not let my dog Tank outside unsupervised, and the very next morning, we removed the plants; *Zamia furfuracea* or the "cardboard plant" (This is a very popular landscape plant that is often in medians, parks, and backyards.).

What is most surprising to me was that it is common knowledge that their seeds are extremely toxic, yet there is no warning on the tag that tells you all about the plant. I don't know about you, but I think it's more important to know that it will kill my dogs and make my kids very, very sick, than it is to understand how easy it is to grow or that it needs full sun! It would be nice if this little tidbit of information was on the plant tag...but then again, I would never have purchased it so I guess that is why it's not there ... no one with kids or pets would buy them so they'd make less money.

The lesson I learned on that night, fortunately before anything really bad happened, was I need to know more before I plant something. I now make it a habit to research the plant before I plant it in my yard because I now realize that those plant tags are only designed to sell it to you, not to (fully) educate you. Buyer beware!

Next time in My Little Slice of Paradise - The Great Crested Flycatcher - This unique little bird has a very interesting habit...

Kathy Brock and her husband Tim have been spending weekends in their Everglades City home for over 20 years.

RESTAURANTS



- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12 noon – 9:00 pm; daily
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
6:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily
- Everglades Seafood Depot (695-0075):**
10:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):**
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
(Marina closes at 12 noon)
- Havana Café (695-2214):**
Closed for the Summer
- Island Café (695-0003):**
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
- Ivey House (695-3299):**
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
- Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):**
10:00 am – 5:00 pm; daily
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):**
11:00 am – 9 pm; Sun thru Thurs
11:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Rod & Gun (695-2101):**
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Subway at Gator Express (695-3937):**
7:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily
- Sweet Mayberry's Café (695-0092):**
8:00 am – 7:00 pm; Sun – Wed; Wifi
8:00 am - 10:00 pm; Thurs-Fri-Sat
- The New Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands (757- 374-3194):**
2 – 9 pm; Tues thru Fri
11:30 am – 9 pm; Sat and Sun
Bar open until Midnight
- Triad Seafood (695-2662):**
10:30 am – 5 pm; daily
- Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):**
9:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):**
8:00 am – 6:00 pm, Mon-Sat



- Loco's Fresh Produce (239-462-7050):**
ECity Post Office parking lot
7 am – 4 pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

- Chokoloskee Church of God**
10 am Sunday School, 11 am Sunday Worship
- Copeland Baptist Church**
10 am Sunday School, 11 am Sunday Worship
- Everglades Community Church**
11 am Sunday Worship
- Everglades First Baptist Church**
9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
- Holy Family Catholic Church**
10:30 am Mass (*Closed May - Thanksgiving*)
- St. Finbarr Catholic Church**
8 am and 10 am (Spanish) Mass



Owners of these beautiful Porsche cars from Broward and Dade counties enjoyed lunch at Triad Seafood on Saturday, April 12.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W

<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

04/25	Fri	12:14am	2.5	H
04/25	Fri	07:24am	0.1	L
04/25	Fri	12:50pm	2.6	H
04/25	Fri	07:58pm	0.2	L
04/26	Sat	01:16am	2.6	H
04/26	Sat	08:13am	0.2	L
04/26	Sat	01:25pm	2.8	H
04/26	Sat	08:47pm	0.0	L
04/27	Sun	02:09am	2.6	H
04/27	Sun	09:00am	0.3	L
04/27	Sun	01:57pm	3.0	H
04/27	Sun	09:34pm	-0.2	L
04/28	Mon	02:55am	2.6	H
04/28	Mon	09:43am	0.4	L
04/28	Mon	02:29pm	3.1	H
04/28	Mon	10:19pm	-0.3	L
04/29	Tue	03:38am	2.5	H
04/29	Tue	10:24am	0.5	L
04/29	Tue	03:00pm	3.1	H
04/29	Tue	11:02pm	-0.3	L
04/30	Wed	04:20am	2.5	H
04/30	Wed	11:03am	0.6	L
04/30	Wed	03:32pm	3.1	H
04/30	Wed	11:44pm	-0.3	L
05/01	Thu	05:03am	2.4	H
05/01	Thu	11:41am	0.6	L
05/01	Thu	04:05pm	3.0	H
05/02	Fri	12:26am	-0.2	L
05/02	Fri	05:50am	2.3	H
05/02	Fri	12:18pm	0.7	L
05/02	Fri	04:42pm	2.9	H
05/03	Sat	01:09am	-0.1	L
05/03	Sat	06:40am	2.2	H
05/03	Sat	12:56pm	0.8	L
05/03	Sat	05:24pm	2.7	H
05/04	Sun	01:56am	0.0	L
05/04	Sun	07:34am	2.1	H
05/04	Sun	01:40pm	0.9	L
05/04	Sun	06:19pm	2.5	H
05/05	Mon	02:48am	0.1	L
05/05	Mon	08:30am	2.1	H
05/05	Mon	02:48pm	0.9	L
05/05	Mon	07:34pm	2.4	H
05/06	Tue	03:47am	0.2	L
05/06	Tue	09:28am	2.1	H
05/06	Tue	04:16pm	0.9	L
05/06	Tue	08:54pm	2.2	H
05/07	Wed	04:49am	0.3	L
05/07	Wed	10:24am	2.2	H
05/07	Wed	05:32pm	0.8	L
05/07	Wed	10:10pm	2.2	H
05/08	Thu	05:46am	0.4	L
05/08	Thu	11:15am	2.3	H
05/08	Thu	06:31pm	0.6	L
05/08	Thu	11:21pm	2.2	H
05/09	Fri	06:36am	0.4	L
05/09	Fri	11:59am	2.5	H
05/09	Fri	07:19pm	0.5	L



Martha Hutcheson was honored at a Museum evening event on April 9 by Mayor Sammy Hamilton (shown above) and by Museum Director Ron Jamro for her outstanding service to a visitor (see *Mullet Rapper* article online: *Angel of the Swamp* in the March 28 issue).

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Everglades Area Hot Lines

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 313-530-3395
AAnon 239-263-5907
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) 239-776-1525

12-Step Meeting Schedules
are available in City Hall and
Chokoloskee Post Office

See the Rapper in full color!
Visit our website.

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Lot #26 in Fisherman's Cove; dock included. \$38,000. Call (239) 300-7077 or (239) 682-6025.

FOR SALE: 2013 Suzuki Outboard 4 hp Motor, like new and used 6 hours. \$850. Phone (306) 531-4430 Ochopee after 7 pm.

FOR SALE: Deeded dock at Captain's Table (#10). Great location, use of pool & boat ramp. \$21,500. Call (954) 662-7003.

FOR SALE: 1995 Suzuki 25 hp, long shaft, tiller, runs great. \$500. Call (239) 695-2791.

FOR SALE: 10' Kayak (fiberglass) & paddle Excellent condition. \$500 (574) 850-4526.

FOR SALE: Manufactured Home, 3/2 on waterfront Plantation Is: walkway/mooring to water. \$104,500 (REDUCED PRICE) Call Pat (239) 352-7328.

WANTED: All Motor Homes, 5th wheels and travel trailers. Any condition. Cash paid on the spot. Call Paul at (941) 347-7171.

FOR SALE



Deeded Waterfront Fishing Cottage:

This unique 2 story fishing lodge is an excellent live-in plus incoming producing property. 2 BR and 2 Baths upstairs and 2 BR and 2 Baths with private entrance downstairs - plenty of room for large groups and families. Patios and decking allow for beautiful views of the sunsets over Chokoloskee Bay. Boat dock and lift, direct access to the Gulf or Back-Country fishing. The perfect South Florida Fishing retreat. Enjoy the Florida Everglades, whether you like fishing and boating or kayaking and canoeing. Home is available furnished and is move in ready-to-fish. A steal at \$318K. Call 954-662-7003 for more information.

PET PICS

Duke, the friendly rooster, enjoys dancing on his porch.



Send us your Pet Pics by post or email.

JOBS & SERVICES

Income Tax Service

Mike, *The Tax Guy* - 695-0595

Port of the Islands: Room Attendant - full or part time. Responsible for ensuring cleanliness of guest rooms and public areas, interact with co-workers and guests in a courteous manner and give attention to detail. Previous housekeeping experience required; must speak English and bi-lingual a plus. Must have the ability to lift up to 40 pounds, assist with laundry and be capable of walking, standing, etc., for extended time periods. Flexible schedule to include days, evenings, weekends and holidays is required. Apply online at <http://www.sunstream.com>.

Also, openings for wait staff and bartenders. Contact Naomi Stephens at (757) 374-3194.

Music Lessons and Tutoring

for students: violin, piano, voice, history, English, writing, science, 3rd & 5th gr subjects and more !
Call Danielle Swisher at 280-8971 or
Email: dmswisher85@gmail.com.

Notary Public Services: Denise Johnson,
By Appointment, 239-465-1580

Job Wanted: Pressure cleaning homes, boats, RV, store fronts. Call Justin 695-0500.

WANTED: Automotive Window Tinter
Certain Requirements Apply. Call 695-3667.

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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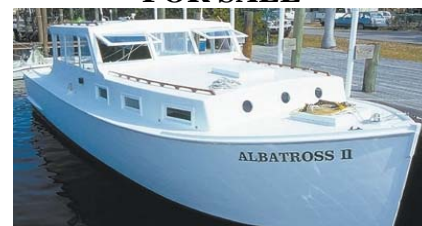
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