

# Ebb Tide



## Home at Last...

By Eve M. Haverfield

The Kemp's ridley sea turtle (named after Richard Kemp, a fisherman from Key West, Florida, who provided a hatchling specimen to a scientist in 1880) is the smallest and most endangered of the seven species of sea turtles in the world. In 1947, a Mexican engineer, Andres Herrera filmed approximately 42,000 ridleys as they came ashore to nest in broad daylight. This mass group nesting is called an *arribada*. Regretfully, it would not be until the 1960s that the sea turtle scientific community became aware of the existence of the film. By the 1980s an *arribada* rarely consisted of more than 200 turtles... the Kemp's ridley was on the brink of extinction.

Through concerted efforts by Mexican and U.S. biologists and a host of wildlife managers and volunteers, the Kemp's ridley is making a comeback. However, according to Dr. Blair Witherington of the FWC Research Institute, the status of the Kemp's ridley sea turtle remains precarious with the world's population at about only 5000 adult females. I am happy to report that a Kemp's ridley nested on Sanibel this year!

Given the rarity of these enigmatic survivors, I was thrilled when the phone call came from the Pink Shell Resort on Fort Myers Beach that a ridley had been rescued from a fisherman's hook. Fortunately, the hook was lodged in the mouth where it was accessible for



removal rather than having been ingested! Following a visit to CROW for expert care and rehabilitation, our little ridley finally was ready to 'go home'. Heather Stafford and Cheryl Clark, DEP, Andrea Stetson, free-lance reporter, and I set out to find the perfect place for his/her (too young to determine yet) release. The Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve is host to juvenile ridleys who find abundant sources of food including blue crabs in the shallow waters. As we approached the area that Heather had suggested, suddenly a Kemp's ridley the same size as ours surfaced near us...we all let out an in-unison spontaneous squeal! We found the perfect place! A few moments later, with well wishes, we gently released our ridley into Estero Bay and watched that magical moment when an animal returns to its element. The little ridley raced away from us...we sighed and smiled.



### THE EBB TIDE IS ON-LINE

Wonder what this newsletter looks like in color? Want to recommend a story to a friend? Find the online edition at:

[www.esterobaybuddies.org](http://www.esterobaybuddies.org)

Got questions? Please email them to:

[info@esterobaybuddies.org](mailto:info@esterobaybuddies.org)

Volume 10 Number 2 June 2011

Sherry Furnari, editor

# The Estero Bay Buddies... Quick Notes!

June 20th—A going away luncheon was held for long-time EBAP staff member, Stephanie Erickson. After nearly 10-years of service, she announced that she was leaving to become a full-time mom to her three young sons: Alexander, William & Christopher. We wish her good mental health & luck in her future endeavors! Boys, please be good to your mommy...she deserves your best behavior!!!



Volunteer EBB member needed to be the next Ebb Tide editor!!! All you need is a little time, access to a computer with Microsoft Publisher, Excel, Word & Adobe Acrobat software programs, email capability, some writing skills and ability

to coordinate with others. Now you can provide information to others in this quarterly newsletter!

Please contact Sherry @ 239-282-0892 or email [shfurnari8@yahoo.com](mailto:shfurnari8@yahoo.com) for additional details.



## Calendar of Events

July 5th, Tuesday – 5<sup>th</sup> of July Clean Up on the Beach or in your Community

September 17th, Saturday – International Coastal Clean Up

October 29th, Saturday—Great Outdoor Adventure Day @ Lovers Key State Park, 10am—3pm.

October 30th, Sunday – Monofilament Madness Marine Clean Up

November 5th, Saturday - National Estuaries Day—A Free Day at the Bay, Bunche Beach

January 1st, 2012, Sunday – New Year's Resolution Beach Clean Up

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Newsletter of the Estero Bay Buddies

Volume 10 Number 2

The Mission of the Estero Bay Buddies (EBB), a Citizen Support Organization for Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and Estero Bay Preserve State Park, is to support and further the protection, conservation, restoration, management, and the enhancement of the natural and cultural resources of the coastal and aquatic ecosystems of the Estero Bay estuary and watershed for the enjoyment and appreciation of current and future generations.

### Estero Bay Buddies Board of Directors

Laura Carr	President
Terry Cain	Vice President
Jim Wohlpart	Secretary
Reggie McNeill	Treasurer
Sherry Furnari	Board Member
Stephanie Goodwin	Board Member
Jack Horner	Board Member
Sarah Larsen	Board Member
Sasha Linsin-Wohlpart	Board Member
Dorothy McNeill	Board Member
Ellen Peterson	Board Member
Pam Rokoskie	Board Member

### Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA)

Cheryl Clark	Environmental Specialist I
Julie Drevenkar	Environmental Specialist I
Stephanie Erickson	Environmental Specialist I
Sherry Furnari	Environmental Specialist I
Heather Stafford	Manager ES III

### Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP)

Robert Brooks	Manager
Karen LaCivita	Assistant Manager
Erin Maehl	Administrative Staff Assistant
Jon Meyer	Environmental Specialist I

Please send contributions to:  
Estero Bay Buddies  
700-1 Fisherman's Wharf  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

EBB contact phone (Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve office):  
239.463.3240

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*Be A Buddy! Estero Bay Buddies Want You!*

If you would like to become an EBB member, or if it's time to renew your membership please write a check to:  
**Estero Bay Buddies, Inc.**  
 and mail with the membership form to: 700-I Fisherman's Wharf, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
 Student \$5; Individual \$10; Family \$15; Contributing \$25; Supporting \$50; Non-profit \$25; Association (Homeowner, Condo or Civic) \$25; Business \$100; Donor \$100-500.

## Membership Form

**Yes!** I would like to make a difference by joining the Estero Bay Buddies Inc.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

New Member

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ (city) (state) (zip code)

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Dues:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10   | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 (Ages 17 & under are free)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Association (Homeowner, Condominium or Civic) \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50   | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate \$100     | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$100 - \$500                                |

Additionally, I/we would like to make a contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return with check payable to Estero Bay Buddies, Inc. The Estero Bay Buddies, Inc. is a non-profit organization.

I would prefer to support the "Buddies" with dues as a member and/or through monetary donations.

I would like to become an active volunteer and participate in resource management, research/monitoring and education activities.



**Special Offer: One free EBB T-shirt with a new membership of \$10 or more!**

Exclusive EBB design and logo lets people know you care about Estero Bay. Great for fishermen and fisherwomen, environmental activists, old-timers, boaters, personal-water craft riders, divers and everyone else who cares about the health of Florida's waters!

Request newly designed white T-shirts or older T-shirts with colors of Turquoise, Granite, or 40th Anniversary Clyde Butcher photo on white. State size and color. Size: S to XXL.

## Membership Form

New/renewing members, please check all boxes that apply to your interests.

### Resource Management

Exotic Plant Control (Removal/herbicide treatment of Melaleuca, Brazilian Pepper, and other exotics.)

Habitat Restoration

Nature Trail Construction and Maintenance

Monitoring/Patrol of the Preserve State Park

Resource Watch/Patrol of the Aquatic Preserve  
(Boaters, Canoe and Kayak enthusiasts)

Monitoring Mangrove Forests

Monitoring Bird Rookeries

Monitoring Indian Shell Mounds

Assistance with Resource Inventories

Participating in Coastal Clean Ups

### Education

Conducting Guided Nature Walks

Environmental Education/Public Outreach

### Research and Monitoring

Citizen Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

Computer (Managing Data using Windows XP, ACCESS DataBase and EXCEL spreadsheets)

### Advocacy

Computer/Desktop Publishing (Newsletter, Brochures, Flyers, etc.)

Office Assistance Support (reception, hospitality, answering phones, mailings, etc.)

Land Acquisition

Fund-raising events

Letter Writing Campaigns

### Other

Become a board member

Other (please explain in detail)

**Estero Bay Buddies, Inc.  
700-1 Fisherman's Wharf  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

**Attention Members:** Since we are now e-mailing the newsletter to our membership, we don't have the flexibility of showing when membership fees are due for each member. Therefore, we will be e-mailing you with a reminder a few weeks prior to when membership fees are dues. Thanks very much for your continued support for the Buddies!!!



## A Bird's Eye View of Estero Bay's Rookery Islands

By Cheryl P. Clark

John MacLennan is one of the newest volunteers to our rookery monitoring program; an avid bird watcher for the past 40 years, John has birded in the northeastern US as well as in China, England, and Dubai while on business trips. He is a Board Member of the San-Cap Audubon Society, a rover at the Ding Darling NWR and a Snowy Plover monitor for SCCF. John and his wife Suzanne Dubuc have been coming to Sanibel since 1984 and moved there full-time in 2008. John started monitoring with Estero Bay in January of this year and after conducting surveys from the boat he invited us to join him in the air for a change of scenery.

On May 4<sup>th</sup> John treated AP staff to a bird's eye view of the bay. John is also a pilot with 40+ years of experience and over 6000 flying hours including 28 years of military flying; the last 17 years of which

were spent flying the C-130 with the Rhode Island Air National Guard. John now flies general aviation aircraft in Rhode Island and Florida and is a member of the Sundowners Flying Group, Page Field, Fort Myers, where they have two Cessna 172s and one Cessna 182. It was one of the Cessna 172s that John took us up in. As we soared over the bay, I located nesting islands and recorded data while Neil Langenberg, from CHAP, photographed the rookeries. Active islands were easily spotted from the air; however smoke from the Jarhead fire in Big Cypress limited our visibility and prohibited us from using the photographs to count nests. It was a wonderful experience and a new view of the islands we spend so much time monitoring. We are very excited that John has joined our exceptional team of rookery volunteers and we look forward to his return next fall.

## 10th Annual Earth Day Festival

By Sherry Furnari

On Saturday, April 23rd, an Earth Day celebration was held at Koreshan State Historic Site. The Estero Bay Buddies was one of over 60 vendors/groups that attended this event. Attendance has steadily decreased over the last few years, although this year's event drew nearly 1,200 people to the festival. Nearly 390 vehicles arrived with an average of 3 people per vehicle.

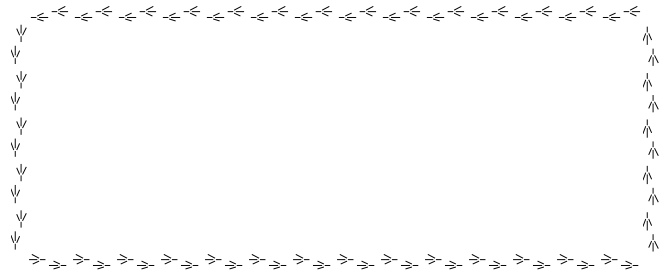
A special "Thanks" to Mike Weston with the Florida Division of Forestry, Caloosahatchee District for donating native plants and for



providing an educational display for their "Forest Stewardship Program." The Buddies gave away a variety of trees & shrubs (live oaks, south Florida slash pines, wax myrtle, cypress, sweet bay, coontie, myrsine, and saw palmetto) to the public to plant in their native friendly yards.

Kayak rides on the Estero River were also provided for free by a local outfitter. Many other vendors offered healthy foods, fresh desserts, organically grown produce, information on solar energy, hand-made jewelry, arts & crafts, live music by several bands, and kid's activities. A drumming circle was held later in the evening for anyone to join in and several brought their drums while others danced until the early evening shaded by the large live oak trees.

Estero Bay Buddies, Inc.  
700-1 Fisherman's Wharf  
Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931



## On the Last CHNEP Sponsored Wading Trip of the Season...

By Stephanie Erickson

On May 23rd, some very enthusiastic Buddies members, intrigued by what lies beneath the waters of Estero Bay, joined Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve staff on an estuary wading trip on Lovers Key. The intrepid adventurers discovered first hand why seagrass beds are such an important habitat. Known as "nursery grounds" of the estuary, seagrass beds support over 3/4 of our commercial and recreational fish and shellfish species during some part of their life cycle. Young fish find protection in the seagrass beds, and food among the seagrass blades. Dolphins and other predators rely on the young found here for food, as well as on the adults that come in to spawn. Life in the estuary is prolific, which the participants were able to observe first hand.

With dip nets in hand, the group brought in everything from grass shrimp, blue crabs, spider crabs and tube worms, to pipe fish, file fish, puffer fish and pregnant seahorses. Those trying their hand at the seine net brought in pinfish, mojarra, bay anchovies and more. And

there were multiple species of mollusks collected...horse conchs, fighting conchs and lightning whelks, among others. Observant participants were lucky enough to be able to witness the conchs extending their muscular foot out in an attempt to turn themselves around. And one particular highlight of the trip was the discovery of a live scallop. With its rows of beautiful blue eyes and its ability to snap its shell closed with incredible speed, the scallop captivated everyone on the trip and drew attention from passersby.

As an additional bonus, the group was lucky enough to have their diverse haul documented, as portions of the trip were filmed for use in the production of a "virtual wading trip" video. Thanks to all the wading trip attendees for their cooperation and infectious enthusiasm! The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) has contracted with WGCU to produce the video which will include portions of several wading trips conducted around the greater Charlotte Harbor area. The finished product is expected to come out sometime in September.

## EBB Annual Meeting & Changes on the Board



By Sherry Furnari

On Saturday, March 26th, members of the Estero Bay Buddies, the FDEP's Estero Bay AP & Estero Bay Preserve State Park offices attended the annual EBB Meeting. Held at Koreshan State Historic Site, the meeting began with a garden tour on the grounds of the historic Koreshan settlement, led by Karen LaCivita, Assistant Park Manager.

A slate was then presented to the membership for the election of Board Members since we had one vacancy for a two year term (expires in 2012) and Stephanie Goodwin was nominated to fill this spot. Chris Christensen resigned earlier in March to travel more with his wife Jean. Chris was a board member for 7 years and has been a buddy for 12 years...and still counting! Please stay safe during your globe travels and we will continue to see Chris during future buddy events.

Stephanie Goodwin is majoring in Environmental Studies at FGCU and currently works as a lab intern and an office assistant with the Personnel Development Partnership at the university. Welcome Stephanie!