

Available For Presale

A new book celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Everglades Foundation ...

If you love the Florida Keys for sport fishing, diving, boating, seafood or sunsets, you know the magic of Florida Bay. Tourists from around the world and residents of South Florida cherish the Bay for its scenic beauty. This valuable and vulnerable resource is home to remarkable birds, fish and other sea life, and depends upon the quantity and quality of water flowing through the Everglades for its health.

The incredible beauty of Florida Bay is apparent to us all. What is less obvious is the decades-long, behind-the-scenes effort of dozens of conservation groups to restore the Everglades and improve Florida Bay.

Founded in 1994 by two conservationists who lived on and fished in Florida Bay, the Everglades Foundation strives to improve water quality for everyone in South Florida—whether we live in or on the Bay. The Foundation's 20th anniversary is a perfect time to celebrate everything they have accomplished, as well as the work of other conservation groups—large and small—throughout the Florida Keys. *Florida Bay Forever* is a hardbound book, 9x12-inches, with 160 full-color pages.

It is available at a pre-order price of \$20 per copy until November 1, 2013. **Questions? Contact Communications Department at Everglades Foundation at 305-251-0001 or info@evergladesfoundation.org.**

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Garden Club of the Upper Keys

At the end of every monthly meeting, members of the Garden Club of the Upper Keys pass a "bird basket" to support the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center. The club is housed in the Francis Tracy Garden Center, which was given to them in the 1960s, provided it stays a garden center. Located in a natural hammock, or tropical evergreen forest, the Francis Tracy Garden Center is a bird sanctuary, and it just happens to be adjacent to the Wild Bird Center. This symbiosis or collaboration is just part of the club's commitment to enhancing the natural experience in the Keys.

Equally pragmatic is the club's focus on the special challenges facing all gardeners in the Upper Keys. The Keys even have with a unique Hardiness Zone designation: Zone 11! Horticulture is different on a fossilized coral reef! Even basic digging tools here must include a pick axe and a digging bar. Many members of the club return to more temperate climes in the summer and they typically don't need these tools up north. As many experienced club members have learned, relatively simple undertakings like vegetable gardening and planting a butterfly garden will be different "on the rock".

"Our mission statement underscores our commitment to protecting and conserving the natural beauty of the Keys, with a focus on native plants," said club president Marilyn Rogers. "We seek to nurture a love of plants and gardening in our members and the community. We encourage speakers to talk about natives in most of our programs."

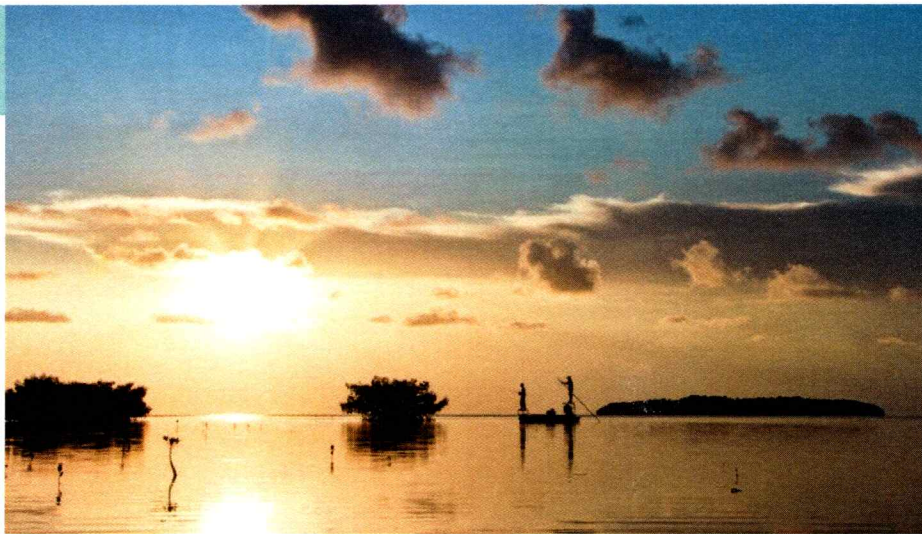
Other educational programs have recently included pruning, hydroponics, vegetable gardening, orchid and butterfly gardening. Favorite field trips include visits to the Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock State Park, Kona Kay Botanical Garden, a bromeliad nursery and, of course, the Wild Bird Center next door.

Sidebar

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, about 13,000 members strong, adopted the Coral Restoration Foundation as a yearlong project, according to Judy Clark, District XII chair for the garden clubs in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Clark initially wanted it to be the District XII project for 2013 because the district is partly tropical "and I wanted to do something different." Now, clubs around the state are as excited about the "underwater gardening" project as Clark.

Members of the Garden Club of the Upper Keys just completed a two day dive trip helping to hang coral on the underwater nursery's 'trees' and transplant larger corals to a designated portion of French Reef in the Keys.

In 2012, the Foundation received a permit to plant 50,000 corals in four years, but it needs money to hire boats and pay for gas, divers and salaries. The Federation is sponsoring the planting of one reef for a year.



Mac Stone



Brian Call

Reserve your copy of Florida Bay Forever now!

If you would like to order copies of *Florida Bay Forever* at the special pre-publication price of \$20 per copy, please contact us by phone, email or mail today.

You will be contacted in October to confirm your order and to provide payment information.

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Featured Keys Conservation Groups

KEY LARGO

Coral Restoration Foundation
Ocean Reef Conservation Assn.

TAVERNIER

Florida Keys Wild Bird Center
Upper Keys Garden Club

ISLAMORADA

Sea Base
Islamorada Fishing and Conservation Trust
Florida Keys Fishing Guides Assn.

MARATHON

Marathon Garden Club
Turtle Hospital
Crane Point Nature Center
Dolphin Research Center

KEY WEST

Key West Botanical Garden
Key West Garden Club
Vandenberg Artificial Reef
Green Living and Energy Education (GLEE)

Commentary by National Conservation Organizations

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Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

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