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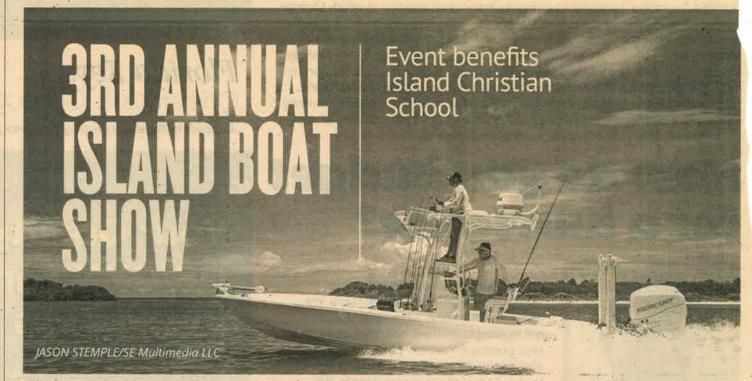
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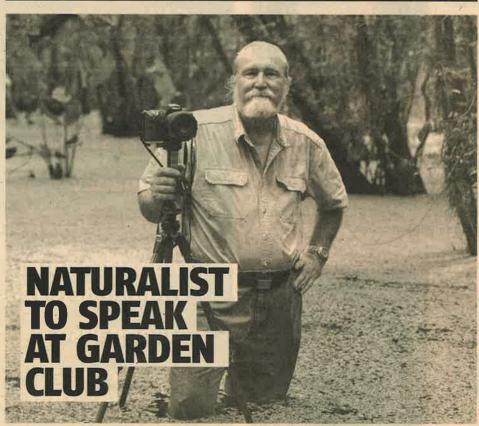
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he third annual Island Boat Show is set for Saturday, Jan. 13 through Monday, Jan. 15. The boat show serves primarily as a benefit for Island Christian School, and is the school's largest fundraiser. Money raised through vendors, sales and silent auction bidding benefits school funding



Roger L. Hammer, an award-winning professional naturalist, author, botanist and photographer will speak on Tuesday Jan. 16, at 11 a.m. at the monthly meeting of the Garden Club of the Upper Keys at the Francis Tracy Garden Center, MM 94 Bayside. His presentation will be on attracting hummingbirds and butterflies to Florida Keys gardens. In 1979 Hammer discovered a population of Florida atalas on Virginia Key — a butterfly reported as "presumed extinct" in 1965. Roger reared larvae for five years and released them in Broward and Miami Dade County preserves. The discovery was made public by National Geographic in 1985. Hammer also has discovered two species of native orchids that were new to the flora of Florida, and is credited with discovering the first pair of Bahama woodstar hummingbirds in North America. More information is online at gardenclubupperkeys.org. CONTRIBUTED

and its scholarships.

In its first two years, the boat show was held at Hawks Cay Resort on Duck Key, but because of damage caused to the resort property by Hurricane Irma, the venue had to be changed this year. After some searching, organizers decided Island Christian School Campus at MM 83.4 bayside was the best alternative.

"When Hawks Cay Resort had to shut down, we had to make a choice. Everyone leading it all got together, and for a moment we debated not doing it," said Island Christian School founder, Pastor Tony Hammon. "But because nearly \$100,000 of our budget comes from the boat show, we thought it was crucial in our efforts to keeping students, families, and teachers.

Hammon expects the boat show to return to its original venue on Duck Key in 2019:

This year's show will feature 10 boat dealers, showcasing more than 50 vessels ranging in style and length. Four of the Keys' top fishing guides will hold seminars that will cover topics to ranging from dolphin to swordfish (see page 16). Half-day fishing trips, resort stays, restaurant gift certificates, engines, and more will be available to bid on during the three-day silent auction. Onsite, more than 20 vendors will be retailing nautical/fishing gear of all types. Hungry guests can sample food from five different vendors, and for kids, organizers have acquired two bounce houses.

Show hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15. Admission is \$10. Visit islandboatshow.com for more information.