

Pelicans

Story and photo by Rich Peine

One of the silliest looking birds on the planet is the pelican, but give them credit. They are great fishermen and cooperate with each other when fishing. Pelicans will form a U shaped line, and beat their wings on the water, driving the fish into the shallows.

There are 7 species of pelican throughout the planet. They can get up to 5 feet long with a wing span of 10 feet. Pelicans' average weight is 30 pounds, and they can live to be 30 years old. They are found in all parts of the world where there is coastline or a lake. Lewis and Clark found them up the Missouri River during their expedition (1803 -1806).

Pelicans don't use the pouch to hold fish as is commonly thought. They use their pouch as a net to catch fish. They then drain out the water and swallow their catch whole. As anybody who has lived here for more than a year knows, pelicans hang out together. They live in groups called colonies and are very social creatures.

To get an up front and personal look at these



interesting birds, stop by the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center at MM 93.6. At 3:30 in the afternoon the folks at the center feed the pelicans as well as other birds. It's a good outing for those friends and relatives that visit, and if you haven't been there check it out.

I leave you with this though from Dixon Lanier Merritt (1879-1972)

*A wonderful bird is the pelican,
His mouth can hold more than
his belly can,
He can hold in his beak,
Enough food for a week.
I'm damned if I know how the
hell he can!*

Shred Week 2009 at the Marathon Skate Park

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305-664-8400 • MM 85.5 Oceanside At Snake Creek Bridge

Artist of the Month Guy Snell



Story and photo by Rich Peine

Prodigies do not come along often. Especially an artist who's never had an art lesson. Key Largo is lucky to be home to one.

One day in late July I stopped by Doc's Diner to get my favorite chopped steak platter when I noticed someone was painting a mural on the north wall of the Keys Diver store next to Doc's. "This is some quality work," I thought to myself. So, I went over to talk to the artist and found out his name is Guy Snell.

Guy is 14 years old and goes to Coral Shores High School. Guy's talent was discovered by the artist Wyland when he was painting the Whaling wall at MM 98.2. School kids were invited to draw on the "Mini wall" that had been set up for them. Wyland was impressed with Guy's unique style, specifically the way he painted a turtle swimming head on facing the viewer. Wyland took Guy under his wing and the

rest, as they say, "is history". He's been working with the Wyland Foundation, and is now a youth ambassador to the planet. An honor only a few have received.

Rob Mitchell, the owner of Keys Diver, commissioned Guy to paint the wall and if the weather holds out hopes to have it completed by the August 7th the 20th anniversary of Keys Diver.

In addition to his artistic talent, Guy has been a certified diver since he was 10

years old and has a boater's license. He plans to go to college to study marine biology and educate people about the oceans.

Guy is confident and likable, with a ready smile. Stop by the wall and check it out.

The Coconut Telegraph is proud to name him Artist of the Month, and we wish him the very best in all of his endeavors. Interested in his art work? You can get in touch with him at 863-640-2111.

Women of the Islamorada Moose Show Big Hearts



Flo Campell Lynn Hoak Marian Warnike Darrel Milsap Diane Rohr Kathy Lewis

The Women of the Islamorada Moose Lodge present Pastor Darryl Milsap a check for \$1,000 for the 1st Baptist Church of Islamorada's Food Pantry. Every Tuesday the 1st Baptist Church holds a free dinner for hungry locals and the Islamorada Moose ladies helped serve this one. Local businesses and restaurants donate the food. The 1st Baptist Church of Islamorada's Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

For more information call Pastor Darryl at 664-4910.

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