



The Florida Keys Wild Bird Center is in a terminal financial situation. There is little or no money to continue, and to lose this unique rescue center for injured wild birds and the rehab of birds too injured to release would diminish our community.

Laura Quinn has devoted a large part of her life to the birds and the center, including a reverse mortgage on her homestead property to keep the Center alive.

The Center needs donations as well as volunteers. Contact the Center (Bruce Horn) 852-3186 or S. Harvey Ziegler 852-5257 (zgpa@aol.com) to make donations or volunteer.

Checks can be sent to:
Florida Keys Wild Bird Center
93600 Overseas Highway
Key Largo 33037



The Tibetan Monks will be at the Center on Friday November 20, from 10:30 to Noon to bless any pets brought to the Center; there will be no direct charge, but a donation would be appreciated.

**The Coconut Telegraph encourages you to donate.
Look for the birds posted at our advertisers' and other locations!**

Wild Bird Center Story: Visualize This

Real accounts from the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center.

An osprey is thrashing around eight feet above the ground, entangled by its right wing in a length of heavy fishing line strung between a power pole and the palm tree in your front yard. That was what was described to us in a recent call for a bird rescue on Lower Matecumbe Key in Islamorada. We hate these end-of-day calls, especially when they mean a twenty-mile trip - but we go.

While we jumped into the car with our long-handled net and raptor rescue gloves, (we didn't think to bring our camera), the callers put a folding ladder under the bird so that it could stand on it, sparing the wing from being destroyed. They knew better

than to try to deal with those talons and awaited our arrival to do the rescue.

Upon our arrival and approach to the bird, she jumped off the ladder trying to escape from us. With one of us grabbing her legs and supporting her, the other rescuer cut the strong line with scissors that the homeowners had thoughtfully fetched, she was free from entanglement. But she would have to be taken to the Center for a check-up to insure that she had not damaged her wing. The homeowners pointed out a nest on the top of a neighboring tall Norfolk pine which they believed was hers. They asked that she be returned so that she could return to her nest. It was clear that we could not return her to her aerie and that the

electric co-op, who often access osprey nests, could not do so using their bucket truck. The height and location in the back yard of a canal front home made that impossible. She had to be fully recuperated to fly back up there on her own. Fluoroscopic examination back at the Center disclosed neither a fracture nor a dislocation, but she did show a slight droop to her wing which was caused by the strain of hanging by it. They next morning, we found one consequence of the event; an egg was on the cage floor, cracked from the fall from her perch.

After a day of rest and flight in our flight cage, she was deemed ready to return home. Upon her release, she flew directly to her nest, celebrating with a lot of loud

chirping, proclaiming her safe return. The quick thinking of the residents probably saved this bird's wing, and enabled the resulting successful release.

And This Too...

Caloosa Cove Resort on Lower Matecumbe is named for its picturesque oceanfront cove. Like most coves in the Keys, it is shallow and filled with soft sediments of silt and sand with patches of sea grass.

This cove was unique because one of its usual wading birds was a great white heron with a broken wing and about which we received a call for a rescue.

It was standing just offshore, as it had been for the past few days. Upon the approach of our rescuer, it Continued on page 14...



Don't Hug Me



Produced by arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
Written by Phil Olsen Music & Lyrics by Paul Olson

Producers
Kathy Miller & Charlene Sammis

Director
Tom Butler

Starring
**Chris Ypsilanti
Steve Stewart
Geri Luer
Bernadette Noe
Brad Shank**

Oh, for cryin' in yer snow shoes! It's the coldest day of the year in Bunyan Bay when a slick karaoke salesman arrives at the bar and turns the locals' lives upside down. With its over-the-top songs and crazy characters, this "Minnesota love story with singin' and stuff" will have you laughing until the spring thaw.

Performance Dates:

FRIDAY Nov. 27 8 PM CURTAIN	SATURDAY Nov. 28 8 PM CURTAIN	SUNDAY Nov. 29 1 PM MATINEE	and	FRIDAY Dec. 4 8 PM CURTAIN	SATURDAY Dec. 5 8 PM CURTAIN	SUNDAY Dec. 6 1 PM MATINEE
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Murray Nelson Performing Arts Center

MM 102 Bayside Key Largo

Admission \$25 - Tickets sold only at the door

The Keys Players, Inc. is a nonprofit organization; we appreciate your support!

For more info call: 305-453-0997 or visit: www.thekeyplayers.org

Bartender of the Month Linda Long at Pontune's Marina Tiki Bar



Congratulations to Linda Long of Pontune's Marina Tiki Bar and Grille (formerly Marley's Bayside Grill) at mile marker 107 just across Jewfish Creek from Gilbert's. Linda, along with her friend Lynn, put together a 2-day benefit for the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in only two and half weeks and raised over \$3,000. The theme of the benefit was "Save the Ta Ta's" and it was held at Pontune's Tiki Bar the first day and the Mutineer in Florida City the next.

Linda resides in Homestead and had no prior bartending experience before Gilbert's and Marley's. She had previously been a superintendent on construction sites for 10 years. Pontune's just recently purchased Marley's from

Reinhard and Karina Schaupt and changed the name.

"I'm really excited about the changes here," says Long. "The new owners are really great people so the teamwork and camaraderie is all positive and that's why the business is growing. We've got it all."

And they do have it all - Everything from boat rentals to great food, entertainment and beautiful sunsets. Nestled just under the Jewfish Creek Bridge, its one of the best fishing spots in Key Largo.

Lisa Lardinois, former Bartender of

the Month and Linda's co-worker tells us "Linda is the absolute best bar manager I have ever worked with. She puts 110% into her job and has a great time doing it."

Stop in and see Linda. "Save the Ta Ta's" t-shirts and coolie cups are still available.



"She puts 110% into her job and has a great time doing it."
- co-worker
Lisa Lardinois