

## Living Dockside

by Ginny Jones

"Rescue of Rocky"

I jump, fully clothed, into the water, I don't think, I don't feel the cold water or the fact that my flip flops are not a good substitute for fins. I'm trying to save a life.

I'm thankful I swim 3 or 4 times a week, I am petrified by the sight in front of me, there he is frantically trying to find something to cling to and get his little butt out of the water.

I think he knows there are a multitude of creatures, either real or imagined, lurking beneath the surface of the dark water. I'm trying to keep my eyes on him as I swim faster; the distance is not that great, maybe half a football field.

I too worry about swimming here in the lagoon, I

always swim with a mask. I'd rather see what's coming at me. Then I can decide to swim or try at walking on water, depending on the size and appetite of the thing chasing me.

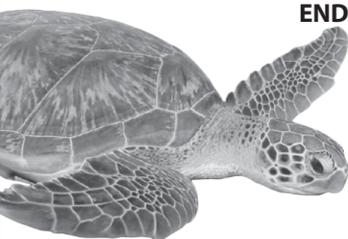
Just as I approach a small houseboat I see him swim (if you can call his awkward gyrations swimming) around to the back of the houseboat.

I finally get there and he is sitting on top of a small white buoy looking at me scared and pissed off.

I look back at him and say, oh Rocky I'm so sorry. I take my little yellow cocktail off the buoy and set him on my head and begin the long swim back to my dock.



**ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SEA TURTLES NEST ON OUR BEACHES FROM MAY TO OCTOBER**



Sea turtles are drawn to light which may cause them to become disoriented and die.

YOU CAN HELP PROTECT THEM

Use only red light emitting flashlights on or near the beach  
Do not shine lights on or take flash photos of sea turtles  
If you see one on the beach please stay well back and don't touch or disturb it  
When you leave the beach fill in holes that might trap adult or baby sea turtles  
Turn off any lights visible on the beach and close your blinds

**JON & JOANNA DREAVER**

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### Featured Artist of The Month:

## Laura Dreaver at Key Largo Conch House

Sunset weddings on the beach are a common sight in Key Largo, growing every year with the rise in popularity of destination weddings. No one knows this better than local business owner and Keys resident of 20 years, Laura Dreaver.

Laura owns and operates the Key Largo Conch House, with her husband Ted Dreaver and their daughter Stephanie. Laura and Ted started the Conch House in 2004 with their two sons, and it quickly became a premier restaurant for Key Largo.

But that was just the beginning! Laura's passion was weddings, and for the last eight years she has been growing her catering service, Key Largo Conch House Tropical Weddings.

Laura laughs as she recalls how nervous she was with the first few small weddings (less than 20 people) that were held at the Conch House. Now she dances like a conductor orchestrating a great symphony, guiding the staff and the settings, catering multiple huge weddings on the same day at various private venues.

With the mobile kitchen that rivals that of her own restaurant and a staff that is larger by half, Laura Dreaver is the Upper Keys name for catering.

Laura attributes her success to the support of her family, her team, hard work, and a desire to help people. She looks forward to growing the business and helping the betrothed of the future create memories to last a lifetime.

Special congratulations to Laura for the birth of her granddaughter Iris Olivia, born May 24.

If you have a wedding or other special event you would like to plan for in the future, please contact Laura at [info@keylargoconchhouse.com](mailto:info@keylargoconchhouse.com)



Conch fritters ready for the wedding guests' arrival.



Paella on the beach; performance art you can eat!



Beautiful island presentations.



Raw bar, presented Keys style.

