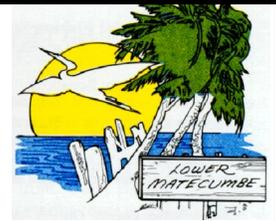


Matecumbe Neighbors



Newsletter of the Lower Matecumbe Key Association

Email Address: LMKAnews@gmail.com

February 2014

February LMKA Meeting

When: Wednesday February 19, 2014; 6:30 pm

Where: Boy Scout Sea Base,
73800 Overseas Highway, MM73.8
Administration Building

Program: "Our Sanctuary and Coral Reef
Restoration" by Martin Moe

**LMKA's February program is
one you won't want to miss!**

How lucky we are to have someone like Martin Moe as a Lower Matecumbe resident environmental activist. Google the name and you will see what a special person Martin is.

Martin Moe, Jr. holds a master's degree from the University of South Florida and his scientific and popular articles and books date back to 1962, when he began his career as a marine biologist for the State of Florida. He entered the private sector and developed the basic technology for breeding Florida pompano in 1970. He accomplished the first commercial culture of marine tropical fish (Ocellularis Clownfish and Neon Gobies) in a garage in 1972, and over the years has reared more than 30 species of marine tropical fish, including spawning, rearing, and even hybridizing French and Grey Angelfish.

He founded the first commercial marine fish hatchery, Aqualife Research Corporation, in 1973 to produce tropical marine aquarium fish, and Green Turtle Publications in 1982 to write and publish books on the marine aquarium hobby.

Moe is the author of a definitive book on tropical Atlantic lobsters, *Lobsters: Florida, the Bahamas, the Caribbean*, as well as his popular and best-selling marine aquarium books, *Marine Aquarium Handbook: Beginner to Breeder* and *The Marine Aquarium Reference: Systems and Invertebrates*.

Other books he authored are *Breeding the Orchid Dottyback: An Aquarist's Journal* and (with his wife, Barbara) *The Marine Aquarist's Quiz Book*. He and Barbara now live in the Florida Keys and have come full circle- they have set up a small experimental marine culture laboratory in a spare room. Recently, after three years of work developing the technology for large-scale breeding of the Long-spined Sea Urchin, *Diadema antillarum*, Moe has been successful, and this technology may be instrumental in future coral reef restoration efforts in the tropical western Atlantic and Caribbean.

Martin has served tirelessly on Village committees. And one of his critical contributions to our community is his role in education and outreach on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Sanctuary advisory councils are community-based advisory groups established to provide advice and recommendations to the superintendents of the national marine sanctuaries. Council members provide expertise on both the local community and sanctuary resources, strengthen connections with the community, and help build increased stewardship for sanctuary resources.

**We all should be grateful to have such
an extraordinary man in our midst!**

If you haven't already

PAY YOUR LMKA 2014 DUES NOW!

Send a check to
LMKA,
Box 911
Islamorada 33036

\$20 per family; \$12 for individuals

You are encouraged to contact the Islamorada Village Council .

Email Village Clerk, Ariana Lawson, at ariana.lawson@islamorada.fl.us and ask her to distribute the email to council. Or send an email to individual members to let them know how you feel .



Mayor, Ted Blackburn
Ted.Blackburn@islamorada.fl.us



Councilman Dave Purdo
Dave.Purdo@islamorada.fl.us



Councilman, Mike Forster
Mike.Forster@islamorada.fl.us



Vice Mayor, Deb Gillis
Deb.Gillis@islamorada.fl.us



Councilman, Ken Philipson
Ken.Phippison@islamorada.fl.us

Lower Matecumbe Key Association Statement of Purpose

The Lower Matecumbe Key Association, Inc. shall actively work to preserve and enhance the quality of life and environment through participation and democratic process by the residents.

Goals shall include:

1. Monitoring activities such as zoning and construction.
2. Communicating with all members to alert them to potential problems or opportunities.
3. Coordinating the efforts of the individual neighborhood associations on common objectives.
4. Providing an open forum for presentation and discussion of issues.
5. Taking appropriate action on behalf of the membership.

Board of Directors:

President Donna Gleason Vice Pres and Treasurer- Hermine Zavar Secretary Dennie Zettwoch
Board members: Rosemary Duke, Jacquie Dozier

Newsletter: Sue Miller, editor

Email address- LMKAnews@gmail.com

The opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of the Board of Directors of LMKA.

Major Loss for our Community

EYSTER Irving Reade Eyster, at 95 years of age, passed away on February 6, 2014. A longtime resident of Islamorada, he is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jeane Eyster, three children - Robert (Sandy), Barbara Eyster Edgar (David), and David Eyster - and three grandchildren - Cinnamon Edgar, Veronica, and Evan Eyster.

Irving was a friend to everyone he met. Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Eyster has resided in Lower Matecumbe since 1952 and has been a Keys resident since 1947.

Irving Eyster taught archaeology at FIU and University of Miami; anthropology at Miami-Dade Community College and was a Dade County archaeologist for two years. He is a member of the Society of Professional Archaeologists and served on the Historic Florida Keys Preservation Board for 16 years. He is president of Matecumbe Historical Trust. His books include: Indian Key, Handbook of South Florida Archaeology, and Islamorada and more. His newest book is Dr. Jeremiah Reade Explores Florida in 1882 - 1883.

Irving Eyster lived in and enjoyed the Florida Keys for over 60 years and has dedicated his life to making the islands a better place for all. He accumulated countless friends during his impressive and captivating journey as an archaeologist and historian.

A service will be held on Sunday, February 16th, at Island Community Church, MM 83 at 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Matecumbe Historical Trust in order to preserve Irving's work and bring his dream of a building a museum to fruition. Checks can be made out to the Matecumbe Historical Trust, P.O Box 1175, Islamorada, FL 33036, or call Barbara Edgar at (305) 393-0940, or donations may be made on the website at matecumbehistoricaltrust.com.



Photo of Jeane and Irving Eyster with daughter Barbara Edgar that appeared in the LMKA September 2010 article about Irving.

Party Beach—No peace and Quiet

REMINDER· Summer holidays are just around the corner. If a solution is to be implemented for the party beach problems on the bayside of Lower Matecumbe· we need our Village Council to address the problem now. Let them know how you feel!



House GOP leader says flood insurance rate delay bill to be considered this month

From the Tampa Bay Times, February 12, 2014

WASHINGTON · Backers of legislation that would gut a flood insurance law causing sharp rate increases announced Wednesday that they have secured enough support to pass the bill.

But getting a vote is a higher hurdle · with a top GOP official saying the House will consider a different version than what the Senate already approved.

"The Senate bill irresponsibly removes much needed reforms and imposes additional costs on taxpayers," Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia said in a statement. "The House will act to protect the flood insurance program but also protect homeowners from unreasonable and unrealistic premium increases."

Cantor said legislation would be considered the week of Feb. 24. He did not provide specifics on what changes the legislation would incorporate.

The Senate recently passed a bill that delays provisions of the 2012 Biggert-Waters law for four years. The proposal always faced resistance in the House. GOP leaders said it went too far in erasing reforms to the debt-strapped National Flood Insurance Program.

There is political jockeying as the issue has become a source of outrage for voters in Florida, New York and other states.

On Wednesday, Democratic advocates for the Senate bill announced they have 231 House sponsors, enough to pass.

"The reality is this: if not for obstruction by Republican leadership, this bill could pass the House and be signed into law today," said Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif. "I again urge Republican leadership to immediately take up this bipartisan solution."

But then came Cantor's statement, which credited Republicans with progress on the issue, including Florida Reps. Gus Bilirakis, Richard Nugent, Dennis Ross, Vern Buchanan and Mario Diaz-Balart, for their efforts.

Democrats, who scoffed at Cantor's announcement, were busy sending their own signals to outraged constituents by going to the House floor and giving speeches about the issue. They then send reporters videos or transcripts of the speeches.

Lawmakers will be in their home districts next week and now have something to placate angry constituents.

Commercial Real Estate—Popular in Islamorada

While it will take time for the residential real estate to regain the price levels of 8-10 years ago, numerous new commercial businesses seem to be coming into Islamorada— either purchasing or leasing real estate along US One. Pelican Cove Resort sold in September 2013 for \$10 million and the same group bought Hampton Inn Feb 5 for \$18 million (see article below).

And local residents will have more options when dining eating out— the Mexican restaurant, Puerto Vallarta, has moved to the space where Chilly Willie's used to be. A deli is moving into the old Perry's across from Ace. S.A.L.T. is renovating the old Bentley's and will be opening soon. Outback is closed but a new restaurant will open soon in their space. What about the Uncle's restaurant— there has been some activity there as well.

Publix is hoping to open shop to the north of Island Community Church at MM83.4 and a second grocery store is planned for MM81. Both are struggling with access for delivery trucks and inadequate parking.

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Hampton Inn rebranded; Outback out

BY ROBERT SILK Free Press Staff

ISLAMORADA -- An independent hotel will soon take over the Hampton Inn and Suites on Upper Matecumbe Key. Also on the way out is the Outback Steakhouse at the Hampton.

"The franchise agreements were not renewed," hotel manager Kara Lundgren said last week.

The rebranded hotel, at mile marker 80, oceanside, will be called The Islamorada Resort. Meanwhile, Lundgren said the Outback will be transformed into an American fare and seafood eatery. She said its name had not yet been chosen.

The conversion of both the hotel and restaurant are likely to happen within the next couple weeks, Lundgren said. But as of last Wednesday the acquisition of the Hampton properties had not closed. A formal time frame will be set once the sale goes through.

The Islamorada Resort is to be managed by Coral Gables-based Trust Hospitality, its website says. Trust, which bills itself as a 25-year-old hotel management company, is also now managing the Pelican Cove Resort on Windley Key.

If the Hampton Inn sale does become final, both The Islamorada Resort and Pelican Cove will be owned by the Washington, D.C.-based Carlyle Group, Lundgren said.

One of the largest private equity firms in the world, Carlyle is perhaps best known for its acquisition of defense-related industries in the 1990s, as well as for its connections with high-powered politicians, including former President George H.W. Bush.

The company's real estate holdings are also vast. As of the end of 2012, Carlyle had real estate investments in 137 cities around the world, according to the company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Changes to the Hampton Inn building won't be immediate once it becomes The Islamorada Resort, Lundgren said. But they are in the works.

On Dec. 23 Carlyle, in concert with current Hampton Inn owner Boca Raton-based EDCO LTD., submitted an application to renovate the existing 79-unit building and to add a second building to its south. The new building, to be located behind where a vacant gas station now sits, would have six suites and nine hotel rooms, village Planner Shane Laakso said. The renovations of the existing building would involve adding 16 guest units.

Renderings of the upgrade also show that outdoor spaces at the resort would be reconfigured. The swimming pool, for example would be moved closer to the beach.

"It's all very exciting," Lundgren said.

Prior to redevelopment, the site plan would have to be approved by the Village Council.

