

Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park

Presents our 22nd Annual Lecture Series

THE DELICATE BALANCE OF NATURE 2013

WEDNESDAY evenings from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at **JOHN PENNEKAMP CORAL REEF STATE PARK Visitor Center** at MM 102.5 Oceanside Overseas Highway. Park gate opens at 7 p.m. Admission is free. **Seating is limited.** Bring a cushion for your added seating comfort. For more information call the Visitor Center at 451-9570.

- January 9** **PANDORA'S GARDEN: SOME EXOTIC REPTILES OF SOUTH FLORIDA**
Dennis Giardina, Everglades Region Biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will discuss large exotic reptile control, with a focus on Nile monitor lizards, Argentine black and white tegus, and North African Pythons.
- January 16** **GALAPAGOS AND THE FLORIDA KEYS: A COMPARISON MADE BY A MARINE BIOLOGIST**
The differences of two unique environments will be explained in a lively presentation by Tavernier's own **Jack Grove**; marine biologist, photographer, expedition leader and author. Dr. Grove will update the status of both marine habitats since he last spoke for this lecture series ten years ago.
- January 23** **SECRETS OF THE SARGASSO SEA**
Dr. Brian Lapointe, Research Scientist at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, is internationally recognized for his work in marine conservation. He will share a number of "secrets" of the Sargasso Sea, and close with his recent studies on the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- January 30** **CREATING OUTSTANDING NATURE AND WILDLIFE PHOTOS**
Widely published professional photographers **Tom and Therisa Stack** will share tips and reveal insider secrets on how they create stunning images. Their pointers can help you become a better photographer.
- February 6** **SUSTAINABLE SOLID WASTE SOLUTIONS FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS**
Colleen Murphy, Monroe County's Recycling Coordinator, will explore the special waste disposal needs and challenges of our island community. Learn how local efforts today, and future possibilities, help maintain the delicate balance of nature on a global scale.
- February 13** **NATIVE AMERICAN MEDICINAL PLANTS**
Still the most commonly used medicine in the world today, medicinal plants have a long history of use. **Michele Williams**, Director for the Southeastern Region of Florida Public Archaeology Network at Florida Atlantic University, will educate us about plants that Native Americans used medicinally, and which we can consider for our own landscaping plans.
- February 20** **ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS: STEALTH POLLUTION IN THE FLORIDA KEYS**
Murky water, algae blooms, dead fish, oily slicks, and bad smells are well-known signs of polluted waters. Endocrine disruptors, chemicals that affect hormonal activities in animals and plants, are very dangerous pollutants that are rarely detected, nor are the immediate catastrophic results of their presence. **Martin Moe**, retired marine biologist/aquaculturist and author, will explore the possible consequences of endocrine disruptors in our waters.
- February 27** **GEOLOGICAL UNDERPINNING AND EVOLUTION OF FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF**
Learn how the Caribbean was once part of Europe and how the Florida Keys formed during the Ice Ages. Key West native **Dr. Eugene Shinn**, U.S. Geological Survey ("retired"), has done pioneering research on carbonate sediments and coral reef ecosystems. He will show coral growth and death photographs that document the demise of coral reefs off Key Largo.
- March 6** **SEAGRASS MEADOWS: A FOUNDATION FOR MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND THE FLORIDA KEYS ECONOMY**
James Fourqurean, Southeast Environmental Research Center at Florida International University, will discuss the importance of the seagrass bed surrounding the Florida Keys, one of the largest in the world. Sensitive to human activities, seagrasses are extremely productive and contribute to water quality and coral reef health as well.
- March 13** **STATE PARKS OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**
Learn about the ten state parks in the Keys and each one's unique species diversity and cultural richness. Florida Park Service Keys Biologist **Janice Duquesnel** will also discuss resource-based recreational opportunities available to park visitors.
- March 20** **HOW NORTH KEY LARGO BECAME A STATE PARK**
Michael Chenoweth, President of the Florida Keys Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, tells the story of how the hardwood hammock of North Key Largo was redirected from the sights of resort developers of the 1970s and established as Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park.
- March 27** **FISH IDENTIFICATION**
Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) interns will teach us how to identify the most common reef fish in Florida Keys waters. During this fun and interactive presentation, also learn how you can be involved in the REEF Volunteer Survey Project.