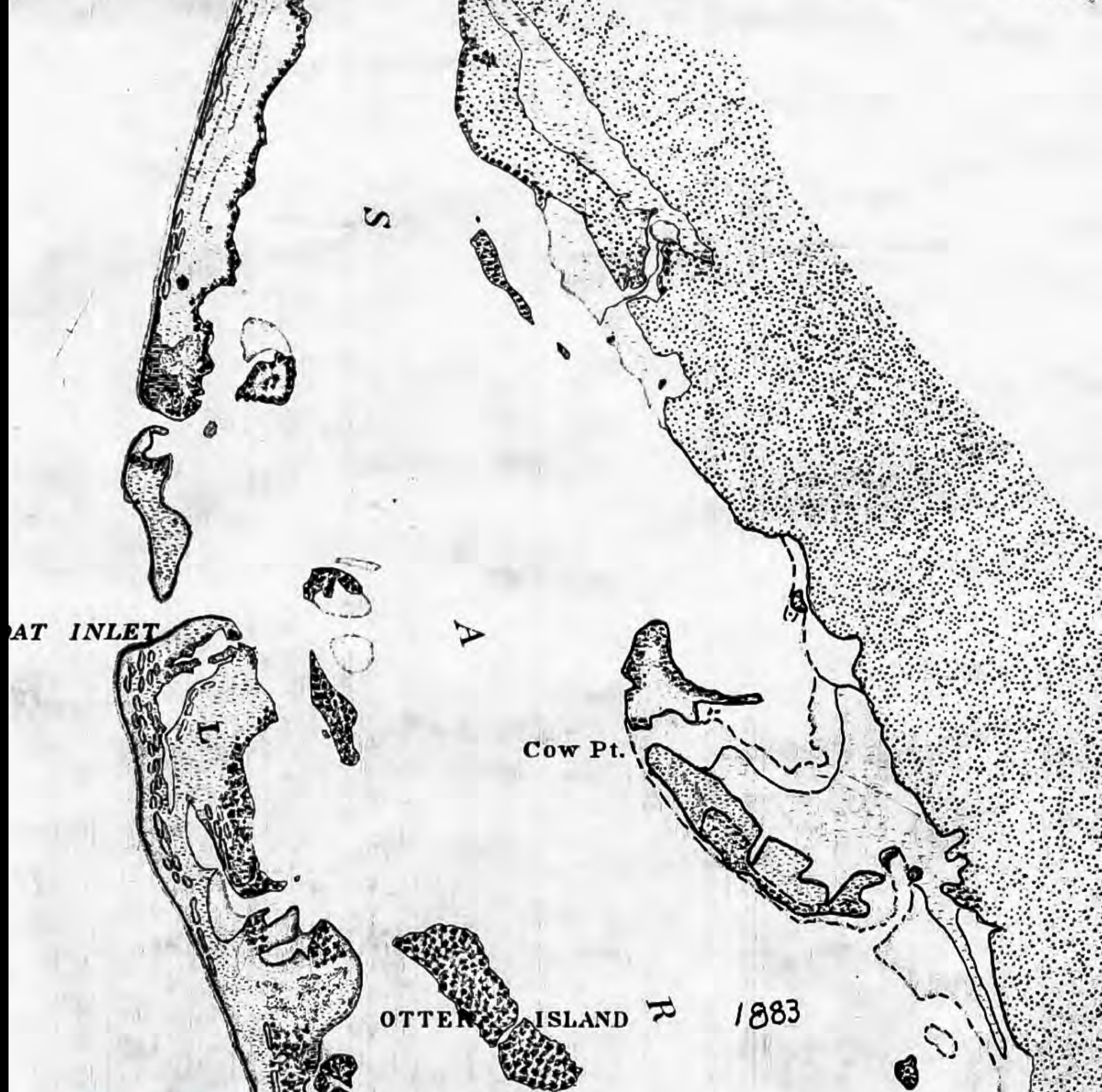


THE SISTER KEYS

1989-2018

THE RESTORATIVE POWER OF NATURE



AT INLET

A

Cow Pt.

OTTER ISLAND R

1883

THE SISTER KEYS 2007





Sister Keys Conservancy



C SPORTS

Sanders to play
baseball for Atlanta's
farm team. 3C

FLORIDA OUTDOORS

State Law On Redfish Imminent

By STEVE GIBSON
Staff Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — With little fanfare and no surprises, Florida's Marine Fisheries Commission unanimously passed a rule Wednesday designed to protect redfish and to prevent the commercial harvest and sale of the species.

In a final public hearing, the commission listened to testimony from commercial and recreational sides, then voted on the rules which are designed to protect redfish and replenish a stock that fisheries biologists say is in need of protection.

As a result of Wednesday's action, a sunset provision governing redfish regulations was eliminated, the species was given a protected status and a provision that prohibits the spearing or gigging of redfish was added.

All that stands between the rules being made into law is the approval of the Governor and his Cabinet. That is expected to be nothing more than a formality.

Current redfish regulations include a daily bag limit of one fish per day per person. Redfish must be at least 18 inches in length and no more than 27 inches in length. The months of March, April and May are closed to all harvest of the species.

In addition, there is no allowable commercial harvest or sale of native fish.

Representatives of the commercial industry expressed their dismay over Wednesday's action.

"I don't think the rule is fair," said Mark Taylor, director of the Cortez Chapter of Organized Fishermen of Florida, the commercial fishing lobby. "All of the people from the recreational industry — sport or charter — that use the resource are benefitting from the rule. Those people are primarily responsible for the collapse of the (redfish) resource."

Taylor and his proponents sought a 200,000-pound annual commercial limit, with a 200-pound daily trip limit.

"That's all we were asking for," he said. "We just don't think it's fair that one group (recreational fishermen) gets to harvest a million pounds annually, but we can't harvest 200,000 pounds."

But Ted Forsgren, executive director of the Florida Conservation Association, said he doesn't feel the rule is discriminatory.

"It allows everyone to keep one redfish per day during the open season," he said.

Forsgren also insisted that limited commercial fishing would not work.

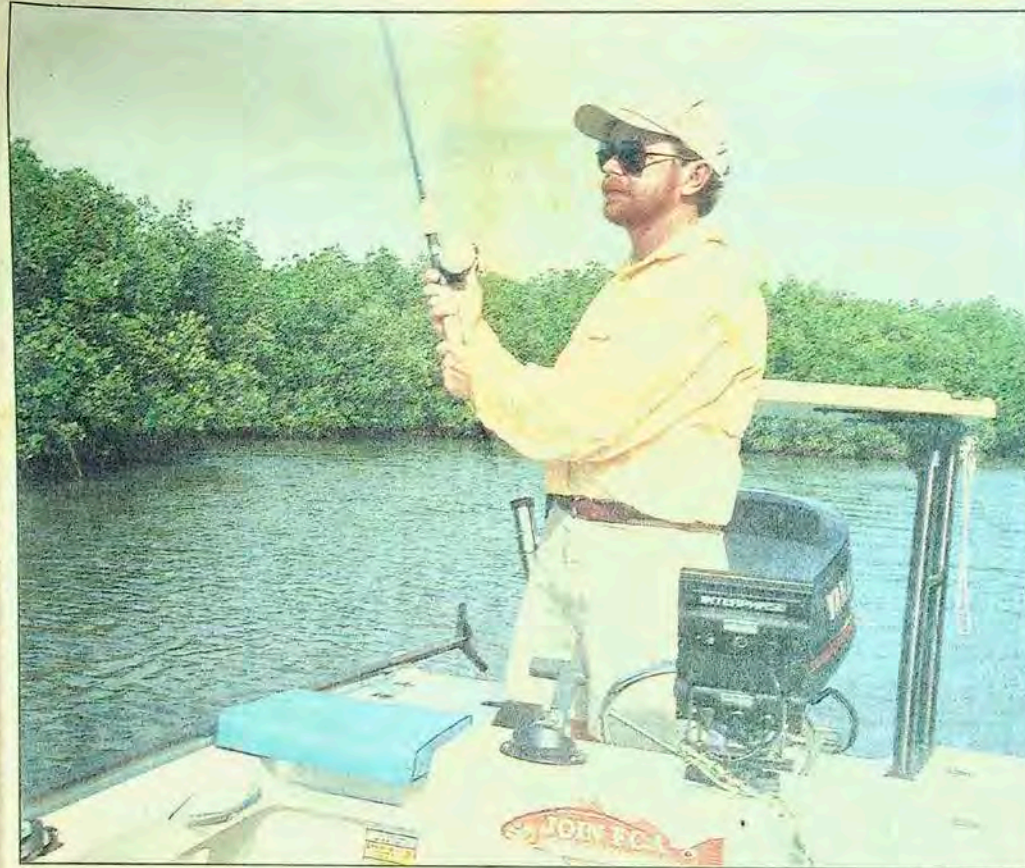
"Any time you have a highly restricted fishery and you don't accompany that with an absolute prohibition of sale, it's just not going to work," he said. "A limited commercial fishery won't work, either. There are just too many opportunities to exploit it and too much disregard."

Forsgren also uses current mullet regulations as an argument.

"What (commercial fishermen) don't talk about is how they've been taking 22 millions pounds of mullet annually, and recreational fishermen are not allowed to do that," Forsgren said. "So, it's an inconsistent argument to say it's not fair."

Recreational anglers are allowed to harvest 50 mullet per day per person.

The commission hopes the rules will eventually rebuild the redfish popula-



Longboat Key businessman Rusty Chinnis helped found the Sister Keys Conservancy.

Group Battles to Keep Islands Safe From 'Developing' Changes

By STEVE GIBSON
Staff Writer

Longboat Key businessman Rusty Chinnis views things a little differently than most. When he looks at the Sister Keys, a group of four tiny islands off the northern end of Longboat Key, he doesn't envision

hotels, condominiums, septic tanks, appreciating real estate or a padded wallet.

Chinnis sees prime habitat for fish and other wildlife.

"See that spot right there?" said Chinnis, pointing to a shallow grass flat. "There were schools of redfish that were there every day this past spring."



The Sister Keys are owned by a group of investors and Herb Field, who

The lush grass flats that surround the keys are indeed home to redfish. And speckled trout. Flounder. Crabs. Baitfish. The mangrove-covered islands are host to a variety of wetland and upland animals: Roseate spoonbill, little blue heron, reddish egret, snowy egret, Louisiana heron, brown pelican, American oyster catch, least tern, Southeastern bald eagle, doublebreasted cormorant, anhinga, merganser, American crow, gopher tortoise, armadillo, raccoon, cotton rat and marsh rabbit.

That's what inspired his quest to save the Sister Keys from development. When Chinnis and another Longboat Key resident, Anna Miller, who often rows near the tiny islands, found out that the keys were up for sale, they immediately launched a campaign that would lead to their purchase and preservation.

They founded the Sister Keys Conservancy, an organization made up of private citizens whose goal is to prevent the development of the tiny islands located just east of the Intracoastal Waterway.

"Anna and I both had seen what had happened to Tidy Island (another small island in north Sarasota Bay)," Chinnis said. "The real clincher was when Jewfish Key got subdivided. They showed up out there and dropped off 15 septic tanks on the island."

Vanderbilt Holds Off Florida

By The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Charles Mayes scored 12 of his 17 points in the second half, including a 3-pointer and two foul shots in the final 1:48 to give Vanderbilt a 60-57 win over Florida Wednesday.

The Commodores (12-7, 6-3 in the Southeastern Conference) led by eight at

Summary . . . 4C

halftime, but Stacey Poole rallied the Gators (7-11, 3-6) by scoring 10 of his 12 points in the second period.

An inside shot by Livingston Chatman pulled the Gators to within one at 58-57, with 1:18 to play. Florida regained possession but lost a chance to take the lead when Brian Hogan threw a pass over Chatman and out of bounds.

Scott Draud then hit two free throws with five seconds left for the final 60-57 lead and Florida couldn't get off a last-second 3-point attempt.

Draud added 16 points while Bruce Elder and Kevin Anglin chipped in 11 and 10 points for Vanderbilt.

Renaldo Garcia led the Gators with 16 points and Chatman added 10.

"I'm really proud of the way our team held its poise down the stretch," said Vanderbilt coach Eddie Fogler, whose Commodores are locked in a four-way tie for the Conference lead with LSU, Alabama and Mississippi State.

Florida coach Lon Kruger was happy with his team's comeback, but expressed disappointment at not capitalizing on their final possession.

"We didn't want to rush things — just be persistent and look," said Kruger, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.



STAFF PHOTO/BARRY MCCARTHY

Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy

Rock star Joan Jett joins Jim Shaw at a game between fantasy campers of the Baltimore Orioles and Texas Rangers in Sarasota. Jett, 30, whose version of 'I Love Rock 'n' Roll' made No. 1 on the charts in 1982, is participating in the Orioles' fantasy camp, which contin-

Drive to protect Sister Keys in the works

"A riot of tropical flora, including mangroves, sea grapes and cabbage palms have grown here undisturbed since the keys were born. Butterflies, snowy egrets and herons populate the trees and bushes — serenity, privacy and solitude in paradise!"

The above description of Sister Keys is a proper one. It appeared in a Sarasota publication a month or so ago.

It is also correct to say they are the only undeveloped islands adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway in Manatee County, and for miles north and south of here.

The islands are a maze of mangroves, oyster-barred creeks, fiddler-crab beaches and a tiny patch of sand uplands. They are home to raccoons, roseate spoonbills, pelicans, terns, rattlesnakes and a colony of the endangered southeastern gopher tortoise. Snook, redfish, speckled trout, flounder, mangrove snapper, grouper, sheepshead and mullet swim around and between the islands.

They are located just south of Jewfish Key east of the northern end of Longboat Key.

Sister Keys are generally considered to be a pair of islands, but if one wants to be technical and count a couple of tiny tidal rivulets, there are really four Sister Keys.

No human lives there and because of the generally unfriendly (to humans) terrain it would seem that no one would want to.

But never underestimate the "visionary powers" of would-be developers.

The quotation making up the opening paragraph is only part of the message lifted from a full page advertisement appearing last month in a Sarasota magazine.

The rest of the land peddler's text read: "A unique site for a unique person: an island in the Intracoastal all to yourself — it is possible to build on 73 acres of this island; the remaining acreage could remain untouched wilderness under your protection. Serenity, privacy and solitude in paradise."

Some Longboat Key residents are scared stiff that some enterprising developer will take the ad seriously and begin proceedings to build homes or condominiums on the isolated islands.

Outdoors



JERRY HILL

A decade ago you could have gotten a passel of local folks to put betting money against the possibility of development ever occurring on Tidy Island, Perico Island or Jewfish Key.

Tidy Island, which is just a mile east of Sister Keys, is now a mass of wood pyramids erected as an exclusive housing project for the well heeled.

The same goes for Perico Island.

And 10 years ago there were rumors that now convicted drug smuggler Junior Guthrie might build a house on Jewfish Key, but no one took the prospect seriously. After all, there were no bridges leading to the island located smack dab in the middle of Longboat Pass.

And Manatee County was in the middle of a gigantic program forcing all homeowners in the western portion of the county to do away with their septic tanks.

Since anyone living on Jewfish Key would need to take a shower, rinse the lettuce and flush a toilet from time to time, septic tanks would be needed.

And since the county was ordering homeowners to abandon their septic tanks it would have appeared no permits would be issued and no homes would be built.

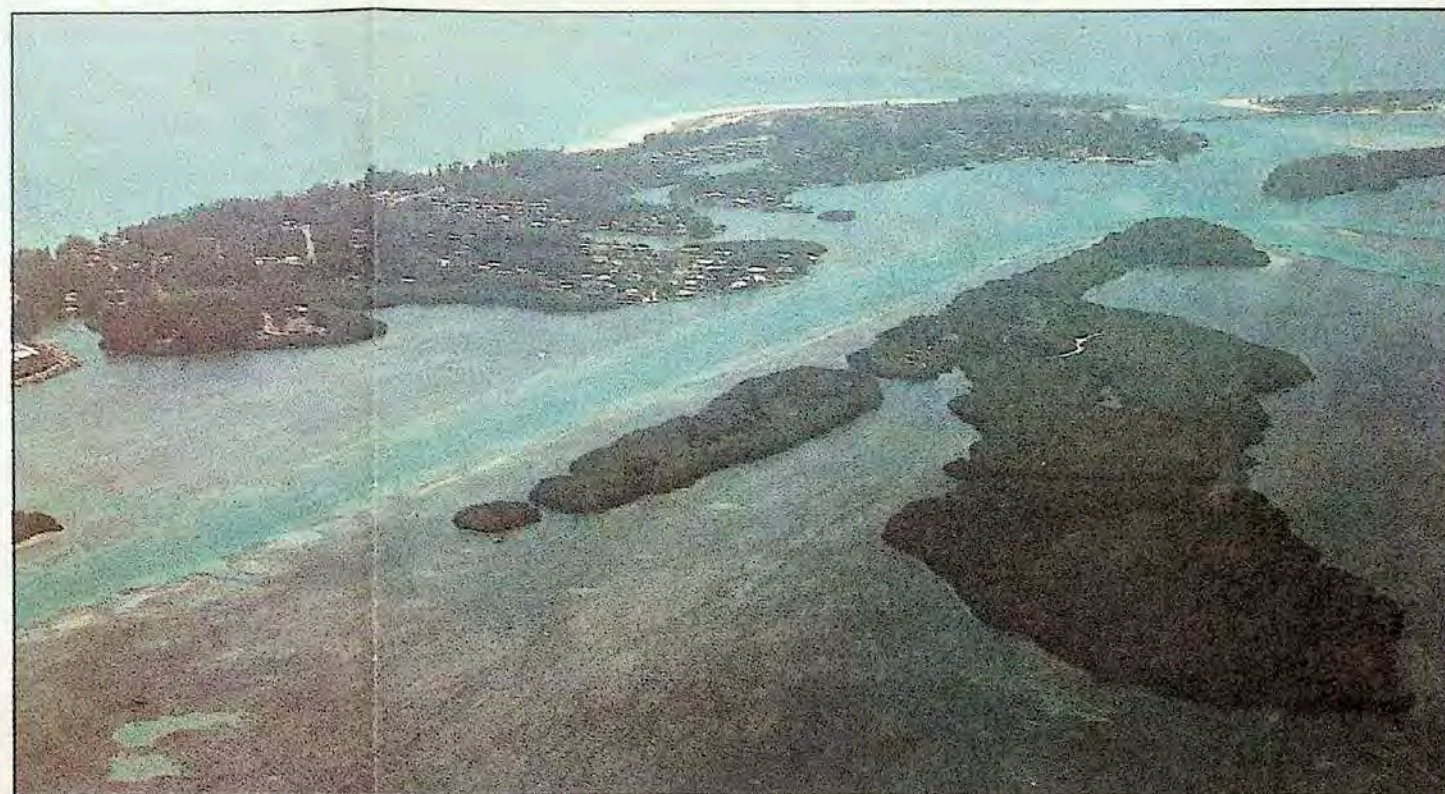
Guess what? There are now 13 new plush homes on this isolated key — and 13 septic tanks.

It seems the state of Florida had the last word and since Jewfish Key was declared a platted subdivision somewhere back in antiquity, the permits were issued.

If you want to sidestep an environmental law in Florida — any environmental law — remember what your mama told you, where there's a will, there's a way!

To build on Sister Keys, septic tanks would be required.

But not to worry! Along with laws forbidding selling crack co-



JACK ELKA/Special to the Herald

The Sister Keys are located in Sarasota Bay, just south of Jewfish Key east of the northern end of Longboat Key.

caine and to prevent politicians and bureaucrats from bending the rules in favor of well-heeled cronies, Outstanding Florida Waters are protected.

Permits are not supposed to be issued to put septic tanks on islands or lands on Outstanding Waters.

Sarasota Bay is an Outstanding Water. And Sister Keys are in Sarasota Bay.

Besides, Gov. Bob Martinez has issued a directive that no utilities be supplied to a list of environmentally sensitive islands. Sister Keys are on that list.

Anna Miller, of Cannon's Marina and Cannon's by the Sea, on

Longboat, thinks as long as the islands are in private hands, development is a very real threat. Someone will find a way around any rules or regulations and eventually build on the islands.

She is part of a tiny band of conservationists and environmentalists who are launching a campaign to put the little islands into public ownership forever.

"It seems to me the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, the state of Florida, Manatee County, the town of Longboat Key or someone would buy the islands and protect them," Miller said.

Kit Fernald, commissioner for

the Town of Longboat Key, says the town has set aside funds to purchase undeveloped and environmentally sensitive acreage in the town. But Sister Keys are actually located in Sarasota Bay and she hopes some group such as the Nature Conservancy will purchase the islands and protect them.

Herb Fields, Longboat Key resort owner, owns 20 percent interest in the islands. The remaining 80 percent interest is held by Intermarketing, Inc. a European firm based in the tiny country of Liechtenstein.

Liechtenstein has no income

tax so there is no incentive to donate property for tax purposes.

Fields has already donated a sizeable tract to the Nature Conservancy which then gave the land to the town of Longboat Key. He says the asking price is \$1,500,000. Rusty Chinnis, Longboat Key builder and former president of the Manatee County chapter of Florida Conservation Association believes the actual selling price will be well under that amount.

Miller is seeking individuals or organizations to support the drive to protect the tiny islands. Phone her at 383-1311.

THE SISTER KEYS

1989-2018

Letters of Support:

- Manatee-Sarasota Group of the Sierra Club
March 1, 1990
- The Sarasota Audubon Society
March 5, 1990
- Mote Marine
March 9, 1990
- Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce
March 25, 1990
- Longboat Key Garden Club
April 11, 1990

THE SISTER KEYS

1989-2018



Manatee-Sarasota Group of the **SIERRA CLUB**
P.O. Box 3485 Sarasota FL 34230 Hotline Number 366-1000

March 1, 1990

RESOLVED: The executive committee of the Manatee-Sarasota Group of the Sierra Club, representing over 1200 members, unanimously voted to support the public acquisition of Sister Keys; it is one of the last remaining groups of uninhabited islands in Sarasota Bay. The uplands of Sister Keys provide habitats for many kinds of wildlife including the endangered gopher tortoise, osprey, and great horned owl. The mangrove forests and grass flats there provide healthy, pollution-free breeding grounds for aquatic life of many kinds. These islands enhance the quality of life in this area, and we support all efforts to preserve them.

Bill Lewis
Bill Lewis
Conservation Chair

The Sarasota Audubon Society, Inc.

P. O. BOX 15423
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34239

CHAPTER OF FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

March 5, 1990

Ms Anna Miller
Rd 100
Longboat Key
Florida 34228

Dear Ms Miller:

Our board has acted to support your call for public acquisition of Sister Keys in order to prevent development.

We believe that any destruction of bird and marine life habitat can only contribute to the further deterioration of the Bay and Sister Keys, as a prime example of a dynamic eco-system, should remain untouched.

As you know, the condition of Sarasota Bay is already being intensely studied and has become the concern of many groups and individuals in this area. S.A.S. included.

Sarasota Audubon Society has approximately 1,000 local members. We are one of Florida Audubon's 26 chapters as well as a certified chapter of National Audubon.

The Board applauds your committee's conservation efforts.

Sincerely,
SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Beverly M. Zimmer
Beverly M. Zimmer, President

Conservation Chair, Jon Daxton adds: "The islands provide valuable habitat to numerous aquatic species presently stressed from the over development of our coastal areas. Wading birds utilize the area for both roosting, because of its secluded nature, and feeding, due to the productive grass flats on its perimeter."



March 25, 1990

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: The Board of Directors of the Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce, representing over 500 businesses and residents in Sarasota and Manatee Counties, unanimously and enthusiastically voted its support for the public acquisition and preservation of Sister Keys.

The Sister Keys represent one of the last remaining groups of untouched, undeveloped, near-pristine islands in Sarasota Bay. Its uplands provide habitats for a variety of wildlife, which includes osprey, gopher tortoise, roseate spoonbill and the like. Saving Sister Keys is a priority for the Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce in order to preserve a truly unique quality of life not replicated anywhere in Florida. Thus, we fully support all efforts to preserve Sister Keys.

Stephanie Lee Shaw
Stephanie Lee Shaw
President



1600 THOMPSON PARKWAY
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34230
PHONE: (813) 368-4441

"A nonprofit organization dedicated to excellence in marine science"

March 9, 1990

Commission
Town of Longboat Key
Longboat Key, FL 34228

Dear Commissioners:

It is my distinct pleasure to provide the cooperation and help of Mote Marine Laboratory for the purchase of Sister Keys. As you probably are aware, the Mote Marine Laboratory is an independent nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Florida with missions in marine and environmental research and education. Though not an advocacy group, one of the Laboratory's primary goals is to assist in the protection, preservation and enhancement of our marine environment. In furtherance of this goal, we are very pleased to assist the Commission in the acquisition of Sister Keys.

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this Commission meeting as I will be in Washington, DC at a conference. I have discussed the subject of Sister Keys with Mr. Rusty Chinnis and hereby authorize him to speak on my behalf. I would like to provide the following points for your consideration.

1. The Mote Marine Laboratory supports the Town's efforts in obtaining State funds through the C.A.R.L. program for the purchase of Sister Keys (see attached letter of support).
2. The Mote Marine Laboratory would be pleased to work with the Sister Keys Conservancy as the nonprofit organization receiving the funds for the acquisition of Sister Keys. We will set up a special restricted fund entitled "Sister Keys Conservancy."
3. The Sister Keys Conservancy will be responsible for all fundraising activities.
4. Our Chairman of the Board, Senator Bob Johnson, has indicated that he will be able to prepare a legal document that would detail a process whereby the Sister Keys purchased by the Laboratory would be transferred to the Town.



1600 THOMPSON PARKWAY
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34230
PHONE: (813) 368-4441

"A nonprofit organization dedicated to excellence in marine science"

Longboat Key Commissioners

The \$300,000 allocated by the Town of Longboat Key for the purchase of Sister Keys can be the capping amount transferred for the land purchase.

The Mote Marine Laboratory will not charge any administrative fees for accounting of this special fund.

If the Sister Keys Conservancy cannot raise the amount necessary for the purchase of the Keys (including Longboat Key's share) or if the purchase is deemed necessary, Mote Marine Laboratory will act according to the wishes of the Sister Key Conservancy in either returning the funds or utilizing it for other "environmental uses." In the case funds have to be returned, the administrative costs will be the responsibility of Sister Keys Conservancy.

ratulate you on your efforts to obtain Sister Keys as a preserve for our s. Please feel free to contact me if the Laboratory or I can assist the town in any way.

ly,
Kumar Mahadevan
Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Longboat Key Garden Club

To: Rusty Chinnis &
Anna Miller, Co-Chairmen, Sister Key Committee

The board of the Longboat Key Garden Club passed this letter of endorsement to support public acquisition of Sister Keys as a means of protecting this large group of islands from development.

Hopefully, this undisturbed land should remain in its natural state as a haven and breeding ground for all forms of wildlife, and eventually become an environmental conservancy.

It is the understanding of the Board that Mote Marine has agreed to hold any funds raised by your committee, such funds to be refunded to givers if acquisition fails.

Sincerely yours,
Barbara Stevens
Barbara Stevens
Corresponding Secretary
Longboat Key Garden Club

April 11, 1990

THE SISTER KEYS

1989-2018

MUSIC IN THE PARK

SOOTHE THE SOUL  SAVE AN ISLAND

THE SISTER KEYS CONSERVANCY PRESENTS A MUSICAL BENEFIT



"Key to Happiness" directed by Peter Starck, 1990. Acrylic on Canvas, 36x48" at The Salon Fine Art Gallery

JAZZ
 SUNDAY JANUARY 20
 NOON TO 5 PM • PRE-CONCERT ENTERTAINMENT & CONCESSIONS • 2 PM CONCERTS
 LONGBOAT KEY RECREATION CENTER PARK • 4300 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
 \$10 ADULTS • \$25 3-CONCERT SERIES • CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE • AMPLE FREE PARKING • INFORMATION 383-4629

BRASS
 SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17
 NOON TO 5 PM • PRE-CONCERT ENTERTAINMENT & CONCESSIONS • 2 PM CONCERTS
 LONGBOAT KEY RECREATION CENTER PARK • 4300 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
 \$10 ADULTS • \$25 3-CONCERT SERIES • CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE • AMPLE FREE PARKING • INFORMATION 383-4629

POPS
 SUNDAY MARCH 10
 NOON TO 5 PM • PRE-CONCERT ENTERTAINMENT & CONCESSIONS • 2 PM CONCERTS
 LONGBOAT KEY RECREATION CENTER PARK • 4300 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
 \$10 ADULTS • \$25 3-CONCERT SERIES • CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE • AMPLE FREE PARKING • INFORMATION 383-4629

HARRY'S Continental Kitchens
CANNONS MARINA
True Value LONGBOAT TRUE VALUE HARDWARE
SARASOTA TIMES L TIMES Y
 Kiwanis of Sarasota Keys

THE KEY TO ART FOR MUSIC

PRESENTING AN INAUGURAL SEASON OF A MUSICAL TRADITION

MUSIC IN THE PARK

The brochure cover features a reproduction of the original painting "Key to Happiness" by Peter Starck. It has been donated to the Sister Keys Conservancy to benefit fund-raising efforts and to illustrate the music series. The original painting will be raffled by the Conservancy, with tickets sold at select outlets and all three concerts. The winning ticket will be drawn by the artist from the contest at the final concert on Sunday, March 10. The painting is valued at \$2,500 and is on view at The Salon Fine Art Gallery at The Centre Shopp, 5380 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key.

A SPECIAL PROJECT OF 

TO BENEFIT THE SISTER KEYS CONSERVANCY

SAVE AN ISLAND...THE SISTER KEYS



PHOTO: JACK ELIA

The Sister Keys are a group of four undisturbed islands in Sarasota Bay at the north end of Longboat Key. The islands embrace 100 acres of mangrove forest and uplands which provide habitat for a variety of wildlife.

When these islands were offered for sale some months ago and thereby threatened with development, the Sister Keys Conservancy was formed. This all volunteer group is dedicated to raising the funds to buy and preserve this ecological treasure.

In preserving these islands, we can take part in creating a legacy that will perpetuate the natural diversity of coastal Florida. In trying to keep a balance of nature, perhaps we shall also ultimately save ourselves.

Please join us for a musical tradition to benefit the conservancy or contribute what you can to aid us in these endeavors.



PHOTO: JENNIFER BOWEN

JAZZ
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 20
 Members of the Jazz Club of Sarasota will perform improvisation and main stream in an ever-changing ensemble of musicians from Sarasota and around the country.
PICNIC
 Come early to enjoy the ambience and pre-concert entertainment. Bring your own basket, cooler, etc. Be sure to bring only convenient hand-carried items.
REFRESHMENTS
 Beer, wine, sodas, grilled sandwiches and much more - noon to 5 pm from Harry's Continental Kitchens and Kiwanis of Sarasota Keys.
SEATING
 Please bring your own lawn chairs, blankets or other arrangements. Come early to reserve your spot, and remember to bring only what you can carry.
TICKETS
 Location: Cannons Marina
 Harry's Continental Kitchens
 & Iron, Dry Dock, Bar & Grill
 Longboat Hardware & Shovel
 Mail order form attached.
TIME & PLACE
 The gates open at NOON! The Longboat Key Recreation Center Park is located mid-key - 4300 Gulf of Mexico Dr. - behind 7-11, 5 miles from the south end of Longboat Key.
FREE PARKING
 Early arrivals may park at the concert site. After 1 PM, free parking and shuttle service is available from St. Mary's Star of the Sea church, 1/2 mile north of the concert site.

BRASS
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17
 Resident ensemble of the Sarasota Music Festival and principals of the Florida West Coast Symphony Orchestra. Diverse musical styles from big band to jazz blues and brass.
TICKETS
 Location: Cannons Marina
 Harry's Continental Kitchens
 & Iron, Dry Dock, Bar & Grill
 Longboat Hardware & Shovel
 Mail order form attached.
TIME & PLACE
 The gates open at NOON! The Longboat Key Recreation Center Park is located mid-key - 4300 Gulf of Mexico Dr. - behind 7-11, 5 miles from the south end of Longboat Key.
FREE PARKING
 Early arrivals may park at the concert site. After 1 PM, free parking and shuttle service is available from St. Mary's Star of the Sea church, 1/2 mile north of the concert site.

POPS
 SUNDAY, MARCH 10
 Capture the spirit of the big band that captures the sound of America. The pop group is a large 50-65 piece ensemble from the Florida Symphonic Band, directed by Tom Swain.
TICKETS
 Location: Cannons Marina
 Harry's Continental Kitchens
 & Iron, Dry Dock, Bar & Grill
 Longboat Hardware & Shovel
 Mail order form attached.
TIME & PLACE
 The gates open at NOON! The Longboat Key Recreation Center Park is located mid-key - 4300 Gulf of Mexico Dr. - behind 7-11, 5 miles from the south end of Longboat Key.
FREE PARKING
 Early arrivals may park at the concert site. After 1 PM, free parking and shuttle service is available from St. Mary's Star of the Sea church, 1/2 mile north of the concert site.

CLIP & MAIL • ORDER NOW • CALL 383-4629 FOR MORE INFORMATION

NAME	QUANTITY	CONCERT(S)	TOTAL
ADDRESS		3-CONCERT SERIES @ \$25	
		JAZZ, JANUARY 20 @ \$10	
		BRASS, FEBRUARY 17 @ \$10	
		POPS, MARCH 10 @ \$10	
CITY	STATE		
PHONE			
Please join our effort by making a tax deductible contribution in one of the following categories: ☐ SPOONBILL CLUB \$1,000 ☐ SPONSOR \$ 500 ☐ PATRON \$ 350 ☐ SUSTAINING MEMBER \$ 100 ☐ SUPPORTING MEMBER \$ 50			TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION \$ _____ POSTAGE & HANDLING \$ 1.00 TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **SISTER KEYS CONSERVANCY**
 MAIL TO: P.O. Box 183
 Longboat Key, FL 34228
 Information: 383-4629 or 383-2466

MUSIC IN THE PARK

HARRY'S Continental Kitchens
CANNONS MARINA
SARASOTA TIMES L TIMES Y
 Kiwanis of Sarasota Keys

If you have already ordered tickets, please pass this along to a friend! Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope to further assist fund raising.

At Cannons Marina, we have a strong appreciation for the preservation of Sister Keys.






In 1955, when the Miller family bought Cannons Marina, very little was developed in the area. As a business, we looked forward to the growth of Longboat Key but we have remained concerned about protecting our natural environment. In preserving Sister Keys, the Conservancy will create a legacy for future generations of Florida. Please join us in supporting this endeavor.

CANNONS MARINA
 8 AM to 6 PM DAILY
 6040 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
 LONGBOAT KEY
 383-1311 or 383-9252

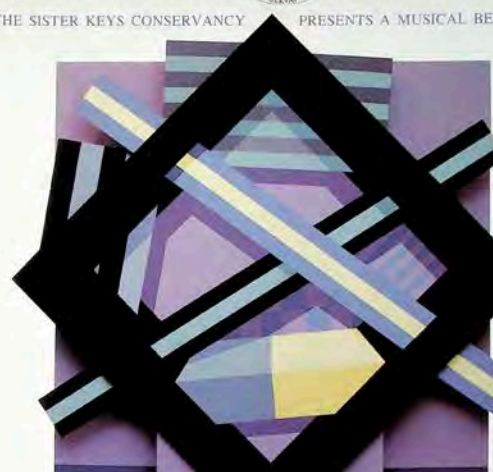
YAMAHA
 Outboards
 SALES & SERVICE
 RENTALS
 MARINE SUPPLIES
 GAS, BAIT & TACKLE

GRADY-WHITE BOATS

MUSIC IN THE PARK

SOOTHE THE SOUL  SAVE AN ISLAND

THE SISTER KEYS CONSERVANCY PRESENTS A MUSICAL BENEFIT



JAZZ
 SUNDAY JANUARY 20
 NOON TO 5 PM • PRE-CONCERT ENTERTAINMENT & CONCESSIONS • 2 PM CONCERTS
 LONGBOAT KEY RECREATION CENTER PARK • 4300 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
 \$10 ADULTS • \$25 3-CONCERT SERIES • CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE • AMPLE FREE PARKING • INFORMATION 383-4629

BRASS
 SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17
 NOON TO 5 PM • PRE-CONCERT ENTERTAINMENT & CONCESSIONS • 2 PM CONCERTS
 LONGBOAT KEY RECREATION CENTER PARK • 4300 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
 \$10 ADULTS • \$25 3-CONCERT SERIES • CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE • AMPLE FREE PARKING • INFORMATION 383-4629

POPS
 SUNDAY MARCH 10
 NOON TO 5 PM • PRE-CONCERT ENTERTAINMENT & CONCESSIONS • 2 PM CONCERTS
 LONGBOAT KEY RECREATION CENTER PARK • 4300 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
 \$10 ADULTS • \$25 3-CONCERT SERIES • CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE • AMPLE FREE PARKING • INFORMATION 383-4629

HARRY'S Continental Kitchens
CANNONS MARINA
True Value LONGBOAT TRUE VALUE HARDWARE
SARASOTA TIMES L TIMES Y
 Kiwanis of Sarasota Keys

SISTER KEYS CONSERVANCY THANKS THESE GENEROUS SPONSORS FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE AND FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

CANNONS MARINA
 6040 Gulf of Mexico Drive
 Longboat Key
 383-1311

HARRY'S Continental Kitchens
 525 St. Judes Dr. at 5600 Gulf of Mexico Dr.
 Longboat Key
 383-0777

True Value
 LONGBOAT TRUE VALUE HARDWARE
 4030 Gulf of Mexico Drive
 Longboat Key
 383-1313

SARASOTA TIMES
 A Division of TS Publications Inc.
LONGBOAT KEY L TIMES Y
 Serving Sarasota & Longboat Key

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SARASOTA KEYS

SISTER KEYS CONSERVANCY



PHOTO: JENNIFER BOWEN

The Sister Keys are a natural wildlife sanctuary in Sarasota Bay. These four islands near the northeast end of Longboat Key embrace 100 acres of mangrove forest and uplands which provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Proceeds from Music in the Park support the preservation of this ecological treasure.

The Sister Keys Conservancy invites you to become a member of the Spoonbill Club. Membership is limited to donors of \$1,000 or more to Sister Keys Conservancy.

Members names will be engraved on a special bronze marker to be placed in a prominent location so that everyone may be aware of your contribution toward making this project a reality. We all thank you for your support.

Robert I. Goodman,
 Foundation Director and Co-Chairperson, Music in the Park
Sunday Crew,
 Co-Chairperson, Music in the Park



Because of their importance as a natural wildlife preserve, Sister Keys have been designated a special project of Mote Marine Laboratory. The administrative and capital fund raising management for the project is overseen by the Sister Keys Conservancy Board as an autonomous organization in conjunction with Mote Marine Laboratory, the organized 501 (c) (3) entity. Contributions are made to the Mote Marine Laboratory - Sister Keys Project. Mote Marine Laboratory's tax number is 09-00071-00-08.

Please join our effort by making a tax deductible contribution

NAME	AMOUNT	DATE
☐ SPOONBILL CLUB \$1,000		
☐ SPONSOR \$ 500		
☐ PATRON \$ 350		
☐ SUSTAINING MEMBER \$ 100		
☐ SUPPORTING MEMBER \$ 50		

☐ I would like more information about Sister Keys Conservancy

Make checks payable to: **SISTER KEYS CONSERVANCY**, MAIL TO: P.O. Box 183, Longboat Key, FL 34228. For more information call 383-4629. A donation of 10% of your donation will be used for operating expenses. In the event that not all of your donation is used to purchase Sister Keys, please indicate your preference by placing your initials on ONE of the following: () donation remains with Mote Marine Laboratory for local environmental projects; () when raised portion; () other, please specify your intention. Your donation is tax deductible. Sister Keys Conservancy is an all inclusive organization.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Musical



Benefit

JAZZ

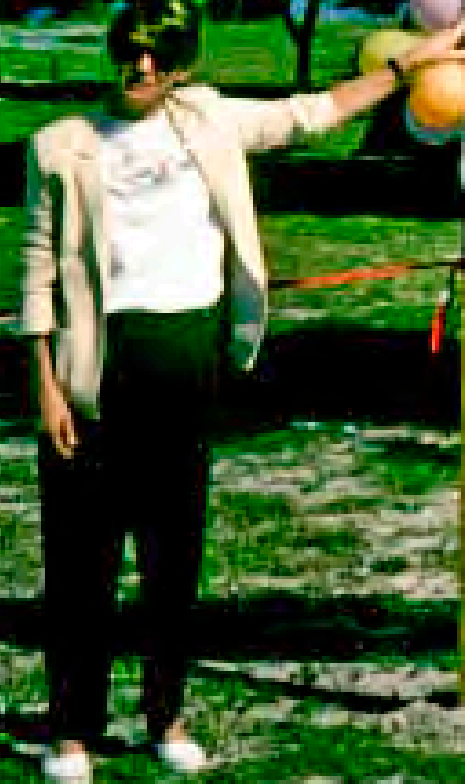
SUN JAN 20

BRASS

SUN FEB 17

POPS

SUN MAR 10



Sarasota Herald-Tribune MANATEE/AM

Published every morning of the year at 801 South Tamiami Trail.
Sarasota, Florida 34236

•
Elven Grubbs, Publisher

News:

Diane McFarlin, Executive Editor

Allen Parsons, Managing Editor

Editorial:

Waldo Proffitt Jr., Editor

Thomas Lee Tryon, Editorial Page Editor



A NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY

Editorials

Sister Keys and Mother Nature

A Feb. 17 benefit concert on Longboat Key deserves special attention and patronage because it is uniquely worthwhile.

This concert, sponsored by the Sister Keys Conservancy, is for the pelicans, ibis, fish, raccoons, gopher tortoises and other wildlife that make their homes in and around the Sister Keys in north Sarasota Bay.

It deserves to attract an overflow crowd because of the event's special purpose — raising money for and stirring interest in the purchase and preservation of the mangrove-fringed islands off Longboat Key.

The Sister Keys lie opposite Longboat Key, east of the Intracoastal Waterway channel, in the shallow grass flats of north Sarasota Bay. Owned by a group of investors which includes Herb Field, the owner of the Buccaneer Inn Restaurant on Longboat Key, the keys could go the way of Jewfish Key, lying further north in Anna Maria Sound, with private residential development.

The asking price for the Sister Keys jumped \$300,000 to \$1.5 million short-

ly after the Conservancy's formation.

Getting the necessary permits for developing such a property might be difficult, lengthy and expensive. Transporting equipment and workers for the task would be laborious. But it all could be done. It's been done before.

No matter how tasteful that development and how expensive the individual homes erected, the additional value to property tax rolls could not replace the natural values lost to development.

The owners deserve a return on their investment. The Conservancy has raised about \$40,000 and convinced the Town of Longboat Key to pledge \$300,000 toward the acquisition.

Its campaign has a long way to go, but each \$10 ticket sold for the Feb. 17 concert constitutes one incremental gain toward the goal — that of preserving for generations to come a vital link in the continued health and pleasing visage of Sarasota Bay.

Ticket and campaign information can be secured by calling 383-4629 or 383-2466.



LOCAL

Friday, June 19, 1992



Sister Keys

To some people, Sister Keys are a pristine reminder of a time before rampant development.

TONY ATTRINO
Herald Correspondent

Drifting slowly into the Sister Keys you first notice the faint skyline of downtown Sarasota, then the calm of the bay — occasionally interrupted by jumping mullet and singing terns.

Rich with the cover of mangroves, the four islands are silent save an occasional passing motorboat or the gentle rustle of fiddler crabs through fallen pine needles. To some, the 80 acres of land east of Longboat Key is a pristine reminder of a time before the buildings went up and the people swarmed in.

"I've been out here 18 years and I've seen a lot of changes," said Jim Rogers of Cortez. "Condos are going up everywhere. You can't stop progress."

SISTER

To B-7

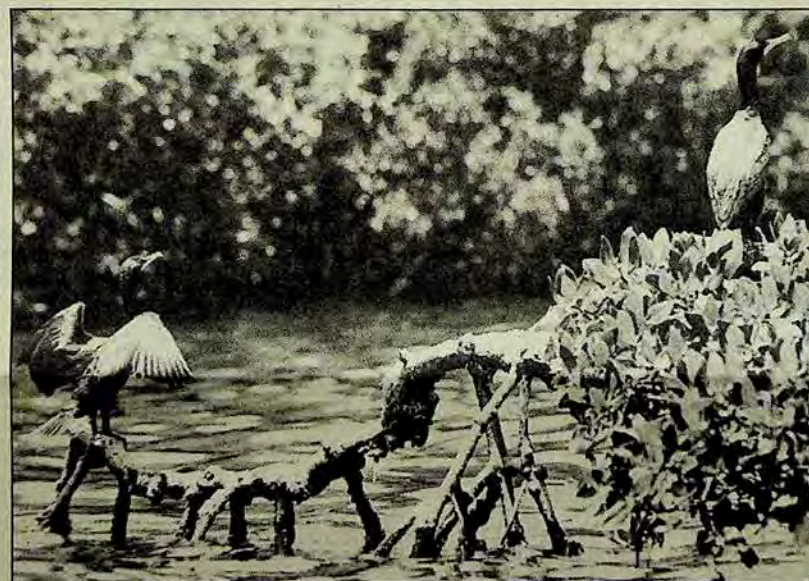
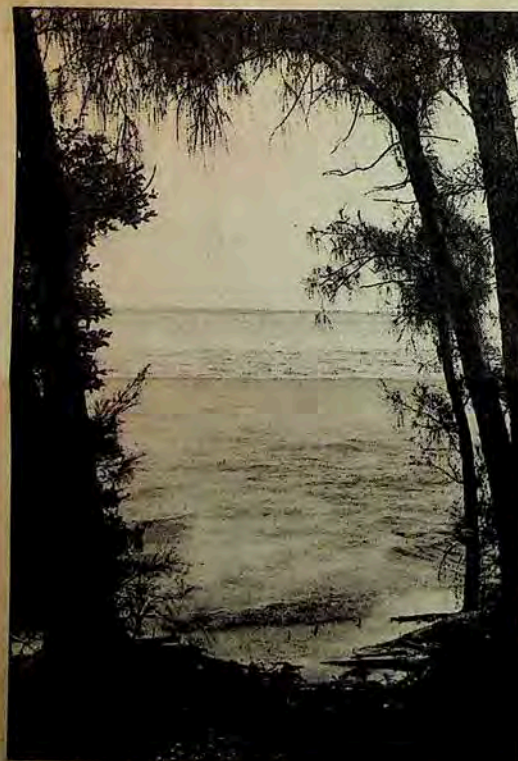
Longboat approves island buy

KIM DUTRA
Herald Staff Writer

Longboat Key officials voted unanimously Thursday to buy the pristine Sister Keys in Sarasota Bay.

Vice Mayor Albert Green said the board voted to transfer \$667,000 from the city's open space fund and \$250,000 from an infrastructure tax account to make up the money needed to buy the keys.

The Sister Keys Conservancy, a private conservation group, chipped in \$46,000. A second hearing on the purchase will be July 6. Mayor Jim Brown said Longboat Key plans to leave the 80 acres of small islands in a natural state.



Photos by CHRIS MIKULA / Bradenton Herald

Sister Keys are the home for mangroves, vegetation, birds and marine life. If Longboat Key purchases the keys, they will remain that way.

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Published every morning of the year at 801 South Tamiami Trail.
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Lynn O. Matthews, Publisher

News:

Diane McFarlin, Executive Editor
Allen Parsons, Managing Editor

Editorial:

Waldo Proffitt Jr., Editor
Thomas Lee Tryon, Editorial Page Editor



A NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY

EDITORIALS

Sister Keys a Valuable Purchase

Possibly the most significant news in recent years affecting the preservation of the Sarasota Bay estuary is the announcement earlier this week that the owners of the Sister Keys have agreed to accept the Town of Longboat Key's offer for purchase of the islands.

Abundant credit for realizing that price-less acquisition goes not only to the Longboat Key commissioners who unanimously approved this deal, but to the members of the Sister Keys Conservancy, who doggedly pursued the acquisition despite repeated setbacks. Following last Thursday's vote of approval, the Town Commission must render formal approval once more, on July 6.

Last, but certainly not least, credit and thanks are due Herb Field for convincing his partners to sell, and for not allowing the islands to develop when more liberal rules and regulations would have allowed it.

Had the islands opposite Longboat Key and adjoining the Intracoastal Waterway gone the way of Jewfish Key adjacent to the north, or Whidden, Knights and Little Gasparilla islands in Charlotte County, Sarasota Bay would have suffered.

A growing body of evidence reveals that no matter how sensitively such islands are developed, the increased runoff from homesites, the additional scarring of bottom terrain by boat traffic and the displacement, no matter how minor, of wildlife by human intrusion exert lasting burdens.

Except for the presence of spoil dredged from the Intracoastal Waterway and exotic plant species such as Australian pines and Brazilian pepper, the islands remain

virtually unspoiled. The bay, of course, does not.

Skeptics of this proposal might criticize the deal — purchase at a cost of \$975,000 — as a needless expenditure when local, state and federal regulations would appear to make development of the islands problematic, if not impossible. But they would overlook the fact that occasionally a sufficiently patient and wealthy developer can overcome official obstacles. They also would ignore the fact that Field and his partners have paid ad valorem taxes in excess of \$300,000 since 1969 without realizing any return on their investment or appreciable enjoyment of their property — variously appraised at \$914,000 to \$1.825 million in value.

The value of the four keys to the continuing health of Sarasota Bay hardly can be calculated. Besides hosting a wide variety of nesting sea birds, ospreys and the occasional Southern bald eagle, the keys shelter a resident population of gopher tortoises — considered a threatened species under Florida law. In addition, their presence adjoining the Intracoastal Waterway protects an extensive area of shallow marine grass flats from the erosive force of boat wakes.

This is an acquisition which bodes well for all the species of plant and animal life dependent upon Sarasota Bay — including the growing numbers of *Homo sapiens* crowding its banks.

We applaud the Longboat Key town commissioners, the members of the Sister Keys Conservancy and Herb Field for the legacy their vision invests for future generations.



Key conversation

Tribune photograph by MAGGIE MCGINLEY

Rusty Chinnis, right, co-chairman of Sister Keys Conservancy, talks Thursday to U.S. Rep. Andy Ireland at Long-

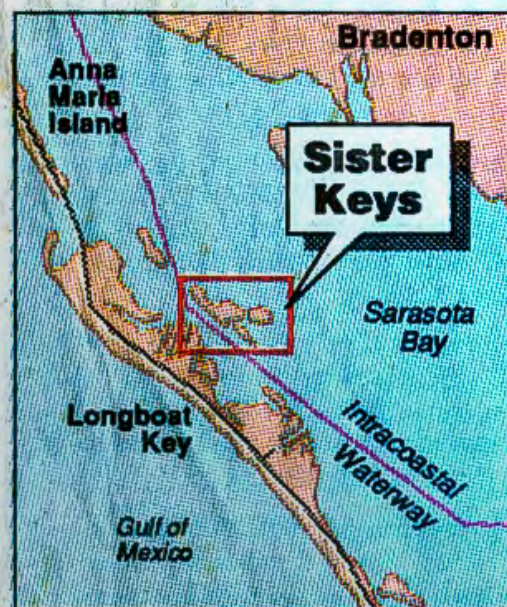
boat Key about the possibility of the state buying the keys to protect them from development.



Sarasota Herald-Tribune

66th YEAR. No 259 / THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1992 / 35 CENTS / \$2.25 A WEEK

Owners of Sister Keys Accept Offer For Islands' Sale to Longboat Key



STAFF MAP

By LAURA HIGGINS
Staff Writer

The owners of the Sister Keys have accepted Longboat Key's \$975,000 offer for an "environmental treasurehouse" of four tiny, uninhabited islands in Sarasota Bay.

The sale will ensure that the islands — home to mangroves, grass flats and a variety of wildlife — remain undeveloped nature preserves.

"This goes considerably beyond Longboat Key," said Mayor Jim Brown. "The series of islands are probably a dominant factor in protecting fisheries in Sarasota Bay. It's the largest single collection of

grass beds in the bay."

Brown called the keys an "environmental treasurehouse."

To complete the deal, the Longboat Key town commissioners must pass an ordinance to transfer \$929,000 from the town's open-space acquisition fund to pay the islands' owners.

The first vote on the ordinance is scheduled for today, and the second July 6. If all goes as planned, the town will close the deal July 10, said Town Attorney David Persson.

The Sister Keys are in Sleepy Lagoon off the northern tip of Longboat Key, just east of the Intracoastal Waterway. The islands
Continued on 8A



The Sister Keys provide a home to gopher tortoises and a host of birds, including herons, egrets, pelicans and eagles.







A Celebration For Sister Keys

Almost everyone who helped purchase Sister Keys for the town of Longboat Key attended a champagne celebration party July 18 at the Mar Vista in the Village. Some of the people there took a boat tour of the keys, others ate hors d'oeuvres and drank beer or iced tea, and others just rested in the shade. In this photo, Tim and Herb Field are in the front, while Sen. Bob Johnson is in the center, rear, flanked by Commissioner Bob Twyman, left, and Mayor Jim Brown.



Mote Marine's founders, trustees, and board members, Perry Gilbert and Bill Mote are in the front of this photo shot in the hot sun. In the rear, Rusty Chinnis, left, and David and Anna Miller smile proudly and deservedly. Chinnis and Mrs. Miller were co-chairmen of the Sister Keys Conservancy.



Top Turtle Orville Clayton, standing, talks with Kit Fernald as Helen Jurcso, left, Gen White, and Terry Sullivan listen.



Two of Cannon's boats took turns taking people out to see Sister Keys. In this shot, the boat is just leaving the dock.



Sister Key's Conservancy T-shirts sold briskly under the watchful eyes of Shiela Avary Mullins, left, and Chantal Diem.



The Longboat Key Garden Club strongly supported the Sister Keys purchase and some of its members gathered for a group photo. In the front, left to right, are Lois Slaughter, Barbara Lacina, Virginia Sanders, Jean Kluge, Kit Fernald, and Dr. Jack Sanders. In the rear, Jim Slaughter, club president Dutch Arends, Judy Weiss, Larry Lacina, and Claire Hunter.



*President George Bush
and
Republican Members of Congress
present the national
Teddy Roosevelt
Conservation Award
in recognition of outstanding
accomplishment and achievement
in the areas of conservation and wise
stewardship of natural resources
October 1, 1992*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ANDY IRELAND
TENTH DISTRICT
FLORIDA

October 8, 1992

Mr. Rusty Chinnis
7091 Longboat Dr. East
Longboat Key, FL 34228

Dear Rusty:

I am enclosing the pictures taken in
the Indian Treaty Room as part of the
Theodore Roosevelt Awards presentation.

It was good to see you and
appreciate all the efforts you made on
behalf of Sister Keys.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

To Rusty Chairman
Congratulations -
and best wishes
Neddy Prater





THE SISTER KEYS 1989-2018

Sarasota

Robert Eckhart, City Editor | 361-4962 | robert.eckhart@sarasotatribune.com

NEWTOWN Groups want bigger redevelopment area | 3B
COMMUNITY Therapeutic group makes a splash | 4B

Kottkamp to head new agency | 7B

www.sarasotatribune.com | Tuesday, August 29, 2017 | SECTION 4

It was the second time in a week that the miracle of life was on display at a Sarasota convenience store.

Last week, paramedics helped a woman give birth at a gas station at Bee Ridge and Sawyer roads, said Sarasota County Assistant Fire Chief Paul Dezzi.

"I'm not sure what's going on," Dezzi said. "It's fairly uncommon."

The Nokomis woman was spared the indignity of giving birth in the candy bar aisle by the quick response of local paramedics. Dezzi said she was taken to Sarasota Memorial Hospital, but hospital workers could not confirm that.

Employees at the 7-Eleven said the woman was a regular but they did not know her name. They are not likely to forget the name of the child, though.

"They said they were going to name the kid '7-Eleven,'" said store manager Jesse Ellington. "Thank heaven."

New roadkill policy dies

In the world of county budget cuts, it really did not amount to much — about \$6,000.

But it sure would have been a stinker.

Sarasota County staff on Monday proposed a policy change that would have stopped county workers from clearing local roadsides of any roadkill over the size of a large dog. Estimated savings: \$5,000 a year.

Under the new policy, workers would still dispose of dead animals in the road or those that present a safety hazard.

Amid an hours-long budget discussion on Monday, county commissioners ruled against the proposed cut, directing their staff to find some other way to save money.

It was an example of the checks and balances at work in local government. And a victory for the dignified disposal of large animals all over Sarasota County.

From the archives

After discovering that McIntosh Avenue in Sarasota was not the correct spelling for the county's pioneer Mackintosh family for which the road was named, County Commissioner Irving Snyder suggested polling the road's residents to determine whether they favored or opposed a name change.

The vote was close with 37 against, 28 having no objection and close to 40 residents not bothering to vote.

The majority had some interesting comments: "Gentlemen: You must be out of your cotton-pickin' minds! Can you imagine the cost of new printing for every business on this road?"

Another resident wrote, "Unless the 'pioneer family' is willing to incur all expenses for changing street signs, maps, deeds, etc. I do not approve."

Aug. 29, 1973
Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Staff writers Zoe Anderson, Doug Swartz and Nancy Taylor contributed to this report.

ENVIRONMENT | RESTORING THE SISTER KEYS

- 1 Crews brought heavy equipment to the islands to begin clearing Australian pine, Brazilian pepper and other invasive species.
- 2 They will grade two acres to the level where mangroves thrive, creating tidal marshes that will support birds, fish and other creatures.
- 3 The islands will be replanted with native plant species such as gumbo limbo, stoppers, saw palmetto, myrsine, slash pine, sand cordgrass, mulch grass and beach sunflower.



Longboat Key public works manager James Linkogle views a clearing on one of the Sister Keys where invasive plants are being removed.

GOING NATIVE ONCE AGAIN

Crews working to return islands in Sarasota Bay to original vegetation

By CATHY ZOLLO
czollo@sarasotatribune.com

LONGBOAT KEY — Workers are now trying to undo decades of environmental damage done to the Sister Keys, a cluster of little mangrove islands that were buried with tons of sand and shell in the 1930s.

The sand and shell were put there by dredging crews that were scraping the bottom

of Sarasota Bay. They filled in acres of mangrove marsh, destroying an aquatic nursery and totally changing the character of the little islands just off Longboat Key.

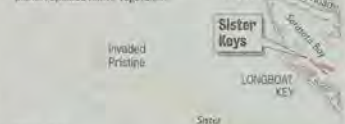
Besides killing the mangroves, the spoil dirt also made a friendly habitat for invasive plants like Australian pine and Brazilian pepper.

The dredging spoils also

PLEASE SEE ISLANDS ON 2B

Habitat Invasion

Shell and sand were dumped on the Sister Keys in the 1930s. Australian pine, Brazilian pepper trees and other invasive plants replaced native vegetation.



Plan for restoration

Invasive plants are being ripped out, the islands are being graded and mangroves and other native vegetation will be planted.

SOURCE: THE SISTER KEYS CONSERVANCY

ISLAND NAME: A NICOLE HARPER

WHAT'S OUT:



Brazilian pepper tree
The Brazilian pepper tree is one of the most aggressive of the invasive plants that threaten Florida's native species. The hardy tree spreads quickly and thrives in disturbed habitats such as along highways.



Australian pine
Long favored for use in erosion control and for windbreaks along beaches, the Australian pine (Casuarina equisetifolia) is outwitted in many parts of Florida. It competes with native plants, creates too much shade and has proven to be a bad windbreak because it is shallow rooted and tends to topple.

WHAT'S IN:



Gopher tortoise
These burrowing animals can live up to 60 years in the wild, 30 in captivity. They are native to Florida and thrive in sandy, upland habitat where they can dig burrows and find low-growing grasses to eat. The animals are important in an ecosystem because they spread plant seeds in their droppings.



Mangrove
The island builders of Southwest Florida, mangroves thrive in saltwater marshes and resist erosion. The exposed mangrove roots at the edge of a saltwater marsh provide habitat for a variety of sea creatures in their larval and juvenile stages.

Family reunited after visa mistake

Mother and sons are back in Bradenton following an eight-month 'nightmare'

By FRANK GLUCK
frank.gluck@sarasotatribune.com

MANATEE COUNTY — A Bradenton mother says she is relieved to be back home following a battle with U.S. immigration officials that kept her and her children in Japan and separated them from her husband for eight months.

The case of Keith and Akiko Campbell, which generated international media attention, ended with a decision by U.S. officials to issue the Japanese-born Akiko a new passport waiver.

Akiko Campbell, 41, and her two sons returned to their Bradenton home Friday.

"Being home, it was like I've been here the whole time but have just been through an eight-month nightmare," she said.

Problems for the couple started in 1998. Federal immigration officials said Akiko Campbell committed fraud when she entered the United States in that year from Japan with a fiancée visa, even though she had already married Keith.

The couple say officials in the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo told them to do so. Akiko Campbell was denied permanent residency after they thought the couple continued filing appeals. She

PLEASE SEE FAMILY ON 2B

Man gets jail for nude Web photo

By MICHAEL A. SCARBELLA
michael.scarbella@sarasotatribune.com

BRADENTON — A young man who posted a picture of his naked ex-girlfriend on her MySpace.com page is expected to begin a 30-day jail stint in October, a Circuit Court judge said Tuesday.

Anthony D. Rich, 19, pleaded no contest Tuesday to child abuse and attempted child abuse — charges that were reduced from sex crimes that could have branded Rich a sex offender for the rest of his life if prosecution had continued down that track.

The girl's mother said Rich's crime on MySpace embarrassed and angered her daughter, who assisted authorities in the prosecution. Rich had dated the girl, who has begun college, for more than two years.

Rich, authorities said, did not have permission to post the picture on his ex-girlfriend's

PLEASE SEE PHOTO ON 2B

THE LONGBOAT OBSERVER
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2007

www.yourobservers.com News 3A

ENVIRONMENT

by Kurt Schultheis | City Editor

Mitigation work begins on Sister Keys

The \$1.2 million project is required of the St. Joe Co. to compensate for its work developing a Bradenton marina project.

During the next few months, Sister Keys may look more like a construction site than preserved wetlands, but the end result of the digging, sawing and burning will leave the keys healthier and provide a better habitat for its animal residents.

St. Joe Co., under a corporation called Paradise Point LLC, is commencing mitigation work on the two town-owned islands at the north end of Longboat Key in Sarasota Bay next week.

The work consists of the removal of exotic vegetation (Australian pines, Brazilian peppers and others), creation of intertidal wetlands and the protection and enhancement of gopher tortoise habitat.

Paradise Pointe is undertaking the work as part of its Perico Harbor Marina project in Bradenton. The Perico Harbor Marina is expanding and reconfiguring its marina and docks.

The work the company is doing at Sister Keys is part of a required environmental mitigation plan to compensate for the work done at the Bradenton location.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has approved a detailed work plan and issued permits for the project on Sister Keys.

During the next few months, weather permitting, the exotic

vegetation will be removed.

Wind-tossed native trees may be removed if they are determined to be impeding the movement of resident gopher tortoises.

A controlled burn for the removal of these trees may be performed with the approval of the Florida Division of Forestry and the town of Longboat Key.

Public Works Manager James Linkogle said the permit calls for mitigation for two acres of wetland creations on the northeast portion of the Keys. To create the new wetland area, workers will remove exotic vegetation and dig to excavate a tidal wetland from the mangrove fringe to the upland edge of the islands. They will then plant the area with salt-marsh vegetation to allow mangroves to spread to the newly cleared area.

The \$1.2 million work is scheduled to be complete in mid-December.

Linkogle will oversee the project on the 74 acres of Sister Keys, watching closely as the developer uses two rack hoes, a bulldozer and a pay loader to do the work.

Using a 16-foot skiff boat, Linkogle said he will try to check on the progress of the work almost daily.

"We will just monitor the work to make sure the contrac-



Jim Hudgens, with CZR Inc., gives a tour of the project site Aug. 28.

tor stays in compliance," Linkogle said. "The goal is to remove the exotics and improve and enhance the environment."

Revegetation, necessary as a result of exotic vegetation removal or site construction activities, will consist of native plants consistent with local native upland habitat.

The work has been designed and engineered by Jupiter-based CZR Inc.

Woodruff & Sons Inc. and its subcontractor, Creative Wetlands Inc., are performing the construction.

Sister Keys Conservancy

worked to help raise \$46,000 in donations for the purchase of the Keys by the town. The town officially purchased the islands on July 10, 1992, for just more than \$1 million.

Sister Keys Conservancy Chairman Rusty Chinnis said the conservancy has sat mostly dormant since the purchase, but it has been revitalized with the mitigation project.

"The conservancy will be monitoring the progress of the mitigation work on the Sister Keys, the local grass flats and the marine habitat in the area," Chinnis said.

for the maintenance. It's the second request made by Pokoik. Pokoik asked for help earlier this year but was turned down by the Town Commission, which stated that 85% of all Key property owners maintain their own Gulf of Mexico Drive property. Pokoik suggested in his latest request, however, that Unit V owners would be willing to make a donation to the town if it handles their landscaping for them.

The issue can only be revisited at a commission workshop meeting if a commissioner wishes to put the item on the agenda.

Corrections

The Longboat Observer incorrectly reported the date of when former Mayor Hal Lenobel was stricken with Wegener's granulomatosis; it was December 2003. In addition, Lenobel spent only two months in intensive care, and he has scored 10 holes in one.

Meetings & Agendas

- **Planning and Zoning Visioning Meeting** — 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4.
 - **Town Commission Budget Workshop** — 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 10.
 - **Town Commission Regular Meeting** — 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 10.
- All meetings take place at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road.

NUMBERS IN THE NEWS

50 — years. Age of the Longboat Pass Bridge, which was recently deemed functionally obsolete by the Florida Department of Transportation.

\$50,000 — The amount it cost to install new laptop computer systems for 10 Longboat Key police cars.

\$1.2 — million. How much developer St. Joe Co. is spending to mitigate Sister Keys to compensate for the work it's doing at a Bradenton marina.

























Mote Marine
Laboratory
Staff

 **Sarasota
Bay Watch**
A Healthy Bay Is Everybody's Business
sarasotabaywatch.org

 **Sarasota
Bay Watch**
A Healthy Bay Is Everybody's Business
sarasotabaywatch.org

MOTE
MARINE LABORATORY











A coastal landscape featuring dense green vegetation in the foreground, including bushes with small red berries. In the background, a sandy beach leads to the ocean under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The text "The Challenge: Control the regrowth of Invasive Species" is overlaid in white.

The Challenge: Control the regrowth of Invasive Species



TO BE CONTINUED