Loggerhead Nests Reaching Record Level

Nearly 900 nests on Sanibel & Captiva so far this season

This nesting season has started slower than 2020—a record-breaking season—but current nest numbers are steadily climbing towards that record. SCCF’s current loggerhead (Caretta caretta) sea turtle nest count for Sanibel and Captiva is 896, while last year’s was 917. READ MORE

Nest Relocation Research Funded by CEPD

With a Captiva Erosion Prevention District (CEPD) renourishment project expected to begin Aug. 18, SCCF’s sea turtle team has moved 127 nests and is conducting a research study on hatching success. The island-wide sand placement project includes a CEPD contract with SCCF to move nests to avoid negative impacts. READ MORE

'Cookies and Cream' Sighted Again on Captiva

This nesting season provided SCCF sea turtle monitors with a unique opportunity to survey Captiva at night while relocating nests from Captiva to Sanibel for the CEPD beach renourishment project. A side perk of this project was that SCCF monitors were able identify previously tagged turtles that would not have otherwise been seen. “Cookies and Cream,” first tagged in 2017, was located on Captiva for her 11th...
Shorebird Monitoring Begins for Captiva Beach Project

SCCF’s Coastal Wildlife department is conducting shorebird surveys for the upcoming Captiva Erosion Prevention District beach renourishment project. Because it is still nesting season, daily surveys of the work area must be conducted to confirm there are no nesting birds.

SCCF Welcomes New Coastal Resilience Manager

SCCF has hired Carrie Schuman, Ph.D., for the newly created position of coastal resilience manager thanks to a two-year grant agreement with the Captiva Erosion Prevention District. Schuman will perform sea level research, coordinate adaption and resiliency strategies for the bayside of Captiva and the region, and lead efforts toward long-term climate solutions, public education, and outreach when she arrives on Aug. 16.

New SCCF Webpage Features Aerial View of Water Quality

Water quality in Southwest Florida is greatly influenced by freshwater delivered to the Gulf of Mexico from the Caloosahatchee. Today, SCCF launched a new Aerial Water Quality Webpage to visually track water quality conditions around Sanibel Island.

SCCF Marine Lab Hosts UF
Researchers for Algae Study

Patrick Saldana, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Florida (UF), is studying macroalgae decomposition and the effects on dissolved oxygen and nitrogen cycling in shallow environments with a focus on Matlacha Pass in partnership with SCCF’s Marine Laboratory. Macroalgae, commonly referred to as seaweeds, are a natural and common component of seagrass ecosystems, but recent algal blooms have smothered seagrass beds in Charlotte Harbor. READ MORE

Habitat Projects Move Upland for Rainy Season

Habitat management and restoration of SCCF lands is a year-long effort that must be timed with the wet season, controlled-burn schedules, and the nesting behavior of various wildlife species. Many techniques are utilized to complete these goals. During the wet season, most of these efforts shift to the higher ground where SCCF crews still have access. READ MORE

Meet the Tech: Megan Reed

Megan Reed, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology in 2019 from Wright State University in Ohio, is enjoying her second sea turtle season stint at SCCF. When it’s completed in early November, she plans to pursue her graduate degree in sea turtle conservation. READ MORE

Meet the Natives: Rosinweed

Fair warning: Simply looking at the native wildflower Starry rosinweed (Silphium astericus) is likely to put you in a good mood. This is a tall wildflower (averaging around three feet), which means you don’t have to bend over very far to observe its bright, sunny flowers. It’s also a useful feature because this plant is visited by a number of different pollinator species,
Including leafcutting bees (Megachile sp.).

**Fight Ocean Trash on Global Coastal Cleanup Day!**

Please sign up for a section of beach on Sanibel or Captiva for Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 18. Every year, SCCF keeps track of the amount and kind of garbage collected as part of Ocean Conservancy's **International Coastal Cleanup**, using the CleanSwell app (preferred) or provided data sheets.

**SIGN UP NOW**

**Sanibel Sea School Offers After School Camp**

Sanibel Sea School will offer a variety of after-school programs this fall semester. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 3:30pm to 5:30pm and include popular topics such as surfing, seining, and ocean art. These sessions are $20 per student and students can register for one session or sign up for the entire series.

**READ MORE**

**Ag Commissioner Nikki Fried Tours Estuary with SCCF**

On Aug. 2, SCCF took Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried out on its RV Norma Campbell to learn more about the water issues in our area and the River, Estuary, and Coastal Observing Network (RECON).

**WATCH NOW**

**Wildlife Photos to Share**
Thanks to Melissa Halliburton for sending in this photo of cow nose rays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) at Silver Key on Sanibel.

**DO YOU HAVE WILDLIFE PHOTOS TO SHARE?**

*Please send your photos to info@sccf.org to be featured in an upcoming issue.*

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