



COCONUT TELEGRAPH

March 2024



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Spring Break tips

What can you do to help if you have guests?

1. Are adults staying at your home to supervise your younger guests?
2. We all know litter occurs, sometimes accidentally. Please encourage your guests to pick up after themselves and others. Do not put trash in dumpster bags belonging to other islanders!
3. If your guests have pets, provide, or ask them to bring waste bags for animal clean up. Remind them to bring their leashes!
4. Carts need at least a flashlight for travelling at night on the island. Encourage people to drive slowly and be mindful of other islanders.
5. Store fishing equipment and other valuables out of site and secure your golf carts. We know these "island customs" are expected on the island, but visitors may not.
6. Be respectful of all private property.

Please share them to make the island a better place for everyone!



Sheriff Report submitted by Deputy Prummell

My spring break work schedules are being determined now. I will be available during late hours and weekends throughout the next several weeks of spring break. My hours will be sporadic and will vary each day.

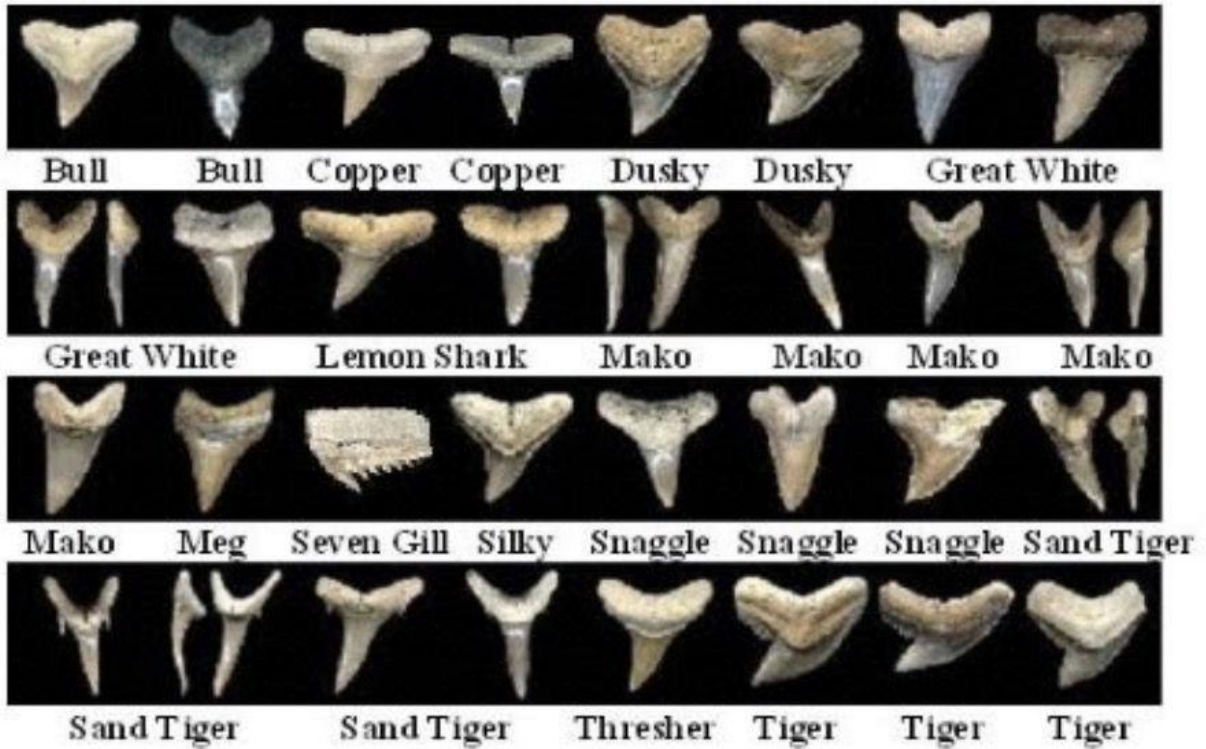


Membership Drive submitted by Dawn

Soon you will be receiving the annual membership drive packet in the mail. You can return by USPS, your membership form and payment by check. Alternatively, may visit www.lgpoa.org/membership and join or renew there and pay securely online via PayPal. Either way, we look forward to hearing from and getting past the last couple of years and getting back into our island programming and updates on island happenings. Watch your mail in mid-March for membership information. Thanks.

What Is This? Shark Teeth submitted by Laurie

Fossil Shark Tooth Identification Guide



Shark teeth are made of dentin, like bone and covered in enamel. Sharks can grow up to 50,000 teeth during their lifetime. They can have 2 to 15 rows of teeth with the newer teeth growing in behind the older ones. Female sharks tend to have larger teeth due to their larger body size.

[Shark Teeth Facts: Everything You Need to Know - American Oceans](#)

[Bing Videos](#)

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=shark%20teeth%20identification&mid=F5F7787C47D17305C6C0F5F7787C47D17305C6C0&ajaxhist=0>

Bocilla Islands Conservancy, Inc. submitted by Linda Cotherman



Bocilla Islands Conservancy, Inc. is a 501(c)3 public non-profit organization dedicated to open space and environmental education on the barrier islands of Thornton Key, Palm Island, Knight Island, Don Pedro Island and Little Gasparilla Island. We have conservation easements and properties on all except LGI. We also do a variety of educational projects. We would like to partner with our southern like-minded residents/owners/neighbors. If you have a vacant lot there are property tax benefits to putting it in a conservation easement, while at the same time guaranteeing that open native space remains. Please contact me if you have questions or would like to work together on programs. We want to preserve our paradise.

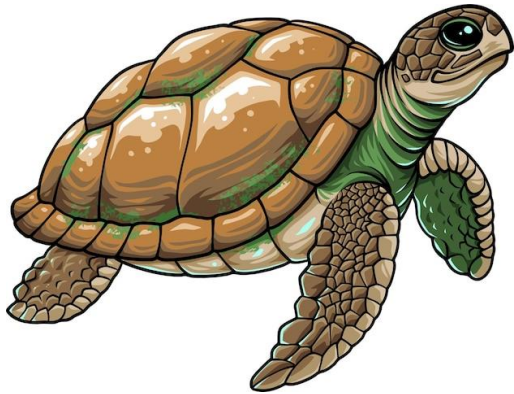
Linda Cotherman 941-276-1140. lcotherman@yahoo.com.

Boca Grande Peninsula Resort & Marina submitted by Brian



This is an interesting article in the Boca Beacon about the Placida Fishery Project.

https://bocabeacon-fl.newsmemory.com/?publink=00d3ea12f_134d183&fbclid=IwAR1KhZVfZ6sTmioslx6kzLBAnFAE5Exi7Na5WqhG5deoPPApdK-w9XVm7FQ



Remember, Sea Turtles Dig the Dark!

Sea Turtles and Shorebirds

(submitted by Suzanne Derheimer Coastal Environmental Specialist with Charlotte County)

Remember, Sea Turtles Dig the Dark!

Tips on sea turtle compliant lighting for the upcoming nesting season May 1–Oct. 31 *Charlotte County Article XII. Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance*

Step 1: Go out onto the beach at night and observe what your residence/property looks like from the beach. Do you see any light (direct or indirect)?

Step 2: Identify the source of any light observed. Is it coming from the exterior or interior of your residence?

Step 3: If exterior, does it need to be on?

- **Turn off** unnecessary lighting.
- Decorative lighting is prohibited during sea turtle nesting season—**turn it off!**
- All other lights should be used only when necessary and fixtures must be downward-directed, shielded from beach, with an approved sea turtle bulb.
- See FWC lighting guidelines <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/sea-turtle/lighting/>

Step 4: If interior, does it need to be on? **Turn off** unnecessary lighting. “Turtle” tint visual transmittance of <0.45 VT is required but 0.15 VT recommended for best results. Sea turtle tint on windows is a tool but not the only solution. Use in combination with:

- Interior light bulbs must be shielded if directly visible from the beach.
- Reduce bulb wattage.
- Use bulbs with lower Kelvin temperature 1000-2000 range.
- Move fixtures away from windows.
- Install/close window treatments (i.e. blinds, curtains).

Step 5: Educate renters/tenants on these tips. You as the owner are ultimately responsible.

Charlotte County Parks and Natural Resources has educational material available to put in rental units. Please do not hesitate to call Susie Derheimer or Alexandria Grant at 941.613.3220 to request material.



Little Gasparilla Island
Loves Sea Turtles and Shorebirds!
Turtles nest May 1 – October 31
Shorebirds nest Feb. 15– Aug. 31

- **Do shield your inside and outside lights from sunset to sunrise.** Use drapes, shades, or turn off lights. This includes any light visible from the beach. Turtles are attracted to light. (Flashlights, fishing lanterns, and flash photography, too!) Artificial light disorients turtles.
- **Do remove all toys, furniture, and tents, etc. from the beach and dune crest at sunset.** Adult turtles can easily get tangled in furniture, and furniture is an obstacle for hatchlings as they crawl to the water.
- **Do fill all holes dug on the beach.** Turtles can become trapped in holes.
- **Do limit vehicles to the roads.** Vehicles are not permitted on the beach and dunes.
- **Do keep any fires away from the beach.** Fires are not permitted on the beach during nesting season.
- **Do keep your pets off the beach.** Dogs, even those on a leash, disturb nesting seabirds, causing them to leave eggs and chicks exposed. Dogs dig up turtle nests. Dog waste on the beach is a health hazard.

Thank you for your help in providing a safe nesting environment for our sea turtles and shorebirds.

Sea Turtles are protected by Charlotte County Ordinance 98-14 and Florida Statute Chapter 370. Shorebirds and turtles are protected by the US Endangered Species Act 1973.

Need more information? Contact
Charlotte County Natural Resources
941-613-3220

Please feel free to email Laurie Tremblay at jltremblay125@gmail.com with any information you would like to publish in the Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of each month. The content is reviewed by board members for approval before publication. Thank you.