

# The 29th Annual Lecture Series

## ***THE DELICATE BALANCE OF NATURE 2020***

Presented by

**Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park**

WEDNESDAY evenings from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**JOHN PENNEKAMP CORAL REEF STATE PARK**

**Visitor Center & Aquarium Building**

MM 102.5 Overseas Highway, Oceanside

Park gate opens at 7 p.m.

Admission is free. **Seating is limited.**

Bring a cushion for your added seating comfort.

Please help us to accommodate those who are chemically sensitive by not wearing fragrances and other scented products.

For more information or accessibility requests, call Elena Muratori at 305-676-3786, or the Visitor Center & Aquarium at 305-453-1206.

**January 15**

### **OWLS OF THE KEYS**

**Jordan Budnik**, Executive Director of the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center, will introduce the variety of owl species that live in the Florida Keys, from the quirky burrowing owl to the massive great horned owl. She will offer tips to identify them by sight, sound, and behavior, as well as how we can protect them for future generations.

**January 22**

### **LIONFISH: A TASTY BITE**

Invasive lionfish have made a big impact on Western Atlantic coral reefs. **Dr. Alli Candelmo**, Invasive Species Program Manager at Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF), will discuss programs that several organizations have employed to reduce the effect of lionfish. Current and future research to understand and manage this species will also be covered.

**January 29**

### **MONITORING FOR EXOTIC PESTS OF PLANTS IN SOUTHEAST FLORIDA**

**Jake M. Farnum**, Pest Survey Specialist with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, will talk about exotic insects, plant pathogens, and mollusks currently being surveyed, and how they might affect natural areas and agriculture. He will share how these potential pests are being monitored, as well as some recent finds in the area.

**February 5**

### **LIGHT, COLOR, AND VISION IN THE UNDERWATER WORLD**

**Dr. Lorian Schweikert**, Postdoctoral Fellow at Florida International University's Department of Biological Sciences, will address the unique nature of light and vision in the underwater environment. Her talk will reveal why marine animals have specialized vision, and how that information might benefit the angler, the engineer, and the scientist.

**February 12**

### **THE GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**

**Dr. Donald F. McNeill**, research scientist in the University of Miami's Dept. of Marine Geosciences, will give a presentation on the geologic formation of the Florida Keys. His talk will draw on his experience as director of the exploration of the subsurface geologic history of the Florida Keys.

**February 19**

### **THE ENDANGERED SAWFISH OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**

Sawfish are large, shark-like rays that were once relatively common in Florida's coastal waters. **Tonya Wiley**, President of Havenworth Coastal Conservation, will give us facts as well as updates on current research on this now endangered species. Her presentation will include a sawfish replica, real sawfish rostra (saws), and how you can be involved in the recovery of the smalltooth sawfish.

**February 26**

### **MARRYING BEAUTY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN CREATING A GARDEN**

A sustainable garden can be achieved without compromising beauty or abandoning order. Careful thought, along with a knowledge of plants, strengthens the marriage of beauty and sustainability in garden design. **Ann Lucey**, of Anne Lucey Designs, will share information on how to create a garden that is functional, ecologically balanced and inviting.

**March 4**

### **INSPIRATION LEADS TO RESTORATION: FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF**

Once flourishing with thickets of staghorn and elkhorn coral, the Florida Reef Tract is the third largest barrier reef in the world. Over the last 30 years, 97% of these corals have been lost. **Derek Hagen**, Education Program Manager for The Coral Restoration Foundation will focus on the history of the Florida Reef Tract, and what Coral Restoration Foundation's volunteer team has achieved with its restoration work.