

**South Florida National Parks Newsletter**  
**Summer 2005**

**Underwater Adventure**

**Biscayne National Park builds a Shipwreck Trail  
With help from the South Florida Trust**

The two-masted schooner was built in 1928 to sail around the world on the eve of the Great Depression. By the time she ran aground in 1965 in the shallow waters of Biscayne National Park, the *Mandalay* was still at the top of her game, carrying luxury passengers on a New Year's voyage from the Bahamas to Miami.

The 23 passengers and 12 crew members escaped to safety but the ship was not as lucky. Scavengers stripped the vessel of her compass, sextant and chronometers. The masts were removed and the hull of the ship was left where she grounded, on Long Reef east of Elliott Key.

Today the luxury yacht is attracting new attention, this time as the centerpiece of the Marine Heritage Trail being developed in Biscayne National Park with help from the South Florida National Parks Trust.

Park archeologist Brenda Lanzendorf has mapped the *Mandalay* for recreational divers and snorkelers interested in exploring the site and learning about the park's maritime history. More than 40 shipwrecks lie hidden under the waters of Biscayne National Park.

The Shipwreck Trail will string together five of those wrecks along the park's eastern boundary, with dive cards and pamphlets for each wreck and mooring buoys to mark the sites for boaters.

The project is being funded with a \$38,000 grant from the South Florida National Parks Trust. The Trust approved the grant in January based on a proposal submitted by Lanzendorf. Since its inception, the Trust has awarded grants of more than \$1 million to South Florida's three national parks.

The five shipwrecks each have their own story to tell. Together, they provide a fascinating portrait of maritime mishap on the reefs of South Florida.

Dive cards and pamphlets should be available for the first three destinations – including the *Mandalay* – by December. Materials for the other two wrecks should be ready by summer 2006. The five wrecks are:

**The *Mandalay*.** The 112-foot schooner lies in 10 feet of water on Long Reef, inhabited by an incredible collection of marine life. Much of the steel hull remains intact, including the towering fuel tank, although the vessel has broken into three parts.

**The *Lugano*.** The British steamer sank on Long Reef just north of the *Mandalay* in 1913 – the largest wreck to founder on Florida's reefs at that time. Efforts to re-float the ship failed and she was stripped by salvagers. The flattened hull is visible today in 25 feet of water.

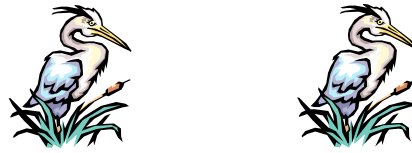
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**The Alicia.** The three masted steamer ran aground on Long Reef in 1905 en route from Liverpool to Havana with a cargo of luxury goods. The ship was stripped by salvagers before settling in 20 feet of water, where it lies today just south of the Mandalay.

**The Erl King.** The 306-foot Scottish steamer ran aground on Tennessee Reef in January 1881 but was re-floated. Ten years later, the ship ran aground again, this time on Long Reef. The hull of the ship is visible today in 18 feet of water.

**The Arratoon Apar.** The iron-hulled steamer ran aground near Fowey Rocks in 1878 en route to Havana. The remains of the ship now lie in 10 to 20 feet of water, encrusted with coral and boasting an abundance of marine life.

For more information about the project and the location of the shipwrecks, call the Trust office at 305-665-4769.



**Trustees of the South Florida  
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**TREASURED PLACES opens at  
BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK**

The third show in our Community Artist Program at Biscayne National Park opened May 6 with a reception for photographer Brian Call. *Treasured Places* features Brian's portraits of Biscayne National Park, including a series of photographs taken at Stiltsville, and some stunning images of local wildlife. Fifty people attended the opening. Brian entertained the crowd with tales of his close encounters with wildlife and then took questions about his work. Brian donated one of his Stiltsville portraits for a silent auction to benefit the Trust. The winning bid came in at \$375. The show continues daily thru August 14 at park headquarters in Homestead. Admission is free.

The South Florida National Parks Trust was established to improve the quality of life in South Florida by supporting the national parks that define our landscape and enrich our culture – Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks. The Trust is working to ensure that more people have an opportunity to experience and enjoy these remarkable parks by funding education programs, volunteer activities and visitor services within each park.

To learn more about the Trust or to make a contribution, contact us at:

**South Florida National Parks Trust  
1390 South Dixie Highway #2203  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146**

Phone: 305.665.4769

[www.nationalparks.org/southflorida](http://www.nationalparks.org/southflorida)

Grant benefits Florida Bay...

## Trust Provides \$580,000 check to Everglades NP

The South Florida National Parks Trust presented a check for \$580,239 to Everglades National Park in March to launch an ambitious resource protection program in Florida Bay. The donation is the result of two agreements the Trust signed this year with the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), which provided the donation, and with Everglades National Park. The donation will be used for outreach and education, law enforcement and research. The park plans to hire more law enforcement officers to patrol the bay, purchase new patrol boats, expand its education and outreach programs in the Florida Keys, install markers along the park's marine boundary, conduct a survey of visitors who use the bay and undertake an assessment of the bay's condition. Work is just now getting underway on these initiatives. Watch for updates in future newsletters from the Trust.

**Another milestone for the Trust:** With the award of this donation, the Trust has provided more than \$1 million in support for South Florida's three national parks since starting life as a committee of the National Park Foundation in 2002. Thanks to all our friends and donors for helping us to reach this milestone, and for supporting South Florida's national parks.



## Swim with the Fishes!



## Great Annual Fish Count at Biscayne National Park

The Great Annual Fish Count takes place on two different Saturdays this year - July 16 and July 30 - in Biscayne National Park. The event begins with a free seminar on how to identify fish followed by a dive and snorkel trip inside the park (\$35 for divers; \$25 for snorkelers, plus \$7 for a Fish Count kit). The Fish Count is organized by Biscayne National Park in conjunction with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF). The data collected by volunteers will be entered into a database for researchers working on marine resource protection. To participate in the boat trips, contact the park concessionaire at 305-230-1100 to reserve space. The seminars begin at 9 am each day at park headquarters. Two evening seminars will be held in Homestead on Thursday July 14 and Wednesday July 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. To sign up for a seminar, contact Howard Tritt at 305-230-1144 extension 3091.

Additional information is available at [www.fishcount.org](http://www.fishcount.org).



## Summer Heat

### Students Brave Bugs to Guide Tours at Everglades National Park

Most people visit Everglades National Park in the winter when the temperatures dip and the mosquitoes disappear. But not Cristina Clark-Cuadrado and Abigail Plucienkowski. These two students are spending their summer in the park, guiding visitors on two-hour tram tours through the River of Grass. The students are participating in a National Park Foundation program sponsored by the Ford Motor Company. The program places student interns every summer in national parks across the country to promote alternative modes of transportation within those parks – like the tram tours offered at Shark Valley in Everglades National Park. Cristina, 21, recently graduated from Florida International University with a degree in environmental studies and statistics. She is spending her second summer as a park intern. Abigail, 22, is a student at FIU majoring in international relations – perfect for a tour guide in the Everglades. “There are people from all over the world who come here,” she notes. Both students are fluent in Spanish. Cristina is also fluent in French. Her most memorable experience from last year: “Talking to the visitors and seeing their eyes light up when you tell them something interesting!” Cristina and Abigail will spend 12 weeks working in the park this summer before returning to school in the fall. The program has placed 40 interns in 21 national parks this summer, from Cape Cod National Seashore to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The program is a partnership among Ford Motor Company, the Student Conservation Association, the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service.



### Trust News

Two new trustees have joined the board of the South Florida National Parks Trust.

**Glenn A. Harris**, 48, has practiced law for more than 20 years at South Florida law firms and government agencies, including Shutts & Bowen, Adorno & Yoss, the Southeast Regional Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission and Greenberg Traurig. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and a member of the Florida Bar and Wilkie B. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association (formerly the Black Lawyers Association).

**Juan Mendieta**, 36, is a former television reporter who went to work for Miami-Dade County in July 1998 as chief spokesman for Mayor Alex Penelas. Juan became director of the Miami-Dade County Communications Department in July 2001. He joined Miami Dade College in July 2004 as director of communications. Juan has a master’s degree in public administration from Florida International University.

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Trustee Tim Koenig hosted a reception for the South Florida National Parks Trust on Friday May 13 at his home in Key West to introduce the Trust to community leaders and share our plans for education programs at Dry Tortugas National Park. The next day the Trust hosted a tour of the park aboard the MV Fort Jefferson.

Visit the new South Florida Trust website at [www.nationalparks.org/southflorida](http://www.nationalparks.org/southflorida) ... We have posted some new photos and updated the information available about the Trust.

## Park News...

### Kimball fills top job at Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks

The National Park Service has made it official: Dan Kimball, 56, the acting superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks since February 2004, was named to the top job at both parks effective May 29. A native of Michigan and a graduate of Denison University in Ohio (BA 71) and the University of Arizona (MS 74), Kimball is a 20-year veteran of the park service. His previous jobs include chief of the Park Service's Water Resources Division, Acting Superintendent of Zion National Park and Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of NPS in Washington. Kimball's expertise is water and natural resource management. "I'm thrilled with the opportunity," Kimball said at the time of his appointment. "I'm especially excited to move forward with my involvement in the restoration of the Everglades, the largest ecosystem restoration project in the history of the planet." He and his wife Kit have one son.

### Mark Lewis named Superintendent of Biscayne National Park

The top job as Biscayne National Park has a new recruit as well. Mark Lewis, currently the Superintendent at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park in Alabama, has been named Superintendent at Biscayne National Park, effective July 24. Lewis replaces Linda Canzanelli, who left in March. Lewis has 28 years experience with the National Park Service as a park ranger and manager. He began his career in 1976 as a seasonal ranger at Gulf Islands National Seashore and worked as a permanent ranger at Independence National Historical Park, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and Everglades National Park before returning to Gulf Islands National Seashore and starting his tour of duty at Horseshoe Bend.

Mary Collier, who has served as acting superintendent since Canzanelli's departure, will hold the post until Lewis takes the helm in July.



## TRUST DONATIONS

The Trust thanks those who made donations in March, April and May.

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