Insights into Owls

Story and Photos by Rich Peine

Owls are arguably the most interesting and enigmatic of

the winged creatures. There are over 150 species of owls living on all continents except Antarctica.

The smallest is the elf owl, which is about the size of a sparrow. The largest is the Eurasian Eagle owl, whoooo measures 23 to 30 inches long. Most owls hunt during nighttime, pursuing rodents and other small mammals. Owls' eyesight and hearing are excellent, and they can rotate their head 270

degrees. The Wild Bird Center in Tavernier is the permanent home of six owls, all of which have been rescued and can't be released in the wild due to injuries. Samson and Delilah are a bonded pair of great horned owls who have served as foster parents, raising orphaned babies brought to the center. There is another great horned named Guardian, who was rescued in Miami.

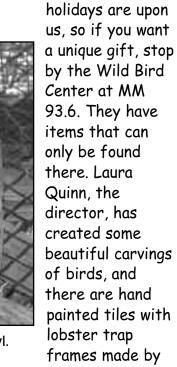
Also in residence are Bart the barred owl, Miss Prissy the screech owl, and

Gypsy, a barn owl. For all you esoteric buffs.

the Native

Americans believe the owl is a magical creature that can see the truth where others can not. If the owl is your spirit quide, you cannot be deceived by others, and people may be afraid of you because of your insights.

The



plenty of neat

stuffed animals

just to name a

information visit

call 305-852-

For more

jewelry and

few.

Gypsy the Barn Owl.

Guardian the Great Horned

Miss Priss the Screech Owl.

4486. All proceeds go to support the Wild Birs Center. So stop by and have a personal

encounter with the wild life. Remember your camera.

REEF Announces Annual Open House

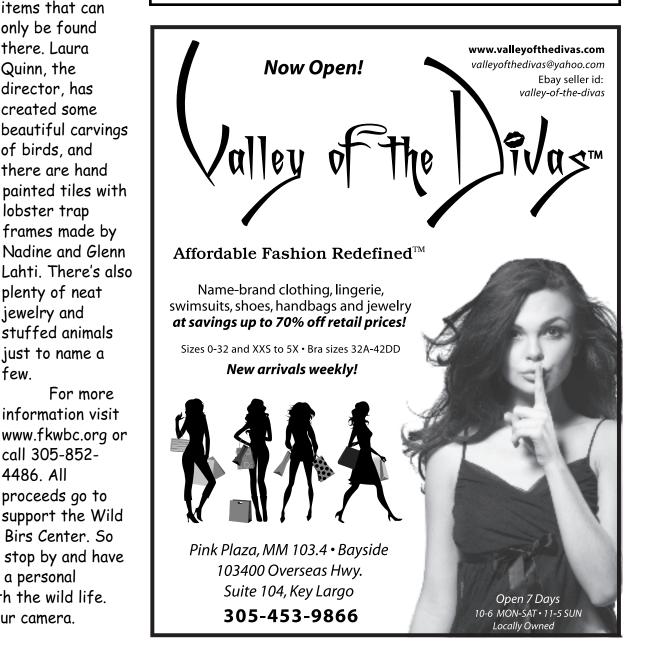
REEF (REEF Environmental Education Foundation) is holding an open house and the grand opening of their retail store on December 11, 2008 from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

The open house will be held at The REEF House, one of the oldest buildings in Key Largo located at MM 98.3 in the median. Parking is on the northbound side. Learn more about REEF and its mission, visit with REEF Staff, board members and volunteers and pick up some fun fish holiday decorations, gifts and the acclaimed Reef Fish ID Books.

Attending the REEF Open House will be marine life authors Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach where visitors will have the opportunity to their spectacular books autographed and personalized. Also on hand will be Anna DeLoach the award winning videographer who has produced pieces for national Geographic, training materials and magazines. She has made a handful of original marine life clay ornaments that will only be available at this event.

REEF is Key Largo's home grown, ocean environmental organization that uses divers and snorkelers to collect scientifically valid data about fish population density and diversity. REEF runs Fish Survey Trips, seminars and conducts research throughout the Caribbean the Atlantic coast of the US as well as the Pacific coast, Galapagos and Hawaii.

For additional information on the annual REEF Open House, contact Lisa Mitchell or Janet Bartnicki at 305-852-0030.



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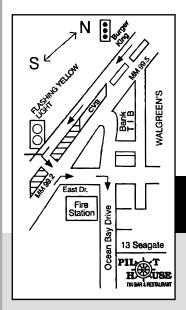
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Bartender of the Month Gloria Elder



years. What keeps her there? "My boss Gary Dunn is the greatest. He is a former Pittsburgh Steeler Super bowl winner and is a big pussy cat," she says with pride. "The

> customers are super people too. The food is great.

What's not to love? We keep things real here, and we think Jimmy Buffett is a Gloria is happy to explain how Hurricane Donna

1960. It no longer has a view of the ocean but it's hard to beat the view of the bay. She explains all this while she mixes up a "dirty monkey" which is a mudslide with a little banana in it, delicious! Stop in and try one for yourself. Gloria works Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays during the day.

The food is great... What's - Gloria

not to love?"

It isn't even happy hour yet

and the outside patio bar at

hopping, standing room only.

the Ocean View Lounge is

Why? It has to be the

beautiful and talented

one of the few

met that can

carry on a

bartenders I've

conversation while

working the bar

with experience

one of Gloria's

martinis and

year!"

and speed. Judy and

Tracy stopped in for

remarked "Bartender

of the month? Gloria

should be bartender of the

Gloria has been a bartender

since she moved to the Keys 23

years ago from Queens, N.Y.

Her first gig was at the old

Lagoon Saloon at Plantation

the OV for the last three

Yacht Harbor. She then went

on to work at Smuggler's Cove

for 17 years and has been with

bartender Gloria. She is

customers are super people.

moved the bar to its current location in