

Artist of the Month, Bob Gintel

Photographer and Philanthropist

The Coconut Telegraph is very proud to have Bob Gintel nominated as Artist of the Month. Gintel, or "Mr. G" as friends affectionately call him, is a brilliant, successful and respected businessman; a loving husband and father; a joy to all a friends; a treasure to this community; and also a photographer, a skill that reflects his passion for life.

Whether he is in Greenwich, CT, France, Monaco, Italy, the island of Sicily, Malta, Greece, Turkey, Croatia, atop the Empire State Building, at his North Key Largo home, on his yacht, underwater visiting coral reefs, or in a friend's helicopter, Mr. G is rarely without a camera. His newest is the extraordinarily high resolution Hasselblad 60 mega pixel digital. If you go to his website, www.gintelpics.com, you can share his photographic experiences through his keen eye.

Whether he is flying high over Miami or soaring across the ocean, his photographs capture the beauty of his surroundings.

Bob Gintel was born in 1928 in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from Columbia College and then the Harvard Business School in 1951, after which he served two years in the Air Force. He recently retired after 50 years in the investment business. His interest in photography began when he met and married his lovely wife, Barbara, 60 years ago. Barbara Gintel is an award-winning photographer in her own right and was featured in the Coconut Telegraph as Artist of the Month in May 2010.

Bob Gintel's community involvement began some years back when he served as

Chairman of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation and then the Jacobs Aquatic Center Foundation in Key Largo. He

subsequently became Vice Chairman of the Mariner's Hospital Foundation Board and is currently a member of the Mariner's Hospital Operating Board and a member of the Executive Committee and Treasurer of the Baptist Health Foundation of South



Medical Center Foundation; a member of the board of the Ocean Reef Academy; and a member of the Board of

ORCAT, Ocean Reef's pet control and care organization. He serves as a Board member and Treasurer of the Ocean Reef Art League, where he is Co-Chairman of the Digital Photography Club. Gintel is also a director of Ocean Reef's Political Action Committee.



Florida.

Mr. G is currently Co-Chairman of the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center in Tavernier, having previously served as its Chairman and President. He is a member of the board of the Ocean Reef Cultural Center; a member of the Investment Committee and lifetime director of the Ocean Reef

wildlife preserve from financial ruin and termination of its operations. Mr. G was elected the first Chairman of a newly reconstituted Board of Directors and the President of the organization. For the next seven months, he commuted 2-3 days a week from Ocean Reef to Tavernier, organizing the effort to keep the birds flying and the wolf from the door.

The Bird Center traditionally subsisted on a combination of grants, voluntary contributions, and contributions from daily visitors. To survive, the Center had to keep expenses to a minimum while constantly finding ways to raise new funds. Approximately 17,000 tourists visit the bird center annually, but daily admission to the public is offered free of charge.

Feeding the birds is done either by paid staff or volunteers and the cost of staff, food and medical supplies are the major budget items in the operations of a wildlife center. Eventually the group made it through the dry period and the problems related to seasonality, and overcame the bad image and reputation that the Center had created in the minds of its supporters and members of the local community.

The challenges of raising funds will continue to exist until the Bird Center can raise an endowment fund to support it, enabling it to depend less on public and private donations. Until then we must continue to support it.

Without Bob Gintel's expertise and generosity there would not be a Florida Keys Wild Bird Center here today. Thank you Mr. G.!

Junior Girls VFW Auxiliary



The new Junior Girls VFW Auxiliary will be writing letters and sending care packages to soldiers, volunteering in nursing homes, making favors and cards for veterans in VA Medical Centers, raising funds to fight cancer, marching in parades, presenting U.S. Flags to community groups, and also educating others about flag etiquette. For more information about the group contact Tammy Patten 305-395-2062.



Don't forget your feathered friends this year.

Make a tax-deductible donation to the
**Florida Keys
Wild Bird Center**

Open daily from sunrise to sunset

The Florida Keys Wild Bird Center is a non-profit 501C 3 organization that relies almost entirely on the generosity of both public and private donations. We sincerely appreciate and are thankful for all donations of any size.

You can go online and donate securely with PayPal

www.fkwbc.org

email us: **info@fkwbc.org**

Or, checks can be mailed to:
Florida Keys Wild Bird Center
93600 Overseas Highway, Key Largo 33037

Mission Statement

Florida Keys Wild Bird Center's mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and release native and migratory wild birds that have been harmed or displaced, to provide or locate a humane shelter for those birds that cannot be released, and to educate the public toward the importance of coexistence with all wild bird species.

Objectives

1. To provide professional standards of animal care, rehabilitation and assistance to injured, sick, rescued or orphaned wild birds.
2. To educate the public about the importance of our migratory and resident wild bird populations to the Florida Keys and to the Everglades.
3. To provide a humane example for others to learn from and follow.



The Center also need volunteers. Contact the Center at 852-4486

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Father's Day

**Bring Dad and the whole family for a special
celebration - Brunch on the Bay from 10-1!**

Sunday, June 19th

**Join Us for July 4
Fireworks on the Bay**

at Fisherman's Cove, MM 104 Bayside, Key Largo 305-453-9066 • jjsbigschill.com