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# TURTLE TALES

## (The Green Turtle Club Newsletter)

Winter/Spring 2001

### Coming Events:

**GREEN TURTLE CAY SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL - May 1 through May 31**

Highlights include a month long art exhibition of works by noted Bahamian painter Alton Lowe; a concert featuring the Key West Chorus and drama productions. (242) 365- 4094.

**ROUND THE GREAT TURTLE RACE - July 2**

Visiting yachtsmen challenge the speed of their sailing craft in an exciting annual 12- mile race in the waters around Green Turtle Cay & surrounding cays. (242) 365-4271

**ANNUAL RACING TIME IN ABACO - July 4 through July 11**

An exciting 8-day annual five series sailboat race on the Sea of Abaco. Onshore festivities include nightly entertainment, free cocktail parties, beach picnics, cultural activities & a grand finale party. For registration forms & information, contact Dave or Kathy Ralph, tel. (242)367?2677; E-mail: davralph@batelnet.bs.

Greetings from Green Turtle Cay and our Winter/Spring Issue of "Turtle Tales". Featured in this issue is a press release from the Architectural Preservation Foundation's wine tasting fundraiser held recently at the Club, stories on The Tiny Turtles Pre-School and the Club's GM Lynn Johnson, and a round-up and photos of this years 20th Annual Green Turtle Club Billfish Tournament.

### Press Release - GTC Architectural Preservation Foundation

An Architectural Preservation Foundation wine tasting fundraiser was held Wednesday 13th December 2000, at the Green Turtle Club. The theme for the wine tasting this year was "A Pictorial History of New Plymouth". Photographs from the private collection of renowned artist and local historian, Alton Lowe, was on display. Fine wines, cheeses and fruits was supplied by the William Brewer & Bristol Cellars Company and complimented with superb hors d'oeuvres provided by the friends of The A.P.F.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Keith Tinker, Director of The National Museum of The Bahamas. He is responsible for the preservation of historic buildings and sites throughout The Bahamas.

The evening was delightful. The Green Turtle Club went all out in their efforts to make this event a success. Hundreds of lights were strung over the patio creating a canopy of stars. The Club provided the music for the evening in the person of the ever-popular Mr. Estin Sawyer. All of those who stayed for dinner after the tasting enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Chef Michael.

Over seventy persons attended and over \$1200.00 was raised.

The A.P.F. would like to thank all those at the Green Turtle Club, especially Lynn, Meredith and Tim for making this a successful event. (submitted by the A.P.F.)

### Tiny Turtles Pre-School

(contributed by The Tiny Turtles Pre-School Staff)



The Tiny Turtles Preschool was started 14 years ago. Until that time the children of Green Turtle Cay had no preschool experience before entering the public school system at age 5. Many of the students were neither, academically or socially prepared for the primary school experience. Realizing how much a child can learn in the early years, a preschool seemed like a good idea. With the support of the majority of parents, Tiny Turtles began. The early days were a learning experience. Since that time more than 100 students have passed through Tiny Turtle Preschool, which is now a part of the island's school system. At the end of their time at Tiny Turtles Preschool,

the students have a graduation ceremony, complete with caps and gowns. The students are confident and ready to begin primary school.

Former Tiny Turtles have gone on to excel at the Primary and Secondary levels. A moment of pride came when Turtles graduated High School. Some were class valedictorians and earned some of the highest grades in the country on their Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education exams. Former Turtles are in Military Academies and College, with more entering college in the fall. Tiny Turtles Preschool is so proud to have played some small part in their educational experience.

With our funding coming solely from tuition, the kind donations of Green Turtle Club Tournament Participants have made it possible to add more FUN STUFF to our school – playground toys, craft supplies and a hot, new boom box.

## From Housekeeper to General Manager, GTC's Lynn Johnson

(by Sue Graves)



Did you know that Lynn's first name is actually Patty? She is not sure why they call her by her middle name. She does prefer Lynn. Lynn was born on the wonderful island of Green Turtle Cay and the baby of seven and..... the only one still here on GTC - Loyal! Her family actually has five generations living on the island.

She went to the Amy Roberts School and finished at fourteen - ok, she did skip a couple of grades - it runs in the family. At the time she was finishing her GCE's at school, she was asked to come in to the Club to help her brother's girlfriend who was one of the manager's at the Club at the time. Apparently all of her housekeeping staff had walked out and she asked if Lynn could come in to help. And.... here she is, 20 years later and the general manager. The Club has been her college education!!! Maybe she'll write a book one day - there would definitely be some very interesting stories.

Lynn has a beautiful (of course) 6 year old daughter - Blair, who is also attending the Amy Roberts School and is in first grade. In her spare time, wait a minute, when is that? She enjoys boating, beaching and anything to do with the outdoors. Lynn really enjoys her job, it's always challenging and she is constantly meeting new people.

Lynn has worked at the Club for more than half of her life, so without getting into "AS THE TURTLE TURNS" stories, that's about it. Of course, we all know there is lots more to tell, but you will have to ask Lynn for the best stories!

## 20th Annual Green Turtle Club Fishing Tournament

(contributed by Tournament Director Sue Graves)



Winds and high seas challenged anglers and captains who arrived to fish the 20th Annual Green Turtle Fishing Tournament. Twenty-two boats had planned to compete this year, but only fifteen arrived to fish. In fact, one boat crossed from Miami in fifteen-foot seas and over 30 knot winds lost an engine prior to lines in the water on the first day of fishing. This left fourteen boats in the competition. Steve Parnett, an angler from New York on the Hawk, tagged and released a blue marlin. He was very excited because this was his first blue and was the only blue caught during the tournament. Two other boats, Mark Roman on the Hey Blondie and Jim Hannan on the Everest, did fight blues. However, the fish won the battle on both boats.

A white marlin were tagged and released by Susan Wolsey on the Big T, her first. Susan won the top lady angler competition. Edmund Rhettt also released his first white marlin on the Cocoon. The Hawk, captained by Joe Salerno, won the overall trophy for billfish and non-billfish. Carpe Diem, Hawk and Last Call won the Top Gun Competition, a team-boat contest. In the nonbillfish category, the overall winner was the Big T with Captain Bob Wolsey catching a 32.8 pound dolphin to add to his team's winning total.



Mark Roman, Hey Blondie did boat his first tuna. Sue Silker, Predator, boated the largest wahoo, 45.9 pounds. Two junior anglers, David Yergey, Jr. and Palmer Yergey, Jr. won trophies for their catches. As the winds abated and seas calmed on the departure day, the Predator was out fun fishing and released a 450-plus pound blue marlin after a 45 minute fight. Next year's tournament dates are May 8-11, 2002. For further information and photos, contact Sue Graves, Tournament Director, PO Box 22604, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33335; 954-456-1840; sgraves@fitertown.com.

### Prizes & Awards for the 20th Annual Green Turtle Club Billfish Tournament - May 12, 2001



Overall Winner (Billfish & Nonbillfish)—Guy Harvey Trophy Hawk  
232.8 points



**Billfish Release Category**

First Billfish Released—Guy Harvey Trophy Susan Wolsey, Big T  
 Last Billfish Released—Guy Harvey Trophy Steve Parmett, Hawk  
 Blue Marlin—Winner—King Sailfish Trophy Steve Parmett, Hawk

White Marlin—Winner—King Sailfish Trophy Susan Wolsey, Big T

White Marlin release, special award, Guy Harvey Trophy, Edmund Rhett, Cocoon



**Non-billfish Category**

Overall winner—Guy Harvey Trophy Big T, 84.6 points  
 Allison Tuna—King Sailfish Trophy Mark Roman, Hey Blondie, 31.4 pounds  
 Dolphin—King Sailfish Trophy Bob Wolsey, Big T, 32.8 pounds  
 Wahoo—King Sailfish Trophy Sue Silker, Predator, 45.9 pounds  
 Top Lady Angler—Island Glass Trophy Susan Wolsey, Big T  
 Top Captain—Island Glass Trophy Joe Salerno, Hawk  
 Top Mate—Island Glass Trophy Jim on the Hawk  
 Top Gun—Tropical Creation Jackets Carpe Diem, Hawk, and Last Call  
 Tipsy Turtle Award—Turtle Trophy Uptick  
 Coconut Toss Winner—Guy Harvey Book Morning Girl  
 Runner up—Turtle bookends Predator

Rum Punch Competition—Winner—Island Glass Trophy (pub) Carpe Diem's 3 Dog Rum Punch

Runner up—Island Glass Trophy (shot) Willie Bee's Goombay Goodbye

Special four-year award, Last Call's Last Call III, John Kennedy

Hors d'oeuvres Competition—Winner—Island Glass (holder) Unwinder, Artichoke Turtle Bites

Runner up—Island Glass (smaller holder) Carpe Diem, Indian Passion

Hard Luck –Guy Harvey book Hey Blondie, Mark Roman

Junior Anglers—David Yergey, Jr. and Palmer Yergey, Jr.

Fly Fishing Awards—Uptick



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**\*Note - Should you have difficulties in connecting please leave a message at the Message Center (800-254-2617) and your call will be returned ASAP. We apologize for any inconveniences this may cause.**