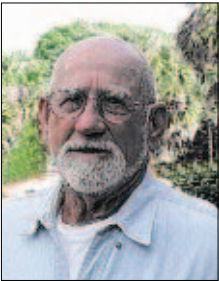


# NEIGHBORHOODNEWS

## Rookery volunteer honored



Ted Below

Ted Below, a longtime volunteer at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, was recognized by the Collier County Commission on Dec. 9 for his dedication to the study of birds and the protection of their habitats in South Florida.

Following his tenure as National Audubon Society warden at Rookery Bay, Below continued his efforts to monitor pelicans, wading bird rookeries, osprey nests and beach-bird nest colonies. He conducted his work as both a paid employee of the reserve and also as a volunteer, often regardless of weather conditions. It was this determination that encouraged Gary Lytton, director for the reserve, to nominate him for national recognition in 2001 as one of NOAA's Environmental Heroes.

Below has logged more than 9,000 hours of volunteer service at Rookery Bay Reserve, shares his library of bird photographs he has taken, and continues to provide lectures about the birds he studies. Perhaps his biggest accomplishment is his long-term database of avian populations.

"It is astounding in the world of wildlife research to have a 40-year-long record of coastal birds in Southwest Florida," Lytton said. "There may be some individuals who are equal to Mr. Below in dedication and service to the environment, but there are none who surpass him."

Below will present his findings on least terns during the Southwest Florida Nature Festival at Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center on Jan. 17.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve encompasses 110,000 acres of coastal lands and waters near Naples. It is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in cooperation with NOAA. For more information visit [www.rookerybay.org](http://www.rookerybay.org).

## 'It's a Wrap IV' now in progress

The Clay Guild, a part of the Marco Island Center for the Arts, is holding its fourth annual pottery show and sale, called It's a Wrap IV, through Dec. 19th.

Over 200 pieces of pottery, everything from hand-built to wheel thrown table-

ware and other decorative items including Christmas tree ornaments, are on display in the main Galleries of the Center.

Sharing the spotlight with the Clay Guilders is local artist Betty Newman, who has filled La Petite Galerie with her large, bold textural designs. Her canvasses are brightly colored; her subject matter influenced by Marco Island waters and vistas.

The Marco Island Center for the Arts is located at 1010 Winterberry Drive. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. through Dec. 24. The Center is dark through Jan. 1.

## Robb & Stucky to design Winterberry model home

Robb & Stucky has been selected by Florida Bay Builders Inc. to provide home furnishings and interior design for the Winterberry Model Home on Marco Island.

Robb & Stucky Interior Designers, Susan Bleda and Amanda Atkins will be guiding the project to its March 2015 completion. The Winterberry is a 2-story single-family home with a total living area of 3,476 sq ft and an additional 1,095 feet of outdoor covered living. The four bedroom model also includes a large multipurpose living room, pool, three car garage, and an outdoor kitchen. In addition to the four full baths, the Winterberry

Model has a powder bath and pool bath.

"We have designed this home for extended outdoor living space" says Greg Fishell, president of Florida Bay Builders, "the outdoor space echoes the ease and comfort of the interior spaces."

Bleda, an award winning designer, describes a casual yet elegant home that was inspired by the changing colors of the Floridian coastline. Bleda and Atkins design consists of bright blues, aquas, and driftwood colors seen in the morning gulf view, mixed with silver shimmers and deep blues visible at night.

"The vision we have for this design is to create a day spent at the beach, even before the homeowner actually arrives on the sand" says Bleda.

To learn more visit [robbstucky.com](http://robbstucky.com).

## Proceeds from local book go to charity

Marco Island Writers are delighted to announce their first venture into publishing with their anthology "Southwest Florida Stories & Poems."

All proceeds from the sale of their anthology will benefit The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, a charity that works to increase the availability of quality early learning programs to meet the needs of families and young children.

Now available for purchase at Marco Island's Sunshine Book-sellers, Collier County Museum Gift Shops and Marco Center for the Arts Gift Shop on Marco Island plus various other venues across Southwest Florida.

The book contains 30 Southwest Florida based stories and poems from 19 local writers.

Information: Visit [marcoislandwriters.com](http://marcoislandwriters.com).



## Roberts is newest member of The Shelter board of directors

Marco Island resident Carole Roberts recently joined the board of directors for The Shelter for Abused Women & Children.

Robert's professional background includes extensive experience in the field of governmental affairs at the national and corporate levels. She was employed with the U.S. Department of Labor and the President's Commission on Pension Policy and later served as vice president of federal government relations for Citigroup, Inc.

Roberts is a member of the Greater Naples Leadership Masters Class XIX and is active in the Marco Island community. She currently serves on the Board of the Marco Island Historical Society and is a founding member of the new Cultural Alliance of Marco Island and Goodland. Carole served on the Veterans Memorial Fundraising Committee, the Traveling Vietnam Wall Committee, and the original "Big Flag" Committee.

In 2012, Carole participated in Leadership Marco. She has also been a Board member of the Marco Island Center for the Arts and the Newcomers Women's Club; and was appointed by the Marco City Council to its first Arts Advisory Committee.



Carole Roberts



"Sun, Moon & Stars" by Janet DeAnna.

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