

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AN outgrowth of my idea that we should periodically revisit and refocus our knowledge about a variety of public issues pertaining to the human and natural history of Southwest Florida. For many years, I have frequently submitted written contributions to the editors of newspapers in the region. My writings are generally focused, but unfortunately they are often too verbose to mesh with the space constraints of today's newspapers. Many have been published in their entirety, while others have had major points ripped out by an editor's red pen, leaving the victimized manuscript limply incomplete and off point. So, I have elected to develop this web page as a new concept; an independent site where I can convey my own viewpoints about environmental and wildlife issues and historical elements related to those subjects. At the same time, I can also provide a forum for other individuals, who wish to generate written articles and opinions, and submit their material for publication as part of this Newsletter. I look at this project as an exciting new adventure, one that will expand the information base on many of the environmental issues that frequently bombard us from the news media, but don't cover the "big picture," and then lack systematic follow-up.

I will publish material on this page that is connected to the region's human and natural history and its historical sites, as well as issues and policies that pertain to the environment or wildlife-related history of the Southwest Florida region. To keep everything in context, wherever possible I'll preface a contribution with a background statement about the original news story, or an official public utterance, which prodded someone to spend their time to gather their thoughts and write a historical overview, or a basic difference of opinion, or a suggestion. I'll attempt to broaden the educational and historical aspects of the subject matter. This is in no way a technical Newsletter — let's keep it simple.

Contributions are welcome — Contributions to this page, and feedback pertaining to them, must be fact-based and related to the environment and/or wildlife and closely entwined historical aspects of Southwest Florida. To get started, let's designate the range of the American crocodile in Florida as the region that will be covered by this Newsletter, since this magnificent animal is the premier subject of this my inaugural edition. In your mind's eye draw an imaginary line across the Florida peninsula, between Port Manatee on the southern shore of Tampa Bay and Lake Worth, a city to the south of West Palm Beach; below this line is the historical geographical range and the coastal habitat where our native crocodile occurs. Then include only those counties south of that line that touch the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. For purposes of identifying the region, this coastal area will be considered Southwest Florida. No monetary compensation is offered for any form of photographic or written contribution to this Newsletter.

Written contributions may be prepared as an MS Word document and submitted as an email attachment, or as an email. Feedback may be submitted as an email. First-time contributing authors should provide a short paragraph that represents their personal biography. This will be used to introduce them to readers. My own basic biography can be found in a sea turtle-linked page through my Home Page (below). Short photo essays and book reviews will also be accepted. After a last published article of an issue is 90-days old, all posted contributions in that number shall expire and be deleted. Their titles will be indexed near the bottom of this page and the Volumes will be retained as PDF

files and available to future readers in the Archives. Serialized contributions will be published every 30 days, for 30 days, then become accessible PDF files until finally archived with their respective volume.

Advertising — Commercial advertising on this page will be considered for inclusion at a later time. Non-profit public meeting announcements are invited. If this site is successful, and becomes busy over time as it matures, then the advertising issue will be reconsidered. Potential advertisers who may wish to be linked to this page in the future may submit inquiries at any time.

Feedback is encouraged — Written feedback from readers is encouraged, but it must be dead on the subject and contain no personal attacks. This feedback and pertinent questions on a subject must be submitted by email through the link I have provided near the very bottom of this page. All feedback that is meant to be published should be submitted grammatically and typographically correct because it will be published as received — if it is accepted, it will not be edited. If you wish your email address to accompany your input and appear on this site, be sure to say so. Photographs may be submitted only if imbedded as a JPEG file in an email and not sent as an attached file and should be at least 500 pixels, but no more than 900, in height. Captions and photo credit must be provided. I retain the right to reject submissions if they are not related to the concept of this site or are submitted contrary to the above guidelines. As the creator and editor of this page I am only responsible for the opinions expressed by myself in those articles of which I am identified as the author, and not those written and submitted by others.

— *Charles LeBuff*