



APRIL 2024 • VOL XXXV

# KC Bee Line

## KCBCA Update

### Thank You's all around!

Our 2024 KCB Day Celebration was a great success in no small measure due to the incredibly generous donations from this year's event and shirt sponsors!

Not to be outdone, we were also treated to exhibits from over 60 vendors, local businesses and services, click [HERE](#) to learn more about each of these.

It was a beautiful day with mild weather, buffet breakfast from Key Colony Inn and entertainment ranging from:

- Pooch Parade organized by Barbara Heitman and MC'd by Kandi Kelderman
- Barracuda Races set up and run by John Misa and Phil Marconi for the KCB F&BC
- KCB Day Parade with over 40 vehicles and walkers led by Larry Smoot
- Shuttle service by Island Trolley Tours
- Silent Auction by the KCB Pickleball Club to raise money for the Tennis/Pickleball Expansion Project
- Music from Johnny Live and 4 Sheets to the Wind throughout the day

Pictures of these as well as many other from that day are available on the [KCBCA Members Only](#) section with password **24KCB**.

Of course, we relied heavily on all of our member/volunteers to chair and/or staff key internal activities including Sponsor and Vendor Recruiting, Banners and Signage, Visitor Parking, T-shirt and 50/50 Sales, Vendor Check-in, Vendor Hospitality, Tent and Chair Set up, and Trash management. We were also fortunate to have our City resources including, Mayor and Commissioners, City Office Staff, Police Dept., and Public Works fully support us in preparing for this event (see Ted's note following).

Again, THANK YOU ALL!  
Your KCBCA Board

### KCB DAY

We wanted to take a moment to recognize the tremendous support from the City Commissioners, City Staff, Public Works, and KCB Police in setting up and running this year's KCB Day Celebration! By all accounts it was a great success. We specifically want to thank Mike Guardino and his dedicated staff for going above and beyond to draw on their past experience to help us plan ahead and fill in any gaps before they became a problem. The Chief's assistance with the Marathon Fire Marshall and traffic patterns to keep 7th Street open for the parade and throughout the entire event was also very helpful. Finally, we really appreciate the great cooperation we received from Sylvia and the City office staff in preparing flyers and coordinating posts on the City's Social Media outlets. We look forward to teaming together in the coming years to enhance the experience for all in our "Gem of the Florida Keys"!

Respectfully,  
Ted Fischer, President, KCBCA

## 2024/2025 Season Event Dates

Thursday, Nov. 14	Welcome Back Party KC Inn
TBD	Boat Parade KCBF&BC
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Santa Comes to Town
Saturday, Jan. 18	Coconut Crawl
Sunday, January 26	Concerts in the Park Season Starts
Sunday, Mar 2	<b>68th Annual KCB Day</b>
Sunday, Mar 17	St Patrick's Day Parade
TBD	7 Meter Bridge Run
Sunday March 23	Concert in the Park Season End

Many Thanks!  
to Our

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# The Fun We've Had...





### Pooch Promenade

Fifteen pooches strutted their stuff at KCB Day in an effort to become KCB's "Top Dog".

Prizes were awarded for Best Handler/Dog Combo (Luke and Denny McGill), Most KeeZee Dog was awarded to Paws & Mary Gephart and Best Overall went to Daisy and Kristy Ruiz; with an honorable mention given to Stella and Chris for enduring the hot weather. However, they were all winners and were the highlight of the day.



# Be Balloon Aware

## What goes up...



## ...must come down

Balloons can be deadly to wildlife, including marine mammals.

When we release balloons into the sky to celebrate special occasions, we may forget that they eventually deflate and end up in streams, rivers, and the ocean. Balloons are among the top ten types of debris found during coastal cleanups, and their number appears to have tripled in the last decade.

Why are balloons so dangerous to marine life?

### Entanglement

Like with fishing lines and nets, animals can become helplessly entangled in balloon strings, making them unable to swim, fly or move. Loss of mobility means animals cannot feed or effectively defend themselves from predators.



### Starvation

Some animals die from starvation when balloons they've eaten block their digestive tracts. Several species of sea turtles and seabirds are particularly threatened by this type of pollution – even more than hard plastic – because balloons and balloon fragments are easily mistaken for food.

For seabirds, balloons are the #1 cause of death from marine debris-related risks.

1,000,000s of balloons are being intentionally released every year, despite balloon litter being 100% preventable.

<https://www.oceanconservation.org/be-balloon-aware/>

# Pickleball

The KCB Pickleball Club ended the season with an on-court fundraiser round robin dubbed Fools Fundraiser.

We had beautiful weather and nice turnout for the event held April 6th & 7th.

The entries included 10 men's teams and 9 mixed doubles teams for the two-day event.

We had some first-time participants so congrats to you all for coming out to support the cause!

We were all winners, but these folks took home the trophies!

Men's Doubles:

Gold-Billy Blasingame (aka Champ) & Brian Grant

Silver- Louis Alfonso & Melvin

Bronze- Tiz & Spencer Smith



Mixed Doubles:

Gold- Mary Conditt & Spencer Smith

Silver- Dr. Jay & Sue Redding

Bronze- Melody and Lenn Renne



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# KCB Ladies Golf League



## Key Colony Beach Ladies Golf League 2023/2024 Season

### Results

- 11/29/23 Scramble winners: Lynn Goodwin, Sue Redding, Cindy Catto  
12/6/23. Scramble winners: Holly Fellows, Sue Redding Laurie Swanson  
12/20/23 Scramble winners: Jan Bamberger, Marianne Steinhacker,  
Jackie Low, Sue Redding, Julie Johnson, Janice Regan  
1/3/24 Best score after one hole thrown out: Sue Redding (30)  
1/10/24 Lowest number of putts: Sue Redding (11)  
1/17/24 Closest to pin on Hole 2: Clare Baumgardt  
1/24/24 Most 1 putts: Pat Childs, Sue Redding, Jackie Low (7)  
1/31/24 Most 5's: Marianne Steinhacker (5)  
2/7/24 Odd/Even: Holly Fellows, Beth Goldsworthy, Janice Regan  
2/14/24 Guess your score: Sandy Bachman, Lynn Goodwin, Janice Regan, Sue Redding  
2/21/24 Best score using two clubs and a putter: Beth Goldsworthy (31)  
2/28/24 Most 4's: Holly Fellows (7)  
3/6/24 Scramble: Gail Alter, Jackie Low, Holly Fellows

### For the season:

- Most Eagles: Sue Redding (1)  
Most Chip-Ins: Darlene Elwinger (5)  
Most Birdies: Pat Childs, Beth Goldsworthy, Darlene Elwinger Each had (3)

*Congrats Ladies!*

## KCB Bocce Ball

The annual Bocce tournament was held this year on Monday February 26th at the 7th street courts starting at 9am. We had 13 4-person teams participating this year (names drawn randomly) for a double elimination tournament. Pastries, coffee and fruit were available as teams arrived and got ready to play. Phil Marconi did an awesome job laying out the diagram for team play and kept the chart updated throughout the day with wins and losses.

The tournament lasted most of the day and concluded about 4:15 with the winning team having started their day with a loss. Most people stayed around and cheered for the teams once their own team was eliminated.

Small monetary awards were given for the first and second place teams. The first place team was team #11 comprised of Margaret Tremblay, Gerri McGill, Bill Treanor and Tom McGill. The second place team was Team #10 with members Natalie Treanor, Bill Caudill, Frank Tremblay and Judy Burgett. Winners pictured right.

Pizza, subs and desserts were enjoyed by all after the tournament conclusion.

Special Thanks to Frank and Margaret Tremblay, Phil and Donna Marconi and all the others that made the day a great event.

Bocce is open to all participants and meets Mondays and Thursdays throughout the season - come by around 3:45 for play starting at 4 pm. Any questions, call Frank Tremblay at 607-732-2990, or Phil Marconi



## 7M KCB Bridge Run

KCB has sprung forward and the spirit and enthusiasm of this Gem of the Florida Keys are back and Better than Ever. A great, and well supported, KCB Day was followed by the city coming together for the Beautification's hot dogs at the Tiki. Then came by a spirited St Patrick's Day parade on March 17 and a community fun event, the 7 Meter Bridge Run, on March 21.



*100-year-old Marathon resident Dorothy Bitzer as the first to break the tape.*

The community spirit and support at the March events has been fantastic. We had a great turnout of highly trained and enthusiastic "runners" charge forward on 7 meters for over 60 seconds of grueling running. The

*Photos by ALEX RICKERT/Keys Weekly*

race was initiated in our Gold Elite run by first place winner 100 year old Dorothy Bitzer.

The second event was the Silver Elite run. This was a tie first place finish by Gary Jayne and James Gijanto. Run times by these Elite runners are kept confidential so as not to discourage others from competing next year. The caution tape finish line tape was held by Mayor Joey and Police Chief Kris. The yellow caution tape finish line was a vain attempt to try to slow these high speed runners down at the fin-

*KCB Mayor Joey congratulating the winner*



# BPK Botanical Society

The April meeting of the Big Pine Key Botanical Society will be held on April 18, at the Big Pine United Methodist Church at 6:30 pm. The speaker is Ranger Katy Hosokawa is the new ranger at the National Key Deer Refuge. Her talk with the Botanical Society will be about the places where people and wildlife thrive- the national wildlife refuges of the Florida Keys. Living with in a mosaic of protected lands is a unique and beautiful experience, and Katy will share some of the highlights. Katy is a passionate advocate for wildlife and conservation, who recently relocated from Sanibel, FL. Armed with a Bachelor's degree in Geography from Northeastern State University and a Master's in Environmental Geoscience from the University of Northern Colorado, Katy's mission is clear: to find happiness and make a difference through conservation efforts. Katy eagerly anticipates the adventures and opportunities to engage with the local community, inspiring others to join her in safeguarding our planet's precious ecosystems.



April 19 @ 1:00 pm Speaker: Jackie Sparber, Orchid Enthusiast Extraordinaire

Topic: **“Orchid Growing in the Florida Keys”**

After her presentation, Jackie and the caretakers for the orchid gardens will be available to answer any questions that you might have. Additionally, Juanita from Juanita's Orchids will be selling her beautiful orchids before and after the program. We hope that you will purchase a new orchid or two for your collection, and that you will take the time to tour our lovely gardens and enjoy our beautiful orchid wall.

[Click for Link to KCB City/Community Calendar of Events APRIL](#)

## Marathon HS Dolphin Bistro

350 Sombrero Beach Rd,  
Marathon

Come join us for a Dinner and Show!!! We will be serving a 'Floribbean' Style dinner featuring cuisines from south Florida, the Caribbean and Latin flavors in the Courtyard. Then head to the Performing Arts Center for the Steel Drum Band Show at 6:30.

Quite a few KCB residents are in the Steel Drum Band so it should be a fun night. The meal is prepared by the Dolphin Bistro which is the Pro Start Culinary Arts program at Marathon High School. Dinner is served before the concert starting at 4pm. \$20 per person, no reservations needed.



## KCB Book Club

Our Key Colony Beach Book Club had a fascinating and enjoyable meeting at the KC Inn on the 11th. We discussed *Under the Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan. Most of us were unaware of the life-history of Robert Louis Stevenson and we found the information contained in this story very interesting.

As usual, the conversation went in several different directions, including decisions regarding our next meeting and what we may decide to read next season. May 9 will be our next meeting and we will be discussing *Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom. *Crow Mary* is based on a true story. This novel by the author of *The Kitchen House* (2010) is about an indigenous woman, Mary Crow, who, in the 1870s marries a white fur trader. Conflict ensues.

Since May is our last meeting until October, please send any suggestions you might have for books we should read during our next season. A list will be compiled and sent out for your perusal and subsequent vote on which books, authors, and/or stories you would like to read.

Be sure to join us for our last meeting of this season!



# See You Next Season!



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Organization



[KCBCA.org](http://KCBCA.org)

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