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TIGHT LINES

Volume 11, Issue 24, April 7, 2024

Looking Ahead

<u>April 9 - 12</u> Fishaway - Gasparilla Inn, Boca Grande Safe travels and tightlines!









Annual Meeting in the KLAC Butterfly Garden

Welcome

Standing in for President Laura Wilson, Vice President Jodi Zifferer, on behalf of the Board of Directors, welcomed the Bonnies to the Annual Meeting and commented on what a lovely spot the garden was for the final Bonnie luncheon of our 25th anniversary season. She expressed thanks to KLAC for once again hosting the Bonnies in the Butterfly Garden and many thanks to Clay, Chef Jon and his team for making the day so special.

Thank You's

Jodi then read the following from Laura's notes: I would like to thank our current board members Jodi Zifferer, vice president; Liz Zug, secretary; Johanna Carrier, treasurer; and Carolyn Allen, Carol Andrews, Kristina Ersek, Diana Frazier, Allison Freeland, Bonny

Gothier, Tina Jones, Esther Vazquez, Kathy Weiland, our founder Nancy Zakon, and board member emeritus, Mona Brewer.

I would also like to thank all of our past board members who are present today. They include Jessica Olefson, Joyce Neely, Laura Zausmer, Diane Hill, Patty Strunk, Ruth Perfido, Sarah Cart and Mary Bloom, past president. All of these women have given of their time and energy in making Bonefish Bonnies such a special group of women. I want to acknowledge all of the Bonnies who worked so hard to make our tournaments so special: Esther Vazquez, Jennifer Leonard, Donna Stinnett, Kathy Hannoch, Kim Elliott, Mona Brewer, Jodi Zifferer, Bonny Gothier, Kathy Weiland, Tina Jones and Liz Zug.

A special thank you to the committee that put together the 25th Anniversary Celebration: Jodi Zifferer, Liz Zug, Mary Bloom, Esther Vazquez, Jennifer Leonard and all of the other Bonnies that showed up to help out and create such a special event.

Jodi then added thanks to Sarah Cart and Denise Bermant for their outstanding vocal performance at the 25th Anniversary Celebration and noted that this season's Fishin' Funatics was the first tournament chaired by the Bonnies' board of directors and what a great event it was.

Acknowledgments

As usual at the end of the season, Bonnies who caught their first fish, bonefish, tarpon, permit, sailfish or fished in their first tournament were acknowledged with a round of applause. Jodi, referring to Laura's notes went on to congratulate the following Bonnies for their stand out achievements:

Adelaide Skoglund, past president and board member emeritus, was inducted into the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust's Circle of Honor for her leadership and unwavering commitment to conservation.

Mona Brewer, past president and board member emeritus, was awarded Sportsmen of the Year alongside her husband, Harold, by the Rod & Gun Club. This was the first time that the Rod & Gun Club recognized a woman and a couple with this award.

Jodi Zifferer, vice president, won not only Top Female Angler but also Top Overall Angler in this year's Reef Cup.

Mary Bloom, past president, is being honored this month by the 140-year-old St.Cecilia Music Center in Grand Rapids,MI as one of three recipients of the Helen DeVos Legacy Award for her past work as president providing leadership during a time of transition and during the renovation of the Center's now 130-year-old building.

Bonefish Bonnies, Inc. Annual Meeting

Jodi then called the Bonefish Bonnies, Inc. 2024 Annual Meeting to order. Both the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were approved. As chairperson of the Nominating Committee Jodi thanked Tina Jones, board member, and Morgan Smith, Kristine Voulgaris and Jennifer Leonard, members at large, for their service on the committee and their thoughtfulness in making these important decisions.

The slate for directors at large was presented and Angela Basciano and Michelle Musto were elected to the board for two year terms. The slate for officers was also presented and

Laura Wilson as president, Kristina Ersek as secretary and Allison Freeland as treasurer were all elected for two year terms.

Laura recounted the activities and the highlights of the past season in her President's Report which Jodi read to the group. Laura's comments included the following:

We have two board members retiring this spring. They are Bonny Gothier and Kathy Weiland. Bonny has been a board member for four years. She has served as Membership chair, lugging around almost 200 hard copies of the membership forms to every single meeting; has chaired a tournament; a cooking school event and has been an incredibly active Bonnie, fishing in tournaments and participating on many different committees. Bonny is also a very talented and accomplished Pickleball player and has even opened her own indoor Pickleball facility at home in Baltimore. We thank her for all that she has contributed.

Kathy Weiland has been a board member for six years. Kathy's contributions to both the Bonnies and the Ocean Reef community have been numerous. Kathy can organize a luncheon in her sleep and we will miss the ease with which she ran them. Not sure how it is possible that each luncheon menu seemed to outdo the one before. In addition to being the Luncheons chairperson, she chaired the 20th Anniversary dinner and participated in multiple Mardi Gras parades, including hosting a group of Bonnies baking mini-cupcakes to be handed out to the crowd the year we had our 20th anniversary float in the parade.

Unfortunately, neither Kathy nor Bonny could be with us today to accept our tokens of appreciation, but I know that even though these ladies have finished their time on the board, their work will have a lasting impact and we look forward to their continued involvement with the Bonnies.

Needless to say, it was a whirlwind season due to a condensed schedule with Easter being very early this year. There is still some fun fishing to be had as a group of Bonnies depart next week on a Fishaway to the Gasparilla Inn at Boca Grande. We wish all of that group tight lines and safe travels.

Jodi added that it had been her pleasure to work with both Bonny and Kathy and that they will be missed.

On a Special Note

Jodi continued, that another Bonnie who has gone above and beyond the call of duty is Sarah Cart. Sarah's contributions to the Bonnies and the Ocean Reef Club have been innumerable. Before retiring from the board a few years ago, Sarah was the board Secretary as well as the voice of the Bonnies, writing both Tight Lines and Bonnie articles for the Ocean Reef Press for many years. She has also been the voice of All Charities writing articles and having an important role in writing and editing the All Charities catalog seemingly forever. These are but a few of the roles she has had. And now she has added a new one as a published author. With her usual poise and grace, in her new book she tells the incredible



Sarah Cart and the engraved pen given to her by the Bonnies in thanks

story of the medical odyssey that she and her husband Ben endured. The book is On My Way Back To You. Jodi, on behalf of the Bonnies, wished Sarah and Ben much happiness as they embark on their new journey to their new home in Massachusetts. You will be missed!

and as a symbol of the years she spent as the Bonnies' scribe. (Her book is available on Amazon.)

New Business

Jodi announced that plans are underway for next season's Fishaways. The first will be November 6 -10 at the Ford Field and River Club in Richmond Hills, Georgia. Johanna Carrier who has a home there is planning four days of Low Country fishing which offers many options for anglers. We'll have the opportunity to shoot clays at the Dorchester Club, spend time with a naturalist at the Ford Plantation and as Savannah is easily accessible, we'll have a chance to tour the city. Details are being firmed up and information will be available in Tight Lines this summer. Save the dates. Other potential Fishaways may be Costa Rica sometime between January and April, and Flamingo in the Everglades. Again, watch for details in future Tight Lines.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, Jodi thanked all of the Bonnies for their continued support and remarked that we wouldn't be who we are without each and everyone of us working together. She wished everyone a healthy summer filled with laughter and love wherever you go and she, Laura and the board look forward to seeing everyone in the fall. The meeting was adjourned. And we all enjoyed our Bento box lunches and each other's company.







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