

September

Chokoloskee Island Resort

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The name "September" comes from the Latin word "septem," which means "seven," as it was originally the seventh month in the old Roman calendar. In many cultures, September is associated with harvest festivals and the start of the academic year.

The month is also recognized as National Suicide Prevention Month in the United States and celebrates important days such as Labor Day, International Literacy Day, and the International Day of Peace.

Additionally, September is known for the start of the traditional Oktoberfest in Germany and the Autumnal Moon or Harvest Moon, which usually occurs in September.



September 17th is an incredibly important day for the US, as it was on this day in 1787 that the US Constitution was adopted. If it weren't for the Constitution the US could be an incredibly different country today, with far fewer civil liberties!

What Is The Sea Turtle Life Cycle?

Baby turtles (or hatchlings) start out as eggs that are laid in nests on beaches around the world. Once ready to hatch, they break out of the egg with an egg tooth (called a "caruncle") and move slowly up the sand until they get to the surface and then head to the water.

As young (or juvenile) turtles, they head out to sea. From there, in many cases, we don't know where they go (that's why we call them "the lost years.") Some turtles born on the US East Coast head out to an area called the Sargasso Sea, a large area with seaweed known as sargassum, where they feed and grow.

Once they are fully grown, they head back to where they were born to mate. Adult females will mate with multiple males and then when ready, they climb up onto the nesting beach to lay their eggs, starting the cycle again.

Sea Turtle Nesting

Sea turtles around the world nest on beaches in warmer places (tropical and sub-tropical beaches.) The female goes ashore, digs a body pit then a nest (or egg chamber), lays the eggs, and finally covers up the nest. After that, they will camouflage the nest, covering a big area with sand, to hide the nest, and then head to the water. About six or seven weeks later, the hatchlings will emerge and then head to the water.

"The Lost Years"

From the time the hatchlings take their first swim until they return to coastal waters to forage as juveniles may be as long as a decade. This period of time is often referred to as the "lost years" since following sea turtles movements during this phase is difficult and their whereabouts are often unknown.

Following the "lost years", when they have grown to approximately the size of a dinner plate, their pelagic (open ocean) phase comes to an end and they return to coastal waters where they forage and continue to mature. During this time, these reptiles are highly mobile, foraging over large areas of ocean.



Ten to fifty years after hatching (depending on the species), adult sea turtles reach sexual maturity and are able to mate. Once they reach sexual maturity they will migrate to beaches around the world to nest. Only females will come ashore to lay eggs, generally in the area where they were born. Most species will nest several times during a nesting season every 2-4 years over the course of their lifetime.

It is not known exactly how long sea turtles live in the wild, but scientists think their life span may be as long as a century. Unfortunately though, turtles face a multitude of threats related to human activities. For more information about the challenges they face see our pages about [threats to sea turtles.](#)



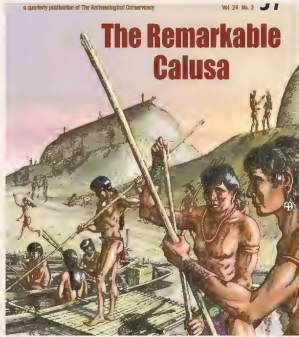
History Corner

**Visiting Chokoloskee, a town of historical significance with stories to tell
by Naples Daily News August 8, 2025**

Way down south and east in Collier County, Florida, in The Everglades, is a town called Chokoloskee that until 1955 could only be accessed by boat. It's worth the drive to explore this old Florida area with its rich history.

But first, how do you pronounce the name and what does it mean? Pronounced chuk-uh-lus-kee, the name comes from the Seminole-Creek chuku meaning house and liski meaning old, according to the book "Florida Place Names." Other interpretations are just "home."

Home for centuries to Calusa Indians, Chokoloskee was "settled" in the 1870s by European travelers. The Calusa were known for their shell mounds, which were places to toss out shells of oyster and conch the Calusa used for food and sometimes built into tools. These mounds built up the islands of Chokoloskee and parts of Marco Island, providing higher ground as protection from hurricanes that hit the area often.



In 1955, a causeway was built to connect Chokoloskee with the mainland. That was replaced with the Chokoloskee Bridge in August 2018 to meet modern standards with increased width and height, according to Fort Myers-based Kelly Brothers, which built the bridge.

**History, tradition, and mystery entrenched in Chokoloskee
Chokoloskee was the trade center for homesteaders scattered throughout the Ten Thousand Islands region and a few names stand out as leaders.**

The first postmaster was Charles McKinney, who was commissioned on June 30, 1892. George Storter was commissioned as postmaster for Everglades on July 19, 1893. Charles "Ted" Smallwood and George Storter made their living as merchants, according to "The Story of The Chokoloskee Bay Country." by Charlton W. Tebeau, a collection of reminiscences of "Charles Sherod 'Ted' Smallwood, a Chokoloskee pioneer."



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History Corner

The Smallwood Store, where residents in the area and tradesmen from as far as Key West came by boat, is a museum today and a living history of the Native Americans, the community and Ted Smallwood himself. The store was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and, in 1990, with the help of Ted Smallwood's granddaughter, Lynn McMillin, and the Smallwood Foundation, the Smallwood Store was reopened as a museum in 1990.

The vigilante murder of a local Chokoloskee businessman in 1910 is the topic of Peter Matthiessen's fictional novel, "Killing Mr. Watson." After Ed Watson was suspected of killing one of his farmhands, and of other farmworker disappearances, some of the inhabitants of Chokoloskee decided to take the law into their own hands. Watson's body was riddled with 33 bullets.

Chokoloskee is still home to fishermen, with a few motels and a resort having been added for Everglades National Park visitors.

The 1910 census for Everglades township, including Chokoloskee Island, listed 144 people in 29 different households. Many were farmers or farm laborers. Of those, most were engaged in the labor-intensive growing of sugar cane. In 2020, the population was 345 in 2020, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, down from 359 in 2010.

This article originally appeared on Naples Daily News: Visiting Chokoloskee, a town of historical significance with stories to tell



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Fishing the Everglades

Ten Thousand Islands

This backcountry waterway is a must-visit for fishing the Everglades. Snook and redfish are prominent here, as well as some of the biggest tarpon in the state. There's easy access to the channels and many bays, not to mention being close to deep waters in the Gulf.

Redfish

Redfish are one species that thrive in marshes. If you're fishing inshore, chances are high you'll land a redfish; plus, they are extremely tasty.

Redfish have two peak seasons, the first between April and June with the other being the months of September and October. However, it is a true year-round fish with the only slight drop in action coming during January and February.

Tarpon

The silver giant is another staple of the Everglades fishing ecosystem. The population of tarpon is a mix of migratory fish, which will seek out warmer waters during cold fronts, and resident fish who will stay in the everglades their entire life span.

Tarpon peak in the Everglades in May and June, though March through August is a great time to go for them.

Snook

The snook of the Everglades are some of the largest in the world. The Everglades are made up of shallow flats and islands made from mangroves, which are what snook love the most. And, with the warmer climates, they simply stay here and grow.

With the right charter, you could have a boat full in no time. Snook fishing in the Everglades is best between March and October while it peaks in May and June.

Snapper

The snapper is another species that loves the shallows and flats of the Everglades. If targeted with the right tackle, and with the right guide, the boat could be full of snapper in no time.

The best time to target snapper in the Everglades is from June to August, and again from December to March.



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If you've ever been bitten by a mosquito, you'll know just how irritating these pesky insects can be!

There are thousands of different mosquitoes, some of which can cause serious illnesses if left unchecked.

They cause mayhem worldwide and are a serious threat for governments and communities to handle.

Only female mosquitoes bite humans and animals, and it's only because they need protein from blood to produce eggs!

Male mosquitoes only feed on nectar from flowers. When female mosquitoes are not producing eggs, nectar is their main source of food, too.

Female mosquitoes use a pointy straw-like part of their mouths (known as a "proboscis") to suck up blood while her saliva enters the skin of her victim.

A mosquito's saliva contains proteins called anticoagulants and anesthetics. The anticoagulants thin your blood, and the anesthetics stop you from feeling it until they're done.

Mosquitoes can spread germs through their bites, including malaria and the Zika virus. Some people are unaffected by mosquito bites, while others contract serious illnesses.

Mosquito bites itch because your immune system releases histamine in response to proteins in mosquito saliva. Some people have Skeeter Syndrome and are highly allergic to these proteins, with symptoms including severe itching, pain, and fever.

Malaria affects over 200 million people annually, leading to approximately 627,000 lives lost worldwide. While most mosquitoes don't carry deadly germs, knowing which ones are safe is impossible.

Mosquito bites can also transmit viruses to animals like horses and dogs, such as heartworm disease and West Nile virus.

Studies have shown mosquitoes are drawn to the carbon dioxide we breathe out.

They have a very good sense of smell and are attracted to skin odors and other compounds in our sweat.

Mosquitoes can fly for hours without taking a break, with some flying up to 40 miles (63 kilometers) in a single night



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CHOKOLOSKEE

Red Fish



**Spanish
mackerel**



Blue Fish



Snook



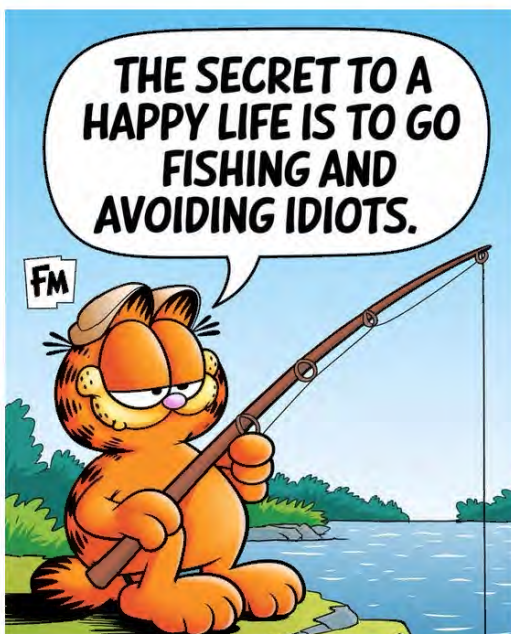
As we welcome September, we welcome a decent push of Redfish from Labor day weekend until Print time. The Reds are around from Fakahatchee bay to lostmans River, many anglers are finding them @ the outside Islands, and points with good current and mixed in with Mullet. They are hitting plastics, chunk mullet and Lady fish along with live shrimp under a float. The Snook fishing has been ok as well, those anglers targeting them are using live Pilchards or cut bait and doing very well. Some guys are using artificial / top waters in the back country and getting plenty, most are undersize, but a lot of fun. The Trout fishing has been ok most trout have been small keepers, it just depends on the area and the water clarity, most have been landed on jigs and soft plastics. There are plenty of schools of Mullet around so if you see a Mullet school, fish it, you never know what you'll catch.

Offshore all the anglers going out from our Marina have scored well with Reds Groupers, Lanes and Mangrove Snappers anywhere from 15-50 miles out and the fish are not picky, we had 4 anglers in our boat and we all used different baits and we caught many fish, I was using whole & cut Mullet, the other guys were using Jigs with soft plastics, flutter jigs and live Pilchards, or threads fins and we all did great. You just have to pick your days. Remember Snook season opens October 1st until November 30th 2 months only. Get out there and enjoy the fall migration of your favorite fish

Enjoy our 10,000 Islands and all her beauty.

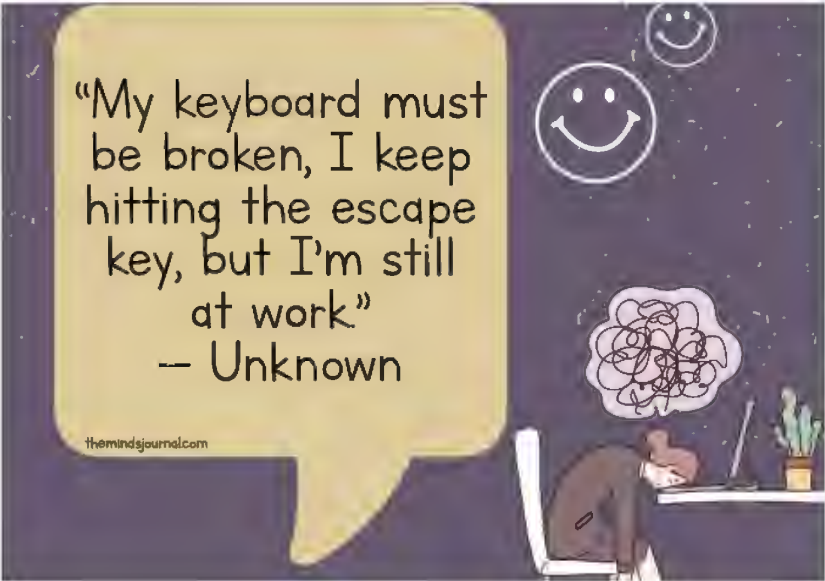
Tight lines and oily hair

CGS



Chokoloskee RV

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



CHARTER CAPTAIN LIST

Brock Wagner 239-231-9997
Kurt Kintz 561-723-6027
Captain Craig: 239-920-1342
Taylor Shaffer : 561-945-2910
You'll meet these captains at our park
Marina

Important Numbers
Office: 239-695-2414
hours 7am-4pm - M-S,

Welcome Center
(239-232-0473)

Everglades City Sheriff:
239-252-9300

Everglades City Fire
Department:
239-695-29

Florida Fish, Wildlife, and
Water
Safety: 561-625-5122

Lee County Electric:
800-599-2356

Naples Community
Hospital:
239-436-5000

Physicians Regional
Medical
Center -Collier Boulevard:
239-354-
6000

BreezeMed Urgent Care
239-529-2142
30 mins away

Emergency Pet Hospital
239-263-8010

Uber Annie
239-293-6004



Fall Events

Oct 1st thru Nov 30th Snook Season

Oct. 18th Choktoberfest Fest

Nov. 27th Thanksgiving Dinner
@ 4pm

Dec 20th Golf Cart Parade
@ 6pm

Dec 25th Christmas Brunch

Dec 31st New Years Eve
get together 8pm

RV & Vacation Rentals
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LABOR DAY WEEKEND

