

*Island Hopper
Songwriter Fest*

*Steve's Farm
Catfish Wanted*

*Santiva Saltwater
Fishing Team*

FLORIDA COUNTRY

Farming Seeds of Family Traditions

Vol. 6 No. 4
August/September 2022

GREG ORICK II
MARINE
CONSTRUCTION
HARD WORK
& SUPERIOR
CRAFTSMANSHIP

NANCY
SLATER'S
NATURAL
HORSEMANSHIP
COWBOY CAMP

WASHINGTON
COUNTY
WOLVES, WATERFALLS,
AND WONDER

FLORIDA KEYS ADVENTURE

*GET REEL WITH
THE SILVER KING*

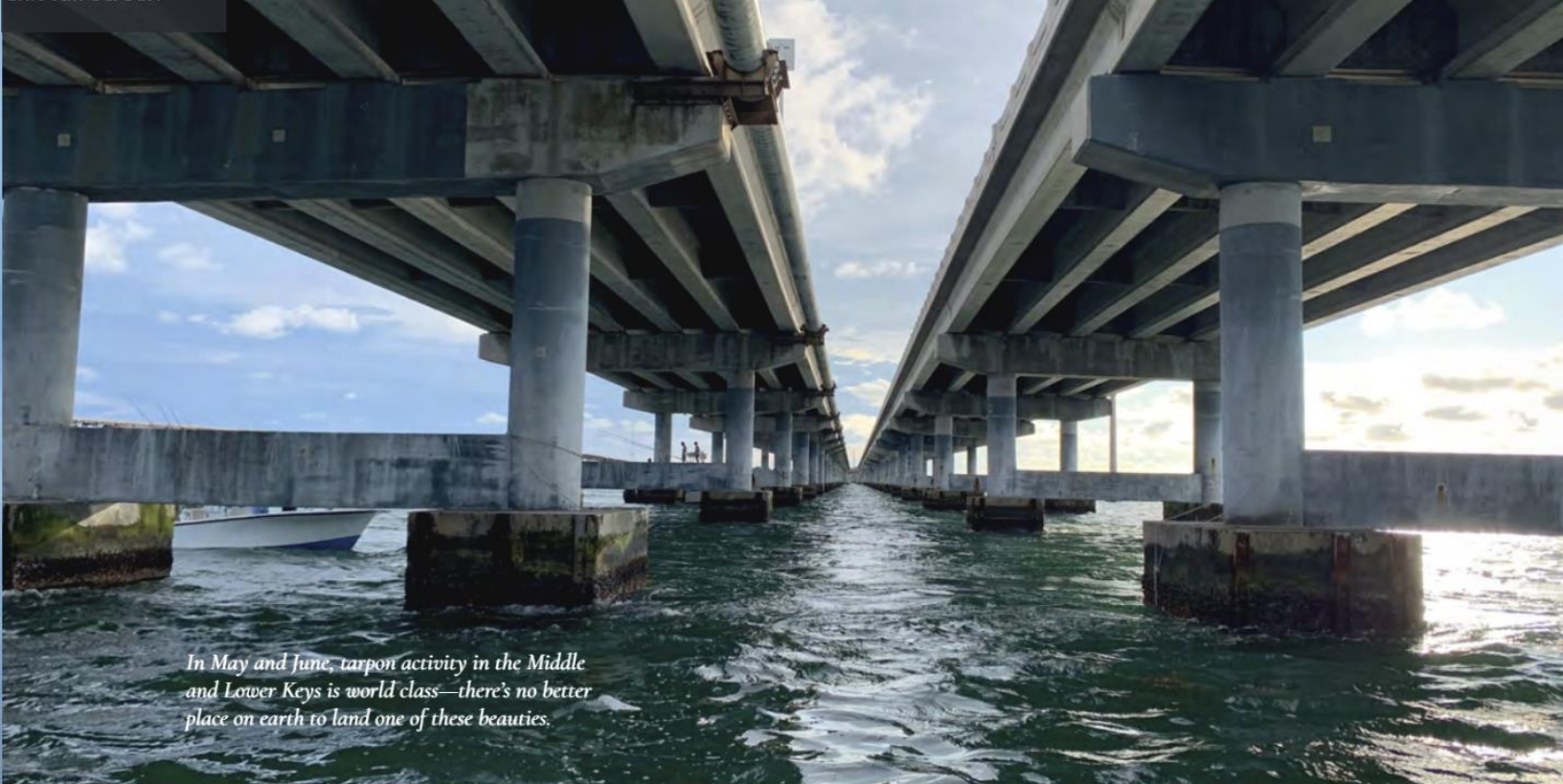
RECIPES
Page 76



Hunt for the Majestic

FLORIDA KEYS ADVENTURES UNQUESTIONABLY





In May and June, tarpon activity in the Middle and Lower Keys is world class—there's no better place on earth to land one of these beauties.

Silver King

BEST IN THE WORLD

Written by: Dave Kelly



Florida is a paradise known for a myriad of outdoor activities. And while boating, hunting and hiking are often the finest in the U.S., did you know that we feature one activity that is unquestionably the best in the world?

Welcome to tarpon fishing in the Florida Keys and the hunt for the majestic “Silver King.” In May and June, the activity in the Middle and Lower Keys is world class—there’s no better place on earth to land one of these beauties.

We knew that we wanted a part of this action, so we headed south on U.S. 1. Our plan was to secure the perfect accommodations, procure the best equipment possible for the battle ahead, and hook up with a first-rate tarpon charter company that could help us in our quest to land one of these elusive monsters.

GETTING STARTED

After researching the best in authentic Florida Keys accommodations, we were excited to find the Lime Tree Bay Resort.

Located squarely in the middle of the Keys at Mile Marker 68.5 on Long Key, this quintessential property has it all. Immediately upon pulling up, we were awed by the quarter-mile, white-sand beach lined with tiki huts, hammocks and barbecue grills just steps from the rooms.

A private fishing dock sits near one of the many heated swimming pools, all providing spectacular views of the sunsets over Florida Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The entire area is nestled in over 100 palm trees, adding to the gentle tropical feel.

Our new friend Terry at the front desk gave us a tour of the property, then escorted us to our second-story guestroom that featured a massive, shaded balcony overlooking the water. The well-appointed room itself was freshly renovated yet still had that authentic Keys feel that we have come to expect when visiting the area. The Lime Tree Bay Resort has other rooms, from studios to full-sized townhomes and suites.

After checking in, we scoped out all that the resort has to offer, including unlimited free use of their kayaks, paddleboards and bikes. They even have dockage for boats



Breathtaking sunsets on Florida Bay are standard fare. And Lime Tree Bay Resort offers outdoor activities at no additional charge.

up to 21 feet. Your room also includes breakfast at next door's Florida Boy Bar & Grill, a laid-back, Keys-style location with an outdoor bar that is open to the public for lunch and dinner. We relaxed at the pool with our local craft brews while planning the next move in our tarpon hunt.

WORLD WIDE SPORTSMAN – BASS PRO SHOPS

Down the road from the Lime Tree Bay Resort is the famous World Wide Sportsman location that features Bass Pro Shops and the Islamorada Fish Company restaurant. First opened in 1967, this World Wide Sportsman location specializes in everything you need for fishing in Florida, including all the tackle, gear and high-tech clothing options needed to survive and succeed in the tropical heat.

This World Wide Sportsman – Bass Pro Shops location embodies all that is the Keys. In addition to fishing equipment, this gigantic store stocks gear for boating, hunting, camping and all things outdoors. They also sell Tracker boats onsite at the Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Boating Center, as well as marine electronics, trolling motors, trailer accessories, canoes, kayaks and more.

To top it off, there's even the Bayside Marina and Boardwalk onsite for your bait needs. Fishing guides and

charters leave from the marina daily.

We picked up exactly what we needed for our tarpon trip, then headed next door to the Islamorada Fish Company. First opened back in 1948, this landmark overlooks Florida Bay and its legendary sunsets. It is also home to the Zane Grey Long Key Lounge on the second floor of World Wide Sportsman – Bass Pro Shops. The lounge is a tribute to the Long Key Fishing Club, founded in 1917 by the legendary writer Zane Grey. We all grabbed a world-famous sandwich served up with the day's fresh catch.

No trip to the area would be complete without a little dose of Ernest Hemingway history. The renowned author called the Keys his home for years, and World Wild Sportsman – Bass Pro Shops pays tribute to him by displaying a duplicate model of his famous fishing boat, the *Pilar*.

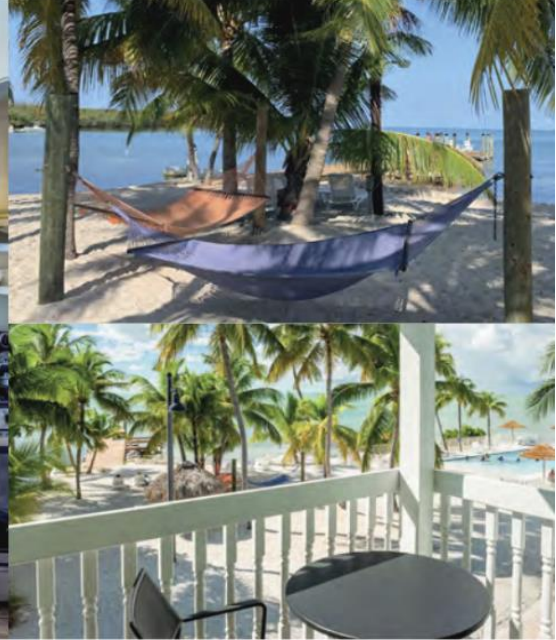
Legend has it that Hemingway fished from this exact boat in 1933 and enjoyed it so much that he decided he needed one just like her to satisfy his yearning for the big-game fish hunting he loved so much. This half-sister ship, named after Hemingway's nickname for his wife Pauline, is dry docked right in the center of the shop and welcomes all guests aboard.

We headed back to the Key Lime Bay Resort to retire for the evening—our trip to meet our fishing captain was coming our way early.

THIS PAGE: TOP PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIME TREE BAY RESORT; MIDDLE SECOND TO RIGHT: PHOTO BY DAVE KELLY; MIDDLE RIGHT: PHOTO COURTESY OF BASS PRO SHOPS; OTHER PHOTOS COURTESY OF ISLAMORADA FISH HOUSE; OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP LEFT AND TOP BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF LIME TREE BAY RESORT; OTHER PHOTOS BY DAVE KELLY



Lime Tree Bay Resort has studios and guestrooms to spacious suites. And a shady hammock beckons when things finally settle.



DOWN THE ROAD FROM THE LIME TREE BAY RESORT IS THE FAMOUS WORLD WIDE SPORTSMAN LOCATION THAT FEATURES BASS PRO SHOPS AND THE ISLAMORADA FISH COMPANY RESTAURANT.



This World Wide Sportsman – Bass Pro Shops location embodies all that is the Keys. In addition to fishing equipment, this gigantic store stocks gear for boating, hunting, camping and all things outdoors.

