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6-Sports

Outdoors

The Tampa Tribune, Wednesday, June 25, 1

frank'stacklebox

Q. Is it legal to harvest conch as a food anywhere in Florida these days? Where do they get the conch for the salad in the ... — T.W., Largo

A. According to the Florida Marine Patrol, harvesting of queen conch is not legal anywhere within state waters. The conch served in restaurants is imported. There's no rule against picking up empty conch shells, but if they have a fish or a live ow on board, you will be cited.

Frank's Tacklebox is a forum for readers to address Tribune Outdoors Editor Frank Sargeant with questions and comments concerning the great outdoors. Letters must be signed and signed by name. Direct them to: Frank's Tacklebox, Tampa Tribune Sports Dept., P.O. Box 191, Tampa, Fla., 33601. E-mail letters should be sent to rsk@gtnby.com

notebook

Ducks Unlimited smoker: Ducks Unlimited will hold a smoker for cigar lovers Thursday at Cherry's, 1312 E. 7th Ave. in Ybor City. Proceeds will benefit the Mack Castle fleet. will include a live auction. Tickets are $30 and include dinner. Call (813) 228-1119 for more information.

Saltwater events: The "World's Largest Redfish Tournament" offers $100,000 in cash to the angler landing the largest redfish, to July 6-10 at Boca Grande. The field is filled, but spectators can watch the weigh-ins at the public beach in front of the Gasparilla Inn pass. For details call (941) 964-2008.

The Sea Ray Getaway Cruise to the Florida Keys departs July 11 from Miami for more than 160 boats, most from Gulfwind Marina in Tampa, will make the Florida Keys cruise after traveling across Florida on the Caloosahatchee. Call (813) 539-9488 for more information.

C-BUS, CAPNUT meets: The Cockroach Bay Users Group has a joint meeting with CAPNUT on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Tampa Electric Co. Hall, 319 First Ave. S., Ruskin.

The meeting will feature a "Coast Environment Management Plan for Cockroach Bay" and is scheduled to insure that all bases are covered with respect to future usage and protection of Cockroach Bay and its resources. For more information call (813) 645-3866.

Tampa Bay harvesting changes: The Department of Environmental Protection recently announced minor changes in the classification of portions of Tampa Bay for shellfish harvesting. The changes, effective June 18. The primary changes restrict harvesting in Bishop Harbor and Miguel Bay to oysters and clams.

Maps of the areas affected are on specimen status of the Lower Tampa Bay shellfish harvesting areas and Boca Ciega Bay shellfish harvesting areas are at Florida Marine Patrol at (813) 272-2510 or the DEP's shellfish office at (813) 641-3565.

S.T.A.R.s will be out: The Coastal Conservation Association's S.T.A.R. (Saltwater Tackle and Research) Tournament begins Tuesday and runs through March 1. It will award more than $100,000 in prizes, including pro-paid tuition to any Florida state college to young anglers and six fully-rigged bass boats valued at $20,000 each.

Entry fee is $10 in youth or adult divisions. Entry forms are available at tackle stores or by calling (888) 893-3474.

— Tribune staff

calendar

Boating

Tuesday Hudson Florida 7-11 off the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Hudson. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 p.m. except 6:45 p.m. July 1. Hudson High School, 11410 Cobb Way, Hudson. Free.

Canoeing/kayaking

Tuesday Canoe Trip: Lake Keystone/ Moore Pasture, Hanna Park (904) 249-4700, Jacksonville, (904) 724-3865.

Saturday-Sunday Scenic Dirt Tampa Bay Group's overnight canoe trip. Carrollwood Area, (813) 738-0373.

Fishing

Today Al Provenzano of West Coast Jerks will demonstrate his tackle- and tube-bait method of throwing a bait net and will speak on channeling and fishing the Florida Keys. Meeting at Bass Pro Shops, 7621 Courtney Campbell Parkway, Rocky Point, 7:30 p.m., (813) 623-8721.

Tuesday Capt. Mike Salmond presents free offshore fishing seminar, Acme Tuna Inc., 4306 E. Busch Blvd., Tampa, 7 p.m., (813) 932-3074.

Tuesday Capt. Jeff Brown gives an outboard motor maintenance, 3300 34th St. N., St. Petersburg, 7 p.m.

Wednesday Capt. Jim Shanley of Cuda presents seminar on inshore tactics for grouper, Sparo Outfitters, 4202 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, 7 p.m.

Saturday Logo Atoms Shrimp Rodeo Chase, Steele Plantation Golf Club, 13351 Steele Plantation Blvd., (941) 274-4444, (941) 234-2600.

Tuesday Harbours Pass Anglers Club presents free seminar on fishing the Florida Keys with Capt. Tom Kelly, Honeyspot Marina, Yonge Street, Tampa, 7:30 p.m., (813) 839-1161.

July 8 Tarpon Springs Optimist Club's 4th annual Lake Tarpon Open tournament, captain's meeting at 6 p.m.

Tournament trails: Senior Pro Bass tour — Friday, Aug. 1-2, Lake Kissimmee, (407) 933-2255; Florida Trail Anglers Small Bass — Saturday, Lake Kissimmee; Shady Oaks, boats, 15 inches or more, (813) 677-1000; Central Florida Bass Trail, Camp Mack, 5-10 or bust, (904) 462-5600; Oyster Bass Bass Club — Saturday, Lake Tohy, South Port, $30 entry fee, (941) 426-1000; Bass Pro Shops Tournament Series, (813) 985-7713, (813) 623-5961; Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, $20 per boat, (813) 620-1042, (813) 620-1309.

Hiking

Today Florida Trail Association, Chinsegut Nature Center, (813) 689-8233.

Lobstering

Today Jack Wiebr presents a free seminar on lobstering, Bass Pro Shops, 7:30 p.m. Wiebr will review regulations, Boater's World, Oldsmar Square Mall, Shawkinton 7 a.m., (941) 747-5000.

Send news to Outdoors and Recreation Calendar, Sports Department, Tampa Tribune, P.O. Box 191, Tampa, Fla., 33601.

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Class action

"We teach you not only how to do something, but why. At other schools, most courses are all out on the water. That's easy."

Steve Colgate
School founder

SUMMARY: Nestled amid towering palms and breathtaking beach views, the Colgate Offshore Sailing School, an institution like no other.

By LISA WAGENHEIMER
of The Tampa Tribune

CAPTIVA ISLAND — It's 8:30 a.m.

You're departing New London Harbor. Red No. 2 is on your port side. Do you know what buoy is on your starboard side?

If you're in Steve and Doris Colgate's Offshore Sailing School navigation workshop, no doubt you've already penciled in the answer. Simply because nothing about sailing goes unanswered at the South Seas Plantation Resort and Yacht Harbour school, one of the largest sailing instruction centers in the United States and Caribbean.

Located at the northern tip of Captiva Island in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately three miles off Florida's southwest coast, the resort offers a mile of sand lush foliage, 3½ miles of shell-covered beaches, a full-service yacht harbor and marina and luxurious accommodations.

With celebrity sightings such as Jerry Seinfeld, Madonna and Bill Gates, it's also considered an ostentatious surfacing around the secluded island, South Seas is the perfect backdrop — and most popular of Colgate's schools — to relax, unwind and sail away.

Unless you're Martina Navratilova. Last year, the tennis legend visited the former key lime plantation and signed up for a Learn to Sail course.

"One day we were all out on the water and here comes Martina," recalled instructor Michelle Boggs said. "I mean, she's in a beginners class and she wants to race me when I'm teaching a performance class. She didn't win but she almost did. Obviously, she caught on its quick. She's a natural."

In 1964, so did thousands of others. That's when Olympic and America's Cup sailor Steve Colgate opened his first Offshore school in City Island, N.Y.

Because there were few sailing schools in the United States, he was an instant success. He assisted students become involved in the sport and challenged by its details. His commitment to teaching garnered international respect and as numerous awards.

As classrooms filled beyond capacity, the Offshore operation expanded to exotic locales and big-city ports. Colgate's wife, Doris, later formed the National Women's Sailing Association (NWSA) to offer more and more opportunities for females.

The couple also incorporated U.S. Sailing certification into their programs, so Offshore courses would prepare students to test for the sport's most recognized credential. To date, it's graduated 80,000 graduates, the program has become a fraternity of sorts, uniting sailors with clubs, hot lines and newsletters worldwide.

It's as Colgate envisioned 33 years ago.

"Our oldest student so far has been 79," he said.

"She was going to turn 80 in a month and had been thinking about learning to sail for years. She said 80 was too old to start, so she decided to wait. I'll probably be sailing by her birthday. It's people like that who bring me such satisfaction."

Jenny Delaney of Detroit, left, and Linda Witzal of New Jersey have the angles covered in a Performance Sailing class.

LISA WAGENHEIMER/Tribune ph

Sailing students can chart their course

Sandy Thacker of St. Pete gets a grip on things in Performance Sailing.

Instructor Tom Benford makes a point to Dell Zanuck of Ne Jersey, left, and Ann Haller of Fort Myers in a Bareboat Cru ing Preparation course.

At a glance

Getting to South Seas Plantation

■ By car: Take Interstate 75 south to Fla. 78 (Bayshore Road) west to Bell Tower Shops, where goes south to Sanibel Causeway. Follow signs to the Captiva Islands. For information, call (941) 472-5111.

■ By boat: Enter South Seas' channel at Intracoastal Waterway Channel Marker 35.

About the schools

■ The Offshore Sailing School in Clearwater is located on the grounds of the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, at the Harborage Marina (1110 3rd St. S.).

■ Offshore Sailing Schools also are located in Tortola, British Virgin Islands; Key West, Fla.; Annapolis, Md.; Fortest River, N.J.; Stamford, Conn., and Chicago. Tuition per person ranges from $395 to $1,995, depending on the season, course and location. Packages also are offered. For more information regarding any Offshore branch, call (800) 221-4326.

■ Special programs are offered: Learn to Sail in the Caribbean, Challenge, Women's You Can Sail Keelboat, Sail n' Dive and Coastal Passage Cruising.

— Lisa Wagenheimer

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weekly tides

Today is the start time and the times for Tampa to St. Petersburg. These times are for the Gulf of Mexico tides. Bold and tidbanks along the Gulf Coast. Tides are usually higher and lows are similar throughout the region. You can calculate the differences by adding or subtracting the time shown in the tide conversion tables. Tides are for Egmont Key. Maximum highs and lows allow anglers to plan their trips around the best fishing times. Strong winds can change heights and times significantly.

Tide conversion table

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