



CHRIS BURKARD, PRESIDENT  
NAPLES WATERWAY & WILDLIFE TOURS

PARADISE LIVING ARTICLE / MAY 2016

[Info@NaplesWWT.com](mailto:Info@NaplesWWT.com)

[www.NaplesWWT.com](http://www.NaplesWWT.com)

239-253-3670 Chris

239-253-2150 Capt Stephen

## Keewaydin Island, A Beach & Wildlife Paradise!

I am a Floridian and lifelong boater that fell in love with Florida's coastal waters and ecosystems. I was fishing as soon as I could hold a rod, snorkeling as soon as I could swim and SCUBA diving as soon as I turned 12 (the youngest you could be certified in the 1980s). I was amazed at the Cormorants and Anhingas that could fly through the air as well as underwater. The bottlenose dolphins playing, jumping and surfing, all without the assistance of a trainer holding a fish treat, was simply beautiful to behold. I was also enthralled with sea cows, more commonly known to Florida's visitors as manatees. They really do graze very much like their land namesakes, although with much more grace. I studied Marine Biology and Oceanography in school and eventually gravitated into Yacht Sales to ensure my time spent on the water was more than just recreational. Nearly all of my time is spent on or near the water, which is the way I prefer it.

Right in our backyard is the Ten Thousand Islands, which is the second largest mangrove forest in the world. It is home to an amazing array of wildlife, which includes Bottlenose Dolphins, Sea Cows, Deer, Bears, Panthers, Wild Boar, Bald Eagles, Herons, Egrets, Cormorants, Anhingas, Pelicans and thousands of other species of animals, birds and fish. I am blessed to live in Paradise!

After 23 years in the Yacht Sales industry, I decided it was time to offer my free time activities to the public. This year, with my wife Elissa and son, Morgan's, encouragement, and the help of my very good friend Captain Stephen Strassel, we formed Naples Waterway and Wildlife Tours. We purchased a brand new 24' luxury pontoon boat, which is perfect for cruising through our local waters enjoying the wildlife in safety and comfort. Captain Stephen is a certified Naturalist and is an amazing wealth of knowledge about our local marine ecosystems and the wildlife that calls the Ten Thousand Islands home. Let us take you on a private eco tour with your family and friends, or we also offer shuttle service to Keewaydin to enjoy a long walk on the beach, shelling or a refreshing swim in the Gulf of Mexico. We are able to tailor our custom tours to your needs for a half or full day, or even just a sunset trip lasting just a few hours. If you just want to be shuttled to Keewaydin, we offer that too. We have the ability to accommodate up to six passengers in comfort.

Visit our website at [www.napleswwt.com](http://www.napleswwt.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/napleswwt](http://www.facebook.com/napleswwt). If you have questions, would like to book a private charter, or arrange shuttle service to Keewaydin, call Captain Stephen at 239.253.2150 or Chris Burkard at 239.253.3670.