**BugFest 2019 Daily Schedule**

**Tuesday, July 23rd**

**Two Free Events at Plunge Beach Hotel!**

**Jim ‘Chiefy’ Mathie**

‘Catching the Bug’

6-7PM in Hotel Lobby

Jim "Chiefy" Mathie, a retired Deerfield Beach firefighter and South Florida's favorite lobster hunting expert, will again give a free seminar from 6-7PM on catching bugs at Plunge Beach Hotel, 4660 El Mar Drive, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Meet us in the main hotel lobby that fronts A1A by the Octopus Bar. The one hour workshop is great for divers who are new to lobster hunting and will cover the basics on finding, catching, cleaning & cooking spiny lobsters. Chiefy is giving away five free copies of his second edition book, *Catching The Bug, The Comprehensive Guide To Catching Spiny Lobster*. Best of all, you can join Chiefy afterwards for a cold beer at the Mini-Season Kickoff Party at Plunge's beach bar!

**Mini-Season Kickoff Party**

7-9PM at Beachside Backflip Bar

Don’t miss our BugFest Mini-Season Kickoff Party from 7 to 9PM on Tuesday, July 23 at Plunge Beach Hotel, 4660 El Mar Drive, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Sponsored by Gold Coast Scuba, the party will feature ScubaRadio mermaids, music by the Scuba Cowboy and more. Be among the first 100 people to sign-in and receive a ticket for one free locally-crafted draft beer. You can also register for the Great Florida Bug Hunt contest and buy a Diveheart raffle ticket for the chance to win a great dive trip.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH

MINI-SEASON STARTS AT 12:01AM.
SCUBA COWBOY AT VILLAGE GRILLE 9PM

MIDNIGHT BEACH DIVE
LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

Sign-Up for this night beach dive with Gold Coast Scuba (954-616-5909) in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. In the past, this event has attracted about a dozen divers, so you have an excellent chance of winning a great prize. You can dive anywhere off the beach in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, but you must weigh in your catch at El Prado Park, 4500 El Mar Drive. The park is right on the beach across from Town Hall, 4501 N. Ocean Drive. The weigh-in deadline for this event is 3AM. Catch the biggest bug on this midnight dive and you will win a cool dive computer. Remember: You can catch a maximum of 12 mini-season lobsters per day anywhere north of the Florida Keys.

SCUBA COWBOY AT
THE VILLAGE GRILLE

Kick back and listen to your favorite trop rock tunes while enjoying great food, atmosphere, drinks and music while listening to our favorite diving troubadour, the Scuba Cowboy (aka Pup Morse). Pup will perform at the Village Grille from 8PM to 11PM. The restaurant and bar is at 4404 El Mar Drive, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea (on the corner of El Mar Drive and Commercial Boulevard in Anglin’s Square). Pup will be joined by Greg Holt and friends from ScubaRadio along with BugFest Lobster-In-Chief Steve d’Oliveira, who will give a brief report on the biggest bugs that were caught on Wednesday and entered earlier that day in the Great Florida Bug Hunt lobster hunting contest.
BugFest is proud to partner up this year with the Sands Harbor Resort & Marina, Force E Scuba Centers and South Florida Diving Headquarters on a new event — Catch ‘Em & Cook ‘Em. After catching your mini-season bugs on Wednesday, July 24, drop by the Sands Marina between noon and 8PM, where a chef will grill your lobster tail for $14.99 (all sides included along with a signature Sands Intracoastal IPA beer). Grab a cold drink or take a refreshing dip in the pool while your fresh lobster is being prepared. The grill will be adjacent to the BugFest Weigh-In Tent on the north dock. The Scuba Cowboy will provide music dockside from 1 to 5PM, followed by Friday At Five from 5 to 9:30PM.
THURSDAY, JULY 25TH

LOBSTER CHEF COMPETITION & ‘THE BIG ONE GOT AWAY’ DIVER AWARDS PARTY

BUGFEST LOBSTER CHEF CONTEST (5:30PM-7PM)
Our annual and always-fun lobster chef competition at the Town’s Beach Pavilion and Connie Hoffmann Ocean Plaza (1 Commercial Blvd.) is always a fun event as five chef teams do their best to impress the BugFest judges with their crustacean creations. Each team is given four lobster tails and access to a gas grill. Over the years, the winning dishes included lobster pizza, lobster sliders and lobster grits. Chef teams are awarded points on taste, presentation and creativity. This year’s competition will be hosted by Greg Holt, the fun host of ScubaRadio.

SPEED PAINTER DALE HENRY (7PM-7:30PM)
Artist Dale Henry will perform in the Ocean Plaza in Anglin’s Square on Thursday, July 25 at 7PM. Before your amazed eyes, Henry will create a painting in a few short minutes. His works will then be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Dale was a big hit at BugFest back in 2017. “I’ve been a professional artist for over 20 years, doing commissions across the U.S. and around the world,” he said. “Being born a Leo, all my life I felt I was meant to entertain on some level. It wasn’t until I did my first speed painting performance that I realized what that would be. I enjoy putting on a show!”

BUGFEST DIVER AWARDS PARTY (7:30PM-8PM)
Once the chef competition ends, we award the cash and dive gear prizes for the Great Florida Bug Hunt contest. This year’s dive prizes include an Aqua Lung regulator, dive computers, tanks, masks and other great prizes. Please support Diveheart by purchasing a raffle ticket; you could also win an awesome 7-night stay at the Windjammer Resort & Beach Club along with several other exciting trips and prizes. The Scuba Cowboy will also perform tonight! The fabulous Aruba Beach Cafe will also sell drinks and food to the audience members.
FRIDAY, JULY 26TH

FISH ID PRESENTATION
JARVIS HALL 7PM-8:30PM

Lureen Ferretti, an underwater photographer and avid marine environment activist, will give a Fish Identification presentation in Jarvis Hall. Lureen’s passion for photography began at an early age. “Growing up, it was very rare for me to be without a camera. After graduating college, my desire to dive was rekindled after going spluening in a semi-dry cave and prompted me to get certified (at Dutch Springs quarry in PA). It didn’t take long for me to move to Florida for warm water, better diving and pretty fish. After referring to the fish I dove with every weekend as the pretty blue one or the funny looking yellow one, I learned the fish and became a REEF Advanced Assessment Team member.” The event is free and open to everyone.

SATURDAY, JULY 27TH

REEF CLEAN-UP

Gold Coast Scuba will host a reef clean-up on Saturday, July 27th starting at 8AM. Divers must register and sign-up at the Beach Pavilion/Ocean Plaza, next to Aruba’s Beach Cafe, 1 Commercial Blvd. The clean-up is being supported by PADI’s Project Aware. After the dive, the Ocean Treasure Hotel and Gold Coast Scuba will host a barbecue for the participating divers from 11AM to 2PM at the Surf & Yacht Club on El Mar Drive just south of Pine Avenue. For more info, call Gold Coast at 954-616-5909. The pier clean-up was cancelled due to ongoing repairs to the structure.
DIVEHEART BENEFIT CONCERT 6:30-10:30PM

The Town is proud to once again host the Third Annual Diveheart Music & Art Festival, a free and family-friendly event on El Mar Drive in Anglin’s Square. Diveheart is a non-profit charitable organization that teaches people with disabilities how to scuba dive. Buy a raffle ticket and you could win a fabulous dive trip. You can also bid on some awesome underwater photographs or other creations by talented artists who donated their time and talent to support Diveheart. This year’s line-up includes Weedline, The Capricorn Blues Band, The Coppertones and Wolfhawk. All proceeds benefit Diveheart, including its Diveheart Scuba Experience events, Adaptive Training and Scuba Diving Adventure.
GREAT FLORIDA BUG HUNT
CONTEST CATEGORIES 2019

To participate in the Great Florida Bug Hunt, you must register beforehand. The cost is $20. All divers receive a BugFest Goody Bag, which includes a BugFest T-shirt, a DAN ‘Check Your Air’ lobster gauge and safety info, Dive Training Magazine and more. Divers receive a raffle ticket for each lobster they weigh in during the contest. The raffle prizes include an Aqua Lung regulator, dive tanks, dive boat trips and hotel stays.

You can register at Gold Coast Scuba in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, or at South Florida Diving Headquarters (SFDH) at the Sands Marina in Pompano. You can also register online with a credit card by PayPal at www.lbsevenlcs.com/bugfest/. By registering online, you agree to all the terms in the Town’s BugFest Liability Waiver.

Call Lobster-In-Chief Steve d’Oliveira with questions at 954-640-4209, or e-mail him at steved@lbts.fl.gov.

BUDDY TEAM

Biggest 12 Bugs Caught Off Broward By A Buddy Team on Wednesday. $500

Biggest 12 Bugs Caught Off Miami-Dade or Palm Beach counties By A Buddy Team on Wednesday. $500

All dive buddies on your team must individually register for the Great Florida Bug Hunt (no additional cost) by sending an e-mail to steved@lbts-fl.gov. The deadline to register is 5PM on July 23rd. We divided the $1,000 Buddy Team cash prize this year to reflect the fact that the average-size lobsters caught in Miami-Dade tend to bigger than ones bagged in Broward. We also added Palm Beach, since we only had one entry out of Miami-Dade in 2018.

BOAT DIVING

Biggest Bug Caught Anywhere Off A Boat (private or commercial): First Place: $400 / Second Place: $100

BEACH DIVING

Biggest Bug Caught Anywhere Off The Beach: First Place: $400 / Second Place: $100

Biggest Bug Caught On Midnight Beach Dive off LBTS: First Place: Sherwood Oasis Regulator $420

GOLD COAST CHARTER BOAT DIVES

Biggest Bug Caught Wednesday Off The SFDH 6AM Aqua View Dive: Sherwood Wrist Profile Computer $350

Biggest Bug Caught Wednesday Off the SFDH 6AM Black Pearl Dive: New Dive Tank $200

BIGGEST BUG THURSDAY

Biggest Bug Caught Anywhere On Thursday (Boat or Beach) $250

TOWN RESIDENT

Biggest Bug Caught By A Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Resident $100

PRETTIEST LOBSTER

 Prettiest Lobster Caught Anywhere By A Female Scuba Diver $100 In case of a tie, the No. 1 tiebreaker will be the lobster's weight.

WEIGH-IN STATIONS & TIMES

El Prado Park, 4500 El Mar Drive, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Wednesday (4PM-7PM) / Thursday (2PM-6PM)

Sands Harbor Marina, 125 N Riverside Drive, Pompano Beach
Wednesday (10AM-8PM) / Thursday (10AM-5PM)