

REEF: Busy Months Ahead

By Charlie Hudson

While COVID-19 is still very much a focus for everyone, the world beneath our Florida waters moves to its own rhythms and cycles. The Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo has been creative in adapting their programs to continue their primary mission in planning for an active Spring into Summer. "Our mission is to protect biodiversity and ocean life by actively engaging and inspiring the public through citizen science, education, and partnerships with the scientific community."

Among their many efforts, they have been at the forefront of battling the invasive lionfish for more than a decade. When they added Lionfish Derbies back in 2009, they were able to combine effectiveness with fun as thousands of these voracious predators have been eliminated. The derbies are of such importance that the staff developed new protocols in September 2020 to manage a "socially distant" event. Although some of the traditional group gatherings were not possible, teams brought in more than 1,300 lionfish of all sizes. With the new procedures successful, plans were made for the Earth Day Lionfish Derby, April 23-25, 2021.

In their recent Press Release, "Teams of two to four people may register online. Derby registration is \$75 per team through April 10,

and \$100/team through April 23. A mandatory Captains' Meeting will be held virtually at 6:30pm on April 23. The meeting will cover lionfish ecology, safe collecting and handling techniques, permits, and regulations. An optional "Intro to Invasive Lionfish" webinar will take place at 5:30 p.m. The webinar is open to all participants, but those new to lionfish hunting are encouraged to attend.

Derby participants can hunt lionfish from sunrise to sunset on Saturday, April 24. Fishing is permitted throughout the waters of Monroe County, Florida only. Lionfish may be collected by netting or spearing while diving, snorkeling, or free diving; following all federal and state fishing regulations. Participants can dive from a private vessel or with a dive operator." For full details, go to <https://www.reef.org/derby> or call (305) 852-0030.

Another 2020 innovation was their first ever, REEF's Fish Out of Water Virtual 5K, held during the period of September 28 - October 4, 2020. They had 497 participants from 37 states and 8 countries who ran, walked, biked, or hiked to complete more than 1,540 miles. With that kind of response, the staff set a goal for an annual Fish Out of Water Virtual 5K to coincide with World Oceans Day (June 8) each year. Registration is now open for the event to be



Teams who sign up for the Earth Day Lionfish Derby, April 23-25, 2021 are hoping for as large a take as from the September 2020 event.

Photo: Stacey Henderson/REEF.

from June 7-13, 2021, with participants once again choosing their preferred method (run, walk, bike, hike, swim) to complete the 5K (3.1 miles) at their own pace; in one day or over the course of the week.

"Fish Out of Water 5K participants will choose to join one of five 'Fish Teams'. Each team represents an iconic fish species monitored by citizen scientists through REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey Project. Participants may report their 5K times if desired; after the race each team's results will be shared. Those

who wish to join as a group can form a "Fish Shoal" with friends and family.

Registration starts at \$35 per person and will increase to \$45 after April 30. Two registration packages are available. The Starting Line package includes a limited-edition shirt, finishers' medal, and race bib. Those who choose to upgrade to the Finish Line package will receive a shirt, medal, and bib, plus a retro fanny pack and sticker set. Registration is open until May 28. Supplies are limited, so early registration is

highly encouraged. Fish Out of Water 5K proceeds support REEF's 'Oceans for All Fund'. This fund provides ocean-focused educational opportunities for underserved communities and those with financial need; allowing REEF to increase inclusive programming for populations traditionally underrepresented in science, diving, and conservation." For more information or to register online, visit www.reef.org/5Krace.

And if that's not enough to keep them busy, they will also be holding three sessions of

Ocean Explorers Summer Camp. The Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. sessions for ages 8-13 are held at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo. A world of adventure awaits young explorers and staff and interns will implement and ensure all campers and staff comply with COVID-19 protocols. Scheduled 2021 dates are June 14-18 (ages 8-10); June 28-July 2 (ages 11-13); and July 12-16 (ages 8-10). For more information and registration go to <https://www.reef.org/explorers/summercamp>

Brooms Out After Miami Sweeps Duke

Hurricane Corner

By Bo Healey
a UM superfan



Another good week for Miami Baseball (16-8, 10-7 ACC) as they won all four contests, a midweek rout at FIU and a weekend sweep of the Blue Devils back at the Light.

Canes have won five in a row and seven of eight moving up one spot to #18 in this week's NCAA D-1 rankings. On Wednesday 3/31 @FIU the Hurricanes offense exploded in a 21-1 win.

Jordan Lala led off the game with a HR then the bats really got going when Miami opened the third with five straight hits by Anthony Villar, Yohandy Morales, Adrian Del Castillo, Christian Del Castillo and Alex Toral sparking a five run onslaught for a 6-0 Canes lead. Miami added two more in the fourth, six in the fifth and six in the sixth for an 18-0 lead.

Jake Garland pitched six scoreless innings earning the win. On Friday against Duke Daniel Federman took the mound replacing Freshman sensation and regular Friday starter Alejandro Rosario who was out and is day to day with a strained oblique.

Federman had a strong outing holding Duke to one run over six for the 3-1 win. Carson Palmquist took the ball in the eighth and faced the minimum six batters over the last two with 4 Ks.

UM took a 1-0 lead in the first when Villar doubled and Morales hit a sac fly to bring him home. C Del C hit his first HR as a Hurricane in the third for a 2-0 lead.

Duke got one back in the fifth before Toral went deep with his third dinger of the year to close out the scoring. Somewhere Tony Gwynn is smiling.

On Saturday night Miami had 19 hits, all singles, 10 to the opposite field! Canes went up 2-0 in the first with RBI singles from A Del C and Toral.

Miami batted around in the second scoring six and putting this one away early up 8-0. Victor Mederos had 8 strikeouts over five for his first win in Saturday's 11-5 victory securing the series.

C Del C led UM with 4 hits and A Del C, Villar and Freshman SS Dominic Pitelli each added 3. Andrew Walters and Jake Smith each tossed two innings in relief surrendering only one unearned run after the sole error Miami made in the 36 innings played against FIU and Duke.

On Sunday Canes completed the sweep, their first of 2021. Duke opened the scoring with two doubles in the fifth going up 1-0. Miami

responded in the bottom of the frame scoring three capped by a 2 out 2 run HR by Morales, his team leading sixth. Jordan Dubberly went five with 7 Ks earning his first win. After Dubberly walked the first two batters of the sixth Anthony Arguelles came on and with two strikeouts shut Duke down. Palmquist took over in the eighth up 3-1 had 5 Ks closing shop over the 8th and 9th. UM scored four insurance runs in the eighth in the 7-1 win.

Some notes on our season to date— It's looking like we have our own Mariano Rivera. Carson Palmquist has a 0.87 era in 11 appearances over 20 2/3 innings giving up only 7 hits and 2 runs with 3 BB ::35 K ratio and a college baseball leading 9 saves.

The Castillo brothers (Adrian.323,21 RBI,3 HR/



Pitelli and Morales celebrate as they come in at home.

Photo: UM/Austin Sapin

Christian.341,22 RBI, Villar (.302,23 runs,4 HR), Morales (.294 with team leading 24 RBI, 6 HR and 59 total bases) and Lala (team leading 28 runs,18 BB and 8 steals) have led the way offensively with early season injured Gabe Rivera coming on strong in only 35 at bats (.343, 4 HR, a .686 slugging and a .455 on base average). Starting pitching, Rosario an absolute Stud, Mederos unlimited upside with improvement in every start, Federman and Dubberly both capable vying for weekend starts. Jake Garland set as midweek starter, Arguelles 4-0 as set up man, and both Alex McFarlane and Andrew Walters have been impressive. No info on experienced and reliable vets Ben Wanger and JP Gates neither of whom has been seen lately.

Next up, Wednesday 4/7 home vs FIU then three at #24

and very dangerous Pittsburgh over the weekend.

Basketball update-

Elijah Olaniyi has transferred back to Stony Brook. Chris Lykes will decide shortly between Arkansas and USC. Nysier Brooks has committed to Ole Miss and Earl Timberlake is undecided in the transfer portal.

No in person visits are allowed so Miami coaching staff has been on Zoom calls all day every day and like all programs in this crazy new aspect of recruiting are keeping their cards close to their vest. I have a list of eight targets I've heard about in the "rumor mill" that I'm tracking every day and hopefully we all will have some clarity very soon. That's it, Go Canes.

Celebrate Earth Month

Throughout April, enjoy a wide variety of fun, family-friendly activities and events, like park/coastal clean-ups, nature treks, a campfire sing along, clear kayaking, a bat walk, and much, much more!



Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces is all about connecting people with the natural environment any time of the year, focused on resiliency efforts for the conservation and preservation of our county's most treasured and beautiful parks, beaches, greenway and blueway trails, nature preserves, clean air, and rich history that spans more than nine decades.

Earth Month, celebrated in April, gives Miami-Dade residents the opportunity to show love and appreciation for our precious outdoor spaces. There's something for everyone's taste, from coastal/park clean-ups and nature treks to campfire toasts and clear kayaking, and much, much more! Be sure to mark your calendar for signature Earth Day events like Deering Estate Discovery, April 10; Zoo Miami's Party For The Planet, April 17-May 2; and Volunteer at Fruit and Spice Park to celebrate Earth Day, April 22.