

KEYS

Currents

The Writers' Walk in Key West offers an intimate glimpse of literary sites weekends December through May. Four guides tell the literary history of Key West, which has been home to poets Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop and Wallace Stevens, playwrights Tennessee Williams and James Kirkwood, and novelist Ernest Hemingway.

The one-hour, one-mile walking tour begins at 10:30am. On Saturdays the walk begins on the porch of the Heritage House Museum, 410 Caroline Street; Sunday tours meet in front of the Hemingway House, 907 Whitehead Street.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Key West Island Bookstore, Blue Heron Books, Carling Street Books, and the Heritage House. The walk is sponsored by the Key West Literary Seminar. For more information, call 293-9291.

The Boy Scouts of America are currently participating in the Reefs Around the Nation program and learning about exploring and preserving the underwater wilderness of the Florida Keys. This program represents the first nationwide partnership between reef builders and private organizations to help the marine environment through the building and placement of Reef Ball artificial reefs.

Reef Balls are a practical invention used to build reefs — concrete structures that are cost-efficient, easy to build without special tools or equipment, and safe for the environment. They are different from any other artificial reef modules in that a removable, reusable bladder allows them to float to their drop sites. This bladder also allows the modules to go down precisely where reef builders want them.

Government reef builders have agreed to participate in Reefs Around the Nation in several states including Florida. The Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd. is working to match sponsors with state reef building programs. By creating awareness and excitement about the ocean environment and the need for artificial reefs, the group hopes to sustain one of the nation's greatest assets — marine life.

A limited edition of wax candle replicas of the Reef Balls is now available. There are three sizes of candles available individually or as a set.

For more information on Reefs Around the Nation, Reef Ball Candles or other international projects, call the Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd. at (404) 840-8389 or FAX (404) 242-9033.

Gibbons Publishing, Inc. and Joy Gallery recently formed Keys Endangered Ecosystem Protection (K.E.E.P.) Alliance, a non-profit organization which will raise money for various local organizations. Francine Bolduc of Joy Gallery has commissioned Lucie Bilodeau and Irena Quigley, two local artists, to create paintings with themes of Keys wildlife and ecology.

Prints and silk-screened T-shirts reflecting the paintings will be sold, with profits going to various groups which fall under the umbrella of "Keys Endangered Ecosystem Protection." A fundraiser will be held in the fall to auction original paintings.

For more information on the K.E.E.P. Alliance, call Gibbons Publishing at 296-7300 or Joy Gallery at 296-3039. 