









CHNEb1882



**8102 NI** 

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program 326 West Marion Avenue Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4417



CHNEP.ORG







- \CHNEP.Florida





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## Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Working together to protect water resources and the natural environment of Florida from Venice to Bonita Springs to Winter Haven

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS & MAJOR FUNDERS























































































































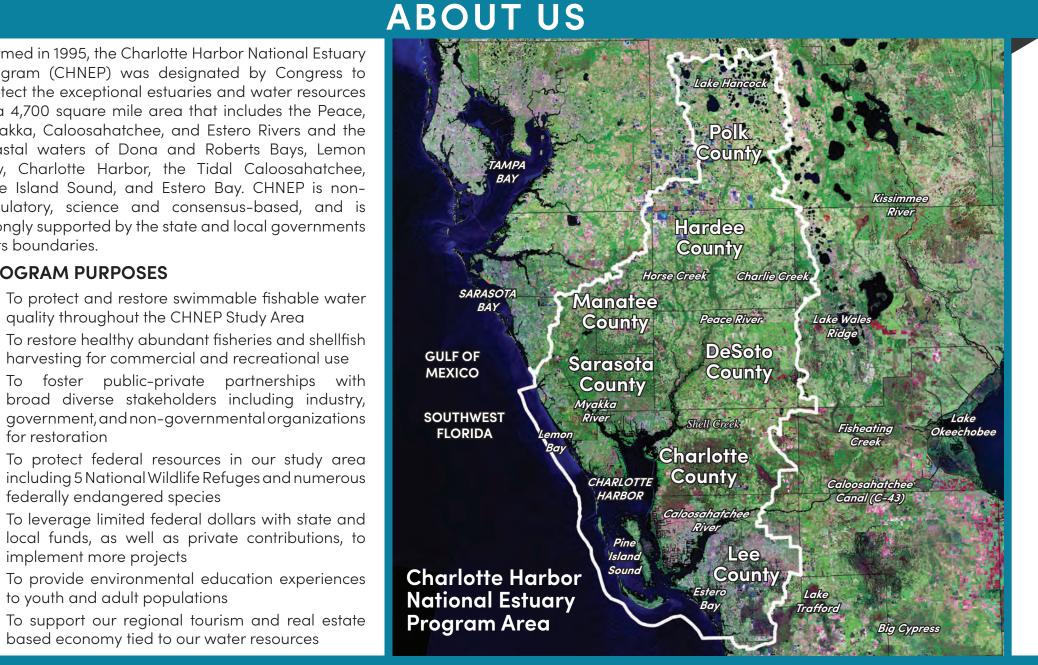




Formed in 1995, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) was designated by Congress to protect the exceptional estuaries and water resources in a 4,700 square mile area that includes the Peace, Myakka, Caloosahatchee, and Estero Rivers and the coastal waters of Dona and Roberts Bays, Lemon Bay, Charlotte Harbor, the Tidal Caloosahatchee, Pine Island Sound, and Estero Bay. CHNEP is nonregulatory, science and consensus-based, and is strongly supported by the state and local governments in its boundaries.

#### **PROGRAM PURPOSES**

- To protect and restore swimmable fishable water quality throughout the CHNEP Study Area
- To restore healthy abundant fisheries and shellfish harvesting for commercial and recreational use
- To foster public-private partnerships with broad diverse stakeholders including industry, government, and non-governmental organizations for restoration
- To protect federal resources in our study area including 5 National Wildlife Refuges and numerous federally endangered species
- To leverage limited federal dollars with state and local funds, as well as private contributions, to implement more projects
- to youth and adult populations • To support our regional tourism and real estate based economy tied to our water resources





### **Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program**

326 West Marion Avenue Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4417 941/575-5090 | Toll-Free 866/835-5785 www.CHNEP.org

Executive Director: Jennifer Hecker | 941/575-3392 • jhecker@chnep.org Finance and Grants Specialist: Danielle Berhel | 941/575-3390 • dberhel@chnep.org Research and Outreach Specialist: Nicole Iadevaia | 941/575-3313 • niadevaia@chnep.org



# January 2019



Sunday	Monda	y Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	A Morph of th Reddish Egre fishing for dir Liz Noffsinger Liz Noffsinger Photography	e ner	2	3	4	5 • NEW MOON
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 FIRST QUA	arter 15	16	17	18	19
20	21 OFULL  MARTIN LU  KING JR	THER DAY	23	24	25	26
27 DLAST QUARTER	28	29	30	31		ALENDAR OF HNEP EVENTS nnep.org/events



# February 2019



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	y Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2
		07410078			
4 • NEW MOON	5	6	7	8	9
11	12 G FIRST QUARTER	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16
18 PRESIDENT'S DAY	19 OFULL MOON	20	21	22	23
25	26 PLAST QUARTER	27	28		
					OUT YOUR WATERS  ateratlas.usf.edu
	4 • NEW MOON	4 • NEW MOON 5  11 12 FIRST QUARTER  18 PRESIDENT'S DAY 19 • FULL MOON  CHNEP office is closed.	4 • NEW MOON 5 6  11 12 • FIRST QUARTER 13  18 • PRESIDENT'S DAY 19 • FULL MOON 20	Middle: Sunrise over Pine Island Sound by drone Steve Russell Left: Pelicans of Bokeelia Edward Pelgrino  11 12 FIRST QUARTER 13 14 VALENTINE'S DAY  18 PRESIDENT'S DAY 19 OFULL MOON 20 21	FOLIAR A Branch for a Heartment of the Ventuce Recolarly Norm Colling PRICE  Middle Sumins over Pine Island Sound by Arome Seese Pauled  Left Palicars of Bolkevilla Edward Pulgrino  11  12



## March 2019



						- Listuary -
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Far Left: Great Blue wit Maryle Barbé  Left: Red shouldered h Myakka River State Pa Barbara Presner-McK	awk at rk	1 GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP MARCH 1- MAY 31	2
3	4	5	6 • NEW MOON	7	8	9
10 SAVING TIME BEGINS	11	12	13	14 FIRST QUARTER	15	16
17	18	19	20 OFULL MOON VERNAL EQUINOX	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28 )LAST QUARTER	29	30



# April 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 • NEW MOON	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 FIRST QUARTER	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 OFULL MOON	20
21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24	25	26 DLAST QUARTER NATIONAL ARBOR DAY	27
28	29	30		Male Needham's Skimmer in CREN Land & Water Tru Dick Brewer	SUBS	SCRIBE



# May 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Far Left: Three Juvenile Limpkins Priscilla McDaniel  Left: Pair of Blue Heron, Venice Rookery Linda Thompson	1 SEA TURTLE SEASON BEGINS	2	3	4 • NEW MOON
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 FIRST QUARTER
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 OFULL MOON
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 )LAST QUARTER	27 MEMORIAL DAY  CHNEP office is closed.	28	29	30	31	EXPLORE YOUR WATERSHED chnep.org/ explore-your- watershed

# HAPPENINGS

Working together to protect water resources and the natural environment of Florida from Venice to Bonita Springs to Winter Haven



## A Note from Our Executive Director

There's no doubt that this has been an exceptionally challenging year for our waters. Battling pollution and harmful algae outbreaks, watching mass aquatic

life die offs and experiencing the economic, environmental, and human health toll has been exhausting and demoralizing for many of us.

Nonetheless, out of every crisis is an opportunity, an opportunity in galvanizing policymaker and public interest to educate and build support to protect and restore these critical resources. It reminds us we cannot take our waterways and quality of life for granted, it is something we must continually fight for.

That is just what the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) is doing. We, together with our partners and volunteers, are doing everything we can to address this current

## A Closer Look at Harmful Algae Blooms

Harmful algae blooms (HABs) are overgrowths of algae in water. Some produce dangerous toxins in fresh or marine water, but even nontoxic blooms hurt the environment and local economies. Harmful algae blooms generally need sunlight, slow-moving water, and nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus). Because HABs can produce toxins that can affect public health, it is important to learn about how to spot them and avoid waters where they are present.



#### What is that green slime?

Some of our fresh waterways have a green slimy appearance. This can be from excessive blue-green algae growth, also known as cyanobacteria—a type of HAB.

Both regular green algae and blue-green algae/cyanobacteria can produce dense mats that can impede activities like swimming and fishing,

and cause odor problems and oxygen depletion; however, cyanobacteria, unlike green algae, can produce toxins that affect aquatic life and human health. Cyanobacteria has been a major problem

this year in local waterways such as the Caloosahatchee River and Cape Coral canals.

#### What is "Red Tide"?

"Red tide" is another type of HAB formed from the excessive growth of *Karenia brevis*, a type of algae present in marine environments.



Image courtesy of P. Schmidt, Charlotte Sun

water quality crisis through numerous water quality monitoring, research, and restoration projects. We also educate, engage, and empower the public to be able to protect the resources in their own communities.

CHNEP is currently creating a regional science-based action plan, networking all the local, state, and federal governmental entities together with interested environmental and industry groups to collaboratively work on large-scale water quality and hydrological restoration projects and initiatives that reduce pollution and protect fish and wildlife.

Now, more than ever, we need to be all working together to combine our voices, knowledge, manpower, and resources to solving these issues. The CHNEP is uniquely positioned to support that, helping to carry our message to Tallahassee and Washington DC.

As famous ocean scientist Sylvia Earle once said, "There's plenty of water in the universe without life, but nowhere is there life without water." We need to redouble our efforts to protect and restore our waters like our lives depend on it, because in fact, they do. Join us by logging onto CHNEP.org today to learn more and get involved. Your volunteerism and donations really do make a difference.

Jennifer Hecker

Thank you for your support,

It also can produce a toxin, which has been the case with the wide-spread red tide event we have had the past few months in Southwest Florida. As a result of the severe red tide we have been experiencing, there have been mass mortality of marine life and oxygen-deprived "dead zones" formed in our coastal waters.

#### Why do animals get sick or die?

HABs lower the amount of oxygen in water, which inhibits the breathing of fish and other organisms who breathe underwater. Red tide toxins attack the nervous systems of the animals exposed to it—which can inhibit their swimming or surfacing to breathe (as manatees and sea turtles do). The toxins also go up the food chain, causing birds who eat poisoned fish to sometimes get sick or die.



#### Where can I find more info. on HABs in my area?

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration HAB twice-weekly bulletins available at <a href="https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/gomx.html">https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/gomx.html</a>

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission Red Tide Weekly Reports available at
<a href="http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus">http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus</a>

#### What can I do?

Some of the things you can immediately do to help in addition to volunteering or donating are:

- Refrain from fertilizing during rainy season. Fertilizers containing nutrients often runoff yards into waterways before they can be absorbed with the frequent hard rainfalls we have this time of year. Plant Florida-friendly plants that do not require fertilizers.
- Get a professional to inspect your septic system, maintaining/repairing if need be. Failing septics are often leaching nutrients into waterways.
- Pick up your pet's waste and dispose of in a container so it does not wash nutrients or bacteria into nearby swales, canals, or stormwater drains.



To learn more, go to https://www.chnep.org/harmfulalgaeblooms

## **Nutrient Pollution: Where Is It All Coming From?**

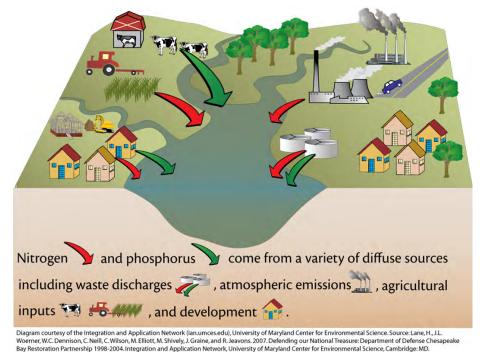
Nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus, are necessary for healthy rivers, lakes, and estuaries—feeding the plants and animals that inhabit them. However, just as we can get unhealthy and sick from too much food, waterways receiving too much nutrient matter can become unhealthy and contribute to harmful algae blooms (HABs). Often, the excess nutrients are entering from man-made sources and activities through stormwater,

wastewater, and industrial runoff.

#### **Industrial Runoff**

Various industries such as farming, ranching, and phosphate mining can result in nutrient pollution entering downstream waterways if their wastewater and runoff is not adequately captured and treated onsite.

The fertilizers that enhance agricultural production can sometimes wash into agricultural canals that often discharge to downstream flowing waterways or waterbodies. Ranching livestock creates animal waste rich in nutrients. Phosphate mining extracts natural phosphorus, a component often used in fertilizer production.



#### Stormwater Runoff

Water running off parking lots, lawns, and other surfaces in residential and commercial areas often finds its way into nearby canals, rivers, and eventually into lakes and estuaries. This is called stormwater runoff and can carry nutrient pollutants generated from human activities (ex. uncollected pet waste, fertilizer, etc.).

#### **Wastewater Runoff**

Human wastewater can also be a source of nutrient pollution. Municipal wastewater plants that are not treating to advanced wastewater treatment standards, do not have enough power back-up or storage to hold excess wastewater during storm events, or do not have alternate wastewater disposal locations can discharge nutrient-rich wastewater into downstream waters.

Additionally, septic tanks placed too low such that they are in the groundwater table or near surface waters, or that are not properly maintained and functional, can leak nutrient-rich wastewater into surface waters or groundwater that flows to surface waters.

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program has for many years funded and been a lead partner in the Watershed Education Training— Ponds, Lakes & Neighborhoods (WETPLAN) program , a program designed to assist homeowners interested in improving and caring for their neighborhood ponds and lakes. Planting guides, videos, and other free resources are available at <u>www.wetplan.org</u>.

#### Nature's Kidneys

At the same time we are adding man-made nutrient pollution to our waterways, we are also losing wetlands, seagrasses, and oysters our natural water storage and treatment.

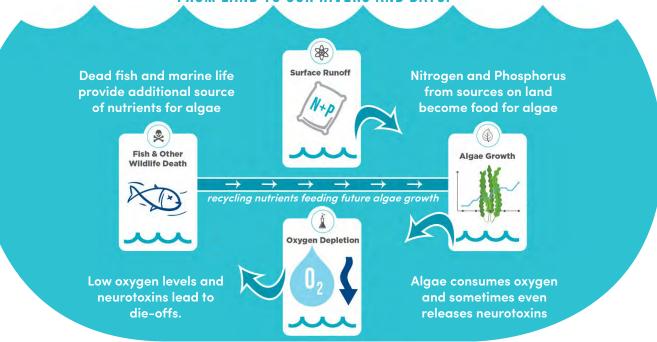
Wetlands act as nature's kidneys in uptaking nutrients, removing more than they generate. However, just as our kidneys can become overloaded and stop functioning well, wetlands can be overloaded from human pollution.

Oysters also naturally filter water, up to 50 gallons each per day! When we lose oysters from poor water management, we lose their kidneylike cleansing ability.

Seagrasses and other underwater plants uptake and utilize nutrients for their growth, providing habitat cleaner water. However, nutrient pollution and excessive algae growth can block the light they need to survive.

This is why it is so important we take additional measures to protect the wetlands, seagrasses and oysters we have, as well as create and restore additional ones wherever possible.

#### RAIN CARRIES NITROGEN AND PHOSPHORUS AS WELL AS PATHOGENS AND TRASH FROM LAND TO OUR RIVERS AND BAYS.

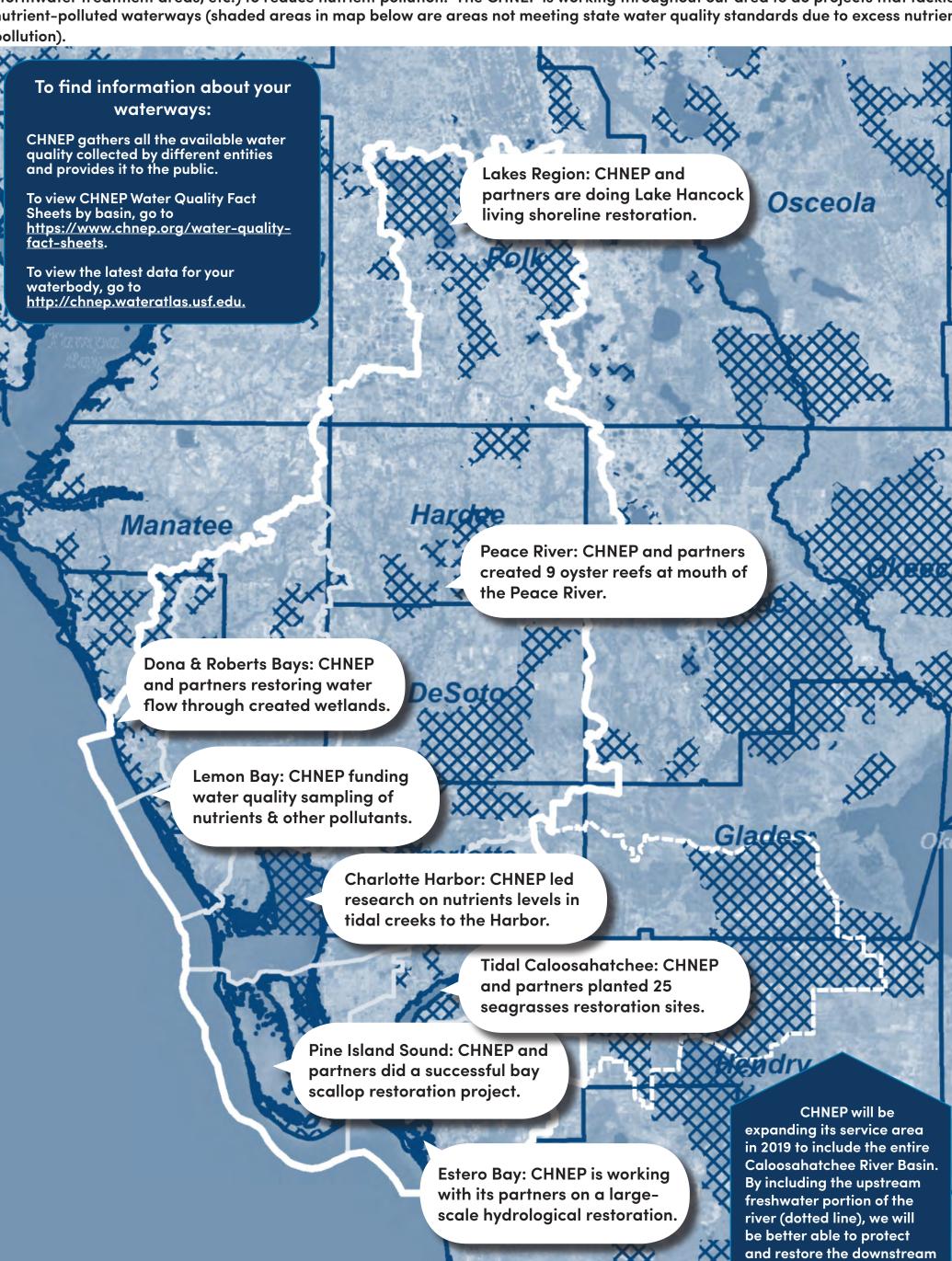


#### CHNEP volunteers diving in to restore seagrasses and oysters.



# Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Tackling Nutrient Pollution

There are wide-spread nutrient pollution problems throughout the 4,700 square mile program area from Venice to Bonita Springs to Winter Haven. More investments are needed for infrastructure that mimics nature (i.e. created wetlands, living shorelines, manmade oyster reefs, planted seagrasses, etc.), as well as engineered solutions (reservoirs, water management structures, created stormwater treatment areas, etc.) to reduce nutrient pollution. The CHNEP is working throughout our area to do projects that tackle nutrient-polluted waterways (shaded areas in map below are areas not meeting state water quality standards due to excess nutrient pollution).



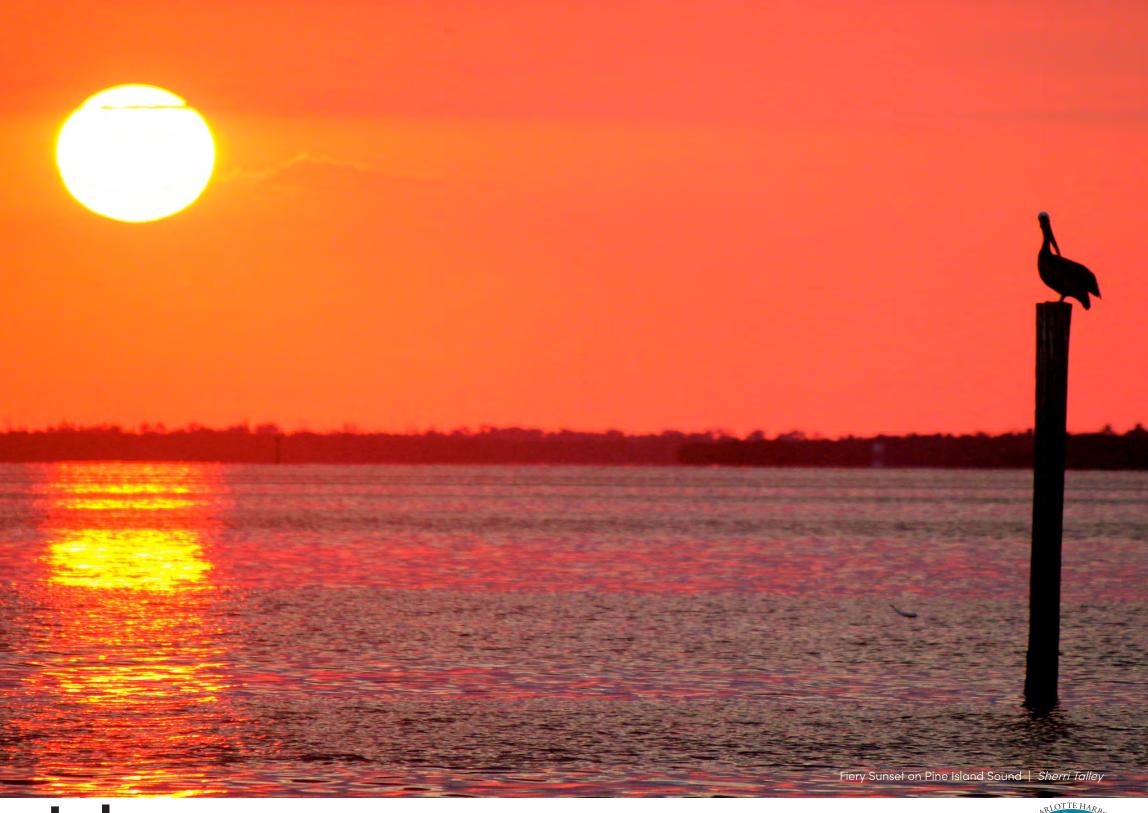
Caloosahatchee estuary.



# **June** 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					eft: Hymenocallis Speciosa <i>Pelegrino</i>	1 HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS
					lle: Snake vs Bird <i>e Cicchino</i>	
					Ducklings Polk County Lake In McDaniel	
2	3 • NEW MOON	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 C FIRST QUARTER	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 OFULL MOON	18	19	20	21 SUMMER SOLSTICE	22
23	24	25 )LAST QUARTER	26	27	28	29
30						



# **July** 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 • NEW MOON	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6
				CHNEP office is closed.		
7	8	9 FIRST QUARTER	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 OFULL MOON	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 )LAST QUARTER	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 • NEW MOON		2019 CALENDAR visit chn for de	<b>DEADLINE</b> <pre>ep.org</pre>



# August 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Far Left: Blowin Sue Killion  Left: Banded V Circle B Bar Re	ng in the Wind Vater Snake at	1	2	3
4	5	6	7 FIRST QUARTER	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 OFULL MOON	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 PLAST QUARTER	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 • NEW MOON	31



# September 2019



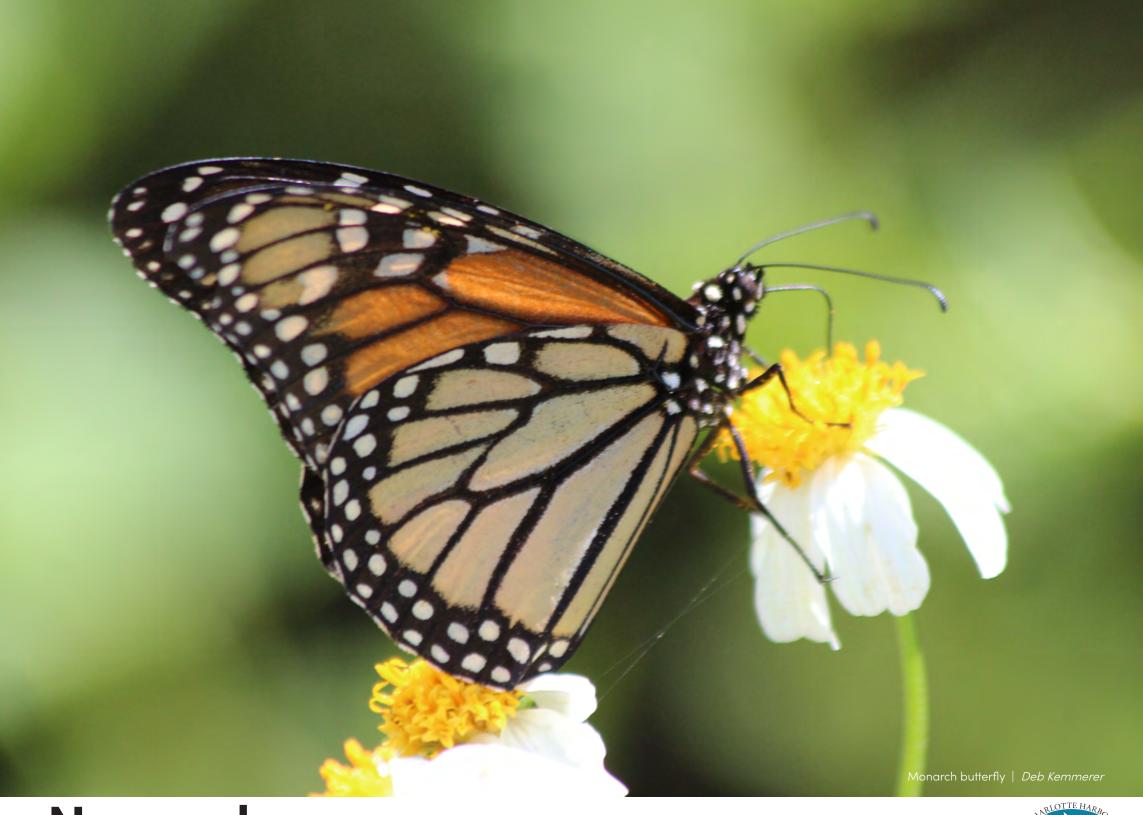
						-d Estuary 11
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 LABOR DAY	3	4	5 FIRST QUARTER	6	7
8	CHNEP office is closed.	10	11	12	13	14 OFULL MOON
15	16	17	18 WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY	19	20	21 DLAST QUARTER  COASTAL CLEANUP DAY
22	23 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX	24	25	26	27	28 • NEW MOON
29	30	Far Right: Black E Whistling Du <i>Steve Gr</i> Right: Green Treef Myakka R	ucks iffin rog,			



## October 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Owlets   Nicole Cicchino	1	2	3	4	5 FIRST QUARTER
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 FULL MOON	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 PLAST QUARTER	22	23	24	25	26
27 • NEW MOON	28	29	30	31 SEA TURTLE SEASON ENDS	SCIE	COME A  CIZENS  AT CHNERORG



## November 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Far Left: Black Skimmers with their young Ava Riloff  Left: Indigo Bunting at Wildflower Preserve Eva Furner	NATURE FESTIVAL chnep.org/ 2019-nature- festival	1	2
3 DAYLIGHT- SAVING TIME ENDS	4 FIRST QUARTER	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 VETERANS DAY (OBSERVED)  CHNEP office is closed.	12 OFULL MOON	13	14	15	16 CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATURE FESTIVAL
17	18	19 PLAST QUARTER	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 • NEW MOON	27	28 THANKSGIVING  CHNEP office is closed.	29  CHNEP office is closed.	30 HURRICANE SEASON ENDS



## December 2019



DCCC		2013				arional Estuary Program
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 FIRST QUARTER	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 OFULL MOON	13	14
15	16	17	18 ) LAST QUARTER	19	20	21 WINTER SOLSTICE
22	23	24  CHNEP office is closed.	25 CHRISTMAS  CHNEP office is closed.	26 • NEW MOON	27	28
29	30	31				ar Left: Cloudless Sulphur in Pine Lily in CREW Land & Water Trust Dick Brewer  eft: Sunset over Charlotte Harbor Walt Ittenbach

#### Calendar Sponsor



#### **CHNEP Donors**

Thank you to all those who contributed to the CHNEP. Private donations \$50 or above are recognized below:

The Landings Fishing Club, Caroline Lee LeGette, Carolyn Perrone, Jane N. Pugh, Visiting Angels Florida West Coast, W. Ray Wagoner, Keith and Donna Waltz, Thomas Winter & Corrine Thwing, Dr. Timothy Wright

#### Image Contributors

Names of those who submitted images within our Study Area include:

Ralph Allen, Theresa Baldwin, Maryle Barbé, Johan Bjurman, Dick Brewer, Carol Claus, Michael Chamberlin, Nicole Cicchino, Carol Claus, Norm Collin, Morgan C Cook, Cara Czecholinski, Megan Drumheller, Darbey Faber, Eileen Fonferko, Eva Furner, Nancy Glickman, Steve Griffin, Brandon Hill, Les Hill, Susan Hoffman, Martha Huard, Walt Ittenbach, Debora Kemmerer, Susan Killion, Delmas Kimmons, Rita Kimmons, Kathy Licciardi, Linda Thompson, Carole Martin, Butch McDaniel, Priscilla McDaniel, Robin Mett, Hans Mooyman, Linda Moreau, Barbara Morrison, Tom Mueller, Liz Noffsinger, Mo Palmer, Jenni Pelegrino, Edward Pelegrino, Debra Peterson, Jamie Pipher, Marc Pletcher, Jackie Pope, Barbara Presner-McKane, Colin Purrington, Ava Riloff, Joel Riloff, Marlene Roehm, Lisa R. Rogers, Steve Russell, Mitch Spence, Gary Stone, Scott Stone, Sherri Talley, Dwight Tracy, Gary Warren, Elaine Weissborn, Casey Williams, Elizabeth Wong, Linda Wroble

#### **CHNEP Volunteers**

Laurie Ackerman, Burke Allen, Elaine Allen, Lauren Alvaro, Sandy Artman, John Barrington, Deanna Barrington, Arlene Beaumont, Ben Bledsoe, Carol Bledsoe, Channing Boswell, Bill Brickel, Leslie Brown, Stephen Brown, Gary Brownwell, Brent Buford, Leonard Cardone, Phyllis Cady, Ray Cady, Frank Campagne, Cindy Christel, Toni Clanton, Doug Cooke, Jane Cooke, Lynn Crain, Zack Diamond, Mary Dorey, Edie Driest, Max Eischers, Karen Feinen, Ann Fleming, Dominic Fortunato, Tricie Fogle, Sue Galvin, Kahla Gentry, Marilyn Gladish, Joshua Griffin, James Griffard, Lona Griffard, Allain Hae, Keith Hamlin, Hugh Havlik, Jeff Heck, Kevin Heck, Christopher Henry, Pamela Henry, Solemni Hernandez, Joan Herron San Lwin, Martha Hoover, Bill Hopkins, Caron Houston, Thomas James, Jim Knoy, Louise Kowitch, Meg Krieg, Zen Kurokawa, Judith Lancaster, Ernesto Lassa de la Vega, Karla Lewis, David Marshall, Ruth McGregor, Lorrie MacNail, Eleanor Marr, Shannon McGinnis, Chuck Millburg, Rodney Miller, David Moe, Michele Moe, Cooper Monroe, Max Monroe, Lincoln Monroe, Will Monroe, Carol Murphy, Terry Nelson, Sharon O'Connell, Edward Pelegrino, Justin Pelegrino, Jane Pali, Carl Peterson, Deb Peterson, John Phillips, Joy Purcell, Brad Quandt, Holley Rauen, Jamie Reynolds, John Reynolds, Chuck Richardson, Heather Robinson, Sage Robinson, Steve Robinson, Bobbi Rogers, Ricardo Rolon, Patricia Romaine, Holley Raven, Liza Rollins, Antonia Sabatini, Don Sabatini, Steve Sanders, Joan san Lwin, Stefan Scalvini, Patricia Schindler, Joan Sessions, Bob Scholtes, Debi Scholtes, Karin Shipman, Gavin Smith, Natalie Smith, Piper Smith, Sadie Smith, Liz Taggart, James Thomas, Bettina Thompson, James Tiztsarth, Linda Tragakis, Phillipe Trouillot, Michael Walters, Mike Weisensee, Charlie Wolley, Lauren Wolley, Bill Wood, Richard Zinn



Safe & Secure 3550 making a donation. To make a donation by credit card or PayPal, visit our website at www.CHNEP.org. Make checks payable to the Charlotte Harbor Estuary Program and mail to 326 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4417.

The CHNEP is pleased to provide you with this calendar in hopes that it will inspire you to do more to protect southwest Florida. Additional information about the CHNEP can be found throughout this calendar and at www.CHNEP.org.

Below: Great Horned Owl and chick at Circle B Bar



## 2020 CALEN

Αl	VU.	AR	Υ				FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							
5 12 19 26	6	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29	2 9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24 31	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23	3 10 17 24	4 11 18 25	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29	1 8 15 22 29	2 9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24 31	4 11 18 25	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29	2 9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24	4 11 18 25	
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3	11	5	13	14	15	9	7	15	9	10	18	12	13	12	13	7	15	16	10	11	2	10	11	12	13	14	15	
7	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23			26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29	
SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							
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6	7	8	2	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	2	10	8	2	10	11	5	13	7	6	7	8	2	10	11	12	
3	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

## **ONE DAY PASS**

**Entry into any Florida State Park** Good for one vehicle, up to 8 people

Except at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park and Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, where the pass is good for two people. Does not include Skyway Fishing Pier State Park, camping or other fees.

www.FloridaStateParks.org



facebook.com/flstateparks

