



# Beach Shop

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## Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times

### **Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Nine** By Jan Otten

In the early 1920s much activity was taking place in the community we now know and love as Hobe Sound.

Jupiter Island was just becoming a mecca for wealthy northerners to settle and enjoy the winter months in the warm breezes of southeast Florida. The Olympia Improvement Company was preparing to create a planned community intended to be centered around the cinema industry. And the Banner Lake Community was developing into the home community for the African American/Caribbean descendants living and working in the area.

Hobe Sound was briefly renamed "Picture City" and "Olympia" during the land boom of the 1920s as elaborate plans were made for a town to be created in the Greek style where motion pictures could be produced. The Greek theme gave birth to street names such as Zeus, Saturn, Mercury, Mars, Olympus, Pluto, Athena and Apollo. This was an exciting time with the promise of great prosperity for the region. Sadly, the boom collapsed after the 1928 Okeechobee hurricane. Today, along with the street names, the concrete lampposts along Dixie Highway are reminders of that bygone era. Soon after the hurricane and the departure of Picture City Corporation, the name reverted to Hobe Sound.

Along with the growth spurt, during the Picture City tenure in 1924, an important building was constructed --- A two-room schoolhouse that served the children of Hobe Sound until 1963. There has been a debate through the years as to whether it was originally intended to be an office for the Olympia Improvement Company, a town hall or a schoolhouse, however historical sources indicate that its intended use was as a schoolhouse.

Architect Maurice Fatio was employed by the Olympia Improvement Company to oversee the building of the mission architecture style schoolhouse. Mr. Fatio spent quite a lot of time in "Olympia," and on Jupiter Island where he built several homes.

In continuous use from its opening in 1925 until 1963 the school was known through the years by various names. Beginning with Olympia School, then Picture City School, and because it was located on Apollo Street in the Zeus Park area of Hobe Sound, it naturally was called The Apollo Street School – today simply



*Students from The Apollo Street School gather in front of the building in 1956 ready to board a bus for a field trip. Fourth girl on the left holding a notebook is 6th grader Kathy Spurgeon, who is now President of the Board of Directors of the Apollo School Foundation. Photo provided by Kathy Spurgeon*

"The Apollo School." For a time, it was also called The Hobe Sound White School (due to segregation prior to 1963 African American students had their own school.)

Eventually, with the increasing population of Hobe Sound, the building could no longer handle the growing number of children in the community and the Hobe Sound Elementary School was built on Gomez Avenue.

When the building was no longer used as a school it was at first used as a thrift shop that supported the Hobe Sound First Aid Squad and then regrettably slipped into disrepair.

To the rescue: Members of the community, under the guidance of local resident and historian and former Apollo School student, Kathy Spurgeon, formed The Apollo School Foundation and in 2000 the Foundation purchased the schoolhouse and began a monumental project to rehabilitate it and open it for use as a historical museum and cultural arts and educational facility. In 2002, the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the only building in Hobe Sound to be so named. With the support of private and public donations, and architect Gary Kelly of Kelly & Kelly, Architects and the work being overseen by James Tharp of J. Tharp Construction, Corp., and

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# Sargassum Now World's Largest Harmful Algal Bloom Due to Nitrogen Gisele Galoustian

Florida Atlantic University

For centuries, pelagic Sargassum, floating brown seaweed, have grown in low nutrient waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, supported by natural nutrient sources like excretions from fishes and invertebrates, upwelling, and nitrogen fixation. Using a unique historical baseline from the 1980s and comparing it to samples collected since 2010, researchers from Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and collaborators have discovered dramatic changes in the chemistry and composition of Sargassum, transforming this vibrant living organism into a toxic "dead zone."

Their findings, published in Nature Communications, suggest that increased nitrogen availability from natural and anthropogenic sources, including sewage, is supporting blooms of Sargassum and turning a critical nursery habitat into harmful algal blooms with catastrophic impacts on coastal ecosystems, economies, and human health. Globally, harmful algal blooms are related to increased nutrient pollution. The study, led by FAU Harbor Branch, in collaboration with the University of South Florida, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the University of Southern Mississippi, and Florida State University, was designed to better understand the effects of nitrogen and phosphorus supply on Sargassum. Researchers used a baseline tissue data set of carbon (C), nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) and molar C:N:P ratios from the 1980s and compared them with more recent samples collected since 2010.

Results show that the percentage of tissue N increased significantly (35 percent) concurrent with a decrease in the percentage of phosphorus (42 percent) in Sargassum tissue from the 1980s to the 2010s. Elemental composition varied significantly over the long-term study, as did the C:N:P ratios. Notably, the biggest change was the nitrogen:phosphorus ratio (N:P), which increased significantly (111 percent). Carbon:phosphorus ratios (C:P) also increased similarly (78 percent). "Data from our study supports not only a primary role for phosphorus limitation of productivity, but also suggests that the role of phosphorus as a limiting nutrient is being strengthened by the relatively large increases in environmental nitrogen supply from terrestrial runoff, atmospheric inputs, and possibly other natural sources such as nitrogen fixation," said Brian Lapointe, Ph.D., senior author, a leading expert on Sargassum and a research professor at FAU Harbor Branch.

A total of 488 tissue samples of Sargassum were collected during various research projects and cruises in the North Atlantic basin between 1983-1989 and more recently between 2010-2019, and included seasonal sampling offshore Looe Key reef in the lower Florida Keys (1983 and 1984) and a broader geographic sampling (1986 and 1987) offshore the Florida Keys, Gulf Stream (Miami, Charleston and Cape Fear), and Belize, Central America. Oceanic stations included the northern, central and southern Sargasso Sea. The highest percentage of tissue N occurred in coastal waters influenced by nitrogen-rich terrestrial runoff, while lower C:N and C:P ratios occurred in winter and spring during peak river discharges. The overall range for N:P ratios was 4.7 to 99.2 with the highest mean value in western Florida Bay (89.4) followed by locations in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. The lowest N:P ratios were observed in the eastern Caribbean at St. Thomas (20.9) and Barbados (13.0).

Because of anthropogenic emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), the NO<sub>x</sub> deposition rate is about five-fold greater than that of pre-industrial times largely due to energy production and biomass burning. Production of synthetic fertilizer nitrogen

has increased nine-fold, while that of phosphate has increased three-fold since the 1980s contributing to a global increase in N:P ratios. Notably, 85 percent of all synthetic nitrogen fertilizers have been created since 1985, which was shortly after the baseline Sargassum sampling began at Looe Key in 1983. "Over its broad distribution, the newly-formed Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt can be supported by nitrogen and phosphorus inputs from a variety of sources including discharges from the Congo, Amazon and Mississippi rivers, upwelling off the coast of Africa, vertical mixing, equatorial upwelling, atmospheric deposition from Saharan dust, and biomass burning of vegetation in central and South Africa," said Lapointe.

Long-term satellite data, numerical particle-tracking models, and field measurements indicate that the Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt has recurred annually since 2011 and extended up to 8,850 kilometers from the west coast of Africa to the Gulf of Mexico, peaking in July 2018. "Considering the negative effects that the Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt is having on the coastal communities of Africa, the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and South Florida, more research is urgently needed to better inform societal decision-making regarding mitigation and adaptation of the various terrestrial, oceanic, and atmospheric drivers of the Sargassum blooms," said Lapointe.

Sargassum removal from Texas beaches during earlier, less severe inundations was estimated at \$2.9 million per year and Florida's Miami-Dade County alone estimated recent removal expenses of \$45 million per year. The Caribbean-wide clean-up in 2018 cost \$120 million, which does not include decreased revenues from lost tourism. Sargassum strandings also impact marine life and cause respiratory issues from the decaying process and other human health concerns, such as increased fecal bacteria. "Human activities have greatly altered global carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus cycles, and nitrogen inputs are considered now 'high risk' and above a safe planetary boundary," said Lapointe. "Based on scientific research, population growth and land-use changes have increased nitrogen pollution and degradation of estuaries and coastal waters since at least the 1950s. Despite decreases in nitrogen loading in some coastal watersheds, N:P ratios remain elevated in many rivers compared to historic values. The trend toward higher N:P ratios in the major rivers in the Atlantic basin parallel the increased N:P ratios we now see in Sargassum."



*continued on page 7*

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## SOCCER LEAGUE "CLEANS UP"



Saturday June fifth saw the suds flowing at THE HOBE SOUND BEACH SHOP. Soap suds that is, as the Beach Soccer League turned out in force to raise funds for their Summer League fun.

With buckets, sponges, hoses and even a leaf blower the young soccer stars rub-a-dub-dubbed the day away.

From the littlest to the tallest everyone pitched in to raise a record amount of funds and somehow managed to have fun while doing so.

Hats off to organizer Jill Sossi and her dedicated players and parents who turned out to make this Hobe Sound Beach Shop sponsored event a huge success.



## Financial Corner Sudden Wealth – Part 2

*This is a continuation of considerations to make if you experience "Sudden Wealth."*

### Impact on insurance

It's sad to say but being wealthy may make you more vulnerable to lawsuits. Although you may be able to pay for any damage (to yourself or others) that you cause, you may want to re-evaluate your current insurance policies and consider purchasing an umbrella liability policy. If you plan on buying expensive items such as jewelry or artwork, you may need more property/casualty insurance to cover these items in case of loss or theft. Finally, it may be the right time to re-examine your life insurance needs. More life insurance may be necessary to cover your estate tax bill so your beneficiaries receive more of your estate after taxes.

### Impact on estate planning

Now that your wealth has increased, it's time to re-evaluate your estate plan. Estate planning involves conserving your money and putting it to work so that it best fulfills your goals. It also means minimizing your taxes and creating financial security for your family.

Is your will up to date? A will is the document that determines how your worldly possessions will be distributed after your death. You'll want to make sure that your current will accurately reflects your wishes. If your newfound wealth is significant, you should meet with your attorney as soon as possible. You may want to make a new will and destroy the old one instead of simply making changes by adding a codicil.

Carefully consider whether the beneficiaries of your estate are capable of managing the inheritance on their own. For instance, if you have minor children, you should consider setting up a trust to protect their interests and control the age at which they receive their funds.

It's probably also a good idea to consult a tax attorney or financial professional to look into the amount of federal estate tax and state death taxes that your estate may have to pay upon your death; if necessary, discuss ways to minimize them.

### Giving it all away — or maybe just some of it

Is gift giving part of your overall plan? You may want to give gifts of cash or property to your loved ones or to your favorite charities. It's a good idea to wait until you've come up with a financial plan before giving or lending money to anyone, even family members. If you decide to give or lend any money, put everything in writing. This will protect your rights and avoid hurt feelings down the road. In particular, keep in mind that:

- If you forgive a debt owed by a family member, you may owe gift tax on the transaction
- You can make individual gifts of up to \$15,000 (2021 limit) each calendar year without incurring any gift tax liability (\$30,000 for 2021 if you are married, and you and your spouse can split the gift)
- If you pay the school directly, you can give an unlimited amount to pay for someone's education without having to pay gift tax (you can do the same with medical bills)
- If you make a gift to charity during your lifetime, you may be able to deduct the amount of the gift on your income tax return, within certain limits, based on your adjusted gross income

Note: Because the tax implications are complex, you should consult a tax professional for more information before making sizable gifts.

### Steven W. Landwersiek

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## Chapter Nine Word Scramble

These words can all be found in our feature article!

1. ILOMYAP \_\_\_\_\_
2. OLAOPL \_\_\_\_\_
3. HENACRRIU \_\_\_\_\_
4. HOHLEOSSCOU \_\_\_\_\_
5. UNADIOFONT \_\_\_\_\_
6. NIMAEC \_\_\_\_\_
7. SMSTLAPOP \_\_\_\_\_
8. RIHLCEDN \_\_\_\_\_
9. OITMMNCUY \_\_\_\_\_
10. ESCERU \_\_\_\_\_
11. IHSTOCRI \_\_\_\_\_
12. EANOITRVSNO \_\_\_\_\_
13. FLPGELAO \_\_\_\_\_
14. ACHERVIS \_\_\_\_\_
15. EMMISORE \_\_\_\_\_
16. PHECRSHACAT \_\_\_\_\_
17. CAMEC \_\_\_\_\_
18. UEZS \_\_\_\_\_
19. EHBCKEOEEO \_\_\_\_\_
20. ERTETARCHUCI \_\_\_\_\_



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Visit [1206922.toastmastersclubs.org](http://1206922.toastmastersclubs.org)

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## I can help with your 401(k) options

Changing jobs? What should you do with the 401(k) money you've accumulated?

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I can help you explore these choices, and guide you through the necessary steps.

**Call me today for information, or to schedule a consultation.**

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## Real Estate Corner – School's Out, Kids are home again!

School is out and the kids are once again at home! Do you feel like more space for projects and room in the yard for kids to play might be nice? Perhaps it's time to consider a trade up on your home while the mortgage rates are still low! Although homes are still in short supply it might be the time to start considering someplace with more space for your happy family!

Wouldn't it be nice to have the children start their own garden and develop the pride that comes with growing fresh vegetables, flowers, or fruit? It can be accomplished with just a bit more space in a new home. We are just emerging from a year of quarantine and new beginnings are on the horizon! Our school system is wonderful, but the real education begins at home. Perhaps your mailbox needs a makeover and that could be done as a family project keeping everyone active and productive. A Family that "fishes together stays together" and we are blessed with lots of fishing places to visit! Home

### A little Trivia from Dictionary.com

**tickety-boo** [ tik-i-tee-boo ] adjective. Fine; OK. To have a day that is absolutely "tickety-boo", stop into the Hobe Sound Beach Shop. To be sure you'll find much there that is "tickety-boo!"

ownership always has projects that need attention, do them together to fight the summer blues.

As a Realtor and father of 4 (now all grown) I know that the busier your children are the better and happier the family will be! It also doesn't hurt to keep your home in shipshape for the time you will sell it and move on! Be proud of your family, be proud of your home, however humble, and be proud of the good old USA!

Just Saying!

### Rich Otten, PSA, C2EX

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## Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Nine continued from page 1.

Faye Carter of Carter Construction, Inc., The Apollo School rehabilitation was completed in late 2013 and formally reopened to the public in 2014.

It was necessary during the renovations to replace all of the windows in the building. In part, the Foundation Mission statement says, "Providing a window on the past, a focus on the future". With that in mind, one of the very resourceful ways the organization raised funds was to give the original windows from the schoolhouse to local artists who in turn created amazing works of art and donated them back to the committee where they were auctioned to members of the community. Through the renovation years the Foundation held barbecues, dances, Christmas tree lightings, and fun activities that not only raised funds, but provided community-spirited times for young and old, drawing the local population into looking to the old schoolhouse as a place to meet with neighbors, and experience entertainment as well as educational activities.

The Apollo School Foundation recently held a dedication ceremony for a flagpole donated by Tom and Lou Ann Prestegard and Jim and Kathy Spurgeon. The ceremonial flag raised on June 19, 2021 flew over the United States Capitol on June 14, 2001 to commemorate Lou Ann's 50th birthday. The flagpole replaces one that had been in place at the school during the 1950s and 1960s, when raising and saluting the flag was a daily ritual.

In addition to the flagpole, the Foundation installed awnings over the front and back doors in an effort to protect the iconic doors and to more comfortably welcome visitors. Although these are new additions, rehabilitation and restoration are ongoing, as are the maintenance and upkeep required for a nearly century-old building.

Currently The Apollo School is achieving the goals of the Foundation's Mission of maintaining the historical aspects of the former two-room schoolhouse and enhancing its impact on Hobe Sound and Martin County as a cultural arts and educational facility. Among the ways they are accomplishing this is through a very well attended Speaker Series with people who grew up in the area speaking about life in Hobe Sound and



Apollo School today.

surrounding areas in days gone by. In addition, they provide a "Little Lending Library" where right now due to the current Coronavirus restrictions, is located outside and several feet away from the eastern side of the building. The public is invited to come and take some books with no need to leave books, and when finished reading them they are encouraged to share them with family and friends.

You can be part of the research and archives of The Apollo School because the Foundation is reaching out to the community through an oral histories project that is underway and ongoing to capture the memories of short-and long-time residents. They ask that if you or anyone you know would like to share your stories and memories of living in Hobe Sound, please let them know.

There is a catchphrase that says, "Hobe Sound is what Florida was." The Apollo School is the epitome of that statement.

To learn more about the Historic Apollo School and its ongoing activities please contact the Foundation at [apolloschoolfoundation@aol.com](mailto:apolloschoolfoundation@aol.com), or visit their website at [www.apolloschool.org](http://www.apolloschool.org).

Thank you Kathy Spurgeon for submitting helpful information regarding The Apollo School as part of our ongoing series "Our History is a Treasure. **A 132 year old school bell has been donated by the Hobe Sound Beach Shop!**

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- Florida Craft Breweries Shirts \$2
- Covid Shirts \$1



**Sargassum Now World's Largest Harmful Algal Bloom Due to Nitrogen Gisele Galoustian continued from page 2.**

Study co-authors are Rachel Brewton, a research coordinator, and Laura Herren, a research biologist, both at FAU Harbor Branch; Chuanmin Hu, Ph.D., a professor of optical oceanography, University of South Florida; Mengqui Wang, Ph.D., a post-doctoral researcher in the College of Marine Science, University of South Florida; Dennis McGillicuddy, Jr., Ph.D., senior scientist and department chair of applied ocean physics and engineering, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Scott Lindell, a research specialist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Frank J. Hernandez, Ph.D., an assistant professor, Division of Coastal Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi; and Peter Morton, Ph.D., Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science, Florida State University.

This research was funded by the U.S. NASA Ocean Biology and Biogeochemistry Program (NNX14AL98G, NNX16AR74G) and Ecological Forecast Program (NNX17AE57G), NOAA RESTORE Science Program (NA17NOS4510099), National Science Foundation (NSF-OCE 85-701 15492 and OCE 88-12055) and a Red Wright Fellowship from the Bermuda Biological Station.

**Submitted by Larry Wood, Ph.D.**  
Research Coordinator  
National Save The Sea Turtle Foundation  
[www.savetheseaturtle.org](http://www.savetheseaturtle.org)



**ANSWERS**

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. ILOMYAP OLYMPIA         | 11. IHSTOCRI HISTORIC         |
| 2. OLAOPL APOLLO           | 12. EANOITRVSNO RENOVATIONS   |
| 3. HENACRRIU HURRICANE     | 13. FLPGELAO FLAGPOLE         |
| 4. HOHLEOSSCOU SCHOOLHOUSE | 14. ACHERVIS ARCHIVES         |
| 5. UNADIOFONT FOUNDATION   | 15. EMMISORE MEMORIES         |
| 6. NIMAEC CINEMA           | 16. PHECRSHACAT CATCHPHRASE   |
| 7. SMSTLAPOP LAMPPOSTS     | 17. CAMEC MECCA               |
| 8. RIHLCEDN CHILDREN       | 18. UEZS ZEUS                 |
| 9. OITMMNCUY COMMUNITY     | 19. EHBCKEOEEO OKEECHOBEE     |
| 10. ESCERU RESCUE          | 20. ERTETARCHUCI ARCHITECTURE |

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on page 7**



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