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Guiding Light, book cover photo, by Alan S. Maltz

Local Firm And Renowned Photographer Team Up For Wildlife

by Di Saggau

The Companies of Royal Shell and acclaimed Key West photographer Alan S. Maltz are joining forces in support of local wildlife – Clinic for the Care and Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW), that is. Maltz will unveil his latest coffee table book featuring shots of Lee County at a book signing and auction benefit for CROW on Monday, January 25 at Ellington's Restaurant and Piano Bar, 1244 Periwinkle Way. The event will be open from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Maltz will be on hand to sign copies of his book, priced at \$60, with 20 percent of sales going to CROW.

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Team Up For Wildlife



In the Moment

Maltz's new book, *Visions of Beauty – Fort Myers, Sanibel & Beyond*, contains 128 full color pages of natural beauty in Lee County. In a recent interview Maltz said, "For me, the natural beauty is what separates Lee from a lot of other places."

Maltz explained what he tries to capture in his photos. "It's the essence of my subject, whether it be architecture, wildlife, nature, landscape, sort of like the magic of the moment for that subject, to bring out the best and tell a story in one image."

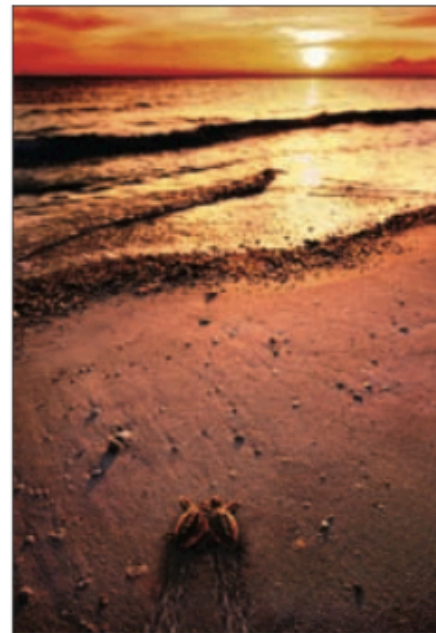
He said every scenario has its challenges. Synchronization played a great hand in the gorgeous photo that graces the cover of his book.

"Early in the morning I went out looking for images to capture. At sunrise I wound up in Fort Myers Beach near Lovers Key. On the left hand side on Estero Bay the scene was happening.

"The sun was rising, birds feeding, lots of spoonbills and others along with a dramatic sunrise. I had to tread across the mud flats to get to the scene and even had to abandon my boots when they became stuck in the mud. I believe I caught the essence of that moment, which is reflected on the cover."

Maltz will shoot several rolls of film per subject. "I try to take as many images as I can for that given moment in time. I wait for the perfect moment. I see my subjects as paintings in my mind's eye. The process happens naturally and instantaneously with little conscious thought. I have an intuitive sense of knowing what to do and when to do it. This is my gift, my passion, my dream."

An interesting introduction to the book is written by local author Charles Sobczak. His words include, "This book is an intimate portrait of Lee County,



In Light of the Journey

Florida at the turn of the 21st century. A treasured keepsake of color and light that will stay with us forever while Alan Maltz packs up his easel and his camera and quietly moves on."

In addition to the book signing, Victor Mayeron of The Mucky Duck will lead a live auction featuring \$11,000 worth of Maltz's museum-finished works with custom framing included. All proceeds from this portion of the auction will go to CROW. Also up for bid will be one of

Maltz's three-panel fine art screens valued at \$12,000. Twenty percent from that sale will benefit CROW. There will be myriad silent auction items as well, including vacation rentals, a golf weekend, jewelry, Segway tours, charter sightseeing tours and restaurant gift certificates. Even more items will be awarded during a raffle drawing. The Companies of Royal Shell and Ellington's have created a signature drink for this event, served in a commemorative glass for \$10, with all proceeds going to CROW. Reservations are requested by January 21. Call 333-3575 or email Barb Harrington at barb.harrington@rllc.com.

Maltz has been designated the Official Fine Art Photographer for the State of Florida by Visit Florida and the Official Wildlife Photographer of Florida by the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. Sixty of his fine art images are on permanent exhibition at Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers. His book is available at most book stores on island as well as other locations. His Web site is www.AlanMaltz.com, and his gallery is located at 1210 Duval Street in Key West.☼

Our E-Mail address is
press@islandsunnews.com
