

local news

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Lifestyle: Galen and Paige Spittler, of the Village of Fenney, and their Maltipoo, Annie Hope, hosted a Christmas Open House to members of The Villages Home Decorating Club.



Lifestyle: Peggy McLaughlin, of the Village of Dunedin, hosted friends in her home Christmas Eve.

Fishing Clubs Collaborate for the First Time

The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club and Freshwater Fishing Club hold swap meet.

By LUKE SARA
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Local fish living in both saltwater and freshwater may have a few more hooks to worry about after this month.

The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club and Freshwater Fishing Club have similar goals; both giving their members the chance to engage in the hobby of fishing as much as possible. On Feb. 16, the two clubs met for their first collaborative event, a swap meet at Everglades Recreation.

“It’s an idea we’ve tossed around, and there was enough interest among the members,” said Jamie Fowler, of the Village of Hawkins and leader of The Freshwater Fishing Club.

Fowler works closely with Gaylon Thompson, leader of The Deep Sea Fishing Club,



Gaylon Thompson and Jamie Fowler stand among some of the many wares for sale at the swap meet.

to exchange information or confer about the organization of fishing trips.

Some members of the club are interested in fishing in both saltwater and

freshwater environments, while others prefer one over the other.

Aside from the primary difference between the two clubs being the type of fishing they do, the clubs are very similar.

In addition to socializing, engaging in discussion about fishing and sometimes hosting guest speakers, an important part of both clubs is organizing fishing trips with local boat captains.

Chartered captains require a full group, containing around five or six people, to set sail. Both clubs help individual members who are interested in going on fishing trips to get groups together so they can take captained boats out on the water.

Both clubs do this free of charge.

These groups can lead to friendships within the clubs, said Thompson, of the Village of St. Charles.

During the event, members of the clubs filled Everglades Recreation’s largest room with fishing gear of all sorts including lures, rods, tackle boxes, buckets, reels and tools. Most of the attendees were there to sell parts of their vast collections.

“We overbuy, I’m guilty of it myself,” said Deep Sea Fishing Club Social Media Director Al Anderson, of the Village of Briar Meadow. “Some of these guys realize they have a dozen more reels than what they need to.”

Some club members brought entire crates full of gear to sell.

Multiple people walked out of Everglades carrying boxes of newly purchased supplies.

The event also served to generate interest in the clubs, as both clubs had tables set up with more information and sheets for signing up. The Deep Sea Fishing Club had a video playing showing some of the highlights of their previous fishing expeditions.

Joint effort events between the clubs are going to become a regular occurrence after the success of the swap-meet, said Fowler.

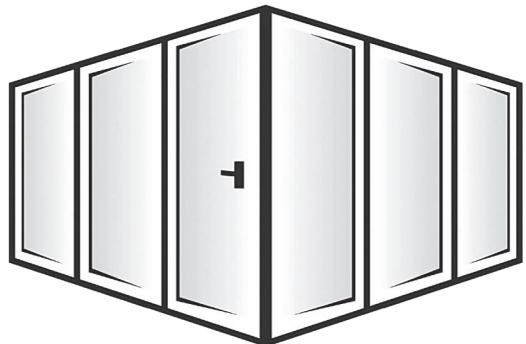
The Deep Sea Fishing Club meets at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at Everglades Recreation.

The Freshwater Fishing Club meets at 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at Everglades Recreation.

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