

FISHING

OUTDOORS: Grants available from Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

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Once again, the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is offering its Sarasota Bay Partners Grants for 2021. These grants for up to \$4,000 are available to groups that have projects which focus on restoration, water quality, bay related environmental education, community stewardship and the like.

Non-profits, schools, colleges, civic associations, businesses, neighborhood, condo or homeowner associations, etc. in the Manatee/Sarasota County area can apply if they have not before or have not in the past 3 years. The deadline for applications is March 1. Contact Darcy Young at Darcy@sarasotabay.org or call **941-955-8085**.

Free online saltwater fishing clinic

The FWC is offering free on-line saltwater fishing clinics for anglers 16 years and older. Content to include basic skills, conservation, gear, baits, rigs, knots, habitats, fish handling and much more. Seven session classes to begin Tuesday, March 9 and Tuesday, April 27 with hour-long sessions at 6:30 p.m. Registration is limited to 50 per clinic. Mini-clinics will also be offered.

Online registration is required 2 days prior to session. For complete information, go to MyFWC.com/Marine.

Reef cleanup planned

During my guiding career, I fished a natural nearshore reef off Holmes Beach known as Spanish Rocks extensively. Prior to the Super Bowl in Tampa, some 55 volunteer divers, part of the Pepsi Stronger Together / Force Blue Special Ops and the NFL Green Effort, will remove marine debris and abandoned fishing gear from this little jewel of a reef that is a local

treasure. Kudos and a big thank you to all involved. For more information, go to pepsistrongertogether.com.