

Finger Lakes Birdlife

CHARLIE ROUSE



Finding a place to raise a family isn't easy

With the rigors of migration behind them, most songbirds have settled on their breeding territory.



The incessant song of the males serves two primary purposes: to attract a mate and establish a territory. Once the pair has bonded, the process of building a nest begins, and in some species is an arduous task. Birds like Baltimore orioles build an intricately woven nest far out at the end of an overhanging branch, while mourning doves slap together a flimsy platform of twigs in the interior of a spruce tree. Some ground nesting birds, like killdeer, barely build a nest at all — getting by with a shallow scrape in loose gravel placed right out in the open.

Most birds will build a new nest for each nesting attempt. Even woodpeckers excavate a new nest each year. For them, it's a cooperative effort that may take two to three weeks to complete. Larger birds (such as hawks and eagles) generally use the same nest each year, merely adding a fresh layer of material each spring. But eventually, even their nests succumb to the power of nature, decay and wind, and the nest or the entire tree collapses and they have to start from scratch.

Cavity nesting birds are a unique group. Their nests are far more protected and offer much more security than cup, platform or ground nesting birds in that they are less susceptible to predation and adverse weather. While ground nesting birds are always at risk of being victimized by marauding animals looking for an easy snack, cavity nesters take advantage of the security cavities provide by extending the brood-rearing period, which enables the young birds to leave the nest larger, stronger and better able to fly than their open nest counterparts.

So, if cavities provide such great places to nest why don't more species use them? It's because cavity nesters require certain physical skills and behaviors to use cavities. They must have strong feet that can cling to vertical surfaces. They must be curious and fearless about exploring dark holes and crevices. Virtually all cavity nesters possess these traits, while open nesters do not.

Because suitable cavities are generally in short supply, there are usually more cavity nesters than available cavities — this leads to fierce competition between species. Everyone wants that perfect abode. That's why it's so easy to get cavity nesters to use nest boxes. These simple structures, which can be



4 generations
Neighbors, 3C



Sleeper car inventor
Looking Back, 4C

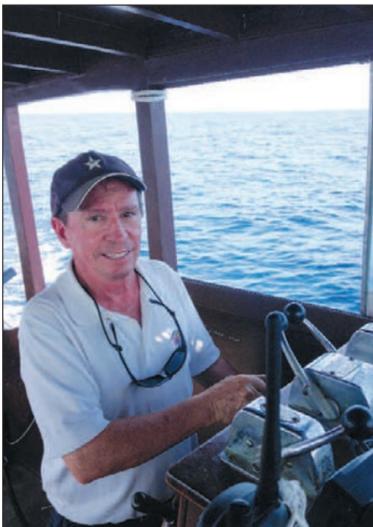


Picnic
Boomers, 7C

HEMINGWAY, PART II

Part-time Genevan pilots another Wheeler boat in film, 'Papa'

Story by
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Steve Naimoli pilots the boat. He got the job because the local Cuban playing the part of Gregorio Hemingway's captain, didn't know how to drive a boat. Today, the boat is docked at the Hemingway Marina in Cuba (below).



Action! Naimoli witnessed much of the filming involving the boat (at right, too).

FORT LAUDERDALE — Two Hemingway movies, two Finger Lakes connections.

Earlier this year, the *Times* profiled a former Sodus boat called the "Elhanor" that was sold and restored for a starring role in the movie "Hemingway and Fuentes," a film starring Anthony Hopkins, Andy Garcia and Annette Bening.

Now, a part-time Genevan who spends much of the year in Florida recently delivered another boat — also a Wheeler model — to Cuba for another Hemingway-related movie called "Papa." That film stars Adrian Sparks, Joely Richardson, Minka Kelly and Giovanni Ribisi.

Steve Naimoli, who along with his wife, Kim, summers in Geneva, piloted the boat in January from Jensen Beach to Fort Lauderdale — where it was modified to look like Hemingway's boat "Pilar." After that work was done, Naimoli then delivered the boat from Key West to Havana — where he spent close to two weeks during the filming touring Hemingway's haunts.

Naimoli, who formerly owned the Credit Bureau in Geneva and has been in Florida for 20 years, earned his captain's license about 15 years ago. He delivers boats, runs charters and does boating sea trials.

A boat surveyor referred the Cuban job to him and it immediately piqued Naimoli's interest — not only because of the Hemingway connection, but also because his family had bought their Long Island home in 1951 from the boatbuilding Wheeler family and because his mother had attended the University of Havana in the early 1940s.

The movie production team became anxious for the boat in April, and even though several issues with its seaworthiness had yet to be resolved, Naimoli prepared to deliver it to Cuba. To save wear and tear on the engine, it was decided the boat would be towed to Cuban waters. The crew left at 5 a.m. on April 22 and arrived in Cuba at 6 p.m. — traveling a leisurely 8 knots.

"I didn't want to push the boat," he said. "I didn't want anything to happen."

Naimoli spent 11 days in Cuba and was put to good use, piloting the boat during sea scenes.

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View Finder

Believe it or not, sometimes I am without my camera, and it's usually those times when I am sure I won't need to tote it around that I do. This was one of those times, I was going out for a short time and figured that I didn't need to bother with it and of course the sunset over the lake was so pretty I had to take a photo. The only thing I had with me was my trusty cell phone, which actually takes quite a nice picture, it just proves that it doesn't matter what camera you have, or how expensive it is, or how big it is, you can still take great photos ... even with your phone.



Boncaro

To see more of Michaela Boncaro's work, visit www.boncarophotography.com or Facebook at www.facebook.com/boncarophotography. Or follow her at Twitter @shelbon64.

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