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## Beach Series talks feature best-selling authors

Vicky Bowles Special to Naples Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Shake the sand out of your shoes and join fellow book lovers in downtown Naples for the new Friends of the Library Beach Series.

The inaugural Beach Series lectures on Oct. 21 and April 1 will join the other established author events that are sponsored by the nonprofit Friends of the Library of Collier County, which raises money for the county's public library programs and resources.

The Beach Series authors are:

- Mary Alice Monroe, the New York Times best-selling author of 27 books, including The Beach House series, and

- Kristy Woodson Harvey, the North Carolina-based writer of nine novels, including "Under the Southern Sky" and "Christmas in Peachtree Bluff."

There will be limited general admission seating for the 2 p.m. events in Blackburn Hall at Sugden Community Theatre (home of The Naples Players) on Fifth Avenue South. Each talk will be followed by a book signing. (See info box for details on dates, times and cost.)

"I am very excited about our new series and thrilled to be in downtown Naples on Fifth Avenue, where there are many wonderful restaurants to enjoy before the lecture," said Trish Benisch, with the Friends of the Library of Collier County.

The first speaker, on Oct. 21, is Mary Alice Monroe. The South Carolina

resident is an active conservationist whose novels often deal with environmental issues, such as the plight of injured sea turtles, and feature "strong Southern women."

"The Summer of Lost and Found" is her latest novel in the Beach House series that started in 2002. That first novel was filmed as a Hallmark Channel movie, called "The Beach House" and starring Andie MacDowell, in 2018.

She also has published picture books for children and has a new middle-grade fiction series, "The Islanders."

Monroe is a co-creator and co-host of the weekly web show and podcast "Friends and Fiction," where authors discuss books and connect with readers

On April 1, join Kristy Woodson Harvey, who also is a co-creator and co-host of "Friends and Fiction."

Harvey, who holds a journalism degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has written for numerous online and print publications, including Southern Living, USA TODAY and Parade.

Her latest novel, a stand-alone titled "Under the Southern Sky," rated a starred review in Publishers Weekly, which called it "a heart-wrenching tale of love and loss." The next volume in her Peachtree Bluff series — "Christmas in Peachtree Bluff" — will be released in October.



Mary Alice Monroe, author of the best-selling Beach House books, will speak Oct. 21 in the new Beach Series, sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Collier County, at Sugden Community Theatre in Naples. SUBMITTED



Kristy Woodson Harvey, author of "Christmas in Peachtree Bluff" and "Under the Southern Sky," will speak April 1 in the new Beach Series, sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Collier County, at Sugden Community Theatre in Naples. JAY ACKERMAN

### More information

**Who:** Mary Alice Monroe, Thursday, Oct. 21; and Kristy Woodson Harvey, Friday, April 1

**What:** Author lectures that are a fundraiser sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Collier County

**Where:** Blackburn Hall at Sugden Community Theatre, 701 Fifth Ave. S., Naples

**When:** 2 p.m., followed by a book signing

**Cost:** \$55 for each lecture, with tickets available only to current members of the Friends of the Library of Collier County. All seating is general admission, and "saving" seats

will not be permitted. Friends memberships begin at \$30/year and provide access and discounts to other programs.

**Purchase tickets and become a member:** Go to [collier-friends.org](http://collier-friends.org). Questions? Email Marlene Haywood, the Friends' Program Director, at [mkern@collier-friends.org](mailto:mkern@collier-friends.org) or call 239-262-8135.

GETTY IMAGES

## Eastern spotted skunk, two gray squirrels among 41 animals admitted to von Arx Wildlife Hospital



**Inside the Wildlife Clinic**  
Joanna Fitzgerald  
Guest columnist

An Eastern spotted skunk and two gray squirrels were among the 41 animals recently admitted to the von Arx Wildlife Hospital at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

Other admissions include a ruddy turnstone, a barred owl, a loggerhead shrike, a black racer and a big brown bat.

The Eastern spotted skunk was captured at a local high school when it attempted to crawl into a parked car after emerging from the underside of a sheriff's patrol car parked nearby. The skunk was dull but responsive when examined at the wildlife hospital. An ophthalmic exam revealed the skunk did not have a normal response to visual stimulus indicating possible neurological trauma.

The skunk was placed in a quiet, dark isolation room to ensure he wouldn't feel threatened and spray

inside the hospital. Later that evening, the skunk immediately ate the diet staff placed in front of him. The following morning when staff checked on the skunk they found his enclosure was a mess indicating the skunk was very active overnight.

The skunk had a cardboard box "den" to use for cover; this allowed for minimal handling. Staff blocked the entrance to the box 'den' with a bunched up towel while they cleaned his enclosure. Once the recovery space was cleaned and reset, the towel was removed, allowing the skunk free range of his enclosure.

Each day the skunk was more alert and curious; the skunk was always very aware of activity around his enclosure but never sprayed. A fecal analysis determined the skunk had a high load of an internal parasite requiring a course of anti-parasitic medication.

Several days after admission the skunk was cleared for release. Staff found suitable release habitat where other Eastern spotted squirrels have been observed since the actual location where the skunk first climbed into the patrol car was unknown. Visit the Conservancy's Facebook page to view short videos of the skunk recovering at the hospital and of the skunk's release

See ANIMALS, Page 2D



Von Arx Wildlife Hospital staff feed an orphan squirrel admitted after she fell from her nest. The squirrel's sibling arrived at the hospital the previous day. JOANNA FITZGERALD/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS