

Picture: Sunrise in Manasota Key

Explore somewhere new

When we needed to get away and unwind last week we decided to look for something close to home and trailer a boat.  After a little research Manasota key on Lemon bay was our choice.  I found a vacation rental house on the bay with a boat lift just across the road from the beach.  Rarely do I ever make it much further north on the water than Boca Grande and Gasparilla. So being able to explore this new body of water while carrying over the same techniques to catch fish would be fun and a relaxing.

The first few days of our trip the weather kept us inside until the effects of hurricane Laura passed. . Being able to sneak out for a few hours between the rain we did get in some scouting getting the lay of the land.  While throwing jigs inside Stump pass we found shiners on the grass flats. The first decent weather day we returned to these flats and caught lots of pretty baits.

Staying around Stump pass for the first few mornings we picked mangrove shorelines with moving current just like we do at home. The amount of snook in this pass was amazing. Mangrove shorelines throughout Lemon Bay also held snook along with one nice redfish. Although I badly wanted to get out on the beachside and fish some rock jetties up towards Venice conditions remained rough and just did not make it possible. Never the less it felt good to stretch my legs and fish some new water.

The 1st annual Captiva coastal clean up hosted by Jensens Marina is scheduled for Sept 12th from 8-30am-12-30pm with a BBQ afterwards. The event coordinator is Capt Jimmy Burnsed. For more info and to RSVP text 239 872 6383.

cast. To take full advantage of your time on the water have not only a variety of tackle but also of baits. Being able to quickly pounce on a opportunity can make or break a trip. Try to stay open minded while sticking to the days plan and see how the trip plays out.