

*Read below a message from the BBKA Lakes & Wetlands Committee:*

### **The Cane Toad Gala – a “wild and crazy” celebration of our volunteers**

The Bonita Bay Club hosted a Cane Toad Gala for the Bonita Bay residents who hunt cane toads at night and look for their tadpoles in lakes during daytime.

Over 90 residents, guests, and special visitors enjoyed cocktails, dinner, awards, expert presentations, and celebrity videos during the party.

Community Association board members Judy DeLuca Ford and Larry Kellam had the opportunity to attend the gala. Larry commented: “I was amazed at the commitment and camaraderie shown by these folks. Dozens of residents volunteer to hunt cane toads or look for tadpoles. It is an important effort that has dramatically reduced the number of cane toads we see on lawns at night or as roadkill on our streets. And these people sure know how to party.”

Several awards were presented:

- James Means – **MVP and “World’s Best Toad Catcher”**
- Peter Lannon – **“Rookie of the year”**
- James Means, Peter Lannon, Tom Hager, Lee O’ Daniel, Mark Dickinson, Joe McCabe, Scott Andre, Dave Going – **“Summer Warriors”**
- Lee O’Daniel – **“Women’s Impact”**
- “Girls Night Out” team: Judy Zoelick, Bettina Fruth, Liz Welch, Lee O’ Daniel, Sandy Hollenhorst – **“Most fun team” - awarded toad hats**
- Heidi Nettler – **“Tremendous Tadpole”** for her efforts in Sanctuary
- Burke & Barbara McClemore – **“Most Diligent Tadpole Stalkers”**
- BBC's Jose Del Cid and BBKA's Ryu Messersmith – **“Tadpole Extraordinaire”**

MC Chuck Thomas and Paul Gavin presented Jim Means with a special T-shirt and medal:



The Girls Night Out cane toad hunting team received “toad hats”:



Cane toad expert Melinda Shuman of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida presented a summary of her research studies on cane toads, including one that put radio transmitters on toads to track their movements.

Several famous celebrities and leaders were invited to the gala. None could attend in person, but they all sent video greetings. To hear their remarks, click [here](#).



Contributing to Bonita Bay’s commitment to nature by helping to control cane toads can be fun and rewarding. Please consider joining the effort. For more information, contact Paul Gavin at [paulgavin37@gmail.com](mailto:paulgavin37@gmail.com) or 760-518-4012.

- BBKA Lakes & Wetlands Committee