

# DOCK IS RUINED BY STORM

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Wakulla County residents have been returning to normal life the past few days as hurricane Kate is slowly becoming a memory. Soon residents will begin the task of rebuilding damaged structures.

One structure that will not easily be replaced is "The Living Dock at Panacea."

Panacea marine scientists Anne and Jack Rudloe reported that their dock received "terminal damage." Jack Rudloe said that the dock was severely damaged by hurricane Elena, but hurricane Kate put the finishing touches to the death of the dock.

The dock was the subject of a 1977 book by Rudloe which told of the marine life and experiments that have taken place on and under it.

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He added that hundreds of school students sat back on the dock while taking part in various lectures on marine science. The dock is a sad loss, according to Rudloe, because it is the link between the land and the sea.

He is discouraged after spending money repairing the structure after Elena. "It wasn't completed, but it was functional," Rudloe said. He added that, since the Panacea Institute of Marine Science is a nonprofit organization, he hopes the public will help by donating money for the rebuilding of the dock.

"The bulk is sitting out there in unusable sections," Rudloe said. "Kate wiped the thing out."

Rudloe said that damage to this marine laboratory was kept to a minimum, although some sea creatures were lost after the power went off. Rudloe said that the crew built makeshift generators to provide oxygen for the creatures, but some died despite the effort.

The dock was originally built in 1967 for C.C. Cornett's Queen Of Panacea 55 foot party boat. Rudloe purchased the property from Cornett and the dock experienced no problems until 1972 when hurricane Agnes damaged it. Minor repairs were made and the dock had been in good condition until hurricane Elena passed through the area and left the structure looking like a roller coaster.

Elena threw the dock into the marsh grass, where much of the structure had to be salvaged. At the time of the recent hurricane Anne Rudloe was working on a project to determine why mullet jump.

Rudloe said that the institute will begin a major fund raising drive to rebuild the dock.

“While there may be disaster loans available at high rates of interest for non-profit organizations from the Small Business Administration,” Rudloe said, “the institute can not afford mortgage payments and must go to the private sector and foundations for money. Whoever sends a donation will receive a piece of the dock to commemorate the most famous wharf ever glorified,” Rudloe said.

The institute can be reached at Post Office Drawer AB, Panacea, Fla., 32346.