

Getting To Know Angie Lucas

Surfer Girl, Dancing Queen and Universal Angler, With A Zest For Life and A Passion for Fishing



Although born in High Point North Carolina, Angie Lucas is a quintessential Florida girl in every fundamental way -- "it's a way of life." When she was a young nine years old, her family moved to Cocoa FL, and after another nine years, moved to the Florida Keys, where Angie continues to live and thrive.



Angie began her Florida years in Cocoa watching the missiles being launched into space from Cape Canaveral, modeling (and was President of the Teen Modeling Club), spending her weekends on the beach working on her suntan (she didn't know any better) and paddling out to catch a wave. She had to abandon her early surfing passion when she moved to the Keys in 1969 and found "there weren't any waves!"

Immediately upon moving to the Keys she attended Florida Keys Community College in Key West. She caught her first tarpon off a Vaca Cut Bridge. (And they said it could not be done) Inevitably the water continued to call and she soon became a sailor and lived in Marathon on trimaran sailboat for a year and a half and then moved to a Bahama sloop. There was lots of snorkeling, fishing, shelling and simple living in the early 70s in the Florida Keys. After selling the sailboat, she moved to the Upper Keys.

Eventually she moved to Islamorada where she worked nights at the Green Turtle as a waitress and fished in the day and enjoyed the Fabulous Florida Keys lifestyle. She proudly sent in her catch info to the Metropolitan South Florida Fishing Tournament and received many outstanding catch certificates. She would sometimes go out fishing on the Party boat at Bud N Mary's (back when you caught great fish on the reef) and then go to work in the evenings and tell fishing stories to her customer and friends. Always resolute, Angie became "one of the guys" in the fishing world. Often, she had the opportunity to ride along on the offshore boats and there she learned the ins and outs

of offshore fishing by observing from the bridge. Here's a 14# mutton snapper she caught in 1976.



She fished in Bimini several summers and in 1978 she caught her first white Marlin and her big 561 ½ Blue Marlin. After 5 ½ hours the fish unfortunately died and it took the Capt and mate another 1 ½ hours to bring it to the surface. The bill and the tail are on her wall. She said she hurt for 2 weeks and says she doesn't ever need to catch another marlin. One was enough.



In 1974 Angie picked up a fly rod and stood on the bow of a boat and watched the tarpon come across the white sand flat and daisy chain right in front of the boat. It was a life changer for her, and she fell in love with tarpon fishing. In 1977 she and a few other female saltwater fly rodders got together and became the charter anglers of the Women's World Invitational Tarpon Fly Championship. This was a 5 day Ladies tarpon tournament with rules fashioned after the Gold Cup and Hawley Tournaments. In the early days of the WWITFC, young guides who were to become legends in the



Keys were tournament guides. Angie is pictured below with fishing legends Jimmy Albright, Cecil Keith and Jimmy Brothers. Angie has proudly won this tournament 5 times.

In 1979 she traveled to Cuba for the Ernest Hemingway Tournament. During the 1980's she would spend here vacations fishing the Keys, or on boats in Hatteras, NC or Cozumel for the sailfish tournament.

In the 1980s Angie was involved in a number of Backcountry tournaments, as hostess, girl Friday, weight master and scorekeeper. She is especially proud to have been official scorekeeper for the Hawley tournament in 1988 as it became the first of the RELEASE tarpon tournament. She was weight master for the Gold Cup on the last year of bringing tarpon in to be weighed (they were being used for tarpon research).

She enlisted as an observer during many Islamorada Sailfish Tournaments and noticed how many women were catching fish and winning the tournaments. In February 1985, Angie created, incorporated and ran the first all women sailfish tournament in the Keys. The Islamorada Ladies Sailfish Tournament was a 2 day, 12 pound test, release Sailfish tournament with 1 female angler per boat and 1 observer per boat. One year this tournament had 54 anglers and 54 observers. She ran this tournament for 7 years and then sold the corporation.

Angie has lived on many of the Florida islands and in 1985 she finally had the opportunity to build her little pink house in Old Tavernier. In 1986 Angie was on the staff of the Florida Conservation Association (now the CCA) where she was hired as the Trip Director for fundraising auctions, and systemized records and information. She would travel to the many chapters in Florida to be support in fundraising auctions and events. After her time with FCA she was involved in hosting many Florida Keys Fly Fishing Schools and worked with Florida Keys Outfitters.

In 1990 and 1992 Angie fished the Ponoï River in Russia, a wonderful Russian wilderness experience! Deluxe camping, great food prepared by a Russian chef and an Aeroflot helicopter taking the anglers and their guide to different beats on the river each day.



She has fished almost every imaginable place in Florida and in North Carolina, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Louisiana, Texas, Alaska, Cuba, Mexico, The Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, and



Cozumel. Her travels have taken her to places all over the world for sightseeing: Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Turkey, Finland, Russia, NY and Hawaii, the Cayman's, The Virgin Islands, to name a few. Athens,



Istanbul, the pyramids at Giza and the ruins at Ephesus are among her favorites. Her bucket list goes on to include The Galapagos Islands, an African Photo Safari and Machu Picchu.



In addition to all things fishing, Angie has a lifetime resume of numerous other pursuits and adventures, including bird and wild hog hunting, singing in the Church choir, and holding a Realtor's license. Dancing is another of her passions, and she has taken many dance lessons. She loves



East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing and Cha Cha. Angie says her favorite is the Waltz with a good leader ("it feels like flying"). Ballroom dancing and or country dancing will do!



Angie is an avid reader. She helped start "Well Read Women" book discussion group over 4 years ago. Being in this book group has expanded her exposure to different types and genres of books, and she finds it "so wonderful to have intelligent women to discuss the various ideas these books bring up."

Angie also became engrossed in myriad conservation, marine and other angling endeavors and organizations. She remains a member of Coastal Conservation Association, the IGFA and IWFA. She is a member of "Friends of The Islamorada Area State Park" and Keys to Peace.

She is very interested in the Florida Keys History and, as an active member of The Historical Preservation Society of the Upper Keys and Matecumbe Historical Trust, tries to make the monthly lectures. Also she is a member of Islamorada's new museum, The Keys History and Discovery Center (located at the Islander in Islamorada).



Captivated by Native American Culture, Angie became engrossed with the traditions of the indigenous Lakota Tribe and its strong cultural and spiritual ties that honor elders, children and mother earth. She has studied their teachings by participating in several Women's Gatherings. These gatherings are spiritual teachings from the Lakota community that include drumming and singing circles. Angie has sat in "probably 100 sweat lodges." "Yes it is hot and dark too."



Angie is highly involved in programs for children, surrounding area of education, anti-bullying, diversity, and nutrition. She has mentored a young lady, Tiffany, from 9th through 12th grade in the "Take Stock in Children" scholarship program. To be awarded their scholarships, students must stay in school, maintain good grades, exhibit good behavior, remain crime and drug free, and meet with their mentors once a week. Students are held accountable; if they do not fulfill the program standards, they risk losing their valuable college scholarship.

Angie has been a facilitator in "Be the Change" Challenge Day programs at Coral Shores High School for the last 5 years, a one day activity for students 8th through 12th grades. There are experiential workshops with the focus on anti-bullying, building empathy in diversities and positive change. "This is a life changing program for some of these kids."

She chaperoned a bus full of High School kids to Barry University for a "Student Awareness Day". Again, Anti-Bullying and tolerance were the lessons, and a Holocaust concentration camp survivor sat at each table and told their story. There were 40 tables. It was an impactful day for the students and the adults.



Angie has been a judge for 2 years in the Upper Keys Fairchild Challenge. "It's an extraordinary, environmental education opportunity providing our local students with a learning experience that engages them in such a meaningful, creative and celebratory way." The creative participants in the "Green Cuisine" Challenge were from Middle and High school. The recipes were comprised of fruits and vegetable and judged on creative recipes, presentation and appropriate food handling. Angie also

judged the creative writings (from Kindergarten up), of the “Adventures of a Seed.”
“What a hoot!”



With her amazing fortitude and spirit, Angie also has her own successful, full-time plus business, Angie’s Custom Cushions in Islamorada. She started the business with her beloved Father after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, given the widespread need for upholstery. She loves her work, designing, selling and working with fabrics, and “making people happy.” She built her studio behind her

house and walks to work every day.... “Just a few steps through the orchids to the get to work.”

Angie has been a member of IWFA since 1983. She is a past IWFA board member and has co-chaired the Islamorada Light Tackle Tournament and participated in many IWFA tournaments during her membership in this club. She says “I love IWFA. I feel honored to be a part of an organization that has historically proven that a woman’s place is truly in the cockpit (or better yet on the bow). This club has given me so many wonderful women friends and has helped me to get more time on the water. It’s wonderful to see everyone at the tournaments and the annual luncheons and catch up on their adventures as sportswomen. I am grateful for our collective conservation mindfulness and our outreach in the scholarship department. What a group of fun-loving, hard fishing, traveling, intelligent, interesting women. IWFA has made my life richer and certainly more fun.”