

# Monofilament project begins with No Name Bridge



County Commissioner George Nuegent deposits the first monofilament line into the first recycling bin at No Name Key Bridge on Friday. Maya Totman director of the Exotic and Wild Bird Rescue Center and her volunteers watch the operation.

Exotic and Wild Bird Rescue Service of the Florida Keys began its program Friday, June 7, to install recycling bins for used mono-filament line in key places in the Lower Keys - bridges, marinas, harbors. These easy to use bins store large amounts of mono-filament until emptied by the Rescue Service.

The monofilament is then sent to the Pure Fishing center in 100-pound boxes where it is recycled and used to construct special underwater habitats for fish.

This recycling service will remove thousands of yards of discarded monofilament from the coastal environment and save hundreds of birds from death and disablement. Mono-filament line is the number one killer of birds in the sea and in the sky, where it is draped on power lines, trees, and bridges. They can't see the line and get permanently snarled in it, preventing them from flying and feeding.

Sometimes the Rescue Service can find a bird disabled by monofilament while it is still alive and save it, but usually they die out there, like herons, terns, pelicans, and cormorants.

Please call Maya Totman, director of the program at 872-1882 or John Clark at 872-4114 with questions. More funding is needed for the program, as the center plans to do at least 20 bridges throughout the Keys.