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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: *Matthew Hyner, 32*

Photographer likes to keep lens focused on wildlife, landscapes

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For most of his life, photographer Matthew Hyner has been drawn to wildlife.

A West Palm Beach resident who's been shooting pictures professionally for about a year, Hyner often has animals in his viewfinder. It's been that way since he was a kid in Wantagh, N.Y., on Long Island, where his parents got him his first camera.

"They got me a 110 camera when I was 7 or 8," Hyner said. "I shot anything I could. I got yelled at for wasting pictures!

"I shot all the animals at the zoo. I took 24 pictures, then I was told I couldn't get any more film."

As Hyner got older, he began to focus on his field.

"I got into it as a kid and kind of putzed around with it awhile," he said. "I took classes in high school and college."

Hyner also took pictures for his high school yearbook at MacArthur High School in Levittown, N.Y.

"Back then I liked shooting sports. I was shooting football games and stuff like that. I loved doing that. But I've also been into wildlife for just as long. I did a lot of camping and stuff with the Boy Scouts.

"I've always liked the outdoors. I saw a lot of wildlife photography when I moved down here about five years ago. It got me moving back towards the wildlife, which I took a lot of when I was a kid."

He's shooting, and showing, a lot now, too. Hyner's photographs are on display at Florida Atlantic University's Jupiter campus library. He showed his work at this year's SunFest, too. He also displays his photos on Thursday nights during the Sunset Celebration at Sailfish Marina on Singer Island. He'll be back there in August.

"I've been trying to move towards making a living in



THOMAS CORDY/Staff Photographer

Matthew Hyner of West Palm Beach sells his nature photography at the weekly sunset celebration at Sailfish Marina on Singer Island. Some of his work is on

display in the library at Florida Atlantic University's Jupiter campus. He also showed his work at SunFest this year.

photography," said Hyner, who is doing freelance Web design and 3-D animation. "I'm trying to get into doing more art shows and expanding that route."

As he continues to shoot, he plans to branch out a little bit.

"I like landscapes, too," Hyner said. "Every now and then I seem to incorporate the two to-

gether. It's not quite a landscape photo and it's not quite a wildlife photo. It's something cooler.

"I like experimenting with different shutter speeds, too, to get something different. Slower shutter speeds will blur out the water and helps show movement. A faster shutter speed stops things."

Wildlife is at the top of Hyner's to-do list, too.

"I've been wanting to get up to Alaska and shoot bald eagles up there," he said. "And I've been wanting to get into underwater photography, too."

Hyner's wife of just over a year, Jane, also is a photographer. "She gets some great stuff,"

he said. "She didn't have any moose photos, and she had some people who asked for moose, and she went off and photographed moose between shows."

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