

# STEPPING OFF THE EDGE

travels of a reluctant retiree

**JANUARY 17, 2021 BY MIKE T**

## Alligators, Family, and Croissants...

But first, last shot of us leaving St Augustine after our epic visit to the Fountain of Youth...



But seriously, we are off to Naples. My son Mikey lives there with his family, and it is a visit we put off from last April because of the dangers of Covid. And now, yes, we are going when there is no longer any danger... not. Yes, Florida, second only to Texas and California for new cases each day. Well, we are staying isolated but, and this is a big but, we are visiting Mikey and his wife and two children. Yes, Mikey works in the restaurant business,

the children are in school in person, and his wife works in a bar. What can possibly go wrong?

The Airbnb is fabulous. Each window is like a painting. This host is a sculptor and her art is everywhere.









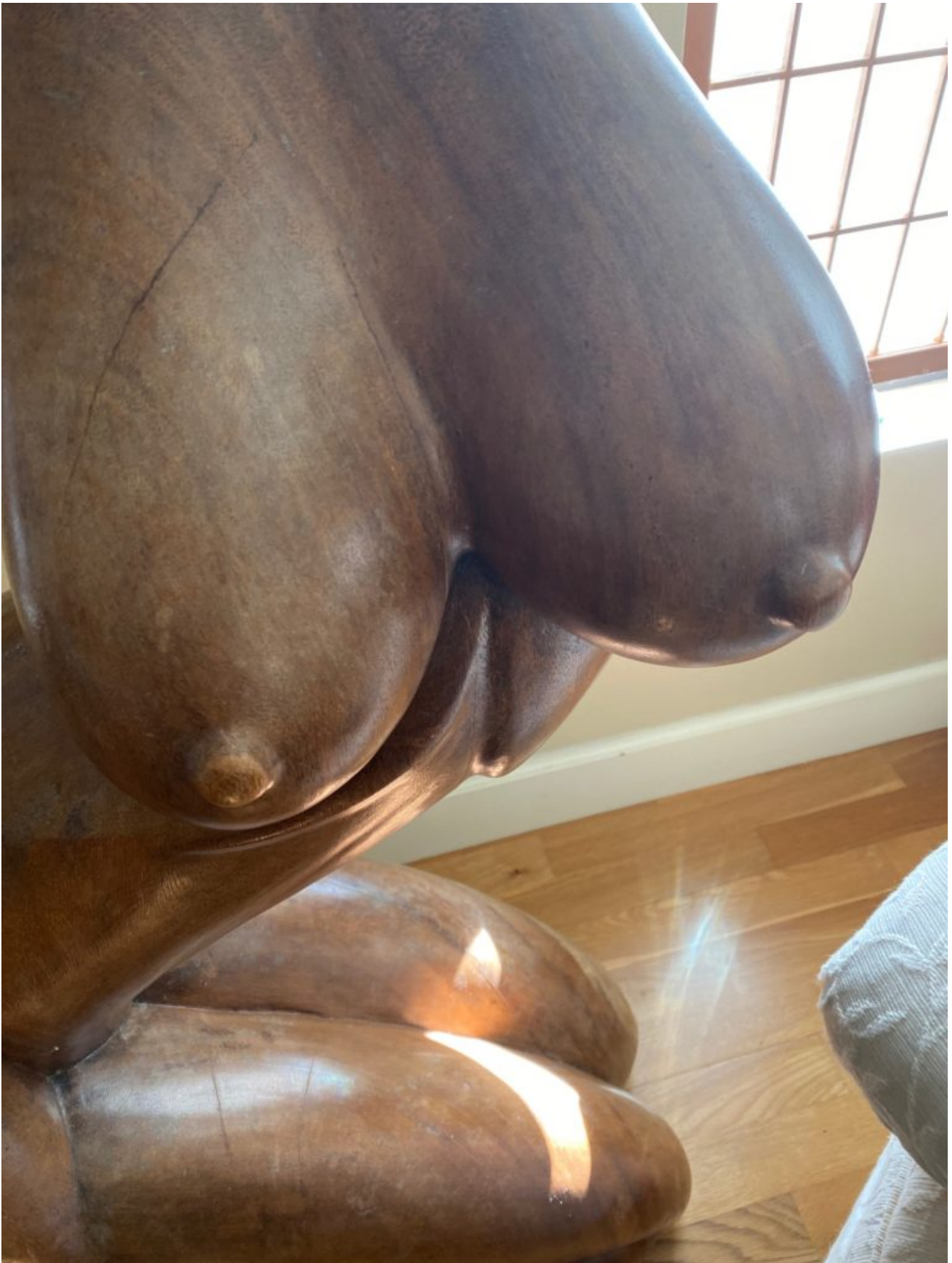






And naturally, the following is the only picture I have of one of her amazing wood sculptures..







*The view from our bed*



Everyone who knows me will understand that when Mikey and I get together it is all about food, so here are our food shots for the visit...



Ahhhh pork belly



*roast ribeye for Christmas Dinner*





*The finished product*





*Fried asparagus, a Christmas Eve tradition*



Then there are the daily walks, courtesy of Mrs. T. Not a hike mind you, just a walk because as you may know there are NO hills in Florida. The walks are filled with swampy views and warning signs a plenty regarding the wild life...



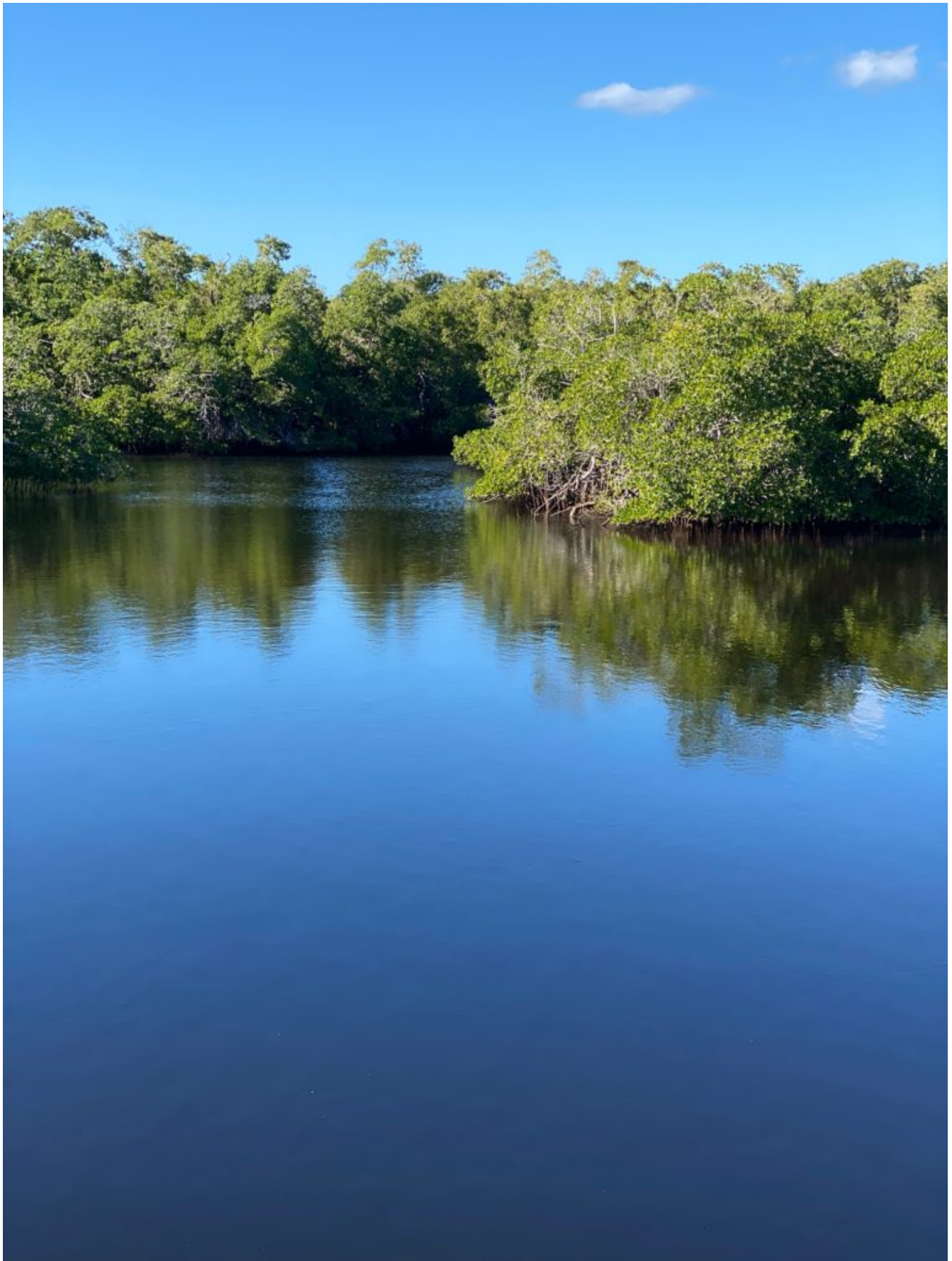




















And speaking of wildlife, we made a day of the Naples Zoo. Now I should mention that one of my wonderful granddaughters, Johnnie, is no friend of animals. Her sister, Bettie, on the



other hand, has made it her life's work to terrorize her older sister by bringing home every wild thing she could find, which made the day at the zoo just up her alley. I might mention that while up close and personal with giraffes is marvelous, the same is not to be said of the alligators. It was most people's bad dream...













*He never stopped pacing in front of the fence... gee, wonder what he was thinking?*





*My favorite, the honey badger... he don't give a ... well, you know*

















*"don't worry, we are right behind you..."*









*there were 13 of these guys on the edge of the water during feeding time*





*these birds were fearless.... and they had the all important ability to FLY!*









Now, I think by now everyone knows that Mrs. T and I have plenty of time on our hands. One day, left on our own to see the sights of Naples, we came upon some little hands. That



might not sound like a big find but let me tell you, ever since our niece's friend Annie flashed those little guys on us at bingo one night it has been our dream to find a pair of our own... and here you go, Mr. and Mrs. T spanning time...





*talk to the hand*





*live long and prosper*





*nothing says fun like playing dominos little hand style*

My son gifted us a cooking class on croissants. Luckily, we were the only ones in the class!









*the class was held at Sur La Table... luckily Mrs. T got me out before I could spend \$500 on things I most likely have already!*



No trip to see family is complete without offering to do electrical work. As always, my tools safely packed in the Vagabond Mobile, I set to work at Mikey's house doing odd jobs...





and wearing my best friend's business proudly on my shirt



remember, "never cut the red wire"





*hmmmm... I think that is where that wire goes...*



Well, after a fantastic month in Naples among all the other old people driving cars far too big for them, we are off again to another picturesque Florida location... next stop Weeki Wachee ... google it....

 **UNCATEGORIZED**