

# Lounge act: Islander to host cool fest

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach resident Rainer Scheer hopes his Chillounge concept becomes a sensation from coast to coast — as in Florida's coasts.

Scheer, who moved to Anna Maria Island about six years ago after frequent visits from Europe, is the owner of Design O'Fresco on historic Palm Avenue in Sarasota.

As the proprietor of the gallery, he's taken up the role of promoter of the downtown's cultural character and urban atmosphere.

From 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, Scheer, with the support of dozens of sponsors and a number of Sarasota venues, will present the Chillounge Night to the public.

"I had a vision," Scheer said of his concept for the event. "Palm Avenue will be transformed into a magnificent outdoor lounge."

The one-night event on Palm seems ambitious, with Scheer's line of sophisticated outdoor furniture, smooth jazz, opera, flamenco dancers, a Beau Monde boutique fashion show, cash bars, cuisine served by Roy's Restaurant, Bonefish Grill, Ceviche, Caragiulio's and Sol's Catering and a Brazilian Samba parade.

"It is something very different," Scheer said, inviting Islanders to attend and experience first-hand his undertaking.

Proceeds from the Chillounge Night will benefit the Sarasota Conservation Foundation, which "strives to protect the environment, character and biodiversity of Sarasota County's bays, beaches and barrier islands."

"For each sale ticket, they get a portion," Scheer said of the \$15 admission and its benefit to the SCF.

Scheer said his primary sponsor, Bacardi, has indicated an interest in sponsoring other Chillounge nights in other Florida locales.

He also spoke with Ed Chiles about an outdoor lounge night at Chiles' Sandbar Restaurant, 100 Spring Ave., Anna Maria. The restaurant recently celebrated the opening of a new, expansive deck for outdoor dining and parties.

"We could be there, watching the sunset," Scheer said. "It's a great concept and it's such a great space on the Island."

For more information about Chillounge Night, go to [www.chilloungenight.com](http://www.chilloungenight.com) or call 941-330-2411.



## Chilling

Holmes Beach resident Rainer Scheer "chills" in his Sarasota gallery, Design O'Fresco. He is the promoter of the Chillounge Night, an open-air club event Feb 2 in Sarasota that may come to Anna Maria..  
Islander Photo: Courtesy Design O'Fresco