



Wiggins Bay Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

Neighbor Highlights: Margie Lynch: Saving the Everglades one snake at a time!

A while ago I volunteered as a Vet Tech at the Conservancy of SW Florida's Von Arx Wildlife Hospital where injured native animals are treated and released. Our beautiful wading birds don't have to pay a bill (pun intended)! It was there that I became aware of the problems caused by pythons and the effect they're having in the Everglades, Big Cypress, and most of South Florida.

Native to Southeast Asia, there are multiple theories as to how Pythons got to South Florida with the consensus being through the pet trade. The snakes have now moved out of the wild and into more suburban areas. They're semi-aquatic, loving golf courses and anywhere there is freshwater streams, creeks, ponds, etc. Unfortunately, they're now embedded in the region and although they'll never be completely eradicated, the goal is to control their numbers. The Conservancy has employed a full-time biologist who is working on the problem and Florida Fish & Wildlife holds a "Python Challenge" bounty hunt with cash prizes every year.

Knowing how passionate I am on this subject, for my birthday this year, my husband Matt hired a professional guide to take us on a hunt. Isn't that what every girl wants?! We went into a difficult area to access deep in the dark Everglades where I barehanded the 7 ½ footer you see pictured. It was a fantastic experience. Our two older children came along too as they wanted to see what their crazy mom was up to now. Wow, an amazing adventure was had by all.

Are we saving the Everglades one snake at a time? It's my feeling that we need to open more areas to hunting as the pressure being put on these snakes is working. Native wildlife is returning to the areas where hunting is allowed! I'm proud to have contributed to the efforts.



Margie and her husband Matt purchased in Princeton Place not too long ago and are seasonal residents. They look forward to the return of the Endless Summer and meeting you at the Tiki Bar.



If you spot a Burmese python and would like it removed, or if you see injured wildlife that you'd like transported to the wildlife hospital, you can contact Margie in season.

Getting To Know You: Thank You For Your Service

Prior to Hurricane Ian and the associated construction and repair, each Veterans Day, the Wiggins Bay Foundation acknowledged our servicemen and women. We'd like to pick this tradition back up and would like to connect with those of you who have served. Email your name, and branch of service to shallcross3@gmail.com. Note if you would be interested in planning and/or participating in a Veterans Day program.



Nature Spotlight: King Tide, king sized impact

In our September issue we spotlighted the wonderful pollinator garden at the Villas. A king tide this fall resulted in a dramatic rise in the salinity level of the pond between the Villa's and The Colony that is used for irrigation. After this near disaster the Butterfly Garden has started to come back with a vengeance! Almost all of the sunshine mimosa (ground cover) is reappearing as well as some of the die hards i.e. Porter weed, Muhly grass, Jamaican caper and Prickly pear. With kind donations from a few residences, we were able to install approximately 50 plants in the garden to replace the ones that declined. Among the most prevalent are the necklace pod and the fire spike. Both plants provide vivid color, nectar and shelter to many pollinators. We are very thankful to Richard (VisionCare Landscaping) for applying a substantial layer of mulch to prevent moisture from escaping, creating nourishing soil by decomposition and a great final touch to the Garden.



Nature Spotlight: Look Up!

This beautiful orchid has been growing on a Villas Oak Tree for over 10 years and it bloomed every year, except the "IAN" year. Now it is kept company by an air plant. We are so fortunate to have such beautiful aged trees which not only enhance our property but help keep us cool.



Wiggins Bay resident Maureen Petersen brought this Staghorn fern to The Colony 6 years ago. This fern is easy to identify, since it looks nothing like the lacy plants common to its class. In addition to its antler-like lobed fronds that can grow as long as 3 feet, a staghorn also has roundish infertile fronds -- often called shields -- at its base. Those shields start out green before turning brown. In the pocket that usually forms between them and the bark, they collect debris like decaying leaves with which to fertilize the fern.

Gate Highlights: dwellingLIVE Gate Transition

dwellingLIVE is software that allows us to register our family, friends and service providers. Thank you for your patience as we move to the new system. We are waiting on a piece of equipment and hope to be fully operational by the end of January. Once fully implemented we anticipate increased gatehouse efficiency and reduced vehicle backups. Residents can manage their guest lists online, or on their phone through an app.

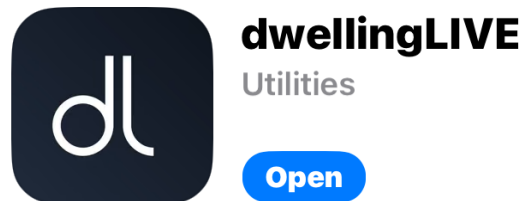
Visit wigginsbayfoundation.info to find a link to a tutorial to learn more about the system*. You will also find a link to login. We suggest you bookmark this site on your web browser, i.e., Google Chrome, Safari.

**In the tutorial they mention Community Website navigation. We are not using this option. In addition, we will not require you to use a Verbal Confirmation Code, you can leave that area blank.*

If you have not yet registered, contact Mo Shallcross to receive your credentials or have them sent to a family member if you do not use a computer or mobile device. Mo is available to talk you through the setup.

Maureen "Mo" Shallcross 8864.477.02877 or shallcross3@gmail.com

Once you are registered you can download the app for your apple or android phone. The app allows you to manage your guest list and account information on your mobile device. The tutorial mentions a one time charge but note the app is free.



The ePass feature allows residents members to email passes to their guests so they can either be printed ahead of time or they can display the ePass on their smartphone for the gate guard to scan.

Permanent guests have an expiration date of 365 days. This allows us to ensure the accuracy of the permanent guest list.

Temporary guest expiration dates are set by the resident.

Note that you can choose to associate your property with vendors but the vendor list is universal to the community. You will still need to register vendors as temporary guests when they come to service your home. We suggest you set regular services, i.e., cleaners as permanent guests and specify the day of the week they visit.



Currently you can continue to call the gatehouse to register guests. The guards will also accept QR Codes and passes from the dwellingLIVE system. We will send an update when we are fully operational on dwellingLIVE.

The Wiggins Bay Foundation Newsletter is published quarterly.

Please submit topic recommendations to Mo Shallcross @shallcross3@gmail.com