



May 2024

Wiggins Bay Foundation Newsletter

Upcoming Projects

May will bring some road detours, as we have a streetlight power project, lighting of our palms on Wiggins Bay Drive and the resurface of our roads. Thanks for your patience!

Neighbor Highlights: Bill DeJong, Cove Towers - Building Schools

For most of my career, I was involved in planning (mostly public) schools in the USA. 25 years ago, we started a non-profit organization called Schools for the Children of the World (SCW) which is focused on building schools for the poorest of the poor in developing countries. Often there are no schools, or the quality of the school buildings are termite infested, with no natural light, little ventilation and lack of running water.



To date, we have constructed or renovated approximately 150 schools in 8 countries. Most of the schools are in Honduras and Haiti with a scattering of schools in Africa, and most recently in the South Pacific. For example, the communities we work with in Honduras are mostly rural mountainous villages where families eke out an existence. For most students in Honduras' rural communities there are no educational opportunities beyond the 6th grade. This year we will be building the first Grade 7-9 school.



We create real partnerships where everyone has skin in the game, and are able to avoid handout mentality. SCW does the planning, design, provides the materials and project oversight. The local government hires contractors for skilled labor and the local community provides volunteer labor (sweat equity). No money exchanges hands between the partners thus bypassing the possibility of corruption. With everyone having a stake in the project, there is a great deal of local ownership and support. The fact that a local community is able to work together also serves as a stimulus for them to take on other community improvement projects like clean water, improved housing, etc.

Ever since the beginning of this journey, it has been placed on my heart that building schools will make a difference. It is difficult to describe the joy in the local community when a new school is dedicated. It is comforting to know what a difference it makes. This has also been a family affair. My wife, Karen, my kids, many of my grandkids, other family, friends and colleagues have been on trips helping to work on these projects.

I would like to express my appreciation to the many Wiggins Bay residents who support Schools for the Children of the World. If you would like to "Be a Part of the Journey" you can learn more at schoolsforchildren.org



Meet Our New Property Manager, Mike Dean

Mike joined Paramount Properties in December, after moving from Charlotte, NC to be closer to his mom,. His mother and stepfather have lived in the Naples/Marco area for over 30 years. The Deans love Florida, the beach, shelling, kayaking, even the wildlife (gators too Mike?) He and his wife have two daughters who live in the Carolinas, and are expecting their first grandson in June.

Mike is here to assist Wiggins Bay Residents and the Foundation Board. Address, email and phone changes can be sent to Mike. He can assist you with questions on the annual maintenance fees or dwellingLIVE. Paramount's telephone number is (239) 734-3200 or email Mike at mike@paramontproperty.com



Nature Spotlight:



The January newsletter featured Maureen Petersen's staghorn fern at The Colony. Another staghorn in the community also has quite a history. Started by Rodney Gupton's mom in Orlando in 1981, it then traveled to Rockledge Florida, and it is now in the Villas looking beautiful and healthy despite living through several hurricanes.

Staghorns, with fronds which bring to mind an image of stags and elks, are a unique plant. They grow best in warm, very humid conditions, and like dappled sunlight. Not rooted to the ground, it is an epiphyte and grows on other plants or objects and may live 50 years or longer.



The Wiggins Bay Foundation is now a part of the LAKEWATCH program!

Cristina Recchia, a Cove Towers Resident, and Florida Master Gardener, brought the project to the attention of the Wiggins Bay Foundation.

Florida LAKEWATCH is a citizen volunteer lake monitoring

program that facilitates "hands-on" citizen participation in the management of Florida lakes, estuaries, rivers and springs through monthly monitoring activities.

Coordinated through the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences/FFGS Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, the program has been in existence since 1986.

LAKEWATCH is now one of the largest lake monitoring programs in the nation with over 1800 trained citizens currently monitoring 525 lakes, 175 estuary stations, 125 river stations, 20 coastal dune lakes and 10 spring runs in 57 counties.

Our participation will allow us to monitor the health of the ponds in Wiggins Bay and to allow us to monitor the runoff from Tract 10. Contact Mo if you would like to train as a LAKEWATCH volunteer.

American Gothic with a Smile!

Dennis & Kathleen off to work in the Villas Butterfly Garden.

