



Bell Tower Property Owner Association's

# BELL TOWER NOTES

## LUKE BROTHERS LANDSCAPING MAKES ITS MARK

By Suzanne Ferguson

*Ed. note: On Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, I was able to sit down with our POA President, Dave Barnes; our CAM, Bill Berthold; and Patrick Miles, our landscaping care company's manager for Bell Tower Park, to discuss what's been happening in the first 90 days of Luke Brothers' contract, as well as their 5-year, long-term plan. The following story emerged:*

**First month--June:** The overall agenda was basically a 100% "rejuvenation" of BTP's landscaping. Now over 10 years old, the community has seen the original trees and shrubs mature, and in some sad cases, die off, be replaced piecemeal and often "ad hoc," without reference to a unifying concept.

Crews began with the Courtyard Homes on Bently Circle and Kensington Loop, cutting back the overgrown split-leaf philodendrons, giant white bird-of-paradise, out-of-control plumbago and bougainvilleas, trying to reestablish passageways between the units, get the plants away from the air conditioners, and restore and reshape the original planting beds by edging, trimming the smaller shrubs, and weeding. This process has now proceeded to the other streets, and should be basically complete by early September.

**Another big area of concern was the lawns:** aside from poor mowing practices, residents had noticed areas of cinch bugs and root rot made worse by the plentiful summer rains in June and July. Cinch bugs can ravage turf, but the only treatments for them must be applied twice, as they only kill live insects, not eggs or larvae. Rotted areas must be removed and replaced.

Luke Brothers' policy is to schedule four days a week for mowing, with the blades of the mowers sharpened after each two days. If there is rain, the fifth day is used.

**Entryways outside the gates:**

As a "signing bonus" from Luke Brothers, they had offered to refurbish both the U.S. 41 and Andrea Lane entrances with new shrubbery designed to grow up into a more harmonious display. Ti plants (those red-leafed dracaenas), Mammy crotons, pitch apples (the shrub with the thick leaves) and variegated ginger were put in the beds to grow in a graduated pattern, taller in the center. Hedges of copperleaf bushes were added at the front, around the guardhouse. Seeing how great it was going to look, Dave Barnes asked our treasurer to see if our budget would allow us to add new plants inside the gates to extend the design to the four corners intersection of Bell Tower Park Boulevard and West Hyde Park. The funds' being available, additional plants were approved and installed.

At that time, some diseased or dead trees at the entryway and inside the community were removed, and a few that had outgrown their space were also thinned out.



JOYCE LINDABURY

Grand Entrance

**Special Points of Interest:**

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- **Pool and Pergola Repairs Complete (p. 3)**
- **"Singles Mix and Min-gle" (p. 4)**
- **Memorial Bench for Tim Archer (p. 5)**
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## MEET OUR NEW CAM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Jane Jedlick

By Jim Stewart

We have a new Administrative Assistant in the CAM office. Jane Jedlick was raised in Cape Coral and attended Mariner High School. Starting out, Jane worked for Lee County Electrical as a marketing representative. Next, she founded an event planning business which she sold when she moved to North Carolina, where she was in sports marketing.

Jane now splits her work between the BTP CAM office and her church. She is a single mom with two boys: Avery, age 10, and Zayne, age 2. Her hobbies include cooking, yoga, sky-diving and parasailing. Drop in to the office and welcome Jane to Bell Tower Park! ☐



Jane Jedlick

## BELL TOWER PARK OWNER TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES TO BE UPDATED

By Suzanne Ferguson

In the fall of 2013, in compliance with a revised statute from the Florida Legislature, the POA Board approved the creation of an Owners Telephone Directory, to be posted on our community Website. This directory was legally permitted with the caveat that anyone who objected to being listed could “opt out.”

After much work by members of the Communications Committee in formatting and proofreading, the directory was posted in the spring of 2013 and has been updated from time-to-time at owners’ requests and as new owners moved in. It appears as “BTP Telephone Directories” on the private Resident Homepage of the Website.

The statute specifies that “a telephone number” may be listed, so unless individual owners asked that second or out-of-area numbers be listed, only local, presumably “home” numbers were listed, as the directory is to be used while people are “in residence.” Also, the directory is divided into sub-associations, so you either have to know where a person lives or look through the three individual lists until you find whom you seek. Many people have found this compendium to be a great convenience for locating their neighbors’ telephone numbers; and we have had only a few people who “opted out.”

A thoroughgoing review of the directories will be taking place this fall and winter by the Communications Committee. We wish to correct any errors, update where possible, and consider whether we might create a single directory for all Bell Tower Park owners.



### YOU CAN HELP!

Please go to the “BTP Telephone Directories” tab on the Resident Homepage and check your own listing for accuracy. If you want any changes made, additional names or numbers listed, please send your changes to Jane Jedlick in the CAM Office ([j.jedlick@cmgflorida.com](mailto:j.jedlick@cmgflorida.com)) with a copy to Tim Devins ([jtdevins@embarqmail.com](mailto:jtdevins@embarqmail.com)) for the Communications Committee. Please let us hear from you by October 31<sup>st</sup>. ☐

# BELL TOWER PARK CLUBHOUSE POOL & SPA RENOVATION COMPLETE

By Don Boreman

The remodeling of the Clubhouse pool and spa that began the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015, has been completed. The pavers surrounding the pool were also repaired at this time. The renovation included renewal of the interior pool surface finishes and waterline tiling on both the pool and the spa. In addition, all depth markers and “No Diving” tiles were replaced with new ones. All pavers within a 5-foot perimeter of the edge of the pool were removed, paver base and sand were added, and the pavers were reset in place. This will insure that we have no “tripping” hazards around the pool.

The National Plasterers Council, of which Jackson Pool Service is a member, recommended that after the pool and spa were filled with new water, a waiting period of 14 days should be observed to insure the new finishes are “cured” so we can have a new beautiful pool and spa for the long term. The next scheduled renovation will be in 2027.

The project took a little bit longer than originally estimated to complete due to weather delays. There had to be at least two consecutive dry days after applying the new interior finish in order for it to set properly. July and August did not pair up dry days for us very well. □



Main Pool and Pavers



Main Pool Spa

# BELL TOWER PARK CLUBHOUSE PERGOLA RENOVATION

By Don Boreman

The POA Board had planned to have the Clubhouse pergola renovation done at the same time as the pool and spa renovation but experienced a delay. While reviewing the architectural drawings, it became apparent that not all of the cross support beams were attached to the Clubhouse fascia. The original drawings do not show how the crossbeams should be attached to the fascia, and we clearly need the crossbeams to be supported. Clayton’s Construction, who will be doing the work, ultimately came up with a logical way to address the renovation and we were able to move forward.

The work began on August 27, 2015, and was scheduled to take approximately three weeks. The electrical fixtures and security cameras were taken down, then the first two rows of roof tile. The old timbers were removed, along with the fascia.

After inspecting the condition of the underlying wood behind the fascia, new proper support hangers will be installed to hold the support beams. A new drip edge will be installed to insure that water will be kept away from the fascia, after which new pressure-treated beams will be installed and allowed to cure for 6 months before sealing. Once the beams are installed the roof tiles, electrical fixtures and security cameras will be re-installed.

As the pergola at the Avon Park Pool is in better condition, renovations to that will take place with that pool’s refurbishing in 2018. □

## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE SPONSORS “SINGLES MIX AND MINGLE”

By Suzanne Ferguson

How welcoming is Bell Tower Park to single people who move here? Some have hinted to their neighbors that they would like to meet other singles to do things couples don't think twice about: going out to a restaurant for dinner, going to a movie, going shopping at a mall, trekking downtown for Friday Arts Walk, or going over to the beach to watch a sunset.

On Tuesday evening, August 11<sup>th</sup>, singles on the Activities Committee hosted a Mix and Mingle at the Clubhouse. Fifteen people showed up, enjoyed dessert and conversation, and introduced themselves to each other. One immediate benefit was that several individuals realized they lived on the same street. In fact, two were next-door neighbors and hadn't met each other!

A list was made with names, e-addresses, phone numbers, and categories of interest people wanted to find company for. Movies topped the list, named by thirteen of the fifteen people attending. Several named shopping, and a few named golf, and with the list, they can now easily get in touch with each other. The organizers hope that one of the would-be moviegoers will take the initiative to make a separate movie-lovers list and get together.

A second Mix and Mingle will be held in November to pick up new people and returning Snowbirds. Anyone who wants to be put on the list in the meantime, contact Suzanne Ferguson ([scf@case.edu](mailto:scf@case.edu).) □



SUZANNE FERGUSON



SUZANNE FERGUSON

## SUMMER GOLF LEAGUE COMPLETING A SECOND ENJOYABLE SEASON

By Jim Stewart

Bell Tower golfers are having fun every Thursday morning as they meet to play a round of golf at The Hideaway Country Club located just south of Page Field. We normally have 2 or 3 foursomes of different golf abilities, but few of us are very good. We just have a really good time.

In a 2014 survey by GolfAdvisor.com describing and rating golf courses all over the world, The Hideaway was rated #1 in Florida and #6 in the U.S., out of the Top 50 U.S. courses. The site uses course design, course conditions, service and value as their criteria. And we get to play it every week for just \$35, which includes green fees, cart and a delicious lunch.

The Hideaway aerates the course three times during the summer months. When that happens, our group finds a course to play in gated communities that are private in the winter months. It has been fun to see some of the other developments. A few of the places we have played include Gulf Harbor, Lexington, the Vines and Spring Run.

All Bell Tower residents are welcome to join the group, even if you can only play once in a while. Contact our leader, Mike Powell, at [Mike@MikePowellRealtor.com](mailto:Mike@MikePowellRealtor.com) and ask him to put you on the mailing list. □



## NEW MEMORIAL BENCH ON AVON PARK COURT

By Mary Waldau

As you walk through our lovely neighborhood, please stop and rest at the new bench overlooking the pond at the west end of Avon Park Court. The bench has been donated by residents of Courtyard Homes II in memory of our neighbor, Tim Archer, who passed away last February.

Tim was born in Chelmsford, England, in 1940, and came to the United States the same year as the Beatles: 1964. He was an original resident of Bell Tower Park and long time member of the Courtyard II Board, serving as its Treasurer for most of his tenure. As you admire the view from Tim's bench overlooking our pond, please pause to remember a great guy who crossed the "Big Pond," became an American citizen, and a wonderful friend and neighbor. □



JOYCE LINDABURY



MARY WALDAU

## HUNT FOR HUNT AUTOMOTIVE

By Ciara McGrattan

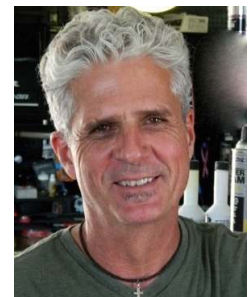
Shortly after moving to Bell Tower Park in 2011, when I became dissatisfied with the response at my local dealership to an ongoing engine issue, my dad suggested I take my car to Hunt Automotive, where his antique Rolls Royce has been serviced for about ten years. "Do they service 'regular' cars, too?" The answer is definitely "yes," and while you won't have the accoutrements of the dealership lounges with their free coffee and massages, this satisfied customer would rather forego those to have someone service and maintain her car in a consistent manner at a fair price.

In an economic environment where survival statistics for new businesses are grim, and longevity for those that make it past the first three-year hump isn't much better, how does Hunt Automotive, an independent auto service and repair business tucked a block away from the side entrance of Bell Tower Park, at 2200 Andrea Lane, account for over thirty years of success? Has this entrepreneur discovered something others have overlooked, or is he just lucky?

Neither, according to Rick Hunt, owner of Hunt Automotive, who attributes his company's endurance to choices in three areas: employees, customers, and good business practices.

With regard to employees, Rick advises that you must choose wisely, reward them generously (good pay, health insurance, and vacation time), and motivate them. When it comes to your customers, he says, "Take time, listen, be fair, deliver quality, and be consistent." Finally, with respect to the business itself, you need to know your financial condition daily. There are affordable accounting software packages out there, or if your budget doesn't allow, Rick says, "just use pen and paper, but stay on top of your finances." You must be willing and able to adapt your company's strategy to market changes. A final tip is that it helps if you enjoy what you do!

While Hunt Automotive's reputation in the classic and antique market is well known in Ft. Myers, they welcome business on all years, makes and models of cars. Visit their web site at [www.huntautomotive.com](http://www.huntautomotive.com) for more information, where you can also "Like" them on Facebook. □



CIARA MCGRATTAN

Rick Hunt



JOYCE LINDABURY

Hunt Automotive

## LUKE BROTHERS (continued from the first page)

**Second month: July** continued attention to re-establishing the definition of the planting beds around the units. Edging was a priority, extending now from the fronts along the sides and backs of the units. “Soft” edging is being done every second week, and the previous company’s method of using herbicide to make the edges has been totally discontinued.

### BY THE NUMBERS

New plants installed at our gates and the four corners inside:

Medium-tall shrubs and hedge plants:

- Copper leaf—58
- Ti plants (red dracaenas)—65
- Variegated ginger—47\*
- Pitch apples-60
- Coco plum-8

Medium-small shrubs:

- Gold mound duranta—28
- Variegated arboricola—27

Small border shrubs and bed cover:

- Mammy crotons—297
- Dwarf Mexican petunia—30
- Flax lilies—133

Annual color:

- Coleus—350

Accent plants:

- 2 triple pygmy date palms
- 8 orange bird of paradise

\*small now but will grow to hedge height

Numbers supplied by Patrick Miles

**Third month: August** has been devoted to continuing the “detailing” of the plantings around the units and the trimming of the perimeter ficus hedges. All told, twelve, 12 cubic-yard trucks full of vegetative debris have been removed from the residential areas. After the successful rehabilitation of the ficus hedges following a cancerous gall infestation in the winter of 2014, they were allowed to recover for a full year. In August, Luke Brothers worked for two weeks, taking approximately 50% of the growth out, thinning near the ground and at the top so that light can again penetrate the canopy to promote healthy plants. In some cases, they found wires cutting into the trunks that had been left there since the plants were installed. From now on the aim will be to take no more than one third of the growth at each trimming, doing it during the dormant period in the cooler months.



SUZANNE FERGUSON

Ficus Hedge

### LONG TERM PLAN—the next five years:

The goal is to make our mature landscape “look like new.” Once the planting beds are clean, mulching will take place the first two weeks of October. A three-year rotation is in place for regularly scheduled tree-trimming. Dead and diseased branches will be removed as needed. Shady Lady and mahogany trees will be trimmed and reshaped every third year; in the following year, oaks and the large ficus trees will receive major attention. Any dead wood will be removed, along with “hazard” limbs and criss-crossing branches. This kind of trimming increases air flow and light coming into the tree, as well as creating a more pleasing shape.

Palms are trimmed every year—and as necessary to keep them from damaging structures. Over time, the queen palms and cardboard palms (those rough-leaved palms that were planted as bushes in front of the Courtyard Homes entryways and

formerly “butchered” by shearing) will be replaced as they age with more appropriate species.

Irrigation lines and controls are being replaced as needed, with the ultimate aim of achieving a “like new” system.

There is a monthly budget for replacement of dead or dying plants; residents wanting attention to plants near their units should utilize the CAM Action Request Form on our Community Website (or turn in a written description of the problem to the CAM office). Issues raised on the CAM Action Request Form are logged in, forwarded to the appropriate individual for action, and followed up by our CAM.

Ongoing, our CAM is the coordinator of the landscape and all landscape issues. Bill meets weekly with Patrick and is in touch whenever necessary. After a period of stress and dissatisfaction with our previous landscaping company, Bill is finding it a real pleasure to work with Luke Brothers. □

# MEET OUR LUKE BROTHERS' LANDSCAPE MANAGER, PATRICK MILES

By Suzanne Ferguson



Patrick Miles

Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, our Landscape Manager has been Patrick Miles. He supervises all the landscaping crews and works with our CAM to make sure our landscaping needs are effectively met. Patrick has been in the landscaping business nearly 24 years, having started as a mower at age 16. He has worked in Ohio, Texas, and Illinois, as well as Florida.

One of his notable clients was the Chicago Park District. During his time there he was able to work on Chicago's brilliant Millennium Park on the lakefront, with its collection of distinctive public spaces, massive art works, concert amphitheatre, and extensive landscaping. He also designed seasonal color for the Park District.

Patrick attended The Ohio State University from 1990-1995, majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Apparently he wasn't able to resist the lure of landscape, however, so he went on to attain specific landscape certifications in retaining wall installation and paver installation; he is a Certified Landscape Technician.

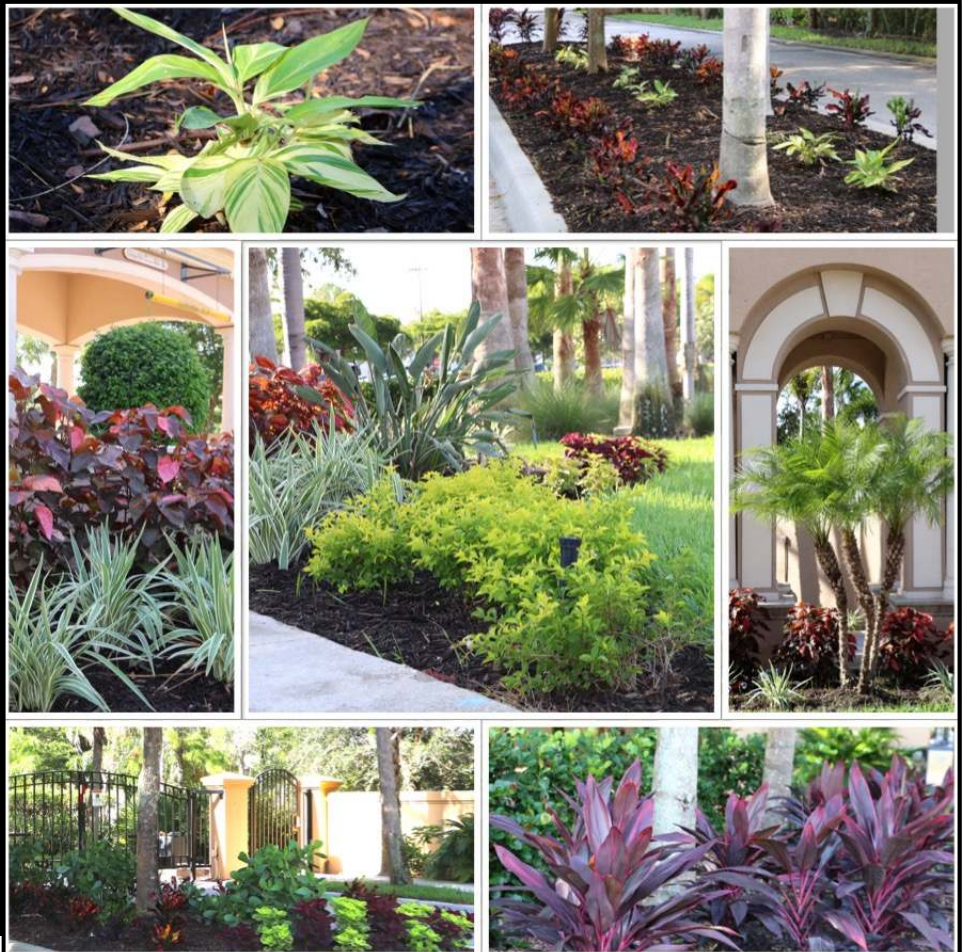
Patrick and his family have been back in Florida for 3 ½ years. His branch of Luke Brothers (a statewide concern) has expanded from contracts representing about ½ million to \$5 million during this period.

Patrick says his specialty is in "design/build," but he's found that once you build for someone, they like you to take care of it, as well. He's excited about using his experience and skills to bring Bell Tower Park back up to the standard it was built to be. □

## WATCH US GROW! A COLLAGE OF OUR NEW ENTRANCES

Clockwise from upper left: Small Ginger plant; Ginger and Crotons on West Hyde Park; Triple Pygmy Date Palm; Ti plants; Pitch apples; Mammy Crotons and Coleus inside south gate; Copper Leaf and Flax Lilies.

Center photo— Gold Mound Duranta, Flax Lilies, Copper Leaf and orange Bird-of-Paradise at main entrance.



## WATERCOLOR CLASSES TO START NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

By Brenda Bula



BRENDA BULA

Brenda's Prizewinning Watercolor

Last season, at the request of several residents, the POA Board approved the use of the Clubhouse one afternoon each week for watercolor classes taught by professional artist Ken Harskamp. From January through March we had between 6 and 10 people each week, ranging from beginners to advanced. Some of our paintings were on display at the March Coffee Hour. Ken is an excellent teacher and everyone came away each week learning something they had not known how to do before. One of my paintings from the class won second place at the Lee County Fair!

Ken Harskamp is a snowbird who lives in Iowa when not painting and teaching in Fort Myers. He works in several media. Each of the past four years, one of his paintings has been chosen by the Iowa Watercolor Society to tour the state in an exhibit featuring works of just 30 Iowa artists displayed in colleges, art galleries, and libraries.

Our classes will be starting up again at the BTP Clubhouse Tuesday, Nov. 3rd. Space is limited, so if you are interested please contact me, Brenda Bula ([brendab@cfrent.net](mailto:brendab@cfrent.net)), or Ken ([mrken@longlines.com](mailto:mrken@longlines.com)) for more information and to sign up. Class will be Tuesdays from 2-4 p.m. and the fee will be \$20 per session. We bring our own supplies, but will provide some at the first session. We will be exploring a variety of different techniques, including watercolor, collage and batik. No prior experience is needed. Come, give it a try. You will enjoy it, Ken promises. □

## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE PLANS FULL SEASON OF EVENTS

### Save the Dates Now!

By Ronnie Vaccarino and Suzanne Ferguson

Although the monthly Coffee Hours were on hiatus during the summer, the Activities Committee remained busy, holding its meetings and planning a full calendar of events for the 2015-2016 season, beginning with a group trip to the Naples Holocaust Museum Saturday, October 24th. (Look for flyers and Website for how to sign up.) Several of our residents have already visited this extraordinarily moving museum, where the docents are frequently Holocaust survivors.

The popular Halloween Party will take place on Saturday evening, October 31<sup>st</sup>; be prepared for a specially bewitching experience.

Next, plans are afoot to run an excursion to the Ringling Circus Museum in Sarasota in November. If we can secure 45 signups at \$50 each, we'll be able to have a luxury coach and driver as well as museum admission included. (If we don't get enough for a big bus, we might be able to get a smaller one.) Look for the announcements of the date and get yourself signed up for an inside look at the circus you loved as a child!

The annual Holiday Party is set for Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Clubhouse, to be followed in January by a Talent Show for residents [Date TBA]. While the arrangements are still to be confirmed, we hope to have a Wine Tasting in February.

March 20<sup>th</sup> will bring the annual Tiki Party at the Clubhouse pool deck; and the popular Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show will take place April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A new event, a Kentucky Derby Party, will be held May 7<sup>th</sup>. Ladies, get out your party hats! We'll have set ups for the official Derby beverage, the mint julep. Our grand finale will be the annual Pool Party June 11<sup>th</sup>.

All these events will be advertised with flyers and on the BTP Community Website. Be on the lookout for signup dates and times. We look forward to seeing you at these events and others, including the third-Sunday Coffee Hours, starting September 20<sup>th</sup>. □

# A ROAD-TRIP TO THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE

By Jim Stewart

My wife, Betsy, and I took a back-roads trip to Destin in the Panhandle of Florida this summer and learned a lot of things along the way. We drove I-75 until we got to Bradenton, where we crossed Tampa Bay on the Sunshine Skyway and turned off onto Hwy. 19 that runs parallel to the coast, then veered even further west onto CR 699 to drive along the beaches.

Our first impression as we drove through city after city--St. Petersburg, Redington Shores, Clearwater Beach--then came back to U.S. 19 to hit Tarpon Springs and New Port Richey, is that there are a large number of high-rise condos on our beaches. It seemed like we would pass the same shopping center about every 15 miles--same stores, same restaurants, etc. I can tell you there is a *bunch* of people living west and north of Tampa!

Then, after Port Richey, the major development stopped and we began seeing what we thought were millions of Atlantic Whitecedar trees. I looked it up, and was surprised to learn that about 47% of Florida's land area is forested. I read that of Florida's 17.3 million acres of forest land, 15.4 million acres of timberlands supported economic activities, generating \$14.52 billion in total output impacts in 2013. The forestry industry employs 74,500 Floridians. In 2013, Florida timberland ownership, which supports the forest products industry, was 71% private, 18% state and local, and 11% federal.

Just about due west of Gainesville, we crossed the Suwannee River. This is the river that is the subject of the Stephen Foster song "Old Folks at Home" in which he called it the "Swanee Ribber." In his first lyrics, Foster had named it the Pedee River of South Carolina, but then changed it, making our Florida river forever famous. Because Foster had used a dialect spelling of the name, it was eventually changed in the song, though it never quite got to "Suwannee." In a final irony, Foster never actually saw the river he made world famous.

When I think of scallops and oysters, I used to think of New England. However, there are numerous places you can scallop in Florida. Homosassa, Crystal River, Steinhatchee, Keaton Beach, Port St. Joe and Cape San Blas, all west of U.S. 19 and, farther north, Alt. U.S. 27, are some of the more popular destinations, with their colorful names. But there are many beautiful, secluded places where you can scallop that stretch along the west coast of Florida. Scallop season runs July 1 through September 10. Basically, the only materials you need for scalloping are a snorkel mask, fins (or water shoes) and a mesh bag to hold your catch. Once you're geared up, you'll need a boat to take you out, a diver's flag to snorkel in the water, and a recreational saltwater fishing license.

When it comes to oysters, think of Apalachicola Bay, which is thirty miles of shallow oyster paradise on the Florida Panhandle southwest of Tallahassee and inside the barrier island of St. Georges. It produces 90% of Florida's oysters and 10% of the nation's total crop. Apalachicola is the last place in the U.S. where wild oysters are still harvested by tongs from small boats. It's an astonishing and atavistic sight in a state not known for embracing the past. In the tiny town of Apalachicola, there are a handful of restaurants that are all obsessed with the freshness of their oysters. Oysters are not a precious luxury here, but part of the fabric of town life. You can get oysters for breakfast on the half-shell or as oyster cakes 'n eggs, or you can wait for lunch and get oyster tacos, oyster jambalaya, chargrilled oysters, or oysters & artichokes poached in champagne and served in puff pastry. Dinner presents oyster po' boys and oyster stew. Or if you like, they'll gild the lily and pile chives, Japanese ponzu, wasabi and flying fish roe on your raw oysters. Of course, passing through town we had to stop and give them a try.



Sunshine Skyway

WEB CAPTURE



Steinhatchee Scallop Shed

WEB CAPTURE

## ROAD TRIP (continued from page 9)

We left the forests behind when we came into Mexico Beach, a little west of Apalachicola. We drove by Tyndall Air Force Base, an historic base founded in 1941 (FYI, Clark Gable trained here in 1943.). It is the home of the 95<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron and provides training for F-22A Raptor pilots. We were now in the start of the vacationing part of the Panhandle and back in the land of high-

rise condos and hotels and matching shopping centers: Panama City Beach, Hollywood Beach, etc., all the way to Destin, and I assume the beach front development continues until the Alabama state line.

We stayed at a resort in Destin that was packed with families on vacation. The beaches were full of people from Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas. I was told it was popular for people as far away as Cincinnati because they can drive there in one day. For some reason, the waves were large and great for body surfing. Why that would be there and not at Fort Myers Beach I have no clue. But it was a fun trip and we learned a lot.

Also, met the nicest Sheriff along the way, and he only gave me a warning. □



Apalachicola Bay

WEB CAPTURE

## WATER COLOR PAINTING CLASSES AT BTP

This winter season, BTP will again host Water Color painting classes at our Clubhouse under the direction of a professional artist.

**Schedule: Tuesdays, 2:30-5:30 p.m., starting November 3, 2015.**

New participants should contact BTP Resident Brenda Bula ([brendab@cfront.net](mailto:brendab@cfront.net)) to express interest and obtain additional information. Spaces are limited.



# REOPENING AND MAINTAINING YOUR UNIT

## There're Things to be Done by All Owners, Not just Snowbirds!

By Richard Roux

For our returning Snowbirds, our CAM recommends the following items for immediate attention: check your A/C unit(s) and filters; check ceilings for any water damage marks from roof or plumbing problems; check the date on the hot water tank (as these heaters may require change-out every 7-10 years); inspect and clean dryer ducts; install new fire alarm and thermostat batteries and install new gate "clicker" batteries as needed. Envera access lists should be checked and updated. Owners should also insure that the CAM Office and Cardinal emergency 24/7 numbers are in their cell phones. These numbers are (239) 454-4605 and (239) 774-0723, respectively.

Beyond those "reopening" actions, *all* owners should plan their upcoming annual maintenance procedures, with Snowbirds planning to complete theirs well in advance of returning back north. Remember, maintenance of items within units is the responsibility of the owners. Here's a list of suggested maintenance actions that owners should consider, particularly since our units are now between 9-12 years old.

- Every 5 years or so, the flushing mechanism parts within the toilet tank should be rebuilt/replaced as the water in south-west Florida affects the rubber and plastic parts. Home Depot sells a parts replacement package for under \$20.00. (Remember: water leaks can cause a lot of damage as well as expensive water use bills.)
- Periodically check toilets for hairline cracks and check areas under sinks for leaking shutoff valves and sink traps by running your hand around the fittings, so that you can feel small amounts of water that you may not see. Replace or repair as necessary.
- Look at your base molding around your shower door and in the adjacent room(s) that border your shower walls for any signs of discoloration. That is a sign your shower pan or liner may have a leak.
- Check corners of your windows for leaks: the first sign will be drywall flaking or discoloration.
- Every six months, oil or use WD-40 on all your door locks to keep your keys moving freely.
- Oil or apply WD-40 to all your door hinges; this will stop any squeaking and eliminate that black dirt you'll find on the floor below your door hinges.
- Garage doors should be serviced every five years by a professional company to ensure proper operation. (You should also annually apply the manufacturer's recommended lubricant on tracks and rollers to reduce wear.)
- Sliding glass door tracks should be lubricated every year as well. After lubricating, wipe the tracks down to remove any extra lubricant so as not to track it onto your carpet and tile.
- Air conditioning (HVAC systems) should be serviced by a professional company at least once a year. The best time is in the spring to ensure that your systems are in good working order for the hot, humid summer.
- HVAC filters should be changed every six months with a good quality filter. Home Depot carries such filters, costing approximately \$5. (Remember, if you can see through a filter, dust can also go through it. Conversely, if the filter is clogged with dust or pet hair, the unit is not working correctly.)
- Street light issues should be reported to the CAM.

Most of us enter our homes by way of the garage. But every month or two, look at your house exterior (although you are not responsible for maintaining that area) to identify items that may need repair. This includes caulking around windows and roof tiles. Report problems to the CAM. This will help our sub-boards keep up the building maintenance and likely save maintenance costs in the long run. Also when you are out in the community and see things that are in need of repair (or look out of place), please report them to the CAM, as this is *our* community, and no one person can see it all. □



**Coffee at the Clubhouse**  
**Sunday, September 20th, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

# AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE BTP WEBMASTER

## Don't miss up-to-date news of Bell Tower Park!

By Richard Roux



Richard Roux,  
Webmaster

Our BTP Website, which is celebrating its fourth birthday, contains a wealth of current and archived information relating to many aspects of life at Bell Tower Park. Available online at [www.belltowerparkcommunity.com](http://www.belltowerparkcommunity.com), it provides resident users a 24-hour, 7 days-a-week source of community news, whether they are in residence or far away. The Website, which is sponsored by the Property Owners Association Board to promote an informed community, is available to all residents (i.e., owners and tenants). Our sub-associations can also post their information on the Website. All residents are strongly encouraged to get their Web access as soon as they register with the CAM office upon moving in. Instructions are on the homepage.

The Website was started in 2011 and is still totally maintained by the resident/author to supply up-to-date community information as well as an archive of community documents and past events. It was my first experience with creating a Website. I had done a little research on my own as to what was "out there," and the software program I found turned out to be the one recommended and provided by Cardinal Management Group, the new management company at that time. Building and maintenance of the Website was not in Cardinal's contract, so the population and management of the site was left totally up to me, the prospective Webmaster.

The Website generates two types of information. First, it provides burst emails that send time-sensitive items to subscribers via their internet service providers. Second, it provides a posting of less urgent information on its internet-based pages.

While the Website now has several hundred pages of posted information, it has numerous features to help users navigate through the information. The password-protected side of each user's account opens to a homepage that is the heart of current information. This private page posts a listing of the latest email blasts and provides a calendar of upcoming events. The resident's home page also contains two tools to facilitate searches. The "WHAT'S NEW" tool (see Figure 1) highlights what's new on the entire website since a resident last visited the home page with links to those new postings. The "SEARCH WEBSITE" tool (see Figure 2) allows users to search the entire site using key words.

The balance of the Website beyond the user's home page contains other current and archived information, listed under approximately 40 menu items. Current information includes resident-generated classified ads and reviews of local restaurants and businesses. Archived information includes CAM Office phone numbers, separate forms for obtaining on-line help from the CAM and Webmaster, a comprehensive information paper on basic resident reference material (under "NEW RESIDENT INFO"), a BTP Telephone Directory, photo albums, landscape company information, our Condo Documents and Rules and Regulations, and past editions of BTP Newsletters. Most documents are presented as .pdf files. Full navigation of the Website is most efficient on a computer or Chromebook, as some tablets and phones have limitations when opening .pdf files.

In the last four years, and with the retirement of our closed-circuit TV channel, the Website has become the "go to" place for 24/7 information about Bell Tower Park. As Webmaster, I am available to help residents who need assistance. Many commonly occurring questions are answered on the site.

After years of mainly adding information, the site has gotten somewhat bloated. In the coming year the Communications Committee will be conducting a review to eliminate outdated information from the site and improve navigability. Corrections and suggestions for improvement are always gratefully received ([Richard.roux@ymail.com](mailto:Richard.roux@ymail.com)) ☐

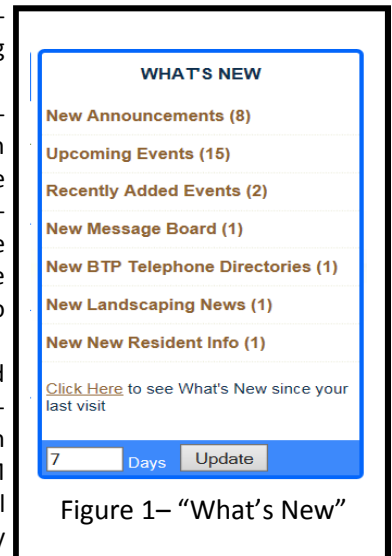


Figure 1– "What's New"

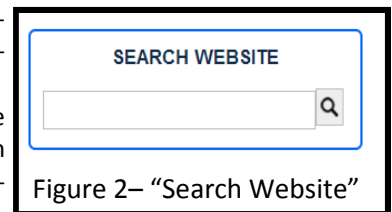


Figure 2– "Search Website"

## DID YOU WANT TO KNOW?

By Jim Stewart



Q. What is that vacant animal-cage-looking thing when you go to the airport on Treeline and turn left toward the terminal?

A. Victoria Moreland, Department Director for Communications & Marketing of the Lee County Port Authority, offered the following explanation. "The large above-ground tunnel at the entrance to Southwest International Airport is a pre-cast concrete CONTECH CON/SPAN bridge system. There is an existing concrete box culvert (CBC) beneath Terminal Access Road, which provides a secondary drainage canal servicing the areas between I-75 and the airport to help prevent flooding on airport property. The existing CBC was not designed to accommodate the additional loading of the new Terminal Access Road overpass, so design engineers came up with an innovative solution. The new CON/SPAN concrete structure acts as a "bridge" and supports the loading of the overpass above the existing concrete box culvert.

The use of the CON/SPAN eliminated the need to replace the existing CBC, and as a result, it helps to maintain drainage flow, reduce the number of construction phases and associated traffic shifts, support additional loading over the CBC and reduces the risks and costs of pumping water out from beneath the roadways."

That should clear things up for you. I think the short answer is that it helps drainage.

Q. What does it mean to "PASS THE BUCK/THE BUCK STOPS HERE"?

A. Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck Knife Company. When playing poker it was common to place one of these Buck knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted then "the buck stopped there."

Q. What's the deal with that poisonous toad (Bufo Marinus) we keep hearing about?

A. A little Googling produced the following: the Giant Toad (a.k.a. Marine Toad or Cane Toad) is the largest of the frogs and toads found in Florida, but not native to the United States. It was originally released in the U.S. in sugar cane fields to help control "white grubs." The giant toad breeds year-round in standing water, streams, canals and ditches. CAUTION: When this invasive species is threatened or handled, it secretes a highly toxic milky substance from its large parotoid glands at the back of its head, behind the ears. This secretion can burn your eyes, may irritate your skin, and can kill cats and dogs if they ingest it. Symptoms of Giant Toad poisoning in pets include drooling, head-shaking, crying, loss of coordination, and, in more serious cases, convulsions.

The treatment? If you suspect toad poisoning, get a hose and run water in the side of the dog's/cat's mouth, pointing the animal's head downward so water isn't swallowed. Rub the gums and mouth to remove the toxin. This treatment is usually successful, but you should call your veterinarian immediately for further advice.

The accompanying photo was taken by a *BTN* staff member in the Clubhouse parking lot August 11<sup>th</sup>. Note that there is a big native toad (*Bufo Terrestris*) which doesn't have the big parotoid glands that secrete the poison. □



SUZANNE FERGUSON

Bufo Marinus in BTP Clubhouse parking lot (Note large glands behind eyes)



**SUZANNE FERGUSON,  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the first issue of the fifth volume of *Bell Tower Notes*, and if you have been away for the summer, welcome back to Bell Tower Park. What a lot of news you've come back to: the new landscaping, the refurbished Clubhouse pool and pergola, a new landscape manager and a new Administrative Assistant for the CAM, to name a few. What an exciting summer we've had!

Now it's time for the new social season to begin, and the Activities Committee has filled our dance card, beginning in September. A new group, the "Singles Mix and Mingle," met for the first time this summer, and plans to continue with a meeting in November. As the Summer Golf League winds down, mah jongg, pickleball, water color painting class, and other activities receive an infusion of new and returning residents.

Read about all these along with more news of our community, our surroundings, and our neighbors. And, as always, if you have something you think needs writing about, please let me know for the next issue ([scf@case.edu](mailto:scf@case.edu)).

*Suzanne Ferguson*, Editor

**REMEMBER: WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.BELLTOWERPARKCOMMUNITY.COM**

## GATE PROTOCOL REMINDER

By Richard Roux

Each summer weeks go by without any problems at our gates. Then suddenly when traffic increases in our winter season, gate problems start occurring. The following is a reminder of the informal protocol for our gates.

- All residents should be using the Andrea Lane entrance gate as much as possible in order to free up the U.S. 41 entrance guardhouse area for visitors.
- Residents should anticipate that their guest and delivery vehicles may be misdirected to the Andrea Lane gate by GPS-based navigation systems. This is a continuing problem that the POA has not been able to correct. Visitors should be alerted beforehand to use the U.S. 41 gate.
- When entering the property, know who is in control of the gate arm. Wait until the car in front of you has entered (and the arm has started down) before you activate your clicker. Then you'll know that you are in control of the arm for your entry.
- Never provide access to other vehicles. All visitor access should be done via the Envera security system.
- Finally, if an accident does occur please immediately notify the CAM Office (use the 24/7 phone number if the office is closed) so that other residents are not inconvenienced and campus security is quickly re-established. □