



HAMMOCKS UPDATE

April 2018

<http://www.hammockscapehaze.net/>

Association Business

- The **Master Association** signed a new pest control contract with NaturZone for bi-monthly treatments of the grounds;
- Approved a contract with Lawson Courts to resurface the tennis courts, purchase nets, and paint lines for pickle ball (work should be completed in June or July);
- Board will continue to become educated on cleaning the preserve and trimming the mangroves prior to making decisions on future work; and
- Board is seeking pond maintenance proposals for consideration at their May meeting.
- The **Preserve and Villas Associations** signed contracts with NaturZone Pest Control to include an annual application in each unit. Stay tuned for more information.

New Committee Policy

During the March 29 Master Association Board Meeting, the Board passed a policy to address legislative requirements as well as Board directives of the three standing committees. The policy is meant to help owners and committee members understand the committees' purposes and workings. The policy includes the following:

- All committee members will serve one-year terms and may be reappointed;
- All terms begin on April 15 of each year;
- Standing committees will meet at an established time, day, and place or as necessary if no business needs to be conducted;
- Current Board members of any of the three Associations (Villas, Preserve, and Master) shall not serve on standing committees;
- Spouses of Board members or persons living in a Board member's household shall not serve on any regular Master committee; and
- All meetings will be open to owners and duly posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting, including the agenda as required by State Statutes.

Purpose of Committees and Current Members

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is a formal, standing committee required by the Hammocks' Master Declaration. ARC members are appointed by the Master Board to approve all exterior modifications, improvements or alterations of the Hammocks residential units. Prior to making any exterior changes to their unit, an owner must submit an application for approval by the ARC. **ARC members are Charlie Hamilton, Jeff Dreher, and Ed Tatro.**

The Hammocks Landscape Committee works to create an outdoor environment that enhances the health and beauty of our community now and in the future and meets the needs of the entire Hammocks neighborhood. The committee is responsible for monitoring the condition of the Hammocks' landscape, including the ponds and pool areas. Committee members appraise the area, consider improvements, and meet with experts (e.g., landscape company representatives, the University of Florida Extension Agent for Charlotte County) to determine appropriate Florida landscape materials and plants and to ensure the grounds continue to reflect the tropical Florida style. Committee members develop both long-term and short-term improvement projects for approval by the Master BOD. **The Landscape Committee members are Ed Baker, Dennis Bryan, Don Douglas, Jim Fainter, Sue Grevel, Donna Haggerty, and Louise Kuryan.**

The Hammocks Rules Enforcement Hearing Committee (HREHC) is mandated by Florida State Statute Chapter 718.303, which calls for a committee of impartial owners to hear appeals concerning rules violations and fines imposed by the Boards. The HREHC mission is to provide due process and fairness when the Board orders a fine and/or a suspension of use of facilities. If the committee, by majority vote, does not approve a proposed fine or suspension, it may not be imposed. **The HREHC members are Beth Bryan, Robert Gauthier, and Penny Harrington; substitutes are Bruce Hertel and Merry Shaurette.**

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Special Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Thanks to **Helen Ziegler** for her loyal work as Hammocks librarian for many years and welcome to new librarian **Joann Siciliano!**

We also appreciate **Karen Ackinson** for serving as our social chair for the Friday evening *Meet and Greet Socials* for the last couple of years and the many folks who host the fun times. **We are looking for a new volunteer to coordinate the socials! Anyone interested? Contact the Office Manager propertymanager@hammockscapehaze.net**

After serving as coordinators for our Friday evening *Meet and Greet Socials* for a number of years, **Jerrie and Stu Walesh** continue their volunteer work by preparing nametags for the socials. Thank you!



Nature's Corner

Merry Shaurette and Karen Ackinson are Florida Master Naturalists



Alligators are a common sight to see in the Hammocks, but they are also an important part of Florida's natural history. But you should remember *that alligators can be dangerous*. Always observe them from a distance. Be aware of the possible presence of alligators when in or near any fresh or brackish water. Alligator encounters may occur when people do not pay close attention to their surroundings when near water. Closely supervise children and pets when they are playing in or around water. Observe and photograph alligators only from a safe distance. State law prohibits killing or gators.

Babies, babies everywhere! Courtship begins in early April, and mating occurs in May or June. Females build a mound nest of soil, vegetation, or debris and deposit an average of 32 to 46 eggs in late June or early July. Hatching occurs from mid-August through early September. Sex is fully determined at the time of hatching and irreversible thereafter, and depends on the temperature of egg incubation, with temperatures of 86°F producing females, and 93°F yielding only males.

Who's afraid of the big, bad gator? - Though many people are afraid of alligators, these animals keep to themselves and usually don't attack humans unless they are threatened. Most alligators are naturally afraid of humans but may lose that fear when people feed them. This teaches them to associate people with food. For that reason, it is illegal to feed alligators. Alligators seldom bite people for reasons other than food. Female alligators may protect their nests by hissing and opening their mouths to frighten intruders but rarely bite people.

Faster than a speeding bullet? – Don't try to outrun an alligator. Although they are capable of short bursts of speed (up to 30 mph) they are unable to maintain that speed for long. They can swim up to 20 mph because of their strong tail.

Why did the gator cross the road? – There have been sightings of alligators roaming around the Hammocks. Once the weather starts warming up in early spring the males start travelling. Older males are looking for a mate and will push younger, less mature males from their homes. These younger males must then find another home. Although this can be a scary sight, they are NOT interested in us. They are simply doing what comes naturally to them. Keep a safe distance. Remember, they were here first.

How hot is it? – Since alligators are cold-blooded they are commonly seen “sunning” near water. Sometimes they hold their mouths open. People mistake this as a sign of aggression but they are actually doing it to regulate body temperature. Alligators are most active when temperatures are between 82° to 92° F. They stop feeding when the ambient temperature drops below approximately 70° F and they become dormant below 55°F. Alligators are dormant throughout much of the winter season. During this time, they can be found in burrows (or "dens") that they construct adjacent to an alligator hole or open water, but they occasionally emerge to bask in the sun during spells of warm weather.

And probably the most important take-away: *The likelihood of a person being seriously injured during an unprovoked alligator incident in Florida is roughly only one in 3.2 million.*

Hammocks Happenings

Regular Board Meetings: **Master Board** – 3rd Thursdays, 9 a.m.
 Preserve Board – 3rd Monday, 9 a.m.
 Villas Board – As needed.

Mahjong: Clubhouse, Fridays, 1 p.m.

The May 5 Kentucky Derby has been canceled this year.

Questions? Contact a Board Member (Contact Info at <http://www.hammockscapehaze.net/>)

Hammocks Cape Haze Office: 8660 Amberjack Cir, Englewood, FL 34224 – 941-698-2989