

Town & River Civic Association Inc. ——— Not Your Typical Homeowners Association

By Gary Hudson, Chair, Deeds of Restriction Committee



The vast majority of HOAs:

- Have common amenities such as clubhouses, pools, tennis courts, etc.
 - Have mandatory dues and often assessments for all properties.
 - Have one deed of restrictions.
 - Are governed by Chapter 720 of Florida Statutes.
 - Have a professional management company.
 - Have application and association buyer approval for purchase of property.
- Town & River Civic Association:
- Has no common amenities.
 - Has mandatory dues for less than 20 percent of the homes.
 - Has three different deeds of restrictions.
 - Has 143 homes with no deeds of restrictions (DORs have expired).
 - Is governed by Chapters 617 and Chapter 720 of Florida Statutes.
 - Neither has nor can it afford a professional management company.
 - Has no application or association buyer approval required.
- Even typical HOAs have challenges enforcing their DORs. The atypical features of our association exacerbate these challenges. Example:

In a pending dock setback violation case, the owner alleged “over 90 percent of the docks and lifts on the canal and adjoining canals do not comply with a 12.5-foot setback.” The owner also added “neighbors did not object.” There is no “neighbor” exemption provision in the deeds of restrictions.

There are good reasons why there may be other docks and lifts which do not comply with the 12.5-foot setback:

- A dock may have been built prior to the June 2, 2005 effective date of the Amended, Restated, and Combined Deeds of Restriction (ARCDOR).
 - A dock may be in Unit 6 which requires only an 8-foot dock setback, not 12.5-foot setback.
 - A dock may be in Unit 11 which requires only a 4-foot dock setback, not 12.5-foot setback.
 - A dock may be at one of 143 addresses with an expired DOR.
 - A dock built in violation of the applicable DOR was not brought to the attention of the association. The association’s governing documents require it to enforce violations which are “noticed or brought to its attention.” The association cannot enforce what it does not know.
- Owners should know their property unit (<https://leepa.org>) and go to www.townandriverfl.com and read the DOR which applies to their unit.

2021 Town & River Annual Meeting

Join Us In Person

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021
Registration 6:30 p.m., Meeting 7 p.m.
Faith United Methodist Church
Family Life Center
15690 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33908
Social distancing and masks required.

Or Join Us On Zoom

Town & River is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: 2021 Annual Meeting
Time: Jan 21, 2021 @ 7pm
Login from: 6:30-6:55 p.m.
Eastern Time (U.S. and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/4821270922>
Meeting ID: 482 127 0922

save the date

Town & River Cruise Club November Luncheon ———

By Mike and Liz DiBenedetto

The Town & River Cruise Club held its first of the season monthly luncheon at the Boat House and Tiki Bar in Fort

Myers on Saturday, Nov. 14. The weather was nice and for those who traveled by boat it was an enjoyable ride without the constraint of the no wake travel which begins on Nov. 15.

There were 14 members in attendance at this event. At our members’ request the tables were set up for seating of four or two depending on preference due to concern for COVID.



Fred Ford-Smith and his crew are happy to be cruising to the Boathouse.



Adrienne, Liz, Fred, Lorraine and Ken shared plans for this boating season.



Ed, Mike, Liz, Lorraine, Ellen, Cecilia, Fred and Mike had a great time during the luncheon.



Fletcher, Rick, Pam and Barbara had a hard time deciding what to order from the extensive menu.



Commodore Mike DiBenedetto visits with the Maras and Cecilia Bourdon.



Mike, Liz, Ellen, Lorraine, Cecilia, Fred and Mike were happy to be boating to a lunch venue once more.

The Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

South Pointe South Clubhouse
9734 Foxglove Circle, Fort Myers.

All are encouraged to attend and wear a mask please.

Check out our new website

www.townandriverfl.com.

Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes [Unapproved]

South Pointe South Clubhouse Thursday, November 12, 2020

Call To Order – President Mark Generales called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Officers, Directors, & Residents Present

A quorum was established. Present: Directors Roy Benton, Marge Byrne, Rick Chubb, Martha Smith, Secretary Renee Notes, Treasurer Gary Hudson & Executive Secretary Sally Stigler. Absent: Directors Kay Gloris, Myriam Lentz, Rick Ginsburg, Carol Notes, & Joe Tomaino.

Approval Of Minutes – October 8, 2020 minutes were approved by motion.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Hudson

Gary emailed October financial statements & supporting documents to Board Members prior to the meeting. He noted lake assessment invoices will be calculated for the period Dec. 1, 2019 through Nov. 30, 2020, mailed in December 2020, and due January 31, 2021. With no questions, the financial report was approved by motion.

Deeds Of Restriction/Architectural Review Committee – Gary Hudson

Lee County regularly provides to the association a listing of building permits issued to properties in Town & River. Projects which require association approval and for which no approval has been sought by the owner are noted. The association executive secretary mails first class and certified letters to the owner requesting compliance with the DOR requirements of their Unit. A summary of actions taken by the DOR/AR committee is periodically compiled and provided to the board. Some items are

brought to the board for decisions. These three were voted on by the board:

- A dock was replaced at 9720 Cypress Lake Dr. in violation of the dock setback requirements. The board voted to inform the owner that either the dock must be brought into compliance or whenever there is an estoppel request upon sale of the property it will be noted that the property is in violation of the deed of restrictions.

- The Owners of 1021 Wittman Dr. in Unit 6 requested a variance to add a second story on their home. Given that there are already two-story homes on Wittman Dr. the board voted to inform the owner that adding a second story will be allowed.

- The Owners of 6932 Erin Marie Ct. wondered whether adding a second story to their home is allowed per subdivision regulations. Unit 11 DOR states "All of the lots in TOWN & RIVER ESTATES UNIT 11, are restricted to use for a single family, one-floor residence." Given this prohibition and the fact that there are not any two-story homes in Unit 11, the board voted to respond to the owner by citing the Unit 11 language.

Rentals – Renee was pleased to announce Airbnb and VRBO rentals have been in compliance with the regulations which require a minimum rental of 28 days and no more than four rentals a year. One owner who was violating the rule earlier in the year has recently been complying. This address will be monitored, and any further violations will trigger retroactive as well as any current penalties provided in the deeds of restriction.

Committee Reports

Lake Status - Renee & some other lake front property owners have been contracting for repair/replacement of

their seawalls. Permitting has been prolonged since the lake, Subplot 280 of Town & River Estates, does not have a STRAP number. It passed by motion to authorize Renee to take the necessary steps on behalf of the Association to obtain a STRAP number for lake.

New Business

On-line Town & River Directory – Marge reported that the associations webmaster has said an email address is needed for an individual to be included in the on-line directory to be accessed via the website www.townandriverrfl.com. This directory will be available via password to owners in good standing who have agreed to have their email address shared with other owners. The need for an email address will be noted on the T&R Website & published in the Newsletter. Further information regarding the online directory will be provided at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting January 21, 2021 – After discussion it was agreed the meeting will be held both in-person and via Zoom. The in-person meeting will be held at Faith United Methodist Church, 15690 McGregor Blvd. in the Family Life Center. Masks and social distancing required. Annual meeting information will be mailed the first of the year. As of now there is only one item requiring a vote; i.e., keep dues at \$120 a year.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion at 8:00pm. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will convene 6:30pm Thursday, December 10, 2020 at South Pointe South Clubhouse, 9734 Foxglove Circle, Ft. Myers.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sally Stigler, Executive Secretary*

Reviewing Your Tax Strategies

By Jacqueline J. Lambros,
Registered Principal

Minimizing your potential income taxes requires a regular review of your financial picture and the current tax strategies available to you. In fact, tax planning can be a year-round activity.

Strategies To Consider

Although your tax picture is unique to you, there are common strategies to consider and discuss with your financial and tax advisors. Here are a few:

- **Minimize taxable income while saving for retirement.**

- **If you are an employee**, you make contributions to your 401(k) plan with pretax dollars, thus reducing your current income and, possibly, your current-year taxes. You can also reduce current-year taxes by making tax-deductible contributions to an IRA, if you qualify.

- **If you are self-employed**, you can use a Keogh, SEP (Simplified Employee Pension), or SIMPLE (Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees) plan to shelter income.

- **Maximize deductions.** Some deductible items, like medical expenses, must meet a specific threshold before deductions can be taken. If you fall short of the minimum, you may be able to time discretionary expenses so that you exceed the threshold one year but not the next.



- **Consider charitable donations.** Depending on your specific tax picture, charitable donations could provide a good source of income tax deductions. One tax-saving strategy is to donate appreciated property. You can take a deduction for the fair market value and avoid capital gains tax on the sale.

- **Review interest expenses.** If you pay interest that is not tax-deductible (e.g., interest on auto loans or credit cards), consider paying off the debt.

- **Review Social Security benefits.** If you collect Social Security, you may benefit from strategies to reduce or defer taxable income. If your non-Social Security income exceeds certain levels, it triggers taxation of a higher percentage of your Social Security benefits.

- **Pay attention to recordkeeping.** Keeping complete records may help you save on taxes, especially if it prevents having to locate or recreate information.

- **Review Form 1040 for missed tax opportunities.** Reviewing your 1040 could help you spot opportunities for making investments that provide greater after-tax savings. Pay special attention to the taxable interest, tax-exempt income, and dividend income sections of the form.

- **Municipal bonds.** Tax-exempt municipal bonds are an excellent tax-advantaged investment, especially if you are in a high income tax bracket or have moved into a higher tax bracket after a promotion or career change. Interest earned on municipal bonds is exempt from federal income taxes and, in most states, from state and local taxes for residents of the issuing states (although income on certain bonds for particular investors may be subject to the alternative minimum tax).

- **Plan capital gains and/or losses.** Determining when to recognize capital gains or losses depends on whether you want to postpone tax liability (by postponing recognition of gains) or recognize capital gains or losses during the current year. If the gains will be subject to a higher rate of tax next year (because of a change in tax bracket), or if you cannot use capital losses to offset capital gains, you may recognize capital gains this year.

- **Review IRA opportunities.** If you want to maximize the timing and amount of IRA distributions as long as possible for your heirs, understanding IRA rules is critical. If you are retiring or changing jobs, consider rolling over the assets in your company's pension and 401(k) plan to an IRA. If you have a traditional IRA, evaluate whether it would be beneficial to convert it to a Roth IRA.

- **Estate planning strategies.** Review and update your estate plan to minimize potential estate and gift taxes.

- **Life insurance.** Life insurance may provide liquidity to pay estate taxes and could be an attractive solution to other liquidity problems, such as family-owned businesses, large real estate holdings, and collectibles. Life insurance proceeds can pass free of income and estate taxes when structured properly.

These are just a few of the most common tax planning strategies.

This material has been provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute either tax or legal advice. Although we go to great lengths to make sure our information is accurate and useful, we recommend you consult a tax preparer, professional tax advisor, or lawyer.

Let our family assist your family!



Harrell, Tolp, & Albright Team

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& ASSOCIATES
real estate



Steve Harrell
REALTOR®

Toby Tolp
REALTOR®

Kasey Albright
ADMIN SPECIALIST

Brendan Albright
REALTOR®

YourSWFloridaRealEstate.com

TOWN & RIVER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS - as of June 11, 2020
 www.townandriverfl.com

President	Mark Generales	239-676-5676	pres@townandriverfl.com
Vice President	vacant		vp@townandriverfl.com
Secretary	Renee Notes	239-209-2072	secy@townandriverfl.com
Treasurer	Gary Hudson	239-481-7748	treas@townandriverfl.com

STREET ASSIGNMENTS	DIRECTOR	EMAIL PHONE NUMBER
Bal Isle Dr E Town & River Rd	Roy Benton	dir1@townandriverfl.com 239-462-6515
Brevity Ln N Waterway Dr	Rick Chubb	dir2@townandriverfl.com 609-707-0825
Cal Cove Dr Cape View Dr Hatchee Vista Ln Jennifer Ln	Carol Notes	dir3@townandriverfl.com 239-218-0645
Clarellen Dr Cypress Lake Dr	Marge Byrne	dir4@townandriverfl.com 239-482-8923
Cypress Lake Cr Joanna Cr Sand Spur Ln	Myriam Lentz	dir5@townandriverfl.com 239-225-8533
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Erin Marie Ct S. Town & River Dr	Martha Smith	dir7@townandriverfl.com 239-671-6347
McGregor Blvd Wittman Dr	Joe Tomaino	dir8@townandriverfl.com 239-851-4067
N. Town & River Dr	Kay Gloris	dir9@townandriverfl.com 239-470-6400
Lake Committee	Renee Notes	secy@townandriverfl.com 239-209-2072
Deeds of Restriction Committee	Gary Hudson	archreview@townandriverfl.com 239-481-7748
Architectural Review Committee	Gary Hudson	archreview@townandriverfl.com 239-481-7748

Please contact the Director responsible for your street regarding any issues related to Town & River.

Owner Contact Information Request

Town & River Civic Association Inc.
 P.O. Box 07073
 Fort Myers, FL 33919

For improved communications,
 Please update your contact information.

Name(s): _____

Town & River Address: _____

Full Time Resident: ____ Seasonal Resident: ____ My Property is Leased ____

If not full-time, other address, including zip: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Attention: Members in good standing (paid dues and have no outstanding unresolved violations), who have submitted their contact information, and have agreed to have their contact information published in the online directory, will be issued a password to access the online directory. **An email address is required to access the online directory. EMAIL ADDRESSES WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN THE ONLINE DIRECTORY UNLESS YOU GIVE YOUR PERMISSION BELOW.**

Otherwise, the information submitted is for board use only.

If you agree to have your contact information included in a Town & River Directory, accessible by a password, please initial either: ____YES or ____NO

If "YES", please check the information you agree to be included in the Directory:

____ Names ____ Town & River Address ____ Other Address ____ Telephone # ____ Email Address

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What's Blooming At Edison And Ford Winter Estates?

By Debbie Hughes, Senior Horticulturist at Edison and Ford Winter Estates

Many people like to use nicknames when calling on friends and family as an expression of endearment. The nickname may be a way of branding a life experience or just a shortened form of their real name. Names such as Sugar, Honey or



Babe are frequently used. My dad was called Hondo and my nickname was Legs. Some nicknames are more commonly used, like Rick for Richard, or Jim for James.

Believe it or not, most plants also have multiple nicknames, or common names. These names are usually easier for gardeners to remember than the scientific name, but it can also lead to confusion because more than one plant can have the same common name. For example, milkweed is easy to remember and most gardeners are familiar with it; however, there are many different species of milkweed. If you're looking for a specific plant, it's best to use the botanical, or scientific name.

A popular plant in butterfly gardens is the *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), a Florida native milkweed. It's a host for monarch butterflies. The word and genus *Asclepias* come from the Greek god of medicine, Asclepius, because of the plants' medicinal properties. In herbal lore, this plant was used to make a concoction to treat pleurisy. It's important to note that the white milky sap in this plant is toxic and contains cardiac glycosides.

The chemicals are not toxic to the monarch and queen butterfly caterpillars that eat the plant, and in fact help protect them from predators. Monarch butterflies search out any of the many species of milkweeds, laying their yellow pinhead-sized eggs on the leaves. Interestingly, different species of *Asclepias* grow in the different climates throughout the state and across the country. Some species prefer wet areas and other demand dry, sandy sites.

Most monarchs migrate to southern climates such as Mexico where it's warm all year long. In southern Florida, there is a population of monarchs that reside here all year and don't travel to Mexico. Many native milkweeds go dormant during the winter months; however, a species from Mexico, *Asclepias curassavica* will grow and bloom all year long in south Florida – this is the plant that is sold in big box stores and many nurseries around the state. Native milkweeds are typically only found in nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants.

I remember reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to my children when they were young. They enjoyed watching the caterpillar grow throughout the pages. We usually have a supply of *Asclepias curassavica* in the Garden Shoppe – ready for your hungry caterpillars to eat! Be sure to buy multiple plants, because one is never enough!

There are many other examples of common names of plants that are easy to remember. The first time I tried to pronounce the name *Acalypha hispida*, I found many ways to announce each syllable as I struggled a best guess – A-cal-pha, or A-ca-le-pha. A very intelligent Latin scholar told me I was wrong – it's pronounced A-cal- e-pha! So you can see why using the common name, chenille plant, is much easier!

The name "chenille" describes the uncanny flowers which resemble chenille yarn. Both milkweed and the chenille plant are blooming this time of year – and what a welcome sight at a time when most of the country is blanketed in snow.

I am all for using common names, but realize other countries use different common names. For example, the dwarf poinciana, a small-sized tree, is called this because it resembles the flower of the royal poinciana, or flamboyant tree. The dwarf poinciana in botanist language is called *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*. It's a short-lived tree, known to repeat bloom throughout the year. It's also visited by many butterflies for nectar. If you live in Jamaica, the same plant is called Barbados fence flower, describing their use of the plant as a fence row. If you rely on Google to get your information, you'll find it called peacock flower.

Interestingly, there is a moral to the story: beware of common names! My neighbor asked the garden center to



Two colorful trees that can be found at Edison and Ford Winter Estates are the royal poinciana (*Delonix regia*) and the dwarf poinciana (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*).

plant a dwarf poinciana tree in memory of her mother. After many years while waiting patiently for the dwarf poinciana to bloom its lovely scarlet flowers, the tree grew uncharacteristically to 30 feet and not a flower to view. I finally informed her of a possible mistake. Could the nursery have heard her wrong and thought she wanted the royal poinciana tree, *Delonix regia*? Using the scientific name could have alleviated this problem.

Botanists and reputable nurseries use the scientific or botanical names to make sure they select the correct plants. The famous botanist, Carl Linnaeus, developed this classification in the 1600s by using a unique two-word Latin name for all species. The Latin words describe the plant's characteristics and flower's physical traits.

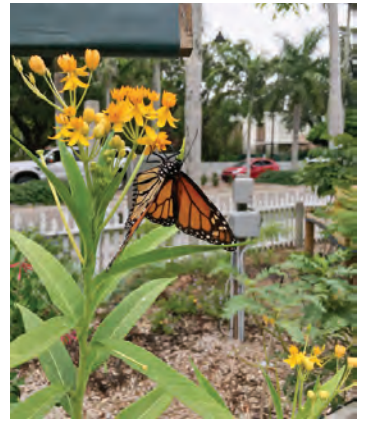
Today, scientists sometimes change plant's names after studying flowers in more detail than what was done in earlier times. This can make learning a little challenging. Just when you learn one scientific name and feel comfortable using it, the name might get changed to another one that's difficult to pronounce!

Even when the scientific name is changed, the common name usually doesn't change. In some situations, there may not be a common name for a plant – just as some people don't have nicknames. In any case, it's important to choose the right plant for the right place, no matter the name.

Many of the plants in the botanical gardens at Edison Ford are available for sale in the Garden Shoppe. It's important to know the expected mature size of a plant or tree before buying, and our gardens have some wonderful examples. It's also important to note whether a plant likes full sun, part sun, or is happy growing in a shaded area. Soil moisture is another important consideration. A plant that likes dry soil will not survive in a wetland. For snowbirds, it's also important to note the time of year that a plant blooms since some plants or trees only bloom in the spring or summer.

The Edisons developed a botanical garden in Southwest Florida at a time when there were only a few nurserymen, such as Henry Nehrling, James Hendry and Robert Halgrim. All of them believed that the estates could be a testing ground dedicated to community beautification, the development of plant collections, to be a storehouse for scientific findings, and to educate those who wanted to know more. With the support of visitors, members, and sponsors we are able to continue that legacy.

Come see what's blooming at the estates, where we speak both common and scientific names. Most of our plants on the property are graced with a ground sign, identifying both names to help you learn. Horticulturists are always in the Garden Shoppe to answer your questions and help you select the right plant for the right place. I hope to see you soon!



A monarch sips nectar from the tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) in the Garden Shoppe.

Town & River Civic Association Inc.	
Balance Sheet	
As of November 30, 2020	
Nov. 30, 20	
Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Citizens Bank- Operating	3,633.74
First Citizens Bank - MMS	64,883.22
Total Checking/Savings	68,516.96
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid, Lake Expense	5,515.30
Prepaid, Other Expense	1,115.36
Total Other Current Assets	6,630.66
Total Current Assets	75,147.62
Total Assets	75,147.62
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Annual Dues, Advanced	635.48
Total Other Current Liabilities	635.48
Total Current Liabilities	635.48
Total Liabilities	635.48
Equity	
Prior Year Fund Balance	56,180.89
Net Income	18,331.25
Total Equity	74,512.14
Total Liabilities & Equity	75,147.62

Town & River Civic Association Inc.		
Profit And Loss		
November 2020		
	Nov 20	Jan - Nov 20
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income - Mandatory	0.00	10,830.00
Income - Voluntary	120.00	25,520.00
Total Income	120.00	36,350.00
Estoppel Preparation Income	100.00	100.00
Interest Income	0.54	8.80
Total Income	220.54	36,458.80
Expense		
Accounting Fees	315.00	4,010.00
Bank Fees	0.00	6.00
Corp Insurance	46.58	3,814.63
Email Service	243.00	972.00
General Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	149.11
Corp Insurance (do not use)	182.25	182.25
Legal Expense	302.50	1,427.55
Meeting Rooms	0.00	255.69
Newspaper Postage	138.28	1,381.28
Office Expense	0.00	324.04
Postage Expense	0.00	113.95
Printing & Postage	0.00	1,447.00
State Fee	0.00	61.25
Secretary Expense	0.00	1,312.50
Storage Expense	119.79	1,277.77
Utilities	45.22	492.13
Website Maintenance	40.00	900.40
Total Expense	1,432.62	18,127.55
Net Ordinary Income	-1,212.08	18,331.25
Net Income	-1,212.08	18,331.25

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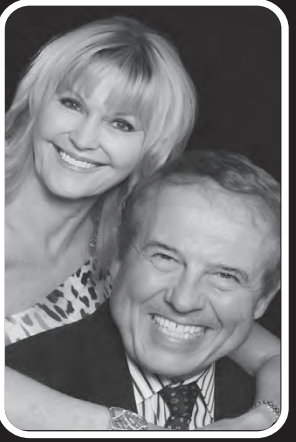
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Things To Do At Your Lee County Library (Virtually)

The Mysterious Weight Loss Muscle: Lessons From China About Losing Weight

Thursday, Jan. 21 – 2 to 2:45 p.m.

Join author Winslow “Bud” Johnson, who has traveled extensively throughout China for the past 30 years. He is the author of seven books that compare Chinese versus western cultures. This discussion will be about a mysterious muscle you have that when strengthened is the key to weight loss. Specifically, you will learn:

- Methods of losing weight that nobody ever talks about
- How you can train your brain for better weight management
- How certain breathing techniques can be used for weight control
- How Taoist priests resist short-term gratification
- How Shaolin monks can stick to a goal, no matter how hard

This is a live virtual event. Participants must register with a valid email address to receive a link to enter the program.

Tales Of Southwest Florida: Archaeology Of The Calusa

Tuesday, Jan. 19 – 4 to 5 p.m.

The Florida Public Archaeology Network presents *Tales of Southwest Florida: Archaeology of the Calusa*. The Calusa were called “the fierce people” in part because they held off Spanish domination for almost 200 years, but is the nickname really warranted? We’ll talk about the engineering, trade, and power that made the Calusa a dominating force in Southwest Florida long before the Spanish arrived. Registration required.

Author Series – Susan Zurenda

Friday, Jan. 22 – All Day

Susan Beckham Zurenda taught English for 33 years and now works as a book publicist for Magic Time Literary Publicity. A recipient of several regional awards for her fiction, including The South Carolina Fiction Project, The Porter Fleming Literary Competition, and The Southern Writers Symposium, she has also published numerous stories and nonfiction pieces in literary journals. *Bells for Eli* is her debut novel.

This presentation is part of an author series provided by the Florida Library Association featuring award-winning and best-selling authors of various genres to inform, educate and entertain. Authors will spend time chatting about various topics, including:

- How they became a writer
- Their writing processes
- How libraries have impacted their career
- Audience questions and answers

Visit www.leegov.com/library/programs for more information on virtual events.



Alliance For The Arts

Virtual Field Trip

The Met’s About Time – Fashion And Duration Exhibition

Saturday, Jan. 23 – 1 To 2 p.m.
\$15 Members, \$35 Nonmembers

Head to the Big Apple and (virtually) experience the iconic Metropolitan Museum of Art with your friends from the Alliance on Jan. 23. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity lets you spend intimate time with The Costume Institute’s 2020 exhibition, About Time: Fashion and Duration.

Exploring the symbiotic relationship between fashion and time, this exhibition – a celebration of The Met’s 150th anniversary – presents 150 years of fashion, culled almost exclusively from The Costume Institute’s collection, along two parallel timelines. The first features 60 ensembles in chronological order from 1870 to the present. Progressive, continuous, and relentlessly forward moving, the timeline draws attention to the way fashion is inherently governed by novelty, ephemerality, and obsolescence. The second



intersperses a series of 60 interruptions or disruptions that pre- or post-date the fashions in the first timeline but relate to them in terms of shape, motif, material, technique, or decoration.

Marvel at how clothes generate temporal associations that conflate past, present, and future – all in a safe, virtual space full of joy and in an interactive way! Let’s learn something new and explore the museum together. The tour is approximately one hour and includes question and answer sessions.

Only 40 spots available! An RSVP is required. The tour can only be accessed through Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge web browsers. It is strongly suggested you use a desktop or laptop computer to access this tour. We’ll be in touch with an access link and further details prior to the event. **Not A Member? Join Now!**

The Alliance is a hub for unique and creative people like you. Get closer to the arts and to our community with an Alliance membership. Experience engaging exhibitions, exciting events, and inspiring educational opportunities. Membership gives you special benefits throughout the year and helps the Alliance remain an outlet for creativity and connection for all in our community. Visit www.artinlee.org/engage/membership/become-a-member/ to join the Alliance family.

Alliance For The Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33919, (239) 939-2787, artinlee.org.



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Catch The Action

January Fishing

By Capt. Bill Russell

Happy New Year and thankfully 2020 is behind us. January is generally our coolest month and water temperature will be the lowest of the year. Of course, most cool fronts only last a day or two, then it's back to sunny mild days. There should be plenty of great opportunities on the water this month.

Our primary inshore targets this month are redfish, sea trout, sheepsheads, and pompano. The first two, redfish and trout, love small baitfish, but feed heavily on shrimp through the winter, while sheepsheads and pompano are crustacean eaters. Sheepsheads and pompano will chow on shrimp, small crabs, and even oysters or barnacles, but will not touch a baitfish no matter how enticing the presentation.

Sheepsheads and pompano spend most of their time feeding off the bottom, you want to keep the bait on the bottom or as near as possible. Sheepsheads are notorious bait thieves, it takes a while to feel the subtle tap, that's the reason for as light as rigging as possible, to help feel the bite. Old-timers say the best way to consistently hook sheepsheads is to set the hook just before you feel the tap, good luck with that! You will increase your chances by using a portion of a larger shrimp or rigging a smaller shrimp with as much meat as possible threaded onto the hook shank. Again, with the amount of bait on the hook, less is often more for this type of fishing.

Top inshore areas for sheepsheads include oyster bars with a deep drop-off, canals and creeks with structure and hard bottom, bridge, and dock pilings. Any area with structure that holds oysters and barnacles with a decent tide flow is worth a shot.

Shrimp are top baits over the winter months. Shrimp are user-friendly, readily available, and everything eats them. If it's cold think slow and low, meaning fish the bait at or near the bottom, either stationary or with a slow retrieve. One of the best ways to cover bottom and catch fish on a cold day is with a live shrimp/jig head combination. Take a live shrimp, bite, or pinch off the tail and thread the shrimp, tail first on a jig head. Now you have the best of both worlds, live bait that you can cover ground with, like an artificial. This combination will entice everything from big snook to pompano.

Over cool windy days we will look to target protected areas like canals, creeks, and deep water on the leeward side of islands as fish seek shelter, it's also a good way to comfortably fish a chilly north wind. Often, fish may be found ganged up in a deep hole, along a shoreline, or sunning in areas protected from the wind.

With milder weather the same combination also works, however the fish are likely spread out over shallower depths, so a change of technique is often necessary. Look for fish in areas a short distance from the deeper protected waters, they often hold in areas where they can quickly get back to shelter when the next front arrives. Fish these areas with



shrimp or shrimp imitations in soft plastic, rigged in the same method described above with a little quicker retrieve, or suspended under a popping or rattling cork. Sometimes if you are looking for trout, redfish, or maybe pompano, it's all about covering as much area as possible, scented soft baits like Gulp shrimp are another great option.

Days with calm seas allow for great opportunities to fish gulf waters. Structures including artificial reefs, ledges, and hard bottom well within sight of land are holding a variety of fish. Again, live, or fresh shrimp is the top bait. Two popular bait rigs include knocker rigs with an egg sinker free to slide above a small hook and previously mentioned bare jigs heads rigged with shrimp. Both combinations work great over nearshore artificial reefs and hard bottom. Make sure and use enough weight to keep your bait on the bottom. Sheepsheads will become the target for many anglers in nearshore gulf waters, but you will hook into other fish that may include snapper, grouper, grunts, and permit to name

a few. When fishing offshore, it's a good idea to drop down a live bait if you catch baitfish like pinfish, grunt, or sand perch. This is a great way to hook into a big grouper, cobia, king mackerel and, of course, sharks. Good nearshore fishing locations include the many artificial reefs a few miles off the coast and coordinates for all of them are readily available.

No doubt there will be some cold days on the water (at least what we consider cold in Florida), but also plenty of sunny warm days. Our inshore water temperature may drop 10 to 15 degrees in less than 24 hours when a cold front drops down. While this drop in temperature slows down the bite for many of our fish, sheepsheads are the exception. They thrive in the cooler weather and will give us some of our best fishing of the month. They are hard fighting, excellent on the table, and should be around in good numbers. We will be targeting them; I hope you get a chance to as well.

For charter information, please contact us at Gulf Coast Guide Service and "Catch the Action" with Capt. Bill Russell, call or text (239) 410-8576, website: www.fishpineisland.com, email: gcl2fish@live.com.

Capt. Bill Russell is a native and lifelong resident of Pine Island who has spent his entire life fishing the waters surrounding Pine Island and Southwest Florida. For the past 25 years Bill has been a professional fishing guide who takes pride in customizing each trip to ensure everyone on board has a great time and will return again. Come join us and "Catch the Action."



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ArtFest Fort Myers 2021

Let Art Elevate Your Every Day!

ArtFest Fort Myers, the annual art festival Feb. 6 and 7, is excited to announce the stars of the 2021 art festival – the artists! These incredibly creative folks travel from across the country to share their artwork with our community. Amazing ceramics, gorgeous jewelry, remarkable glass, unique paintings, wearable art and so much more await you at ArtFest Fort Myers. This family-friendly, safety-protocol-filled festival connects art and artists with our community in a way that is so much fun. This is an art experience that delights every sense!

Want to see all the artists? Do a little pre-shopping? You can visit the online gallery at ArtFestFortMyers.com and the artists will all be there with their artwork and links to their websites. And beginning Jan. 29 you can visit and shop the artists on ArtFest@Home – right from the art festival’s main website.

You may be asking how ArtFest Fort Myers

ArtFest
FORT MYERS
Southwest Florida's Premier Art Festival



Charise Bundesen, jewelry



Dennis Angel, Best of Show 2020, drawing

is stepping up to meet the challenge of being a “safe” event in this challenging COVID-19 time. The art festival staff has attended too many best-practices trainings to count (virtually, of course). Following best-practices, ArtFest Fort Myers is limiting crowd size by fencing the entire festival site and designating five entrance and exit gates; instituting timed ticket access – with advance online ticket sales to avoid the queue; installing 120-plus hand sanitizer stations; requiring masks at all times; hiring professional cleaning crews for all touch points; reducing food vendors; creating tables and chair relax locations for two or four only and so much more.

ArtFest Fort Myers values the safety and enjoyment of everyone participating – attendees, artists and volunteers.

The entire family will enjoy Southwest Florida’s premier art festival. Take time to enjoy the talented high school artists’ work at the Art Under 20 Exhibit and Competition and prepare to be astonished as the students create large street paintings in the Chalk Block. Check out the We Are Overflowing sculptural exhibit, featuring the recycling, reuse and upcycling message through art. Food and beverage areas provide a relaxing break.

Join ArtFest’s VIP Club and take advantage of reserved weekend parking; relaxing on the VIP Club Terrace with morning treats and coffee; a delightful lunch and beverages all weekend long. The VIP Club packages start at \$45 per person and quantities are limited – visit ArtFestFortMyers.com for all the options. Your support helps ArtFest



Carla Bank, Waterfall, 2021
Run To The Arts T-shirt artist



Steve Palmer, glass

Fort Myers through this challenging time when all arts organizations are focused on getting to the other side financially intact.

Not quite ready to venture to a large gathering – even outdoors? ArtFest Fort Myers hears you and has launched an all-new online virtual art festival – ArtFest@Home – as close as your computer, phone or iPad. You will find:

- a super easy shopping experience featuring all the artists who are at the art festival in person. One shopping cart with one click checkout. Shop from all the artists; talk to them via Zoom video chat; watch their demo videos; listen to their round-table discussions; see how to use their artwork in decorating your home.
- all the fun activities from ArtFest Fort Myers: Art Under 20, high school art show; Chalk Block street painting; Publix Art Yard with art projects and entertainment; We Are Overflowing art installation based on recycled items; food and entertainment for all to enjoy.
- VIP Club experiences in a virtual art gallery and more.
- Festival posters and T-shirts to order shipped directly to you.

Where do you find ArtFest@Home? Just go to ArtFestFortMyers.com and click on the big ArtFest@Home logo and we will see you there beginning Jan. 29.

Attendees often ask, “How do the 150 festival artists get chosen?” These artists are the best-of-the-best as a jury panel of five professional artists spent an entire Zoom day selecting them from the 700 artists who applied.

For more information visit ArtFestFortMyers.com. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Instagram. Tag us #artfestfm.



Matthew Hatala, Best of Show 2019, wood



Glenn Woods, ceramic

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Artist: Gina Muxo Ramos



Kathleen Muphy Willer, 2021 poster artist, Dandelion Fan Flowers (available framed and unframed)

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