



## ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2022

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### News You Can Use



#### **SANDHILL CRANE COLTS SEASON – COMING SOON!**

Two subspecies of Sandhill Crane occur in Florida. The Florida Sandhill Crane population numbers between four and five thousand, are non-migratory year-round breeding residents, and are state protected. They are joined every winter by 25,000 migratory Greater Sandhill Cranes that nest every spring in the Great Lakes region. The babies are called “colts” because of their long spindly legs. These majestic birds make their home in our fresh water preservation areas. **Please be mindful of these downy Native Floridians as you travel along the picturesque roads of Palmer Ranch!**

#### **VILLAGEWALK SINGERS – UPDATE**

Due to Omicron and continued uncertainties with COVID-19, the VillageWalk Singers will not be resuming on January 10<sup>th</sup> as they had hoped. For those who may have been interested in joining the singers, the group is hopeful that it may be able to resume in the fall. Stay tuned for further updates.

#### **CONDO DIRECTORS CERTIFICATION COURSE**

*Your Community Partners* is offering a Condo Director Certification Course featuring guest speaker Kevin T. Wells Esq. at TPC Prestancia, 4409 Tournament Players Club Drive, on **Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 11:30am**. Please RSVP to [boardcertclass@gmail.com](mailto:boardcertclass@gmail.com) by noon the Monday before the event as space is limited.

#### **HOA DIRECTORS CERTIFICATION COURSE**

*Your Community Partners* is offering a Condo Director Certification Course featuring guest speaker Kevin T. Wells Esq. at TPC Prestancia, 4409 Tournament Players Club Drive, on **Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 11:30am**. Please RSVP to [boardcertclass@gmail.com](mailto:boardcertclass@gmail.com) by noon the Monday before the event as space is limited.

#### **ARTISTS OF PALMER RANCH MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

If you draw, paint, sculpt or simply have an interest in the visual arts, please join the *Artists of Palmer Ranch* at their next meeting on **Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm**, at Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave. Any Palmer Ranch resident is very welcome. If you like, bring your latest masterpiece! We'd love to see it!

Featured Artist: *Chris Connors, “Pajama Lilies”*

Chris is also the featured artist at All Angels Gallery, Longboat Key, through January, 2022. See more of her gorgeous work there!





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### **STONEBROOK 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TWO' MILE WALK & TALK EVENT – FLYER ATTACHED**

Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club is hosting a two mile walk and talk event benefiting the Veterans program at Southeastern Guide Dogs on **Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a special guest speaker and her very special companion at this year's event. See attached flyer for more information and how to register for this event.

### **FRIENDS OF OSPREY JUNCTION TRAILHEAD BICYCLE RIDING SAFETY INFORMATION - FLYER ATTACHED**

## **Everything You Need to Know About Palmer Ranch – Our History**

The 7,000± acre development, known as Palmer Ranch, was created as a model of contemporary planning and environmental sensitivity. The property is part of a legacy of a remarkable turn-of-the-century woman: Mrs. Bertha Potter Palmer. In addition to her significant contributions to Sarasota, Mrs. Palmer's achievements were many.



After her husband's death in 1902, Mrs. Palmer's influence was felt in the little-known town called Sarasota. She first visited the area in 1910, declaring that it was "the most beautiful place in Florida." Her impressions were published throughout the country, causing a local real estate boom. At a time when most women of her age and social standing were content to play parlor games, she purchased 80,000 acres of land in Sarasota, and was involved in agriculture, livestock, real estate, banking and tourism. Mrs. Palmer had a profound love for the natural beauty of Florida. She would have been proud to know that, after her death in 1918, much of her land has been preserved as state parks, nature preserves and quality development.

Hugh Culverhouse, Sr. purchased the remaining 12,000 acres from the Palmer estate in 1972. He shared Mrs. Palmer's love of the land, and created the Palmer Ranch community. Mr. Culverhouse's dream continues to evolve through his son, Hugh F. Culverhouse, Jr. Palmer Ranch has received state and national recognition as an exemplary community and a model of state-of-the-art planning.

For more information about Mrs. Palmer, visit the Palmer Ranch website: <http://www.palmerranch.net/About>.



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### **Q: Are the lakes and ponds in Palmer Ranch natural?**

A: No—none of them are natural.

They're man-made stormwater detention ponds, part of a connected system designed to help prevent flooding and remove pollutants from our stormwater water before it drains into creeks, Little Sarasota Bay, and the Gulf.

Stormwater runoff is created when rain lands on roofs, driveways, streets, parking lots, and other surfaces that don't absorb water. This runoff flows directly into our ponds, which are like giant bowls that keep our streets and houses from flooding.



*Natural Sarasota Wetlands*

We're in one of the rainiest regions in North America, averaging about 53 inches of rainfall every year, versus 45 inches of precipitation in New York City and 36 inches in Chicago. About 60% of our rain falls in just four months, June through September.

That's a massive load of water in a short period of time. In fact, in an average year, 861 billion gallons of water falls on Sarasota County. Before development, that load was handled by wetlands, which once covered over half the county and allowed rainwater to slowly seep into the ground and travel underground, by gravity, to the Bay.

Development destroyed or altered much of those wetlands. Instead of getting absorbed into the ground, stormwater runoff rushed water into our creeks and Bays, carrying fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil and gas, animal waste, and other pollutants. Runoff is still the number-one source of water pollution in Florida.

Our stormwater ponds are a solution. They're designed to remove pollution through biological, chemical, and physical processes. The water in our system slowly drains from pond to pond, eventually making its way to Little Sarasota Bay. This mimics the natural landscape, which slowly released rainwater to Bay, maintaining healthy saltwater levels that important support wildlife, including oysters.

Our stormwater pond system was state-of-the-art when it was begun, in the 1990s, and is still considered a model in the state of Florida. When properly maintained with a 10-20 year clean out period, low-maintenance buffers at their shorelines, and native wetland plants in their shallows, our retention ponds make Palmer Ranch more livable, while minimizing our environmental impact on the Bay.

For more information on our watershed, stormwater ponds, and how to maintain stormwater ponds near your property, visit [www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/upload/documents/Stormwater\\_Neighborhood.pdf](http://www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/upload/documents/Stormwater_Neighborhood.pdf) and [http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/sarasota/documents/pdf/water/2019\\_Water\\_factsheetStormwaterPonds\\_PRINT.pdf](http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/sarasota/documents/pdf/water/2019_Water_factsheetStormwaterPonds_PRINT.pdf).

*Written by the Palmer Ranch Watershed / Natural Assets Committee, a group dedicated to maintaining and improving our water, preserves, and common areas.*

# 19TH ANNUAL STONEYBROOK G & CC

## WALK -N- TALK

*Benefiting the Veterans Program at Southeastern Guide Dogs*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022**

**Heroes Challenge**



*Sign-In Starts 8:00am-8:30am at Clubhouse Front Entrance. Walk Starts at 8:45am*

### **THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL GUEST AND HER VERY SPECIAL COMPANION AT THIS YEARS' EVENT.**

A Florida native, Marisa Blanco learned about Southeastern Guide Dogs at a high school career day in 2003 and immediately volunteered. She was 18 years old when the kennel manager invited her to work as a canine care technician. She now serves as a fully certified guide dog training manager. Marisa and her dually trained side kick Astro will conduct demonstrations for both the guide and service dog programs. Come meet Marisa and Astro to learn through live demonstrations how Southeastern Guide Dogs become Heroes and transform lives.



Minimum Donation is \$20.00 per person. Donation includes Coffee, Juice & Breakfast.

For those unable to attend and wishing to donate, your donation is very much appreciated.

For this year's event ALL Walk N Talk donations will be MATCHED dollar for dollar by a group of generous Southeastern Guide Dog donors through their Heroes Challenge.

### **THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO DONATE:**

- If you are a Stoneybrook GCC member your donation can be charged to your member account. Email, text or call Dave Scruggs at [LTC365@yahoo.com](mailto:LTC365@yahoo.com) (Tel. No. 716-983-9098). Provide your name, club number and amount you wish to donate.
- A check made out to Southeastern Guide Dogs and mailed to Tami Praznik, 8866 Macgregor Ln, Sarasota, FL 34238.
- Give your donation to a committee volunteer listed below.
- Donate online via credit card or direct debit at <https://www.guidedogs.org/stoneybrook/>
- Donations will be accepted, and Raffle tickets for Gift Baskets will be sold on Pub & Rib Nights February 2nd & 3rd and February 9th & 10th as well as the day of event.



### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION:**



Your Stoneybrook Walk N Talk Committee,  
Barbara Bernstein, Velma Bernstein, Ellie Brennan, Patty Cardinale, Shelby Colston,  
Barbara/Ken Colwell, Judy Cowgill, Pat/Kevin Gmerek, Mel Green, Betty Gruber, Sharon  
Herrick, Carol/Joe Kreit, Louise Melehan, Jeff Meser, Alice/Dick Neaves, Mike  
Netkovick, Tami Praznik, Bob Richards, Joe Rich, David Scruggs, June Walker

## Safe Bicycle Riding, Part 2

By Ralph Monti



### PRINCIPLES OF TRAFFIC LAW

In all fifty states, including Florida, bicyclists are required to follow the same laws as other drivers in most circumstances. Here are a few key principles that underpin all U.S. traffic laws.

#### FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Everyone on the road is entitled to the space they're using. If you want to use someone else's space, you must yield to whomever is using it, whether they are in your intended lane, on a trail, in a roundabout, or in an intersection.

#### RIDE ON THE RIGHT

Never ride against traffic — this puts you in a position where drivers don't expect you to be. By riding against traffic, you are travelling against the normal scanning patterns of other vehicle operators, making you more likely to be hit.

#### YIELD TO CROSSING TRAFFIC

When you come to an intersection, if you don't have the right of way, you must stop or yield depending on the traffic device.

#### YIELD WHEN CHANGING LANES

Before changing lanes, look behind you and ensure that no traffic is coming—then signal your intentions.

#### SPEED POSITIONING

The slowest vehicles on the road should be the furthest to the right and you should always pass on the left.

#### LANE POSITIONING

Some lanes are wide enough for a car and bike to operate safely side by side. Ride a safe distance away from the curb or parked cars — never ride in the gutter. When a lane is too narrow to share safely, ride in the middle of the lane.

#### INTERSECTION POSITIONING

When approaching an intersection, always use the rightmost lane going in the direction you're riding. Follow and obey all street signs, signals, and markings.

You can assess your knowledge of bicycle safety skills and Florida laws, by taking the interactive Florida Bicycle Association bicycle safety quiz. Visit <https://flbikesafetyquiz.com>

*Ralph Monti is the immediate past chair of the board of The League of American Bicyclists, America's foremost bicycle advocacy organization based in Washington, DC. He sits on Sarasota County's Bicycle Trail and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and is the Director of Bicycle Programs for the Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead.*