

Heron

East Lake Woodlands



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VP NOTES:

By Keith Crank, Vice President and Controlled Access Chairman

Slow Down Please !!

What can I say? Last month I reported that the guardhouse at the Tampa Road entrance had been run into and lo and behold about two days after that incident

the gate at the Sunflower entrance was hit and taken out of service. Guess what? Two days later the gate at the SunTrust bank entrance got demolished. We do not know who ran into the Sunflower gate but if you know someone who has a KIA with front end damage please let us know. We know who hit the SunTrust Bank entrance gate and not surprisingly it was a resident of the ELW community. The Sunflower gate was repaired within 72 hours but it took much longer to fix the SunTrust gate. It has now been repaired and is operational once more. On March 17th, a resident hit the Wal-Mart gate. At the time of my writing of this article it has yet to be repaired, but I hope by the time you are reading this it will be back in service.

Not only must we slow down when approaching the gates, but also we really have to slow down on our streets. Drivers are constantly being stopped and issued citations or warnings for speeding. Drivers going 45 mph in 30 mph zones are not uncommon, or doing 40 mph in 20 mph speed zones. A driver was ticketed recently for driving 50 mph in a 30 mph. Please slow down!! I honestly don't want to report someone being seriously hurt in accident.

It has been reaffirmed by the ELWCA Board that if a gate is struck and taken out of service and the other gate is still functional then that gate will remain functioning as usual. The gate that is out of service will be blocked by cones and is closed to ALL traffic. If someone removes the barricades (and they are seen doing so) and there is an accident caused by someone entering through the wrong gate, those persons who removed the barricades will be solely responsible for any accident that occurs. It would make no difference if the accident occurred soon after the barricades were removed or if it occurred several hours later. So we are asking all our residents to never remove the barricades from gates that are out of service. We understand that having to find an alternate route can be an inconvenience but removing the barricades could lead to something much more detrimental.

Soon many of our residents will be returning to their northern homes. I would suggest that before leaving they contact community patrol to have them check their homes while they are away. As always call 911 for all emergencies. To contact the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for non-emergencies the number to call is 727-582-6200. Should you need assistance from our community patrol the number is 727-785-7384. Be safe out there and remember to always lock your vehicles whenever you leave them. There still are some car break-ins in our area and most of these break-ins occur in unlocked cars.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Judy Fosbrook, President

We had an informative and successful annual meeting on March 30. My congratulations to Susan Whitehead on her election to the ELWCA Board along with the five returning members: Pam Brown, Dick Corrigan, Keith Crank, Janet Peterson, and Jack Picker.

Many of us view the month of April as the time to do the Spring cleaning. Thus, it's a good idea to also spring clean your personal files. When was the last time you read your association covenants? Do you even have a copy? If you live in a deed restricted association, you have forfeited certain individual preferences for the betterment of your neighborhood. Those covenants are, in effect, a blueprint for operation of your community. Your choices are subject to review and approval by your association board.

You should be considerate and mindful of what obstructions can occur when construction trucks are parked on your streets. Remember that you can always call Security for assistance if there are road hazards.

One more consideration: please be mindful of the unmanned gates and give them time to open and close properly. Not waiting has recently resulted in damage to a car as well as the gate and necessitates a payment by that individuals insurance company.

Now go out and wash your car!! The pollen season is almost over!
Happy Spring,
Judy Fosbrook



FRAUD PREVENTION

By Judy Gauron, Controlled Access Committee

From fake romantic relationships and "get rich quick" side jobs to computer "safety" downloads and impostor loved ones in need of fast cash, scams prey on all types of vulnerability.

March is National Fraud Prevention Month, and the PCSO joins Florida's Division of Insurance Fraud in sharing a simple message: If you see something, say something.

"Fraud happens to all ages and income levels - it knows no boundaries," Florida Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Atwater wrote in a memo to sheriff's offices throughout the state.

With nearly 6,000 fraud-related arrests since 2011, law enforcement is making strides toward a fraud-free Florida, but we need your help.

If you see something suspicious, call the PCSO's non-emergency line, 582-6200, or the Division of Insurance Fraud's toll-free Fraud Tip Hotline, 1-800-378-0445. You can choose to remain anonymous, and information you provide that leads to a conviction could earn you a cash reward through the Anti-Fraud Reward program.

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**EAST LAKE WOODLANDS
COMMUNITY PATROL REPORT**

**Tampa Road Gate 727-785-7384 or North Gate 727-785-1465
 February 2016**

Patrol Officers responded to	71 Calls
Complaint Calls	26
(Noise, speeders, solicitors, Domestic disputes, trespass, Fireworks, Suspicious persons/cars)	
Parking Violations	136
Irrigation Calls	3
Motor Vehicle/ Pedestrian Accidents	1
Crimes Reported	2
(Vandalism to mailboxes, gates, Grass damage, stolen bikes, dumping. All other criminal activity)	
Miscellaneous/Other	39
(Welfare checks, pets, wildlife, all others)	
The Sheriff monitored 33 hours during January 2016	
Performed 3 Hours of Presence/Visibility.	
Citations 4, Warnings 48	
Top speed: MPH 50/30, 29/20 MPH	

THE MATINEE OPERA PLAYERS

by Ron Regan, Public Relations

The Matinee Opera Players, under the direction of Mario Laurenti, will be performing selected arias and songs from well known musicals on April 24, 2016. The performance will be at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Avenue, Pinellas Park, FL starting at 3:00pm. Admission is free. Enjoy the free refreshments during intermission. Parking is free (wheel chair accessible accommodations) and cash donations are gladly accepted. For more information about the Matinee Opera Players or future performances please visit our website at TBOPERA.NET

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EAST LAKE FIRE RESCUE OPEN HOUSE

by Claudia Faiola



East Lake Fire Rescue will be hosting their Annual Safety Day Open House during National Public Health Week on April 9th, 2016. Gather your friends and family for a fun filled day! The event will take place from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Station 57 located at 3375 Tarpon Lake Blvd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685.

The event will feature safety displays, interactive games and exhibits, hands on fire extinguisher trainings, antique fire truck rides, Sparky the fire dog, Sunny Star, Water Extraction Team presentation, bayflite helicopter presentation, free food and raffle giveaways!

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/east-lake-fire-rescue and twitter @ELFireRescue to stay connected!



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BEAUTY AND STABILITY

By John Fernsler, resident and member,
American College of Real Estate Lawyers

Entering East Lake Woodlands (ELW) at the Woodlands Blvd. off East Lake Road invites you to a forested woodland of trees. Views to the side shortly after entering present lush greenery and tall tree canopy. Beyond the greenery wetlands preserve soil, anchor cyprus trees, and contain many species of living creatures. The

roadway unfolds into a grassy greensward dotted with entrances to local walled communities. Most of those communities maintain a length of shrubs and trees to enhance the desirability of that community.

This greensward establishment and maintenance is shared with East Lake Woodlands Community Association, Inc. (ELWCA) in accordance with a Schedule of Right-of way Maintenance found on pages 21-23 of its Policies & Procedures (also found on the web site in the "Documents" section). Efforts to discourage "turbing" and reduce speeds have resulted in a few pine tree plantings near Stonebriar and Cross Creek. There have also been enhancements at the East Lake entrance, as well as the SunTrust and Sunflower entrances. The enlargement of the flower displays at the three main entrances makes the flowers much more visible.

As ELW ages, these rights-of-way require renewals and enhancements. Pam Brown is the ELWCA board member who provides oversight and leadership for these matters, along with the landscape committee. The median along Woodlands Parkway (barcoded bank entrance) near the clubhouse shows off one of the landscape committee's more intense designs. This committee is fortunate to include a professional landscape designer—Ursula Schultz—who graciously volunteers her expertise.

Stability comes from the plantings and proper maintenance of trees. They stabilize the soil, provide shade, pleasurable vistas, reduce air conditioning usage, and give those who live here a sense of forested calm. The possible shifting of soil and water, especially during heavy rain, is deterred by the presence of trees.

Unfortunately, many of our trees are Laurel Oaks. They look a lot like Live Oaks, but with a much shorter life span; 70 years vs. 300 years. Limited root space in the medians shortens this further to about 30 years for Laurel Oaks.

The Laurels in our landscape are at the end of their lives. They are showing signs of disease and decline. ELWCA will be replacing them with smaller trees that can handle the reduced rooting space of medians. There are plans for additional median enhancements, within budgetary constraints. The next plan is for end-caps of the medians at Woodlands Drive and ELW Parkway. Planting will likely begin in April or May.

BASEBALL PICNIC FUNDRAISER

by Melissa Doff, Publicity



Celebrating the significant accomplishments of Jewish athletes in Major League Baseball, a wonderful fun filled afternoon, "All About Baseball" is planned on Sunday, April 17 starting at 1pm at the Congregation B'nai Emmanah (3374 Keystone Road; Tarpon Springs, FL 34688).

The fundraiser event includes a raffle of an exclusive limited edition originally autographed "Jewish Baseball Player" giclee print depicting 26 current and former Jewish baseball players plus other prominent Jewish figures in baseball (\$600 value), an appearance by 1972 All Star Player Richie Scheinblum, children's games with baseball giveaway and lots of baseball themed activities.

Enjoy complimentary picnic food. For additional information and questions, contact the CBE office at 727-938-9000.





FROM THE EDITOR

By Jeff Hunt,

MAINE MAN

I first met Kenny a few months ago as he walked down the street in front of my house with his sister. As we exchanged introductions, his sister told me that she recognized me from my picture in the Heron. After some conversation about this and

that, we began talking about the environment. I found out very quickly that Kenny is huge supporter of our natural world.

Mr. Kenny Roy is a current resident of Lovell, Maine. Lives there on a 74 acre tree farm with his wife Diane and 2 kids. He looks to be in excellent shape and after interviewing him I found out he has run 3 marathons in his life. He also enjoys biking and has been known to break out his guitar, fiddle or harmonica and entertain everyone in the vicinity. I've also been told he can carry a pretty good tune if you enjoy Country music karaoke like he does. Fanatical about the correct use of language, I hope Kenny don't git two mad wit me if eye make uh mis steak. You know I'm just kidding, right Kenny ?

Don and Sue Michaud of Warwick Hills have been hosting Kenny for an extended stay during the winter months at their home for the past 18 years. Sue, who recently retired (Congratulations !) is one of Kenny's two sisters I met, along with Diane who hails from New Bedford, Massachusetts and also winters here in East Lake Woodlands. They are all members of a family that seems to me to enjoy doing their part to make the world a better place.

One example I'd like to share with you involves what I call the Gator Hole just south of Warwick Hills as you travel toward The Enclave. I've personally walked our dogs up to and around that area of ELW for over 14 years and almost always see an alligator hanging out there. Well, twenty



From left to right: Don, Kenny, Diane and Sue.

years ago Don noticed a problem with the Gator Hole not long after moving into his current home. The problem was people passing by the Gator Hole and throwing garbage into it. Being a man of action, Don decided that he would go down and clean out the area himself because he didn't like the way it made our natural ELW neighborhood look. A couple of years later

Brother-in-Law Kenny and Sister-in-Law Diane started their winter visits and a family tradition was born.

The key thing about this story according to all family members involved is the "spark" that Kenny provides those around him. He provides the energy and passion to keep this yearly endeavor going. He is a member of a group called Earth Notes back in Maine that promotes environmental and conservation issues. He writes articles occasionally for the Portland Press, The Conway (New Hampshire) Daily Sun and The Bridgeton News. His sincerity and dedication to the environment is through and true and he wanted me to let everyone know he thinks overpopulation is the biggest threat to our environmental well-being.



So this April 22nd on Earth Day, I'd like to challenge all residents of ELW to think about becoming a "spark" to our community like my friend Kenny and his family. Take a certain level of pride in living in ELW and insist that other residents do the same. Our Community and our World will be a better place because of you.

"A true conservationist is a man who knows the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children." --- John James Audubon



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COMMON LANDSCAPE MISTAKES

By Pam Brown, ELW resident

Have you ever added a plant to your landscape and later regretted having purchased it, or did not like it in the location where it was planted? I have, primarily because I tend to be an impulse buyer. I see something new and must have it without considering whether I have room for it or a good place to plant it where it will thrive. This is not the proper way to go about landscaping. This month I am going to look at some of the common mistakes we make in the landscape and how to avoid them.

Not having a plan:

Probably the most common mistake is starting out without a plan. Evaluate the area where you want to add plants. Look at sun and shade patterns and whether the site is moist or dry. Then do some research of plants. Visit nurseries and always look at the tags that provide growing conditions and size information. Look at things you like, colors, texture, etc. along with what the mature size of the plant will be. Then evaluate each plant based on the growing conditions that you can provide. This is especially important when adding trees. You need to consider how big they can get and how much space they will need. That four foot Live Oak looks small now, but it will reach over 30 feet tall and 100 feet wide at the canopy. Also remember that it is important to leave about two feet of space between your home's foundation and any plants you add.

Planting too deeply:

Deeper is not better, except for tomatoes. Shrubs and trees should be planted so that one to two inches of the root ball is above the ground level, then add mulch up to the sides of the root ball, but not on top of it. With trees, if they are growing in containers, look at the base of the trunk and find the top most root that emerges from it. This root should be at or slightly above the soil level. This is very true for shallow rooted shrubs like Azaleas and Crape Myrtles. Planting too deeply can cause decline of the plant because the roots cannot get sufficient oxygen and can also encourage root rot. This University of Florida website has lots of information about planting: <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/planting/>

Cutting grass too short:

It is myth that if you cut your grass short you will need to mow less





often. This actually does more harm than good. More light can get to the soil allowing weed seeds to germinate; also stressed grass is more likely to be attacked by insects. Mowing higher allows for a much deeper root system to develop as well. The longer leaf blades also shade the soil. The University of Florida has information on the correct mowing height for the different varieties of grass we grow: <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/lawns/lawn-care/mowing-your-florida-lawn.html>. While we are on the subject of mowing, it is recommended that you leave the grass clippings on the grass unless the grass was very high and there are large clumps. These clippings will quickly decay into the soil returning some of the nutrients that were added with fertilizer.

Fertilizing too much:

Pay attention to the recommendations on the fertilizer label. Research was done to come up with these numbers. Too much fertilizer can fuel rampant succulent growth that many insects love to feed on and can also make more work for you especially if it is a plant you normally prune. Research at the University of Florida has shown that over fertilized St. Augustine grass is much more susceptible to chinch bug infestation. Turfgrass fertilizers normally have high amounts of Nitrogen and low amounts of Potassium such as 23-0-8. This ratio is not the best for palms, ornamental shrubs and ground covers. Ornamentals and trees do best with a fertilizer with a bit less Nitrogen than Potassium such as 8-0-12. Also, be cautious with "weed and feed" fertilizers. Shrubs and trees have roots that usually extend out into the grass areas and these roots can take up the weed killer in these products. The weed killer does not know the difference between a shrub, a tree and a weed. Using weed and feed too often can impact the health of shrubs and trees. This University of Florida publication probably has more than you want to know about fertilizer: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg448>


continued on pg 7

EAST LAKE WOODLANDS & EAST LAKE AREA HOMES LISTED WITH FRANK ACERRA


 <p>Listed at \$519,900 SOLD</p> <p>60 Willowood Lane East Lake Woodlands</p>	 <p>Listed at \$524,900 SOLD</p> <p>125 Kellys Trail East Lake Woodlands</p>	 <p>Listed at \$169,900 SOLD</p> <p>215 Tads Trail East Lake Woodlands</p>	 <p>Listed at \$524,900 SOLD</p> <p>4477 Lavender Drive East Lake</p>
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Notable Past Sales w/Select Properties

- 60 Willowood Lane in East Lake Woodlands
- 95 Deerpath Drive in East Lake Woodlands
- 1703 Captiva Drive in East Lake Woodlands
- 4150 Rotherham Court in Ridgemoor
- 3672 Windber Blvd in Ridgemoor
- 3271 Glenridge Drive in Ridgemoor
- 3924 Belmoor Drive in Ridgemoor
- 4620 Aylesford Drive in Lansbrook
- 1528 Lago Vista in Boot Ranch
- 4690 Ayrton Terrace in Lansbrook
- 5253 Mira Vista in Lansbrook
- 4301 Auston Way in Lansbrook
- 4068 Carlyle Lakes Blvd in Lansbrook
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- 5294 Karlsburg Place in Lansbrook
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- 1946 Fishermans Bend in Brookers Landing
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Common Landscape Mistakes continued from pg 6

Not irrigating properly:

Landscapes in our area need about one inch of water per week when they are actively growing. Watering every two weeks or less is recommended during the winter months. You should have a rain gauge so that you will know if it has rained an inch or more and you can adjust your irrigation appropriately. One deep irrigation cycle is much more beneficial than several shorter watering. Watering more frequently for shorter periods will encourage a shallow root system and a plant that is less tolerant to drought conditions. The best time of day to water is early in the morning so that the plants have all day for their leaves to dry. This University of Florida web link has lots of information regarding irrigation of lawns and landscapes: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/maintenance_and_care/watering_and_irrigation.shtml

Not pruning properly:

Pruning is really an art. Shrubs and trees need to be pruned periodically to keep them healthy and to maintain their shape. The University of Florida has good information on pruning trees, palms and shrubs: <http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/pruning/>. Please take special note of the publications on pruning Crape Myrtles and pruning palms. I see way too much of what is called "crape murder" here in the Woodlands. And, the over pruning of palms is rampant.

Not considering wildlife:

We usually like having birds and butterflies in our yards, but what about other wildlife. Our proximity to Brooker Creek Preserve insures that we will see deer, rabbits, raccoons, and armadillos – all of which can impact the landscape. For deer, it is best to plant deer resistant plants and this could be a trial and error project. Deer preferences for plants vary with the season and location. The University of Florida websites listed below offer information about living with wildlife.

http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/LivingwithDeer_plusresources.pdf

http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/environment/nuisance_wildlife.shtml#armadillos

Even if you employ a landscape maintenance company or professional, you probably need to talk with them periodically so that they understand your objectives for your landscape.

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OVER \$44,000 RAISED FOR BREAST CANCER



The East Lake Woodlands Drive for a Cure Golf Tournament had its most successful event ever, as community and neighboring golfers turned out to play in the event. We worked very hard to raise funds in support of the Morton Plant Mease Mammography

Program and the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of Susan G. Komen. Both organizations will use the funds donated here in the Tampa Bay area. Over the years, the East Lake Woodlands Drive for a Cure has raised nearly \$200,000 to assist in the detection, treatment and research for breast cancer.

The East Lake Woodlands "Drive for a Cure" took place on February 26, 2016 at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club. Despite the brisk March winds the weather was more than cooperative. When play finished



up the participants met inside for the delicious banquet, and to look over the wonderful array of items in the Chinese, silent and live auctions. All were a big success.

After a lovely dinner and Zukie's award-winning key lime pie from the Sunset Grill, Linda Hurtado from FOX13 spoke with us about her personal journey with breast cancer and she invited all of the breast cancer survivors to have their pictures taken together. They are our heroes and we love seeing them at this event.

This success couldn't have been accomplished without the help of the entire community from the publications which ran our articles to the staff in the cart barn and everyone in between. For all of the golfers who participated; for those who donated auction items; those who were cash sponsors; those who donated food, drinks and water; and to East Lake Woodlands Country Club for their generous help and support...we couldn't have done it without you!

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Drive for a Cure couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

The East Lake Woodlands "Drive for a Cure" 2017 is already in the works. We'll see you here on Friday, February 24, 2017 for an 11:30 AM Shotgun. Be sure to get your registration in early for next year's event and continue to check our website for pictures and updates at:

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WINDOW TREATMENT TRENDS TO CONSIDER

If you're working with your personal decorator to design a stylish room with all of the right furnishings and accessories, you've probably found that your window treatments can make or break your success at achieving the ambiance you're going for. Let's face it, if you try to ignore your windows and put more focus on other aspects of your space, you're going to end up with a room that looks bare or incomplete.

When it comes to choosing the perfect window coverings for your home, there's a lot to consider. Everything from the material you select to the color and style of your window treatments will significantly impact the look and feel of each room. Use these window treatment trends to guide you as you work with your interior designer to find window coverings that meet all of your functional requirements and style preferences.

Natural, energy-efficient shades

The push toward a more energy-efficient world doesn't exclude interior design, which is why one of the biggest emerging window treatment trends this year are shades that contribute to an eco-friendly home. For example, plantation shutters, honeycomb shades and motorized blinds are growing in popularity. They're particularly efficient at managing natural light, allowing more in during the day for enhanced energy efficiency. Natural, sustainable woods, like bamboo, are also starting to replace synthetics for blinds and shutters. If you're unsure whether traditional fabric drapery treatments or these trending natural wood shades will work best for your space, ask your personal decorator for advice.

Roman shades

Roman-style window treatments stack up evenly when opened and lay flat when closed, unlike most other drapery styles that take up more space and have folds and pleats. They have grown in popularity for their ability to contribute elegance and sophistication to a room without requiring homeowners to sacrifice the functionality of their space. For example, they work perfectly in areas where full-length draperies aren't practical, such as above the kitchen sink, the tub in your bathroom or window seats and benches. Roman shades feel right at home in a traditional scheme as well as a contemporary one. Ask your interior decorator which is right for you.

Roman shades efficiently control lighting and add style to the area, but don't contribute as much weight to the space as draperies do because



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they end at the window sill. Work with your personal decorator to find a fabric, color and pattern that work with your home. Roman shade window treatments come in a wide range of materials, hues and designs, catering to specific design themes. Some of the most popular materials include cotton, silk, denim cloths and jute.

Bold patterns

To really transform your space, window treatments featuring head-turning patterns are the way to go. Patterned drapery offer warmth and visual stimulation that make a room both attention grabbing and inviting. Your personal decorator will be able to suggest specific color combinations and designs that complement your own design style and budget, as well as surrounding decor and furnishings.

Bold designs and colors will draw the eye to the outside view. Many homeowners are turning to trellis patters and large-scale floral designs in particular to dress up their homes. Remember that the pattern that's going to look best in your space depends on the window you're working with, so it's important to have professional assistance when selecting the window treatment that works best for you.

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BIRD OF THE MONTH COLLARED ARACARI

By Jake Jacoby



I have just returned from a week-long trip to Costa Rica where I was able to observe and photograph an amazing number of birds and wildlife, both high in the mountains and deep in the tropical rainforest. Costa Rica's geography reveals a history of cataclysm, with earthquakes,

floods and volcanoes shaping its present-day landscape. From north-to-south and east-to-west, Costa Rica never measures longer or wider than 200 miles. Though situated just 10-degrees north of the equator, Costa Rica is much more than a hot and sunny tropical paradise. Rolling mountains and highland cloud forests contrast with 800 miles of Caribbean and Pacific shoreline.



Collared Aracari

I travelled with a party of 10 people organized by Natural Habitat Adventures (www.nathab.com). The workshop guide, Alex Arias, was a consummate professional; totally conversant with our targeted birds and wildlife as well as with the flora and fauna of Costa Rica. He was courteous, attentive to every detail and every person's needs, and just a real pleasure to have spent time with. After arrival in San Jose, we drove to Sarapiquí in the mountains, spent 3 nights and then drove back through San Jose to Savegre Nature Preserve in the tropical rainforest for 3 more nights (see map below).

One of my favorite birds on this trip was the Collared Aracari which makes its home year-round in the tropical rainforests throughout Central America. The most distinctive physical characteristic of the Aracari is its amazing beak. The beak, about 4 inches long, is almost a quarter of the bird's entire body. This beak would be impossibly heavy if not for the fact that it is hollow and lightweight.



Map of Costa Rica

Their bodies are a rainbow of colors, especially their breasts and beaks. On their breasts, Collared Aracarís have yellow, red and green feathers. They also have red or blue plumage surrounding their eyes.

Collared Aracarís are related to the larger Toucans, but are considered to be Toucanets (smaller). The main difference between Aracarís and Toucans, beside size, is their tail. The Collared Aracari has a much more sharp and pointed tail that of the larger Toucans.

Collared Aracarís are highly sociable and usually found in small flocks of up to 15 birds. They roost communally in tree holes. In addition to their parents, young Aracarís may be fed by a group of other adults as well, which is a highly unusual behavior for birds.

Collared Aracarís like to eat the fruits from ficus trees and palms. They are also known to consume large numbers of insects, small reptiles such as lizards and snakes, eggs, and other small prey.

The female normally lays 3 white eggs in an unlined natural cavity or an old woodpecker nest high in a tree. Both parents incubate the eggs

for about 16 days, and the chicks will remain in the nest after hatching. Chicks are blind and naked at birth (altricial), and have short bills and specialized pads on their heels to protect them from the rough floor of the nest - they will fledge after about 6 weeks. The Collared Aracari is unusual for a toucan in that they roost



socially throughout the year, with up to 6 adults and young birds that have fledged, sleeping in the same hole with tails folded over their backs.

This was a wonderful trip that I highly recommend to anyone having an interest in birds and wildlife.

Please see my favorite photographs at my flickr web site: www.flickr.com/jake_jacoby



Bird Fact

Why do Blue-footed Boobies have blue feet?

Blue-footed Boobies, fish-eating relatives of pelicans, breed in tropical and subtropical islands in the Pacific Ocean, most notably the Galapagos. They have large webbed feet ranging in color from pale turquoise to a deep aquamarine. Males flaunt these feet in courtship dances, holding them up and stamping them on the ground. Males with the most brilliant feet are the most attractive to females. Booby foot color is brightest when birds are well fed on nutritious fish. In captivity when deprived of a good diet, the foot color grows noticeably duller within 48 hours. So this is an excellent cue for females to use to determine a male's ability to find food, a direct signal about how well he will provide for the family.



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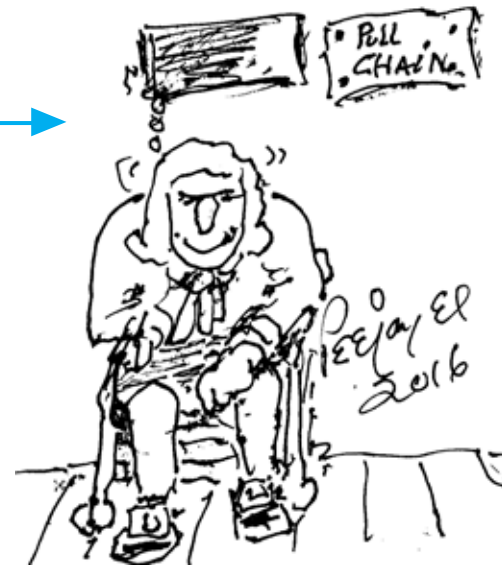


HISTORICAL BITS AND PIECES

By Paul J.H. Leaser

AFFLUENCE:

Thomas Jefferson, the second president to live in the White House, thought it beneath the dignity of the office and ordered two “water closets” installed. He specified that they be “of superior construction as to be cleansed constantly by a pipe throwing water through them at a command from a reservoir above.”



HOW IT'S DONE:

President Lyndon Johnson, who was quoted as saying, “I have no interest in government regulated industries.” He was, however, one of the wealthiest U.S. Presidents, thanks largely to TV station stocks, in the name of his wife and daughter and put into a blind trust when he became President.

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So you’ve got your smartphone and can program your Nest thermostat remotely and see who’s at your front door when you’re not home. That’s great! Those are some of the great advances in technology that cater to convenience, allowing us to save money and time and lead more comfortable lives.

As “smart homes” and other smart technology become more common and more home items become Internet-accessible, naturally people start adding to their technology. But what happens when your technology is not compatible? Just like Windows vs. Mac, there are different operating systems in use by the multiple companies creating these wired items that are moving into our homes. What is right for you?

All Apple, all the time: If you’re completely an Apple person, then sticking with HomeKit makes sense. Control items ranging from the lights to plugs to security devices through the Siri interface. But the list of compatible partners is short, even with the approved network bridge devices available. Bridges are additional devices that allow two different networks to talk to one another, but their scope is limited.

SmartThings is a smart choice: This system appears to be compatible with the most devices and the most partners. Thermostats, light dimmers, light bulbs, security cameras, and wireless speakers are just some of the items that can take orders from SmartThings, and they’re made by partners ranging from LG to Honeywell to Kwikset to Yale.

Iris moves in: Lowe’s Home Improvement store has its own technology for connecting your smart devices, and of course sells those devices in its stores. One of the great things about Iris is that there are start-up kits you can purchase to get your home online quickly and easily. Choose from a home security kit or one that focuses on home comfort. Iris offers both a free plan and a paid plan that is much more connected. Oh, and the app to control the system can be downloaded from iTunes or Google Play.

Feather your Nest: More devices are becoming compatible with the original connected thermostat, Nest. Through its “Work with Nest” program, Nest Labs has partnered with Whirlpool, some startup lighting manufacturers, and Jawbone fitness trackers. LG is apparently on board, as well as Xfinity Home and Motorola. Multiple software systems are available to control your connected items.

And, don’t forget Amazon: With Amazon’s introduction of its Echo product, which is compatible with Alexa, there will now be more Alexa compatible devices available to provide inter-connectivity with music,

email, appliances, home controls, and other devices via WeMo and your smart phones, including Apple phones.

This is all evolving, of course, and eventually, inter-connectivity will increase. The average home now has 11 Wi-Fi connected devices, and this is expected to double in the next 5-7 years. The most important thing you can do now is keep up with the latest trends, and make sure your home Wi-Fi is as fast as possible. Whether that be via more powerful base routers, or routers with boosters, make sure you’re building a home network with sufficient bandwidth to allow all your devices to work together as seamlessly as possible so that managing your costs and comfort is both easy and cost-efficient!

If you are even thinking of selling, you owe it to yourself to have a conversation with a real estate professional. We can give you sound advice and good, solid local market info that will greatly assist you. And, if you or someone you know is even thinking of buying, a real estate professional is best able to go over price, payment, location, and value information for this very large decision.

I would be happy to be that real estate professional for you, your friends, and your family!



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