



Welcome To Our New Format

The continuing growth of our **SWA** has brought unforeseen challenges. We have outgrown the viability of the marketing platform (software) we have been using for our monthly newsletter. And so we transition to this new, more flexible and colorful format.



Beginning with this issue we hope to provide a readable, newsy and entertaining periodical that you can look forward to every month. One that you can save, and share with friends if you wish.

We trust that you find the new format an improvement. As with all things it is a work in progress, and we invite your feedback to help us develop improvements.

The Bear Facts

Our Solivita Bear continues to dominate the wildlife chatter here in Solvita. While some panic and want the bear immediately removed, others understand that bears are part of life in Central Florida and enjoy his presence --- from afar.

One fact must be understood from the onset: Black bears are native to Central Florida and a natural part of everyday life. FWC will not automatically consider the presence of a bear to be an emergency. Inconvenience is not considered by them to be grounds for action.

Everyone of us has chosen to live here, on the boundary of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, where bears will come and go. They only destroy a bear when absolutely necessary. And they will only be removed in a case of documented aggression.

The Florida Black Bear is part of the natural environment of Central Florida. Although potentially dangerous, they have a shy disposition that causes them to avoid and flee from humans. Learning and embracing a few easy to use safety tips will usually keep them from becoming a nuisance.



Their initial and major response is to educate residents as to how to live safely with bears.

Your HOA is doing everything reasonably possible to assure the safety of all residents from this, and any future bear. Please help spread the word to uninformed residents that prevention is, as always, the best medicine.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that Spanish Moss, found commonly on trees and plants in Florida, is neither Spanish nor moss? It is a bromeliad — a perennial herb in the pineapple family. Most bromeliads, including Spanish Moss, are epiphytes, which grow on other plants, but do not rely on them for nutrients. Epiphytes take their nutrients from the air and debris that collects on the plant.

Spanish Moss is a native plant found throughout North America, therefore not considered an invasive species. In most circumstances, Spanish Moss does not harm other organisms in its ecosystem and provides food and homes for other organisms.



CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

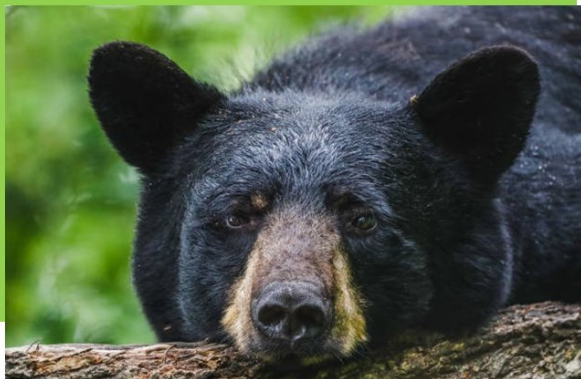
LET'S DISCUSS THE BEAR NECESSITIES



Lori Lindsay

Lori has spent the last 10 years as a Bear Response Contractor for the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, assessing animal and human behavior regarding human-bear conflict. Ms. Lindsey has a Masters degree in Biology from the University of Miami. She is a recognized expert, and sought after speaker, on the topic of bears.

DATE: October 9, 2024
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Starlite Ballroom
PRICE: Admission FREE



THE SUBJECT IS - EAGLES



Reinier Munguia

Wildlife expert, photographer and illustrator, Reinier Munguia follows his successful presentation on the subject of Sand Hill Cranes will be on hand to teach us about the mighty eagle. Munguia conducts events for more than fifty (50) educational programs each year at established nature and photography faculties and events.

DATE: October 17, 2024
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Starlite Ballroom
PRICE: Admission FREE

OPEN TO ALL SOLIVITA RESIDENTS





THE BEAR FACTS

Your HOA is doing everything reasonably reasonable to assure the safety of all residents from this — and any future bear. Yes, bears can be problematic, knocking over trash cans and creating disturbances. But they are also a beautiful and natural part of our ecosystem. They are very shy creatures with a natural aversion to people. As such they scare quite easily.

Bob Monica, in his role as Chair of the HOA Conservation and Wildlife Committee, he has been busy working with the HOA Board of Directors, and Rudy Bautista, Community Manager, to find ways to effectively deal with the intruder in an effective and humane way.

In that effort he spoke to Paige Parks, West Central Area Bear Biologist at Florida Wildlife Commission. Paige will be meeting with a group of HOA Board Members and Rudy to inform them regarding the realities of life in Florida involving bears, and the best methods of ensuring community safety.

We have also invited Lori Lindsay, FWC Bear Contractor, to speak to the community. These two women have more than 18 years of combined hands-on experience in dealing with bears in Florida. Please tell your friends - and everyone on Next Door - that attendance at the bear presentation should be mandatory for anyone concerned about safety and security in Solivita.





MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

Bob Monica called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at Palms Amenity Room. Board members present: Bob Monica, Leo Mills, Bruce Allen, Dorothy Schwartz and Barbara McDonald.

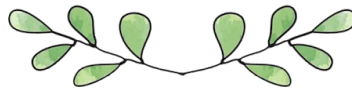
TREASURER'S REPORT

- Treasurer Leo Mills gave his report.
 - Membership dues - \$1395.00
 - YTD income - \$3030.82
 - Total club funds YTD - \$5656.17
 - Total YTD expenses - \$1120.56
 - Net club funds - \$4535.61
 - We have 187 members.
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- Minutes of August Meeting were accepted by the group.
 - Future meeting dates are - October 24th (Thursday) no meeting in November, Holiday Party December 2nd.
 - The gator report for the end of August 2024 indicates no gators has been removed, bringing the YTD total to three.
 - Program Director, Barbara McDonald, presented a report detailing the social and educational events the club has scheduled in the immediate upcoming months including a trip to Circle B on September 27th, the Bear Presentation on October 9th, and a re-run of the Path of the Panther film on December 12th.
 - Bob announced the BOD's plan to create a Wildlife Kiosk for the community in concert with the Lifestyles Department. The plan is to find a carpenter from among our group to design and build the structure and work with Lifestyles to develop a site for its implementation. Bob has received notice from Blue Stream Fiber of their intent to donate \$1,000 toward the cost of the venture.

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING — CONTINUED



- Bob also spoke to continued work on a website for the club. Good progress has been made and hopes are that the site will be online by the end of 2024.
- There was general discussion about progress related to the exclusion of the wild boar. While no plans have been developed to change the current method of trapping, Tony Reed, Chair of the PCDD is working to get state trappers to help in removing them from boundary area.
- **Meeting adjourned.**



Mark Your Calendar —

Next Meeting THURSDAY, October 24th.

Halloween Pot Luck Dinner! Don't Miss It!

