October, 2015

THE RESERVE

Please Visit Our Website: www.WingfieldReserve.org

A Quarterly Newsletter Published for Members and Friends of Wingfield Reserve

A BEAR-WISE POLICY FOR WINGFIELD RESERVE

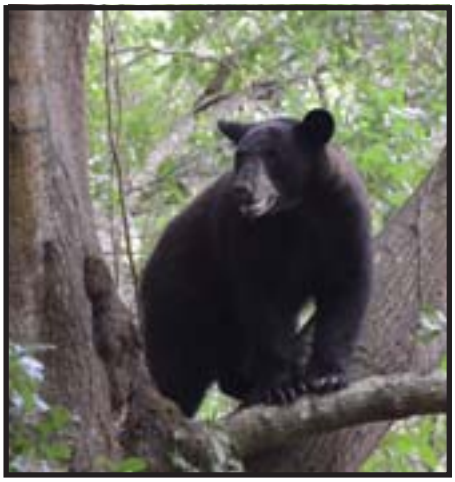
by Jay Exum, Ph.D.

The number of bears that reside in Central Florida has likely increased dramatically over the last fifteen years. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently commissioned a study to determine the population of bears across the state. They found that the Central Florida population has increased to more than 1,200 bears, an increase of nearly 30 percent since 2002. In that same time frame, the number of bears killed on roadways and the number of calls from homeowners about nuisance bears have increased precipitously.

The FWC has tallied the zip codes of calls from homeowners about nuisance bears and found a disproportionate distribution in the Wekiva Basin. The 32779 zip code is the second-most frequently recorded zip code in the state. Not surprisingly, of the four people that have been injured by bears since 2012, three of them lived in Longwood/Lake Mary within close proximity to Wingfield Reserve. Because of these factors, for most of the past year, the FWC has had a "one-strike" policy for nuisance bears – if the FWC is called to a residence where bears have been persistently aggravating to homeowners, the bears are euthanized as soon as they can be trapped.

Although bears enter neighborhoods like Wingfield Reserve for a number of reasons, it is clear that a primary reason is because of their attraction to human sources of food. Most residents have stories of bears pilfering dog food and disrupting garages and trash cans in search of food. Pictures and stories of these incidents are a primary topic on the Wingfield Reserve Facebook page. Some of these stories refer to indifferent or even aggressive behavior by bears towards humans or dogs. Given the number of these encounters, there is a potential for injurious interactions with bears at some time in the future.

The Wingfield Reserve Homeowners Association (WHRA) Board has concluded that we should take action to reduce human/bear conflicts and to avoid the potential for injury in our neighborhood. The WHRA Board drafted a comprehensive Bear-Wise policy based on the version recently adopted for Wingfield North. The FWC has provided input to us on the policy and are supportive of our plans to reduce the availability of human-generated food sources for bears. We have sent electronic and regular mail about the proposed policy to all residents and invited input at our August and September HOA Board meetings. Many residents have commented and most have expressed



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President's Message

by **Dale James**, ***WRHA Board President***

The fall season has officially started, and though we are not experiencing fall weather yet, we are seeing changes in the landscaping, our neighborhood fall festival event, and other indications that fall is in the air! As our children head back to school, we have asked the Sheriff's Department to monitor the bus stops in and around our neighborhood to watch for cars that don't stop or try to pass the school busses. Please be mindful of your speed as you drive through our community.

It's been a busy few months as the Wingfield Reserve Homeowners Association Board has been working to formulate a comprehensive Bear Policy for the neighborhood. We are excited to be able to do our part to help keep our neighborhood safe for our families while maintaining good wildlife stewardship, and we appreciate your diligence in working together to make this happen. For more information, please make sure you read the lead article in this newsletter about implementing a Bear-Wise policy in Wingfield Reserve.

The tennis court renovations have been completed, including the resurfacing and painting of the court, installation of the new fence and wind-screens, a new net (coming this month) and outside trash receptacle. A new combination lock has been installed and the code was e-mailed to residents. The tennis court is maintained so our residents and accompanied guests may enjoy it.

We want to remind you that any exterior work on your house needs advance approval from the Architectural Review Board (ARB). This includes outside paint, new roof, additions or other construction, and taking out trees on your property. The ARB forms can be found on the website (wingfieldreserve.org), or contact Marlo Sanders at Sentry Management (msanders@sentrymgt.com) to request a form.

There have been some dog issues in the neighborhood which we want to address. Dogs should be on leashes when you are out walking, even if they are "friendly" dogs. There have been incidents involving dogs chasing children on bikes and scaring them or causing them to get hurt. Also, please be courteous and remember to carry a doggie bag when you walk your dogs so you can pick up anything they leave in your neighbors' yards or along the easements, where people might step in it. Thank you for being a responsible dog-owner!

For updates on Wingfield events, policies, or other information, please check our website: wingfieldreserve.org. And finally, be sure to join the Facebook page, "Wingfield Reserve Residents" for current postings.

HAVE A WONDERFUL FALL SEASON HERE IN CENTRAL FLORIDA!

The Reserve is published by the Wingfield Reserve Homeowners Association. Wingfield Reserve HOA does not endorse the products and services advertised in this newsletter. For advertising rates and to reserve space, call Joan Ward at (407) 923-3708. The deadline for article submissions is the 15th of the month preceding the newsletter's publication.

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Visit Our Website: WWW.WINGFIELDRESERVE.ORG

Wingfield Reserve Social Committee News

The Social Committee held a neighborhood "Coffee" on August 31st at Becca Geeslin's house, which was a time for neighbors to come and have "coffee and conversation" around the kitchen table! Our Fall Social Event was an outdoor "Fall Festival" held September 20th at the tennis court, with games and prizes! Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of food and drinks, a bounce-house and DJ, and lots of fun for Wingfield adults and families!

We have some upcoming events in the works, including: "Winter Coffee and Cookie Exchange" in December, "Casino Night" in March, and our "Kickoff to Summer Ice Cream Social" in May. Please watch your e-mail and visit the Wingfield Reserve Facebook page for details!

Warm Regards from your Social Committee,

Becca Geeslin
rebecca.geeslin@gmail.com

Holly Coffey
jeffnholly@cfl.rr.com

Susie Reale
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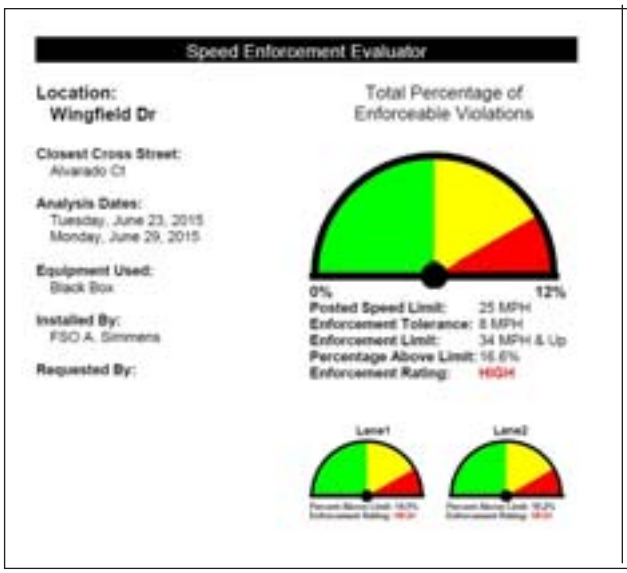
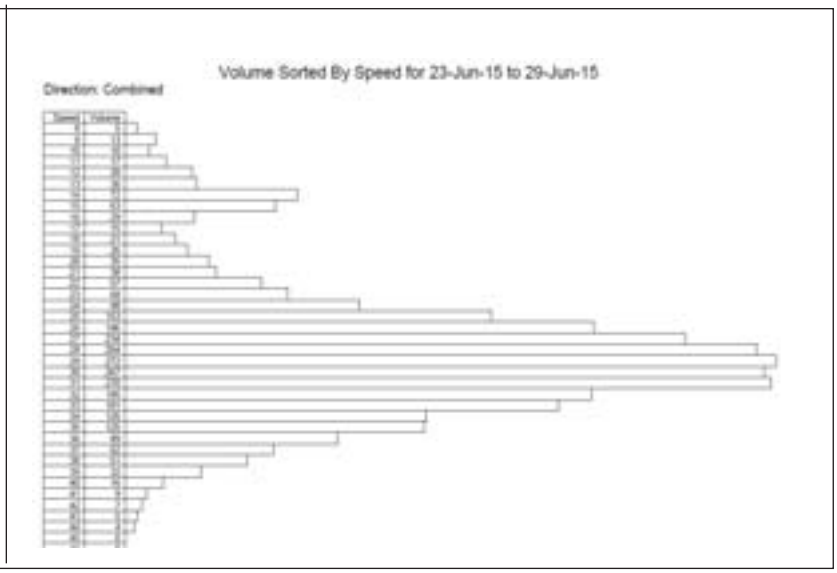
Wingfield Reserve Traffic/Speeding Update





Wingfield Reserve was fortunate enough to get Seminole County Sheriff's Department radar trailer set up this summer. Traffic information was collected on June 23 and June 29, 2015. Full copies of this report are available on the www.WingfiedReserve.orgwebsite.

Nearly 17% of the traffic exceeded the speed limit plus than enforcement tolerance of 8 miles per hour, meaning enforcement for this study was set at 34 miles per hour. The table (above left) provides a desktop view of the data. The percent above enforceable limit was between 14.9 and 18.2 percent of the traffic recorded.

The table (above right) shows the traffic volume sorted by speed. It indicates number of vehicles traveling at speeds between 8 to 44 miles per hour.The average speed was around 29 miles per hour. The 17% above 34 miles per hour is considered enforceable for this study.

Our Security details are now tailoring their schedules to align with high speed periods and school bus stops. Again remember the full report is available on the www.WingfieldReserve.org website.

Mike Bledsoe, *Security Chairperson*

Wingfield Reserve Landscape Committee News

June 1st marked the beginning of hurricane season in Florida. Much of the hurricane damage that occurs in Central Florida is a result of trees uprooting and falling down. Recently there were two trees that fell over onto Wingfield Drive and there wasn't even a hurricane! There is still time to evaluate the trees in your landscape for potential hazards. Storm damage can be reduced with preventive action. Contacting a tree service company who can closely inspect the health of the trees can minimize damage to trees from storms. Certain species do not fare well from storms in the past. Water oaks, which are abundant in Wingfield, are prone to decay and their roots may rot.

We have had a very rainy summer and the ponds and swale are full again. If you notice the water fountains and/or lights are not functioning, please call our representative, Marlo, at Sentry Management.

In case you have not noticed, The South entrance has a new retaining wall on the right hand side, which enhances the annuals as you drive in.

In November, we plan on pressure cleaning the neighborhood, the common areas will be mulched and new annuals installed. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer on the landscape committee, please contact me. Enjoy the cool weather this fall!

Staci Farley,
Landscape Committee Chairperson

THANK YOU...

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Who Make The Publication Of This Newsletter Possible!

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National Fire Prevention Week

October 4 – October 10, 2015

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep - Every Bedroom Needs A Working Smoke Alarm" as the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week, which takes place from October 4th though October 10th. Stressing that approximately half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. when most people are asleep, NFPA is stressing just how important bedroom smoke alarms are to saving lives. If there is a fire in your home, having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half, according to NFPA. Smoke spreads fast and working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

NFPA recommends homeowners:

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Install smoke alarms on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf should use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Fire Prevention Week occurs annually in October during the week in which October 9th falls, commemorating the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 which killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871. Each year, NFPA works in coordination with partnering companies, organizations and fire departments to promote Fire Prevention Week and its fire safety messages throughout North America.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week and this year's campaign theme, please visit www.fpw.org.

A Bear-Wise Policy for Wingfield Reserve

(continued from page 1)

support of the policy and our intentions to reduce conflicts with bears. We plan to continue to assess comments from Wingfield Reserve residents, and to adopt the appropriate Bear-Wise policies at the September HOA Board meeting.

In general, the policy provides recommendations to homeowners on ways to reduce exposure to bears seeking human-generated food sources such as birdseed, food associated with barbecue grills, external refrigerators, and most importantly trash. A key component of the policy will be the requirement that every Wingfield Reserve resident use bear-resistant trash cans that can be handled by our waste-disposal contractor.

We are monitoring the potential for the Seminole County Commission to purchase the bear-resistant trash cans for residents west of Interstate 4. We are in close contact with Commissioner Lee Constantine who is leading this effort. He has advised us to purchase the bear-resistant cans now because of the current uncertainty with the timing of these actions by the County.

Let There Be Light!

Please contact Duke Energy at 1-800-228-8485 if you notice street lamps in the Wingfield Reserve community that are out or working improperly. You can also send your request electronically by visiting https://secure.progress-energy.com/sid/custservice/fla/selfservice/electric/streetlight. They'll send a technician out to remedy the problem as soon as possible.

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Watering Restrictions will Change in November

The St. Johns River Water Management District currently restricts residential watering to two days per week with odd numbered addresses permitted to water on Wednesday and Saturday only and even numbered addresses permitted to water on Thursday and Sunday only. During Eastern Standard Time however, residential watering is restricted to once per week.

Beginning November 1, 2015 through March 12, 2016 even numbered addresses may water only on Sunday and odd numbered addresses may water only on Saturday. No watering is allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. any day of the week.

Please check your sprinkler timer(s)/systems to ensure that they are set for the correct days and times. For more information about water restrictions, please visit floridaswater.com/wateringrestrictions/.

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The Seminole County Solid Waste Management Division offers residential recycling collection service to all households in the unincorporated Seminole County area that participate in the curbside collection service. Before putting items in your recycling bin, please rinse out all containers and discard lids.

The following items ARE accepted in the curbside recycling program:

- Pasteboard (i.e., cereal boxes, empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls, soda boxes, beer boxes, tissue boxes, gift boxes, pizza boxes and shoe boxes)
- Brown paper grocery bags (no wax, no wet strength material, no liners)
- Corrugated cardboard (flattened and cut down to fit inside the recycle bin)
- Newspaper, supplements, magazines and catalogs
- Box Board, Carrier Stock, White and Colored Paper
- Plastic Containers #1-7 (#'s can be found on bottom of containers)
  Remove all lids
- Glass bottles and jars (clear, green and brown) Remove all lids
- Aluminum cans
- Steel cans and tin household containers
- Telephone Books

The following items ARE NOT included in the curbside recycling program:

- Plastic Bags
- Plastic Cups
- Paper Cups (Wax Lined)
- Paper Plates (Wax Lined)
- Motor oil or pesticide containers
- Light bulbs or drinking glassware
- Aluminum foil or pie plates
- Paint or pesticide cans
- Electronic devices
- Egg cartons and styrofoam trays

Homeowner Association Construction Requirements

Architectural Review Board (ARB) approval is valid for twelve months. Construction must start within this period. Violations of these requirements constitute a violation of the Association documents.

- All approved construction activities are to be completed within twelve months from start.
- Construction vehicles, equipment, materials and dumpsters can not be left in the street overnight.
- Measures are to be taken to prevent all damage to adjacent properties.
- Activities that produce noise that can be heard inside adjacent properties are to be minimized and restricted to the period from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Construction vehicles are to be parked on the same side of the street and in front of the construction property without obstructing driveways.
- Outside loud music by contractors is not allowed.
- The street pavement must be kept clean and free of debris.
- It is the homeowner's responsibility to promptly report street pavement and curb damage to Seminole County Public Works.
- Homeowner/Contractor is to make a best effort to minimize damage to the property's landscaping and to restore same before completion of the work.

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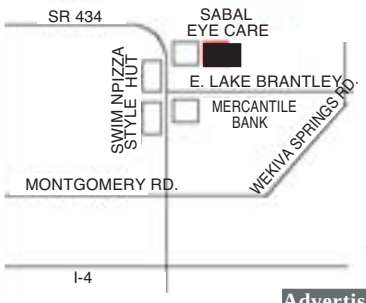

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Landscaping Corner

October marks the start of Florida's dry season. The big storms become fewer and the rains begin to lessen. Autumn is finally here and the cooler, dryer weather is just weeks away. Following are some tips to help your landscape thrive during the fall and winter season.

- **Water infrequently, deeply and thoroughly** – Most lawns need about 3/4 to 1 inch of water once per week, or once every two weeks when the weather cools. Water can come from rain, or from irrigation. Infrequent but deep watering encourages deep rooting, as well as healthier and hardier plants with a greater tolerance for drought.
- **Water at the right time of day** – Water early in the day, especially in warmer weather, when evaporation rates are lowest. Keep in mind that St. Johns River Water Management District watering restrictions will change to watering once per week between November 1, 2015 and March 12, 2016.
- **Too much water can hurt plants** – Over-watering creates shallow roots, making plants more vulnerable to disease and pests, as well as to drought.
- **Watch your lawn instead of a schedule or calendar** – Your lawn needs watering when:
  - √ Grass blades are folded in half
  - √ Grass blades are blue-gray
  - √ Your footprint remains on the lawn
- **Mulching** – Mulch is an important consideration this time of the year to help keep weeds in check, enrich the soil and to prevent the soil from drying out when we get further into the dry season. At least two inches is suggested around shrubs, trees, annuals and vegetable and flower gardens.
- **Remove weeds and add native plants** – Weeds or other unwanted plants use water. Removing them means more water for the plants you want. Native plants are adapted to our rainy and dry seasons, and offer habitat to area wildlife.
- **Install a rain sensor** – This recognizes when nature brings the water your lawn needs, and shuts off automatic sprinklers.
- **Adjust your lawn mower blades** – Most lawns are healthiest when blades are 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches long. Longer blades shade the soil, and keep in water.
- **Keep lawn mower blades sharp** – Clean, sharp cuts cause less trauma to grass blades, making the grass more resistant to disease.

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Put "Set Up A House Watch" On Your To-Do List Before Leaving!

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