

THE RESERVE

Please Visit Our Website: www.WingfieldReserve.org

A Quarterly Newsletter Published for Members and Friends of Wingfield Reserve

FLORIDA'S GROWING WATER CRISIS

Did you know that Florida is one of the top four water-consuming states, behind California, Texas and Idaho? Our state is surrounded by water on three sides and has thousands of lakes, rivers and springs. With all this water, some people don't realize that our freshwater supplies are *seriously at risk* due to overuse, waste, pollution and salt water contamination. Imagine the impact of a severe community water shortage on your life, family and property values.

There is growing concern that Florida's political leaders have not made progress in addressing our freshwater problems. Here are some facts and actions you can take to help focus attention on Florida's growing water crisis.

What Problems?

Our local news reporters regularly document that Florida's water resources are seriously challenged, and the situation is growing worse.

- South Florida is experiencing increases in deaths of manatees, brown pelicans, bottlenose dolphins and several fish species in the Indian River Lagoon (Brevard County). Wildlife officials suspect the deaths are tied to algae outbreaks fed by nutrient-polluted water.
- Florida's governor declared a state of emergency in three counties (Lee, Martin, St. Lucie), blaming the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for problems related to an aging dike protecting communities south of Lake Okeechobee. Although the lake is polluted with nutrients from fertilizer, sewage and stormwater, its rising levels force releases of billions of gallons of polluted water along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, affecting freshwater/saltwater balances, pollution levels, beaches and aquatic life.
- In North Florida, the Apalachicola seafood industry has been declining as the City of Atlanta pulls more water from the river that supports the bay supplying 90% of Florida's oysters. Florida has sued Georgia in a case that has reached the U. S. Supreme Court and is being mediated.
- Here in Central Florida, the aquifer supporting our freshwater use is at or beyond capacity. Regional springs are being choked by development-related nitrogen runoff and there are frequent reports of reduced springs flow,

algae clogging of streams and decreasing surface and groundwater levels.

Florida's water resources are essential to our lives, homes, businesses and agriculture, and critical to the state's tourist industry. So why is our water supply in trouble? Some point to Supply, Demand and Inaction.

Fresh Water Supplies

Most local drinking water is drawn from the Floridian aquifer, an underground reservoir of water moving through holes and cracks in our peninsula's limestone foundations. The underground limestone absorbs and holds water, and allows it to flow invisibly through the state.

The aquifer's water is replenished through the natural process of "recharge", which occurs as water seeps down from the surface, through layers of earth, such as when it rains. Experts believe that about 2/3 of Florida's average 50" - 55" annual rainfall evaporates or runs into lakes and streams *before* it can soak into the ground, leaving only about 13" available for aquifer recharge. Over-pumping of the aquifer is currently reducing underground water supplies, spring flows and surface water levels. Meanwhile, consumption by Florida water users is on the rise.

Alternate Water Resources

There are other water resources available including reclaimed water (used for irrigation, not consumption), river water requiring additional processing, and water from saltwater desalinization.

Reclaimed Water - while progress has been made in reclaiming Florida storm runoff and sanitary wastewater, land development has steadily added more paved surfaces, reduced open space for soil absorption and resulted in larger quantities of stormwater being released to the ocean to prevent flooding.

River Water - Central Florida is interested in using St. Johns River water as a processed drinking water source. This idea has been hotly opposed by other municipalities including the City of Jacksonville due to concerns about reduced river flows and impacts to fishing and wildlife.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dale James, *WRHA Board President*

We want to welcome all the new residents to our neighborhood! We encourage everyone to get to know your neighbors so we can work together to keep our community a beautiful, friendly and safe place to live. Please come to the events that the Social Committee has planned, to meet neighbors and have a good time! Invitations for the family fall festival to be held in October, will be sent out by mail and email.

We have a Facebook page for residents: Wingfield Reserve Residents. Please check out this forum for questions, observations, requests, events and other neighborhood information exchange.

Our website is: wingfieldreserve.org where you can find information on events, Wingfield documents, including bylaws, covenants, bear policy, Architectural Review Board (ARB) forms, Board Member and Sentry Management contact information, and a password-protected member directory.

As a friendly reminder, any exterior modifications to your house or property need to be approved by the ARB before work begins. This includes new driveways, landscaping, removal of trees, painting the exterior of your house, new roof, or other outside modifications. The ARB form can be found on our website, or you can obtain the form from Marlo at Sentry Management. She can be reached at (407) 788-6700, extension 51111.

Another reminder is that bear-proof garbage cans must be brought back up off the street on same day as pick-up, per the bear policy guidelines, and stored in your garage. We are seeing some cans left out overnight, and this becomes an attractant for bears, even when the cans are empty.

Security in our neighborhood is a concern for all of us, and we want to do what we can to prevent incidents from occurring. As neighbors, if you see anything unusual like a suspicious car or activity, please call 911 – even if it doesn't turn out to be anything. The Sheriff's department wants us to report anything that even seems suspicious and they will come out to investigate.

If you are going on vacation, remember to stop newspapers and contact the Sheriff's department for a house-watch form. They will check on your house during the time you are away. Their non-emergency number is (407) 665-6650.

New signs at both Wingfield Reserve entrances should be installed during the month of October. We are excited to be able to update the look of our neighborhood and have the means to post community notices and information for you!

**HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY FALL SEASON!**

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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Dale James	President	(407) 788-0960	djames@informasoftware.com
Mike Bledsoe	Treasurer	(407) 493-3933	mbledsoe@villagefarms.com
Jay Exum	Director	(321) 229-5653	jay.h.exum@gmail.com
Becca Geeslin	Director	(407) 453-2353	rebecca.geeslin@gmail.com
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Property Manager – Marlo Sanders • E-mail: msanders@sentrymgt.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Joan Ward • 538 Sabal Trail Circle • Longwood, FL 32779

(407) 923-3708 • E-mail: jmward123@yahoo.com

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Please contact our Property Manager – Marlo Sanders

Phone: (407) 788-6700 ext. 51111

GROUNDS / PONDS / SWALES

Staci Farley

SGFarley@aol.com

Jay Exum

jay.h.exum@gmail.com

SECURITY

Mike Bledsoe

mbledsoe@villagefarms.com

SOCIAL

Becca Geeslin

Rebecca.geeslin@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Amanda Shapiro amandakshapiro@gmail.com (786) 556-9691

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.WINGFIELDRESERVE.ORG

FLORIDA'S GROWING WATER CRISIS *(continued from page 1)*

Desalinization - freshwater extracted from the oceans can help coastal areas, but the process is energy intensive, very expensive and produces concentrated salt by-products.

There are no easy or inexpensive ways to develop new water resources so past efforts have focused on finding workable combinations of water management, conservation and resource protection. The question is, are these actions enough?

Fresh Water Demand

In 2014, over 90% of Central Florida's water was drawn from the aquifer, and Orlando area withdrawals were estimated at approximately 800 million gallons of water per day. This was according to St. Johns River Water Management District experts who also determined that only about 50 million additional gallons per day remained before aquifer limits were exceeded.

In the meantime, commercial and residential development has continued and water demand from existing users has increased. A projection from the Central Florida Water Initiative indicates that our served population will expand from 2.7 million to 4.1 million people by 2035, and that water demand will grow to over 1,100 million gallons per day... an increase of 300 million gallons/day, and 250 million gallons beyond aquifer capacity. Our water supplies are stretched, demand is growing, and water-related restrictions, litigation and consumption costs can only skyrocket.

Concerns About Inaction

Floridians have been sounding alarms about freshwater supplies for years. Concerns include lack of controls on development and environmental impacts, wetland losses, groundwater pollution from industrial and agricultural sources like paper, sugar, large scale ranching and farming, saltwater intrusion and the escalating water consumption of communities, power plants, tourist complexes and theme parks. It seems clear that lack of urgency or agreement between politicians, businesses, lobbyists and trade/industry groups has stymied meaningful progress. For example:

- Leaking septic tanks are believed to be a major source of nutrient pollution, but in 2011 the Florida program to identify leaking septic tanks was repealed due to industry and homeowner opposition.
- Also in 2011, tax cuts were enacted that slashed funding for the regional water management agencies charged with protecting Florida's water supply. The Water Management Districts were visibly forced to lay off staff and scale back programs and enforcement activities focused on over-pumping and pollution.
- In 2014 voters passed a constitutional amendment reserving hundreds of millions of dollars for land and water conservation. Since then lawmakers have diverted hundreds of millions of those funds to paying for routine state expenses.
- Each legislative session Florida House and Senate members handle hundreds of proposed bills, but few meaningful water resource initiatives have resulted.

ACTIONS NEEDED – WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

1. **Learn More About the Problem** – consider gathering more information or doing additional research on the water-related issues most important to you. Sources are listed below.
2. **Voice Your Concern** – citizens concerned about Florida's growing water crisis can share their views with local County officials and Florida House and Senate elected representatives. Selected contact information is included below.
3. **Support Water-Related Organizations and Initiatives** – decide what other actions you think are needed to protect your family's water future. Some actions that have been recommended include:
 - Restoration of the budgets and activities of the Water Management Districts.

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WINGFIELD RESERVE SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

Happy Fall from the Wingfield Reserve Social Committee! We hope everyone had a great summer and by now everyone should be into their full school schedule and fall activities! We had our annual Casino Night for our Wingfield Reserve adults 18 and older at Linda Byrd/Portman's residence on October 1st. Thank you to all who helped organize the event and also to Linda for opening her home to our neighbors! It was a great event with Casino tables, Wingfield Dollars to play with, a bartender, appetizers, door prizes, and a lovely evening getting to mingle with our neighbors! We are looking forward to the next Casino night already!

Don't forget to RSVP for the Fall Social happening on **Sunday October 16th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the tennis courts. Jeremiahs Ice Cream truck, beer, wine, snacks, Music and games with prizes, crafts, and a bounce house for the little ones will be provided, we just need you to stop by and say hello!

This year our Wingfield Mom's group is organizing the neighborhood trick-or-treating for the kids! This was a big success the last two years and is a really fun way for you and the kids to get around our neighborhood. There will be sign up sheets at the Neighborhood Fall Social. If you would like to be part of this event, please contact Susie Reale at (321) 229-6333. It will also be posted on our Wingfield Reserve Facebook page and we will send an email out as well. This is not an HOA sponsored event but is very well organized by our Wingfield Reserve Mom's group and promises to be a GREAT time!

Please watch for the date and time of our December coffee and cookie exchange at Becca Geeslin's house. We held our first one last year, which was a lot of fun! This is a morning event for any of our neighbors. This is a drop by event, but RSVP's are encouraged. If you have little ones at home, please feel free to bring them! We are also "dog" friendly!

We wish you and your family a wonderful Fall and Winter! If you have any questions or would like to be part of the social committee, please contact Becca Geeslin at (407) 453-2353 or email her at rebecca.geeslin@gmail.com. We are always in need of volunteers, organizers, and ideas!

Your social committee,

Becca Geeslin
rebecca.geeslin@gmail.com

Susie Reale
susie@realerealtycfl.com

SEMINOLE COUNTY RECYCLING RULES

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

COYOTES IN WINGFIELD RESERVE: COMMON, BUT ELUSIVE - AND HERE TO STAY

Coyotes in Wingfield Reserve: common, but elusive - and here to stay. I have been asked to write about wildlife in the neighborhood – this article’s focus – coyotes. Wary, highly mobile, urban-adapted and incredibly resilient to persecution, coyotes have famously escaped wholesale attempts at eradication. And, they have methodically moved across the eastern U.S. in the last 50 years. But how, and why?

The steady movement of the coyote from western states over the last several decades is, in part due to the removal of the wolf and cougar from the landscape in the eastern United States. The lack of predation by these megafauna has established the wily coyote as an apex predator in much of its current range. Interestingly, through control of other predators such as raccoons, foxes and opossums, they actually enhance biological diversity in areas where they occur. For example, research showed that an influx of coyotes in an area with ground-nesting ducks actually resulted in an increase in nest success due to the reduction in population of raccoons, foxes and skunks.

Coyotes have been able to immigrate east so quickly for a number of reasons. They can actually increase reproductive success in areas where their populations are low – and they have sustained high numbers of pups per litter as they have marched toward the Atlantic. They are also opportunistic feeders: preying upon white-tailed deer fawns and calves while sustaining a substantial diet of fruits, nuts and vegetative material. Obviously, plans to eliminate the coyote never panned out, and society’s perspective about indiscriminate predator control have so drastically changed that coyotes have moved relatively unscathed into new areas.

I seldom see coyotes in the middle of the day, but they appear fairly frequently on my remote cameras - mostly at night and usually in groups with two to four individuals. Several neighbors’ outdoor cats have disappeared in the last couple of years - I suspect that I know why. You may not get even a glimpse of a coyote in Wingfield Reserve, but from the suburban fringe to rural areas to the middle of the wilderness, coyotes are alive and well and they have no plans to leave. Like foxes and bears, they are a part of our wild ecosystem with potential benefits to other wild species in Wingfield Reserve.

Jay Exum, *Director*

WINGFIELD RESERVE 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 Wingfield Reserve 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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FLORIDA'S WATER CRISIS

(continued from page 3)

- Development of a comprehensive, funded plan to reduce pollution from wastewater systems and septic tanks.
- Upgrading Florida's 30-year old stormwater management standards.
- Developing a credible statewide policy to control agricultural fertilizer use.

While newspapers, conservation organizations and wildlife protection groups have highlighted Florida's water crisis, it appears that only voters have the power to stimulate needed change. **Here's hoping that Wingfield Reserve families will raise their voices and demand solutions through some of these contacts.**

- **Resources/Web/Newsletter Sources**

- **Friends of the Wekiva River**

- www.friendsofwekiva.wordpress.com

- **St. Johns River Keepers**

- www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org • (904) 551-0938

- **Central Florida Water Initiative**

- www.cfwiwater.com

- **St. Johns River Water Management District**

- www.sjrwmd.com

- **Contact Your Elected Representatives**

- **Congressman John Mica**

- U.S. House of Representatives
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4035 • (202) 224-3121

- **Florida Senator David Simmons**

- District Office:
220 Crown Oak Centre Drive
Longwood, FL 32750 • (407) 262-7578

- **Florida House Speaker Steve Crisafulli**

- District Office:
2460 North Courtenay Parkway, Suite 108
Merritt Island, FL 32953-4193 • (321) 449-5111

- **Florida Representative Scott Plakon**

- District Office: 1855 W. State Road 434, Suite 222
Longwood, FL 32750-5071 • (407) 262-7423

- **Seminole County Commissioner Lee Constantine**

- Board of County Commissioners
Seminole County Services Building
1101 E. First Street
Sanford, FL 32771 • (407) 665-7207

A VERY HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RESIDENTS

Joseph Alread & Erika Stensvaag

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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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LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE NEWS



Fall is officially here and I'm sure we all are looking forward to spending more time outdoors! We had a very hot summer and not enough rain as last year. As a result, the ponds (especially at North entrance) and swales are low. Additionally, our annuals at the entrances had to be changed out early due to irrigation issues that have now been resolved. If anyone notices any problems, please contact Marlo at Sentry Management.

Tree trimming will be done at the entrances in addition to pressure washing and mulching before the holidays. Please remember not to feed the wildlife. It is for their survival!

If you have an interest in volunteering, please contact me!

WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!

Staci Farley, Landscape Committee Chairperson

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 change to watering once per week between November 6, 2016 and March 12, 2017.
- **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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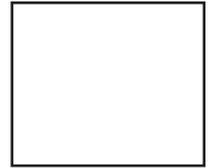
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