



# Courtenay Notes

of the North Merritt Island  
Homeowners Association, Inc.

www.nmihoa.org



Issue No. 345

Serving the North Merritt Island Community since 1986

January 2016

## Permits Required for Eco-tour Operators at Manatee Cove and PICA

Brevard County Commission voted unanimously on Dec. 15th to require eco-tour operators in the County to purchase annual permits. Beginning in January 2016, these businesses must buy a \$500 general permit which will allow them to launch from 22 specified county parks 7 days a week with no holiday restrictions.

Perhaps more importantly to NMI residents, an additional restricted-use permit will be required for all tour operations launched at Manatee Cove or Pine Island Conservation Area. Those permits will be offered through a lottery selection process for selected days of the week at each site (selected holidays excluded). The fee for this permit is \$250, paid quarterly for each day of the week the business wants to operate (\$1000 annually). Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays of each week will be available at

(continued on page 3)

## Events Calendar



Mon., Jan. 4, 7:00 p.m.  
Monthly meeting.

Sat., Feb. 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Pioneer Day Festival, Sams House  
and St. Luke's, N. Tropical Trail.

Monthly Meetings at St. Luke's,  
5555 N. Tropical Trail  
All meetings are open.



About 150 attended the 1st annual Handy Pro Jumping Challenge held in December at Manatee Cove 4H Equestrian Center. Photo by Cassandra Thomas shows Coleton Cook performing during the competition.

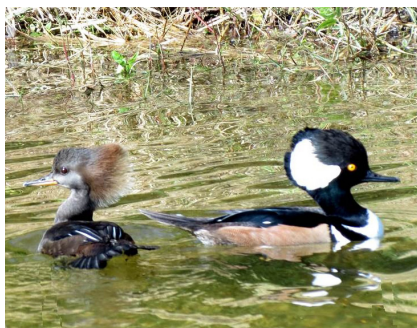
## Recycle Christmas Trees Curbside

By Erin LeClair, Brevard Recycling  
T'was the week after Christmas and all through the house, the Christmas tree needles are everywhere...you get the picture...you have gift boxes flattened for recycling, cards, and wrapping paper too, but did you know that you can also recycle your Christmas tree... who knew?

Yes, Brevard County residents can place their Christmas trees curbside on their regular yard waste recycling day. The tree must have all the lights, ornaments, tinsel, flocking (fake snow spray), and stands removed. Trees are collected with the yard waste and then ground up to make mulch.

Visit the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa at 2250 Adamson Road, to pick up your free mulch. Here is a little insider tip... always ask for the log mulch. You can call ahead to see if the landfill has any log mulch available at 633-1888. Check out all the Solid Waste and Recycling information available on our Brevard County Solid Waste Website: [www.brevardcounty.us/swr](http://www.brevardcounty.us/swr)

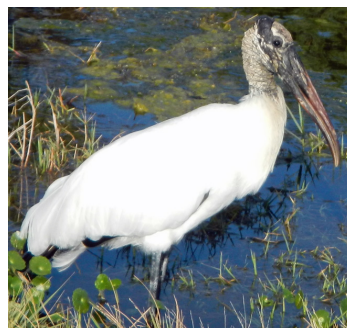
## Wildlife Sightings on North Merritt Island



1.



2.



3.



4.

Date	Time	Species	Location/Activity	Observer(s)
11/10/15	noon	Softshell turtle	E. Crisafulli Rd.	Ted Balke
11/22/15	evening	Red Eastern Ratsnake, and rat	Mitchell Ellington Park, ratsnake eating a rat!	Bill Uttenweiler
11/28/15	12:45 p.m.	Hooded Merganser ducks	Space Commerce Way	David Brubaker
11/28/15	8:55 a.m.	Wood Stork	Moose Lodge retention pond	Bob Bishopric
11/29/15	evening	Sandhill Cranes Gopher Tortoise	Mitchell Ellington Park	Bill Uttenweiler
12/14/15	7:15 a.m.	Barred Owl Red shouldered hawk	Mitchell Ellington Park	Jim Wolff

Photo credits: 1. Hooded Merganser, David Brubaker; 2. Sandhill Cranes, 4. Ratsnake with rat, and 5. Gopher Tortoise, Bill Uttenweiler; 3. Wood Stork, Bob Bishopric



5.

Please send wildlife sightings to Jim Wolff at [wolffw@cfl.rr.com](mailto:wolffw@cfl.rr.com)

## Sea Level Rise: Impacts on Culture & Environmental Resources

By Tom McFarland, past Pres. NMIHOA, Brevard Historical Soc..

A recent workshop held at the Sams House was presented by the Florida Public Archaeology Network on "Sea Level Rise: Understanding Impacts on Cultural and Environmental Resources." A panel of experts made presentations relevant to circumstances on North Merritt Island. FPAN Regional Dir. Sarah Miller and FPAN Public Archaeology Coordinator for the East Central Florida Region, Kevin Gidusko, led the workshop and identified cultural sites throughout Florida and illustrated sites imperiled by sea level. Dr. Randy Parkinson, Dir. of the Div. of Coastal Zone Watershed Mgt. at Environmental Remediation and Recovery, Inc., gave an overview of coastal sea

level rise. Dr. Parkinson explained the causes and effects for sea level rise and the consequences of one, two, or up to six degrees of annual average temperature rise on the coastal zones and specifically in East Central Florida. The cascading effects of inaction and wrong actions were made clear by Parkinson. Director Miller emphasized the importance of planning for sea level rise impacts on cultural resources. There are a number of options for preserving cultural resources in the event of sea level rise.

Dr. Paulette McFadden of the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida showed the variations in sea level over a lengthy time span in her presentation on "Late Holocene Coastal Evolution of Horseshoe Cove on the Northern Gulf Coast of Florida." The impacts of human occupation and their migration patterns show how the coastal environment changed over generations. Shifting oyster beds and salinity levels from fresh water streams had dramatic effects on that region and similar effects are likely in other regions though such variables as wave action, tidal action and population density and development must be part of the study.

Thomas Penders, the 45th Space Wing Cultural Resources Mgr., showed the an extensive report on "Climate Change and the Demise of Historic Launch Complexes of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station: What Are We Doing Before It's Too Late." The upshot of his talk was that the only option available is to carefully and accurately record the historic sites before they are lost. Penders and his team are using 3D imaging and precise documentation to provide a detailed account of what was in that area before it became inundated.

The FPAN team led the participants in a game to evaluate various options that might be considered for preservation of the Sams House cultural resources and for the St. Luke's Historic Chapel and Cemetery. Much of North Merritt Island and many of our cultural treasures will be lost or become uninhabitable as sea levels rise.

## Port Seeks Permission for Feasibility Study of Cargo Rail Thru CCAFS

The Canaveral Port Authority (CPA) has requested access through the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS) to add that route to the federal environmental review of the Port's cargo rail project. The Surface Transportation Board (STB) paused the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to allow the Port to evaluate the feasibility of a CCAFS rail route. Once the CPA evaluates the Air Force route, it will request the STB to resume the environmental review process of all three routes including the very publicly opposed routes through North Merritt Island and KSC's wildlife refuge and one that parallels SR-528.

## Sams House January Activities

*The Sams House at Pine Island, 6195 N. Tropical Trail, is now open Tuesdays through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Programs are free. Call for reservations 321 449-3720. [www.facebook.com/samshousepineisland](http://www.facebook.com/samshousepineisland)*

**Sams House Guided Hikes** - Saturday, Jan. 2, and 16, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Wear protective clothing.

**Illustrating the Past** - Sat., Jan. 9, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Vera Zimmerman, noted historian artist, will discuss art that brings the past to life. Her art can be seen in Sams House exhibits and displays as well as many historical publications.

**Night Flight Insect Observation** - Saturday, Jan. 23, 7 to 9 p.m. Entomologist, Teresa Cooper, PhD, will lead an exploration using screens and lights of the night flight of various insects.

**Sustainable Hats** - Sunday, Jan. 24, noon to 2:30 p.m. Diana Sageser will show participants how to repurpose old hats. Bring your bonnet. She will also discuss the effects of fashion on the birds of Florida in days of old.

**Sams House and Cabin Tours** - Thursdays and Saturdays at 3 p.m. Tour inside Brevard's oldest standing home and learn about the pioneering Sams family.

This newsletter was mailed to members only. Please share the information with your neighbors and encourage them to join the NMIHOA.

North Merritt Island Homeowners Assn., Inc.

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Beautification: Ted Balke, (908) 917-6769

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Published monthly for residents of North Merritt Island from the Barge Canal to the Kennedy Space Center.

Deadline for input is first Monday during the Association monthly meeting. Past editions can be viewed at the

Merritt Island Library, Reference Department.

Webmaster: Chris Cook, 453-7022

Website: [www.nmihoa.org](http://www.nmihoa.org)

### Membership Year - July 1 through June 30

Mail \$10 per individual to: North Merritt Island Homeowners, Assn., Inc.,  
P.O. Box 542372, Merritt Island, FL 32954-2372

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☐ I prefer to receive the newsletter by Email, rather than U.S. Postal Service.

☐ Please check here if you would also like to receive Emails about topics of interest to NMI residents.



# Christmas Golf Carts Parade the Streets of North M.I.



Photos by Chris Minerva

More photos can be seen at [www.nmihoa.org](http://www.nmihoa.org)

You did it again! NMI residents came out shining for the 8th annual Christmas golf cart parade. Terri Dingman, organizer, reported 36 vehicles including golf carts, bicycles, fire truck, antique pickup truck, tractor and trailer, four wheelers... you name it. All were decorated with lights and ornaments of all kinds. New people led the parade so the route was a little different than in past parades. Sorry. Terri said she would like some help in the form of a committee to keep the little parade on track and help with some of the logistics. Think about it for next year. The Ethridges hosted an "after party" at their riverfront home. After watching from their front yards, a few new carts joined in this year. We hope to print a small map with the route for next year. Always room for improvement. What a wonderful place to live!



## Permits Required.....(continued from page 1)

Manatee Cove, while Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays will available at Pine Island. Tour operators will be restricted to a maximum of 2 tours a day, with no more than 15 boats per tour, including guide boats. County Commissioners and Brevard County Parks and Recreation Director, Jack Masson, have been working on these permitting proposals with tour operators for over a year as a means to help protect the "fragile ecosystem" of these waterways, and reduce the congestion at our area parks. The County will revisit the issue in six months. The money generated from the fees, estimated to be as much as \$15,000 annually, will be used for maintenance at the parks where the tours launch.

While Parks staff will help monitor enforcement of these regulations and will report violators to law enforcement, local residents are also encouraged to keep a watchful eye and report any abuses of the new rules.

## Gator Drive Business Ordered to Close

An eco-tourism business located on Gator Drive off of SR-3 has been issued a 180-day injunction (effective 11/24/15) by Brevard County to cease and discontinue commercial on-site business including selling concession items and selling off-site tours of any kind including accepting payments and requiring check-in at the Gator Drive property. This injunction was due to several violations of Brevard County ordinances.





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