



CRACKER CRUMBS



WWW.FL-SKP-RESORT.ORG

The Florida SKP Co-Op, 2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873-4870

Summer 2018

Florida SKP Resort Welcomes New Office Manager



In July, we welcomed Phyllis Colby as office manager after Alyssa submitted her resignation in order to pursue other opportunities.

Cheryl Lamoreaux, Treasurer, Margaret McIntyre, Asst. Treasurer, and Pat Dubuc, Finance Committee representative, interviewed eight applicants and were unanimously impressed with Phyllis' experience with Quick Books, her proven track record of office management, her outgoing personality, and her love of people.

Phyllis is originally from Nahant in eastern Massachusetts, a peninsula surrounded on three sides by the Atlantic Ocean and located about 14 miles north of Boston. She became a resident of Sebring in 2002 after a short stay in Fort Lauderdale.

Phyllis' family includes one daughter and two young adult grands, all living in Florida, as well as her faithful companion, Honey, her 9 year old shih tzu terrier mix who is still adjusting to being alone all day.

After running a home-based business for 12 years, Phyllis grew tired of the isolation and is excited to be a part of an active, vibrant community.

Alyssa expressed her appreciation for the opportunities to grow and has appreciated the support of staff and members. She said she will miss her interactions with everyone and wishes us the best.

Alyssa's address, if you would like to send a note, is:

4608 Starfish Ave, Sebring FL 33870

Reservations Now Available for 2019 Season

Reservations are being accepted. Check out our new website at www.fl-skp-resort.org for the rental policy and rates under the "Home" drop-down menu on the home page.

There are no openings for January. Those desiring a February stay can make their reservations beginning September 1, but we suggest you call as early in the month as possible. Sites go fast.

March reservations will be taken beginning October 1.

Important Request

When Paying Your Monthly Electric Bill...

In an effort to streamline some of the office routines, we are being asked to place our payments, both monthly and quarterly, in the "OFFICE" slot in the mailroom.

They will no longer be processed on an individual basis. A receipt confirming your payment will be placed in your mailbox once it is recorded.

National Senior Citizen's Day August 21



"When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra."

- Will Rogers

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SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday
9 am—4 pm
863-735-1499



A Friendly Reminder



There is limited business conducted during the off season of May-October. The business office is open sporadically so please be patient waiting for attention to your inquiry.

Board Members

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Bob Lewis, A-13 |
| Vice President | Frank King, A-15 |
| Secretary | Anne Warren, H-18 |
| Treasurer ... | Cheryl Lamoreaux, S-07 |
| Ass't Treasurer .. | Margaret McIntyre, A-14 |
| At Large | Ed Landry, A-35 |
| At Large | Norm Milliard, F-04 |

Shelter Seminar & Emergency Preparedness

Jill Newman, Director of Hardee County Emergency Management, spoke to 25 Escapees at the Florida SKP Resort on July 16. Jill informed the group that her staff responds to such disasters as hazardous material spills, brush fires, and other emergency incidents.

Emergency responders include about 35 individuals from Hardee County offices such as Health Department, Building and Zoning, hospitals, schools, etc., who practice simulated disasters on a regular basis.

Of primary interest to our group was how to respond to a hurricane. The hurricane season, June 1 through November 30, is predicted to have 13 named storms in 2018 including as many as 6 hurricanes, 2 of which are expected to be Category 3 or above.

Personal Evac Preparations

- In preparation for an approaching hurricane, follow instructions from local officials and use this checklist:
- Check on your neighbors.
- Unplug appliances but set the refrigerator to its highest setting if you're leaving food in it.
- Turn off propane
- Cover windows.
- Fill the tub with water.
- Take pictures of your home, inside and out, and send the pictures to someone outside the area.
- Review your insurance policy.
- Plan for where your group should meet afterward.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Cover the windows of your home.
- Remove outside objects that could become projectiles.
- Tie down golf carts.
- Wear sturdy shoes.
- Know your evacuation routes SR64, SR66, SR62, and US Hwy 17 from the Florida SKP Resort.
- Do not drive through flooded areas.

As a hurricane approaches and sustained winds become 40 mph and greater, the emergency management staff will be expected to be in place to open and prepare shelters. Public notices will appear on radio and Facebook as well as the Hardee County website, <http://www.hardeecounty.net/eoc.htm>.

Shelter Location

Jill Newman suggested that residents do a dry run to the shelter which is Hardee County Jr. High and Hilltop Elementary, the largest and newest building in the county and which was built to hurricane standards. The school (863-773-27500) is located at 2401 US Highway 17 North, about 6.5 miles north on Hwy 17. The entrance is located across the highway from the street leading to Crystal Lake Village. The front door may be locked but there should be signs directing you to turn left to the south wing of the building.

Important Information for Special Needs

People with special needs can shelter at South Florida State College Hardee Campus (863-773-3081), located at 2868 US Hwy 17N, Bowling Green, on the right beyond the intersection of SR 62.

However, these people must complete an application every January. Applications are available online at

<http://www.hardeecounty.net/site/content/eoc/files/SpecialNeedsEnglish.pdf>

or can be completed at the Emergency Operation Center (on the east side of the courthouse), 404 West Orange Street.

Applicants must require 24-hour electric or need assistance with mobility and must provide the name of the power company (Peace River Electric Co-operative for SKPS).

An excellent resource is the EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS for People With SPECIAL NEEDS available online at:

<http://www.hardeecounty.net/Site/content/eoc/files/SPNBrochureeng.pdf>

Disaster Kit Preparation

Residents are advised to prepare a disaster kit. A 5-gallon bucket is a good container because it is waterproof when sealed. Suggested contents include:

- Flashlight and fresh batteries
- A fully-charged phone
- One change of clothes
- Medicines
- Special or snack food (Food will be served at the school but there will be no accommodation for special diets.)
- Important documents
- Weather radio with extra batteries.
- 3 gallons of water per person

Pets

Hardee County does not have a pet-friendly shelter. Instead, you might choose to make a reservation early at a hotel that accepts pets. Take a crate, leash, and the pet's food and water.

ALERT  **Hardee County**
Emergency Management's Mass Notification System

Hardee County has launched a new mass notification service that will inform you of emergency alerts.. When you opt-in, you'll enter your contact information and subscribe to notifications that you would like to receive.

When Hardee County issues a notification about a time-sensitive event, you will receive the information by the methods you registered with (voice, email, text or App).

You can register with Alert Hardee County by going to <http://www.hardeecounty.net/eoc.htm> Scroll down and click on Alert Hardee County to begin your registration. You can opt out of the program at any time.

Final Thoughts

Keep in mind that shelters are crowded and noisy. People will have to sit and sleep on the floor. Instead, you might choose to stay with a friend who has a cement block house or one that has been built since 2006. **DO NOT STAY IN RVS OR MOBILE HOMES.**

Checkin' In

Robert & Jo Mellis have moved into their lot (A-20) and thoroughly enjoy the mooing of hungry cattle outside their bedroom windows each morning.



More importantly, however,

they are particularly gratified by the caring of the residents of the resort who have regularly reached out in support of Robert's battle with multiple myeloma for the past eight months.

"It feels like we are supported on a continuous basis by the caring of so many residents," Robert said. "This is the very definition of 'community'."

Robert has been laying low with his illness and shortage of energy but Jo's participation in game nights has been an enormous boon to her mental well-being.

The life of a caregiver is wearing and stressful and the endless kindnesses of the many residents will never be forgotten, they both say. It defines Escapes.

Editor's Note: With a recent change in Robert's treatment, he has experienced renewed energy. It's been great to see him enjoying the pool, Whine B4 Dine, eating out and even cleaning their motor home.

Pat & Art Dubuc report that their planned Family Reunion Cruise was spent here at Dr P Phillips Hospital Orlando.

"Great hospital, but we'd rather have been on the cruise. All's well now."



Terry Regennitter & Linda Cahill are Georgia State Park Campground hosts again this summer. "We started in the 1990's and know which parks are the best ones to work at. Seems that the smaller ones require less work and have more flexible hours. We hope to travel to North Carolina in August and come back when we are done."

Ken & Joan Tarkin are campground hosts at Bulltown Campground on Burnsville Lake in West Virginia. Although they have the inconvenience of limited phone and internet service, they are enjoying the wildlife, jamming with other musician campers,



and Joan has been teaching numerous art classes.

Unfortunately, their return to the park in the fall will include a repair to their motor home. On their way to their workkamping gig, they were t-boned by a car causing damage to about 70% of the lower section of their rig on the passenger side.

They are anticipating the inconvenience of having to find temporary living arrangements in the area of the Resort while their motor home is being repaired when they return in the fall. They welcome any suggestions to help them navigate a scenario that all full-time RVers hope never to have to deal with.

Ray & Kathy Heaton camped for a couple of weeks at the Bulltown Camp-ground operated by the Corp of Engineer where Tarkins were hosting. Their family joined them for the 4th of July holiday. Ray and Kathy graciously agreed to be the judges of the Pet parade.



After a week visiting family in Pittsburgh, **Paul & Margery Zeller** returned to Berlin, Ohio, for a week of visiting their old haunts from previous summer stays. One favorite place is the gardens at Kingwood Garden in Mansfield. Imagine our surprise to find that they had an ant problem, too!



Fall/Winter Arrivals—FYI



Call the office at least one week before you plan to arrive at the resort, and your site will be weed wacked before your arrival.

WEBSITE

New  Goes Live

Kudos to Ken Tarkin and members of the Public Relations Committee for all their efforts to design the park's new website and tagline: "Florida SKP Resort ~ Where shorts are always in season and lifelong friendships blossom."

The old website is no longer active. For anyone going to the old address, they are automatically re-directed to the new website.

The new address is "<http://fl-skp-resort.org/>

Maintenance Updates

Electric

Palmer Electric performed preventive maintenance on all the site electrical boxes.



Connections in all the electric boxes, were tightened, replaced, if necessary, and “no ox” was applied to the connections to prevent oxidation.

Palmer reported that the overall condition of our electric boxes was good and better than expected.

Water Tank

A mysterious utility trailer was parked by the yard sale shed recently, but who knew it contained the water that would be used while the main water tank was emptied and relined? (Well, of course, Danny knew!)

The tank has been sand blasted, and a primer coat of rust inhibitor has been applied. After the primer dries, the fiberglass coating will be put on and a sand filter will be added.

Kitchen Refrigerator

The condenser is leaking coolant. Our options are to replace the condenser at a cost of \$1,500 or buy a new refrigerator at a cost of \$5,000. The Board believes the repair is the best plan of action at this time.

I don't worry too much when I forget whatever I was about to say since I generally hang out with people who will probably forget I was about to say something, anyway.

Editor

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 Email: CrackerCrumbs@flskpresort.org
 Deadline for submitting articles
20th of each month
 All articles are subject to editing...and all mistakes are made with love!
 Non-member subscription available via email for free.

Help Spread the Word

FIRST-TIME Escapee guests receive a **25% discount** on their rental fee* from May 1—September 30. Let people know!

*exclusive of electricity

A Land Remembered is the selection for the November meeting. It's a wonderful book about the wild times of Florida, an excellent read and a fast one as well.

There are numerous copies available through interlibrary loan with the Heartland Library Cooperative here in Florida if the two copies at the Hardee County Library are unavailable.

Laurie Milliard will once again be leading our discussion.

The Book Club's meeting day and time will be in the November issue of *Cracker Crumbs*..



The Florida SKP Co-Op Facebook page is THE place to see pictures and important announcements, especially during the summer.

This Facebook page is visible only to members of the group, BUT it's easy to become a member of the group. Contact Cheryl Lamoreaux at DML14@cornell.edu and let her know you would like to become a member.

Once you become a member you are able to add family and friends. BTW...if you're a member, let the group know what you've been doing by posting some pictures.

Remember Library Donations!



Book donations for the Resort library are always welcome.

Any current books with copyright dates of 2010 or newer would be much appreciated.

Additionally, some books are in large demand, such as large print, Christian, westerns, biographies, and military.

Consider saving books you, family, and friends enjoyed this summer and donating them to the library. We'd love to have them for members and guests to check out this fall.

Hugging is Healthy

- It helps the immune system.
- It cures depression.
- Reduces stress.
- It's rejuvenating.
- It has no unpleasant side effects.
- It's God's miracle drug.
- It's all natural, it contains no chemicals, artificial ingredients, no pesticides, and no preservatives!

Hugging is practically perfect!

There are:

- No parts to break.
- No monthly payments.

It is:

- Non-taxable.
 - Non-polluting.
- AND it is fully returnable.



Summer at the Co-op

Park Flora & Fauna

by Paul Zeller, Landscape Committee Chair

As most of you will remember, we planted five new Sabal Palm street trees last January. Unfortunately, one of them didn't make it, and we had to take it out.



However, the other 4 are doing great and are finally showing signs of growth. The top fronds of all of them are at least 15 to 18" taller than when they arrived and were all clipped back. The one on the Hodgkins' lot (H-10) is doing so well that it has at least 3 separate fronds sprouting from the top, and it's even blooming!

We have been getting a lot of rain here in Florida which means the level of the retention pond is up so our floating island has been wandering all over the place. I have been periodically spraying herbicide

on the banks and on the parts of the island I can reach to knock down the brush that keeps sprouting. As parts of the island break off, the smaller pieces sometimes end up close to the bank where I can reach them with a rake and pull out more of the floating debris. I'm hoping we can eventually get rid of it altogether.

Speaking of the pond, we get frequent feathered visitors. I often see one or more Ibis wading along the bank.



Black Bellied Whistling Ducks came to the pond fairly regularly in June and July. Whistling Ducks do what their name says – they whistle instead of quack. When there are ducks at the pond, there are usually at least two of them (probably a pair – the males and females are very similar in appearance), but I have seen as many as 4 adults and 6 juveniles (brown speckled appearance).



Tri-colored Herons are also frequent visitors to the pond.

The white bird in the background of the photo of the Tri-colored Heron is a Cattle Egret. Cattle Egrets feed primarily on insects so they like to hang around cattle because cattle tend to stir up insects as they graze. However, Cattle Egrets sometimes also feed on small frogs. I usually see Cattle Egrets at the pond only when the neighbor's cattle are in the field behind the pond.

I have also seen one or two Snowy Egrets at the pond on occasion, but they are somewhat skittish and are therefore hard to photograph.

Park Maintenance Continues



Bob Schumann, Kevin McIntyre & Kenny Breault admire their painting skills.



Leanne Cooper, Lanette Breault, Eva & Ernie Herman were just a few of the people who helped with the annual pool porch power washing and moving most of the furniture inside.

Paul Zeller continues to apply weed killer to the island on the retention pond and dredges out the dead island pieces.



Kenny Breault & Kevin McIntyre troubleshoot the flooding problem in the back office.

Socials

Summer get-togethers include brunch, honoring our veterans, Whine B4 Dine, a cookout, & birthday celebrations.



Around the Park



Joan Tarkin personalized their shed with her painting. It remains to be seen whether she'll paint the front perspective to be seen when the door is open.



June Post drove this U-Haul down from Tennessee after selling her house and her 'stuff' to become a full-time Floridian.



Jill Newman, Director of Hardee County Emergency Management, provided residents with a wealth of information in the event of an emergency.

Reporting from the Road



Skip & Jan Pratt's travels took them to Oklahoma after serving on the Parking Committee at the 58th Escapade in Sedalia, MO.



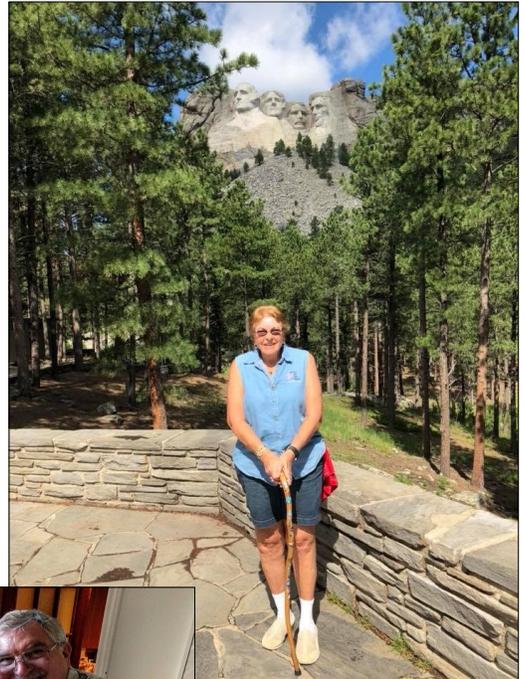
Bob & Judy Hoffman sent this hazy sunset from Bend, Oregon. The smoke from the California wildfires have made their way north.



Norm Miliard² and their wives, Ginny and Laurie, explored Newfoundland together for 2 months. Norm & Laurie then went on to Nova Scotia while Norm & Ginny returned to the States.



Bob & Judy Hoffman met up with Kevin & Julie Poulter in Indiana Amish Country and with Ken & Phoebe Bollin In Casper, Wyoming with a stop at Mount Rushmore on the way.



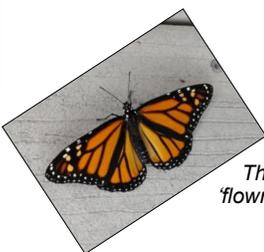
Susan & Ron Wzsalek met up with Ed & Cathy Landry in Montreal for a week-long expoloration.



Steve & Anne Warren enjoyed lunch with Dean & Cheryl Lamoreaux in the Lamoreaux's New York gazebo pictured above.



Cheryl has a monarch butterfly nursery at their place in New York.



The first one has emerged and 'flown the coop.' Cheryl has 3 more in chrysalis stage and one in caterpillar stage.



Ken & Betsy Hixson are exploring Europe with friends in their new-to-them motorhome purchased from fellow Escapees.