

## The HCOA Office

Is located in Hampton Town Centre, at 180 Old Highway 431. This is the complex located right behind Publix, in Suite F. Look for HCOA in large green letters.

Phone number the same:

256-533-6005

New fax number: 256-533-6259

**In 2010 the HCOA Board will meet the last Monday of each month. Due to space limitations, please notify the office if you will be attending. Call 533-6005.**

## Safety First

By Diana LaChance

Safety first – it’s more than just an expression; it’s a way of life for most of us. It starts from the moment we buckle our kids into their car seats each morning and doesn’t end until we check that all the doors in our home are locked before going to bed at night.

Unfortunately, this conscientiousness doesn’t always apply to all family members. As a result, we have dogs escaping their enclosures and running loose in the neighborhood while owners are at work or simply oblivious to their escape. And while some make it safely back home, either on their own or with the help of a concerned neighbor, others end up getting hurt or killed in a car accident.

Remember: not only are loose dogs against the law, but they are a serious safety concern for neighborhood motorists. And I, for one, would not want the death of a beloved family pet on my conscience; I doubt anyone else would, either. In addition, you as the owner are liable for any medical bills if your loose dog bites or injures someone – not to mention any vet bills for injuries your dog incurs while running free.

What can you do to make sure your dog is safe? If you have an electric fence, make sure your dog is wearing his collar. As much as you may trust your dog to stay put, there are just too many temptations to lure him out of the yard. Just as important is ensuring that your dog is trained to know how the electric fence works. Many dogs bust out to chase down a squirrel or another dog, only to be stuck outside the fence, unwilling to risk another shock to get back in.

If you have a standard wood or wrought iron fence, make sure it’s high enough that your dog can’t jump it. And be sure to check that there are no tables or chairs that your dog can use for a boost; you’d be surprised at the creative tactics a dog will come up with when he really wants to get out! If your dog is a digger, put bricks around the bottom of your fence or, better yet, dig down and plant chicken wire.

Your dog depends on you to keep him safe, just like the other members of your family. And your neighbors depend on you to follow the law and keep your dog from running free. Make sure you’re being a good neighbor in return by supervising your dog when he is in the yard and/or ensuring that your dog’s restraint system – be it an electric fence, traditional fence, or tether – is effective. His life depends on it.

## The Preserve Celebrates 10 Years

Geocaching/Earthcaching Blitz

Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.

David Smith is a volunteer outdoorsman who has installed two new geocache courses ( a dvanced, beginner ) at the Hays Nature Preserve, consisting of 10 caches which will take about 1-1.5 hours to run. These are not “official ” sites yet so don ’ t expect them to be on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) . Each of these Caches will teach the cacher something about the particular environmental microsite in which each is found. David has added an element of humor and mathematics to the advance course, and the beginner course will merely have a list of programmed coordinates for kids or beginners to follow. There will be GPS units to check out for those that do not have them ( but we will *track* you down if you try to keep them ). ***This 10 Year Anniversary Geocaching Blitz*** is free and open to everyone. The registration can be made at 427-5116. This will be a fun-filled and educational family-friendly event. If you are advanced cachers and would like to help with instruction of the neophytes, please give Soos a Call at 427-5116.

A note from the HCOA President

Friends and Neighbors:

The board of directors and staff of the Hampton Cove Owners' Association work diligently to maintain the common grounds of the neighborhood for the enjoyment of all residents. For quite some time certain common areas have increasingly become a problem for many residents. The behavior of some of the teen aged children in the neighborhood has created a very undesirable atmosphere on our common ground. This lude behavior includes profanity, fighting, alcohol, drugs, and vandalism. Many of these acts can be witnessed on certain social networks such as Facebook. Some residents feel threatened and unsafe in their own neighborhood from the actions of these teens. I want to assure you that the HCOA board is committed to providing a safe and healthy atmosphere for all of our residents. We are in the process of evaluating the steps to be taken to return to and maintain the resident friendly nature of our common ground. Please know that we will make every effort within the law to insure this happens. Thank you for your support.

Blake Bentley

## Community Yard Sale

September 11, 2010

8am-1pm

*May 2010*

## “Where the Wild Things Are”

J. Wayne Fears, Certified Wildlife Biologist

“But they are so pretty to watch and they seem almost tame,” the mother told me as I investigated why her little boy was bitten by a fox, in the backyard of her upscale Georgia home. “So you have seen fox here before,” I inquired. “Yes, almost daily, we put out dog food for them and each evening several fox come to eat,” she confessed.

This well meaning family had invited trouble by feeding wild animals, and now her little boy had to undergo a series of rabies shots as a result of their actions.

During my wildlife management career I have seen many homeowners invite wildlife to their homes by feeding them so they will stay around to be enjoyed. All too often these invited wild guests become a problem and many times a danger. Raccoons, foxes, coyotes, geese, deer and even wild turkey can be enticed to come into yards to get a free and easy meal. At first they are fun to watch, photograph and share the experience with friends. However the more the animals visit, the higher the likelihood for the transmitting of a disease or parasite, or a hostile encounter with a person or pet.

Sanitation at the feed site can be a major concern with animals such as geese and raccoons. As we have seen around the lakes here at Hampton Cove, goose feces can be a mess. The more you feed them, the more that will show up at the dinner table.

Raccoons and other species of wildlife may carry diseases and parasites that you or your pets may get. Animal feces can be a carrier of a big health problem. Inviting animals like raccoons and opossums (yes, opossums. You may not feed opossums but if you feed other wildlife, you will get opossums) may set you up for having your pets food stolen, your garbage cans invaded and even having an unwanted invader in your garage or home. You haven't “enjoyed” wildlife until you have a raccoon take up residence in your attic. It has happened in the best of homes.

As wild animals become spoiled by having an easy meal, they can become aggressive when they make their feeding visits; and if they are infected with rabies, then the problem becomes very serious.

Deer being fed in a yard can lead to bucks attacking people during the rut. Wild turkeys become aggressive in some instances, especially with young children; and their feeding habits have ruined many flower beds. Coyotes will always find an easy meal. While they are enjoying the dog food you put out for them or other critters, they may include your small dog or your cat for desert.

Here at Hampton Cove, we are blessed with a location in the heart of wildlife habitat, the mountains, Flint River flood plain, small creeks, farm lands, and our own lakes. This diverse habitat offers wildlife plenty to eat without the need for homeowners to feed them. By not feeding them, we avoid potential problems.

Enjoy seeing wildlife in their natural habitat - not on your patio. You will both be better for it.

*Waterfall Update* The progress on the waterfall has been somewhat challenging. After a brief run in early April several additional problems surfaced. This process has not gone as expected. Several items are yet to be accomplished. We anticipate these items will solve the water loss problems and return the falls to working order. The projects include some pool repair and pump repairs and testing.

We appreciate your patience.

**DOG OWNERS!!!!**  
**Please clean up after your dog. No one wants to see/step in your dog's waste.**  
**Please be considerate of your neighbors and scoop the poop!**  
**And don't forget there is a leash law.**



## GOT WEEDS??

Spring is a lovely time, azaleas are blooming, trees are sprouting leaves, bulbs are popping their heads up through the once cold ground, weeds are rearing their ugly heads....wait! Weeds? As grass is beginning to turn green, it is easy to see if your yard needs weed prevention. Covenants say: “Prompt removal of all litter, trash, refuse, lawn mowing on a regular basis; tree and shrub pruning;...**keeping lawn and garden areas alive and free of weeds and attractive...**”. Not only do weeds distract from the beauty of your lawn, they can also cause weed issues with your neighbor's yard. Please be a good neighbor and control the weed population in your yard. We will send out reminders if it seems to be a problem and sometimes request proof that you are trying to control the weeds. It's good to be weed free!

## From the Garden Club

### Garden Tips of the Month

- Prune spring flowering plants after they bloom.
- Deadhead bearded iris after blooming so energy isn't wasted on seed production.
- Watch for slugs, aphids, and Japanese beetles. Consult with local nurseries for methods to control.
- Plant heat-loving annuals such as periwinkle, coleus, begonias, and lantana. Summer bulbs, such as caladiums can now be planted.
- Roses: spray or dust for insects and disease. Use complete fertilizer or rose special food monthly.
- Deadhead annuals regularly to encourage flowering throughout the season.
- Plant container grown flowers.
- Mulch beds to conserve moisture and to keep the root zone cool. Remember to use brown mulch. No colored mulch should be used.
- Systemic insecticides are good for controlling white flies and lace bugs.
- Keep shrubs and trees properly pruned for good street appeal.

### News

Our final meeting of the 2009-2010 year will be May 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be utilizing the information gained from this year's meetings to participate in a “Tablescape Competition”. Members will work in teams to compete for the best-set table. Creativity is encouraged.



If you would like to participate in all the fun with us, please consider joining the garden club. Membership dues are \$30 and are now being accepted for the 2010-2011 year. For more information, please contact Kathy Jones at easternshore@comcast.net.

## Playgroup in Hampton Cove

The Hampton Cove Playgroup meets the first and third Friday of every month. The group gathers at a different member's home each time, where moms are able to connect with one another while their children meet new neighborhood friends.

Membership is free and new members are always welcome! Please contact Anita Beatty at 532-5122 for more information.



### Whippoorwill Lake

The Restoration of Whippoorwill Lake is complete. This project will provide greater flood protection, enhanced attractiveness, and better fishing. Future plans include the enhancement of Madry park.

Special thanks to Greg Murray, Helen Fachel, and Ron Hackney for serving on this committee. This is a fine example of homeowners working together to improve their community.