



The Beachcomber

*Hernando Beach
Property Owners
Association*

Our next meeting
will be held
**Thursday,
March 5, 2026
at 7:00pm**

**Hernando Beach
Yacht Club**

**4163 Shoal Line Blvd.
Doors open at 6:00pm.**



**The purpose of
this organization is
to unite the
property owners of
Hernando Beach.**



By: Diane Fournier

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again to all my fellow HBPOA members. As I write this it appears that we have finally made it through the last of the cold fronts that have given us way too many chilly days and overnight low temperatures in the 20's and 30's. I sure hope that we can finally look forward to more pleasant weather as Spring approaches.

March is the month that ushers in Spring with the vernal equinox and it's also the month when we pay homage to mathematics with Pi Day (March 14), to basket ball with March Madness, and to all things Irish with St. Patrick's Day (March 17). Will you be the one at our March meeting to guess how many lucky coins are in the leprechaun's jar? Your hospitality committee will also be running a gift basket raffle at the meeting. They are planning to make that a feature at all future meetings.

We enjoyed a very good turnout for our February 5th meeting. We welcomed Mike Garcia from "Dam It Defense" as one of our business speakers. Mike explained how the company was started up in the aftermath of hurricane Helene and he showed samples of the materials they use to provide a watertight barrier in doorways, garage doors or other openings through which flood water might enter a building. The system is modular so can be installed to whatever height is desired in 8 inch increments. They offer an optional service to store the panels at their location and install the product when a hurricane is forecast then remove and store the panels afterwards. Mike explained that their product is not intended as a full perimeter barrier since that would be do-able but very costly. In re-

(Continued on page 3)



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(Continued from page 1)

sponse to a question regarding applicability of this product to a stilt house with break-away walls Mike indicated that their focus to date has been on single level homes and this would need further study. We appreciated Mike sharing his company's story and product information and answering our questions.

We had a second business highlight presentation by Sheryl and Pat Coggins, owners/operators of Marina Rose Cruises. They discussed the various types of scheduled cruises available and also the options available to someone wanting to hire the Marina Rose, or possibly a smaller craft, for a special event. Some examples they mentioned included birthdays, weddings, and "celebrations of life". Several members commented on their own very positive experiences on the Marina Rose. Sheryl and Pat appreciate the community's continued support and we in turn are grateful for their active involvement with the Hernando Beach community and especially their support of HBPOA.

Our Valentine cupcake eating contest provided a fun break from the more serious business at hand as the volunteer contestants displayed their individual techniques to unwrap and devour mini-cupcakes in record time. Thanks to all the "good sports" who volunteered to compete and to everyone who cheered them on. It was fun.

Attention golfers! Tammy Spurlock, owner of "Back Nine" will be speaking at our March 5 membership meeting. "Back Nine" is a new business in Spring Hill offering indoor golf. Yes, you read that correctly, indoor golf available 24 hours a day! Come to our meeting on March 5 to hear more about what they have to offer. As always, we welcome guests so invite your golfer friends and neighbors to join us and learn more about this new business on the local scene.

We will also be hosting P&C Solutions LLC, a locally based insurance office in Spring Hill. April Wilcox (owner) and Meredith Wakely (sales agent) will be presenting an educational overview of homeowners insurance for Hernando Beach property owners. They plan to discuss coverage basics, hurricane and wind deductibles, flood insurance misconceptions, rebuilding costs, and common policy pitfalls for coastal properties.

The Beachcomber

Published by Hernando Beach Property Owners Association

Deadline for ads, articles, and news:
March 10th for publication in our
April Issue.

Yearly advertising prices:

Black & White:

1/4 page - \$200

1/2 page - \$350 - **best buy**

full size - \$675

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Color:

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Jennifer Brown, Editor (352)678-1795
HBPOABeachcomber@gmail.com

They are looking forward to answering your questions and concerns and to addressing real world scenarios.

Our hospitality team is busy planning several social events throughout the year. The first of these will be a luau which will take the place of our April business meeting. There will be more information at our next meeting and in the next Beachcomber so stay tuned, but in the meantime you might want to get out your Hawaiian shirts, muumuu's, and grass skirts and polish up your hula moves. ALOHA!

I look forward to seeing you at our next membership meeting on Thursday, March 5. The meeting starts at 7 and the Yacht Club doors open at 6. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to the meeting for our continuing food drive. Remember, YOU are the best ambassador for our association. Invite your neighbors to join you for a meeting or event so they can experience first hand what we are all about and consider joining HBPOA themselves.

Rich Grega

Hernando Beach Property Owners Association

P. O. Box 3198, Spring Hill, FL 34611-3198

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HERNANDO BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION 2026 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

HBPOA meetings are held the 1st Thursday of every month.
Meetings are held at the HBYC - 4163 Shoal Line Blvd, the doors open at 6:30pm and meetings start at 7pm.

Dues are \$40.00 annually and include the Beachcomber Newsletter mailed to you.
Annual dues are due by January 1st every year and are NOT prorated.

Members who join in November or December are considered paid up as members for the following year.

New Member **Renewal from 2025** **Prefer to receive the Beachcomber by email**

1) **Name** _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

2) **Name** _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

I would like to help with _____

Mailing Address: _____

Hernando Beach Property Address: _____

Eligible members are the property owner(s) listed on the property deed, as owner(s) of record on file with the Hernando County Property Appraiser's office, as owners named on the purchase agreement if the deed has not yet been recorded, individuals named in trust agreements that have present legal ownership of that property and the spouses of such property owners whether or not listed on property deeds and records. (Section 3.3 of the HBPOA Bylaws)

I grant permission and consent to the Hernando Beach Property Owners Association for the non-profit use of any photograph(s) taken by the HBPOA, or submitted by me for presentation to the HBPOA, under any legal condition, including but not limited to publicity, copyright purposes, illustration, advertising, and web content.

If paying online please complete the online application with method of payment through our website at www.hernandobeachpoa.com.

**Make Check payable to HBPOA and mail with application/renewal to:
HBPOA, PO Box 3198, Spring Hill, FL 34611-3198**

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Land Use 9am	4	5 HBPOA Membership Meeting 7pm	6 Swamp Fest	7 Front Porch Art Walk 10am - 2pm Swamp Fest
8 Swamp Fest	9 HCUD FFL Class 11am West Hernando Library	10 BOCC Meeting 9am	11	12	13 HCUD Rain Barrel Workshop 10am	14 Art in the Park
15 Art in the Park	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 HCUD Water Awareness 10am 15365 Cortez Blvd	19 HB Crime Watch Meeting	20	21
22	23	24 BOCC Meeting 9am	25	26	27	28 Gun & Knife Show
29 Gun & Knife Show	30	31				

WHY WORK WITH ANYONE ELSE?

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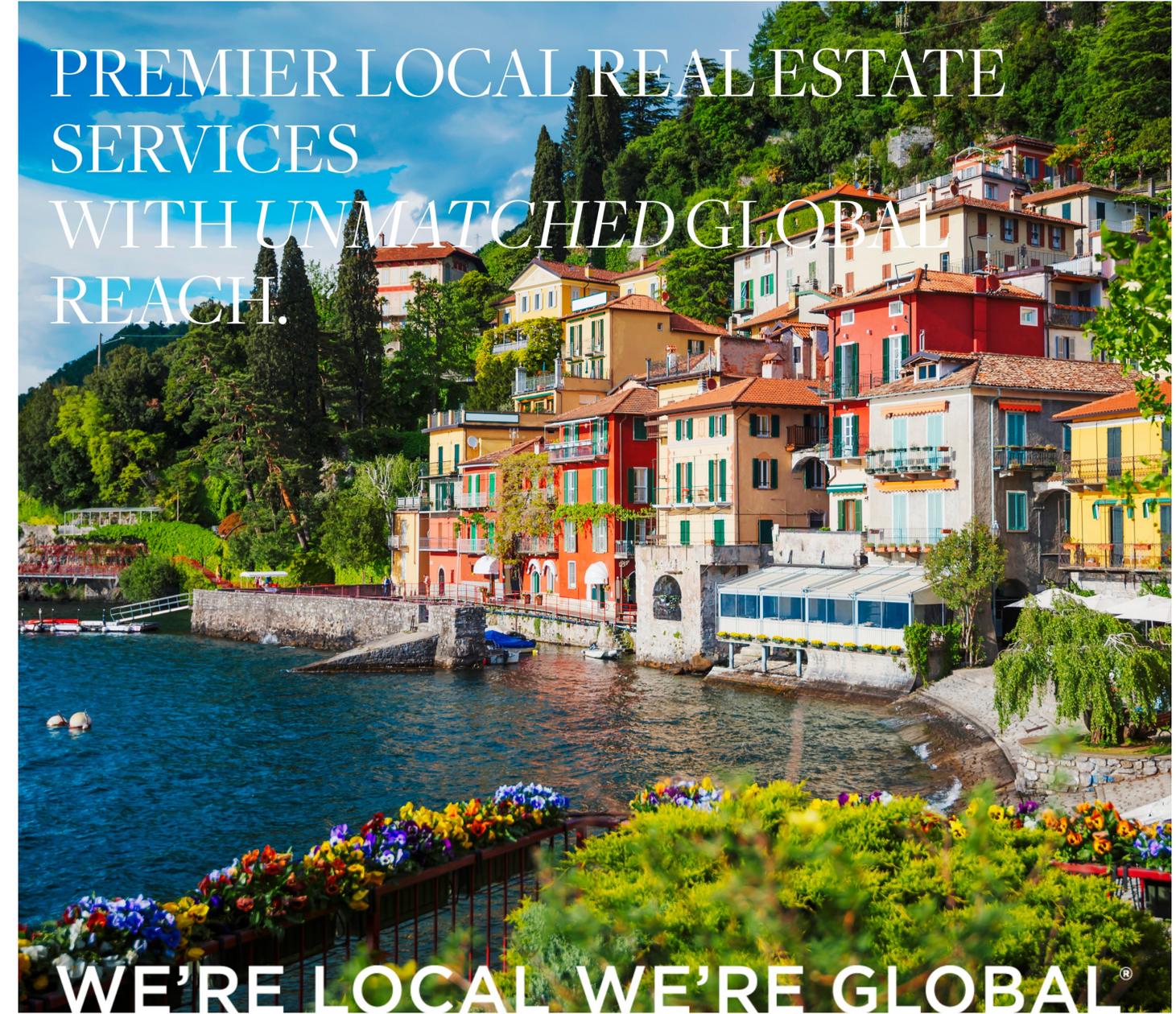
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Hernando Beach Property Owners Association Inc. Membership Meeting Minutes - February 5, 2026

- Call to Order – 7 pm
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Motion to adopt the agenda passed
- Motion to adopt minutes of the January 8, 2026, meeting passed
- Recognition of Guests and New Members
- Business Highlights
- Dam It Defense (Mike Garcia) – metallic home barriers for floods
- Marina Rose (Pat & Sheryl Coggins) – two different boats available
- Valentine Cupcake Challenge
- 10 Minute Break
- Officer and Committee Reports
- President
- Treasurer's Report/Beachcomber/Calendar – no questions on report, seeking photos for calendar
- Membership – 113 households, 28 new households
- Hospitality – Luau (4/2), meeting doors in future will open at 6 pm instead of 6:30 pm

- Unfinished Business - none
- New Business – July 4 Boat Parade
- Next Board Meeting – Mar 2
- Next Membership Meeting – Mar 5
- Membership comments
- Announcements/Reminders:
- Canned food drive is on-going, bring donations to our meetings
- Front Porch Art Walk - 1st Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Adjournment – 8:30 pm

Minutes Provided by:
Denis Polyn

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Hello Hernando Beach,

Welcome to our unique community known as Hernando Beach. We are glad you decided to join us.

We know you are a member of HBPOA because you are reading this article in the Beachcomber. However, we are wondering how many have at-

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tended our monthly meetings. If you have not given yourself the opportunity to attend, let us tell you a little about the first Thursday of each month. At our meetings you will meet many of your neighbors and learn about the goings on in Hernando Beach and in Hernando County. You can learn how the decisions of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (aka BOCC) can affect our community. Our social hour begins at 6:00 pm and meetings begin at 7:00. Each meeting we strive to have informational speakers and local business highlighted to help you learn more about Hernando Beach. HBPOA also hosts social events each year in lieu of our formal meeting. Perhaps you have attended the Ice Cream Social or Octoberfest. And, of course we have a wonderful Holiday Party each December.

Surely you are aware that we have great restaurants here at the beach (where there is no beach). However, you will find a beach at Pine Island a few miles to the West. The Hernando Beach Yacht Club, The Hernando Beach Club, and many groups in which you may become involved are available. The Ladies Breakfast meets each month at the Silver Dolphin on the third Wednesday at 9:00 am. The first Saturday of each month brings us the Hernando Beach Front Porch Art Walk. We have very talented artists in our midst. Each Tuesday from 1:00 to 3:00 a group of ladies get together for games and social time. If Mahjonnig is your interest, we can accommodate that also.

Boating and fishing off Hernando Beach is popular and probably why you landed in our beautiful community. Of course, we are privileged to be adjacent to the Weeki Wachee Preserve. And did you know bald eagles are a common sight especially during nesting season? Oh yes, from Kennedy Space Center you can see the space flights. There are apps that will alert you when takeoff is scheduled. Beginning February 2026 through April 2026 the flight to the moon is scheduled. Be watchful.

Our location is very conducive to day trips to Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Orlando. So you can see that it won't take long for you to become immersed in Hernando Beach

We hope to see you at our March meeting. Stop by the greeting desk and say "Hello"

Until next month....

Judith Hughes

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RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

What is a Rain Barrel?

Rain barrels capture water from a roof and hold it for later use such as on lawns, gardens or indoor plants. Collecting roof runoff in rain barrels reduces the amount of water that flows from your property. It's a great way to conserve water and it's free water for use in your landscape. (**US EPA. (2015, August 17). Soak Up the Rain: Rain Barrels.**)

HCUD's Rain Barrel Workshops provide hands-on instruction on how to properly install, maintain, and use rain barrels at home. Participants learn best practices for water conservation and storm-water management and may have the opportunity to purchase or receive a rain barrel as part of the program.

Attending a Rain Barrel Workshop

- Attendance for educational purposes is free.
- Rain barrels are \$67, payable by check or money order only.
- Payment must be received BEFORE

the workshop to confirm your spot.

♦Payment can be mailed/dropped off to HCUD.

•Make checks payable to "HCUD". If mailed, be sure to label the envelope "ATTN: Rain Barrel".

- Each person in attendance may purchase one barrel. We allow purchases of up to four (4) barrels per household.
- HCUD customers who purchase a rain barrel can receive a \$30 credit towards their water bill for the first barrel purchased.

March 13, 2026 at 10am
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Hernando Beach Club	(352)596-5878
Hernando Beach Boatlift Keys John Hutchison	jwhutch1962@outlook.com
Parks & Recreation	(352)754-4027
Aquatic Services & Waterways	(352)754-4742
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Utilities Dept.	(352)754-4037
VFW Post 9236	(352)596-9236
Republic/Seaside Sanitation	(727)868-8566

HBPOA PHOTO CONTEST & 2027 CALENDAR

Photo Contest:

HBPOA will host its annual Hernando Beach photo contest at our September 3rd, Ice Cream Social & Membership Meeting. Please send your JPG or PNG high quality photos to HBPOABeachcomber@gmail.com with the subject "**PHOTO CONTEST**". The theme is "Hernando Beach Life". The deadline to be included is **August 15th** and is open to HBPOA members only.

2027 Calendar:

HBPOA will once again produce the "Hernando Beach Life" calendar. We are looking for your best HB life photos for 2027. The theme is "Hernando Beach Life". Please send your JPG or PNG high quality photos to HBPOABeachcomber@gmail.com with the subject "**2027 CALENDAR**". The deadline to be included is **July 15th**.

The boundaries for both are Osowaw Blvd to Jenkins Creek and includes the Preserve & the Gulf. To be included in both please use the subject "**CALENDAR & PHOTO CONTEST**".



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**HERNANDO BEACH
PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**MARCH 5, 2026
7:00PM**

**HB YACHT CLUB
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BLACK BEARS



Did you know?

Since the 1980s, the black bear population has been expanding along with our human population. Florida has grown from 5 million residents in 1960 to 20 million today and is projected to reach almost 36 million by

2060. Urban sprawl is encroaching on traditionally remote areas, bringing people into prime bear habitat. As a result, bears and people are encountering each other more than ever.

The mere presence of a black bear does not represent a problem. In fact, living in black bear country can provide unique and rewarding experiences! The best way to enjoy our wildlife is to keep them wild and away from food sources like garbage, pet food, and bird seed.

About Bears

Here are some quick facts you should know about bears. For more information, see the above links!

- Black bears are the only species of bear found in Florida.
- FWC biologists estimate that there are approximately 4,050 black bears in Florida.

- Adult male black bears usually weigh between 250 to 350 lbs. The largest adult male black bear in Florida weighed 760 lbs. Adult female black bears are smaller than males, usually weighing between 130 and 180 lbs. The largest adult female black bear in Florida weighed 460 lbs.

- Adult male black bears usually live within a 60 square mile area, whereas females usually live within a 15 square mile area.

- Female bears have their first litter at about 3 ½ years old and generally have a litter every other year.

- In Florida, the breeding season runs from June to August and cubs are born around late January or early February.

- Bears are excellent climbers and often climb trees when they are frightened.

- About 80 percent of a black bear's diet comes from plants (e.g., fruits, nuts, berries), 15 percent from insects (e.g., termites, ants, yellow jackets) and 5 percent from meat (e.g., opossums, armadillos, carrion).

What Do Black Bears Have in Common With All Bears?

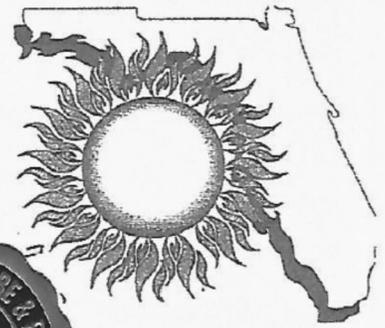
Like all members of the bear family, black bears are large, powerful mammals with rounded ears, short tails, 5-toed feet, and large canine teeth.

Black bears walk flat-footed, just like people, with all 5 toes on the ground. While they may look slow because of their shuffling gait, black bears can sprint at up to 35 miles an hour! Olympic gold

(Continued on page 16)

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(Continued from page 15)



-medalist Usain Bolt can only reach 27 miles per hour. With their stout, heavily-curved claws, black bears climb trees very well. These claws are non-retractable and can be easily seen in their tracks.

Size, Weight, Diet

"Sizing" up the Black Bear:

Bears are "sexually dimorphic," which means that adult males are larger than adult females. However, because young, smaller males are similar in size to adult females, it is difficult to determine the sex of a bear by their size alone.

Many of us recognize that white-tailed deer body size is reduced as you travel south in North America. This difference is explained

by [Bergmann's Rule](#), which basically states species of larger size are found in colder environments, and species of smaller size are found in warmer regions. Bears as a Family follow this principle – arctic male polar bears generally weigh 779 to 1500 pounds, while male sun bears only weigh 100 to 140 pounds and live in equatorial regions. Black bears as a Species do not follow Bergmann's Rule, Florida black bears on average tend to be larger than Canadian black bears, for example.

Average weights for adult bears in Florida range from 250 to 450 pounds for males and 125 to 250 pounds for females.

Florida's largest bears:

There have been two male bears that are considered the largest in the state. One was a 740 lb bear and the other was 760 lb bear, both were found in 2015 in Seminole County lingering in neighborhoods after gaining access to unsecured human-provided attractants.

The two largest female bears found in Florida were 460 pounds killed in a vehicle strike in Lake

(Continued on page 21)

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Manatee hotline (FWC)	(888)404-3922
Sawfish Sightings (FWC)	(941)255-7403
Sea turtle rescue (FWC)	(863)648-3200
Reptiles and Exotics Rescue	(352)403-4255
Wildlife Rescue – Owl's Nest Sanctuary	(813)598-5926
Wildlife Rescue HB Area	(813)598-5926
Horseshoe Crab Sightings	(866)252-9326

Pets

Hernando County Animal Services	(352)796-5062
Humane Society of Nature Coast	(352)796-2711
SPCA Hernando County	(352)596-7000
Dogs – Report Illegal Dog Fighting	(800)780-8477



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Cupcake eating contest! Bill, Richard, Eric & Rudy

Winner: Richard Frascone

(Continued from page 16)

County in 2019 and the other was 400 pounds, found on the side of a road (killed by a vehicle strike) in January 2007 in Liberty County.

Bears that habitually feed on human-supplied foods such as garbage and wildlife feed or pet food can become abnormally large because of the high number of calories found in these food sources.

The weight of individual black bears varies greatly throughout the year.

Food availability is low during the winter months, even in Florida, and both male and female bears lose weight. Bears can lose up to 25% of their body weight while they keep to their den in winter. It is not until plants grow in the spring that bears begin to gain weight again.

During the summer breeding season, males spend most of their time searching for mates, while females spend most of their time foraging.

For more information visit: MyFWC.com



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ABOUT WEEKI WACHEE SWAMP FESTIVAL

Swamp Fest has grown from a small community fund-raising festival to an annual event that draws thousands from all over. In 1994 Swamp Fest held its first annual festival in the parking lot at the Weeki Wachee Area Club, soon outgrowing the parking lot it moved around the corner to the Weeki Wachee Christian Camp. The festival remained there for a few years before moving even further down Shoal Line Boulevard to Linda Pederson Park. In 2013 Swamp Fest made the big move to Weeki Wachee Springs State

Park. But In 2018 Swamp Fest made its return to it's permanent home, Linda Pedersen Park!

Swamp Fest is organized by Weeki Wachee Swamp Festival Inc. with all monies (after operating costs) being distributed to Local Charities.

Parking at Linda Pedersen Park will be first come, first served. Once the location parking is at capacity you are encouraged to drop off your party at the entrance and proceed to our off-site parking.

Friday-Sunday remote parking will be located in the open area on Cortez Boulevard and Arbutus Avenue.

Hernando Beach, Rocky Creek, Little Pine I. Bay, Florida, March 2026

28.4867° N, 82.6617° W - www.USHarbors.com

Date	High				Low				☀		☾	
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon	
1	Sun			12:55	2.3	7:49	-0.5	7:32	0.7	6:55	6:30	☾
2	Mon	12:12	3.1	1:21	2.5	8:26	-0.5	8:19	0.4	6:54	6:31	☾
3	Tue	1:00	3.1	1:45	2.6	8:59	-0.3	9:00	0.1	6:53	6:31	☾
4	Wed	1:43	3.0	2:09	2.7	9:28	-0.1	9:39	0.0	6:51	6:32	☾
5	Thu	2:23	2.9	2:32	2.8	9:56	0.1	10:17	-0.1	6:50	6:33	☾
6	Fri	3:03	2.7	2:56	2.9	10:22	0.3	10:54	-0.2	6:49	6:33	☾
7	Sat	3:43	2.5	3:22	2.9	10:48	0.5	11:31	-0.1	6:48	6:34	☾
8	Sun	5:25	2.2	4:50	2.9			12:14	0.7	7:47	7:35	☾
9	Mon	6:11	2.0	5:22	2.9	1:11	0.0	12:41	0.9	7:46	7:35	☾
10	Tue	7:07	1.8	6:00	2.8	1:56	0.1	1:11	1.1	7:45	7:36	☾
11	Wed	8:30	1.7	6:49	2.6	2:55	0.2	1:52	1.3	7:44	7:36	☾
12	Thu	10:21	1.7	8:05	2.5	4:16	0.3	3:15	1.5	7:43	7:37	☾
13	Fri	11:39	1.8	9:42	2.5	5:43	0.3	5:08	1.5	7:42	7:38	☾
14	Sat			12:26	2.0	6:51	0.1	6:26	1.3	7:40	7:38	☾
15	Sun			12:59	2.2	7:41	0.0	7:26	1.0	7:39	7:39	☾
16	Mon	12:03	2.8	1:26	2.4	8:23	-0.1	8:16	0.7	7:38	7:39	☾
17	Tue	12:55	3.0	1:51	2.5	8:59	-0.1	8:59	0.4	7:37	7:40	☾
18	Wed	1:42	3.1	2:15	2.7	9:32	-0.1	9:41	0.1	7:36	7:40	☾
19	Thu	2:27	3.1	2:39	2.8	10:05	0.1	10:21	-0.2	7:35	7:41	☾
20	Fri	3:12	3.0	3:06	3.0	10:38	0.3	11:04	-0.4	7:34	7:42	☾
21	Sat	3:59	2.8	3:35	3.2	11:10	0.5	11:49	-0.5	7:32	7:42	☾
22	Sun	4:50	2.6	4:08	3.2	11:44	0.8			7:31	7:43	☾
23	Mon	5:46	2.3	4:46	3.3	12:38	-0.5	12:18	1.0	7:30	7:43	☾
24	Tue	6:51	2.1	5:32	3.2	1:33	-0.4	12:57	1.3	7:29	7:44	☾
25	Wed	8:16	1.9	6:30	3.0	2:37	-0.2	1:47	1.5	7:28	7:44	☾
26	Thu	10:07	1.8	7:52	2.8	4:00	0.0	3:12	1.6	7:27	7:45	☾
27	Fri	11:22	2.0	9:40	2.7	5:29	0.1	5:00	1.5	7:25	7:45	☾
28	Sat			12:07	2.2	6:42	0.1	6:25	1.2	7:24	7:46	☾
29	Sun			12:40	2.4	7:37	0.1	7:29	0.8	7:23	7:46	☾
30	Mon	12:18	2.9	1:08	2.6	8:20	0.1	8:21	0.4	7:22	7:47	☾
31	Tue	1:11	3.0	1:34	2.8	8:55	0.2	9:04	0.1	7:21	7:48	☾

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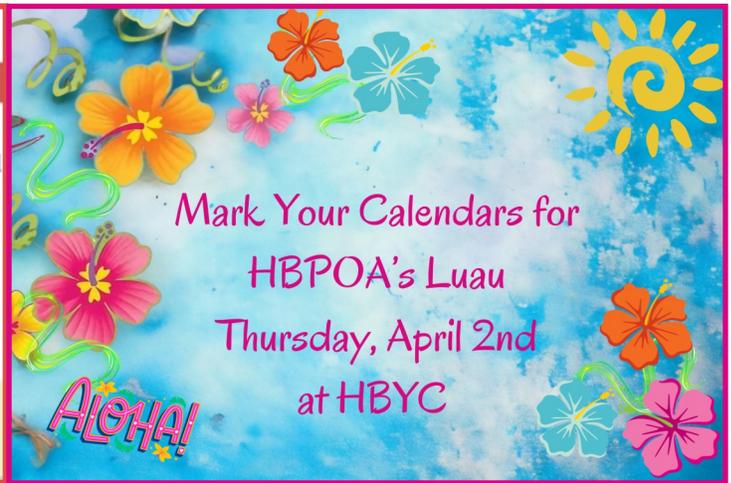
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