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POA Ponds Committee 'Pond Views'

July 29, 2020

Alligators – Your Occasional Pond Resident

One of things the POA does not do is remove alligators from any of our community ponds. Occasionally, one of our Ponds Committee members will get a call or email asking what to do with a "problem" alligator. Sometimes, a resident sees an alligator in a nearby pond and perceives that as a problem. Alligators are part of our natural ecosystem. Most of coastal North Carolina with its numerous wetlands, inlets and ponds like ours are prime habitat for these leathery residents. We have some resources to help us understand them better.

On the POA website the Ponds Committee has posted two brochures written by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). One titled, *Coexist with Alligators* (click here) tells you what you need to know about preventing conflicts and provides Common Sense Safety Tips. It is worth the quick read. The NCWRC is a state agency and the authority for setting rules and regulations dealing with all wildlife within the state. If there is a real problem, they are the folks to call (800-662-7137). Their website is www.ncwildlife.org.

Evin Stanford, NCWRC coastal regional supervisor, met with us last year and estimated our alligator population at about one for every three ponds in St. James. They do move around. You may have one in

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Somewhere on the Cate 9th hole a slow moving grass carp becomes dinner.

Recently, one of my neighbors (let's call him "Bob") was at the edge of his pond planting some perennials picked up at our recent plant sale. Suddenly, he happened to notice a 6-foot alligator about five feet away just lying near the pond edge. Bob looked at him and the alligator looked at Bob. They both took off in opposite directions. Bob mimicked a 70-year old Usain Bolt (it is hard to picture that.) The alligator thought it best not to do anything that would lead to becoming an expensive purse or pair of cowboy boots. And they both are living happily ever after, so far.

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the safety tips and enjoy another reason that makes our corner of North Carolina unique.

The Ponds Committee

(Photo by Unknown St. James Resident)

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You opted-in to our emails via our link or using our sign-up form to receive current information about ponds in St. James Plantation. More than half of the 250+ ponds are POA-managed

Our mailing address is:

St. James Ponds Committee 4140 Southport Supply Rd SE Ste B Southport, NC 28461-8880

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

Have Some Questions or Concerns?

Do you have questions about ponds or need some additional information about the POA guidelines and ponds? Email the Ponds Committee for help at: StJamesPondViews@gmail.com

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