



# HIGHTIDINGS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FOREST BEACH OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

[www.forestbeachassociation.com](http://www.forestbeachassociation.com)

FALL, 2015

## Annual Meeting

Our next Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 24th, 2015 from 10am – Noon at Providence Presbyterian Church, 171 Cordillo Parkway, Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending this very important and informative meeting.

1. Review of Annual Meeting Minutes from October 2014
2. Welcome and Introduction of Board Members
3. Ward & Town Representative Introductions
4. Treasurer's Interim Financial Report and Previous Year End
5. Presentation of 2016 Budget
6. Update on Legal Matters
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Election of 2016 BOD Nominees (2 Positions)
10. Closing Remarks.

## Lawton Beach Forest Preserve

In 2009 a group of Forest Beach neighbors working together as Lawton Beach Holdings secured a Federal Conservation Easement on a nearly thirty-five acre parcel of oceanfront land in South Forest Beach running from the boundary with Sea Pines up to the Alder Lane Beach Access adjoining the Marriott Grande Ocean Resort. It also reaches from the mean high tide mark on the beach nearly some 400'-500' through the dunes up to platted boundary of the oceanfront lots in the Lawton Beach Subdivision. Additionally, it also includes the very wide and generous beach accesses and pathways serving Lawton Beach and Palm Forest. This ensured the largest stretch of naturally accreting beach on Hilton Head Island would be preserved in perpetuity. This also ensures you will never have another house built between the existing oceanfront homes in the Lawton Beach Subdivision and the beach – as has happened elsewhere such as at Isle of Palms.



The preserve is a very special section of beach. Its long tidal pools are the preferred beach site for our neighborhood children. Its deep dunes are also the preferred nesting site for our local sea turtles. Sea oats and prickly pear abound here. Wax myrtles and scrub live oak hold deer and marsh hare. Lawton Beach is Hilton Head's only true stretch of natural beach and maritime forest left basically undisturbed.

In 2011 this property was given to the Forest Beach Owners' Association with the provision they work with the Beaufort County Open Land Trust to administer the terms of the conservation easement. It's our duty to protect and preserve this generous gift.

If you live oceanfront in Lawton Beach please remember the land between your house and the ocean is under a conservation easement and that the property is owned by the Forest Beach Owners' Association. Before you decide to prune, trim, or make other modifications to property you do not own, please contact the Association for guidance. The Lawton Beach Forest Preserve is under a Federal conservation easement and the Town and State of SC also have jurisdiction over certain parts of it. If you wish to prune, landscape, add or remove any foliage, build a walkway, build a sundeck, or have any other plans that would occur on the lands of the Lawton Beach Forest Preserve, please contact the Forest Beach Owners' Association and we will help you in navigating and obtaining the required approvals.

Pruning is allowed, and there are certain improvements you are entitled to make as an oceanfront owner. But doing so without proper prior permission of the Association could place you in legal jeopardy with the Association, Beaufort County Open Land Trust, Town of Hilton Head and the State of South Carolina. Just call us first. We are your neighbors and are here to help you.

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

When used properly, a portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives.

Every type of extinguisher is designed to fight a certain class or classes of fire. There are various classes and identifying these will help you select the right fire extinguisher. Using the wrong type of fire extinguisher can cause a fire to spread and place you in greater danger.

Class A ~ ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber upholstery, and many plastics.

Class B ~ flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, grease, tar, oil-based paint, lacquer and flammable gas.

Class C ~ energized electrical equipment, including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery and appliances.

A home fire extinguisher is recommended for each floor level in the home. It should be placed near an exit in the event a fire breaks out. If you make the decision to use it, you will need to be near an exit to escape quickly if necessary.

Most extinguishers have printed or visual how-to instructions for use. Make sure you understand them before a fire breaks out. Using a fire extinguisher is as easy as remembering four letters: P – A – S – S

This means:

Pull the pin to unlock the handle

Aim low at the base of the fire

Squeeze the handle

Sweep the unit from side to side

Should you fight the fire? Only if the fire department has been called, the fire is confined to a small area and is not spreading, there is an unobstructed escape route for you and everyone has left or is leaving the building.

After use of an extinguisher, service the rechargeable units and replace the disposable units immediately. Check pressure gauges monthly. Inspect all containers on a regular basis looking for damage, corrosion, dents or punctures as well as chipping or cracking on the head and nozzle.

Maintain inspection records of usage and service. Records are helpful after a fire to prove to insurance companies that extinguishers were all serviced and in working order.

For more information contact Cinda Seamon, Fire & Life Safety Educator, Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue at 843-682-5141.

## Return of the Sea Turtles

This nesting season Hilton Head Island beaches played host to 324 sea turtle nests - 322 loggerheads, 1 rare and very endangered green sea turtle, and 1 leatherback turtle. This was a marked improvement over 2014 where we only hosted a surprisingly low 143 nests. Thankfully the turtles made a strong return to Hilton Head Island this season and we are



back in line with our average nest numbers from 2012 and 2013 which were 320 and 339 respectively.

How can you help protect our native endangered species?

Per the Towns website:

“The most important way you can protect Hilton Head Island’s loggerhead sea turtles is to turn the lights out! Sea turtle hatchlings usually emerge from the nest at night. They orient themselves toward the brightest horizon and dash towards the sea. Visible lights from buildings or streets near the beach disorient the hatchlings, and they wander inland where they are almost certain to die. If they don’t make it to the ocean quickly, hatchlings are likely to die of dehydration in the sun or could be caught by predators like birds and crabs. Artificial lights can also disorient females or discourage nesting.”

You can also learn more about our turtles by visiting our friends at [www.seaturtle.org](http://www.seaturtle.org). With our long shoreline, wide beaches, and natural dunes system, Forest Beach is privileged to play host to the majority of these endangered sea turtles that visit Hilton Head. Please be informed and be involved. Let’s all be good stewards of our precious natural resources.

# Planning for the Future of Forest Beach

By Jack Daly

In February of this year our Town Council created the Circle to Circle Committee with the stated purpose to “develop a vision, incorporating community input, for the future of the Coligny Circle to Sea Pines Circle corridor the next 20 years. The Committee will review existing conditions and potential growth to identify challenges that are to be addressed through the development of a Circle to Circle Area Plan.” Simply put, the CTC Committee has been charged with the task of drawing a new masterplan for the length of Pope Avenue including much of Forest Beach. Per the guidance of the Town Council, projects within the focus area already approved by Town Council and in the planning pipeline would be considered “done deals” and not subject to committee review. This means the new Coligny Beach Park and USCB campus are on their way.

The CTC committee is comprised of local developers, a land planner, an architect, several members of the Planning Commission, several commercial stakeholders, a commercial realtor, the head of CSA from Sea Pines, and the President of

the Forest Beach Owners’ Association. The committee members will not be alone in designing a new masterplan. This May a series of five public workshops were held around the island to gather the opinions of local residents. Feedback was also, and still is being, accepted through the Town’s website. CTC committee meetings are held every Wednesday and time is allotted for public input. Also, the committee will be hiring a professional urban planner to help organize all of the planning into a presentation to Town Council sometime this winter.

So what should we in Forest Beach expect from the new CTC masterplan? Many good things.

The last masterplan for our area was the Bridge to the Beach concept some twenty years ago. Some parts of that plan were actually implemented (improved bike paths, underground power), but many were not. Many of those unrealized original proposals will be included in the new CTC masterplan.

One example would be the new

Coligny Beach Park. Our new park will have “an adventure playground that is Lowcountry and nature themed with separate areas for different age groups”, a festival-sized lawn capable of hosting large community events, an amphitheater, a children’s museum and restrooms. Construction should begin right after Labor Day 2016.

We also anticipate two new, smaller pocket parks – one each in North and South Forest Beach. A dog park has been discussed as well. When you consider as of 2015 there are no public parks or playgrounds in all of Forest Beach, three new parks will certainly be welcome additions.

Bike paths and leisure trails will be expanded significantly as well. We anticipate a new path on the ocean side of South Forest Beach Drive from the Coligny Circle all the way down to the Marriott Grande Ocean Resort. This new path has been sorely needed for years and is long overdue. Every effort will be made to connect all currently existing bike paths and to move the bike paths/sidewalks along Pope Avenue further away from the roadway for safety sake.

## More Sand = More Fun! Beach Renourishment 2015/2016

Once that the turtle nesting season is over, Hilton Head Island will begin another round of beach renourishment this fall. Barges with massive pumps will be anchored offshore on nearby sand banks where 30’ pipes will deliver a wet mixture of sand and sea water to our beach. The saltwater drains back into the ocean while bulldozers spread the recaptured sand between the dunes and the mean high tide mark. Both North Forest Beach and South Forest Beach will be receiving new sand during this next project. As stated on the Town website:

The planned 2015 renourishment

project will include four principal parts:

1. Placement of about 1.3 million cubic yards of sand along 5.5 miles of Atlantic Ocean shorefront from just South of Coligny Circle to The Folly tidal inlet at Singleton Beach,
2. Placement of about 0.5 million cubic yards of sand along 7,000 feet of the Atlantic Ocean and Port Royal Sound shorelines in northern Port Royal Plantation,
3. Placement of about 0.3 million cubic yards of sand along 5,000 feet of Atlantic Shorefront in southern Sea Pines near South

Beach, and

4. Placement of up to 60,000 cubic yards of sand along 2,400 feet of the Port Royal Sound shoreline north of Fish Haul Creek in the vicinity of the Fish Haul Park, Mitchellville Beach Park and The Spa at Port Royal.

A quick look at the numbers might lead you to believe a disproportionate amount of sand is being placed at Port Royal. But remember, Forest Beach is a naturally accreting beach. Most of the sand dumped on the north end of Hilton Head will wash down to our beach over time. That gives us, Forest Beach, the long term advantage!

## FBOA Directors Listing

Jack Daly, President  
4 Myrtle LN - '15

Doug Felten, Vice-President  
17 Bittern ST - '17

Debbie Urato, Secretary/Treasurer  
13 Park RD - '16

Lena Beason  
6 Woodward Ave. #F-2 - '18

Henry Sanders  
23 SFB DR - '17

Timothy Tanner  
51 SFB DR - '15

Tom Weatherhead  
34 SFB DR - '18

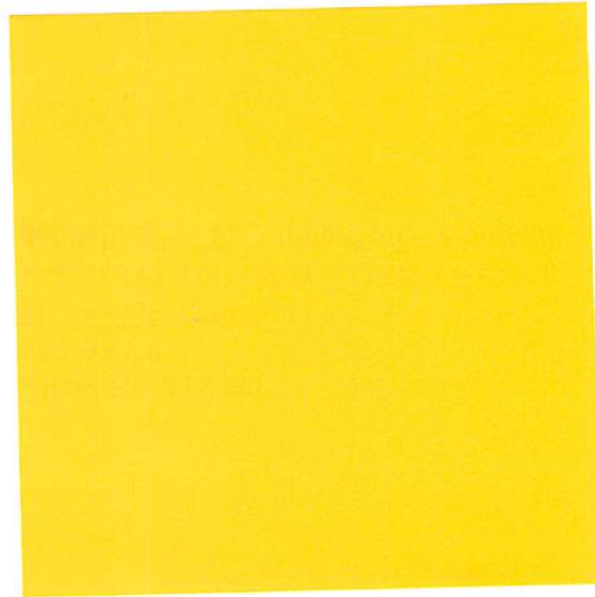
Dr. Gabe Fornari, Past President

John Snodgrass, Executive Director  
(C) 843-684-1101  
(O) 843-785-5565  
Email: fbassn@aol.com

## Forest Beach Owners Association, Inc.

6 Lagoon Road, Suite 5, Roller Building  
P.O. Box 6442  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

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## Smart 911

When you have an emergency, time is of the essence, so minutes - even seconds, count. You may be too distressed or panicked to relay all the necessary information and sometimes it can take time for the dispatchers to ask all the appropriate questions. Smart911 is a free service used to enhance communication and response in communities and it is now available in Beaufort County.

By creating a Safety Profile for your family, you are providing potentially life-saving information to emergency responders when they need it most. You can give details on your family and home that 9-1-1 may need in order to send help in the event of an emergency.

The profile allows you to add as little or as much information as you want but it is recommended to add any details you would want responders to know if you do have an emergency - like medical conditions, medications, elderly family members that may be prone to wandering, photos of yourself or children or pets. It can include details about all members of the household, all phone numbers and all addresses including home,

work and even vacation homes.

Today there are less and less landlines and mobile phones do not link directly to an address or include a caller's name. When you create a Smart911 Safety Profile, your information immediately appears on a screen to the dispatcher. All the data you have provided previously can help obtain all the needed information much more quickly.

Smart911 is free, private and secure. Your Safety Profile will only be displayed to a 9-1-1 call taker. It is a nationwide service and not yet available in every municipality but is available here in Beaufort County. When you complete your registration, it will send you a message to confirm your account. Your Safety Profile does not expire but you will be prompted every 6 months to update your information. That way you can be assured that a 9-1-1 call taker has the most current information in the case of an emergency. You can cancel your account at any time.

To sign up or find out more about Smart911, go to <http://safety.smart911.com/smart911/#.Vb-2t2ccHcs>