

# Broward County Airboat, Halftrack and Conservation Club

Dedicated to Preserving the Everglades

## NEWSLETTER

*President's Letter*

August 2020

### 2020-2021 Officers

President

Bruce Ward

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President@browardairboatclub.org

Vice President

Kevin Fitzgerald

(954) 818-6407

Vicepresident@browardairboatclub.org

Secretary

Jennifer Green

(954) 445-1789

Secretary@browardairboatclub.org

Treasurer

Bill Sirola

(954) 543-3709

Treasurer@browardairboatclub.org

### E-Board

Sean McCann

(954) 914-6624

Youthhunt@browardairboatclub.org

Glen Checchi

(954) 401-0653

Pete Hora

(954) 444-6836

Greg Grubb

(954) 663-4388

Chris Andrews

(954) 658-8349

### Past Treasurer

Jim Simon

(954) 553-1989

August starts the New Year for our Club's Election Cycle. Our last election was done electronically for the first time in our 66 year history. I want to thank our Secretary, Jennifer Green for preparing the ballots and sending them to our members. The results were sent out also, but if you did not receive them here are the results. President Bruce Ward, Vice president Kevin Fitzgerald, Treasurer Bill Sirola, Secretary Jennifer Green, Executive Board Pete Hora, Sean McCann, Glen Checchi, Chris Andrews and Gregory Grubb. With the exception of a new Vice President Kevin Fitzgerald, the board remained the same as last year. BCAHCC has experienced leadership, and we need it to face the challenges each New Year brings. Thanks for your votes, and thanks to the Executive Board Members for your dedication.

The Memorial Run was held August 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 at the Boars Nest Camp. This year we honored Past President John Dubois, Richie Rich Baumgardt, Marc "Crazy Haze" Silva and Rick Ball. Four members who will be missed. They contributed a great deal to our Club. Our hope is their families will find peace soon to replace their sorrow. If there is a Swamp in Heaven we will know where to find them.

Well I have written two paragraphs without mentioning Covid-19, time to focus on our current situation. BCAHCC usually has its Installation for Officers and Awards Banquet in August. This event has been held at Tropical Acres Restaurant. This year the Banquet is cancelled. Tropical Acres is closed, if we had the event how many members would be comfortable attending. Highest rates of Corona infections occur at events like this. It is not worth the risk to our members or their families. When it is safe to resume activities like our banquet, we will.

Unfortunately, this year we have had to cancel the Air Boat Show, Meetings at the Women's Club, Everglades Youth Camp and Banquet. I am not sure when this will be over. Recently BCAHCC had a Trash Fish Tournament and a Memorial Run. Events like these two can only be held if we practice Social Distancing, wear masks and be respectful of others. It is our Club's desire to see each other and have fun. However, our goal is to do this and get no one sick. So far I have not heard of any of our members with this virus. There have been some close calls, and I know of at least 5 members who have been tested with negative results. Let's keep it that way.

There are some events that are scheduled and hopefully we will be able to have them. The Youth Hunt Coordinator Sean McCann gave us the dates of our three Youth Hunts. 1. Oct.30-Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, Istapoga Deer /Hog hunt. 2. Feb. 26-28<sup>th</sup> 2021, Trail Ridge Turkey Hunt. 3. April 2-4<sup>th</sup> 2021. Sta. 3-4 Gator Hunt, (Boars Nest). If you want to volunteer to help with any or all of these hunts talk to Sean McCann.

I am also excited to tell our members there are plans to make our Youth Hunt Program even better than it is now. We could possibly expand it into new areas, and discussions are underway with the key people who can assist us. It is my hope when we emerge from the Pandemic, BCAHCC will be ready to go with a program to make the entire Club proud. Be assured we will need our member's approval, and you will be kept up to date when we make some progress. Keep your fingers crossed and wish your Executive Board some luck.

I hope you and your family are going out to the woods and getting out of the house. Be safe, don't take any undue risks and be safe.

Bruce Ward



August 12th E-Board Meeting  
Meeting Via Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/xmx-uqdg-rvz>

Or you can call in

**301-845-5229 PIN: 640 961 149#**

August 26th General Meeting  
Meeting Via Google Meet 7pm

<https://meet.google.com/apn-obsv-weo>

Or you can call in

**616-613-6400 PIN: 448 678 075#**

September 9th E-Board Meeting  
Meeting Via Google Meet 7pm

<https://meet.google.com/xmx-uqdg-rvz>

Or you can call in

**301-845-5229 PIN: 640 961 149#**

September 23rd General Meeting  
Meeting Via Google Meet 7pm

<https://meet.google.com/apn-obsv-weo> Or you can

call in

**616-613-6400 PIN: 448 678 075#**



We would like to welcome our new Youth Hunt Coordinator, Sean McCann. He will be the point of contact for all youth hunt communication.

Sean can be reached by email at:

[YouthHunt@browardairboatclub.org](mailto:YouthHunt@browardairboatclub.org)

10/30/2020-11/1/2020- Istapoga Deer/ Hog Hunt

2/26/2021-2/28/2021- Trail Ridge Turkey Hunt

4/2/2021-4/4/2021- STA 3-4 Gator Hunt

To apply for one of these hunts, please visit the FWC website to register or [click here](#).

Youth must have passed the Hunter's Safety course to participate. FWC also offers many opportunities to complete the required Hunter's Safety course, [click here](#) for a list of course schedules.

### DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS FROM CLUB EVENTS?



We are always looking for photos

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Youth Anglers  
Emma & Jayce



Biggest Fish Caught  
Zach Goldberg & Oliver Langley



Most Fish Caught  
Nate Fischer's Crew



50/50 Steve Lorenzi  
(Thanks for the donation!)

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**Do you have a place for the Club Trailer?**

**Our club is currently in search of a place to park our Club Trailer. The trailer is 30 foot long and enclosed.**

**The trailer is only used once a year for the airboat show. If you have a piece of Property where we could park the trailer, it would be of great help to the club.**

**We also have a Club cooker/smoker on a trailer that needs a place to stay, also.**

**If you can accommodate one or both of these items, or you have an idea where we could store them, please contact Bruce Ward 954-658-2714.**

**Thanks we really need to get these items moved.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**UPDATING THE DIALER**

Are you receiving text messages from the club dialer? We use the dialer to update our membership of meetings and events. If you are not receiving them, then please

[CLICK HERE](#) to be added.



If you are in need of a Covid19 test, there is a testing site located at Vista View Park in Davie (4001 SW 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Davie FL) Open Sunday- Thursday 8am-3pm No Appointment needed, they will test children and it is generally not busy.

Visit our Website: [WWW.BrowardAirboatclub.org](http://WWW.BrowardAirboatclub.org)

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# Glades Eye View

with

## Trapper Mike Kimmel



This past month I've been trying to track down and capture a very large monitor lizard that had been spotted lurking around Martin County. I had traps and cameras set in areas it was last spotted, but with no success. I knew it's extremely important for me to find and remove this highly invasive reptile but, I wasn't 100% on exactly what species it was. I never got a good picture from any of the reports, just similar descriptions from reliable sources. I was assuming it was a Nile monitor just from my knowledge of breeding populations of invasives in South Florida and because I've caught them before. No matter what species it is, a large monitor WILL wreak havoc on the ecosystem and if they establish a breeding population we could be in serious trouble. I knew I couldn't let that happen!

After weeks of hunting and waiting with no luck, I get a phone call from a very worried homeowner.... they just spotted some kind of giant lizard sticking its head out of their generator box on the side of their garage. This was the call I have been waiting for. The homeowner's description was exactly what I wanted to hear (big lizard almost with markings like an alligator, but definitely not an alligator or iguana) and the fact the animal was contained and feels "safe" inside a structure helps big time with the capture. I wasted absolutely no time; I quickly grabbed my lead dog Moose, got in my truck and hauled ass! By the time I got to the home, a small crowd had gathered lol. I carefully position traps blocking off exits to the generator box before opening the lid to see what's inside. I then position **#theMoose** 15ft behind me, ready to track down and grab whatever is in this generator box, in case it gets away from me... my experience is with Nile monitors and they are insanely fast, aggressive and can move like no other animal I've ever dealt with. I wasn't taking any chances, especially with a small crowd of people watching haha.



So now the moment of truth... slowly opening the lid to this stainless steel generator box to see what exactly the creature is inside. Even with the detailed description from the homeowner, I wasn't positive what I was about to see (I've had calls for anacondas that turned out to be a 4' brown water snake so I'm always a little skeptical lol). As I carefully open the lid, just enough to see what is inside, I see the beautiful beast that I quickly identify as a massive white throat monitor!!

It was hard to contain my excitement! This is much better news for Martin County than finding a Nile monitor. White throats don't have an established breeding population anywhere in Florida yet and I am almost positive it is just an escaped pet from an irresponsible owner. That's a good thing because if it was a Nile, I'd be worried about a breeding population in Martin County. Aside from all that, I have never found a white throat monitor, nor know anyone that has so this was a cool moment for me. Finding it is one thing, but I was there to capture it! So next was the part where I find out if this giant lizard is tame or meaner than a two headed snake... it sure as hell wasn't tame lol. It took me about 10-15 minutes to wrestle it out of that generator box.

While not quite as mean as the wild born Nile monitors I have caught, this white throat definitely had an attitude. It kept getting under the generator and using it as leverage, I was definitely losing the tug of war. After carefully dodging bites (his bite sounds like dropping a text book on tile floor) and tail whips I was able to maneuver the lizard into an open spot where I could pull it out. It was such a huge relief once I got it out of the box and under control... especially for the homeowner. The whole ordeal was a lot of stress on the lizard so I was happy it was over. I could tell the lizard was not wild born but had been living on its own for some time. Some of the neighbors talked about how they've noticed a huge decline in the rabbit population, I'm pretty sure we found the culprit! Fatboy, the white throat monitor now lives on the Martin County Rescue Ranch enjoying a very large, very secure enclosure all to himself. I'll be keeping him as a rescue and using him for education around the state. I feel he can even be tamed down to safely handle without a fight... in time haha. I'm glad to give him another chance and very relieved this wasn't a bigger problem for Martin County and surrounding areas than it was!!

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# Membership Business Directory

Bill Stevens  
WGS Construction  
(561) 402-3255

Dan Cimas  
DC Plumbing Solutions  
(954) 854-0886  
Dcplumbing5363@aatt.net

Ed Maury  
Florida Linen Services  
Eomusmvreb@gmail.com

David Nash  
South Shore Plumbing  
(954) 421-1373

Gary Alban  
GL Homes  
(772) 226-9000  
www.glhomes.com

Robert Green  
Brennan's Glass Company  
(954) 792-6366

Jim Kelderhouse  
Certified windows and Doors  
(954) 977-7990  
www.certifiedwindowsanddoors.com

Laszlo Cscko  
Carpenter ~ Miami Jewish Health  
acseko@msn.com

Leonard Hommel  
Autonation Chevrolet Technician  
(954) 433-3350

Marguerite McDermote / Mark Bradley  
Alternate Power Solutions  
(561) 242-8869  
www.altpowerfl.com

Marshall Jones  
Mack's Fish Camp  
(954) 536-7400  
www.gladesmenculture.com

John Ladue  
Complete Water Systems  
(954) 985-9800  
www.completewatersystems.net

John Rollins  
Wilson Manifolds  
(954) 771-6216  
www.wilsonmanifolds.com

Kenny Leitheuser  
East Coast Mobile Welding  
(561) 719-2438

Kevin Fitzgerald  
Law offices of  
Samantha J. Fitzgerald  
(954) 580-3690  
www.estateandprobatelawyer.com

Nate Fischer  
Florida Gladesmen / Kids Spot Rehab  
floridagladesmen@gmail.com  
www.kidsspotrehab.com

Patrick Ball  
Mintz Truppman  
(305) 893-5506

Randy Hill  
USA Marine Training LLC.  
(352) 872-4405  
www.usamarinetraining.com

Robert Sisilya  
Bill's Marine  
(615) 972-9761

Russell Grubb  
Hollywood Woodwork  
(954) 920-5009

Jason Freeman  
Blackwater Airboat Tours  
(954) 474-4040  
www.blackwaterairboatstours.com

Frank Herbert  
Everything Everglades Enterprises  
Everglades shades, airboat  
Equipment/ accessories  
(954) 792-6482

Barney McDougall  
Innovative Powder Coating (IPC)  
(954) 537-2558

Brett Holcombe  
Westway Towing Inc.  
(954) 731-1115

Ron Provenzano  
Tropic Care & Lawn Maintenance  
(954) 275-4397

Gary Lee  
Southern Homes & Rentals LLC.  
(561) 723-2226

Frank Carieri  
Headhunter- American Recruiters  
Frank@ariteam.com

John Davis  
Davis Plumbing  
(954) 680-6543

Zach Goldberg  
Program director Deliver the Dream  
www.deliverthedream.com  
(954) 564-3512

Eric Goss  
A & E Land Clearing  
(561) 784-8525

Diane Hermelyn  
Allstate Insurance  
(954) 370-1500

Thomas Ivy Jr.  
Lonestar Plumbing  
(305) 895-1340

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# Membership Business Directory

Tom Nardone  
Residential Private Equity Fund LLC.  
(954) 234-5565

Tom Schmidt  
Schmidt Aviation  
(954) 520-8068

William Taylor  
Margarita Man of South Florida  
(954) 629-8139

Dave Wallin- Field Service Supervisor  
Evolvtec- (954) 587-5521  
[www.evolutec.com](http://www.evolutec.com)

Parrish Westbrook- Marine Electronic Sales  
Krell Marine  
(305) 326-9555

Captain Phil Walters  
[www.gatorguides.com](http://www.gatorguides.com)  
(813) 220-6854

Robert Gonzalez  
Farm Bureau Insurance  
(954) 680-2805  
[www.Rgonzalezinsurance.com](http://www.Rgonzalezinsurance.com)

Stephen Martin  
Martin Marine & Industrial  
(954) 647-4475

Brad Wehrauch  
Ralph White Company  
(863) 287-1864  
[www.ralphwhitecompany.com](http://www.ralphwhitecompany.com)

Alex Galetta  
Industrial Divers Corp.  
(954) 523-2906  
[www.Industrialdivers.com](http://www.Industrialdivers.com)

Sean McCann  
A1 Appliance  
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[www.a1applianceservicenparts.com](http://www.a1applianceservicenparts.com)

Steven Lorenzi  
South Florida Masonry  
(954) 971-6875

John "Jay" Verkey Sr.  
Lauderdale Speedometer  
(954) 522-4885  
[www.lspeedp.com](http://www.lspeedp.com)

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