

## **A message from the president**

I am overwhelmed by the response from the community after publication of the first issue of our newsletter *The Oak Tree*. Thank you for all of the positive comments, phone calls and e-mails that were received for publishing information that, according to many of the comments, "has been helpful and interesting."

Below is the essence of an email I sent to members of the Grand Haven Master Association prior to the February board meeting. I believe it is difficult to improve if you do not identify your weaknesses. This was my attempt to start that process.

### **Text of the message**

As we start this New Year, I'd like to discuss how the board views its mandate to the community. Our first priority is to enforce Grand Haven's CC&Rs and the guidelines of the Architectural Review Committee.

To be effective over the long term, I believe this enforcement must be timely - notification must occur shortly after a violation is observed.

It has to be uniform – the rules must be administered consistently throughout the community. It must, of course, be legal – state statutes regulate many of our actions and time frames.

And it must be visible – residents must understand and agree with what is happening.

It is our job to insure that we meet all these requirements and provide residents with the information they need to ascertain that enforcement is happening in such a timely, uniform and legal way.

*Kenny O'Connor, President, GHMA*



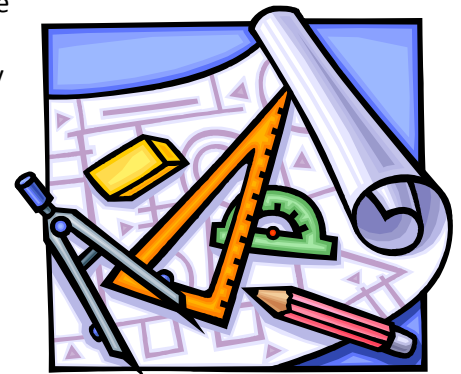
## **Want to make a change???**

Residents who would like to change the outside appearance of their home or make a change in their landscape design must first get approval of their plans from the Architectural Design Committee (ADC).

After a landscape or well proposal is drawn up with a contractor or well driller, or a new house color selected, the resident should go to the Master Association web site, [www.grandhavenmhoa.com](http://www.grandhavenmhoa.com), to find the necessary forms to submit the plan. Click on Architectural Design, then ADC Forms, then click on ADC Application Form, and if necessary, Well Agreement. Print and fill out the forms needed, copy in triplicate, write a check for the amount stipulated by the ADC and submit a letter explaining what is to be done. Take photos of the house or lawn, if so desired, and bring the entire package to Southern States Management at 7 Florida Park Drive, the property management firm for the ADC.

The application will then be placed on the agenda for the next ADC meeting provided it has been submitted at least three working days prior to the meeting. Residents who do not wish to attend the meeting will be notified by mail about the outcome.

The meetings are held in the Grand Haven Room of the Village Center on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. The venue for the meeting will be changed in May or June, when the Creekside Athletic Center meeting room becomes available. The committee will advise residents of the location change in the next newsletter.



## Want to help?



After the Architectural Review Committee approves a plan for changing something around a Grand Haven home and the change is made, who is responsible for checking to see if approved plans were followed?

A group of volunteers spend one to two hours a week helping insure that local neighborhoods look as good as the plans. They take the approved plans and compare them to what actually was done. The results go back to the ADC for filing or action.

The ADC currently needs two more volunteers to do this community service job. Anyone interested in volunteering should call Brandy Despang at Southern States Management, 446-6333, ext.306, or email Brandy at [BDespang\\_pcpm@bellsouth.net](mailto:BDespang_pcpm@bellsouth.net).

## The scourge of the Brazilian pepper tree

*By Dr. William Allen*

In the last few years, several hundred Brazilian pepper trees, an exotic invasive species that harms the natural habitat, have been removed from Grand Haven's common areas and golf course property. Residents may have noticed the orange paint used to mark the trees prior to cutting them down. The stumps are then treated with a herbicide.

More than 700,000 acres of Florida wetlands and woodlands are currently infested with the trees and there are no established biological controls for this pest in the state. Left alone, the Brazilian pepper tree can form an impenetrable forest with negative effects on both plant and animal communities.

Homeowners are asked to survey their property to determine if they have the pepper trees on their property or in the woods behind their homes. To determine if they are on or abutting their property, residents are asked to look for the following features:

- \*Mature plants grow to a height of 33 feet with a short trunk usually hidden in a dense head of contorted intertwining branches;
- \*Immature trees and seedlings usually have less than three central upright branches;

- \*The leaves are glossy, dark green with a reddish midrib;
- \* New twigs have a reddish tint to the twig and leaves;
- \*When crushed, the leaves smell of turpentine;
- \*Flower clusters are white; flowers usually appear September through December;
- \*Clustered berries are glossy green at first but turn red when ripe. Large numbers of berries are produced on mature female trees.



Figure 2. Leaves and fruits of mature Brazilian pepper-tree.

Additional information on Brazilian pepper tree can be found on <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu>.

There are two commonly occurring native plants with red berries in Grand Haven that are similar in appearance to the pepper tree but are highly desirable: Yaupon and East Palatka Holly.

For residents who need help in identifying the pepper tree, I will be at the April 15 Village Forum meeting. Please bring a 12-inch branch from the suspect tree so it could be identified. The meeting, in the Grand Haven room of the Village Center, is at 3 p.m.

*Dr. William (Bill) Allen, an entomologist, began his career as a horticultural county agent in Pinellas County, FL, and retired in 1995 from Virginia Tech as Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He holds degrees from the University of Florida, Purdue University and Virginia Tech. Dr. Allen is the author of more than 50 research articles and has served as president of the Entomological Society of America. He and his wife, Dorothy, live in Osprey Lakes.*

## **The Oak Tree seeks contributors**



The editors of *The Oak Tree* would like residents to help with ideas and topics for future issues.

Residents are welcome to write articles about something they feel may be of interest to others - a Grand Haven activity, club, happening, sporting event, etc. for this newsletter. They can also submit questions for *The Oak Tree's* Frequently Asked Questions column.

Contact Kenny O'Connor at [koconnor12@cfl.rr.com](mailto:koconnor12@cfl.rr.com) or Ray Smith at [raymondsmith@cfl.rr.com](mailto:raymondsmith@cfl.rr.com) for submissions or more information.

### **The Oak Tree staff**

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Diane S. Zeeman, Editor  
Troy Railsback, Production Manager

## **Biker Babes – Not for women only**

*By Jim Crane*

Who are the Grand Haven Biker Babes? Why do they have their own sign on Colbert Lane? And why is Jim Kamalsky in their group picture from 2005? These were a few of the many unanswered questions that confronted us when we moved into Grand Haven in June of 2005. We were looking for a group to bike with. We needed to get these questions answered.



It started with an invitation from Joy Mottel when my wife, Chris, was at yoga. Joy said, "We have this bike group that rides every Saturday morning. Would you and Jim like to join us?"

Not wanting to dive into something that we could not do (translated as "not wanting to get my biking butt kicked by any Biker Babe"), I called Joy. The questions went something like this:

"Are men welcome?"

"Yes, we have a couple who ride with us."

"How far do you ride?"

"Twenty five to 40 miles, depending on direction and wind."

"How fast?"

"Thirteen to 15 miles per hour."

"We have hybrids. Could we keep up?"

"Come and try it and find out for yourself."

We began riding in November 2005 and were immediately welcomed into the group. The first trip was to Ormond Beach and we actually lived through it. Since then we have ridden dozens of times and hundreds of miles. There are now equal numbers of men and women.

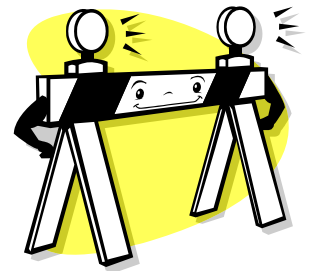
It's a great group and we have a lot of fun. Last September 13, a group of "Babes" and friends completed a 240-mile bike trip along the Danube in Austria.

Those interested in joining us should contact Joy Mottel at [joymottel@cfl.rr.com](mailto:joymottel@cfl.rr.com) or 445-3666. Or just show up some Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. at the Village Center.

Several Biker Babes ride in the Multiple Sclerosis 150 for Team Flagler and have raised thousands of dollars for a very worthwhile cause.

## **Dumpsters, mixers removed from construction site**

The overflowing dumpsters and a mortar mixer at the site of the unfinished Whitehall condominium between the 10th and 18th holes have been removed, following a meeting between Grand Haven Master Association board members and officials from the city's Code Enforcement Department. Residents who live near the construction had urged the Grand Haven board to take action.



Construction on the condo was halted months ago when the builder failed to obtain additional financing to complete the project. Despite being fined by the Code Enforcement Department, Whitehall made no effort to remove the construction materials.



Jerry Andrews, chief operating officer of Whitehall, told a GHMA board member that the company “had ceased operations and fired all its employees.” Left at the construction site were the dumpsters, a truck with an expired registration, pails of hydraulic fluid, and construction supplies. Efforts are under way to remove the remaining items; Hampton Golf had earlier repaired fencing around the site.

## **A primer on Grand Haven detention ponds**

*By Steve Davidson and Vic Natiello*

The 50 detention ponds (aka “lakes”) in Grand Haven were created as part of an overall engineering plan to divert and temporarily contain storm water runoff, especially during severe weather events. Without the ponds, homes could be faced with flooding problems. Should the ponds become clogged with natural and/or man-made debris, regulatory agencies would require the ponds to be cleared and possibly dredged, at tremendous cost to all Grand Haven residents.

The first ponds were built with bulkheads, with lawns ending at the bulkhead walls. Later, the ponds were constructed with a tapering slope and a vegetative buffer between the lawn and the water’s edge.

Early pond management consisted of stocking them with grass-eating, sterile (triploid) carp to control weeds that interfered with the pond’s ability to handle storm water runoff. The algae overgrowth (pond scum, algae mats) was controlled with the spraying of an algaecide causing the dead algae to sink to the bottom. This approach, however, masked, not cured the problem.

### **How to eradicate pond scum**

The seasonal return of the algae blooms is largely a consequence of the increase in chemical nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, now concentrated in the ponds, which can be attributed in large part, but not completely to, landscaping and fertilizer practices.



## **Improving aesthetic appearance, ecological balance**

On January 22, the Grand Haven CDD and homeowners’ associations held a symposium on storm water detention ponds. The data collected, draft and final action plans resulting from the discussion can be found on the CDD website at [www.grandhavencdd.org](http://www.grandhavencdd.org).

Earlier, on January 15, the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force released its final report to the Florida Legislature. The full report can be found at <http://consensus.fsu.edu/Fertilizer-Task-Force/index.html>. The Legislature is in the process of enacting laws to aid the various counties in drawing up local ordinances and codes.



The common message from the experts at the symposium and the Fertilizer Task Force is that communities must begin immediately to control and reduce the amounts of unnecessary fertilizer that runs into local bodies of water. It is an essential first step in improving the health and appearance of the ponds.

### **What can be done now?**

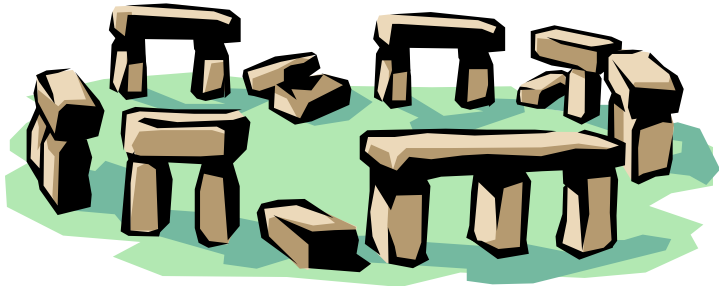
Join the newly Grand Haven WAV (Watershed Action Volunteer)/Lakewatch Program under the auspices of the St. John’s River Water Management District. The first organizational meeting will be held Wednesday, April 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the Grand Haven Room. Information on WAV can be found at [www.sjrwmd.com/wav/](http://www.sjrwmd.com/wav/). Information on the Florida Lakewatch Program can be found at: <http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/WHATFLW.htm>.

To improve the ponds, the type, rate, and frequency of fertilizer applications should follow State of Florida Fertilizer Task Force and UF/IFAS regulations that should then be written into all future contracts and dispensed to all private landscape contractors.

Slow release, granular (solid, pelletized) type fertilizer is recommended and the method of application is as important as the fertilizer formula. Liquid fertilizers, sprayed by contractors, homeowners, or automated systems such as Rid-a-Rust tanks, will be discouraged and/or banned. Chemical composition and rates of application of the granular fertilizer should conform to Task Force recommendations. Residents should also keep clippings and lawn chemicals away from all bodies of water and storm drains.

### **The good old days of Grand Haven**

Imagine a Grand Haven with just 100 houses on mostly undeveloped land, a community with a lot of promise but with more wild creatures than people and few roads, most of which were dirt. There were no mailboxes – residents had to go to Palm Coast to get their mail. A golf course with a double-wide trailer for a clubhouse came later. There was no Village Center.



But there were several hardy residents named Bohmueller, Klingenberg, Abbey, Glass, Borer, Loechner, Currie, Cameron and others who were there at the creation and are still around. Newer residents will be able to read about the good old days of Grand Haven in future issues of *The Oak Tree*, when articles by Palm Coast historian Art Dycke, a Grand Haven resident, will appear in the newsletter. To help Art out, the editors of *The Oak Tree* would like the early pilgrims who are still around to contact Art at 446-8636 or [artedski@bellsouth.net](mailto:artedski@bellsouth.net). Art would also like to obtain the names of the very first residents who moved into the each Grand Haven village.

Look for the articles this summer.

### **Residents could face fines for illegal watering**

There is a City of Palm Coast truck driving around Grand Haven these days checking for violations of the city's watering regulations. Residents who violate the regulations could be subject to a fine.



Steve Tilley, the city's Code Enforcement Officer, is busy checking for the violations. If he sees sprinklers operating at the wrong time or on the wrong day, he will place a warning notice on a resident's front door as a reminder of the proper watering times. If that door message is ignored and he returns to find the same violation, he will put a Goldenrod-colored notice on the door. If he returns a third time and sees the same violation, the resident will receive a pink notice, formal notification of a hearing.

There is a water shortage in the area and the city is currently in Excess Demand Level 2, which stipulates that residents may only irrigate their lawns twice a week and only between the hours of 2 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Odd numbered addresses may water on Wednesday and Saturday only and even numbered addresses may water on Thursday and Sunday. These rules apply to all residents, even those with wells.



Irrigation of new landscaping is permitted at any time of day and on any day, for the first 30 days, and every other day for the next 30 days. Watering of chemicals, including fertilizers and insecticides, is permitted within 24 hours of application.

Users of reclaimed water, which is used by the golf course, the CDD on all common property, and the River Club, are not bound by these rules.

***GHMA NEWSLETTER***  
***Grand Haven Master Association, Inc.***  
***P.O. Box 354785***  
***Palm Coast, FL 32135***

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|--|--------------|
| Southern States Management Group .....           | 386-446-6333 |
| Community Development District .....             | 386-447-1888 |
| LandMar Group .....                              | 386-446-6428 |
| Grand Haven Guard Gate .....                     | 386-445-2376 |
| Village Center Office .....                      | 386-447-0192 |
| Village Center Café .....                        | 386-447-0239 |
| Grand Haven Golf Club Pro Shop & Tee Times ..... | 386-445-2327 |
| Grand Haven Golf Club Restaurant .....           | 386-445-1027 |
| <br>   |              |
| Palm Coast City Hall .....                       | 386-986-3700 |
| Flagler County Property Appraiser .....          | 386-313-4150 |

