



President's Message

Hello Fellow Cypress Landers!

As we begin a new year, it is helpful to look back at what we've achieved, how we did it and what we need to do to move forward. I think we can all agree the vision of those who organized Cypress Landing's Homeowners Association around a spirit of volunteerism and the continued contributions of our volunteers is the "secret sauce" that enables us to enjoy a fabulous lifestyle and amenities at a cost that is far lower than most communities in our country.

With teams of homeowner volunteers doing many tasks that most HOAs outsource, we have saved hundreds of THOUSANDS of dollars over the years and reap benefits far more valuable than the cost savings. First and foremost, we get to know our neighbors and foster strong, long-lasting friendships as we, side-by-side, share in the creation, maintenance, repair and planning of the future of almost all aspects of our community. This creates a sense of pride, belonging, and vitality that is evident throughout Cypress Landing.

Volunteering is no spectator sport here. Our residents have an astounding array of talents and skills that they enthusiastically share, and many find themselves

learning valuable and dare I say "fun", new skills. Examples include:

- Seasoned business and financially minded individuals managing the finances.
- Strategic planning and architectural planning for the entire subdivision.
- Skilled trade and handymen/women serving on Building & Grounds, the Blue Hats, and Marina and Golf Course maintenance teams.
- Organizers, event/party planners, decorators, and cooks coordinating dozens of elaborate parties, themed events, social activities and clubs.
- Marketers promoting Cypress Landing via digital and traditional media.
- Musicians, artists and experts providing entertainment, artwork and education.
- Master and hobby gardeners developing and maintaining the Butterfly Habitat and overseeing environmental programs, nature trails, and common areas landscaping.
- Experienced enthusiasts overseeing the operations of the Fitness Center, pools, Marina, Bay Club, Iris Lounge, and tennis and pickleball courts.



By David Shepherd

We have volunteers keeping us on top of:

- Staying abreast of local and regional affairs affecting the community to aid planning.
- Organizing leagues, recreational play and lessons for multiple sports.
- Coordinating activities for a wide array of interests and activities and welcoming new residents.

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- Decorating seasonally (thank you Christmas elves!).
- And even producing The Landing and other communications.

Our collective efforts have enabled us to consistently win accolades and top rankings. Most recently:

- Community Associations Institute (CAI) award of distinction for excellence in HOA management and adherence to standards.
- Audubon International Sanctuary certification for the Golf Course.
- GolfPass ranking the Golf Course #8 among NC public golf courses.
- Our golf course consistently ranking as the Best of the Pamlico and Beaufort County;

AND...

- The Golf Course's inclusion in a feature article in NC's Travel & Tourism Website:

<https://www.visitn.com/story/6Rjq/play-audubon-international-certified-golf-coures-in-nc>

Our volunteerism has even spread beyond our borders, creating a positive impact across Beaufort County with the renovation and ongoing success of the Turnage Theatre, the Sheppard Cancer Foundation, The Beaufort County Community College Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Eagles Wings, Ruth's House, Chocowinity First Responders, Rotary, area schools, and many more organizations.

We thank all who are volunteering in any capacity. We especially appreciate those who have played pivotal roles in shaping our community over the past decades. We are also excited to have new faces stepping up to share their insights, technologies and skills that help us continue moving forward. If you know of a resident who would be great for a particular committee, we encourage you to invite them. If you're new and can't wait to get involved, (Yay!!) contact our HOA office hoa@cypresslanding.com, (252) 975-3255 and we will get you plugged in.

Thanks to excellent financial stewardship and volunteerism, Cypress Landing is in good shape financially, physically, and socially. I'm excited to see how we can move onward and upward together in 2025.

Another Successful Year for Your Golf Course!

By Bill Leckenby

As 2024 comes to a close, we can look back on another fantastic year concerning profits and course improvements. This is our 4th consecutive year generating strong profits, which is a great achievement! Our membership numbers are increasing, and our public rounds continue to grow, which is a big factor in our profitability. Our course was ranked #8 by Golf Pass amongst all public courses in NC and awarded the best course on the Pamlico.

Financially and operationally, our numbers continue to be extremely positive. Here are some year-over-year stats comparing 2024 YTD numbers through November with 2023 numbers.

- Public rounds – increased by 10%!

- Overall rounds – increased dramatically – we will play 7,000 rounds in 2024
- Public round revenue – up \$57,500
- Gross Revenue – up \$160,000
- Membership – increased from 229 members to 280 currently!!
- Grill Net Profit – up \$5,000 ytd
- Overall net profit has increased over \$25,000 ytd vs.2023

The Green Committee, along with volunteers from the Butterfly Habitat, did a fantastic job designing and completing the Landscaping project. We were honored to receive the President's Award at the Annual meeting



Fresh look for the clubhouse

this year. Over the last 12 months, our volunteers have removed dozens of trees impeding sod growth, laid down several truckloads of sod, replaced 75 boards on our bridges, and edged every sand trap on the course, along with many other smaller projects.

The current Golf Course Committee includes Bill Leckenby (Chair), Eric Johnson (Vice-Chair), Dick Puricelli (Treasurer), Brenda Ihle, and Jenni Tanner. These individuals will continue to maintain oversight of the golf course operations and work with BJL staff to maintain and improve the course and its offerings to the community and surrounding areas.

CYPRESS LANDING REAL ESTATE SCOREBOARD

YEAR	HOMES SOLD	LOTS SOLD	BUILD PERMITS
2018	56	15	10
2019	54	24	13
2020	65	20	7
2021	59	25	15
2022	41	29	16
2023	35	17	12
2024	38	8	7

Cypress Landing Yacht Club ...what's it all about?

By Skip Vail

In one word... FUN!

East corner of docks by Alex Diffey

Fun on the water. Fun on the docks. Fun at the Marina. Fun at the Bay Club!

Cypress Landing's largest and oldest social club, founded in 1997, boasts an average of 300 family memberships. Open to all CL residents and Cypress Landing marina slip holders, people join for the great parties, cool excursions & a wide variety of other activities. Owning a boat is NOT required!

The Yacht Club headquarters and the Cypress Landing Marina Association (CLMA) share the Bay Club's marina lounge (located downstairs). The CLMA operates the neighborhood's 222 slip marina premier amenity on behalf of the HOA. New visitors to Cypress Landing are welcomed by dock masters who serve as front-line community ambassadors. You may also want to visit the (unofficial) "Table of Knowledge" gathered in the lounge most mornings for coffee and conversation. The marina lounge, kitchen, grills and patio are available for private parties after 5pm for a small fee.

So, what's so fun you may ask? The list is LONG! Past events include the Chili Cook Off, St. Patrick's Day Party, Blessing of the Fleet breakfast, boat trips (to Bath, Belhaven, Okracoke, New Bern, Beaufort and beyond), sailboat races, cookouts, kayak paddles, Halloween Party and Egg Nog Party. During the summer, a HUGE theme party takes place with tents, live music bands, BBQ and Tiki Bar. Past themes have included Margaritaville, Shipwreck, Love Boat, Surfin' Safari, a real Pirate Invasion and last year's Wild Wild West (Down East style) with Cowboys, a Stagecoach, a real jail and even a horse! Who knows what new surprises Commodore Eric Johnson will have in 2025?!

Lastly, the CLYC provides sponsorships for the Cypress Lander's Fishing Club, a Little Washington Sailing

School boat, the tax deductible CLYC Charitable Fund and Community Outreach scholarships to local students. The CLYC also partners with the Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron (PSPS) to sponsor many boating and safety seminars throughout the year.

There is something for everyone with the Cypress Landing Yacht Club! Initial membership is \$40/year/family. Go to website www.cypresslandingyc.org for membership form and tons of info or come to the Marina lounge for the form.

If you are new to Cypress Landing you don't want to miss out on the CLYC in 2025!



The CL Turkey Trot Continues to Bless and Grow! By Kelly Hasslinger

What better way to begin Thanksgiving Day than with family, friends, fresh air and a little bit of exercise. This Thanksgiving, at the 3rd Annual Turkey Trot, over 200 Cypress Landing families participated in the 1 mile and 5K races. We started the day with prayer and singing of the National Anthem, followed by lots of laughter, smiles and high fives. Our community came together in love as volunteers and participants began this great day of Thanksgiving and we are very appreciative of all your support.

We want to congratulate the winners this year...the 5K race highlighted two from the Dobler family, Rebecca Dobler came in 1st place (she was also 7 months pregnant!) and Amanda Dobler finished in 3rd place. Sand-

wiched in-between for 2nd place was Denny and Ray Karpy's 10-year-old grandson Andrew. His younger brother James drew a picture in school of the turkey trot being his favorite family event! The winner of the one-mile race was Zach Maxwell, 14 year old grandson of Bill and Lee Maxwell. Carson Maxwell, their other grandson (12 years old) finished right behind him in 2nd place! Congratulations to all the winners and participants.

With your donations, we raised \$4,155 for Eagle's Wings (our local food pantry) along with 680 pounds of food. In addition, we raised \$1,475 for Habitat for Humanity of Beaufort County, giving us a grand total of \$5,630. We also want to thank the local businesses that sponsored the event, your sup-

port helped to make it a huge success: Eastern NC Realty (Bud & Sybil Kirkner), Park Boat Company, Feryl Masters, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lee Chevrolet, Washington Chiropractic, Marks Termite, Food Lion and Traffic Safety Direct.

In closing, I want to thank Michelle Galvin and Pamela Eubank for spearheading this event with me and our core group of helpers: Darrell Hasslinger, Mike Galvin, Robert Eubank, Jon and Lauri Heely, Matt and Beth Galvin and Les and Donna Blagg. And most importantly the Fitness Committee who we run this event through!

**Hope to see you all
next year –
Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!**



Quotes from the day:

"What a great Family event!" –Denny Karpy

"The fact that there was no need to continually harass the 12- and 14-year-olds to Wake Up speaks volumes for the enthusiasm felt for this event" – Lee Maxwell

"This is the best event at Cypress Landing–benefiting our community and getting exercise all at the same time".
–Author Unknown



The CLWGA Wants YOU!

Our purpose is to increase participation, encourage friendly competition, and promote interest in golf among women. The CLWGA has both a golfing membership and a social membership. The WGA golfing membership requires a Legends, Honors, Legacy, or Professional Membership to the Cypress Landing Golf Course. The Social membership is open to all women and does not require a membership to the CLGC.

The CLWGA has 18-hole and 9-hole golfing flights, which include women of all ages and handicaps. The women play from the red tees, the green hybrid tees, or the forward teal tees.

Golf is a social game, and the WGA season demonstrates that. The late March through early November sea-



son includes weekly Play-days each Thursday, geared for all levels. The WGA fosters ladies to play more, play better, have fun, and make friends.

The CLWGA social membership includes participation in WGA activities, including Meet and Greet, Hit'em, You Win It, Whack and Hack, Ladies Night Out (occurs once a month April thru October), and all of the planned WGA

social evenings at the Marina Lounge, Bay Club, and Golf Course.

If you are interested in CLWGA, there is a Meet and Greet Opening Meeting on March 20, 2025 at the CL Bay Club. The evening includes social time, dinner, and a short meeting. The cost of the Meet and Greet dinner is TBD. Cash bar opens at 5:00 pm. Contact Pat Schleifstein, CLWGA Co-President @ patschleifstein@gmail.com or call 774-217-8842, or Mardi Hastings Co-President @ mardihastings@gmail.com for more information.

CLWGA applications are available on the bulletin board next to the ladies restroom at the Cypress Landing Golf Clubhouse and on the website @cypresslandinggolf.

**We look forward to having
new members. Join Us!**

From The Ground Up

(October to December 2024)

By *Debbie Mitchell*



Happy 2025 to y'all! Now that we've turned the calendar to a new year, let's take a moment to look back at all the magic the Buildings and Grounds (B&G) crew worked in 2024. Our fearless B&G chair (Santa's long-lost cousin, perhaps) kept a meticulous list of every good deed. And let me tell you, our neighborhood elves (or handymen, if you prefer) were far "nicer" than "naughty" this year. They tackled an impressive 97 tasks! They deserve a round of applause for saving the community a bundle while keeping Cypress Landing (CL) looking fabulous. Let's hop into our time machine for "2024 in Review" and relive some of the B&G's greatest moments!

It took four months to make over the kayak boardwalk and racks from top-to-bottom. This Herculean task called for all hands on deck—and a few pairs of waders. First, the **Demolition Crew** bid farewell to the old, damaged racks and docks (RIP) and hauled the remains to the landfill. Then, while waiting for materials, our intrepid **Carpenters**, sometimes knee-deep in water, worked to install new joists. When the 250+ pieces of decking arrived, **Unskilled Laborers** (their words, not mine) sprang into action to unload them. Finally, **Manual Workers** and **Carpenters** joined forces to build shiny new racks for 68 kayaks and four canoes. Bravo, team!

CL got a "glow-up" this year, thanks to B&G. They teamed up with Duke Energy to swap out old lights for energy-efficient LEDs and replaced metal poles with fiberglass ones, which will save residents about \$4,500 annually. The **Sealcoating Squad** gave the Bay Club and Marina parking lots a fresh look, while the **Soft Wash Superstars** cleaned up the Fitness Center and Bay Club exteriors. And let us not forget the **Green Thumbs** who planted seasonal

flowers, installed sod, and refreshed planters and pine straw throughout the neighborhood. Florida, eat your heart out! After mastering sinkhole repairs in CL, B&G might just moonlight as consultants. From digging and compressing dirt to filling holes with foam, our **Excavators** and **"Geotechnicians"** handled it all with finesse.

B&G earned their stripes as **"Irrigation Commandos"** in 2024. They repaired and buried irrigation lines, replaced water valves, fixed the well, and installed new pipes and sprinkler heads. The plants? They were drenched with gratitude. And for you Nature lovers, B&G removed an old wooden bridge and added two new walkways to the

Butterfly Habitat, complete with drainage pipes and dirt. Now, even the butterflies have a smoother commute.

Adding a little bit more spark to CL, our very own **Electricians** accomplished some shocking achievements by rewiring lights, installing low-voltage transformers, and fixing some Bay Club accent lighting. Meanwhile, our **Masons** repaired walls, added bricks to the waterfall, and re-cemented the kiddie pool sunshade pole.

That's it for the 2024 Review and the B&G update! I see sidewalk grinding, kayak rack maintenance, and garbage corral area clean-up in the future. As always, thanks for your attention, and enjoy the cooler weather!



Bay Club Operating Committee

By Robin Smith

Hello from the Bay Club Operating Committee (BCOC). We are the committee entrusted with overseeing the Bay Club building including the Iris Lounge. The BCOC plans for asset replacements and renovations as well as monitoring monthly income and expenses for the Iris Lounge. We take an active role in determining inventory for the Iris Lounge as well as assisting in setting prices. Lastly, we strive to be the folks you meet at Bay Club events, always working to establish our Bay Club as a friendly, welcoming amenity for everyone to use.

For this first article we thought it may be helpful to respond to a little Q&A we have heard:

Q: How can I use the Bay Club for a private event?

A: See the HOA office and complete a request form. There may be cleaning fees involved depending on the nature of your event. You cannot request to 'close' the Bay Club for a private event on a Wednesday or Friday night which are reserved for the community at large. Be sure to plan as the calendar does fill up with scheduled events. If you want the bar open, you must use our bartenders. Oh, and you must be a resident to reserve the Bay Club! Every now and then a rumor gets started that we rent to outside folks – nope, no sir, no ma'am, not true.

Q: Why do I have to use the table movers in the big room? I am strong enough to move those heavy tables!

A: Hold your horses Beefcake (or Cupcake as the case may be) – we know you can move and wiggle those tables into position. BUT those heavy iron bases are screwed into the wood table tops and like all things that move and wiggle – they are getting looser with age. Help us extend the life of the tables (saving us all money by extending the replacement timeline) by using the table mover. If you don't know how to use the table mover just stand by it and say in a loud voice, "Gee, I wonder how this works," and table fairies will appear to help – unless you are alone,

then just leave the tables for someone else.

Q: We just replaced the upholstered chairs in the bar, hallway and library – how does stuff get replaced?

A: Each year the BCOC receives a list of the building's fixed assets, and we review each item comparing its overall condition to the expected replacement year to determine if it can make it another year or two, or not. In many cases we can extend the life of assets as we all take such good care of them. When the time comes to replace an asset, we form a subcommittee of folks willing to look at samples, talk to vendors, and develop the proposal for the finance committee. We approve the selection as the BCOC, send the request to the finance committee for review and then it goes to the HOA Board for final approval.

Q: Where can I buy a high-top bar table like the ones in the Iris Lounge? They are so unique and well made!

A: You can't! These were handcrafted by a resident who is enjoying retirement and does not wish to do this for a living. BUT we ask you all to use your coasters or napkins on these tables as we treasure them and can never hope to replace them. And yes, we are still upset about the gum we found stuck under them when they were removed for a top resurfacing. That just ain't right.

Q: How can I get my favorite drink, beer, mix at the Iris Lounge?

A: Talk to a bartender or member of the BCOC. While we try to accommodate, we have come up on the short end of the stick a few times where we ended up losing money or tying up inventory dollars for long periods of time. This impacts all of us as the Iris Lounge is run on a break-even basis, so we really watch our expenses. With our POS system, we can now see what sells and what does not, so we do adjust our inventory to meet what most folks are purchasing.



Q: Are there any rules I should know?

A: Club and Committee meetings are scheduled through Catherine in the HOA office.

- You are free to sit in the Bay Club and use internet, read or gather in small groups so long as you clean up after yourselves, but pre-scheduled meetings or clubs take precedent.

- You should have your Cypress Land-ing card with you when you go to the bar so you can show the bartender you live here. Yes, I know they know us, but it is a rule.

- We are governed by NC ABC laws so absolutely NO spirits can be brought in from the outside. We do get spot inspections, and this would cost us our license.

- If the bar is open, you cannot bring your own beer and wine into the Bay Club. Seriously - please don't be a jerk and do this. At a recent event we found a bottle of beer we do not sell, and one bartender had to take the time to police the big room in search of more. They don't have time for that when folks are dancin' up a thirst!

- In the Iris Lounge no swimwear is allowed unless covered up – mainly to keep wet suits from dripping all over and old men from having heart attacks.

- Speaking of swimwear, the pool area by the Bay Club is in the footprint of the club, so no spirituous liquor is allowed (regardless of whether the Iris Lounge is open or closed). You can bring beer and wine if they are not in glass containers. Don't shoot the messenger, it is what it is!

- Dogs are not allowed inside the bar but are very welcome on the porch. Porch Pooches get lots of attention and treats!

Have more questions or answers? Just let a BCOC member know, and we will try to address in the next article.

Fall 2024 Pickleball Social and Tournament

Pickleballers and guests gathered on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at the Cypress Landing (CL) pickleball courts for a day of pickleball, camaraderie, and tasty treats and drinks. Players enjoyed the beautiful Fall weather.

The day began with players of all levels enjoying leisurely play. This was a good opportunity for folks new to pickleball to play and meet other players. Games were played to eight points (rather than eleven), so that people rotated in and out more often; therefore, getting more play time.

Lunch followed with deli sandwiches, chips, cookies, and a delicious homemade chocolate cake. Water, wine, and beer complemented lunch (as well as the afternoon activities).

During the afternoon portion, registered players took part in competitive tournament play. There were men and women components with a double-elimination format and a total of sixteen players. Games were lively and competitive.

The next pickleball social/tournament event will be held in Spring 2025. Look for details later this year. See below for Spring lessons for those interested in learning the game and, hopefully, joining Social Play at the next event.



Maria Williamson and Corina Bezrouch

**By Patrick Kinlaw
Tennis/Pickleball
Committee**



Spring 2025 Pickleball Lessons

As there have been in the last several years, free pickleball lessons will be offered to CL residents on two Saturdays in March 2025 (rain dates are on Sundays). As in the past, additional sections will be opened when registrations exceed the number of planned slots so that all interested individuals get an opportunity. These lessons are for novices and those who would like a refresher session. Lessons will be led/coordinated by Patrick Kinlaw along with resident instructors that have, in the past, included Carol Kuhns, John Bussanick, Kate Hoelscher, Muriel Moore, Gail Baird, and Gary Noffke. Announcements will appear in Escapades and via an email sent to all residents.

Open Play Hours Update and Court Access

Cypress Landing pickleball courts are available to all residents and their family/guests. There are no longer specific "open play" hours/times. Players are welcome to take to the courts whenever it suits their schedules. If a reservation is desired to secure a court, 90-minute time periods can be reserved by contacting Patrick Kinlaw at: patkinlaw@comcast.net or text: 804-217-1923. Reservations may be made for one court only as the other court must always be available for walk-ons. Those playing on the "walk-on" court are expected to allow anyone waiting to rotate in and out of play between games. During the busiest times (Sat-

urday and Sunday mornings), it is expected that all interested players be allowed to rotate in and out on both courts, regardless of a reservation.

Social Pickleball vs. Competitive Play

While there is certainly (for some) a competitive side to pickleball, it is generally seen as a social game mixing fun and exercise. It is amazing how many steps you can get on a FitBit during play. So, regardless of your level of interest, a place can be found for you on the Cypress Landing pickleball courts. The 'Stack Team' App is the smartphone tool CL resident players use to communicate about putting together games, keeping abreast of notices, and seeing court reservations. If interested, you can simply download the app and click on "Find My Team," then type in Cypress Landing Pickleball. If there are any challenges with the app, feel free to contact Patrick Kinlaw at the aforementioned address.

The men's division winners were Larry Bezrouch and Reid Betham. The women's division winners were Corina Bezrouch and Maria Williamson. Following the two division tournaments, a 'Battle of the Sexes' was held between the male and female winning teams. The men edged out the women, but it was not without a good, hard-fought effort. It was a fun and exciting match to watch.



Larry Bezrouch



Decorated Golf Carts Dazzle Cypress Landing for the Holidays

By: Patrick Kinlaw

On December 18, 2024, numerous Cypress Landing golf cart owners styled their vehicles in themed/spirited holiday regalia. They traversed the neighborhood to spread good will, marvel over residents' holiday decorations, and enjoy street sign décor. The caravan included decorated carts and two man-powered conference bikes that served as the cart train's caboose.

Participants gathered and lined up in the Bay Club parking lot at dusk on an unusually comfortable December afternoon, unlike the freezing temperatures of last year. Drivers were given their "marching orders" for the impending promenade, and carts were judged on creativity, festivity, and seasonal themes. Carts were artfully crafted and included battery powered lights. A sight to behold!

While all of the decorated carts were delightful, three were selected for honors.

Number 1: Charles Logan (The Grinch)

Number 2: Eric Kern (Gingerbread Motif)

Number 3: Jimmy and Penny O'Brian (Gingerbread Motif)

Honorable Mention: Rich and Cindy Sworen

The holiday convoy departed the Bay Club and proceeded through subsets of the larger community. The parade took several turns off the main arteries of Potomac, Cypress Landing Trail, and Cypress Landing Parkway to view amazing decorations on off-streets and in cul-de-sacs. The parade route varies each year in order to keep it manageable and connect to different parts of the community.

The parade Grand Marshals were Eddie and Julie Patton, who led the procession. The golf cart parade is Julie's brainchild, and well deserved thanks go to her for making it possible.

While not official Cypress Landing results, the merry band of parade members selected the following homes'

decorations as exceptional, though there were many outstanding ones from which to choose:

Number 1: 100 Tom's Circle (Richard and Carolyn Pitts)

Number 2: 315 Neuse Drive (Bill and Mia Ramsden)

Number 3: (Tie) 104 Maurice Court (Will and Chandler Whitley) and 110 Nanticoke Court (Linwood and Angela Lewis)

An Honorable Mention goes to 74 Santee Drive (Mike and Polly Willford). While the front of the house was exquisitely decorated, the view from the rear was phenomenal. The house backs up to the upper pond on Cypress Landing Trail. The reflection of white lights cast on the pond was amazing.

In the street sign/post category, the following were among those deemed noteworthy:

Number 1: Corner of Providence Place and Potomac

Number 2: Susquehanna Circle

Number 3: Charles Court

A special treat during the parade was when homeowners greeted the entourage as they passed by their homes. "Happy Holidays" and "Merry Christmas" shout-outs were frequently exchanged during the procession. The season's spirit was palpable.

The holiday golf cart train concluded back at the Bay Club parking lot, which then spilled over into the Iris Lounge, where cart winners were recognized and the festivities continued into the evening. However, that was only after the group enjoyed "The Elf's" latest episode on Trent Lane.

This was the 2nd Annual Holiday Golf Cart Parade. Plans are already underway on ways to take the event to the next level for 2025. Anyone who has ideas/thoughts they would like to share are encouraged to contact Julie Patton at jpflipflops59@gmail.com.



1st



2nd



3rd



C&E Programs Continue to Broaden Our Horizons

By Sue-Ellen Sanders

The Cultural & Education Committee for Cypress Landing HOA continues to provide opportunities for monthly programs that interest and inform our residents.

Women of the Resistance



On September 13, residents enjoyed Women of the Resistance, a program presented by Mona Russell, Professor of History at East Carolina University and the author of books and articles on gender and consumerism in the Middle East, who is also a neighbor here. Russell's presentation included a pertinent modern history of conflict in the Middle East.

Just in time for celebrating Oktoberfest



Residents and beer stein collectors Ginger and Jo Gehres offered a historical perspective of

beer steins, for the October 13th program, bringing their guest John Kelly, President of the Carolina Steiners. The Bay Club offered Oktoberfest beer for the occasion, to ensure spirits were high.

Finally, last month for our C & E Holiday Show, Steve Creech & Friends serenaded residents at two shows on December 8th, at 5 and 7 PM. The lovely holiday music included guest solos

John Rebolz Gives an Update on Beaufort County

We were honored to present County Commissioner John Rebolz at our November 10th program. Rebolz gave an overview and update on the state of Beaufort County. Even though Commissioner Rebolz was not re-elected in the November election, we salute him for his past service to the Cypress Landing community and Beaufort County.



Holiday Show Finally, last month for our C & E Holiday Show, Steve Creech & Friends serenaded residents at two shows on December 8th, at 5 and 7 PM. The lovely holiday music included guest solos from several of our talented Cypress Landing residents.

Coming up in 2025:

February 16th at 7 PM

Code Switching:

Do you See What I Am Saying?

This fascinating Living History presentation features Underground Railroad's Leesa P. Jones and Milton R. Jones, as they bring history to life, as historically dressed enactors singing, dancing, telling stories, even using well-known

March 9th at 7 PM

History of the Terra Ceia Dutch Community

Hear from descendants of the Dutch farmers of Terra Ceia, a Dutch farming community just northeast of Washington, who began arriving here from Holland in the 1920s, bringing their famous tulips with them. Those settlers included Bill Van Staalduinen, founder of Petals and Produce.

April 13 (Time TBA) Cypress Landing Residents Art Show

With so many Cypress Landing residents who are lifelong artists, we are thrilled to present a sampling of their

work at a very special Art Show. If you are a Cypress Landing artist of both two and three-dimensional art, mark your calendar and watch for participation information in Escapades.

May 18 (Time TBA) Spring Musical Program

In addition to providing programs, the Cultural and Education Committee honors and showcases local resident artists, with works of their art displayed each month at the Bay Club. The 2024 artists featured:

January: Steve Spaanbroek, Photography

February: Susan McIntyre, Painting

March: Pat Carlson, Mixed Media

April: Ginger Gehres, Scratchboard Art

May: Alison Cianciulli, Painting

June: Stephanie Perkins, Painting

July: Dave Robinson, Photography

August: Bob Taylor, Painting

September: Pat Kinlaw, Painting

October: Molly Emanuel, Painting



Stiff Tails

By Joseph Fehrer

*“Poetry
is a sky
dark with a
wild-duck
migration.”*

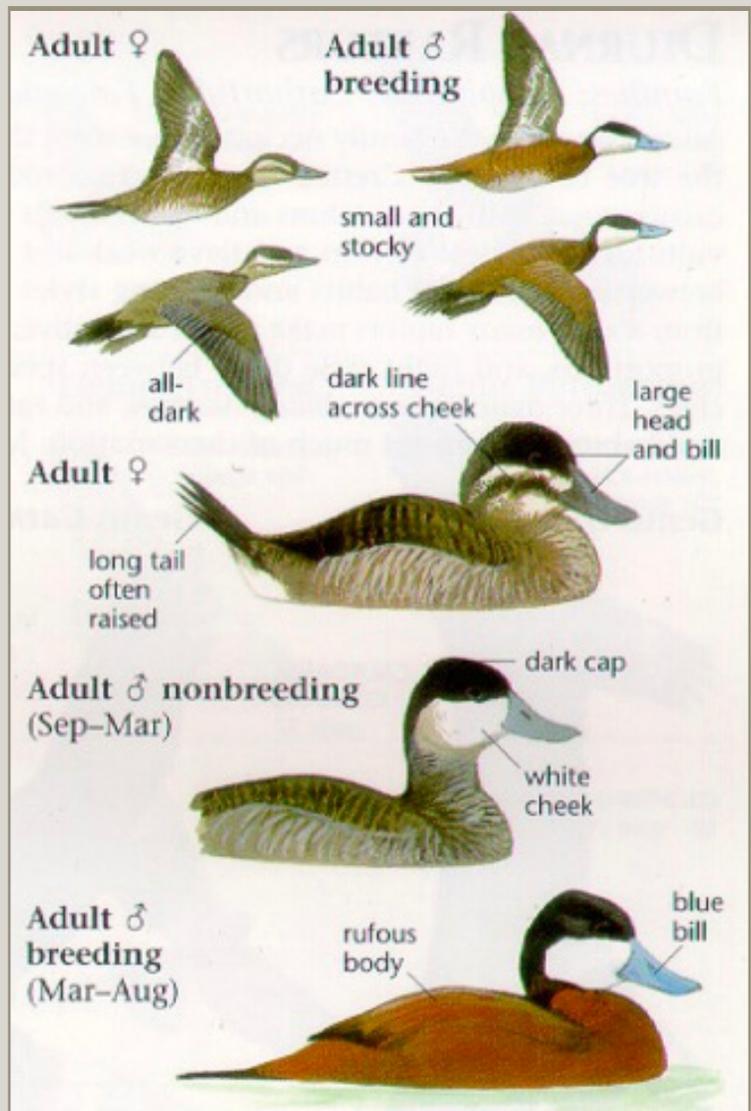
*—Carl
Sandburg*

Winter in eastern North Carolina is synonymous with waterfowl and waterfowl hunting, and we’re fortunate to have an abundance of species that use the area. If you’ve been to the marina lately, and gazed out across the bay, you may have seen aggregations (or rafts) of very small ducks, generally wearing a rather drab or dark brown plumage. If you look a little closer (binoculars are a great help), you’ll notice some of these diminutive ducks have a rather long up-right or “stiff” tail.

These are Ruddy ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). The male, or drake, has white cheek patches capped with a dark brown crown, sometimes shows a dull blue bill (starting to develop their breeding plumage) and carries its tail erect. The female, or hen, lacks the prominent cheek patches and “stiff tail.” Both have the same unmistakable chunky build and body size with a large head and bill. They average 15” long and weigh about one pound and much prefer to dive, rather than fly, away from danger.

Known locally as “ruddys” or “stiff tails,” these ducks arrive in our area after a long journey from the American Midwest [the prairie pothole region] and the Canadian provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Northwest Territories.

Like most of the diving ducks, Ruddy ducks are very awkward if caught on land; with their legs set far to the rear of the body it’s virtually impossible for them to walk, as they fall forward onto their breast and must push themselves along. It’s in the water, though, where they excel, using



Continued from page 8

their powerful legs to dive to great depths to feed. Like the Grebes we see in early winter, Ruddy Ducks also possess the power of sinking slowly down and backwards out of sight. These are extremely tough and hardy little birds, but with their small, rounded wings it's hard for them to gain flight. You'll often see them "running" along the water surface for several yards before getting airborne where they just skim across the surface, never gaining any great altitude.

Exclusively a North American species and widely scattered from the Atlantic to Pacific coasts, their winter diet consists mainly of plant matter; pondweeds, seeds [grasses and sedges] with a smaller percentage of aquatic insects and small mollusks. A few interesting facts about Ruddy ducks: the drake is the only duck species that carries its tail upright, they have one of the most spectacular courtship displays among all the waterfowl, the drake is the only duck that assists the hen in raising their young, they're the only duck species that consistently raises two broods in one season and the hen lays the largest of duck eggs.

A common mistake in identifying Ruddy ducks is to confuse them with buffleheads. While both species are small, drake buffleheads are more easily distinguished by the large white area on the back of the head and bright white body; the hen has a distinctive white cheek patch and a slate grey body. Both the hen and drake bufflehead have a relatively large round head, unlike the Ruddy duck.

Enjoy these little ducks while you can. By early to mid-March, they'll be leaving our area bound for northern climes and their breeding grounds.

Cypress Landings Social Committee Happenings

By Stephanie Perkins

The Social Committee coordinates and hosts community-wide social events. Its primary goal is to promote camaraderie between new and existing residents of Cypress Landing and to welcome and encourage new neighbors' participation. We have also established several subcommittees to better serve specialized groups within the neighborhood.

The Social Committee Chairperson changed as of January 1, 2025, so please extend a huge thank you to the outgoing chairperson, Patrick Kinlaw, who served for two years. He guided the committee members through many activities such as:

- Dinner with Friends
- Red Solo Cup Party
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Memorial Day Celebration
- Dock of the Bay
- Meet and Greet
- Veterans Day Breakfast
- Trim a Tree
- Wine Club Socials
- Reindog Parade

This past December 22nd, the second annual Reindog Parade was attended by 24 dogs in holiday dress. See pictures on Facebook on the "Residents of Cypress Landing" site.

The Committee also decorated inside and outside for the Christmas season. The Social Committee successfully participated in the first Earth Day celebration. Again, we would like to thank Patrick for his leadership and ability to keep things social.

As the new Chairperson for the Social Committee, I would love to know your interest in the following ideas:

Families

We'd like to offer more opportunities to our families! Our yearly Easter Egg Hunt has been highly successful, and in that spirit, we'd like to try a few additional ideas. For example: a monthly (or quarterly) birthday party for our



kids, a Halloween party, and a Christmas party. If you are interested in these fun possibilities, please email me at: socialcommitteec@gmail.com. Please let me know your name(s), address, children's name(s), and birthday(s). This information will be kept confidential and current.

Adults

There are some groups we'd like to reintroduce to our community such as: 'Cancer Survivors', 'Widows and Widowers', and 'Veterans'. Cypress Landing has a number of conference rooms and meeting places where it could host monthly gatherings with light refreshments to connect with 'like' residents.

How about a regularly scheduled (families welcome) "Sunset Swim" during the summer? With your input, we can choose the night of the week that best suits you. Bring your own beach chair, soft drinks, beer, and snacks, and meet your neighbors to enjoy the sunset! Again, if you are interested, please email me at: socialcommitteec@gmail.com with your comments and suggestions.

Please join us for a Social Committee-sponsored event scheduled for February 9th (Superbowl Sunday) at the Bay Club upper parking lot--a Superbowl Tailgate Party. From 2-4 pm drive in, park, bring your drinks, snacks, appetizers, chili, hotdog grills, footballs, and let's tailgate! Then we'll go home and enjoy the game in the comfort of our own easy chairs! More information on this event TBA.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you at: socialcommitteec@gmail.com. Please look for upcoming Social Committee activities in the current "Escapades."

Chocowinitudes

Chapter 25

By Tom McCluskey

Unleash the Flies

So, I just woke up from a Robituss-in dream after a long drive home from Asheville where together with some dear neighbors, my bride and I attended the 2025 Best of Our State Magazine Conference at the Omni Grove Park Inn. It was an awesome experience from which I unfortunately returned with a wicked cold. Warning, I am about to share a brief remembrance of an adolescent fueled imagination stimulated by cold medication and too much holiday travel by an aging gentleman with a warped sense of humor. Continue reading at your own risk.

It was the third grade in Sister Mary Rollins' class. I sat next to Bobby Papierski and behind Cindy Malinchok who had very fine long hair nearly down to her waist that she habitually flung back onto my desk to annoy or tease me or both. I hated it and half liked it at the same time but could never understand which. I was only 8 years old after all. Bobby and I were perpetually dreaming up schemes with which to torture Cindy and this one day, I was to hit the jack pot.

Bobby and I were experts at capturing flies. Now this may sound cruel by today's standards, but we'd swoop them up with our cupped hands and knock them out on our desks and then watch them come to and then fly away again. Well this one day, when Cindy Malinchok's hair was splayed all over my desk as usual, I got the bright idea, that I would tie a little loop around the neck of one of the flies I caught in class to one of the ends of Cindy's long hairs that graced my desk. So, while Bobby looked on, I swooped up a nice healthy house fly, knocked him out, carefully tied a single loop loosely around his little neck and waited...

He stirred..., a littled bzz..., bzzz..., he shook a little and took off in a beautiful slow arc right toward my face until he reached the end of Cindy Malinchok's hair leash and jerked back like being restrained at the dog park. Then he took off in a beautiful high arc straight up to twelve o'clock high until the weight of the full hair proved too much for him to bear and the sound of him straining under the

full weight of her hair was almost audible across the entire classroom. It was then that I noticed the second fly land on my desk. This was almost too good to be true! As my friend Bobby leaned in eagerly and Sister Mary Rollins continued talking about phonics, I cupped my hand and, first try, scooped up and knocked out fly number two. In a jiffy, I had tied the second fly to another hair on the other side of Cindy Malinchok's head. Now, there were two flies tethered to her hair flying pretty much in formation. There they were, like two P-51 Mustangs. They each arched up and away from her head forming a sort of Y out of her outstretched hair. Owing to the prodigious weight of her hair the flies struggled as if in slow motion and strained mightily. They flew in grand circles until nearly the whole class behind me was watching, spellbound. All was well until they made a close pass by her ears and into Cindy's field of vision. Swept up in the moment as we were, Bobby and I hadn't thought things through enough to formulate our exit strategy. What do you mean "our" exit strategy Bobby would later say in the principal's office.

In retrospect the best strategy might have been to simply run out of the room with or without the requisite hall pass because both flies flew directly around at Cindy Malinchok's face in slow motion, but when she swatted at them they wouldn't go away because they were attached to her head by her hair and when Sister Mary Rollins approached Cindi as she swatted at the flies to which she was so perfectly attached she had a pretty good hunch who was responsible for this flying circus. I was summarily marched back to the art cubbies to get the safety scissors to cut the tips of Cindy Malinchok's hair leashes and with the whole class watching I'm happy to report that the hairs were cut, and both flies were freed unharmed and returned to the wild of our classroom. As for me, I apologized to Cindy (who, years later I would date) and had to stay after school and clean the erasers for something like a week--but sometimes it's just plain worth it.

How this memory came into my addled and cold congested brain after a brief



winter's nap following a long icy drive across North Carolina nearly 60 years after the fact is but another testament to a long life despite a sometimes-troubled childhood.

Or, it could have just been the Robitussin.

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