



THREE RIVERS ESTATES PROPERTY OWNERS, INC.

P.O. BOX 148

FORT WHITE, FL 32038

WWW.TREPO.NET

T.R.E.P.O. NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Email: info@trepo.net

386-497-3320

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Park Manager

Bill Brim

Letter from the Board

By any standard, 2023 is turning out to be a great year for the TREPO members. The year has been full of fun, and family events such as the annual fish fry, where fish were cooked and fish tales were spun. The Fall Festival & Halloween event in October will be a spooky good time, with neighbors starting new, or reaffirming old, friendships. The Annual Membership Meeting will allow members themselves to propose, debate and share views on issues and plans for TREPO. (See below for details).

Announcement

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of Three Rivers Estates Property Owners, Inc. will be held on Saturday, October 14th, 2023 at 1:00 PM, at Hodor Park – Large Pavilion. Please sign in prior to the meeting to make sure we have a quorum.

The Members BBQ will begin at 12:00 Noon – Oct. 14th 2023

Menu: BBQ Pork, Smashed Taters. Green Beans, Roll, Tea and Water. Adult dinners are \$8.00 and Children are \$4.00

Please bring a dessert to share.

Annual Members Meeting – Oct. 14, 2023

12:00 PM Hodor Park

Fall Festival & Halloween Festivities

Oct. 28, 2023 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Fall Festival

It's Fall Y'all! Time for pumpkins, chili & hayrides! Save the date: October 28th 2023 from 10 AM – 2 PM at Hodor Park. If you would like to set up as a vendor and sell your goods. We will also be hosting our 2nd annual Chili Cookoff. Please contact Vicki Imm by text 813-967-5026 if you are interested in participating as a vendor or entering your Chili for the cookoff.

Halloween Festivities

Hodor Park – Costume contest for Adults and Children, Karaoke, Trick or Treat and Hayride.
4 PM – 7 PM Karaoke hosted by DJ Ice Cream Chris.

5:30 PM Costume contest for Adults and Children.

6:00 PM TREPO Trick or Treat. Please come out and bring candy for the Trick or Treaters. Feel free to decorate your vehicle or golf cart OR just bring a chair to sit and have fun passing out candy in front of Hodor Park. We had a good turnout last year; let's make it even better this year. We are creating memories for our little future TREPO members.

Hayride following Trick or Treat. Come on out to enjoy the fun and mingle with your friends and neighbors. Volunteers are welcome for all TREPO events.

Third annual Christmas Extravaganza

Saturday, December 9th at Hodor Park. Santa is bringing gifts for the children and have a photo with him. Face painting, glitter tattoos, Christmas parade with decorating contest, Christmas tree lighting, cookies and hot chocolate for all members and their guest.

Details will be posted on Trepo.net and FB page - A Three Rivers Estates Official Chat

Highlight: The TREPO Park Manager

Perhaps the Board took its most significant action in 2022 to support its Park Manager search committee's recommendation for creating the position in the first place and then its nominee for the job: Mr. Bill Brim. Park Manager Brim monitors each park on a daily (and sometimes even nightly) basis identifying issues. One of his most important responsibilities is providing safety in our parks and keeping uninvited non-members out of them. Safety is most important to the TREPO Board of Directors. The Park Manager is the eyes and ears of the association, we take the safety of our members very seriously.

Mr. Brim has exceeded all expectations in the fulfillment of his new duties. Some of his work has been challenging, to say the least. He files an extensive written report to the Board every month, which is presented and discussed by the entire Board in an open session. The Board follows up with any necessary action. The adoption of the Park Manager position and the selection of Mr. Brim as the first incumbent have been bright spots for the entire TREPO community this year. He has been overseeing all the park improvements and is the one who handles park issues as they arise with the guidance of TREPO supervisors. Next time you see Bill at your park, share your own assessments with him, and tip your hat to say thanks.

Nature Notes from Off the Porch

The Divinely Diminutive *House Wren*: A Fledgling Takes Flight

By Rick Palm

Nature can be cosmically astonishing if you just look. Case in point: The tiny *House Wren*, a plain brown, common backyard bird with a unique voice that flies through shrubs and low tree branches with its radar on insects. House Wrens industriously bring twigs to construct their nests in safe places, such as under the eaves of garages, and in our case, the eave of our porch.

We enjoy our happy hour (which, in the interest of full disclosure, seems to start earlier and earlier these days) on the porch. Sitting on the porch with our wine, day after day we watched Wren parents-to-be fly out and return with twigs for the nest. Then came the magical moment when tiny-throated voices emerged, and the parents brought back bugs and worms, delicacies for nourishing their fledglings.

And now, for the moment that seemingly transcended everything else in this world: one afternoon, we watched transfixed as a tiny baby bird took its first tentative flight. Almost falling out of the nest, it flapped its wings ineffectively and crash-landed onto our porch table, just a few feet from us, closely followed by its doting mother. If I were to try to come up with an analogy for the event, I guess it would be like the hovering human mother of a child taking its first steps: it had 100% of her attention.

The tiny, brave bird, on the cusp of losing its fledglinghood, stood on the table for several moments with its mother's focus and encouragement glued on it. I instantly recognized the look on the mother's face: It reminded me of my own parents' determined faces as they encouraged, or perhaps more accurately, strong armed me to move out of their house after I graduated from college.



The baby bird rested for several moments on the table gathering its wits, and then heroically took its first true flight -- to the end of the porch and onto our trellis. There, it held on for dear life. Its mother followed closely -- with bloodshot eyes it seemed. I wasn't sure, perhaps because of all she had been through. Mothers go through a lot, don't they?

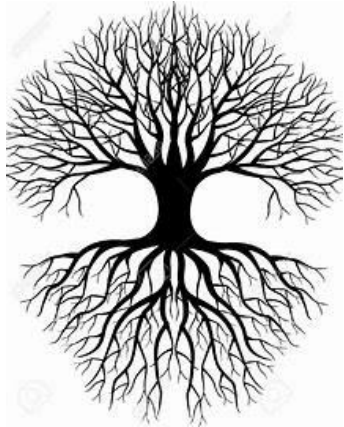
And then, the miracle moment came that resulted from 60 million years of evolution on the geologic time scale: the tiny bird flew off of the trellis and was gone. We were speechless as tears welled up in our eyes. Then, more tears as we came to the realization that -- we were out of wine!

Help Us Establish a Springs Protection Zone (SPZ) for the Lower Ichetucknee!

Submitted to the Board of Directors by Recie Davis, SPZ Working Group

The Ichetucknee River (Spring Run), needs your help to protect it from damage caused by motorized vessels such as boats and jet skis!

Recreational impacts are increasingly damaging our North Florida springs and rivers, and the Ichetucknee is no exception. While the upper part of the river is protected by the state park's ban on motorized vessels, the Lower Ichetucknee as it flows through Three Rivers Estates has no such protection. Many weekends, especially holiday weekends, find the Lower Ichetucknee experiencing heavy motorized vessel traffic that results in turbid water and ecosystem damage to submerged aquatic vegetation and to the shoreline. In addition, the danger posed by motorized vessels to wildlife such as Florida's iconic manatees is well known.



Thanks to a new state law, Florida Statute 327.45, we now have an opportunity to change this situation to provide more protections for our beloved blue river. This law grants authority to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to establish Springs Protection Zones (SPZs) that “restrict the speed or operation of vessels or that prohibit anchoring, mooring, beaching or grounding of vessels to protect or prevent specified harm to first, second and third magnitude springs and spring groups and their associated spring runs.”

In April 2022, a local citizen filed a request to the FWC to establish a nonmotorized vessel SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee. The Ichetucknee Alliance is helping with this effort. Establishing a Springs Protection Zone is a new process, and all of us, including the FWC, are learning as this process unfolds. Part of the process involves gaining public support for the SPZ request.

If you agree that the Lower Ichetucknee could benefit from stronger protections, please consider writing a letter saying why you and/or your organization support establishing a Springs Protections Zone for the Lower Ichetucknee River. You may submit your letter electronically to ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com.

For more information visit

<https://ichetuckneealliance.org/lower-ichetucknee-springs-protection-zone/>

Not all Fun and Games...

It's incredible how well the parks run, given the traffic they receive. But it takes the dedicated, hard work of not only your Board of Directors but you, too, if we are all to benefit from the natural beauty and the recreational opportunity of this truly unique and wonderful community! Stay involved and up to date! Visit TREPO.net for ongoing information and ways you can get involved. Come out and help on park volunteer cleanup days. Invest time in your community.

Rules for All TREPO Parks & Facilities

- No key, no entrance. Parks and facilities are reserved for members and their guests. Members are responsible for their guests.
 - When not in use, all gates must always remain closed. It is the responsibility of each member to use the gates to see that each gate is closed and locked once entrance or exit has been accomplished. No propping the gate open.
 - Be respectful to the gate greeters and TREPO staff. If they ask for your name and key number, you must give them the information. Yelling and profanity directed to them will not be tolerated and you may be asked to leave.
 - No open fires, Fires allowed in firepits at Brennan Park and Camping Park only.
 - No glass containers.
 - No lifeguards on duty, Use at your own risk.
 - No firearms or weapons of any kind. No hunting.
 - No unmanned aerial vehicles within the parks.
 - No mooring of watercraft.
 - No profanity or excessive noise, or inappropriate behavior.
 - No digging, excavation, or removal of artifacts.
 - Registered service dogs are permitted but must be leashed. Pets are allowed on a leash at Fishing Park and Boat Ramp Park to and from boat only.
 - Camping at Camping Park only.
 - Trailers are allowed at Boat Ramps in Columbia and Suwannee counties and at the Clubhouse parking lot.
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- Prior approval is required for groups larger than 12 people. The keyholder should assign a gate person to their party in order to let guests in and out. This is not the responsibility of the gate greeter. A group leader is required for each group of 12 for gate entry and use of restrooms. Each group of 12 tubers must have a leader to ensure all guests get in and down the water in a timely manner. No extended mooring of watercraft.

Be respectful and kind to all TREPO members.

A Timeline of Ichetucknee Springs State Park: Part 4

By: Samuel A. Cole, Park Biologist, Ichetucknee Springs State Park

Editor's Note: This is the fifth part of an article on the fascinating geologic and cultural history of our area. The prior articles published in the newsletter, available on our website, www.treppo.net.

1700's and Early 1800's: Frontiers and Pioneers

For the remainder of the Spanish period and the British Occupation, and while the British Colonies to the north were being forged into the fledgling United States of America, the Ichetucknee Springs area was considered a wild and sometimes hostile frontier. "White man" settlements were mostly established along the coasts, with a few incursions into the interior along the major rivers such as the Suwannee and Santa Fe. At the turn of the 19th Century, the Seminole Indians were well established in many parts of Florida. However, there is no documentation of an early Seminole Indian presence within the park.

1763: Florida ceded to Great Britain by Spain. Great Britain divided Florida into two regions: West Florida, from the Mississippi River to the Apalachicola River, and East Florida, the remaining peninsula.

1765: Naturalist John Bartram traveled through northeastern Florida.

1774: John Bartram's son William Bartram, also a naturalist, made his famous journey through central Florida, traveling through the Alachua Prairie and across the Suwannee River near Ichetucknee.

1778: Creek-based Seminole Indians established in Wechatooka. Wechatooka, which has never been relocated by modern-day archaeologists, was believed to be a Creek/Seminole town near the confluence of the Ichetucknee and Santa Fe Rivers. The Creek-derived word for the nearby river was Wechatookamee, believed to mean "Pond of the Beaver." The name was applied to the general area, even to the old, abandoned fields of the Spanish Mission grounds, far upriver. This name was later changed by white settlers and eventually evolved into the present-day word Ichetucknee." Interestingly, the park's namesake, the beaver, was absent from the area for many decades until it started making a comeback during the 1980s.

1778: British surveyor Joseph Purcell noted the Wechatookamee River on his map, traveling by and describing the region around the Head Spring and Rose Sink.

1783: Florida returned to Spain by Great Britain as a consequence of the American Revolutionary War.

1817-1818: First Seminole War. The portion of this war that affected Florida was fought mostly in West Florida, from Pensacola to the Apalachicola River Valley.

1821: La Florida ceded by Spain to the United States. Florida officially became a U.S. Territory, and the Settlement period began.

1826: The Bellamy Road Opens. Now known as the Old Bellamy Road or Old Spanish Trail, this road linked St. Augustine to Pensacola and was the first major overland route through northern Florida by the newly established Territory. Old Bellamy Road passed just to the north of the Ichetucknee Head Spring, at the north end of the park.

1837: The Second Seminole War (1835 – 1842). The "real" Fort White was built on the banks of the Santa Fe River as a protection to river commerce and nearby settlers from raids by bands of Seminole Indians established in the region.

Continued Next Issue...

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

Three Rivers Estates Property Owners, Inc., P.O. Box 148, Fort White, FL 32038

Membership # _____

Name of property owner(s) as shown on your deed

Mailing address _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Property Location: Unit ____ Lot(s) _____ Block _____, County _____, _____

(Property Street Name)

Dues: Annually \$150.00 Includes. 2 Park Keys and newsletters

After 1/31 \$25.00 Late Fee

After 2/28 \$50.00 Late Fee

By-Laws _____ \$2.00 (Free to New Members)

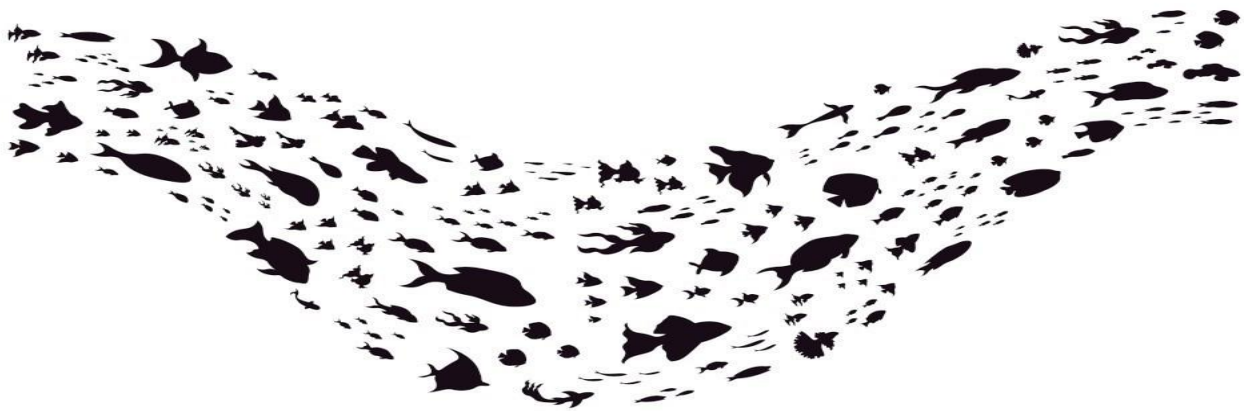
Contribution _____ Total Submitted _____

Payment Method: _____ Cash (in person) _____ Check (check number)

_____ Money Order _____ Online payment

All new members must show proof of ownership with a recorded copy of deed. (Need proof of any name change on property.)

Can you volunteer for or contribute towards: () Maintenance, () Security, () Newsletter, () Donation of Building Materials, () Legal Advisor, () Children's Playground, () Other (please specify) _____



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Save the Dates

Annual Members Meeting & BBQ - Oct. 14, 2023

12:00 PM Hodor Park

Fall Festival & Halloween Festivities, Oct.28th 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Hodor Park

Christmas Extravaganza December 9th 2023

The T.R.E.P.O. Newsletter

A publication of Three Rivers
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Contributing Editor: Rick Palm

Supervised by the TREPO
Communications Committee