



ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2020

WWW.PALMERRANCH.NET

News You Can Use

CRAPE MYRTLE TRIM SCHEDULED

The Master Association contractor will be conducting the annual trim and shaping of the Crape Myrtle Trees on Palmer Ranch over the next two weeks, weather permitting. Workers will be trimming in the areas of: Northridge Road, Palmer Ranch Parkway East, Sarasota Square Boulevard, Honore Avenue, McIntosh Road and Central Sarasota Parkway. ***Please use caution when driving in active work zones.***



GREEN TEAM EVENT AT THE GLENRIDGE ON PALMER RANCH

The Glenridge Green Team invites you to its next meeting for an informative presentation on wind energy generation. Stan White, an experienced coastal and structural engineer, will discuss the basics of offshore wind energy generation and will provide updates on the status of the development of floating offshore wind technology. Mr. White, an avid sailor, earned two coastal engineering degrees from MIT and has many years of engineering experience. He has contributed to several offshore wind energy projects and is currently working on a floating offshore wind demonstration project off the coast of Maine.

This free event will take place on **February 10th at 10:30am**, in the theatre at the Glenridge on Palmer Ranch, 7333 Scotland Way. The public is welcome. Please be aware that non-members will be asked to show their photo ID's at the gatehouse. Please contact susanvinalbutton@gmail.com with any questions about this event.

ADULT LEARNING CLASSES AT MOTE MARINE LABORATORY & AQUARIUM – FLYER ATTACHED

“Endless Oceans: Conservation in the Community” is an adult education course designed to give lifelong learners the opportunity to discover and explore the Gulf Coast's vibrant community of environmental conservation organizations. Spring courses are available from **February 10th through March 30th**. For more information and to register for classes visit <https://mote.org/education/college-adults/lifelonglearning>.

CONDO & HOA DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION COURSES

Free Director Certification Courses featuring guest speaker Kevin T. Wells, Esq. will be held at TPC Prestancia, 4409 Tournament Players Club Drive on **Thursday, February 13th (Condo Course)** and on **Thursday, February 20th (HOA Course)**. ***These courses are from: 8:30am - 10:30am, registration will begin at 8:00am.*** RSVP to boardcertclass@gmail.com or (941) 366-9191 by noon the Monday before the event, as space is limited.



STONEYBROOK 17TH ANNUAL TWO' MILE WALK & TALK EVENT

Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club is hosting a two mile walk and talk event benefiting the Paws for Patriots program at Southeastern Guide Dogs on **Saturday, February 15th**. There will be a special guest speaker and his very special companion at this year's event. Contact Dave Scruggs (716) 983-9098 or Shelby Colston (941) 400-4435 for more information and how to register for this event.



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TURTLE ROCK COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Turtle Rock, located at 8500 Turtle Rock Blvd., will be having its annual community garage sale on **Saturday, February 15th from 8:00am to 11:30pm**. Be sure to stop by for some great finds!

SURREY RIDES ON THE LEGACY TRAIL HAVE RETURNED



Ready to travel the Legacy Trail? The Surrey Ride Program offers a way for residents and visitors the chance to enjoy Sarasota County's award winning and highly popular Legacy Trail. The program, which is a partnership between Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources and the Friends of the Legacy Trail (FLT) runs on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays now through April 15th**. Riders can sit back and enjoy the ride on a four-passenger, four-wheeled canopy covered surrey type bicycle while FLT volunteers provide the 45-minute pedal-powered trips. The ride includes information and history of the Legacy Trail and its surroundings. To pre-register for your free surrey ride, call (941) 486-2757. For more information visit <https://www.friendsofthelegacytrail.org/the-surrey-program/>

FRIENDS OF OSPREY JUNCTION TRAILHEAD PARK PEDICAB RIDES

The Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead Park are launching a free pedicab ride program for mobility-challenged people of all ages through the end of April. The program encompasses taking people on a 45-minute ride down the Legacy Trail. The program is sponsored by Sarasota County, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, who provided a grant to purchase the pedicab, and The Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead who will provide the pedalers and maintenance volunteers. Visit www.ojtfriends.com for more information on this wonderful program!



PRESIDENTS' DAY IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

The Master Association Office will be closed on **Monday, February 17th** in observance of Presidents' Day, reopening at 8am on **Tuesday, February 18th**.



President's Day commemorates past presidents of the United States of America. Washington's Birthday was first celebrated as a holiday in the District of Columbia in 1880. It was made a federal holiday in 1885. Originally held on the anniversary of George Washington's birth, on February 22, in 1971 this holiday was moved to the third Monday in February.



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Save the Date

ARTISTS OF PALMER RANCH MEETING – NEW TIME!

Come join the *Artists of Palmer Ranch* at their next meeting on **Monday, March 2nd at 10:30am** at the Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave. Any Palmer Ranch resident is welcome. Bring your latest masterpiece! View some gorgeous artwork!

Artists of Palmer Ranch – Featured Artist, Sue Greenbaum



In second grade, Sue made the decision that she wanted to be an artist. Born and raised in a small town in the Midwest where she earned a degree in commercial art. Her professional life was in the Philadelphia, New York area as a muralist, faux finisher and license artist for over 35 years. Her clients included professional athletes, CEO of WaWa, Scott Tissue, Waverley Wallpaper, to name a few. Sue was honored to be asked to participate in fund raisers, such as the New York Philharmonic, which artists including Erte, Leroy Neiman, and celebrities Sophia Loren, Yoko Ono contributed. The auction took place in Tiffany's in NYC. Retired now, Sue enjoys occasionally teaching watercolor on cruise ships and playing with all types of medias. Currently she is exploring acrylic pouring and trying to turn a simple process into a work of art.

CA DAY 2020 – COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS DAY

Community Association Day educational expo and trade show is taking place on **Thursday, March 12th from 8:00am – 5:00pm** at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, One Haben Blvd., Palmetto. Admission is free! There will also be free educational sessions, be sure to register early as class sizes are limited. To register visit www.caiwestflorida.org or call (941) 927-1910.



2020 TOUR DE PARKS

Friends of The Legacy Trail and the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle Club will once again be teaming up to organize this great bike ride next year. The date for the 2020 Tour de Parks ride has been set for **Sunday, March 22nd**. For more information please visit <https://www.friendsofthelegacytrail.org/tour-de-parks-information/>.

PALMER RANCH NATURAL ASSETS EVENT

“Learn successful strategies for influencing positive changes in your community”. You are invited to attend an engaging presentation and Q&A on how to effectively bring about positive changes in your community. While the presentation will focus on instituting beneficial changes in how one manages their community natural resources and watershed areas, this approach applies to any situation where changes are needed for improvement. This presentation will be held on **Tuesday, March 24th at 10am**, at the Covenant Life Church, 8490 McIntosh Road, Sarasota.

Sue's Grounds Corner

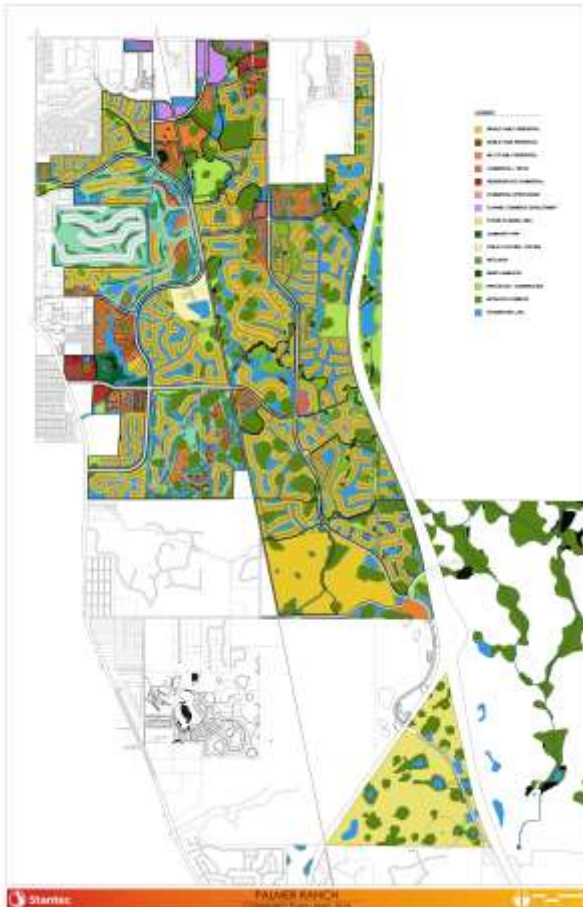
PALMER RANCH WETLANDER – **SEE ATTACHED**



ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2020

www.PalmerRanch.net

Everything You Need to Know About Palmer Ranch – How Big is Palmer Ranch?



The development area of Palmer Ranch is defined by the Master Development Order (MDO), filed with the state, region and county. This instrument allows up to 14,200 residential building values, as well as other values, such as Commercial-Industrial space, within the development area.

Parcels of land within the MDO become part of the Master Association when an Incremental Development Order (IDO) is approved, thus size of the Master Association is not static. It will continue to grow until build out of land available within the Development Area.

The 7,000± acre Palmer Ranch is home to 34 communities, and growing.... In addition to the residential entities, there is more than one million square feet of retail, office and industrial use spaces.

There is an additional 2,400 acres (approximately) of Palmer Ranch, on the east side of I-75. At this time, this land is not anticipated to become part of the Master Association, and there is no Development Order for this land.

Sign Up For Our Newsletter

Do you want to hear about the news on Palmer Ranch first hand? If so, simply visit our website: www.PalmerRanch.net. At the bottom of the home page, simply click on 'Sign Up For Our Newsletter.' You'll then be asked to provide your email address and first name. It's that easy!

Palmer Ranch Master Association – Mission Statement

'Our mission is to enhance and maintain the aesthetic quality of Palmer Ranch and to preserve the overall unique identity and sense of community.'



**8 classes. 8 topics.
One amazing experience.**

E N D L E S S O C E A N S :

LIFELONG LEARNING AT MOTE

"Endless Oceans: Conservation in the Community" is an adult education course designed to give lifelong learners the opportunity to discover and explore the Gulf Coast's vibrant community of environmental conservation organizations.

Each class will feature guest experts from any one of nine local organizations working to promote environmental conservation. Join us this spring and continue your lifelong learning journey with Mote Marine Lab!

COURSE OFFERED: Conservation in the Community

DATES AVAILABLE: Spring 2020
February 10th - March 30th

AGES: Adult participants, 18 years or older

For pricing and class schedule, see back of flyer.

Or learn more and register for classes at:

[MOTE.ORG/LIFELONGLEARNING](https://mote.org/lifelonglearning)



COURSE INFORMATION:

LOCATION

Mote Marine Laboratory

1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy

Sarasota, FL 34236

Classroom location provided upon registration

TIMES

Mondays, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. See below for class dates.

Optional: Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for “Coffee Connections;” come mingle with peers over morning coffee, discuss the associated course readings, and engage with your instructors.

COST

One Class: \$30 members, \$35 non-members

Full Semester: \$200 members, \$250 non-members

REGISTRATION:

Visit:

mote.org/lifelonglearning

For questions contact:

Shaun Swartz

Education Specialist

endlessoceans@mote.org

(914) 388-4441, ext. 164

CLASS SCHEDULE

CLASS TITLE	2020 SPRING SESSION
A History of Science & Stewardship with Historic Spanish Point	February 10
Land Conservation & Its Impacts on Marine Habitats with Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast	February 17
Feeding the World: Aquaculture & the Scourge of Food Waste with Sunshine Community Compost, Transition Sarasota	February 24
The Importance of Estuaries with Sarasota Bay Estuary Program	March 2
From the Field: An Excursion to Myakka State Park	March 9
Seabirds in Study with Sarasota Audubon Society	March 16
Environmental Health & Sustainability in Sarasota with City of Sarasota	March 23
Field Sampling in the Sarasota Bay	March 30

Q: Are the lakes and ponds in Palmer Ranch natural?

A: NO, all of them were created to hold and treat stormwater so that we do not impact downstream waters. Despite this, the two creeks that our ponds drain into are Catfish Creek and South Creek which are not meeting state water quality standards.

You might be asking, what are these waterbodies if they are not natural lakes? What we call lakes and ponds are actually man-made stormwater detention ponds. They are part of a connected system of waterbodies designed to help prevent flooding and remove pollutants from the water before it drains into creeks, estuaries, bays, and ultimately the Gulf.

Stormwater runoff is created when rainwater lands on roofs, driveways, streets, parking lots, and other surfaces that don't absorb water. Since this water cannot seep into the ground, stormwater ponds act like giant bowls that keep our streets and houses from flooding.

Florida averages about 53 inches of **rainfall** every year. New York City averages about 47 inches, Chicago about 36 inches both of which include snowfall. About 60% of Florida's rain falls in just four months, June through September. That's a massive load of water in a short period of time. In fact, in a single year 861 billion gallons of water falls on Sarasota County. Before Sarasota County (and Florida more broadly) was developed, that load was handled by wetlands, which covered more than half the county (and state), and enabled the rainwater to slowly seep into the ground and travel underground by gravity to the bays, which are at much lower elevations.

Development destroyed and altered much of those wetlands. Stormwater runoff rushes water into our creeks and bays, carrying pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, motor oils, gas, and animal waste. Runoff is still the primary source of water pollution in Florida.

Our stormwater ponds are a solution. These ponds are designed to remove pollution through biological, chemical and physical mechanisms. The water in our stormwater management system slowly drains from pond to pond, eventually making its way to Little Sarasota Bay. This design was created to mimic the natural landscape, which had a slow release of freshwater to the bay that is critical to maintaining salt water levels in our estuaries that support important wildlife including oysters. Oysters are very sensitive to shifts in salt concentration and, therefore, will not survive in waters that are too salty or too fresh.

Palmer Ranch's stormwater pond system was state-of-the-art when it was begun, in the 1990s, and is still considered a model in the state of Florida. When properly maintained with a 10-20 year clean out period, low-maintenance buffers at their shorelines, and native wetland plants in the shallow water areas (i.e. littoral zones) our retention ponds make Palmer Ranch more livable, while minimizing our environmental impact on the Bay.

For more information on our watershed, stormwater ponds, and how to maintain stormwater ponds near your property, visit

https://www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/upload/documents/Stormwater_Neighborhood.pdf

AND <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/sarasota/documents/pdf/>



Q: Is rainwater bad?

A: The answer is NO and it is often cleaner in our area than most bottled water. The issues often arise after it falls and mixes with "human" pollution, known as rooftops, paved roads, fertilized lawns and all the impacts that support them. The rain must go somewhere! All of those structures have interrupted nature. Ground with asphalt no longer supports rain water percolation into our aquifers. Rain is now piped/channeled into systems of convenience to keep it from flooding our new homes! After this life-giving substance falls it almost instantly becomes polluted by all that has accumulated on our streets/roofs/lawns, etc.

Are you a GOOD STEWARD of your environment?

Both of these pictures are examples of a giving, living, breathing stormwater lake/pond and of being a great environmental guardian. This is what you should strive for in your community. This lake is giving life to ALL creatures from the bottom of the food chain all the way to the top!



Contributors

Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee
Abbey Tyrna, PhD, Water Resources Extension Agent
Joe Cooper, Aquatic Conservation, Inc.