

Of Birds and Birdies

When you enter the gates of Prestancia, you can't help but feel you've entered a sanctuary filled with wildlife that would make any environmentalist's head spin.

Well, you're right. Residents along the TPC golf courses enjoy their natural neighbors so much so that having a nature preserve in their backyard played a large part in their choice of home. At Prestancia, Joan and Steven Engel of the Manors love bird watching so much they built a bird house on the pond behind their home and photograph them in their environment, as seen by the wood ducks featured on this page. Still other residents have the opportunity to look out their windows or sit on their lanais and see eagles, egrets, deer, even bobcats!



Tom Isgar

An aninga drying his wings. The aninga, as photographed by Prestancia resident and world-renowned nature photographer Tom Isgar, is a common pond and swamp bird — similar to the all-black cormorant. Both species dry their wings as the one in this image.

The wildlife enjoys the environment.

The residents enjoy the wildlife. They stay here to nest. So do the human residents. And in my opinion, it's the perfect way to live in sync and harmony with our natural habitat. Enjoy the photos on this page from our resident photographers Tom Isgar and Joan Engel, plus inside is a special spread on wood ducks and other visiting birds, taken by Joan Engel!

— Andrea Martone



Tom Isgar

Two bald eagles watch over Prestancia atop a high palm.



Joan Engel

A blue-winged teal



Russ Seifert,
PCA President

And Now, A Word From Our President

I am sure you all realize that this column is written several weeks before you receive this newsletter. As I sit here, Congress is holding hearings on what should be done to help solve this financial mess we are in. I don't know how you feel, but I for one wish the senators and representatives would stop pontificating and get something done. So many of us that live in Prestancia are retired and live on income from banks and the stock market. That income is being jeopardized, but with luck in the next few weeks action will have been taken and we can get back to enjoying our beautiful community.

Speaking of our community, it seems that all of a sudden there is an epidemic of new roofs being installed. As our neighborhood matures, I suspect this will become a common occurrence. The newly completed roofs certainly look nice.

I have a very close friend who lives, or should I say lived, in Galveston, Texas. He and his wife are retired and they lived on this beautiful island their entire lives. Hurricane Ike has taken away their wonderful house and everything that was in it. They fled to North Texas and at least their lives were spared. Our hearts go out to those unfortunate people and I just pray that never happens to us in Sarasota. We will be one family that evacuates if the situation ever calls for it.

On a positive note, the first member of our golf group that left for the summer has returned. Others will come trickling in and then they will arrive en masse. That means crowded streets, crowded restaurants, crowded beaches, and just about anything else that can get crowded. But, it sure will be nice to have everyone back, hopefully safe and sound.

A Word From the Editor

Hi folks!

Once a year I feel compelled to write a few words to say that I have enjoyed meeting many of you in my meanderings about Prestancia, whether it is on my retro-'50s bike ("The Betty"), at the Mara Villa pool, walking our multi-poo, Chase, or meeting up for friends at the TPC ClubHouse.

My husband, Patrick, and I are in Prestancia three years this month and I can't tell you how this community has transformed our lives and enriched us. I wish I could say we are permanently retired here, but sadly, we are still working full time. However, being has given us more joy, appreciation and pleasure in the time we spend in Prestancia (we both have businesses in New York, so we fly back and forth to Florida several times a year for extended periods).

We've been invited to your dining room tables where we've broken bread, sipped vino, talked politics, NOT talked politics, laughed, shared anecdotal stories about ourselves and our families.



Rodents and White Ants and Crazy Ants, oh my!

Do you hear the pitter-patter of little feet? It's not the grandkids

Rodents (rats) seem to be very prevalent throughout many of the neighborhoods in Prestancia, although rodents are a normal occurrence in many areas though out Florida. Prestancia seems to have a very high population. The best way to combat rodents around your house is to first make sure the structure is sealed — block off any small holes and areas that a rodent can enter in the attic, garage, etc. A hole the size of a golf ball or larger is plenty of room for a rat to enter. If you think rodents have entered the structure, place traps and/or glue boards in the attic or areas you think they may be nesting and feeding. Once the home is rodent-proofed, a baiting program will reduce the population of the rats around your home and approximately 50 to 100 yards away.

Ants of two new types have invaded areas of Sarasota. The first type is White-Footed ants, which are native to Japan but have been found in Prestancia. They are able to be controlled, but it does take time and sometimes follow-up treatments are necessary to obtain complete control. They don't bite or sting, and fortunately they don't damage property, but they are attracted to sugar, and their colonies are staggeringly large (up to one million ants in a single colony).

The second type of new ant is a different story: the Caribbean Brown Crazy Ant. The name comes from the ant's apparently aimless wandering, rather than following a trail laid down by other ants in the colony. These ants' appetites change according to the season, preferring high-protein foods in summer and sugar in the winter, and often nest under and in the soil of potted plants and in rain gutters. No control has been developed for this pest as of yet, but temporary relief is possible. This will be an on going problem at certain times of the year. At these times these ants can invade an area by the hundreds of thousands if allowed to go untreated. The good news is they have not been found in Prestancia yet! But they are only a few miles away.

*Kin Micklow is the CPCO, Interior Pest Control Manager of Garden Masters.
Additional information from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and
the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.*

We've hosted many Italian-themed dinners at our place in Mara Villa that could very well have become television sitcoms.

I've interviewed many of you in your own homes for feature stories in *The Pipeline*, some of whom have celebrated 60-plus years of marriage and they are still going strong! Happy moments. Good people. Good karma.

My point is that our lives have been enriched by meeting you all. So many beautiful human beings from all over the country (world!) who have such good souls, and you know who you are. All of us living here in Prestancia — some of us still in the throes of our careers — and others enjoying all the fruits of their labor in their retirement years. Ahhh, bliss!

I send my hugs to all of you through this newsletter and hope to meet many more of you over the year. Please write me if you have anything you'd like to see featured in this newsletter? Always hungry for copy!

Best to you all,

Andrea Martone

Make Way For (Wood) Ducklings!

Prestancia is fortunate to be a Nature Preserve, to have beautiful natural habitat abounding us which enables a rich variety of bird life to thrive. As a community, we must do all we can to nurture and preserve this unique environment. It is not only vital to our bird friends, but to each of us!

Among the many ponds within our individual areas, there are approximately a half dozen Wood Duck houses, encouraging the nesting of Wood Ducks in the spring.

Except for the photo of the Sandhill Crane, which was taken near its nest in the pond by the South entrance to Prestancia, all the photos on these two pages were taken from the same vantage point, by ONE pond, near the very last cul-de-sac in The Manors. How lucky can those residents whose homes face that pond get?



The female Wood Duck lays one egg a day until she's done for the season, laying up to 20. The incubation period is 30 days. In this photo papa seems to be saying to his bride, "stay here with me a bit longer!" [cue bad Frankie Valli imitation]



Momma comes out of the box from time to time, though not for very long. Here she's taking air but checking on her babies.



Papa guarding momma and his new future brood within. This was an oft-seen posture until all eggs hatched.



Almost immediately after all the eggs have hatched, momma will leave the nest and call to the babies from the water or the ground. They then come tumbling out the six to eight feet from the box (or tree, depending on where the nest is built), and are immediately led by her to safety. This one was a rare sighting! I counted at least eight Wood Duck chicks before momma guided them into the higher brush at end of the pond and they disappeared from view.



And here's Momma....hustling her babies out of sight!

...Not to Mention the Ibises, Warbler, Stork, Sandhill Crane, and Whistling Ducks

According to *Florida's Birds*, by Herbert W. Kale, II, and David S. Maehr, "Until recently, the Glossy Ibis was never an abundant Florida resident.... Glossy Ibises seem to prefer fresh water." And here they are.



Ibis forage in groups, probing mud with their long, curved bills. Here is a group of Glossy Ibis seemingly overseen by this lone Wood Stork, who also enjoys foraging in shallow water.



At right, the White Ibis still sparkles despite the tall grasses surrounding it.



Also according to *Florida's Birds*, "This warbler is apparently the most abundant wintering warbler in Florida." Here, the Yellow-Rumped Warbler sits happily on a high perch.

**Text and photos by
Joan Engel, The Manors**

These Black-Bellied Whistling Ducks, though similar to the Fulvous Whistling Duck, have a somewhat softer and more musical whistle sound than the Fulvous. They also look more goose-like than duck.



Sandhill Crane lay two eggs, each of which usually hatches one day apart. Here you see the one chick already hatched and momma checking out the second egg. The Florida Sandill is a non-migratory bird and we can surely all attest to our many sightings in the course of a year.

Neighborhood News

We've yet to have the opportunity to meet you, Andrea, but wanted to thank you for all the valuable advice we get from *The Pipeline*. You're adding tremendous help to the community and we wanted you to know how much it is appreciated. *The Pipeline* is a treasure and we love reading it.

Firstly, we took advantage of the recommendation to have our roof checked for wind by the expert suggested in the article. This resulted in our insurance premiums being lowered by 40%. Another neighbor on Las Palmas we told about this also received a substantial reduction. This was well worth the \$90 fee and out thanks go out to the neighbor that wrote in with the information.

Secondly, the article on "The Palm Tree Killer" helped save several trees in the Enclave.

Lastly, we are turning to you to try to learn who should be informed about the damage being done to our beautiful oak trees along Prestancia Boulevard. Several of them are covered up to the canopy in overgrown ginger plants. This overgrowth is causing the trees to suffer. These plants were planted many years ago and may be potentially causing damage the oaks if the plants are allowed to grow at this pace. Hopefully you'll know who to contact.

Once again, it is so nice to have this wonderful forum for neighbors to share ideas in our magnificent community.

— Irene and Richard Roginski, *The Enclave*

Villa Mirada's summer has been uneventful. Little activity other than normal housekeeping. Chairman Jerry Cisar of our maintenance committee has done yeoman's duty in keeping landscaping and routine maintenance under control.

There is nothing to report on the fountain as so many residents are gone. However, I can report that fundraising is proceeding slowly and many members have shown little or no interest in supporting a fountain.

— Mike Gates, *Villa Mirada*

Mara Villa II is in the process of upgrading the plantings on the common elements in the back of each unit. This is the third phase of the replanting schedule adopted by the board of directors. Board member Karen Rushing is supervising the project which is being carried out by Raber's Lawn Service, Inc.

— Dan Scott, *Mara Villa II*

Summer has come and gone, it seemed a little cooler this year. So far we have been very lucky with the paths the hurricanes have taken — hopefully we'll be as lucky until the end of hurricane season. Mara Villa has continued its "facelift" with many new plantings, color changes on some of the buildings and roof cleaning. Our next project is to update our lightposts and mailboxes and do a complete wall repair before we continue our planting along Prestancia Boulevard. This will be a major improvement to our community.

Our snowbirds are starting to return — a little earlier this year for some, so things will be in full swing in another month. Mara Villa I is losing long time neighbors, Sandy and Marvin Sugar, to the east coast of Florida. They currently have their unit on the market. We will miss them tremendously when they leave.

Mara Villa I also hopes to have some pool get-togethers again this year and we hope to see some of our friends from other Prestancia communities sharing the festivities.

— Dottie Baker, *Mara Villa I*

We are looking forward to the return of our neighbors who have been up north and to those who have been traveling most of the summer.

A committee of homeowners has met numerous times over the summer to pick the new colors for our homes. It has been their endeavor to co-ordinate house colors with roof tiles and front doors and awnings as well as coordinating them with our new front entry. Their selections will be presented to the Board in October and to the homeowners at our annual meeting in January.

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The "Philanthropic Life"

By Julie Wyman



Marian Lombardo Volunteer, Sarasota Memorial Hospital

When Marian and husband Peter retired in 1990 they were less than thrilled with the 'East' Coast of Florida. Then a friend told them to check out the "other coast." They came to Sarasota and loved it and have been year-round residents ever since. When they first moved here (from Long Island, New York) they lived in a condo on Longboat Key. However, in 1999 they decided they wanted a house so all their grandchildren could come and visit. Their realtor told them about Prestancia — they fell in love with The Manors and purchased a home.

Before retiring Marian worked for the State of New York Department of Mental Health, focusing on deaf and intellectually-challenged people. She wrote many programs for the state about this specific area of mental health because, at the time, there was not much attention given to the specific needs of these people.

Because of her background of helping others, it was a natural move for Marian to volunteer at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. "Sarasota Memorial Hospital is a marvelous place and I have been volunteering one day a week since 1992," says Marian. "If you have to be in a hospital this is the one and it is also a fabulous place to volunteer ones time. While being a volunteer at SMH is a demanding responsibility, it is also highly rewarding and one meets wonderful, caring people."

Marian volunteers every Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Waldemere Desk, which keeps her on the move all around the hospital. "When a doctor or nurse needs something, from blood samples to records, I have the responsibility of getting them what they want and as quickly as they want it," says Marian. "I am really committed to my volunteer job and get a great deal of satisfaction out of my time at Sarasota Memorial Hospital."

Sarasota Memorial Hospital is a Florida accredited hospital ranked among the nations best hospitals in six specialties, including heart disease. Volunteers provide comfort and assistance to patients and their families, to visitors as well as the hospital staff. Volunteer opportunities are available in both patient care areas and non-clinical departments throughout the hospital. There is even a group of sewers and knitters of baby items. No matter what your professional background or special skills or interests, you will find a volunteer job that you will enjoy.

To volunteer: call 917-9000 and ask for the Volunteer Office.



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Neighborhood News

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Paul and Sue Bridgeman sold their home last spring and now we want to welcome the new owners, Jack and Denise Greber from Cincinnati, Ohio. We have some Southern hospitality to offer them, as we are known for our friendliness and our spirit of looking after each other.

Now that the rains returned and the gardeners were able to catch up on their schedules, we have a green, well-trimmed look.

With the reopening of the Sandhill Grill room at the TPC Club, maybe we can look forward to a fall round-up.

— Ruth Winand, La Vista

A Reminder To All Our Dog Owners

Please ensure your dog is kept on a leash at all times while being walked anywhere within Prestancia. This is a requirement of Sarasota County. Don't forget to pick up what your dog leaves behind!

