



THE NEW VOICE

Newsletter



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"The earth is not a platform for human life. It's a living being. We are not on it but part of it. Its health is our health."

Thomas Moore

BALLANTRAE - LOOKING AHEAD



The Ballantrae Board wishes to recognize the services of Pat Boustedt and Delila Pierce, who requested to resign their offices last month due to health issues. Their recoveries are uppermost in our hearts. Both women served a significant role in the 2022 board's accomplishments to date. Each woman had agreed to fulfill a one-year term of previous officers.

Two residents have agreed to fill these offices. Assuming the position of secretary is Ken Rowland. As a board officer, Ken must relinquish his former committee position. The board is now actively seeking candidates to chair Rules and Regulations oversight. Maria Gwillim has agreed to be seated in the Director at Large vacancy. Both of these terms end in December with the next election.

With the death this summer of her father, Michel Glower and Paul Williams realized they are in a unique opportunity to fulfill a dream in partnership with associates in Pennsylvania. With their house under contract, the board has a candidate in line to fill the treasurer's position in September and fulfill the remainder of a two-year term ending December 2023. We want to thank Michel for her efforts supporting Ballantrae.

Social events - Let the Planning Begin!

Our **Independence Day picnic** was a grand success! Despite a 5 p.m. shower, the grill team of Adam and Lane managed to have a hot bed of coals to cook our sausages and hotdogs. The air cooled and over 30 residents enjoyed a good meal with conversation and connection. Volunteers helped with clean up and the tent came down and was packed away before the rain began again at 8 p.m. Thanks to Sonia and George Harland who provided the grill meat and buns, and to all the neighbors who made contributions of side dishes, drinks and desserts.

Anticipating community gatherings in the future with the possibility of a very limited budget - we are looking for event sponsors and residents willing to assume responsibility with planning and coordination of an event. A street of residents could provide leadership. Sonia Harland has loads of usable décor items. Sally Jones has agreed to sponsor one of our winter season events (and offered sister Nancy Shonka to assist.)

We don't have anyone for our traditional Thanksgiving gathering and the actual date is not yet set. To support Lane's paid holiday schedule, it won't be Thursday or Friday, November 24 or 25. If you are willing to head this or contribute something, please give your name to Fran Clymore or Michele Dicke.

When our winter complement arrives, is there an interest in having a "Pop-Up Events" with minimal planning. Joining for a sundown event at the beach? Restore Ladies' Luncheons? Coffee and Donut mornings? Comments and other ideas welcome!!

Let's Talk Pickleball

The headline read "**Steelers Star T.J. Watt 'whooped' in pickleball by Minkah Fitzpatrick and local Pittsburgh grandmother.**" Apparently Steelers Fitzpatrick, Alex Highsmith and Watt, chose pickleball in the park as a fun way to stay active when Meg (in her words) "rolled up to north park tonight to jump in a pick-up game. Last game, the guy in the green shirt and I whooped the other two. Then everyone there wanted to take our photos." Apparently Meg was unaware she was playing against three professional football players.



So what is this game of pickleball that seems to be a passion for many?

It is a sport that combines exercise, socialization and fun in one game! If you get a community center membership, it can be a drop-in activity –

where you may participate as your schedule allows. On hot summer days, it can be played indoors at some locales! Beginner lessons are often free. You can gain skills move up to Intermediate and Advanced levels. The cost is reasonable – equipment is a paddle and an "appropriate" wiffle ball. Some courts do require players wear protective eyewear.

Indoor and outdoor courts have may have sign-up schedules and varied fees; some options come with memberships. You can find nearby indoor locations are Core SRQ and Health Fit. The Church of the Palms turns over gym space to pickleball, also.

<https://sarasotapickleball.com/> This is a resource for any active or prospective pickleballer.

Sarasota Pickleball Organization LLC has a great website with archived newsletter tips under rules of the game. There is also a video on the history of how the composite paddles came to be. Sarasota County also has a website for 7 air-conditioned and 54 lined outdoor courts that appear to require scheduled times.

A Focus on RULES AND REGULATIONS

Recently there have been some concerns over vehicles being left overnight in driveways for longer than what is acceptable under the rules and regulations. After a conversation with the residents, most of these situations have a reasonable explanation.



To make things easier for both the homeowners and the association, please contact Miller Management at (941) 923-5811 and let them know in advance if you have a need to keep a vehicle in your driveway for an extended period of time.

Thanks for your help!

Editor's note: Some residents pull their cars out on summer afternoons for a free car wash!

When was the last time you reviewed the details of Ballantrae's Rules and Regulations? You can find them at <https://ballantraecondoassoc.com/new-governing-documents/> You may be surprised by what you read.



Landscape: The Dynamic Backdrop of Ballantrae

Lin Dunn, Grounds Chair

Palm tree trimming began August 10. We hired Troyers Tree Service to trim the trees taller than 14 feet. They are receiving the "hurricane cut" that is intended to prevent extended frond dropping. Troyers will be back next week to complete tree trimming and include removal of a few other palms recently found to be attacked by Ganoderma. Budget restrictions restricted us from "booting" the palms (*a closer detailed trim at the area where the fronds were removed*) as has been done in the past. Our regular landscape contract with Brightview provides trimming of the shorter palms on our grounds.

Royal Birkdale replenishing of plantings is going forward. This is an ideal time with the rain for successful plantings and allowing the new shrubs to be well rooted before winter. We encourage residents to contact us with their questions or thoughts.

We are seeking willing volunteers to join our landscape team to support and assist our efforts.

WILDLIFE NOTES

Why Would We Want to Share our Living Space with 'Possums?



With a pointed snout, a 2-foot body and foot-long hairless tail, the opossum has a unique look. A widespread mammal in North America, although it has a small brain, (one fifth the size of a cat's) opossums are better at remembering where food is hidden than are dogs, cats or rats.

Scientists uncovered something truly amazing about opossums in a recent study. This mammal was discovered to be able to eat some 5000 ticks in a single season, destroying some 90% of all ticks they encounter.

This trait ups their

benefit to mankind. In addition to clearing carrion (dead animals of all types), they have an innate ability to stave off many diseases and toxins. They are nearly impervious to rabies because their body temperature is too low to host the rabies virus.

The opposable big toe on the hind foot works like a human thumb for grasping, but has no nail like its other toes. The prehensile tail (grasping for balance, like a monkey) will only support the body weight of a young animal, but a female may use her tail to gather and carry nesting materials. In climbing, the tail is used like a fifth limb, stabilizing its body on a fragile branch. Farther north, opossums generally are larger, but in Florida, an average adult may weigh 4 pounds.



Changing the subject just a little: The squirrels, deer, possums and raccoons in Florida are pretty small in size compared to some of their northern relatives. Biologists say that it has to do with the weather getting colder as you go north. A larger animal maintains body heat more efficiently because it has a lower surface area to body mass ratio. A smaller animal has a higher body mass ratio that helps it release heat and remain cooler.





Looking for Things to Do or See?

The **42nd annual Selby Gardens juried photo exhibition** winners will be announced Thursday, August 25. That day, the exhibition will be offered virtually again this year, in partnership with the Observer Media Group. Photo artists submitted their photos taken on the Gardens' and Spanish Point campuses. A complete online gallery of images will be available through this website through September. Check it out at <https://selby.org>

Beach Walks and Bird Talks are offered August 27 from 7 to 9 a.m.

Explore Lido Beach through a guided walking tour that covers local flora, fauna, geology, and geography, as well as seasonal migrations and natural history.

Bee Ridge was a small outpost community with natural sources of honey at a town site centered at Proctor and Lockwood Ridge Roads. One enterprising couple's extensive honey production system there shipped their product across the United States, including to Macy's and Bloomingdales in New York. Video shared by Sarasota County Libraries. Copy this link in your browser to see this story.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1255022058576423>

Here are current board appointments and your fellow residents supporting our community.

BALLANTRAE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

President	David Dicke	dpdicke@gmail.com	614-579-4012
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Treasurer	Michel Glower	dr.glower@gmail.com	484-951-4081
Secretary	Ken Rowland	kenrocky2002@protonmail.com	941-786-2641
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COMMITTEES			
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Grounds	Lin Dunn	lindunn@verizon.net	941-809-2154
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Maintenance	Lane Bliss	Fill out work orders	
Management	Mike Miller	millermgt@mindspring.com	941-780-5988



We love Random Acts of Kindness in our community

It is wonderful to see caring neighbors move empty trash or recycle containers off the sidewalk back beside a garage door. Not only offering a helping hand, this kindness makes the sidewalks more walkable.



Unexpected and wonderful things happen in a community. We are very grateful for individuals who learn of neighbors' needs and offer their time to take someone to the hospital or an appointment or provide meal support. How wonderfully we do community kindness!

Please contact the editor with other Random Acts of Kindness you observe in our community at 614-607-1105.



August 26	Sally Jones
August 26	Nancy Shonka
September 5	Sherie Netto
September 6	Janet Warfield
September 26	Harold Horn
September 26	Margaret Boyd
September 27	Mary Walrath
October 1	Jack Seaman
October 9	James Clark
October 13	Barbara Rade



We welcome John and Barbara Rade, who moved into 3774 Ballantrae Drive this month.

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I would very much appreciate hearing from members of our community with questions they have or ideas for articles. Your contributions are welcomed.

Newsletter editor: Michele Dicke
Email: mdjustpray@gmail.com
Text or call 614-607-1105

Intelligent and Amazing Animals of the Seas

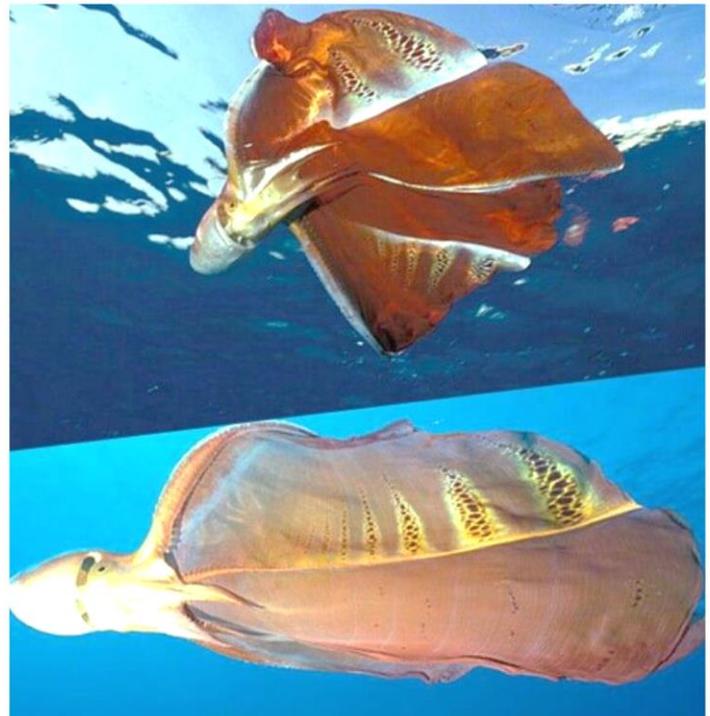
As you study these two images, can you identify this animal?

In July 2021, a reddish-colored one was caught on camera by a group on a sport fishing charter off Sarasota in the Gulf of Mexico.

This image was not the one taken by the anglers, but is a web post by Mandy Laine Samuels, who identified the female animal as likely a *Tremoctopus volaceus*, one of four recognized species commonly known as "blanket octopuses" that live in surface to mid-waters in subtropical and tropical oceans. They commonly spend all their lives in open seas

Most octopus species inhabit the bottom of the ocean, but the *Tremoctopus* has adapted from the depths of the sea waters to the surface. It is but one of over 300 species of octopuses. These underwater animals are some of the world's oldest creatures, with fossils dating back more than 300 million years—which means they predate dinosaurs.

The long transparent webs connecting the dorsal and dorsolateral arms of the adult female are unique. This variety of octopus is seldom sighted by humans and, when it is, it is almost always of the females. This is because females can be measured from small enough to fit in your hand to six feet in length. Their male counterparts are only one



Female blanket octopuses are **40,000x more massive** than the males.

Male
~2.5 cm (1 in)

Female
~2 m (6.6 ft)

This would be like a full-sized human female and a walnut-sized male—it's the *largest sex size discrepancy* in the animal kingdom.

Source: National Geographic, Wired

inch long and seem to exist purely for mating. These guys do have an evolutionary advantage that helps them easily spot a female. Apart with showing **sexual-dimorphism** [a term for variation in size between males and females of a species], octopuses' size also varies with the temperature of the water they live in. Species living in warmer bodies of water are much smaller than those residing where water temperatures are colder.

The other six arms (they are not tentacles, according to one source) are shorter and do not have the "blanket" extension. There are two amazing videos online showing a lengthy scarf-like webbing coming from within a central

portion of an almost transparent Tremoctopus. The "blanket" was initially compacted then fully billowed out. Prior to extending the web of skin, the specimen did not look much different from its octopus cousins. One possible protection offered by the extensions is to deter an attacker by making the animal appear much larger. The female reportedly is also able to detach her blankets to escape predators. Males do not have these webbed sheets, but have their own creative means of protection. They tear off tentacles of jellyfish to use as weapons.

Blanket octopuses are fully immune to the stings of poisonous jelly fish – an interesting characteristic. The very tiny male can wield the tentacles from the Portuguese man o' war held in its first two pairs of arms in defense for protection from predators. These "weapons" may also be used for capturing food. (Researchers indicate the tiny animals can also use the poison in the jellyfish tentacles to obtain their next meal!) Juvenile females also use tentacles of the man o' war but, as they grow larger, they abandon this strategy.

According to a website, Octolab TV, marine biologists still have a lot to learn about the blanket octopus species as a whole. Trained professionals have more questions about these species than they have answers. One theory espouses the idea that the unique components of the blanket octopus allow these creatures to adapt to the nomadic life. Another theory goes that the unusual features of the blanket octopus came about as adaptations to their nomadic lifestyle. It is the proverbial "chicken or the egg" situation. Did the blanket octopus develop its unique features due to its habitat choice or did its habitat make it what it is today?

Animal Hype offered some interesting facts. Similar to its relatives, a blanket octopus has three hearts and a massive brain that's located inside their colossal "head." Each heart of a blanket octopus serves a distinct function. The systemic heart is responsible for pumping the blood throughout the body while the two branchial hearts are responsible for pumping the blood through the pair of gills. When swimming, the systemic heart stops functioning, and the amount of oxygenated blood in their body drops down to an alarming rate, which is likely why blanket octopuses aren't usually seen swimming but effortlessly gliding. **These unique animals travel in our gulf waters!**