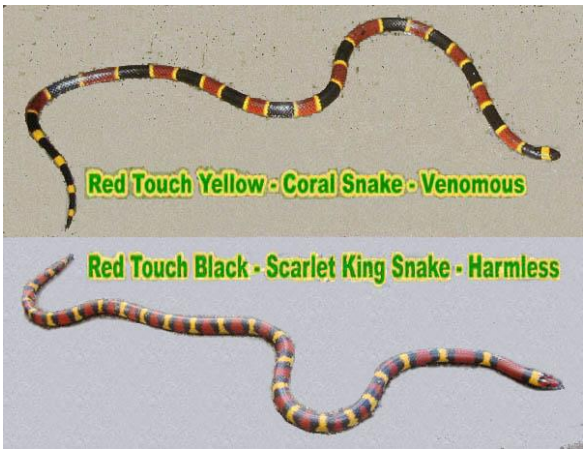
ALTAVISTA

Solivita Wildlife

We live with a nature preserve. By choosing Solivita you have elected to move into an environment that is rich in natural wildlife. Some of that wildlife can be dangerous, but only if you act without caution. According to Dr. Rashbaum, a Veterinarian and Solivita resident, this is a rabies prone area. Be alert to any nocturnal animal that is out during the day. Solivita Security is not responsible for animal control. Calling Florida Wildlife & Conservation, Solivita Security, or Management is **NOT** recommended unless an animal has caused significant damage or is displaying aggressive behavior. Call animal control at (863) 577-1762.



Snakes

"Red Touch Yellow, Kills a Fellow.
Red Touch Black, Friend of Jack."

We have harmless baby brown snakes as well as other types in the area. Snakes eat insects and frogs; alligators eat snakes. The most common snake that we see is the black ribbon snake. They are not poisonous. Be alert to snakes on evening walks since they tend to move onto the pavers at that time.

John Rupert, on Solivita Nextdoor said: "All of Florida's venomous snakes will have a single scale on their bellies running the entire length of the snake. On a non-poisonous snake there will be a single scale from the neck down to the cloaca (anal opening) about 2/3 of the length of the belly side, and then it will split to a double scale all the way to the end of the tail."



The Corn stake IS HARMLESS. Here is more information http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herpetology/fl-snakes/list/pantherophis-guttatus



This is a poisonous Coral Snake they have to bite soft flesh and hang onto it. "Production of coral snake antivenin in the United States ceased because it is not profitable… The cost was too large for the small number of cases presented each year." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coral_snake



The poisonous Cottonmouth, aka Water Moccasin, is fearless. http://www.livescience.com/43597-facts-about-water-moccasin-cottonmouth-snakes.html

See **About Florida's Venomous Snakes - Identification & Bite Advice**
http://www.247wildlife.com/venomousnakes.htm
https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herpetology/fl-snakes/visual-id/

Identification Guide to the Snakes of Florida http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/snakes/central.shtml#pattern%20menu

Snake removal for hire: Chuck Simmons - (407) 729-6686

Humane Animal Removal Team - 1644 Talon Ct, Kissimmee, FL 34746 · (321) 947-7134

All of our showers, baths, sinks, and toilets are connected to the same main drain line, which has an outside cleanout pipe capped by 4" white lid that sits about 2-1/2" above the ground. It is suggested you regularly check them (every time the landscaping crew finishes), keep them clear of overgrowth, and replace any broken lids so snakes and other critters cannot enter from the outside and crawl up the inside drains. Submit a request to Floralawn to replace broken cleanout pipe caps.

Alligators

Alligators eat snakes and rodents. During mating season in the spring, gators will travel a lot. They cross our roads to move to other ponds. They lay on the banks of ponds to take sun. Be aware and leave them be unless they are a nuisance! Many residents enjoy watching them from a distance. They help control the snake and rodent population. If any resident feels threatened by a gator, call FWC at 866-392-4286. Once you receive reference number, call the 24hr Security Shift Supervisor number at 407-989-2417 and give them the reference number and location. It will be removed and killed. Please stay away from the gators and be aware of your surroundings while walking, etc. See *Common Myths and the Truth about Alligators*:
http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/files/State%20Parks/Wildlife%20Page/WW_alligators.pdf

Armadillos

Armadillos can cause problems when they dig in gardens and yards looking for grubs. Their digging can undermine the structural integrity of foundations, driveways, and sidewalks when the animals burrow under these areas. Armadillos have been known to carry the bacteria responsible for causing leprosy, which may transfer to humans who come into physical contact with the creatures.

Bears

"Black bears are quite common in Central Florida, particularly here in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. But they rarely present a real threat to people. However, bears can be dangerous, particularly mother bears protecting their cubs, and should be approached with great prudence and abundant caution. The first rule in response to the potential presence of bears is – **DO NOT PANIC**. And please do not create panic by overreacting and frightening others. Most visits by bears go unwitnessed.

Preventing human-bear conflicts begins with following a few simple rules:

1. **NEVER FEED A BEAR**. They may look cute, but they can be very dangerous. Feeding a bear threatens your safety, the safety of your neighbors and, ultimately, the safety of the bear itself.
2. **SECURE THE TOP OF YOUR TRASH BIN**. Do not overload your container, disallowing the top from closing securely. While bears can open large containers, they are lazy and will often seek easier access to food. If necessary, you can set your garbage out early in the morning rather than the night before.
3. **CLOSE THE DOOR TO YOUR GARAGE**. Bears and other creatures may seek food or shelter within. Surprising a bear in the enclosed environment of your garage is exceedingly dangerous.

TIPS IN THE UNLIKELY CHANCE YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

1. Bears will let you know if they feel uncomfortable by snapping their jaws, swatting the ground or by "bluff charging." Always remember to respect bears – they are large, powerful, wild animals that can act unpredictably and become dangerous.
2. If you encounter a bear at a distance, do not approach. Enjoy the experience from a safe distance and back away slowly. Surprising a bear, blocking escape routes, and making eye contact could make the bear feel threatened and should be avoided. *If you are on your lanai or screened porch – the screen will not protect you*. Follow the steps previously stated.
3. If you encounter a bear at close range:
   a. Stay calm
   b. Do not make eye contact
   c. Make yourself look BIG by raising your arms
   d. Back away slowly

4. Scare That Bear! If you see a bear in your yard, consider “scaring that bear!” The goal is to preserve their natural fear of people. Reinforce their timid nature by scaring bears that wander onto your property or near your home. Some things to remember before attempting to scare the bear:
   • Ensure the bear has an easy escape route away from you and your home.
   • Check that you are in a secure area at a safe distance from the bear.
   • Use noise or water to scare the bear away. A garden hose is a great tool.

   Hitting pots and pans together or honking car horns are all acceptable ways to scare off a bear. Remember, bears are a protected species.

   Calling Florida Wildlife & Conservation, Solivita Security or Management is **NOT** recommended unless the bear has caused significant damage or is displaying aggressive behavior. There is little they can do. And the Polk County Sheriff will **ONLY** respond in case of a documented attack, or if lives are legitimately in jeopardy.”

Co-Existing with Cranes



Photo by Diane Jorio

Do not allow small grandchildren to approach any of the big wild birds. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission suggests:

- Never feed cranes and encourage your neighbors not to feed cranes. Cranes are less likely to inhabit urban areas if easy meals are not provided.
- Cover or move automobiles so that cranes cannot see their reflections in the shiny surfaces. Windows or glass doors that the cranes attack can be temporarily covered with material so that the birds do not see their reflections.
- Temporarily cover windows or screens. A string mounted on stakes about 2.5 feet off the ground will provide an exclusion "fence" around the parts of homes (window or pool screens) that are being damaged by cranes.
- Accept some digging for food. Cranes sometimes damage lawns and gardens as they dig for food such as mole crickets and beetle grubs. The birds, in this case, provide natural "biological control" of these common pests of turf.

Fishing in designated ponds is catch and release. Wildlife should not be approached, fed, molested or harmed by residents. It is strictly prohibited by Florida Law to feed an alligator. (Florida Administrative Code 68A-4.001(6)).

- The state penalty system starts with a civil penalty of $100, and then gradually increases in severity. For bears and crocodilians (i.e., alligators and crocodiles), subsequent offenses increase the severity of the criminal infraction and penalties, increasing for the 3rd to 4th offenses.
- For crocodiles, subsequent offenses increase the severity of the criminal infraction and penalties up to $5,000 and 5 years in jail.

You do not need a freshwater fishing license if...

- You are a child under 16 years of age.
- You are a Florida resident 65 years of age or older and you possess proof of age and residency.
- You are a resident who is fishing with live or natural bait, using cane-poles not equipped with a fishing-line-retrieval mechanism, and you are fishing for noncommercial purposes in your home county.
- You are a Florida resident certified as totally and permanently disabled and you possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate.

For mor information see: https://www.eregulations.com/florida/fishing

Be aware that vehicles ahead of you may sometimes stop for animals slowly crossing our roads. Please do not exceed the speed limit.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED ANY WILDLIFE!

It is against Florida law to feed the wildlife. Cranes and other animals that are fed by humans, will attack people, cars, and houses. Sand Hill Cranes have poked thru lanai screens in homes of residents who fed them.

Last updated Aug. 8, 2024