

BB Journal December 08

It's easy to forget what a beautiful City we live in, especially for those who have put down "roots" and rarely travel elsewhere. To some extent, we're all prone to the habit of having "blinders" on as we go through our normal everyday routines. As my wife can tell you, it's not unlike me to walk into our home or our office for 3 month's without noticing that there's a new picture on the wall or...that there's a wall missing completely. Hopefully it's just not me, but generally, I think that all of us, if left to our own devices, become part of our surroundings, creatures of habit that tend to lose track of the subtle changes and beauty of a place. Fortunately, all it takes is a trip to other parts of the State or Country to make you appreciate what we have.

My wife and I often visit our "vacation get away" in Georgia and we love it there, but when we come back, we are always struck by what a beautiful place Bonita Springs is. The natural beauty of Bonita Springs, with its beaches to the west, it's back bays, rivers, creeks meandering through the heart, it's wild areas to the east and the beautiful canopy of trees through out the City make us unique. We are a City with natural resources that do more than form a back drop, they are part of us. They are something to be proud of. To be treasured and preserved for recreation, for wildlife habitat and for water and air quality.

But when's the last time you strolled the beach at sunset or looked for shells. Have you ever canoed or kayaked the Imperial River or the other amazing waterways in our City? How about driving out to the Causeway and exploring Carl Johnson Park and Black Island? You could rent or charter a boat and explored Estero Bay or take a bike ride or a hike along our many sidewalks and trails. How about going down to Riverside or Depot Park downtown and strolling through the beautiful Oak trees down to the River?

Those of us that live here need to remind ourselves to take the time to enjoy what our beautiful City has to offer. I think you will see that the founders of "Bonita Springs" have named our city well.