



Upper Captiva Civic Association Inc. Box 423, Pineland, Florida 33945

Upper Captiva Civic Association

January 20, 2021

Greetings from the island!

We are reaching out to vacant lot owners to give you a heads up on a Lee Development Code requirement to fully clear privately-owned vacant lots of all Brazilian peppertree on North Captiva. The Upper Captiva Civic Association (UCCA) has been in contact with Lee County since late last year on this matter.

For background the code has been on the books for several years, with enforcement targeted to the beginning of this year. Very possibly you have been unaware of the issue with Brazilian pepper, though it has been brought up in several of the UCCA General Membership meetings. There is much that we do not yet know, but we felt it time to share with you what we do know from our contacts with the county.

We have enclosed a letter from Lee County Department of Community Development. To summarize, Brazilian pepper, as an exotic, non-native, and invasive plant must be eradicated from all properties by 1 January 2021, as enacted on 17 June 2014 by the Lee County Commission <https://www.leegov.com/bocc/Ordinances/14-13.pdf> in Sec. 33-1741. Brazilian Pepper Eradication (on page 22 of the PDF)

DIVISION 5. OPEN SPACE, LANDSCAPING, AND INVASIVE EXOTIC VEGETATION

Sec. 33-1741. Brazilian Pepper Eradication

The Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) must be entirely eradicated from all real property, including easements, rights-of-way, and common area tracts. The eradication of the Brazilian pepper must be completed prior to issuance of Certificate of Compliance (CC), issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) or by January 1, 2021, whichever comes sooner. All property must be maintained free of Brazilian pepper in perpetuity once it has been eradicated.

Although the code became enforceable by Lee County Code Enforcement this year, it appears that Lee County will provide owners with a grace period before future enforcement actions or potential daily fines are applied. How long a period is unknown at this time. Presently the county is focusing on education and will apparently post information on their website, presumably in short order. It is

possible Lee County will attempt to contact vacant lot owners by mail. It is important that we all realize that at some point all Brazilian peppertree will have to be eradicated from North Captiva.

You may find it helpful to know:

- A county-approved vegetation removal permit is required before you start clearing your vacant lot (information is at <https://www.leegov.com/dcd/Documents/ES/Apps/VegSubReq.pdf> and <https://www.leegov.com/dcd/Documents/ES/Apps/VEG.docx>)
- The following businesses on North Captiva provide landscaping and clearing services. All are listed in alphabetical sequence and without any UCCA recommendation for any particular service provider:
 - o Clean Cut Tree Service, Inc. (Jon Kennedy), Email at CleanCutTrees06@gmail.com and Phone at 239-440-0440
 - o Sherman Cottrell, Email at Shermella2693@aol.com and Phone at 502-419-3306
 - o North Captiva Island Club (Bryan Brillhart), Email at Contracts@northcaptiva.com and Phone at 239-283-3630
 - o Safety Harbor Club (Jan Neal), Email at Office@safetyharborclub.com and Phone at 239-472-1019
 - o Tortuga Property Services (Duncan Rosen), Email at TortugaNCI@gmail.com and Phone at 239-400-4928

We plan on posting updated information as we receive it from the County at <https://www.uppercaptivacivicassociation.org/brazilian-pepper-eradication>.

The purpose of UCCA is to serve islanders as a forum for discussion and to represent North Captiva on matters of common concern. To help us reach you in a timely fashion with further information on this and other subjects of interest to the island, it will help if you can provide your email address, home address, on-island lot address and telephone/cell contact information to our Communications Secretary, David Bolme at David.Bolme@UpperCaptivaCivicAssociation.org. Please also consider joining the UCCA at <https://www.uppercaptivacivicassociation.org/membership-join> and work with us to keep North Captiva a very special place.

Jackie Byrnes
President
Upper Captiva Civic Association