

Dealing With Trespassers in Blairstone Forest

We've all been concerned about trespassers in our forest and neighborhood. Members want to know how to deal with them. Sometimes they call one or another member of the Board of Directors. Usually this just wastes time. Here is the best procedure:

1. Program the Tallahassee Police Department phone number into your cell phone: **891-4200**
2. Note the new No Trespass Order # for Blairstone Forest: **2008-13324**
3. If you see or hear trespassers anywhere in the forest or fishing in our ponds, anywhere – go confront them. Tell them to leave at once or you will call the police. If you hear them chopping trees in the forest don't confront them, call the police.
4. If you confront them they will typically tell you they are a guest of "someone that lives over there" somewhere. They are lying. Tell them to give you the name of their host. If they cannot, dial the police telephone number.
5. If the police dispatcher tells you that he or she needs to hear from an officer of the Association, tell them that they are talking to an owner of the association and that you want to report a trespasser.
6. Tell the police dispatcher the No Trespass Order #, **2008-13324** or tell them the order is under the name of Blairstone Forest Community Association.
7. If the trespasser(s) are the teenagers who have been cutting our trees in the forest and your cell phone can take photos or if you have a video camera or other camera with you and can do so safely, take the trespasser's photo. A facial photo is best.
8. After calling the police and receiving an assurance that an officer is on the way, call one of the Board Members. We will come be with you when the officer arrives. It may take a while. Trespassers are low priority compared to traffic accidents, shootings and other calls they get. You will be needed as a witness and we can provide history for the officer.
9. Do not try to restrain or detain the trespasser. If they wish to leave, let them go.
10. If the trespassers are fishing, remember that they are probably poor enough that they are trying to feed their family with what they catch. But tell them that what they may catch in our pond is not worth their family's health. The pond and its fish are not sufficiently healthy for human consumption. Nonetheless, tell them to leave and call the police if they do not.