



THE SWAMP GAZETTE 2022/23 SEASON  
THE FLORIDA EVERBLADES FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER  
MAR/APR 2023 Vol. 4

**2022-23 Board of Directors**

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*President's Message*

Hello Members,

We have now completed our 2022-2023 regular season. Post season is now in progress, and we are playing in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the Kelly Cup Playoffs. Hopefully we play long into the playoffs or better yet go all the way. I myself am not ready for this season to end.

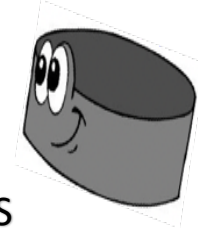
Once our season has ended the fan club will start the process of removing the fan club items from the apartments, cleaning, sorting and repacking things up for the 2023-2024 season. So be on the lookout for an email from our apartment chair, Louise Festa once our season has officially ended. She will be looking for help to complete the apartment process. If you have participated with this, I encourage you to get involved this year. It is one way to get to know your fellow members.

On July 4 Board Members, Cathy Maley, Louise Festa, Karen McKenzie and I will be attending the ECHL/SPHL (Southern Professional Hockey League) Jamboree that is being hosted this summer by the Wheeling Nailers of Wheeling, West Virginia. This is a workshop with other hockey clubs and enthusiasts to see what other Fan Clubs/Boosters do for their teams. Like how they go about raising money to support their teams, items they put in player apartments. There is a lot exchanging of ideas to better your club. It is also fun to meet other Fan Club/Booster Club members. Any hockey loving person is invited to attend each summer. The registration form you can find on the Facebook page under ECHL & SPHL Booster Club Jamboree if you are interested. If not this summer the 2024 Jamboree will be hosted by the Worcester Railers in Massachusetts.

Thank You to our members for being part of the best Fan Club in the ECHL. GO BLADES!!

Sincerely,

**Belinda A Hanley, President**



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Apartments/ Membership** – Louise Festa [Louisef0522@gmail.com](mailto:Louisef0522@gmail.com) (239) 825-4205

**Breakfast/Road Supplies** - Kate Falzone [Kathleen\\_falzone@comcast.net](mailto:Kathleen_falzone@comcast.net)

(239) 989-7304

### Fundraising – Open

**Hospitality** – Carol Grubbs [Imagrubby@gmail.com](mailto:Imagrubby@gmail.com) (239) 571-4236

**Special Events** – Cathy Maley [Crmaley1004@comcast.net](mailto:Crmaley1004@comcast.net) (239) 565-3765

**Newsletter** – Karen McKenzie [dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net](mailto:dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net) (586) 212-5808

**Photo Buttons** – Belinda Hanley [Starkeaton@aol.com](mailto:Starkeaton@aol.com) (239) 851-0871

**Raffle Table** – Louise Festa [Louisef0522@aol.com](mailto:Louisef0522@aol.com) (239) 825-4205

**Shop w/Scrip/Raise Right** – Belinda Hanley [Starkeaton@aol.com](mailto:Starkeaton@aol.com) (239) 851-0871

**Sponsors** – Karen McKenzie [dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net](mailto:dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net) (586) 212-5808

**Transportation** – Belinda Hanley [Starkeaton@aol.com](mailto:Starkeaton@aol.com) (239) 851-0871

**Website/Social Media** – Kassondra “Kat” L [fefcwm@gmail.com](mailto:fefcwm@gmail.com)

Thank you to those that attended our annual spaghetti dinner on Tuesday February 28th, you are what made this event a tremendous success. We had 172 guests in attendance along with 2 team staff and 26 players, a full team event. We fed all along with feeding the food & beverage staff after the event for their hard work. There was a new twist on the sauce, salads and presentation thanks to our new Chef and his crew, this was welcomed by everyone. The company was great, the food delicious and our Club received over \$9,000 in donations.

Last year's jersey theme was "gator on the beach", this year was "gator in the swamp", his own habitat. The bucket hats auctioned off were so well liked by the team they really didn't want to give them up. This year, for the first time, we gave each of them embroidered hats, distributed at our Membership Appreciation picnic.

As always, there are "hiccups" in the process, but I believe everyone enjoyed. I would appreciate any feedback, good, bad or suggestions for our next year event for improvement. This is a major undertaking, and I will try to implement new ideas where possible, we learn better ways every year!

Many thanks to Sandy Renne for taking on our jersey auction, to Belinda Hanley for handling the team art, and Lisa Tomburo for overseeing our Q&A session AND TO ALL OTHERS that assisted that day and during the evening, you are so appreciated!! For those that were not able to attend, try next year, we would love having you on board!

THANKFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

*Louise Festa, Chairperson*

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

4/30/23

Our MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC held on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> was a family event open to all Club membership. This was a full team event, even had a few pets to entertain us. This year the Club was able to cover all expenses, our appreciation to you, the members. In attendance was 73 members, 30 team and staff, including 2 girlfriend/wife, Coach Brad, his mom and dad, and Decker. Coach Jesse was there also supporting us.

Cathy Maley, Courtney Maley, Louise Festa, and Lisa Tomburo chaired this event, each taking on a portion of the responsibility. Cathy, general set-up and organization along with our sign in table activity; Courtney, table decorations & children's game; Louise, food & drink; and Lisa for activities. Games included pinata for children, horseshoes, putting golf, tug of war, cornhole and trivia. Our Door Prize winner was Dave Bruns!

Our menu included BBQ chicken, pulled pork, mac n cheese, coleslaw, baked beans, buns, hot dogs, green salad, and fruit salad. Something new to the picnic we had ice cream sundaes for dessert along with cookies, and as always, a variety of drinks. Randy's BBQ provided us with the BBQ, as always yummy!!

Our activities were not structured... Play as you wish ... we had players and members; adults and children enjoy the several activities!

Many thanks to those that helped with setup, clean up and tear down. Additional thanks to Angela and Zach for providing us with some chairs and tables, for Lisa & Cheryl for providing the game items, to Melissa Maley for the pop-up canopies, to Cathy & Courtney for the pinata and candies, to Greg & Tracy for the water & ice, and to Kat & Debi for assistance at the food tables!! If I have forgotten to name anyone specifically, I truly apologize but **THANK YOU** for your help!!

Another fun event... it was very relaxed, players enjoyed, members enjoyed, lots of communication, food was good, and getting together with our membership that loves hockey and our TEAM was the very best!

THANK YOU ALL!  
Louise Festa, Co-chair

## FAN CLUB CONCOURSE TABLE 4/30/23

As Fan Club Concourse Table Chairperson, I would like to thank everyone that supported our “table” this season .... We will continue to have the table open throughout the playoffs, please stop by... even just to say Hi!

This has been our best season to date, getting donations from you and those fans in the arena for our “little” items and for our drawings. We had numerous 1 night jersey drawings to help support us, and to help find our inventory jerseys new homes!

We still have hockey etched glass blocks (\$25.00) along with Everblades pop-sockets (\$20.00) available, if interested please contact me... oh, an FEFC gel pens at \$1.00 each.

Specifically for fan club members we still have some of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary thermal cups available, contact Belinda if interested. (30 oz \$25.00 and 20 oz \$20.00)

I want to thank Cathy Maley for co-chairing the table this season, she has been a great asset. We’ve worked together to select drawing items and have done well. I also want to thank the many “hard-core” helpers ... Belinda, Karen & Dave, and Courtney... they are always there for us, without them we would not be able run the table smoothly! Also, many others that through the season that have assisted, I truly appreciate all your help and hopefully will see the assistance through next season! ... and we welcome “newcomers”!

NOW, LET’S CONTINUE THE PLAYOFFS!! **GO BLADES!!**

THANK YOU, LOUISE

## **From your Editor – Karen McKenzie**

It has been a great year for all our fan club members and for the Florida Everblades team. This will be the last FEFC Newsletter for the 2022/2023 season. It has been a pleasure serving you as the newsletter editor.

I will be stepping down from this position since I have been very busy as the FEFC Secretary, Quarter Auction Chair, Sponsorship Chair, Newsletter Editor along with all the other hats I wear in this club as many others do.

If you are interested in taking this position over for next season, please let one of the Board members know as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Karen McKenzie  
FEFC Newsletter Editor

**FEFC Scholarships**

## **Florida Everblades Fan Club Scholarship program**

The Florida Everblades Fan Club Board is pleased to announce that we are able to offer scholarships this year. There is an application and form that needs to be filled out and submitted online through our website: [www.floridaeverbladesfanclub.org](http://www.floridaeverbladesfanclub.org). Once you fill out the form, please email to [www.floridaeverbladesfanclubinfo@gmail.com](mailto:www.floridaeverbladesfanclubinfo@gmail.com).

Please see the attached information and application (that is also available online our website).



Dear Potential Scholarship Applicant,

We are pleased to announce that The Florida Everblades Fan Club of SW FL, Inc is offering a scholarship opportunity for students seeking a degree. This scholarship is designed to support students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievements, leadership potential, and a strong commitment to their community. To apply for this scholarship, interested applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be a current Florida Everblades Fan Club member, in good standing.
- Must be enrolled or planning to enroll as a full-time student in an accredited secondary institution.
- Must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Must provide evidence of community involvement and leadership potential.

To apply, interested candidates should submit the following documents:

- A completed scholarship application form, which can be found on our website [Floridaeverbladesfanclub.org](http://Floridaeverbladesfanclub.org)
- A personal statement outlining your academic achievements, community involvement, and leadership experience.
- One letter of reference from an individual who can attest to your academic achievements and leadership potential.

The deadline for submitting scholarship applications is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. All applications will be carefully reviewed by our scholarship committee, and successful candidates will be notified by June 15, 2023.

The successful candidate will be awarded a scholarship of \$1,000, which will be disbursed towards the cost of tuition and other educational expenses.

We believe that education is the key to success, and we are committed to supporting students who are dedicated to achieving their academic and professional goals. We encourage all eligible students to apply for this scholarship opportunity.

Please submit your application online on our website:  
<https://www.floridaeverbladesfanclubinfo@gmail.com>

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at [Floridaeverbladesfanclubinfo@gmail.com](mailto:Floridaeverbladesfanclubinfo@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
Florida Everblades Fan Club of SWFL, Inc

**Section 1: Personal Information**

- Full Name\_\_\_\_\_
- Address\_\_\_\_\_
- Email Address\_\_\_\_\_
- Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_
- Date of Birth\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2: Academic Information**

- Current educational institution\_\_\_\_\_
- Major/Area of Study\_\_\_\_\_
- Expected graduation Date\_\_\_\_\_
- Cumulative GPA\_\_\_\_\_
- List of academic awards and honors\_\_\_\_\_

- Relevant coursework\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3: Work and Volunteer Experience (Attach CV or Resume)**

- List of work experience (including job title, employer, and dates of employment)\_\_\_\_\_
- List of volunteer experience (including organization, role, and dates of involvement)\_\_\_\_\_
- Relevant skills and achievements\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4: Statement of Purpose/Essay (Attach separate sheet)**

- Brief introduction and explanation of why you are applying for the scholarship.
- Description of your career goals and how the scholarship will help you achieve them.
- Explanation of how you have demonstrated leadership potential and community involvement.
- Any other information that you believe would strengthen your application.

**Section 5: References**

- Names and contact information of a reference who can speak to your academic and personal qualities.

**Section 6: Supporting Documents**

- Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- Any additional supporting materials that you believe would strengthen your application.

It is important to carefully read and follow the application instructions provided by the scholarship committee.

**Good luck with your application!**





## **Getting to know your Florida Everblades**

Player Name and Number: **LOGAN LAMBDIN #17**

Where are you originally from? **MONROE, MI**

If you weren't playing hockey, what would you be doing? **COACHING  
OR SELLING REALESTATE**

What type of music do you like? **COUNTRY OR RAP BUT LISTEN  
TO EVERYTHING.**

What is your favorite hobby besides hockey? **GOLFING**

What do you like the best of living in Florida? **WARM WEATHER**

Where do you like to go? **THE BEACH**

What is your favorite food? **BRISKET**

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?  
**HAWAII – IT IS THE MOST PEACEFUL PLACE I HAVE BEEN.**

What personal qualities do you have? **CARING AND GIVING**

What is your favorite animal? **DOG**

Who is your favorite actor or actress? **WILL FERRELL**

## Upcoming Events



**PLAYOFFS – Starting Saturday -April 22,2023**

**Apartment cleanout!**

Note: We are always looking for people to help with events! If you would like to volunteer for upcoming events, please let us know!

## Congratulations are in order!

- Congratulations to Ben and Brooke Masella on their new baby girl – Cameron Elizabeth Masella – born April 14, 2023
- Congratulations to John McCarron in coming back to the Florida Everblades to play!



## EVERBLADES BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH

CAMERON DARCY 3-2-94  
STEPHEN LABLANC 3-16-96  
NOLAN KNEEN 3-22-99  
KYLE NUEBER 3-22-89  
SEAN JOSLING 3-22-99

### APRIL

KODY MCDONALD 4-7-98  
JOHN MCCARRON 4-16-92

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING -TBD Due to playoffs**

**FLORIDA EVERBLADES FAN CLUB MISSION STATEMENT**

*Please go to [www.floridaeverbladesfanclub.org](http://www.floridaeverbladesfanclub.org)*

## Sponsors



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keithnicholson33@yahoo.com



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- Dr. Karen McKenzie & Dave McKenzie
- Kay Wheeler

**Remember to Visit your Fan Club Table at the Next  
Blades Home Game!**

**We have opportunities to take a “chance” and  
other goodies to sell!**

Support our Affiliates

