

FACES & NAMES

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How long have you lived at Magnolia Point?

We have lived here for 5 years.

Who's in your immediate family, at home here or elsewhere?

I live in Magnolia with my husband, Don, and we have a daughter that also lives in Green Cove Springs. Our oldest daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren live in the Orlando area.

Do you have any pets?

Our dog, Tonka, recently passed away and we miss him terribly.

What was your passion at 16?

At 16 I was simply trying to figure out how to survive on my own. Literally. Graduation coming meant I would no longer have a home. And despite being an honor roll student, college was not an option for me.

And now?

I was married for 28 years, had two children, a successful 20-year career in medical claims, owned a restaurant and retired 23 years ago. I divorced at the age of 45 and later reconnected with a lifelong friend, my husband of 12 years, Don. My greatest passion is wildlife photography and spending time outdoors. You can find me on Instagram @bechinson, where I have over 7,000 pictures, and counting; on NextDoor, my photos have been viewed over 540,000 times; and of course, I love contributing to The Magnolia News!

What advice would you give to a 16-year old today? *Set a goal and believe in yourself. While some feel a college education is the only path to success, I am the definition of success without a formal education. Every child is different; follow your dreams and set your goals high. Shoot for the stars, go to college if you feel that's the right path for you or follow my lead and blaze your own trail.*

What do you like most about your home?

My backyard, the sunsets and all my wildlife friends!

Do you have any household projects in the 'planning' or 'dream' stage?

We don't currently have any household projects planned for our house here. There are some renovations in the future for our home in Jacksonville but right now I'm just going to keep taking photos in Green Cove Springs.

Do you see yourself living here in 5 years?

Time will tell. We want to stay close to our daughter who has a chronic illness. We're hoping to find the care she needs to stay healthy. When that time comes, we'll reevaluate.

