



While Lockwood Folly may seem like a slice of heaven to many of us, the recent incident in which a pet was killed by an alligator in one of our ponds reminds us that the wildlife we enjoy can be wild and dangerous creatures. We ordered warning signs (above) to place on all POA ponds, but signs alone are inadequate protection without additional measures. Children and pets do not read warning signs, so we caution all residents to remind family, friends, visitors, and guests of the risks in our community. Let's be on guard to avoid any future tragic incidents.

- **Don't feed alligators or animals inhabiting waters with alligators.** Providing food for these wild animals attracts them, makes them bolder, and encourages them to seek out people.
- **Keep your distance.** Alligators can move with a startling burst of speed over short distances. Stay at least 60 feet away. If the alligator hisses or lunges at you, you are too close.
- **Do not attempt to move alligators out of the road.** Leave it alone and let it pass on through.
- **It is illegal to harass or throw things at alligators.** Molesting, injuring or killing alligators is punishable by law with fines up to \$2500 and 30 days in jail in some states.
- **Never disturb nests or small alligators.** Some female alligators protect their young and may become aggressive if provoked.
- **Keep your pets and children away from alligators.** Large alligators do not recognize differences between pets and wild food sources. Keep children and pets away from waters and heavy vegetation near the water's edge. Alligators use these areas to ambush prey.
- **Do not corner alligators.** Swimming, skiing, canoeing, kayaking, or even taking photographs can make them feel threatened, causing them to react defensively.

Here is a link to a University of Georgia website with more detailed information ([Alligator Safety - UGa](#)). Please share with others to help keep everyone safe.