

## The Bayou

Pratt Bayou in Parker, Florida, outside of Panama City on old US-98.  
This first picture is of the Bayou before Hurricane Michael in October 2018.



This is my property in Parker Fl. It consist of the old family home, original built in 1890, 2 rentals in the back of property, the trailer I visit there at times in front of property, and a 1958 travel trailer with a cabana attached to the front. I was there and left about 5:30am CST as Hurricane Michael was starting to come in. I fled up Starr Ave to US-231 to I-10 and then west toward Mobile Ala, and stopped at "Chase Wind" motel (name coincidental to event) in Loxley, Ala. What is seen below is what happened after I'd left.

My trailer lost a strip of siding in front from a fallen magnolia tree. I see behind it the 300+ year old heritage live oak tree still standing. Few trees still are in the region.



This is the road that comes down from third street. I own the property from the stop sign on one side of road down to within about 50' of the water and seawall. There's a narrow strip there owned by someone else in a double wide. My woods seem destroyed, including a massive old magnolia tree that was over 100 years old, I can't see it standing still. At the end of road on right side was one of the very old spreading oak trees that lost to the hurricane. It's on someone else's property. I see the sable palms did as expected and survived.



I had removed some branches last year from this broken magnolia, but due to power lines didn't get this one, so now I pay the price for leaving it. Interior of trailer not penetrated, so that's good. I was looking at images of newer trailers that had the later mandatory tie-downs installed. Hey, they worked, the bottom of those trailers are still solidly there in place, just everything above the trailer floor is gone. Mine probably rocked on it's trailer springs with the winds and therefore survived. Maybe they need to rethink those "tie-downs"????



The pink house across bayou destroyed, and there was a large RV under a quonset type shed. I don't see either of those, but possible they fled in the RV and haven't managed to get entry back into Panama City or Parker area. I couldn't get back in, so left to Jax and then home to Maryland.



I see my deck roof my uncle built back of my trailer (I was letting him live there till he died in 2016) has lost some tin and a sheet of plywood, but otherwise no damage to end nor back of trailer. There is a tree down between it and the cabana in the drive at other end of my trailer. I don't have a good photo from that area to see if it knocked the AC out of the window or other damage. Friend will send one later on. The old power pole is down, but the new one remains. Unfortunately the power was still on the old pole. Need Gulf Power to come and put a new meter and box on that newer power pole. Wind took off the flimsy skirting. No biggee, just was there to make city happy. They have plenty of other things now to bother people about.



The old family home lost half the roof. It's been almost 130 years through hurricanes, but this one damaged it. Still it's standing proud. It sits on cypress logs for support in the drier middle area and the four corners are old Birmingham Alabama brick words. Cypress siding on it. Cypress doesn't rot nor get termites. Still, I plan to have it torn down in a couple years to put something better there. The old oak tree still stands, but minus branches. The large pine in front of rental has done significant damage to it. Renters still in it, but I sent them message to move into my trailer instead, get it's power restored, and there's food and water still in it for them. Cancelled all rent due for rest of this year to 3 different renters.



Some larger and cropped sections of above images.



The smallest rental, only 500 sq ft. Power head and box ripped off by tree. Bamboo helped it from being worse maybe by absorbing some of the wind. That's a pecan tree lying on the roof, my granddad planted that back in the 1960's. His shed in back has a blue tarp, so must have gotten damaged. He built that just last year, 8x12'.



That Big Old Pine Tree. I wish I'd had it cut down this year like I was thinking to do. My neighbor on the water lucked out, since I'd had 4 that size removed at lower end of my property or his double wide would have suffered the same fate.



My friend went to his sister's house and this was after the storm in her back yard.



This is a before and after picture from 2016. I hadn't visited the property in 12 years after Mom died in Maryland at my house but buried there in Florida next to grandma. My uncle died april 2015 and the first picture is what I found he'd done to my trailer. This is just the trailer area. There were also 6 boats and trailers, 6 vehicles, old lumber and just general hoarded junk he'd collected. It took me months to get the area cleaned back up like it was when my grandparents lived. The "after" is when I'd gotten that area cleaned, but still had large vines on trees to clear away, and other junk.



And now Hurricane Michael has left me a lot more work to do when I go back there. At least I still have a place to stay then. I suspect the renters will stay there awhile for the free rent I offered them, then move away elsewhere, probably completely out of town since they both have SS disability, no need for them to stay in the area. It will be years before the economy in that area recovers, I figure at least a decade. I'll tear those rentals down, been more trouble in the past couple years to me than really worth it. I'd prefer to have the land back the way it was when I was younger in the 50-70's.

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