



Friends of St. Sebastian River

P.O. Box 284 ❖ Roseland, Florida 32957-0284

January 2010

website: www.fssr.org email: info@fssr.org

The mission of the Friends of St. Sebastian River is to maintain and improve the health and beauty of the St. Sebastian River and its watershed.

HAVE YOU SEEN KILROY?

Those of you old enough to remember the phrase “Kilroy was here”, will automatically know and understand the philosophy behind the research efforts of the Ocean Research and Conservation Association of Ft. Pierce. ORCA as it is known, was founded by Dr. Edie Widder, a marine scientist and winner of one of the MacArthur Foundation’s Fellowship Program awards, better known as the “genius grant”. The genius behind Dr. Widder’s idea is to develop a water monitoring device that is inexpensive so that it can be deployed everywhere, just like Kilroy, the ubiquitous character of WWII and Korean War fame!

The foundation for the development of a monitoring device is that we need timely, accurate information that is easily understood by the public. The ocean environment is one of the least explored and understood habitats on earth, partially because it is relatively inaccessible for most people, other than at the very surface. ORCA is the first “technology-based marine conservation organization” in the nation and is taking the approach that we need widespread, timely data to learn more about how we effect the ocean environment. With better understanding of our impacts, and easily understood and correlated data, ORCA hopes to affect the public’s appreciation of the marine environment and how our actions impact it. And with scientifically sound data, promote policies to protect the marine environment on an ecosystem-wide scale, thus fostering a “new era of ocean stewardship”. “More than any other measure, monitoring provides accountability for management actions”, Admiral James Watkins, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy report – *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century*.

Keith Paglen, co-founder of ORCA will be our guest at this month’s meeting. As ORCA begins to deploy their Kilroy device, there are many other opportunities they are pursuing to employ the greater understanding of the marine environment. As mentioned, one of their pursuits is to foster a better appreciation by the public of the world’s oceans and how we impact them. Therefore they are working on new ideas and more groundbreaking technologies to engage the public, governments and industry in this “new era of ocean stewardship”. We hope to learn much more from Mr. Paglen when he joins us for our meeting on **Tuesday, January 26, 7:30 PM** at the North Indian River County Library in Sebastian.

Our January meeting is also our Annual Business meeting and current Friends members will be voting on this year’s Board of Directors. In addition, we will be drawing the winning ticket for the St. Sebastian River painting, donated by Friends member and Sebastian City Mayor Richard Gillmor. And if that isn’t enough, we will also be presenting our annual Environmental Enhancement Award for 2009 to the Indian River Land Trust. Please see the related articles inside the newsletter for more information about the award and the painting raffle.

EPA TO SET LIMITS TO PROTECT FLORIDA'S WATERS

The Friends has participated in efforts by the Clean Water Network (CWN) in Florida, to get the state to comply with federal water quality standards under the Clean Water Act set back in 1972. Our original efforts with the CWN were out of concern for the states' efforts to re-write water quality standards and a rule to qualify how impairment of the states' waters would be determined. We were largely successful in our efforts, but Florida has been working ever since to manipulate the process of how they would comply with the standards.

One of the latest efforts has been by the Florida Wildlife Federation, which filed suit to force the EPA to either require the state comply the federal standards, or get them to step in and implement Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollution limits for surface water bodies in the state.

This month the EPA signed off on the proposal to develop such TMDLs for the nutrient pollutants nitrogen and phosphorous.

"After EPA analyses of the facts in Florida and discussions with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), on January 14, 2009, EPA made a determination that numeric nutrient WQS (water quality standards – ed.) in the State of Florida were necessary to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. EPA determined that Florida's existing narrative criteria on nutrients in water was insufficient to ensure protection of the State's water bodies. The determination recognized that, despite Florida's intensive efforts to diagnose and control nutrient pollution, substantial water quality degradation from nutrient over-enrichment remains a significant challenge in the State and is likely to worsen with continued population growth and land-use changes. The January 14, 2009 determination stated EPA's intent to propose numeric nutrient standards for lakes and flowing waters in Florida within twelve months of the determination, and for estuaries and coastal waters, within 24 months of the determination."

The proposed rule is open for public comment for the next few months and there will be three public meetings held by the EPA throughout Florida in February. Following the public comment period and final review, we hope that real improvements to the quality in the states' waters will begin to be realized. And we hope that the Ocean Research and Conservation Association's Kilroy technology might help be a part of the accountability through monitoring that Adm. Watkins espoused.

Earlier in the week, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson stated: "America's waterbodies are imperiled as never before. Water quality and enforcement programs face complex challenges, from nutrient loadings and stormwater runoff, to invasive species and drinking water contaminants. These challenges demand both traditional and innovative strategies."

For more information, please visit the EPA website at:
www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/rules/florida

2009 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AWARD

Each year we present our Environmental Enhancement Award to an individual, business or organization which we feel has done the most in that year to help protect and preserve the St. Sebastian River and surrounding areas. The Indian River Land Trust would likely qualify as a perpetual nominee for our award and we are excited to be presenting it to them this year.

The Indian River Land Trust works on conservation and preservation throughout the county and has made the St. Sebastian River area a priority for a number of years. They have assisted with the acquisition of properties along the river, to protect them from development, mapping habitats to prioritize and delineate the most ecologically sensitive and important areas to be protected. They also have developed "greenway" plans to make areas more accessible to the public for passive recreation, and to promote the idea of stewardship and preservation of important natural habitats. At our January 2009 meeting, Ken Grudens, Executive Director of the Land Trust was our speaker and told us about

the St. Sebastian River greenway and the new one they are creating for the Indian River Lagoon. We are happy to have him back this year to present him with our award for 2009.

The overall vision of the Indian River and any Land Trust is to protect the environmentally important areas for wildlife, water quality and the quality of life for all residents – human and otherwise.

2009 A DEADLY YEAR FOR MANATEES

“In response to a petition by the Center (for Biological Diversity) and allies, this week the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the endangered Florida manatee indeed needs new federal habitat protections -- but put off actually granting those protections indefinitely. Since ‘critical habitat’ was set aside for the manatee more than three decades ago, a vast body of science has shown that the mild-mannered mammal needs more, and different, areas protected -- and the feds can't ignore that need. Instead, they're saying they won't take action to save the manatee until they get more funding to do it. ...Last year was the deadliest year on record for manatees, with a total of 429 deaths and a record 97 killed by collisions with boats.” (*Endangered earth Online*, January 14, 2010, Center for Biological Diversity)

ST. SEBASTIAN PAINTING RAFFLE

Richard Gillmor – Sebastian City Mayor, Sebastian River Art Club and Friends member donated a second painting to the Friends for raffle once again. The painting is a scene of the South Prong of the St. Sebastian River. You may view the painting at our meeting this month or on the “Photo Gallery” page of our website.

Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. You can contact Sherry Shipley at 772-589-4979 to purchase tickets, or attend the meeting.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

November 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

Balance 11/1/09	\$5270.17
Receipts	1014.00
Total	6284.17
Disbursements	176.51
Balance 12/31/09	\$6108.66

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date	\$464.00
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 21, 7 PM

Critters, Cows & Cowboys

Bob Montanaro, Treasure
Hammock Ranch
FL Native Plant Society,
Eugenia Chapter
FMEL Boat House, Oslo Rd SE,
Vero Beach



Saturday, January 23, 6:30 PM

Star Party

Indian River Astronomy Society
Sebastian Inlet State Park
(south side)
info: 321-984-4852



Monday January 25, 7 PM

Turtles at the Refuges

Sharon Balavage, Barrier
Island Eco-center
Pelican Island Pres. Society
North Indian River
County Library
info:
www.pelicanislandfriends.org



Tuesday, January 26, 7:30 PM

Have You Seen Kilroy?

Keith Paglen CEO, ORCA
FSSR
North Indian River County
Library

Please visit the “Meeting Info/
Events” page of our website for
more events!

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APPLICATION FORM

The Friends of St. Sebastian River depends on member support for programs of conservation and education.

Individual \$10/year Family \$15/year

Corporate \$50/year

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Special interests, concerns or expertise: _____

Please check here to allow us to use your contact info on our membership list in the "Members Only" section of our website. To restrict use of any info, list here: _____

Please mail your completed application and dues to:

P.O. Box 284, Roseland, Florida 32957-0284

NOTE: The date on your mailing label is the month/year when your dues are next due. Thank you.

Officers for 2009

President Tim Glover
Vice President Frank Wegel
Secretary Gayle Heath
Treasurer Sherry Shipley

Directors for 2009

Paul Barker Tom Bauer
Mike Beck Buzz Herrmann
George Koraly Anne Putman
Lynn Stieglitz Bruce Zingman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pat & Jack Casselberry
Judy Orr
Richard & Drucilla Smith
Bob West

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