



Friends of St. Sebastian River

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

January 2011

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.

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION

Water supply and water conservation is the topic of the presentation at our meeting this month. Ed Garland, Spokesperson and Outreach Coordinator for the St. Johns River Water management District will tell us about the efforts of the District to promote conservation and provide for future water supply.

Florida Water Star is a conservation program developed by the District for homeowners and commercial development. Similar to the federal Energy Star program, it encourages efficient water use and conservation. For more information, please visit the St. Johns River WMD website at www.floridaswater.com.

The meeting this month is also our annual business meeting and current members will be voting on this year's Board of Directors. If you are interested in being a Board member, you can call Tim Glover at 772-589-0636, send us an email, or attend the January meeting. The meeting will be **Tuesday, January 25, 7:30 PM** at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. in Sebastian. All are welcome to attend.

IN MEMORY OF ALICE HARBER

Longtime member and one-time Friends historian, Alice Harber passed away on December 31, 2010. Alice, her husband Steve and family are charter members of the Friends and dedicated supporters. They have also contributed periodically to our George Schum Memorial Award, which includes a small scholarship for a graduating Sebastian River High School senior.

Soon after joining the Friends, Alice took upon the job of recording our events and public activities. She produced a couple of scrapbooks with items of our involvement in various issues and activities to protect our namesake river. We hope at some point to be able to display this record of our history on an ongoing basis.

Our sympathies and best wishes to Steve and the rest of the Harber family.

2010 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AWARD

We have had a couple of suggestions/nominations for our 2010 Environmental Enhancement Award, neither of which came to fruition. Therefore we will not be presenting our award for 2010. Please let us know if you have any ideas for our 2011 award! You can find out more information about the award and details for nomination under the "Awards" section of the "About Us" page of our website.

FLORIDA'S NEW GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Florida's development oversight department – the Department of Community Affairs has been under attack by the legislature for some time now. The day after taking office, Gov. Scott appointed Billy Buzzett as Secretary of the DCA. Buzzett comes to the office from his position as an executive of the St. Joe Corporation, one of Florida's largest private landowners. At St. Joe, Buzzett oversaw the development of 100,000 acres, 30,000 residential homes and the \$300,000,000 taxpayer-funded new airport for Panama City on land donated by St. Joe. The company hopes the airport will stimulate the development an additional 72,000 acres of their land surrounding the airport. St. Joe CEO Britton Greene said that his vision is to turn the Panama City region into Florida's next development hotspot.

"Florida Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Mark Wilson said Buzzett's appointment is 'fantastic news for us.' He said it'll encourage major developers who shunned Florida because of the department's policies to take another look at the state."

"Wilson said he anticipates a reversal of the focus on funneling growth into urban areas and open rural areas to development needed to accommodate a predicted growth in Florida's population by two million people over the next decade."

"I can't think of anyone who would be less appropriate for that job,' said Linda Young, director of the Clean Water Network of Florida, who has sparred with Buzzett and St. Joe for years. 'To put it mildly, it's troubling to know that he's in charge of steering the growth and development of the state. He has been at the heart and soul of some of the most destructive developments that the Florida Panhandle has seen.'"

1000 Friends of Florida stated "...the 2011 legislative session promises to be one of the most challenging and volatile in the history of growth management in Florida." "...incoming Governor Rick Scott and Speaker of the House Dean Cannon have been critical of both DCA and growth management. We are also hearing rumors that development interests are quietly crafting rewrites of the state comprehensive plan and growth management laws in hopes of securing passage with promises of 'jobs and economic development.'"

-excerpts from the Palm Beach Post, Orlando Sun Sentinel and 1000 Friends of Florida

OSLO BOAT RAMP CHALLENGE

Indian River County has been pursuing "improvements" to the Oslo Road boat ramp. The Pelican Island Audubon Society has opposed the proposed improvements and has filed a challenge to the permit issued recently by the St. Johns River Water management District. The permit is one of two required in order for the county to proceed with the proposed project.

The EPA has recommended denial of the project and the Audubon Society has requested an administrative hearing. That hearing will take place on January 19-22 in the Indian River County Administration Building and the public is welcome to attend.

The Friends supports the PIAS opposition to the ramp and has given them a donation to help with the significant cost challenging the project. If you are interested in more information and/or making a donation, visit their website at www.pelicanislandaudubon.org or call them at 772-567-3520. There is quite a bit of information in their recent newsletters on this issue, which are available on their website.

AUDUBON OF FLORIDA CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

"Called *Protect the WEB: Water, Energy and Birds are ALL Connected*, Audubon of Florida has launched a fun, step-by-step program to help you reduce your carbon footprint and contribute to climate solutions, save water, plant native landscaping in yards to attract more birds and butterflies, and save money. The program lays out ten energy-saving and ten water-saving steps, from easiest and least expensive to costlier and most efficient, in a Conservation Challenge."

"Providing ample clean water for human consumption and use takes a huge amount of energy and often impacts our wetlands, ponds, lakes, streams, rivers and estuaries. These natural systems are critical for the

survival of natural habitats, native plants, birds, and other wildlife. By modifying the way we use energy and design our backyard landscapes, we can dramatically reduce our energy use and our water consumption and contribute to conserving these vital resources.”

“With growing numbers of people and rapid rates of development, many of our native habitats are disappearing. Birds and other wildlife that call Florida home have fewer places to breed and spend the winter, and the millions of migrating birds that pass through our state twice each year have fewer places to rest and refuel. Through conservation you can help make sure there is enough water for both human consumption and the natural environment. And by planting the right plants in the right places, you can save both water and energy and provide food, water and shelter for birds.”

For more information about and how to participate in the Challenge, visit the Audubon website at <http://audubonoffloridanews.org/?p=5924>.

-Florida Audubon “Naturalist”, Winter 2010-2011

BE A ‘CITIZEN SCIENTIST’ THIS WINTER

“Just as northern snowbirds drive and fly into town this season, so do an amazing diversity of birds stop over on their migrations, winter in backyards and special places, and join the resident species that spend all year here.”

“This is the season that bird lovers, nature enthusiasts and Audubon citizen scientists enjoy the singular privilege of being outdoors in Florida’s winter.” February is “...a great month to take out the binoculars and participate in the 2011 Shorebird Survey – schedule for February 7-10. Contact Billy Brooks at billy_brooks@fws.gov for more information.”

Also coming up on February 18-21 is Audubon’s 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, in partnership with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For more information about this event, visit their website at www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

-Florida Audubon “Naturalist”, Winter 2010-2011

FINANCIAL UPDATE

November 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

Balance 11/1/10	\$6020.73
Receipts	580.00
Total	6600.73
Disbursements	444.00
Balance 12/31/10	\$6156.73

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date \$164.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, January 24, 7 PM

Tarpon Nursery Habitat – IRL
Dr. Jon Shenker, Assoc. Prof., FIT
Pelican Island Preservation Society
North IR County Library, Sebastian
info: www.pelicanislandfriends.org



Tuesday, January 25, 7:30 PM

Florida Water Supply & Conservation
Ed Garland, St. Johns River WMD
FSSR
North IR County Library, Sebastian



Wednesday, January 26, 2011,
4 & 7 PM

From the Indian River Lagoon to the Red Sea

John Scarpa & Shirley Pomponi
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst.
5600 US 1 North, Ft. Pierce
info: www.fau.edu/hboi/Events.php
or call 772-242-2559



Monday, February 21, 7:30 PM

Birding in Alaska
Andy Bankert, birding enthusiast
Pelican Island Audubon Society
Vero Beach Community Center
14th Ave., Vero Beach
info: www.pelicanislandaudubon.org



January 26- 31, 2011

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

Brevard Community College
Titusville
info:
www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlife-festival.org

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.

Youth (under 18) free — 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.

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Officers for 2010

President Tim Glover
Vice President Mike Beck
Secretary Gayle Heath
Treasurer Sherry Shipley

Directors for 2010

Paul Barker Tom Bauer
Buzz Herrmann Anne Putman
Lynn Stieglitz Bruce Zingman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Karen O’Keefe & Cookie Shaw

CORPORATE SPONSORS

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