



Friends of St. Sebastian River

P.O. Box 284 ❖ Roseland, Florida 32957-0284 January 2012

website: www.fssr.org email: info@fssr.org ph: 772-202-0501

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.

AN INTRODUCTION TO BUTTERFLY GARDENING

Guest speaker Suzanne Valencia will introduce us to butterfly gardening at this month's Friends meeting, with a presentation about how to attract butterflies to your garden. She will talk about the value of using native plants as nectar and host plants, the life cycle of the butterfly including specific host plants for specific butterflies. You will also learn some little-known facts of butterfly life.

Suzanne has transformed her own yard from the standard suburban wildlife wasteland into a haven for all sorts of wildlife. She also assisted in the planting of the butterfly garden at the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, and continues to maintain it today with the help of volunteers. In 2011 she received the Environmental Landscaping award from the Pelican Island Audubon Society for her many years of work in maintaining the garden at the refuge. Suzanne would welcome new volunteers who are interested in helping out with the chores in the garden at the refuge. If you are interested but are not able to attend our meeting, please contact us at the phone or email above and we will get you in touch with Suzanne.

Our January meeting is also our Annual Meeting and current Friends members will be voting on this year's Board of Directors. The current slate of nominees is Tom Bauer, Mike Beck, Anne Putman and Lynn Stieglitz, all incumbent candidates. Paul Barker is leaving our Board with the election as he and his wife Meg are moving out of the area. We thank Paul for his many years of dedication and help with the Friends, and wish he and Meg best wishes!

The meeting is **Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 PM** at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. in Sebastian and all are welcome to attend.

NEW NATURE VIEWING APP AVAILABLE

Nature-lovers now have a Florida field-guide app that makes it easy to identify the state's common wildflowers, butterflies and birds. The new app, which keys to the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail, is available for the iPhone and iPod Touch. A version for Androids and iPads is expected to be launched in early February.

The Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida-IFAS, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission developed the app with a grant provided by the Florida Wildflower Foundation with funds from the State Wildflower license plate.

Identify the birds, butterflies and flowering plants seen along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Viewing Trail and throughout Florida. For more information and to download the app, visit the iTunes store at <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/nature-viewing-along-great/id492774850>.

WHAT'S NEXT IN 2012 FOR FLORIDA'S WATER MANAGEMENT?

While growth management took a hit during the 2011 (Florida legislative) session, so did our state's system of water management, which directly impacts growth management. Budget and staff reductions were severe, and call into question the ability of the districts to carry out their mission.

1000 Friends of Florida has been working with their colleagues to educate decision makers on the continuing need for effective regional water management, and to make sure that Florida's public water supplies never become private commodities to be bought and sold. As a result, they have joined together with Senator Bob Graham, 1000 Friends' founder Nathaniel Reed, Senator Paula Dockery and other leading statesmen, to launch a new alliance – the Florida Conservation Coalition. This coalition of non-profit organizations and concerned citizens “is devoted to protecting and conserving Florida's land, fish and wildlife and water resources that are essential to the well-being and quality of life of the residents of this state, and for its long-term economic prosperity.”

Water management promises to be a hot button item for the 2012 (legislative) session. During 2011, draconian budget cuts, staff layoffs and increased oversight by the Governor and Legislature at Florida's five Water management Districts has done tremendous damage to Florida's system of managing its water supply and protecting water quality. As a member of the newly created Florida Conservation Coalition, 1000 Friends (of Florida) is joining with its conservation allies to oppose efforts to further centralize water management in Tallahassee and head off any movement toward the privatization of Florida's waters.

Given the recent funding cuts to the state's five water management districts, efforts to take water management away from regions and centralize it in Tallahassee, and concerns about possible privatization of water, the coalition has identified water policy and management as its top priority for 2011-2012. “Florida's water is held in trust on behalf of the people of Florida.” explains Reed. “It is a regional resource and we want to make sure it stays that way.” The voters get it! A recent Everglades Foundation poll shows that 81% of Florida voters think, “We need the state to manage new development to protect our rivers, lakes, streams, and beaches from pollution.”

For more information, visit the Florida Conservation Coalition website at www.floridaconservationcoalition.org.

“Foresight”, Winter 2011, 1000 Friends of Florida

BILL INTRODUCED TO REDEFINE HIGH WATER LINE

A bill entitled “Ordinary High-Water Mark for Navigable, Nontidal Waterbodies”, designated as HB 1103 has been introduced by Rep. Goodson (R-Titusville, and companion bill SB 1362 by Sen. Hays), and is schedule for debate as we go to press.

These bills redefine the present boundary line between privately owned land and public land in and along the State's rivers, lakes and streams. This boundary line is known as the "Ordinary High Water Line". The effect of this legislation would be a lowering of the elevation of the Ordinary high Water Line, thus moving the ownership boundary of private lands further towards or into the water and shrinkage of acreage currently in public ownership. This would result in huge transfers of publicly owned land along the State's rivers, lakes and streams into private ownership and amount to the loss of thousands of acres of land that now belong to all the people of Florida.

This is privatization of Florida's public lands, rivers and lakes, pure and simple. If these bills win passage, you lose part of Florida.

1000 Friends of Florida, January 14, 2012

2011 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AWARD

Each year we present our Environmental Enhancement Award to an individual, business or organization which we believe has done the most to help protect and preserve the St. Sebastian River and surrounding areas. This year we have selected to Friends member Jane Schnee as recipient of our 2011 Environmental

Enhancement Award.

This past year Jane purchased a piece of property for the sole purpose of conserving it as prime scrub habitat. As many of you may know, scrub habitat is rapidly disappearing in Florida, as it is some of the highest and driest land, making it ideal for building and development. One of the prime species using scrub habitat is the Florida scrub jay, our state's only endemic bird! Jays are highly specialized to survive in scrub habitat and are unable to do so elsewhere. In fact they are very territorial, move very little from one area to another, and have well-defined territory boundaries and family units. As a result the jay is listed as a "threatened" species.

The property Jane acquired is a little over 10.5 acres and had been slated in the past for development of 80+ condominium units. She discovered that the property was in foreclosure and used her own money to acquire it at a fraction of the cost. Since then she has been working with volunteers to restore the property and improve the scrub quality of the property.

Jane also volunteers her time as a monitor of scrub jays at the North Sebastian Conservation area and is on the City of Sebastian Natural Resources Board. We thank Jane for her dedication to conservation in the Sebastian area and congratulations!

FAMOUS QUOTATIONS

We have recently added a new feature to our website. Perhaps you haven't noticed? We've added a new page with a listing a various quotations by mostly well known and distinguished persons, all having a connection with an environmental or conservation ethic. The quotes are arranged by the person who made them.

This is a collection that I started some time ago and intend to add to it as I come across new ones. If you know of a quote that might fit the theme and would like to share it with us, please let me know – see the contact information on the front of the newsletter or on our website. If you can provide the source of the quote too, that would be helpful. (-ed.)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

November 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

Balance 11/1/11	\$5770.37
Receipts	960.16
Total	6730.53
Disbursements	839.48
Balance 12/31/11	\$5891.05

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date	\$561.00
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, January 23, 7 PM
Lionfish, A Perfect Invader?
Bob Hickerson/Maria Andreu
Pelican Island Preservation Society
North IR County Library
1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian
info:www.firstrefuge.org



Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 PM
Introduction to Butterfly Gardening
Susanne Valencia
FSSR
North IR County Library
1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian



Thursday, January 26, 5-9 PM
Heritage Celebration
The Heritage Center
2140 14th Ave., Vero Beach
info: www.veroheritage.org



Thursday, January 26, 7 PM
Water Sustainability and the Future of Florida
Cynthia Barnett, *Florida Trend*
A Florida Humanities Council
presentation
Emerson Center
1590 27th Ave., Vero Beach
info: www.theemersoncenter.org



Monday, February 13, 6 PM
Indian River County's Water
Debra Ecker, PIAS
Pelican Island Audubon Society
North IR County Library
1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian
info: www.pelicanislandaudubon.org
or 772-567-3520

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

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Roseland, Florida 32957-0284



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 2011

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

Directors for 2011

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chris & Marthann Keithline
Bill Loftus
Frank & Maureen Marshall
Eric Spokas
Chuck Toll

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