



# Friends of St. Sebastian River

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

January 2014

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**website: [www.fssr.org](http://www.fssr.org) email: [info@fssr.org](mailto: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.

## **BREVARD ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM**

**Chris O'Hara, South Region Land Manager** for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program will be the speaker at our meeting this month. Chris will give an overview of the EELs program, their conservation lands – the Micco Scrub and Grant Flatwoods Sanctuaries, and a recent project to increase access.

The EELs program acquires environmentally sensitive lands in Brevard County, for conservation. These lands are managed to protect bio-diversity, and also allow for passive recreation and education. For more information about the program, visit their website at [www.brevardcounty.us/EELProgram/Home](http://www.brevardcounty.us/EELProgram/Home), where you will also find information about their upcoming “Pioneer Festival” on February 8.

Our January meeting is also our Annual Meeting, at which, current members will vote for this year's nominees to our Board of Directors. Current nominees are Tom Bauer, Jane Schnee and Lynn Stieglitz, all of whom are incumbents. If you are interested in being on our board, please let us know! The only qualifications are to maintain a current membership, and have the time and interest to be involved.

The meeting will be at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. in Sebastian, on **Tuesday, January 28, 7:30 PM**. Please join us – all are welcome to attend!

## **2013 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's recipient of our award is Samantha McGee, Environmental Specialist at the St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park. Sam is a familiar face to many of us, having given a couple of presentations to our group, the most recent of which was this past September.

Sam is involved with many aspects of management, and is the longest serving employee, at the park. As stated by our board member Gayle Heath who nominated Sam, she is the “go-to” person for everything from prescribed burn planning, exotic plant/animal control, park mitigation projects, red-cockaded woodpecker research, scrub jay monitoring, habitat restoration and grant writing!

Sam is also on a committee working to standardize the approval process for mitigation projects within the state's Division of Parks and Recreation. Habitat restoration projects Sam has conducted, have a track record of success, resulting in renewed/expanded funding, and inspiration for similar projects around the country.

Sam is a highly dedicated member of the park's staff, responsible for many successes in habitat restoration and wildlife conservation. Therefore we are pleased to announce that Sam McGee is the recipient of our 2013 Environmental Enhancement Award. Congratulations Sam and great work!

## **FLORIDA'S WATER & LAND LEGACY CAMPAIGN GETS REQUIRED SIGNATURES**

The Florida's Water & Land Legacy Campaign announced the state has verified the required number of petitions, for their amendment to appear on the 2014 ballot!

Citizens across the state banded together in support of the amendment because deep funding cuts are

seriously jeopardizing what's best about Florida: miles of beaches, beautiful parks, crystal clear springs, endless opportunities to swim, bike and fish, and an amazing diversity of plants and animals. The Amendment will allocate less than one percent of our state budget (starting with \$648 million in 2015) for keeping our waters clean, and to protect our beaches, springs, wildlife habitat, and other natural areas for future generations.

If it passes, "this will be the largest state-based conservation initiative in United States history," said Manley Fuller, President of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Amendment backers estimate the measure could raise as much as \$10 billion over 20 years. If approved, it would go into effect on July 1, 2015, and would expire in 2035.

The amendment also would block the Legislature from taking money from that fund and spending it on anything else.

Thank you all who signed the petition and especially those who helped collect signatures for this important effort!

source: [www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org](http://www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org), Tampa Bay Times, January 16, 2014

## **JUDGE APPROVES FLORIDA'S WATER POLLUTION RULES**

A federal judge is signing off on Florida's water pollution rules, but environmentalists are blasting the decision and say they may appeal it.

It's the latest chapter in a long-running battle over the regulation of the state's lakes, rivers and estuaries and whether the rules should be developed by state environmental officials or by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and state environmental officials hailed the latest decision. Putnam stated the judge's ruling "...is a testament to Florida's proven ability to manage its own water resource protection and restoration programs," Putnam said in a written statement."

We would beg to differ, and the precipitous decline in the health of the Indian River Lagoon and other waters around the state, would seem to refute Putnam's boast of the state's adeptness at managing Florida's waters! Some suggested that "...it must have been something in the water," to cause Putnam to make such a delirious claim.

source: Associated Press, January 7, 2014

## **FLORIDIANS' CLEAN WATER DECLARATION**

The Floridians' Clean Water Declaration is a positive vision to inspire people to work together to create a new water ethic, find solutions to Florida's water quality and quantity problems and send a clear message to our water managers that the people of Florida demand clean water.

The Floridians' Clean Water Declaration Campaign is a collaborative effort driven by dozens of civic and environmental organizations from around the state, coming together to create a force for change – a change in the water policies of the state of Florida.

By gathering as many signatures as possible, we can demonstrate to our water managers that all Floridians – individuals, businesses, organizations, and elected officials – want clean water.

For more information, and to sign the Declaration, visit [www.wewantcleanwater.com](http://www.wewantcleanwater.com).

source: Floridian's Clean Water Declaration Campaign

## **THE FLORIDA SUITE**

The Florida Suite is a documentary produced by Jeff Thompson of Brevard County, to celebrate the beauty of Florida, its nature, and life lived close to the land. The film is without dialogue, set to Frederick Delius' tone poem by the same name, as performed by the Space Coast Symphony.

The film features Thompson's retired father, who lives in a log cabin on a small orange grove in North Brevard County, and tends the grove organically. With three dogs for companions, he nurtures the land in the 100-year old grove, which responds with bounty.

The ultimate goal of this production is to help modern audiences connect with a way of life whose rhythms are synchronized with nature. "I knew that I wanted to honor what I saw as a unique existence in the grove," said Thompson. "I wanted foremost to show the inherent dignity of caring for the things and people you love. To understand that aging and slowing down allows for a revelation of life's greater truths. And to honor the musical genius of Frederick Delius, who crossed the Atlantic 120+ years ago and was moved to learn the art of composition so that he could express his love for Florida."

"Living in the grove has been transformational for my Dad. I hope this short film will help modern audiences appreciate the slower rhythm of a life synchronized with nature. Delius really said it best," Thompson said. "In Florida, through sitting and gazing at nature, I gradually learned the way in which I should find myself."

The Florida Suite was Delius' first orchestral work.

To watch a trailer of the film, visit <http://vimeo.com/64280770>. You may also be interested in following the documentary's facebook page for possible future screenings, at [www.facebook.com/TheFloridaSuite](http://www.facebook.com/TheFloridaSuite).

### WHERE IS GIBSON SPRINGS?

The mystery of where Gibson Springs was located in the Sebastian River area is just one tid-bit of information we have unearthed so far, in our research quest about the St. Sebastian River. Our board continues to discuss our new project of being a repository and bibliographic resource, for all things to do with the river. As we consider the possibilities, the project is taking on a life of its own, and we realize how broad a scope it could really be! We know that we can't do this alone, so we offer an open invitation to anyone who would like to assist us. Do you know where Gibson Springs was, or can you help us uncover our next mystery? If so, please contact us!

In a similar reminder of how you can help, our yard sale this past fall was a great success, so we are tentatively planning on holding it again this year. Please save those treasures you may be considering disposing of, and consider donating them for our sale. If you have items that you just can't wait to get rid of, please contact us for pick up. Otherwise, we will remind you again later this year, and let you know where to drop them off.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

November 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Balance 11/1/13 .....	\$2564.87
Receipts .....	398.00
Total .....	2962.87
Disbursements .....	119.95
Balance 12/31/13 .....	\$2842.92

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date .....	\$713.12
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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, January 28, 7:30 PM

#### Brevard EELs Program

Chris O'Hara, EELs  
South Region Manager  
FSSR

1001 Sebastian Blvd.  
info: [www.fssr.org](http://www.fssr.org)



#### Indian River Land Trust Conservation Lands Tours

January – March 2014  
Reservations required

info: [www.irlt.org](http://www.irlt.org) or call  
772-794-0701



Monday, February 10, 6 PM

#### Native Bees

Michelle Peterson, Treasure  
Coast Beekeepers Assoc.  
Pelican Island Audubon  
North IRC Library  
1001 Sebastian Blvd.

info:  
[www.pelicanislandaudubon.org](http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org)



Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 PM

#### Survival Journey of Jonathan Dickinson

George Blythe  
Sebastian Area Historical Society  
North IRC Library  
1001 Sebastian Blvd.  
info: 772-581-1381

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

# Friends of St. Sebastian River

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Roseland, Florida 32957-0284



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

## 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 mail your completed application and dues to:  
**P.O. Box 284, Roseland, Florida 32957-0284**

This newsletter is available on our website and delivery by email for current members. We encourage email-only delivery to save funds and paper! Email us at the address on the front to request email delivery.

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## Officers for 2013

President . . . . . Tim Glover  
Vice President . . . . . Buzz Herrmann  
Secretary . . . . . Gayle Heath  
Treasurer . . . . . Bill Brennan

## Directors for 2013

Tom Bauer . . . . . Jane Schnee  
Lynn Stieglitz . . . . . Bruce Zingman

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gregory & Donna Greene

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

Roseland Community Association  
Tropical Kayak Tours