



Friends of St. Sebastian River

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

January 2015

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.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF BOB BARBOUR

Our General Meeting this month features a presentation by local photographer Bob Barbour. His work is quite varied and includes video production as well. Having grown up on the shores of the Hudson River in New York, Bob says he has tried “to emulate the works of the Hudson River School of Painters that have immortalized their inspirations with their paintings of this scenic area. Landscapes and nature photography has been my passion.”

His career began with his college newspaper, and he also studied with architectural photographer Julius Shulman, and fashion photographer Tommy Mitchell, while attending UCLA. Today Bob’s work in our area has him involved with commercial multimedia and video production for local businesses and organizations, such as the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce. Our Friends’ board member, Tom Bauer, assisted Bob in getting some video on the St. Sebastian River for the Chamber’s promotional video of the Sebastian area.

Bob’s photographic journeys take him far and wide, but during the winter season he usually spends his time photographing the landscapes and nature of Florida, and experimenting with new and various techniques. His presentation will feature many photos from our local area, including the St. Sebastian River, as well as photos from other scenic locations from his travels. The program will be Tuesday, January 27th, 7:30 p.m. at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. and everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, visit www.fssr.org or call 772-202-0501. You may also view samples of Bob’s photography on his website at <http://bobbarbour.photoshelter.com>.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The January meeting of the Friends is also our Annual Meeting, at which current Friends members will be voting on this year’s slate of Directors. The proposed slate of nominees is currently Bill Brennan, Tim Glover, Gayle Heath, Buzz Herrmann, and Bruce Zingman, all of whom are incumbent Board members. As required by our Bylaws, nominations will be accepted at the meeting. The only requirement to be a Board member is to have the time and interested to serve, and to maintain a current membership. Also per our Bylaws, Officers for the year are elected by our Directors at the subsequent Board of Director’s meeting in February. You may view a list of our current Officers and Directors on our website, along with their term expiration date.

Additionally at our Annual Meeting we normally make the presentation of our Environmental Enhancement Award for the previous calendar year. For the year 2014 we did not have any nominations, and did not make any selection for an individual or business for our award this past year. If you know of anyone who might qualify, you may view the requirements and info on how to nominate them for our consideration this coming year, on our website, under the “About Us” menu.

2ND ANNUAL LAGOON FEST

The Marine Resources Council will be holding its second Annual Lagoon Fest on Saturday, March 7 and they are looking for volunteers who would like to help out. The event is a fund-raiser – a “party with a purpose,” to raise money to help implement one of the top priorities from last year’s Indian River Lagoon Action Assembly – the Annual Report Card on the state of the lagoon. For more information or to volunteer please contact Beth at the MRC at 321-725-7775.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SCRUB-JAY MONITORING

Indian River County Conservation Lands Program is seeking volunteers to assist with the monitoring of Florida scrub-jays on conservation lands and surrounding areas. Florida scrub-jays are a federally protected species under the Endangered Species Act and are managed on conservation lands in accordance with an Incidental Take Permit and a Habitat Conservation Plan. Volunteers will assist the county in monitoring assigned areas and families of scrub-jays. These tasks require training and performance under a federal permit. Volunteers must be able to work year-round and especially in the months of June-August. Ability to work in outdoor elements, during high temperatures and without shade is necessary. Volunteer activities are generally conducted alone and for 2-3 hours per week in the early morning hours.

For the 2015-2016 year, mandatory volunteer training will be held on January 26th from 1pm-3:30pm and January 27th from 10am-3:30pm. An application is required for acceptance into the training program. For more information and to receive an application, go to www.ircgov.com/conservation, email Beth Powell, Conservation Lands Manager, at bpowell-at-ircgov.com or call 772-589-9223. Applications are due by 4pm on January 22, 2015.

ALL ABOARD FLORIDA RAIL PROJECT

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the Federal Railroad Administration comment period for the All Aboard Florida Draft Environmental Impact Statement closed in early December. Numerous municipalities and organization in our area submitted comments, including the Friends. We have posted a copy of our letter on the “Library/Newsletters” page of our website. You will find a link to our letter, under “All Aboard Florida,” in the list of references in the “St. Sebastian River Research Project” section. We will also have copies available at our meeting this month. Thanks to everyone who took the time to provide suggestions and helped us formulate our response to this issue, and please let us know if you have any comments.

The final Environmental Impact Statement is required to address comments that are consequential, and state why any other comments do not need to be addressed. There is no time limit for this response, but once issued, there will be another 30 day period for the public to once again submit comments.

RIVER BE DAMMED

River be dammed is a mini-documentary, sponsored by Florida Defenders of the Environment, about the fight to save the Oklawaha River from the Cross Florida Barge Canal project of the 1960s. The canal was a massive engineering project that would have been more than twice as long as the Panama Canal. The Rodman dam was built before President Nixon killed the project in 1971, which flooded 9000 acres of national forest land and 16 miles of the river.

The documentary is arranged in chapters and can be viewed on the special website created to host it at www.riverbedammed.org. It examines the impact of the dam on the river, how it continues to impair the river environment, and efforts to restore the river.

The C-54 Canal on the border of Indian River and Brevard counties was also built in the early 1960s and

some have speculated that one its original intended purposes was to also provide a route of inland transportation.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Meet Your Neighbours is a worldwide photographic initiative dedicated to reconnecting people with the wildlife on their own doorsteps. These creatures and plants are vital to people: they represent the first, and for some, the only contact with wild nature we have. “This is conservation photography at the grass roots level, asking people to care about their own natural heritage, where they live and showing them how extraordinary it is in a novel way.”

Visit the Meet Your Neighbours website at <http://meetyourneighbours.net> – an international nature photography project celebrating common species everywhere.

DID YOU KNOW?

Leonardo DiCaprio has been a longtime advocate for ocean conservation. In DiCaprio’s comments at the U.S. Department of State “Our Ocean” Conference last June, he stated “...before I wanted to be an actor, I dreamt about becoming a marine biologist. As a kid, I always had a fascination with the ocean and its wildlife. In fact, the first philanthropic dollar I ever contributed was to save the wild manatee in Florida. I had never seen a manatee before, but I somehow felt connected to the plight of these animals who had no voice and no ability to save themselves from the devastation caused by human activity.”

Before concluding his remarks at the conference, DiCaprio pledged that his foundation would contribute an additional \$7 million to ocean conservation projects over the next two years.

source: “Population Connection,” December 2014

FINANCIAL UPDATE

October 1, 2014 – November 30, 2014

Balance 10/1/14	\$2918.92
Receipts	333.12
Total	3252.04
Disbursements	45.83
Balance 11/30/14	\$3206.21

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date	\$872.24
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan 21, 4 & 7 PM

The Peace of Blue:

Water Journeys

Bill Bellville

Harbor Branch

Oceanographic Inst.

5600 US 1 North, Ft. Pierce

info: www.fau.edu/hboi



Saturday, Jan. 24, 1 PM

Toni Robinson Waterfront

Trail Tour

Indian River Land Trust

info: www.irlt.org or

772-794-0701



Tuesday, Jan. 27, 7:30 PM

Bob Barbour, Photographer

FSSR

North IRC Library

1001 Sebastian Blvd.



Monday, Feb. 9, 6 PM

Art & Agriculture: A

Pastoral Connection

Sean Sexton, Treasure

Hammock Ranch

Pelican Island Audubon

North IRC Library

1001 Sebastian Blvd.

info:

www.pelicanislandaudubon.org

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

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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.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

Officers for 2014

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

Directors for 2014

Tom Bauer Jane Schnee
Lynn Stieglitz Bruce Zingman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Roseland Community Association
Tropical Kayak Tours