



# Friends of St. Sebastian River

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

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July 2009

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

## **IT'S JULY AND WE'RE ON VACATION!**

As usual, July is a vacation month for us and there will be no public meeting for the Friends. Our next meeting will be September 22 and Dr. David Cox will be our speaker that month.

Also coming up this fall, perhaps as early as September, the Marine Resources Council is planning on opening their St. Sebastian River Visitor's Center. The facility is a property on the west side of the South Prong of the river they purchased a few years ago with grant funding from the state. They have been renovating the property and adding interpretive information about the river, in preparation of opening it to the public as a resource about the St. Sebastian River and its surrounding habitats.

We should have more information in our September newsletter about the "grand opening", but they are currently looking for volunteers to help out with staffing the facility. Such volunteer work could include greeting visitors, providing information, or even tending mangrove seedlings in the green house on the property. If you would like to help out or want more information, you can call the MRC at 321-725-7775.

## **DIGITAL TV TRANSITION**

Well, last month the transition to all-digital television signals finally occurred. Did you end up buying a new HDTV as a result? If so, please recycle your old TV – it helps keep heavy metals and other contaminants out of groundwater, the air and ultimately our surface waterbodies. For information on electronics recycling, you can visit this EPA website - [http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/names/hq\\_2009-6-11\\_Ditigital\\_TV\\_Transition](http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/names/hq_2009-6-11_Ditigital_TV_Transition), or check with your local solid waste department. In Indian River County, you will find more info on the IRC Solid Waste website at [www.ircwaste.com](http://www.ircwaste.com), or call them at 772-770-5112. In Brevard County, please visit the Solid Waste Management website at [www.brevardcounty.us/swr/](http://www.brevardcounty.us/swr/) or call them at 321-633-2042.

Indian River County is also holding an electronics recycling event in conjunction with the City of Sebastian, Keep Indian River Beautiful and Com-Cycle of Melbourne. The event will be held behind the Sebastian City Hall on Main Street on Saturday, August, 1 from 9 AM – 3 PM. For more information on this event, you can contact IRC Solid Waste at the number above, or KIRB at 772-388-5472. You will also find a flyer for the event with a list of items that will be accepted for recycling at the IRC Solid Waste website, or at the Com-Cycle website here - [www.com-cycle.com/collectionevents.html](http://www.com-cycle.com/collectionevents.html).

## **ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

As mentioned in our May newsletter, the Friends turned 20 years old in June. We have been kicking around ideas on how to celebrate this milestone and decided to postpone a celebration tentatively planned for June. Instead we've decided on an "Oktoberfest" type party on Saturday, October 24! We have some plans but would love to have your ideas and help too. If you are interested in helping us organize the event, just let us know – we are planning on an organizing meeting sometime in August. If you want to help out, call Tim Glover at 772-589-0636 or send us an email at the address on the front of this newsletter.

## **AUDUBON OF FLORIDA CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY**

"Audubon of Florida teamed up with the Florida Wildlife Federation and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) in February to have the Kitchens Group conduct a statistically-sound survey of Florida voters about their views on global warming and solutions to the climate crisis."

"To help constituents compare legislative views to the views of Florida voters, Audubon and its partners have launched the Take a Stand on Climate Change campaign with a new website: [www.climateflorida.org](http://www.climateflorida.org). ...The interactive website allows visitors to examine the results of the voter survey, and call on their lawmaker's to take a stand...."

"The survey clearly demonstrates that the public wants state action to address global warming. ...Global warming is a serious issue that needs serious solutions. Governor Charlie Crist recognized this almost two years ago, and walking in lock step with Floridians, called for strong clean car rules and a rule, called a renewable portfolio standard, that would require utilities to provide 20 percent of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020."

Partial survey results: 65% of Floridians agree that Florida will be impacted by the effects of climate change; 63% agree that climate change is a result of human activities; 83% agree that Florida should require electric utilities to provide a certain percentage of electricity from renewable sources. For more information and to view the complete survey results, please visit [www.climateflorida.org](http://www.climateflorida.org).

source: "Florida Naturalist" – Spring 2009, Audubon of Florida

## **EPA BEACH'S NEW BEACON WEBSITE**

The EPA BEACH (Beach Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health) Program has a new BEACON (Beach Advisory and Closing On-line Notification) website. The new website is an on-line resource to provide state beach advisory and closing data available to the public.

The website has an interactive map that you can click on to find beaches in a particular area. You can also search for specific beaches by name. The website is relatively new though and so far the information provided appears somewhat limited. You will find the BEACON website here:

[www.epa.gov/waterscience/beacon/](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beacon/).

## **AMERICAN RIVER'S ANNUAL RIVER CLEANUP**

For the last few years we have participated with the American Rivers organization in their annual National River Cleanup Week in June. This year, they have modified the event to make it a year-round event, so as to allow groups more flexibility in scheduling events. We plan to hold a river cleanup again this year, but later in the fall.

Last year we cleaned up the river near the mouth around the US 1 bridge. There was so much trash that we weren't able to remove all of it – our canoes and kayaks were full to the brim! So we plan another cleanup in this same area, but are delaying the event until the US 1 bridge construction is completed. So

stay tuned for our next cleanup later this year. We will be cleaning up the river with the assistance of Kayaks, Etc. and there will be opportunities to help out by land or by water!

You can find more about this national event at [www.americanrivers.org/cleanup](http://www.americanrivers.org/cleanup)

### ST. SEBASTIAN PAINTING RAFFLE

The Friends raffled off a painting this past winter donated by Richard Gillmor – Sebastian City Mayor, Sebastian River Art Club and Friends member. Richard recently 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 upcoming public meetings and events, or on the “Photo Gallery” page of our website.

Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. The drawing for the painting will be held at our General/Annual Meeting in January 2010.

### FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

In late June, the Florida Hometown Democracy petition was certified as Amendment #4, to appear on the Florida ballot in November 2010. This amendment has been in the works for a number of years and has caused a great deal of discussion and some very underhanded political maneuvering to defeat it. There unlikely will be a lot of similar such claims of the “sky is falling” leading up to that election. Please do your best to stay informed on this issue and the overall picture of Florida’s growth management issues, leading up to the election.

For more information on the initiative, you may visit the FHD website at [www.floridahometowndemocracy.com](http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com). The 1000 Friends of Florida organization also provides lots of great information about growth issues in Florida. Please visit their website at [www.1000friendsofflorida.org](http://www.1000friendsofflorida.org).

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

May 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009

Balance 5/1/09 .....	\$5058.44
Receipts .....	306.00
Total .....	5364.44
Disbursements .....	504.90
Balance 6/30/09 .....	\$4859.54

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date .....	\$39.00
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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, July 29, 7 PM  
**An Opportunity to  
Develop Your Genius: 35  
Years of Summer Interns  
at Harbor Branch**

Andy Clark &  
Dennis Hanisak  
5600 US 1 North, Ft. Pierce  
info:

[http://webnet2.fau.edu:83/  
hboi/Events.php](http://webnet2.fau.edu:83/hboi/Events.php) or  
772-465-2400, x559



Thursday, August 20, 7 PM  
**Private home garden tour  
- TBA**

FL Native Plant Society –  
Eugenia Chapter  
info: 772-567-1565



Saturday, October 24  
**FSSR 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration**

Dale Wimbrow Park  
Roseland, Rd, Sebastian  
details TBA

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

# Friends of St. Sebastian River

P.O. Box 284

Roseland, Florida 32957-0284



## 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

Fishin' Chics, Nancy Galuppo  
David LoPresti, Johanna Pietruska,  
Robert & Mary Ramsay, Barbara Relva

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

About Kayaks/Steve Philipson  
Kayaks Etc.