



# Friends of St. Sebastian River

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

March 2010

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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.

## RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS AT THE ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER PRESERVE

The resident red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) were decimated by the hurricanes in 2004 and only recently have the birds been restored to the Preserve with the relocation of several pairs from Georgia. **Samantha McGee, biologist at the St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park** will give a presentation at our meeting this month, on her work at the park to monitor and restore the RCW populations in the longleaf pine ecosystem at the Preserve.

Longleaf pine habitat is one of the most endangered in Florida and all over the southeastern United States and the woodpecker is a keystone species in this ecosystem. Longleaf pine habitat used to be vastly widespread throughout the southeastern United States but today only about 3% of its coverage remains. More than 30 species associated with the longleaf pine ecosystem are listed as threatened or endangered.

Why is the longleaf pine habitat so rare today? For several reasons, the latest of which are fire suppression and timbering. Longleaf pine is completely dependent on fire for germination of its seeds. It is also a very resinous wood therefore making it a very termite and rot resistant building lumber. It was the wood of choice in the southeast as populations were expanding very rapidly in the last century.

If you've ever seen an older house that was built with longleaf pine, the wood usually looks as good today, if not better, than it did when the house was built. It ages with a lovely golden color and makes for beautiful flooring too. It is also very hard wood and structures built from it were able to withstand hurricanes better.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers are very particular and only nest in longleaf pine trees, and are even more particular as they will only use old-grow trees with wood softened by a fungus. So they are not able to set up residence just anywhere. Come join us for this program and learn more about the RCW, the longleaf pine ecosystem and successful management of this endangered bird at the Preserve State Park.

The meeting will be held at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd in Sebastian on **Tuesday, March 23, 7:30 PM** and all are welcome to attend.

## BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST FOR FLORIDA SCRUB JAYS

"Today 90 percent of the Florida scrub-jay families that once inhabited Florida are gone. As the scrub-jay teeters on the brink of extinction, The Nature Conservancy's scientists are determined to protect these charismatic birds by empowering volunteers — or 'citizen scientists' — through Jay Watch, a program that monitors Florida's only 'endemic' bird."

To learn more about TNC's Jay Watch program or to get involved as a citizen scientist, please visit [www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/florida/volunteer/art7303.html](http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/florida/volunteer/art7303.html)

## **ONE IF BY LAND, TWO IF BY SEA!**

This is not a cry by Paul Revere or a reprise of his historic ride to warn of the British coming, but rather a call for volunteers for our upcoming river cleanup! We have been planning on holding a river cleanup, once the new US 1 bridge was completed. We will finally hold the event on Saturday, April 3 from 9 AM until noon, with the help of Keep Indian River Beautiful (KIRB). And you can participate either by land or by sea – or in this case, river! We will be meet at Moore’s Point Park, which is on the east side of Indian River Drive at its northern end, where it meets US 1, just south of the St. Sebastian River bridge.

We will be cleaning up on and around the mouth of the St. Sebastian River. Please register with KIRB by calling them at 772-388-5472 if you would like to participate by land, or call Kayaks, Etc. at 772-202-0220 if you want to help cleaning up on the river. They will be providing kayaks and their 10-passenger canoe so you can paddle either way.

In addition to participating with KIRB in this event, we also are participating with the American Rivers “National River Cleanup” program. This program is the most successful river cleanup program in the country with tens of thousands of volunteers helping clean up their local rivers, throughout the year. For more information on the National River Cleanup program, please visit the American Rivers website at [www.americanrivers.org/our-work/restoring-rivers/national-river-cleanup](http://www.americanrivers.org/our-work/restoring-rivers/national-river-cleanup).

## **WORLD WATER DAY – MARCH 22, 2010**

“Every year, 1,500 cubic kilometres (396,258,078,540,000 gallons! –ed.) of wastewater are produced globally. While waste and wastewater can be reused productively for energy and irrigation, it usually is not. In developing countries 80 percent of all waste is being discharged untreated, because of lack of regulations and resources. And population and industrial growth add new sources of pollution and increased demand for clean water to the equation. Human and environmental health, drinking and agricultural water supplies for the present and future are at stake, still water pollution rarely warrants mention as a pressing issue.”

“To do something about that UN-Water has chosen Clean Water for a Healthy World as theme for World Water Day 2010. The overall goal of the World Water Day on 22 March 2010 campaign is to raise the profile of water quality at the political level so that water quality considerations are made alongside those of water quantity.”

For more information about World Water Day, please visit [www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org) or [www.unwater.org](http://www.unwater.org). (IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, Netherlands)

## **DON’T FLUSH YOUR MEDS**

“Developed to promote human health and well being, certain pharmaceuticals are now attracting attention as a potentially new class of water pollutants. Such drugs as antibiotics, anti-depressants, birth control pills, seizure medication, cancer treatments, pain killers, tranquilizers and cholesterol-lowering compounds have been detected in varied water sources.”

“Where do they come from? Pharmaceutical industries, hospitals and other medical facilities are obvious sources, but households also contribute a significant share. People often dispose of unused medicines by flushing them down toilets, and human excreta can contain varied incompletely metabolized medicines. These drugs can pass intact through conventional sewage treatment facilities, into waterways, lakes and even aquifers. Further, discarded pharmaceuticals often end up at dumps and land fills, posing a threat to underlying groundwater.”

“Farm animals also are a source of pharmaceuticals entering the environment, through their ingestion of hormones, antibiotics and veterinary medicines. (About 40 percent of U.S.-produced antibiotics are fed to livestock as growth enhancers.)”

The Indian River County Sheriff’s Department now accepts unwanted/unused medications. They host

periodic “Operation Medicine Cabinet” events to accept both prescription and non-prescription medications for proper disposal. The next event will be Saturday, April 10 from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Vero Beach Community Center on 14<sup>th</sup> Ave in downtown Vero Beach. For more information, you can contact Roberta Barker at the sheriff’s department at 772-770-5028. (Press Journal and “Pharmaceuticals in Our Water Supplies – Are ‘Drugged Waters’ a Water Quality Threat?”, University of Arizona)

**“POISONED WATERS”**

“In *Poisoned Waters*, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hedrick Smith examines the growing hazards to human health and the ecosystem.”

Mr. Smith appeared at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach last month and gave a presentation about the issue of polluted waters in the U.S. and what he learned from making this documentary for PBS’s Frontline program.

“More than three decades after the Clean Water Act, iconic American waterways like the Chesapeake Bay and Puget Sound are in perilous condition and facing new sources of contamination.”

“With polluted runoff still flowing in from industry, agriculture and massive suburban development, scientists note that many new pollutants and toxins from modern everyday life are already being found in the drinking water of millions of people across the country and pose a threat to fish, wildlife and, potentially, human health.”

The issues facing Chesapeake Bay and Puget Sound are similar to those all around the country and here in Florida. We have participated with the Clean Water Network and others here in Florida in advocating for implementation and enforcement of the standards set forth in the Clean Water Act since 1972!

*Poisoned Waters* was shown earlier this month at the Emerson Center. If you were unable to attend the screening, the entire documentary may be viewed online at [www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/poisonedwaters/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/poisonedwaters/).

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

January 1, 2010 – February 28, 2010

Balance 1/1/10 .....	\$6108.66
Receipts .....	239.00
Total .....	6347.66
Disbursements .....	197.23
Balance 2/28/10 .....	\$6150.43

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date ..... \$519.00

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Thursday, March 18, 7:30 PM  
**A New National Wildlife Refuge for FL?**

Charlie Pelizza, manager,  
 Pelican Island NWR  
 FL Native Plant Society,  
 Eugenia Chapter  
 FMEL Boat House, Oslo Rd SE,  
 Vero Beach

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Tuesday, March 23, 7:30 PM  
**Red Cockaded Woodpeckers**  
 Sam McGee, biologist, St. Sebastian  
 River Preserve State Park  
 FSSR

North Indian River County Library  
 1001 Sebastian Blvd, Sebastian

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Saturday, March 27, 10 AM – 4 PM  
**Gobi Fest**

Coastal Preserves Alliance  
 St. Sebastian River Preserve  
 State Park, Fellsmere  
 Info: [www.nbbd.com/npr/cpa/](http://www.nbbd.com/npr/cpa/)

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Saturday, April 3, 9 AM – 12 PM  
**St. Sebastian River Cleanup**  
 FSSR & Keep Indian River Beautiful  
 Please register on land with KIRB at  
 772-388-5472, or by water with  
 Kayaks, Etc. at 772-202-0220

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Saturday, April 17, 9 AM – 3 PM  
**40<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Celebration**

Riverview Park, Sebastian  
 Natural Resources Board,  
 City of Sebastian  
 Info: 772-589-5330

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



## 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 2010

President . . . . . Tim Glover  
Vice President . . . . . vacant  
Secretary . . . . . Gayle Heath  
Treasurer . . . . . Sherry Shipley

## Directors for 2010

Paul Barker . . . . . Tom Bauer  
Mike Beck . . . . . Buzz Herrmann  
George Koraly . . . . . Anne Putman  
Lynn Stieglitz . . . . . Bruce Zingman

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

About Kayaks/Steve Philipson  
Fishin' Chics  
Friends of Historic Roseland  
Kayaks Etc.