



Friends of St. Sebastian River

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

May 2010

website: www.fssr.org email: 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.

HAVE YOU SEEN KILROY? – PROTECTING WATER WITH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

We had to reschedule the presentation by the folks from the Ocean Research and Conservation Association, and we are fortunate that Dr. Edie Widder will be joining us for the presentation this month! The following is a description from our January newsletter about the presentation.

Those of you old enough to remember the phrase “Kilroy was here”, will automatically know and understand the philosophy behind the research efforts of the Ocean Research and Conservation Association of Ft. Pierce. ORCA was founded by Dr. Edie Widder, a marine scientist and winner of one of the MacArthur Foundation’s Fellowship Program awards, better known as the “genius grant”. The genius behind Dr. Widder’s idea was to develop a water monitoring device that is inexpensive so that it can be deployed everywhere, just like Kilroy, the ubiquitous character of WWII and Korean War fame!

The foundation for the development of a monitoring device is that we need timely, accurate information that is easily understood by the public. The ocean environment is one of the least explored and understood habitats on earth, partially because it is relatively inaccessible for most people, other than at the very surface. ORCA is the first “technology-based marine conservation organization” in the nation and is taking the approach that we need widespread, timely data to learn more about how we effect the ocean environment. With better understanding of our impacts, and easily understood and correlated data, ORCA hopes to affect the public’s appreciation of the marine environment and how our actions impact it. And with scientifically sound data, promote policies to protect the marine environment on an ecosystem-wide scale, thus fostering a “new era of ocean stewardship”. “More than any other measure, monitoring provides accountability for management actions”, Admiral James Watkins, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy report – *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century*.

As ORCA begins to deploy their Kilroy device, there are many other opportunities they are pursuing to employ the greater understanding of the marine environment. As mentioned, one of their pursuits is to foster a better appreciation by the public of the world’s oceans and how we impact them. Therefore they are working on new ideas and more groundbreaking technologies to engage the public, governments and industry in this new era of ocean stewardship. We hope to learn much more from Dr. Widder and how we might participate with ORCA, when she joins us for our meeting on **Tuesday, May 25, 7:30 PM** at the North Indian River County Library in Sebastian.

GEORGE SCHUM MEMORIAL AWARD

George Schum was a long-time member of our board of directors. He passed away in April 1997 and the award is given in memory of his spirit of volunteering and community service. The award is given to a Sebastian River High School senior who has participated in similar activities and has shown an interest in environmental issues.

We are pleased to announce that this year’s winner is EmiLeigh Whitehouse. EmiLeigh has volunteered for a number of years with the Special Olympics and is involved with her class’s school government.

The award also includes a \$500 scholarship. Congratulations to EmiLeigh and best of luck with her future education and endeavors.

FL LEGISLATURE FAILS TO REAUTHORIZE DEPT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Florida House of Representatives failed to hear the bill that would re-authorize the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in this year's legislative session, as required for the agency every 10 years. DCA is Florida's growth management agency and it is believed that next year's incoming House Speaker wants to gut the agency.

In a press release from the Florida Hometown Democracy Initiative organization, FHD founder Leslie Blackner said; "The Florida Legislature abandoned citizens who care about the future of their communities this year by refusing to re-authorize the state's land-planning agency.... Political watchers predict the Legislature will abolish or hobble the agency next year, giving free reign to expensive sprawl in countless communities."

"The Legislature makes the case for why we need to pass Amendment 4 on Election Day this fall. Politicians rubber stamped so many developments for Big Business that they crashed our economy with over-building. Now they want to eliminate the state agency that oversees growth."

"We voters need a seat at the table so we can have some oversight on this 'pay-to-play' politics – especially if the Legislature plans to do away with the state's land planning agency."

"Since we – the existing residents – pay our tax dollars to extend fire, police, roads, water, sewer, and school services to these new, sprawling developments, we should get to weigh in. We should get a vote before we're forced to pay." (www.floridahometowndemocracy.com)

You will find links to a couple of news/editorial stories from the St. Pete Times and the Miami Herald about this issue, on the News & Information page of our website.

NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS

On April 3rd, we sponsored an American Rivers "National River Cleanup" event with Keep Indian River Beautiful. It was a huge success and we thank everyone who participated! There were over 100 volunteers working in four different locations including members from the Boy Scouts and the Sebastian Property Owners Association.

Over 2000 pounds of trash was cleaned up, more than filling a 10 yard dumpster! Thanks to everyone who helped out and we look forward to hosting another event in the coming year, and hopefully less trash, now that this much has been removed.

For more information about the American Rivers organization and their National Rivers Clean program, please visit www.amrivers.org/cleanup.

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Congratulations on the election of this year's Board of Directors at our January Annual Meeting. Members attending the January meeting elected this year's Directors, as listed on the back of the newsletter. Per our bylaws, our Directors elected this year's Officers at our February Board meeting. Frank Wegel has decided to retire from the Board, but is remaining as our Program Chair. Thank you Frank for many years of service on our Board and we look forward to your continued participation in volunteer activities.

Our current Board has recently taken the action to name Frank Wegel and Frank DeJoia as Directors Emeritus. Frank DeJoia is a founding member and both have been long-time Board members, and continue to stay involved with the organization. We will be recognizing and congratulating them at our meeting this month.

WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION NEEDS IN FLORIDA

This is the title of a new report by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). "This report updates an earlier assessment of the security of rare and imperiled species on existing

conservation lands in Florida, identifying areas needed for protection and serving as a foundation for conservation planning in the state.”

“Since the earlier report, there have been landscape-level habitat changes, transfer of land from private to public ownership, and changes in land. Strategic habitat conservation areas have been identified for a new selection of focal species, such as Cooper's Hawk and Key deer, as well as many species that were in the original report, including the American crocodile and the Snail Kite.”

“This project will help determine where protection efforts should be focused to ensure the long-term conservation of Florida's wildlife.”

You can download a copy of the report from the FWC at http://research.myfwc.com/features/view_article.asp?id=29815.
(The Florida Monitor Weekly, March 5, 2010)

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, the Indian River County Sheriff's Department is participating in the prescription drug collection program known as Operation Medicine Cabinet. The primary purpose of the program is to collect unused, expired and unwanted prescription drugs to help prevent them from being abused. The environmental benefit though is the prevention of having these medications flushed into our waterways, where they are causing unanticipated harmful effects to wildlife and ultimately to humans.

The IRC Sheriff's Dept. will be holding more collection dates throughout the summer. You will find them listed on the “Meeting Info/Events” page of our website, or you may call the sheriff's office at 772-569-6700 or visit their website at www.ircsheriff.org. In Brevard County, you may call their sheriff's office at 321-264-5201 for medication disposal opportunities. For information about Operation Medicine Cabinet, please visit their website at www.operationmedicinecabinet.org.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

March 1, 2010 – April 30, 2010

Balance 3/1/10	\$6108.66
Receipts	800.00
Total	6908.66
Disbursements	1135.49
Balance 4/30/10	\$5773.17

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date	\$519.00
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, May 17, 7:30 PM

Roseate Spoonbills

Dr. Jerry Lorenze

Pelican Island Audubon Society

Vero Beach Community Center

14th Ave., Vero Beach

info: www.pelicanislandaudubon.org



Tuesday, May 25, 7:30 PM

Protecting Water with Innovative Technology

Dr. Edie Widder, Ocean Research and Conservation Association

FSSR

North IR County Library, Sebastian



Tuesday, June 15, 7 PM

Journey Into Wilderness

Film Series & Ice Cream Social
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst.

5600 North US 1, Ft. Pierce

RSVP and fee for ice cream

social (6 PM), film is free

info: 772-465-2400, ext. 559



Monday, June 28, 7:00 PM

A New National Wildlife Refuge for FL?

Charlie Pelizza, Manager,

Pelican Island NWR

Pelican Island Preservation Society

North IR County Library, Sebastian

info: www.pelicanislandfriends.org

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

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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 2010

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

Directors for 2010

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Kelley

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About Kayaks/Steve Philipson
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