



# Friends of St. Sebastian River

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P.O. Box 284 ❖ Roseland, Florida 32957-0284 November 2009

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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.

## **HAVE YOU SEEN THE ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER?**

If you've never had the chance to really see the St. Sebastian River, then plan to join us for our next General Meeting on **Tuesday, November 24**. Our guest speakers will be Kristen and Mike Beck of Kayaks, Etc. of Sebastian and Vero Beach.

Kristen and Mike are both avid outdoor persons and are both certified Florida Master Naturalists. They will be taking us on a video and slide show journey of the St. Sebastian River. Their presentation includes a bit of history about the area and the river, as well as the beautiful scenery you'll see along the way on an excursion of the river. And of course there are plenty of critters and wildlife to be seen in and around the river.

Even if you are familiar with our local river, you'll likely enjoy the great photography of this enthusiastic paddling duo! So be sure and join us for an armchair tour of the St. Sebastian River. The program will be at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd in Sebastian and all are welcome. The program starts at 7:30 PM and refreshments will be served following the presentation.

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

October is membership renewal time. All our memberships run from October through September each year. If you initially joined and paid dues between April 1 and September 30, we credit your membership through until October 1 in your second year of membership. The date following your last name on the mailing label of our newsletter is the month in which our records reflect that your membership either did or will expire. If you feel the date is not correct, or have a question about your membership, please call our treasurer Sherry Shipley at 772-589-4979 or Tim Glover at 772-589-0636, or send us an email or letter at the addresses in this newsletter. Please include a phone number or email address where you can be reached.

You can mail your membership to the address in this newsletter or pay at one of our regular meetings. Also keep in mind that you can now renew your membership online through our website using PayPal! Please see the "Membership Info/Renew" page of our website for more information. Thanks again to all of you for your continued support!

## **INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP SUCCESS**

Once again this year the Ocean Conservancy conducted its International Coastal Cleanup in September, with the help of hundreds of thousand of volunteers around the world collecting millions of pounds of debris. Thanks to everyone who had the chance to participate! The Ocean Conservancy has posted photos submitted by participants, on their website, of some of the things that were collected. You can view some of the "weirdest finds" here - [www.oceanconservancy.org/site/News2?news\\_iv\\_ctrl=-1&abbr=icc\\_&page=NewsArticle&id=13653](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/News2?news_iv_ctrl=-1&abbr=icc_&page=NewsArticle&id=13653).

## **STORMWATER PARK TO IMPROVE SSR NORTH PRONG**

St. Johns River Water Management District is working on its latest plans to improve the water quality in the St Sebastian River. They have recently completed the muck dredging from the river and the latest project will be a stormwater park on the Sotille Canal. The project will help restore the Herndon Swamp on the St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park and reduce pollutants that flow from the canal to the North Prong of the river.

The stormwater park will be located on property that was formerly a citrus grove, west of Barefoot Bay, and drainage from this area through the Sotille Canal serves as the headwaters of the North Prong of the river. The project is expected to be developed in phases and is dependent on the availability of funding. Once completed, it will have ponds, wetlands and walking trails, similar to the Sebastian Stormwater Park also constructed by the District, and will be open to the public. (StreamLines, Summer 2009, St. Johns River Water Management District)

## **“WILDLIFE 2060: WHAT’S AT STAKE FOR FLORIDA?”**

“The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has released a report, *Wildlife 2060: What’s at stake for Florida?* which explores what the status of wildlife could be in 50 years, based on current trends. The FWC draws conclusions based on a study published by the 1000 Friends of Florida, a not-for-profit organization, which monitors growth in the state.”

“The FWC has prepared this report to help readers understand the changes that may occur in Florida's fish and wildlife and in their own lifestyles if the state's population doubles to 36 million by the year 2060 as predicted. Many natural areas will be developed, and many species will be reduced from what they are today if growth and development continues on its current course. Climate change, in addition to development, could further exacerbate loss of habitat to support wildlife. The report provides maps, graphs and photographs to emphasize and clarify these impacts.”

“The 28-page report also highlights positive actions by individuals, government workers, volunteer organizations and communities who have improved habitat and helped Florida’s species.”

“Florida likely will grow and develop over the next 50 years. But the FWC is optimistic there can be a better outcome for people and wildlife than currently predicted. The FWC hopes the report motivates decision makers to manage growth more wisely and inspires Floridians to get involved to preserve the state’s diverse wildlife and habitats.”

For more information and to read the FWC report, please visit their website at [http://research.myfwc.com/education/view\\_article.asp?id=31260](http://research.myfwc.com/education/view_article.asp?id=31260).

While you are at the FWC website, you may also be interested in checking out additional information about impacts of climate change and read their report *The Wildlife Forecast* – “...FWC senior editor Patricia Behnke explores the challenges facing wildlife and their managers in a changing climate.” Click on “Climate Change” on the FWC website. (Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and FWC)

## **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MOST LAND VULNERABLE TO RISING SEA LEVEL ALONG THE U.S. ATLANTIC COAST**

“Rising sea level threatens existing coastal wetlands. Overall ecosystems could often survive by migrating inland, if adjacent lands remained vacant. On the basis of 131 state and local land use plans, the researchers estimate that almost 60% of the land below one meter along the U.S. Atlantic coast is expected to be developed and thus unavailable for the inland migration of wetlands. Less than 10% of the land below one meter has been set aside for conservation. Environmental regulators routinely grant permits for shore protection structures (which block wetland migration) on the basis of a federal finding that these structures

have no cumulative environmental impact. Results suggest that shore protection does have a cumulative impact. If sea level rise is taken into account, wetland policies that previously seemed to comply with federal law probably violate the Clean Water Act.”

“The existing nationwide permit for shore protection authorizes almost any owner of a small- or medium-sized lot to erect a shore protection structure that prevents ecosystems from migrating inland. The Clean Water Act allows this type of general permit only if it has a minimal cumulative environmental impact. The Corps of Engineers found that the impact is minimal, based on the assumption that building a shore protection structure threatens an area of habitat equal to the footprint of the construction, but that no additional habitat is lost over time. Ignoring the habitat eventually lost by blocking wetland migration is unreasonable, in our view, because preventing the landward migration of aquatic habitat (wetlands, beaches, floodplains, and shallow waters) onto the land being protected is the main reason for shore protection. The Corps should re-evaluate its finding to incorporate the impact on wetland migration.” (U.S. EPA – <http://stacks.iop.org/ERL/4/044008>)

### 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. Contact us to purchase tickets, or attend one of our meetings.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

September 1, 2009 – October 31, 2009

Balance 9/1/09 .....	\$4920.54
Receipts .....	699.62
Total .....	5620.16
Disbursements .....	349.99
Balance 10/31/09 .....	\$5270.17

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date .....	\$419.00
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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Nov. 16, 7:30 PM

#### Whooping Cranes

John Canter

Pelican Island Audubon  
Community Center, 14<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Vero Beach  
info: [www.pelicanislandaudubon.org](http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org)



Thursday, Nov. 19, 7 PM

#### Yard Art

Susan Yount & Joyce Roske  
FL Native Plant Society,  
Eugenia Chapter  
FMEL Boat House,  
Oslo Rd SE, Vero Beach



Saturday, November 21, 6 PM

#### Star Party

IR Astronomy Society  
Sebastian Inlet State Park  
(south side)  
info: 321-984-4852



Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7:30 PM

#### Have You Seen the St. Sebastian River?

Kristen & Mike Beck,  
Kayaks, Etc.  
FSSR  
North IR County Library

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

Bob Barbour, Cy Carlson,  
Richard & Tinda Condon,  
Martin & Lori Drummond, Richard Ebert,  
Allen Giles, Ken Grudens, Andy Hallock

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

About Kayaks/Steve Philipson  
Kayaks Etc.