



Friends of St. Sebastian River

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

ARE YOU FERTILIZING THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON?

For many years, we have periodically been reporting on the issue of Florida's "impaired waters", the process Florida devised to determine which surface water bodies do not meet the minimum requirements of the EPA's Clean Water Act, and the challenge of that process that we have participated in.

That process involves Florida DEP's "Impaired Waters Rule" and the development of TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load) for water bodies not meeting minimum standards. Once a TMDL (a limit on the amount of pollution a water body can receive and still meet EPA standards) is determined for an impaired water body, the DEP is required to develop a process of reducing whatever is impairing the water body.

In Florida, in many cases, that impairment comes from homeowners and our use of fertilizers on our yards and lawns. So one of the ways the DEP is working to address the overall problem of impairment is to reduce the impact of fertilizers used in the state.

Jim Egan, Executive Director of the Marine Resources Council will be our guest this month. He will be giving a presentation on the good, the bad and the ugly of the "fertilizer management ordinance" that the DEP is requiring towns and counties bordering the Indian River Lagoon, implement to address nutrient impacts to the Lagoon. Jim will also be talking about what you can do on your own as a homeowner and an advocate for the Lagoon, to help improve the health of our local waterways.

Our meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 23, 2010, 7:30 PM** at the North Indian River County Library in Sebastian and all are welcome to attend.

SEPTEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

The presentation at our September 2010 meeting was by Hector Herrera, Project Manager for the St. Johns River Water Management District's Upper Basin Restoration Project. Hector gave a detailed overview of the projects they have undertaken to restore the headwaters of the St. Johns River, to minimize the water releases to the St. Sebastian River and the Indian River Lagoon, and to increase water storage for agriculture and human uses.

Several people who attended the meeting were interested in being able to view the presentation again. Hector provided us a copy and it is available for download on the "Meeting Info/Events" page of our website. You will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program in order to view the slideshow. If you have any questions, feel free to email us.

ST. JOHNS RIVER WMD PROJECTS HELP WATER QUALITY

“The two projects – one in Fellsmere, the other in Palm Bay – could make the lagoon's next 20 years healthier than its last, officials say, by steering water closer to the way it flowed a century ago.”

The Indian River Lagoon celebrated its 20th anniversary as a “estuary of national significance” as part of the National Estuary Program this month. As such, the state and federal governments have been working to restore the health of the lagoon, which contributes some \$800 million a year to the economies of the local communities that border it.

After years of trying to obtain funding for C-1 and C-54 canal projects through the Army Corps of Engineers, the St. Johns River Water Management District has decided to undertake a couple of major restoration projects on their own. Part of the work will increase water storage capacities in the Palm Bay and Fellsmere areas, the latter of which we learned about at our September meeting.

The other major part of the work will be converting the dams on these canals so that they release water over the top of the structure, instead of from the bottom, thereby reducing the amount of sediments discharged when releases are required. And as we learned in September, with the extra water storage provided by the Fellsmere Water Management Area, the need to release water to the St. Sebastian River through the C-54 canal should be reduced to less than once in 100 years!
- excerpts from Florida Today

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE KORALY

Those of you who have been a member of the Friends for a while undoubtedly know George Koraly. George has been a member of our Board of Directors for a number of years, and a Friends member for even longer.

George spoke occasionally at our General Meetings to give an update on the progress of the muck dredging project in the St. Sebastian River, when it was underway. He was a tireless and dogged advocate for the project and a “squeaky wheel” to the folks at the St. Johns River Water Management District, constantly reminding them of the need to improve the health of our river.

At the “ribbon-cutting” ceremony for the start of the river dredging project, George was acknowledged affectionately, and jokingly with disdain, by managers of the project and even state politicians who helped fund the project. I was amused at how they all seemed to know of George and his reputation for not taking NO for an answer (-ed.).

George had been frustrated by health issues in the last few years, but he always showed amazing determination to participate in our efforts and have his voice heard at our meetings. He was a memorable character, one who we won't soon forget. He passed away on November 3 and his ashes were scattered in the river, as he requested.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR GROWTH MANAGEMENT IN FLORIDA?

As you well know by now, Amendment 4, also known as the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment, did not pass in the recent election. That outcome is not all that surprising because of the “big money” in opposition to it.

So what may be next for growth management in the state? The future may not look all that bright, as undoubtedly the continuing attempts to strangle and dismantle Florida's Department of Community Affairs were intentionally subdued leading up to the election, in order not to arouse voter's concern for oversight of growth. DCA's mission is to ensure “...that new growth complies with the state's vital growth management laws, while also helping established communities revitalize their older or traditional neighborhoods.” Sounds like a pretty sound policy for improved quality of life, doesn't it?

Nat Reed, Chairman Emeritus, 1000 Friends of Florida and Assistant Secretary of the Interior in the Nixon and Ford administrations, stated, “Over the past ten years, the Florida Department of Community Affairs ...has been continually reduced until, ...the agency is barely able to fulfill its statutory mission. Rather than confront the large public and institutional support for growth management controls, the budgetary process has become the tool to curtail growth management.”

A Palm Beach Post editorial last year stated, “For decades Florida and the officials running the state, counties, and towns have perpetuated the myth that growth will pay for itself and provide a prosperous lifestyle for everyone who buys into the myth.”

You may read Mr. Reed's full commentary in the article “Land Management In Florida: Old Challenges In

The New Economy”. A copy of the article is posted on the “News and Information” page of our website. It is also available in the March 2009 publication “Why Florida Needs Smart Growth” produced by 1000 Friends of Florida. You may download the publication from their website at www.1000friendsofflorida.org.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

This year was the Ocean Conservancy’s 25th Annual International Coastal Cleanup, conducted in September, with the help of hundreds of thousands of volunteers around the world collecting millions of pounds of debris. Thanks to everyone who had the chance to participate!

This year’s event involved the participation and attention of celebrities, news media and even the President. To read more about this year’s cleanup, the unusual “finds” and locations, visit the Ocean Conservancy’s website at www.oceanconservancy.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=14797.

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 our meeting this month. You may also renew your membership online through our website using PayPal! Please see the “Membership Info/Renew” page of our website for more information. And you may also subscribe to the electronic/email only version of our newsletter! If you are interested, just let us know. Thanks again to all of you for your continued support!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

September 1, 2010 – October 31, 2010

Balance 9/1/10	\$5752.17
Receipts	735.00
Total	6487.17
Disbursements	466.44
Balance x/3x/0x	\$6020.73

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date	\$134.00
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, November 15, 7:30 PM

Audubon of Florida

Eric Draper, Executive Director,
Audubon of Florida

Pelican Island Audubon Society
Vero Beach Community Center
14th Ave., Vero Beach

info:

www.pelicanislandaudubon.org



Friday, December 3, 8:30 AM

North Sebastian Conservation Area Tour

Indian River Land Trust

Reservations required

RSVP: 772-794-0701



Tuesday, November 23, 7:30 PM

Florida Fertilizer Management Ordinance

Jim Egan, Executive Director,
Marine Resources Council
FSSR

North IR County Library,
Sebastian



Saturday, Jan 8, 2011, 10 AM

North Sebastian conservation Area Tour

Nature walk with Nancy Soucy
No reservations required – meet
at equestrian entrance opposite
the Sebastian Post Office

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 Anne Putman
Lynn Stieglitz Bruce Zingman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Beverly Parker
Steve/Mary/Jane Rings

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