



# Friends of St. Sebastian River

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P.O. Box 284 ❖ Roseland, Florida 32957-0284 November 2012

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**website: [www.fssr.org](http://www.fssr.org) email: [info@fssr.org](mailto:info@fssr.org) ph: 772-202-0501**

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.

## **THE NATIONAL ELEPHANT CENTER**

The National Elephant Center (TNEC) is a new facility that is being built in Fellsmere, to provide housing and care for elephants in the United States. Their mission is also to participate in research projects in elephant care and husbandry, and provide training for caregivers of elephants.

When the project was first announced, some concern was expressed for a variety of issues, including proper care and treatment of the animals, and even possible impacts of animal waste.

This month, John Lehnhardt, TNEC Executive Director and Jeff Bolling, Chief Operations Officer will give a presentation on the progress of the development of the Center, and about its operation, once completed. Mr. Lehnhardt has more than 35 years experience in the care and managing of elephant programs at several zoos, and has traveled extensively in Asia and Africa to study elephants in the wild. Mr. Bolling similarly has considerable experience in working with, and managing the care of elephants in zoos, most recently at Disney's Animal Kingdom.

Please join us to learn more about TNEC and its new model for elephant care. The meeting will be **Tuesday, November 27, 2012, 7:30 PM** at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. and all are welcome to attend. You may also find more information on TNEC website at [www.nationalelephantcenter.org](http://www.nationalelephantcenter.org).

## **FLORIDA WATER CONSERVATION AND LANDS AMENDMENT**

In our September newsletter we mentioned the *Florida's Water & Land Legacy* campaign, to collect signatures for constitutional amendment. The campaign aims to get an amendment on the November 2014 ballot that will guarantee the dedication of real estate transaction fees already collected by the state, for land and water conservation projects.

The funds, known as "doc stamp" fees, have been collected for years in Florida, for the purpose of funding conservation projects. The proposed amendment would assure that this funding would be dedicated to conservation and restoration of the state's natural areas.

One million signatures of Florida registered voters is required in order for the amendment to qualify for review and inclusion on the 2014 ballot. Apparently a copy of the petition will not be provided on the campaign's website, but we will have copies at our meeting this month. A couple of things to keep in mind when signing a state petition – your name must be exactly the same as stated on your voter registration card. You are also required to either provide your voter registration number, or your birth date, so you may want to dig out that registration card!

For more information, please visit Florida's Water & Land Legacy website at <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org>.

## **CLEAN WATER ACT TURNS 40**

Forty years ago last month, one of our fundamental laws safeguarding our health and the health of our environment was passed into law with bipartisan support.

The Clean Water Act revolutionized the way we thought about water pollution — making discharges into waters illegal unless authorized by a permit to control pollution and establishing water quality standards to protect swimming, drinking and fishing.

Public outcry over dirty rivers, and the infamous Cuyahoga River catching fire, spurred Congress to pass the landmark Clean Water Act in 1972. The historic law was designed to protect all of our waters – from the smallest streams to the mightiest rivers – from pollution and destruction.

Thanks to the Clean Water Act, billions of pounds of pollution have been kept out of our rivers and the number of waters that meet clean water goals nationwide has doubled – with direct benefits for drinking water, public health, recreation, and wildlife. The Act represented a huge step forward by requiring states to set clean water standards to protect uses such as swimming, fishing, and drinking, and for the regulation of pollution discharges.

And yet – as the 40th anniversary of this important law is celebrated, many of our rivers remain polluted by urban and agricultural runoff and sewer overflows, and almost half of our streams are in poor health.

The Clean Water Act has been successful at reducing pollution that enters our rivers and lakes from “point sources.” These are single, identifiable sources of pollution like wastewater treatment plants and factories. However, “nonpoint source” pollution is still a significant problem for clean water. This type of pollution occurs when rainwater or snow melt flows over the landscape and picks up pollutants from farmlands and city streets before entering rivers. Polluted runoff is a significant source of pollution for many of our rivers, lakes, and streams across the country.

To view a video about the history and background of the establishment of the Clean Water Act, visit <http://youtu.be/ZEQcUngxbLI>.

Source: American Rivers – [www.amrivers.org](http://www.amrivers.org)

## **DOCUMENTING CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS**

James Balog has been a leader in photographing, understanding and interpreting the natural environment for three decades, and he may be familiar to some, as his parents live in Vero Beach.

To reveal the impact of climate change, James founded the Extreme Ice Survey (EIS), the most wide-ranging, ground-based, photographic study of glaciers ever conducted. National Geographic showcased this work in June 2007 and June 2010 issues. The project was also featured in the 2009 NOVA documentary “Extreme Ice” and in the feature-length documentary “Chasing Ice,” which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2012.

Mr. Balog has spent the last several years of his career trying to show the world warming in its coldest regions: not before-and-after shots, but glacier ice melting in real time. The EIS is an innovative, long-term photography project that merges art and science to give a “visual voice” to the planet’s changing ecosystems. EIS imagery preserves a visual legacy, providing a unique baseline—useful in years, decades and even centuries to come—for revealing how climate change and other human activity impacts the planet.

To see the natural world through James Balog's lens is to see it as an artist would – through fresh eyes, as if for the first time.... His photos are arresting in their directness, simplicity, even sensuality. His subjects assume the same weight and importance as a human portrait sitter, and demand that the viewer engage with them rather than simply spectate.

His EIS work is no less powerful, no less engaging, and it carries an urgent message – the shocking effects of abrupt climate change in Alaska, Greenland and Iceland.

"Each new series by James Balog represents a quantum leap in creativity, which takes us deeper into the ultimate mystery of humanity's relationship to the natural world." –James Nachtwey, photographer, TIME

Magazine.

Scott Simon of NPR's "Weekend Edition" interviewed Mr. Balog this month. You may listen to the interview or read a transcript at <http://tinyurl.com/ac4o9wz>. You may also view the Extreme Ice video online at [www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/extreme-ice.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/extreme-ice.html).

Mr. Balog has also written several books about his work on climate and environmental issues. You will find more information about his work at <http://earthvisiontrust.org> or <http://extremeicesurvey.org>. Additionally you may watch a conversation of Mr. Balog describe his work on the "TED – Ideas Worth Spreading" website at [www.ted.com/speakers/james\\_balog.html](http://www.ted.com/speakers/james_balog.html).

#### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER**

October is our membership renewal month. All our memberships run from October through September each year. You may also support the Friends by getting more involved. We can always use more volunteer help! We have a few projects in mind, but would be glad to hear your ideas too. In addition, the annual election for our Board of Directors will be held at our January 2013 meeting. If you are interested in participating in any way, please let us know.

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 have any question about your membership, please give us a call at 772-202-0501, send an email, or letter to the address 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 an upcoming meeting. 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. Thanks again to all of you for your continued support!

Current members also have the option of receiving our newsletter by email only! That helps us save paper, time, and adds to your support of our activities. If you would like to stop receiving the printed newsletter, just email us with your request.

#### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

September 1, 2012 – October 31, 2012

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Balance 9/1/12 .....   | \$3046.92 |
| Receipts .....         | 296.00    |
| Total .....            | 3342.92   |
| Disbursements .....    | 82.05     |
| Balance 10/31/12 ..... | \$3260.87 |

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date ..... \$61.00

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Thursday, November 15, 7:30 PM

#### **Non-Native Plant Assessment**

Aimee Cooper, Biological  
Scientist, UF

Eugenia Chapter,  
FL Native Plant Society  
Boathouse, FMEL  
200 9<sup>th</sup> St SE (Oslo Road),  
Vero Beach

[www.eugenia.fnpschapters.org](http://www.eugenia.fnpschapters.org)



Thursday, November 15, 2012

#### **American Recycles Day**

[www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org)



Monday, November 19, 7:30 PM

#### **Panama Birding Bonanza**

Sam Fried

Pelican Island Audubon Society  
Vero Beach Community Center  
2266 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vero Beach  
[www.pelicanislandaudubon.org](http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org)

772-567-3520



Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 PM

#### **National Elephant Center**

John Lehnhardt &  
Jeff Bolling, TNEC  
FSSR

North IR County Library  
1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian

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



**NOTE:** The date on your mailing label is the month/year when your dues are next due. Thank you.

## 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 mail your completed application and dues to:

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

This newsletter is available on our website and delivery by email for current members. We encourage email-only delivery to save funds and paper! Email us at the address on the front to request email delivery.

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## Officers for 2012

President . . . . . Tim Glover  
Vice President . . . . . Buzz Herrmann  
Secretary . . . . . Gayle Heath  
Treasurer . . . . . Sherry Shipley

## Directors for 2012

Tom Bauer . . . . . Anne Putman  
Lynn Stieglitz . . . . . Bruce Zingman

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Don Wright

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

Roseland Community Association  
Tropical Kayak Tours