



Friends of St. Sebastian River

P.O. Box 284 ❖ Roseland, Florida 32957-0284 November 2014

website: www.fssr.org e-mail: 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 LOST BIRD PROJECT

Our meeting this month will be a very special one! We are co-hosting a presentation of the film *The Lost Bird Project*, with the Pelican Island Audubon Society. Artist Todd McGrain, an Associate Professor, at Cornell University, made large bronze sculptures to memorialize five extinct North American birds: Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon, Labrador Duck, Health Hen, and Great Auk.

This film is an elegy and provides a thoughtful, moving, sometimes humorous look at the artist and his mission through his art. It takes you to the sites where the last bird of each species was found. One of the last known locations of the Carolina Parakeet in the wild is right here in Indian River County on the banks of the St. Sebastian River, at what today is the Cypress Bend Community Preserve in Sebastian. The five sculptures were placed in the last known locations of the five birds. The one for the Carolina Parakeet, though, is located at the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, as there is no definitive proof whether its last location was there or here on the St. Sebastian River. The last two known parakeets lived for thirty-two years in the Cincinnati Zoo, the last of which died in 1918.

Richard Baker, PIAS President, wrote about the Carolina Parakeet and this memorial project in their newsletter a few years ago. You may read his article and view an image of two birds collected by Frank Chapman on the St. Sebastian River, now archived at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, at www.pelicanislandaudubon.org/Hoot_Archive/hoot_may_09.html.

Come see this timely film, as other birds are now on the edge of extinction. Audubon's recent unprecedented analysis of 40 years of citizen-science bird population data from their own Christmas Bird Counts, plus the Breeding Bird Survey reveals alarming declines for many of our most common and beloved birds. Since 1967, the average population of the common birds in steepest decline has fallen by 68 percent. Some individual species nose-dived as much as 80 percent. All 20 birds on the national Common Birds in Decline list lost at least half their populations in just four decades. For more information about the film, visit www.lostbirdproject.org.

The meeting will be **Monday, November 10th, 6 p.m.** at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd in Sebastian--please note the non-standard date and time! All are welcome to attend this, and a special field trip to the Cypress Bend Community Preserve, conducted by Pelican Island Audubon on Sunday November 16th at 2 p.m. Please call 772-567-3520 for reservations.

FALL FUNDRAISER/YARD SALE

Our fall yard sale will be Friday, November 14th starting at 8 a.m., at About Storage, 25 Airport Dr. West in Sebastian. About Storage is located just off Roseland Rd. and across from the Dale Wimbrow Park. We would greatly appreciate any items you would like to donate for our sale. You may do so by contacting us at the phone or e-mail address on the front of this newsletter. We would be glad to pick something up, if it is too large for you to deliver. And be sure to stop and buy, on Nov. 14th! All proceeds from the sale will go towards our annual George Schum Award, given to a graduating Sebastian River High School student.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen science – “the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists.” One of the better known of these type projects is Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count. But there are many more projects of just about any variety or interest you can think of, and you too can help! One of the newest additions to our website, is a listing of some environmental type projects that we have come across. Look for the “Citizen Science Projects” link at the top of the “Links” page of our website and let us know if you come across other projects that may be of interest.

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

America Recycles Day is a national program of Keep America Beautiful, and is the only nationally recognized day and community-driven awareness event dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the U.S. Since its inception in 1997, communities across the country have participated in America Recycles Day on Nov. 15th to educate, promote environmental stewardship, and encourage action.

America Recycles Day is a once-a-year event to remind everyone of the benefits of recycling, but please recycle EVERY day! Recycling gives products new life, saves energy, conserves resources, and creates jobs. In the United States, on average we recycle only about 35% of recyclable materials – a lost value of \$11.4 billion, as estimated by the As You Sow organization. Learn more at AmericaRecyclesDay.org.

For more information about local recycling and programs, visit the Solid Waste Departments of Indian River County at www.iregov.com/departments/ircwaste, Brevard County at www.brevardcounty.us/solidwaste/recyclinginformation, or the FL DEP at www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling. And thank you – we would be happy not to have to conduct our annual National River Cleanup event for the St. Sebastian River!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

October is our membership renewal month. All our memberships run from October through September each year, and are pro-rated, depending on the time of year you joined. The date following your last name on the mailing label of our newsletter is the month/year in which our records reflect that your membership either did or will expire.

For more information on membership, please see the membership application on the back of this newsletter, or visit our website. You may also renew your membership online using a credit or debit card, via our website.

You are receiving this newsletter as a benefit of membership, but did you know that it is also available in digital format? Current members may opt to receive only the electronic/e-mail version of our newsletter, which adds to your support and saves us time, money, and paper, although we use only 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Our newsletters are all available on the “Library/Newsletters” page of our website. Additional benefits of our online newsletter are that you receive it earlier than the mailed copy, web addresses are “active” links and can be clicked on, and you can zoom in to make for easier reading. Be sure and check it out and let us know if you would like to receive the e-mail/electronic only version of our newsletter. And thanks for your continued support!

ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE

While you are at our website checking out our online newsletter, be sure to check out the information and resources listed under our “St. Sebastian River Research Project.” One year ago we announced the start of this project and we have come across some interesting bits of information. We have included links to online resources, archived documents, and listed library call numbers, where information is only available on the shelves of our local libraries. We continue to update the list as we come across more information. But as we’ve mentioned, the project is similar to researching your family genealogy, and each new piece of information often leads to another.

This will be an on-going project that likely will last for several years. So we ask for your help in letting us know when and where you may come across information having to do with our local area, the St. Sebastian River and its watershed. If you would like to get more actively involved, just let us know and we’ll help steer you in the right direction. Our biggest limitation is the time involved in doing the looking. So if you are a budding Sherlock Holmes, we need you!

ALL ABOARD FLORIDA RAIL PROJECT

As you likely have heard, the Federal Railroad Administration issued the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed All Aboard Florida rail project. Potential impacts for the St. Sebastian River arise from the construction of a new double track bridge across the river and the demolition of the existing bridge. Information and all documentation about the project can be found on the FRA website at www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0672. This web page also includes information about public informational meetings held by the FRA, and contact information on where to send any comments. Comments may be submitted by e-mail, or to Mr. John Winkle, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Room W38-311, Washington, DC 20590. The deadline for comments is December 3rd, 2014.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014

Balance 7/1/14	\$2953.72
Receipts	184.00
Total	3137.72
Disbursements	218.80
Balance 9/30/14	\$2918.92

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date	\$298.12
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 8, 11 AM – 3 PM
Indian River Lagoon Day
Riverview Park, Melbourne
2400 Riverview Dr.
info: <http://goo.gl/X0PqSS>

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Monday, Nov. 10, 6 PM
The Lost Bird Project
Pelican Island Audubon & FSSR
1001 Sebastian Blvd.
info:
www.pelicanislandaudubon.org

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Sunday, Nov. 16, 2 PM
**Cypress Bend Community
Preserve Tour**
Pelican Island Audubon Society
772-567-3520 for info and RSVP

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Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7 PM
**North American Right Whales:
How You Can Help Save Them**
Julie Albert, Marine
Resources Council
Harbor Branch Ocean. Inst.
5600 US 1 North, Ft. Pierce
info: www.fau.edu/hboi

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Friday, Nov. 21, 9 AM
**Toni Robinson Waterfront
Trail Tour**
Indian River Land Trust
RSVP required: 772-794-0701
info: www.irlt.org

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

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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.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

Officers for 2014

President Tim Glover
Vice President Buzz Herrmann
Secretary Gayle Heath
Treasurer Bill Brennan

Directors for 2014

Tom Bauer Jane Schnee
Lynn Stieglitz Bruce Zingman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jayne & Jorge Cortez
Tim Kozusko
Lorna & Dick Thibeault

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Roseland Community Association
Tropical Kayak Tours