



Friends of St. Sebastian River

P.O. Box 284 ❖ Roseland, Florida 32957-0284 November 2016

website: www.fssr.org email: 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.

ROUTE 510 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER GREENWAY

Local ecologist and environmental consultant Dr. David Cox will give a presentation at our November meeting, about the Florida Department of Transportation's plans for road widening and improvements to route 510. David will review the FDOT plans for the roadway and challenges for protecting the upstream reaches of the South Prong of the St. Sebastian River, and other natural resources within the corridor.

David will also give an update on the St. Sebastian River Greenway. Properties along the South Prong of the river were acquired with county and state-match funding, until those funds were exhausted. The Greenway plan was promoted by a consortium of groups, including the Friends, and adopted by the Indian River County Board of Commissioners in 2006. What is needed to complete the Greenway plan as envisioned? Please join us to learn about the next steps.

Our meeting will be held at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. in Sebastian, on **Tuesday, November 22nd, 7:30pm** and all are welcome to attend. For more information, visit our website at www.fssr.org or call 772-202-0501.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

October was our membership renewal month. All our memberships run from October through September each year and are pro-rated depending on when you first 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 only receive 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 also 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 PRESERVE STATE PARK TO REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS

At our May General Meeting, presenter Tracey Wright had an exciting announcement for attendees. The St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park had just received notice that they were awarded a grant from the state, to conduct a major invasive plant removal effort for the South Prong of the St. Sebastian River. The project includes removal of all Category I and II invasive exotic plants in the vicinity of the San Sebastian Springs development, and the entire west shore of the South Prong of the river, north of route 512. The work on the west shore has recently been completed, but the remaining work in the vicinity of San Sebastian Springs is not expected to be completed until the beginning of next summer. A description and list of Category I and II plants in Florida can be found on the website of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council at www.fleppc.org.

This is a major undertaking and we are excited for the habitat improvements it will provide for the River. It does not though address invasive plants on most of the eastern shore of the St. Sebastian River and we are working on coordinating efforts with local homeowners to solicit their assistance. The project also does not address the need for vigilance of regrowth of invasive plants within the work area. We plan to work with the Park to help monitor and limit this from happening. If you are interested in helping with any of these efforts, please let us know!

MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

In addition to our invasive plant project, there are lots of other opportunities for volunteering listed on the “Contact Info/Volunteer” page of our website. In addition to those listed, we will be holding our annual election for our Board of Directors at our meeting in January. If you are interested in getting more involved and helping with any of these opportunities, please let us know! Thanks as always for your support and participation!

NOVEMBER IS MANATEE AWARENESS MONTH

Manatee numbers are up and these bulky aquatic mammals are on the move this month! The annual migration of Florida manatees begins in November, as the weather cools and Manatee Awareness Month is celebrated.

Watch out for manatees swimming in Florida’s rivers, bays or coastal waters. Keep in mind this time of year manatees are searching for warmer waters to help them survive winter’s cold.

With the onset of the manatee migration, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reminds people in boats and personal watercraft to slow down to avoid manatees, particularly in shallow areas. Many seasonal manatee protection zones also go into effect as of November 15.

The St. Sebastian River is a year-round manatee slow speed zone. For more information and links to manatee speed zone maps, visit <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/manatee/for-operators>.

source: Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission e-newsletter, November 1, 2016

VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT CONSERVATION IN THE ELECTION

In the wake of Tuesday’s election, I know that many of us are still struggling to make sense of the outcome. At a time when many of us are seeking a way to heal our national divide, we can take

hope in an election story that brought people together. On [election day] we saw again that while American voters are bitterly divided on many issues, we can all agree on one: whether we voted “red” or “blue” in this election, given the opportunity, an overwhelming majority of us voted “green” for parks and conservation. Voters across the nation approved local and state ballot measures creating \$6.3 billion in funds to protect and restore public land. Out of 86 measures on the ballot, 68 passed—a 79 percent approval rate.

We thank you for supporting these conservation efforts – they are needed now more than ever! Congratulations to us. -ed.

source: Trust for Public Land, November 11, 2016

FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAYS 20TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO CONTEST

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Florida Scenic Highways Program, they are having a photo contest. The Sebastian River area is included in the Program, as part of the Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway. Three winners will be selected in each category: wildlife, natural beauty, recreation, and Byway events. For more information, visit: www.floridascenichighways.com/photo-contest. The deadline is December 1st. Good luck!

MORE PHOTO CONTESTS!

The Florida Wildlife Federation Annual Photo Contest is now open through December 31st. You may enter photos in eight different categories, helping protect Florida’s wildlife, and the chance to win several prizes. To enter, and view some of the photos that have been entered so far, visit www.snappiephoto.com.

AMAZONSMILE

For your shopping pleasure, the Friends of St. Sebastian River is a registered “AmazonSmile” charitable organization. Did you know you can support ours, and many other organizations, just by your online shopping through Amazon.com? You will find a link to AmazonSmile on the homepage of our website, which automatically donates a small percentage of your online purchases through Amazon, to the Friends. And Christmas is just around the corner, so there is no better time to start your holiday shopping!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, November 17, 7pm
**Photographing Florida
Butterflies & Wildflowers**
George and Mary Ester Bollis
Audubon House
Oslo Road, Vero Beach
info: 772-567-1565



Saturday, Nov. 19, 10am-4pm
**MRC St. Sebastian River
Greenway House Workday**
9140 86th Ave, Sebastian
info: www.mrcirl.org or
321-725-7775



Tuesday, November 22, 7:30pm
**CR510 FDOT Improvement
Project & St. Sebastian River
Greenway**
Dr. David Cox
North Indian River County
Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd.
info: www.fssr.org or
772-202-0501



Wednesday, December 7, 7pm
**Indigenous Knowledge and
Modern Science - Should We
Connect? Can We Connect?**
Jon Waterhouse, Oregon Health
and Science University
Harbor Branch
Oceanographic Institute
5600 US 1 North, Ft. Pierce
info: www.fau.edu/hboi or
772-242-2559

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

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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 2016

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

Directors for 2016

Tom Bauer Mark Bondy
Jane Schnee Lynn Stieglitz
Bruce Zingman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Don & Cindy Weddington

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