



Friends of St. Sebastian River

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

FELLSMERE PROJECT TO HELP IMPROVE STORMWATER RUNOFF

The St. Johns River Water Management District is underway with construction of the Fellsmere Water Management Area (FWMA) reservoir. The 10,000 acre reservoir they are constructing is former farm land, located near the C-54 canal and will help to improve the quality of water that drains to the St. Sebastian River and the Indian River Lagoon, by removing pesticides and fertilizers from stormwater.

Hector Herrera is the **Basin Program Manager** for the SJRWMD water conservation projects in the Upper St. Johns River Basin and will be our speaker at this month's meeting. He will give us an overview of the FWMA project and tell us more about the water quality benefits that will result from the work. He will also tell us about the additional recreational opportunities that will be available once the project is completed.

The meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 28, 7:30 PM** at the North Indian River County Library in Sebastian and all are welcome to attend.

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. Thanks again to all of you for your continued support!

LANDSCAPING WITH FLORIDA WILDFLOWERS

For a brief and beautiful introduction to Florida wildflowers, you may be interested in the video "Landscaping with Florida Wildflowers" by the Association of Florida Native Nurseries (www.afnn.org). The video can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4h3yxekO4. You will find several other wildflower videos available on YouTube also.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

The Ocean Conservancy's 25th Annual International Coastal Cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 25 and the Friends will be participating with Keep Indian River Beautiful (KIRB) to help cleanup on and around the St. Sebastian River.

The ICC event is held annually around the world to clean up debris on our beaches and waterways. And by recording the type and amount of debris collected, the Ocean Conservancy attempts to identify the sources and to change behaviors so that the trash does not end up in our environment in the first place.

We will be cleaning up at the same location as our river cleanup event this past April at Moore's Point Park, and yes, there is still trash to be cleaned up, unfortunately. We are soliciting volunteers to help us with this event and you can do so either on land or on the water via kayak. If you want to cleanup on the water, kayaks will be provided by our partners Kristen & Mike Beck of Kayaks, Etc., or you can bring your own kayak or other boat.

Moore's Point Park is located at the very northern end of Indian River Drive in Sebastian, where it meets US 1, just south of the bridge over the St. Sebastian River. If you would like to help out, please call Tim Glover at 772-589-0636 or KIRB at 772-226-7738. They would like you to register for the event so that they know how many supplies to provide. To volunteer on the water, please call Kayaks, Etc. at 772-202-0220, as reservations are required for the use of their kayaks.

As a "thank you" for those helping with the cleanup, we would like to offer you a discount on our upcoming Indian River Lagoon pontoon boat wine and cheese cruise, coming up on Saturday, October 9. There is a discount for the cruise if you are a Friends member, but we are offering an additional \$5 per person discount for participating in the cleanup. Please see the information elsewhere in this newsletter about the lagoon cruise.

For more information on the Ocean Conservancy and the International Coastal Cleanup event, please visit their website at www.coastalcleanup.org.

And after the cleanup, be sure and leave time to visit the "National Estuaries Day" event at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Ft. Pierce. Please see the Calendar of Events in this newsletter or on our website, for more information. You may also visit the HBOI website at www.fau.edu/hboi or call the Friends of HBOI office at 772-242-2559. For more information about estuaries and other events nationwide, please visit www.estuaries.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

This award is given annually by the Friends to an individual or business, that has enhanced the environmental quality of the St. Sebastian River area, by one of the following criteria: 1) Landscaping – using environmentally friendly plants (i.e. mostly natives), or pest plant removal projects; 2) Water quality projects – storm water runoff control, muck removal or pollution reduction (i.e. fertilizers/chemicals, installation of sewers, etc.); 3) Open land conservation – donation or purchase of conservation easement; 4) Erosion control – planting of appropriate plants along vulnerable areas.

If you know of someone or a business in our area that you believe qualifies this year, please let us know. Look for our application forms at our September meeting, on our website, at our display at select public events, or you can call Anne Putman at 772-388-3666. Nominations need to be received by October 31st.

FLORIDA BAT CENTER LOOKING FOR RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

The Florida Bat Center is looking for at least one volunteer in each county to help with bat rescues and/or bats in buildings. Often, they need someone to pick up a bat and take it to a local wildlife rehabilitator or to help transfer it to them in Pinellas County.

Volunteers who handle bats are required to have rabies pre-exposure vaccinations, but rescues can usually be done without having bat contact. You may only be called upon to rescue one bat per year, or help with one bat issue in your area, but it would be a great help to them (and to the bats!). Please email floridabats@aol.com for more information. You may also visit them on the web at www.floridabats.org.

LAGOON CRUISE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Friends is hosting a pontoon boat cruise of the Indian River Lagoon on the “Mangrove Mamma” on Saturday, October 9 from 5 to 7:30 PM. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the IRL as the sun sets and we observe birds coming in to roost for the evening on the islands of the lagoon. We will also be serving wine and cheese while we relax and enjoy the cruise. There will also be a “naturalist” on board to help answer questions about wildlife found in the lagoon.

The cost for the cruise is \$15 per person for Friends members and \$20 for non-members. In addition, we are offering a \$5 per person discount for those who are volunteering for the International Coastal Cleanup on September 25. Please see the related story in this newsletter for more information about the cleanup.

Reservations are required and the deadline is Wednesday, October 6. For reservations, please call Tim Glover at 772-589-0636 and leave a message.

In addition to this event, the Friends would like to be able to offer various activities throughout the year as a benefit to our members. This is just one event that we thought would be enjoyable to our members and we could offer at a discount as a benefit of membership. We realize that often times, the only thing that we are soliciting your participation in is a “work” type activity, such as our cleanups. While we appreciate the many folks who participate and do help out, we also wanted to offer some other fun activities for the benefit of all our members, including those who aren’t able to participate in the more physical ones. And to be able to do so, we would like to ask your help in two ways. One is for ideas about some of the other activities that you would enjoy seeing us offer. The other way to help would be to follow-up on and check the possibility of us doing some of those other activities.

It would be a great help to us to have someone who would organize, or at least lead a committee for these activities – sort of like the Cruise Director on “The Love Boat”. If you have any ideas, suggestions or would like to help out, please contact us via email or call Tim Glover at 772-589-0636.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

May 1, 2010 – August 31, 2010

Balance 5/1/10	\$5773.17
Receipts	121.00
Total	5894.17
Disbursements	142.00
Balance 8/31/10	\$5752.17

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date	\$19.00
---------------------	---------

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, September 20, 7:30 PM

New Conservation Initiatives in Florida

Charlie Pelizza, Manager
Pelican Island NWR

Pelican Island Audubon Society
Vero Beach Community Center
14th Ave., Vero Beach
info: www.pelicanislandaudubon.org



Saturday, Sep. 25, 8 – 11 AM

Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup

Keep Indian River Beautiful
Moore’s Point Park
info: 772-226-7738



Saturday, Sep. 25, 10 AM - 3 PM

National Estuaries Day

Harbor Branch
Oceanographic Institute
5600 North US 1, Ft. Pierce
info: 772-242-2559 or
www.fau.edu/hboi



Tuesday, September 28, 7:30 PM

Fellsmere Water Management Area

Hector Herrera, St. Johns WMD
FSSR
North IR County Library,
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



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.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

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 George Koraly
Anne Putman Lynn Stieglitz
Bruce Zingman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CORPORATE SPONSORS

About Kayaks/Steve Philipson
Fishin' Chics
Friends of Historic Roseland
Kayaks Etc.