



Friends of St. Sebastian River

P.O. Box 284 ❖ Roseland, Florida 32957-0284 September 2011

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.

THE WORLD OF BATS

For our September General Meeting, we have a couple of special guests who will give a presentation on “The World of Bats!” **Cynthia and George Marks** have been working with bats since 1989. In 1994, they founded the Florida Bat Center (now the Florida Bat Conservancy), a nonprofit organization dedicated to bat conservation in Florida. They have also co-authored “**Bats of Florida**,” which is the first book totally dedicated to Florida’s bats.

The Marks’ will be in the St. Sebastian River area conducting a bat survey for the US Fish & Wildlife Service and indicated that they would be interested in giving a presentation to our members. We of course were all too happy to oblige!

Bats are probably the most misunderstood, feared, and persecuted of all the mammals. Yet bats are shy, gentle animals that fill a vital role in maintaining balanced ecosystems throughout the world. In Florida, bats are the most important natural controller of night flying insects. In other parts of the world, bats disperse seeds, pollinate plants, provide guano for fertilizer and even vampire bats have made important contributions to science and medicine.

The program will include a slide presentation on bats around the world, illustrating their unusual diversity, unique behaviors and benefits to humans. The Marks’ will also be bringing live bats with them so you will be able to see some of our native Florida species.

The program is on **Tuesday, September 27, 7:30 PM** at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. in Sebastian and all are welcome to attend. For more information about the Florida Bat Conservancy, visit their website at www.floridabats.org.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

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 give us a call at 772-202-0501, 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!

AN OBITUARY FOR FLORIDA GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Growth management, an imperfect but noble effort to protect Florida from selfishness and greed, died Thursday (June 2, 2011). The cause of death was legislation passed by a Legislature lacking perspective and signed into law by Rick Scott, a new governor ignorant of the state's history and indifferent about its future.

Growth Management was 26 years old. The agency that oversaw it, the now-vanquished Department of Community Affairs, is survived by a handful of relatives not up to carrying on the mission: water management districts decimated by spending cuts; regional planning councils and similar agencies with little authority; and county commissions with neither the will nor the vision to stand up to developers.

Born in 1985, Growth Management was supported in its youth by governors and legislators from both political parties who looked beyond the next election and were determined to keep Florida from strangling itself....

Growth Management was an ambitious attempt to bring some sanity to the mad rush to pave over Florida. It required cities and counties to plan for growth, determine where and how much development would be permitted, and forecast how roads, utilities and other services would be paid for to accommodate it all. Most important, the 1985 law gave the state the authority to approve or reject those plans. And under a concept called concurrency, developers eventually were forced to help pay for new roads, schools and parks to accommodate the growth their projects generated.

This is an excerpt of a St. Petersburg Times editorial from June 5, 2011. To read the entire editorial, go to www.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/article1173456.ece.

GET OUTDOORS SEBASTIAN!

We are holding a special “family fun” event at Friendship Park and the North Sebastian Conservation Area, behind the Sebastian City Hall called “Get Outdoors Sebastian!”. This is our event to participate in the national “America’s Great Outdoors” campaign (www.greatoutdoorsamerica.org). There are other similar initiatives too by various organizations, such as “GetOutdoorsUSA!” (www.getoutdoorsusa.org) and Get Outdoors Florida! (<http://getoutdoorsflorida.com>).

Our event will be Saturday, October 22 and there will be various activities going on all day, such as a bird walk, plant id walk, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding, fishing demos, scavenger hunt and other games. There will also presentations about, and walks to find critters such as gopher tortoises, snakes and other reptiles, and an evening “spooky” walk to listen for owls and bats (with a special listening device), to get everyone in the spirit for Halloween. There will even be a presentation by the folks from the Mosquito Control District to tell us about those pesky pests and what they do to control them! After all, who wants to go outdoors to be a mosquito dinner!

During the afternoon we will also be providing food, drinks and ice cream, with some German victuals as a belated celebration of Oktoberfest. There will be things going on throughout the day and we hope that you will come and go to participate in as many activities as possible. The event is free and open to everyone and we hope that you can join us! As we get closer to the event, we will be adding details and a schedule of events on a special website at www.getoutdoorssebastian.com. Also watch for more info in the local papers and usual advertising venues.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY

Celebrate national Estuaries Day with Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and the Smithsonian Marine Station, both in Ft. Pierce. The two institutions are holding a special celebration on Saturday, September 24 to celebrate the annual event and our local estuary - the Indian River Lagoon. What’s an estuary you ask? You can watch the introductory video “What’s An Estuary? Now You Know” here - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLumSN4G5P4>.

Admission to both events is free and there will be shuttle bus service between Harbor Branch located at 5600 US 1 North and Museum Pointe Park/Smithsonian Marine Station at 420 Seaway Drive in Ft. Pierce.

The event takes place from 10 AM to 3 PM with tours, activities, games, entertainment and boat tours at both locations. For more information visit HBOI at www.fau.edu/hboi or call them at 772-242-2293, or visit the

SMS at www.sms.si.edu or call them at 772-465-3271.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AWARD

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 or on our website, or you can call Anne Putman at 772-388-3666. Nominations need to be received by October 31st.

LOPRESTI AVIATION SUPPORTS THE FRIENDS

If you haven't attended one LoPresti Aviation's "First Saturday" breakfasts in their hangar at the Sebastian Airport, you're missing out! You don't have to be an aviation enthusiast to enjoy the event, although most of the presentations have something to do with aviation. The talks are usually very interesting and they are attracting some world-class speakers on occasion. If you are really not interested in anything to do with aviation, the breakfast alone is worth the visit!

They make a great hot breakfast all for a donation of \$8 a person. It's a great way to spend a Saturday morning each month and support local organizations, as the proceeds are donated to various organizations throughout the community. So check them out at www.speedmods.com/firstsatursday/firstsatursday.htm for more information, or just stop in on the first Saturday of the month, with a good appetite.

Thanks again to LoPresti's for supporting the Friends – the proceeds for August were donated to us, and this was their second time in doing so!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

July 1, 2011 – August 31, 2011

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Balance 7/1/11 | \$5770.37 |
| Receipts | 179.00 |
| Total | 5949.37 |
| Disbursements | 71.00 |
| Balance x/3x/0x | \$5878.37 |

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date \$8.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, September 24,
10 AM - 3 PM

National Estuaries Day
Harbor Branch Ocean Inst. &
Smithsonian Marine Station
5600 US 1 North, Ft. Pierce
420 Seaway Dr., Ft. Pierce
info: see article in this issue



Saturday, Sep 24, 1 - 3 PM
Capt. Rodney Smith, author
Fishing Museum,
Sebastian Inlet State Park
9700 S. A1A, Melbourne Beach
info: www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet
or 321-984-4852



Tuesday, September 27, 7:30 PM
The World of Bats
Cyndi & George Marks
FSSR
North IR County Library
1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian



Saturday, October 22, all day
Get Outdoors Sebastian!
FSSR
Friendship Park
Main Street, Sebastian
info:
www.getoutdoorssebastian.com
or 772-202-0501

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 2011

President Tim Glover
Vice President Mike Beck
Secretary Gayle Heath
Treasurer Sherry Shipley

Directors for 2011

Paul Barker Tom Bauer
Buzz Herrmann Anne Putman
Lynn Stieglitz Bruce Zingman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy Billington

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Roseland Community Association
Florida Outdoor Center
Tropical Kayak Tours