



# Friends of St. Sebastian River

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

## **ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT EVOLVES UNDER BUDGET CONSTRAINTS**

Water management districts in Florida have been making major changes in the way they operate in the last couple of years, due to budget restrictions and tinkering by the Florida legislature. As a result, the districts have been evaluating their core mission and prioritizing critical needs.

Our guest speaker this month will be Ed Garland, Communications/Outreach representative for the Palm Bay office of the St Johns River WMD. Ed will give a presentation about the changes in district operations to address the continuing reductions in their budget. They have streamlined programs and permitting, and as mentioned, continue to prioritize their critical needs and customer service. Come find out the good, the bad and the ugly!

The meeting will be **Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 7:30 PM** at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. and all are welcome to attend.

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER**

October is our membership renewal month. 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 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 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.

## **ST. JOHNS RIVER WMD EVALUATING SURPLUS CONSERVATION LANDS**

The St. Johns River Water Management District is considering selling off "surplus" lands, that have been acquired for conservation. The district is undertaking a review of lands purchased to evaluate the resource value of their lands and determine if any could be considered surplus. Lands are acquired based on their resource value, but usually parcels are purchased based on geopolitical boundaries and not habitat

or ecosystem boundaries.

Many criteria are being considered and properties are being ranked on a “scientific” basis. But is there such a thing as too much conservation land and can land have no value for water conservation, ground water recharge, or even recreation?

“Everything is on the table”, says Robert Christianson, director of operations and land resources for the district. That includes state parks, land bought with money approved by voters specifically for land conservation, and lands bought under the Florida Forever program – which may not be forever, after all.

Indian River County has the second-largest amount of St. Johns owned land... all of it being considered for possible disposal....

“This is the first time we have done a systematic review of lands for disposal and we are doing it because of a direct communication from the governor’s office,” says Christianson. All water management districts in the state are undertaking a similar process at the direction of Governor Scott.

If the district’s Governing Board does vote to sell off any lands, funds generated can only be used for future land acquisition. More public presentations on the issue will be scheduled this fall. For more information and access to their online comment form, visit <http://floridaswater.com/landassessment>.

source: excerpts from Vero Beach 32963, July 12, 2012

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

A coalition of Florida conservation organizations, including The Trust for Public Land, Audubon Florida, Florida Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club and many others, has started a campaign known as *Florida’s Water & Land Legacy*. 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. But in recent years, the funds have been diverted to the state’s general revenues, to help cover budget shortfalls, while conservation funding in the state has been slashed by 97.5 percent.

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. For more information, please visit Florida’s Water & Land Legacy website at <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org>. A copy of the petition that can be downloaded and signed by Florida registered voters, should be available on the site later this month.

## **IN MEMORY OF LANI DEAUVILLE**

Lani Deauville and her family have been longtime members of the Friends, and some of our most dedicated eyes and ears on the river. Lani passed away this summer at her home on the St. Sebastian River – a place she loved and worked hard to preserve. In fact her dedication to conservation of the property they bought and eventually built their home on, inspired us to start our Environmental Enhancement Award. The Deauvilles were the first recipients of the award in 1999.

For those who did not know Lani, she was a very inspiring person. She “...turned a childhood tragedy into a lifetime of determination and accomplishment, and, in the process, became an inspiration to millions around the world...” stated her obituary.

Lani was a Florida native, and became a quadriplegic at the age of 17, as a result of a diving accident. Throughout her life she worked to support others with disabilities, and helped write legislation in Florida on universal-access for the disabled, some of which the Federal government also adopted.

Because of health complications, a family relative developed a “superfood” supplement that enhanced

Lani's health and physical appearance. Her family went on to build that superfood into the Greens+ company of Vero Beach. And she was their best mascot, as the world-record longest living quadriplegic, and likely will remain so for some time.

Lani will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She was an amazing person and inspiration to so many.

**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 call 772-202-0501. Nominations deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM DAY LIVE!**

In the spirit of Smithsonian Museums, who offer free admission everyday, Museum Day Live! is an annual event hosted by Smithsonian magazine in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day Ticket...for free.

There are several “museums” in our area that are participating in the event on Saturday, September 29, 2012. For more information and to get your free ticket, visit [www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday)

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

May 1, 2012 – August 31, 2012

Balance 5/1/12 .....	\$3629.92
Receipts .....	114.00
Total .....	3743.92
Disbursements .....	697.00
Balance 8/31/12 .....	\$3046.92

George Schum Memorial Award Fund

Total to date .....	\$61.00
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 PM  
**St. Johns River WMD Evolves**  
 Ed Garland, St. Johns River WMD  
 FSSR

North IR County Library  
 1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian

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Saturday, September 29  
 10 AM – 3 PM

**National Estuaries Day  
 Celebration**

Smithsonian Marine Station  
 420 Seaway Dr, Ft. Pierce and  
 Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst.  
 5600 US 1 North, Ft. Pierce  
 info: [www.sms.si.edu](http://www.sms.si.edu)  
 772-462-6220

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Saturday, September 29  
 10 AM – 2 PM

**Operation Medicine Cabinet**

Walgreen's, IRC Sheriff's Office  
 and other pharmacies  
 info:772-569-6700 or check out our  
 website for drop-off locations

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Saturday, September 29  
 8 AM – 9 PM

**National Public Lands Day**

Sebastian Inlet State Park  
 info: [www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet](http://www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet)  
 or 321-984-4852

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Monday, October 8, 6 PM

**Florida Butterflies**

Marc Minno, Ph.D.  
 Pelican Island Audubon Society  
 North IR County Library  
 1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian  
 info: [www.pelicanislandaudubon.org](http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org)  
 772-567-3520

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.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

## 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**

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

Roseland Community Association