

Friends of St. Sebastian River
Incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1989

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Dr. Duane De Freese Receives Environmental Enhancement Award

The Board of Directors of the Friends of St. Sebastian River unanimously selected Duane E. De Freese, Ph. D. as the recipient of the organization's 2018 Environmental Enhancement Award. This prestigious recognition has been given annually since 1999. It was awarded to Dr. De Freese at the organization's January 22, 2019 annual meeting.

Tim Glover, President of Friends of St. Sebastian River stated when presenting the award, "This year we are thrilled to present our award to Dr. De Freese, Executive Director of the Indian River Lagoon Program. He was instrumental in getting the Lagoon designated as an Estuary of National Significance almost 30 years ago and continues to this day in his tireless efforts to improve the health of the Lagoon. The St. Sebastian River is the largest tributary to the lagoon, so what happens in the lagoon has a direct impact on the health of the river."

Dr. De Freese holds a B.S. degree in Zoology from the University of Rhode Island and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Marine Biology from Florida Institute of Technology. In 2015, Dr. De Freese was named Executive Director of the Indian River Lagoon Council. In this role, he works with federal, state and local government agencies, scientific research organizations, academic institutions, elected officials, industry and the general public. Their goal is to develop and implement a science-based restoration strategy for the Indian River Lagoon. Previous career experience includes: first program director for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and Vice President of Florida Research for Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute.

The mission of the non-profit Friends of St. Sebastian River is to maintain and improve the health and beauty of the St. Sebastian River and its watershed. For further information, visit: www.fssr.org and [Facebook.com/FriendsofStSebastianRiver](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofStSebastianRiver).

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