# FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 - 9:45am, Ryall house/South Prong Preserve

#### CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

CALL FOR ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S) - pp. 2-3

TREASURER'S REPORT - pp. 4-10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Adopt-a-Road – response from Rene Van de Voorde, follow-up with IR County for route 512 segment

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) George Schum Award Committee recommendations Mia Harrell and Alexis Solomon
- 2) Ryall house entry hand rail pp. 11-12

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy - Herrmann

SJRWMD permits - none

ACOE permits - none

Dr. Gilmore – petition for endangered fish status, member Jeff Howe and MRC want to help

FDEP Blue-Green Algae - p. 13

Environment America/Clean Water Network/Waterkeeper Alliance – Plastic Pellet-Free Water Act advocacy letter – pp. 14-22

MRC Lagoon House 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and IMAGINE announcement – pp. 23-24

Education/Outreach - Bolton/Stephen

May 28th FSSR meeting, North IR Library, Alexis Peralta, summer fertilizer ordinance/restrictions?

Yard sign – updated wording, online ordering at @ \$8-10/sign, plus shipping, how many? – p. 25

SSR Paddle Fest, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 9am to 2pm

Wimbrow Park/River manatee signs

Financial - Greene

Governance – Herrmann

Information - Glover - no update

Membership – Herrmann, good response to reminders, 1 Apr renewal due, none for May and June, new members – Wendy Bernstein and Judy Teague

Publicity - Penny Phillips, no update

Volunteer - vacant, Roseland Community Park mangrove cutting issue - p. 26

Round robin -

### Adjournment

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) Next BOD meeting May 14, 9:45am, Ryall house
- 2) South Prong Preserve workdays Apr. 13, May 11?
- 3) St. Johns River Water management District, Southern Recreation Lands meeting, Apr. 16, 6-8pm, p. 27
- 4) Roseland Women's Club/Community Park workday, Apr. 17, 9am (monthly on the third Wed.)
- 5) Sebastian River High School Awards Ceremony, Apr. 17, 6pm
- 6) Sebastian Earth & Arbor Day Celebration, April 20, 9am to 4pm

# FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES TUES., MARCH 12,2024-9:45am, RYALL HOUSE, SO. PRONG PRESERVE

CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE--Pres. Glover called the meeting to order at 9:45am. In attendance were Herrmann(vice-pres.), Greene(treasurer), Peterson(secy.), and directors Bolton, Stephen, and Zingman. Advisory director Hinck was also present.

#### CALL FOR ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA-NONE

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS(AP, pp.2-3)--Herrmann made a motion, seconded by Stephen, that the Minutes from the February 13, 2024 meeting be approved and accepted; all voted in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT(AP, pp.4-10)--Herrmann made a motion, seconded by Stephen, that the report be accepted for audit; all voted in favor.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT--

- 1)PIAS lawsuit decision(AP, pp.11-12)--ended up losing. Glover will send a thank-you note to George Glenn for his efforts.
- 2)FDOT route 510/US 1 road project(AP, p.13)
- 3) Earthjustice Florida/EPA wetlands permitting lawsuit(AP,pp.14-18)--"Victory-Judge finds EPA and USFWS failed to comply with Endangered Species Act." (AP,p.14)

# **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Adopt-a-Road--awaiting response from IRC Public Works--Glover left a message with Rene Vandevoorde from whom he has not heard back; Bolton checked in with Julia Held, who no longer teaches at SRHS, and so cannot lead a group of high schoolers in a cleanup; discussion ensued as to whether a cleanup would be possible at the 510/512 Roseland Road intersection.

# **NEW BUSINESS**

1)Glass display case donation from Sebastian boating club-In a 4-3 vote(Glover broke the tie), the Board voted not to accept the donation.

2)Kelly Jackson donation of invasive tree for South Prong Preserve-Glover plans to remove the moringa tree by the end of March.

# **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Advocacy-Herrmann

- 1) SJRWMD permits-Palms of Indian River Estates, Micco Rd., permit #101651-4, 5 yr. extension
- 2) ACOE permits-none
- 3) Dr. Grant Gilmore/USFWS briefing for endangered fish species petition, SSR, et al--(AP, pp.20-28)
- 4) IR County Urban service Boundary Study(AP,pp.29-30)
- 5) FDEP Blue-Green Algae(AP, p.31) Education/Outreach-Bolton/Stephen
- 1) March 26th FSSR meeting, North IR Library, Ashley Lingwood, IR County Conservation Lands-South Prong Preserve
- 2) Yard sign-no update- Glover will work on creating a new sign
- 3) CR 510 road cleanup with SRHS-not possible without Julia Held
- 4) River Paddlefest, May 4th--Hinck brought us up to date on his latest plans. Event will run from

9am-2pm; boxed lunch from Publix, incl. FSSR membership, will cost \$40; photo contest grand prize of Costa sunglasses; rain barrel grand raffle prize; environmental speaker at end of event

- 5) Wimbrow Park/River manatee signs--need to be updated with changes to misinformation; Herrmann will contact Susan Adams re installation of a St. Sebastian River sign.
- 6) Earth Day shirts & new finger puppets ordered(AP, pp.32-34)

Financial-Greene-Conserve-a-Nation insurance quote(AP,pp.34-45)--Herrmann made a motion, seconded by Stephen, that we opt for the Commercial Package and Volunteer Accident proposal for a total of \$875; all voted in favor. New policy goes into effect on April 1, 2024. Glover and Greene completed and returned on time the FL solicitation of contributions annual filing.

Governance-Herrmann

- 1) Election of Directors not completed at Jan. Board meeting, exp. terms Bolton, Peterson-- Herrmann made a motion, seconded by Greene, that their terms be renewed; all voted in favor.
- 2) Election of Officers, Pres., VP, Sec., Treas.--Herrmann made a motion, seconded by Bolton, that everyone's terms be renewed; all voted in favor.

Information-Glover-Google web stats(AP, pp.46-47)-no update

Membership-Herrmann, monthly review of renewals due-email notification via Zeffy with follow-up letter mailed, if needed.

Publicity-Penny Phillips-no update

Volunteer-vacant

# Round Robin--

- 1) Discussion ensued re County responsibility for providing a ramp and hand rail at Ryall House entrance to be ADA compliant--Glover and Greene will research the subject.
- 2) On Earth Day, we should request that Indian Riverkeeper be located next to FSSR so that we can show off new rain barrels.
- 3) Stephen raised ongoing issue of canal spraying. Glover explained that we do not have the standing to sue the city of Sebastian. Perhaps Riverkeeper or Sierra Club could give us some new ideas as to how to proceed.
- 4) Greene asked Bolton to demonstrate how our new rain barrel works at next open house.

Adjournment--Stephen made a motion, seconded by Peterson, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:36 am; all voted in favor.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS--**

1)Next FSSR BOD meeting at 9:45 am on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at Ryall House

2) Sebastian Earth & Arbor Day Celebration, April 20, 9am-4pm, Riverview Park

Respectfully submitted,

Could you Pak

**Carol Lynn Peterson** 

**FSSR Secretary** 

# Friends of St. Sebastian River Profit & Loss

March 2024

	Mar 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income 43400 · Direct Public Support 43410 · Corporate Contributions 43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	35.00 256.56
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	291.56
47200 · Program Income 47230 · Membership Dues	165.00
Total 47200 · Program Income	165.00
Total Income	456.56
Gross Profit	456.56
Expense 60900 · Business Expenses 60901 · Sales Taxes 60920 · Business Registration Fees	12.57 61.25
Total 60900 · Business Expenses	73.82
62800 · Facilities and Equipment 62840 · Equip Rental and Maintenance	304.51
Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment	304.51
65000 · Operations 65020 · Postage, Mailing Service 65050 · Telephone, Telecommunications 65060 · Merchant Service Fee-PayPal	37.62 9.31 0.79
Total 65000 · Operations	47.72
65100 · Other Types of Expenses 65160 · Other Costs	22.99
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	22.99
Total Expense	449.04
Net Ordinary Income	7.52
et Income	7.52

# Friends of St. Sebastian River Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2024

	Mar 31, 24
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings 10000 · Checking	
10020 · Without Donor Restrictions	10,949.64
10030 · With Donor Restirctions	1 000 00
10031 · Geo Schum Memorial Fd 10033 · Archie Laird Memorial	1,000.00 585.00
10034 · Grants	422.54
Total 10030 · With Donor Restirctions	2,007.54
Total 10000 · Checking	12,957.18
10100 · Petty Cash	45.00
10200 · PayPal	495.54
10210 · Zeffy	30.00
Total Checking/Savings	13,527.72
Other Current Assets	20.20
10300 · Gift Card 12000 · Undeposited Funds	26.26 295.00
12100 · Inventory Asset	200.00
12110 Puppets	300.50
12120 · Clothing 12130 · Miscellanoous Inventory	137.05 4.82
12140 · Hats	116.64
12100 · Inventory Asset - Other	1,366.72
Total 12100 · Inventory Asset	1,925.73
Total Other Current Assets	2,246.99
Total Current Assets	15,774.71
TOTAL ASSETS	15,774.71
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable 20000 · Accounts Payable	-196.00
Total Accounts Payable	-196.00
Other Current Liabilities 25500 · Sales Tax Payable	0.92
Total Other Current Liabilities	0.92
Total Current Liabilities	-195.08
Total Liabilities	-195.08
Equity	A.c
30000 · Opening Balance Equity 32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	316.73 15,216.56
Net Income	436.50
Total Equity	15,969.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	15,774.71
TO THE EINDIETTIES & EQUIT I	

# Friends of St. Sebastian River Reconciliation Detail

10000 · Checking, Period Ending 03/31/2024

Туре	Date	Num	Name	Clr	Amount	Balance
Beginning Balanc	e					13,492.19
Cleared Trai	nsactions					
Checks a	ind Payments - 9 i	items				
Bill Pmt -Check	03/01/2024	DC	Earth Day Shirts	Χ	-196.00	-196.00
Check	03/02/2024	DC	Google	Χ	-3.00	-199.00
Check	03/11/2024	DC	Ooma	Χ	-6.31	-205.31
Bill Pmt -Check	03/12/2024	DC	FPL	Χ	-6.57	<b>-</b> 211.88
Bill Pmt -Check	03/13/2024	DC	Folkmanis	Χ	-268.37	-480.25
Check	03/13/2024	DC	Home Depot	Χ	-192.17	-672.42
Check	03/13/2024	DC	Home Depot	Χ	-124.91	<b>-</b> 797.33
Check	03/22/2024	DC	FL Dep State	Χ	-61.25	-858.58
Check	03/27/2024	DC	A Small Orange	X	-22.99	-881.57
Total Che	cks and Payments	;			-881.57	-881.57
Deposits	and Credits - 4 it	ems				
Transfer	03/04/2024			Χ	80.00	80.00
Sales Receipt	03/20/2024	1042	Charities Aid Found	Χ	83.28	163.28
Sales Receipt	03/21/2024	1043	Charities Aid Found	Χ	83.28	246.56
Deposit	03/22/2024			Χ	100.00	346.56
Total Dep	osits and Credits				346.56	346.56
Total Cleared	d Transactions			_	-535.01	-535.01
Cleared Balance				_	-535.01	12,957.18
Uncleared T	ransactions					
	and Credits - 11 i	items				
Sales Receipt	02/28/2024	1054	Kimberly & John Si		50.00	50.00
Sales Receipt	03/16/2024	1053	Roseland Communit		50.00	100.00
Sales Receipt	03/19/2024	1050	Case		25.00	125.00
Sales Receipt	03/19/2024	1051	Thibeault		25.00	150.00
Sales Receipt	03/22/2024	1049	Sabol		20.00	170.00
•	03/24/2024	1052			15.00	185.00
Sales Receipt	03/26/2024	1032	Cummings Bauer		15.00	200.00
Sales Receipt						
Sales Receipt	03/26/2024	1046	Walter		15.00	215.00
Sales Receipt	03/26/2024	1047	Stephen		15.00	230.00
Sales Receipt Sales Receipt	03/26/2024 03/28/2024	1048 1044	Powell & Kimberly Burkhart		50.00 15.00	280.00 295.00
•	osits and Credits			-	295.00	295.00
•	red Transactions			-	295.00	295.00
Register Balance a	s of 03/31/2024			-	-240.01	13,252.18
New Transa					210.01	70,202.10
Checks a	ind Payments - 3					
Check	04/02/2024	DC	Google		-3.00	-3.00
Check	04/03/2024	EFT	CHUBB		-876.65	-879.65
Check	04/10/2024	DC	A Small Orange	_	-22.99	-902.64
Total Che	cks and Payments	;		=	-902.64	-902.64
Total New Tr	ansactions			=	-902.64	-902.64
Ending Balance				_	-1,142.65	12,349.54
				-		

# Initiate Business Checking<sup>sм</sup>

March 31, 2024 ■ Page 1 of 4



FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER, INC. SEBASTIAN RIVER INC PO BOX 284 ROSELAND FL 32957-0284

#### Questions?

Available by phone Mon-Sat 7:00am-11:00pm Eastern Time, Sun 9:00am-10:00pm Eastern Time:
We accept all relay calls, including 711
1-800-CALL-WELLS (1-800-225-5935)

En español: 1-877-337-7454

Online: wellsfargo.com/biz

Write: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (287)

P.O. Box 6995

Portland, OR 97228-6995

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# Account options

A check mark in the box indicates you have these convenient services with your account(s). Go to wellsfargo.com/biz or call the number above if you have questions or if you would like to add new services.

Business Online Banking	[
Online Statements	ĺ
Business Bill Pay	ĺ
Business Spending Report	ĺ
Overdraft Protection	ĺ

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# Statement period activity summary Beginning balance on 3/1 \$13,492.19 Deposits/Credits 373.31 Withdrawals/Debits - 908.32 Ending balance on 3/31 \$12,957.18

Account number:
FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER, INC.
SEBASTIAN RIVER INC

Florida account terms and conditions apply

For Direct Deposit use

Routing Number (RTN): 063107513

For Wire Transfers use

Routing Number (RTN): 121000248

# **Overdraft Protection**

This account is not currently covered by Overdraft Protection. If you would like more information regarding Overdraft Protection and eligibility requirements please call the number listed on your statement or visit your Wells Fargo branch.



# Transaction history

	Check		Deposits/	Withdrawals/	Ending daily
Date	Number	T ·	Credits	Debits	balance
3/1		Purchase authorized on 02/29 Earthdayshirts 877-6771837 KY		196.00	13,296.19
		S464060601965870 Card			
3/4		Zeffy US Zeffy US St-H4O5O2P8O1K3 Friends of St Sebastia	80.00		
3/4		Recurring Payment authorized on 03/01 Google *Gsuite_Fss		3.00	
		CC@Google.Com CA S464061437037137 Card			
3/4		Purchase authorized on 03/02 The Home Depot #0213 Vero		151.66	13,221.53
		Beach FL P384062470171346 Card			
3/11		Recurring Payment authorized on 03/10 Ooma,Inc		6.31	13,215.22
		888-711-6662 CA S384070685219848 Card			
3/12		Fpl Direct Debit Elec Pymt 03/24 1232872117 Ppda Friends of St. Sebasti		6.57	13,208.65
3/13		Purchase authorized on 03/12 Folkmanis, Inc. 510-6587677 CA S384072665606180 Card		268.37	
3/13		Purchase authorized on 03/13 The Home Depot #0213 Vero Beach FL P464073584445479 Card		192.17	
3/13		Purchase Return authorized on 03/13 The Home Depot #0213 Vero Beach FL P584073574952149 Card	26.75		12,774.86
3/21		Cybergrants-Cafa Cybergrant ACH_7256769 Friends of St Sebastia	83.28		12,858.14
3/22		Cybergrants-Cafa Cybergrant ACH_7278387 Friends of St Sebastia	83.28		
3/22		eDeposit IN Branch 03/22/24 12:09:03 PM 1524 US Hwy 1 Sebastian FL	100.00		13,041.42
3/25		Purchase authorized on 03/22 Nic*-FL Sunbiz.Org Egov.Com FL S584082546614646 Card		61.25	12,980.17
3/27		Recurring Payment authorized on 03/26 Web*Asmallorange.C 781-4186707 TX S304086290375080 Card		22.99	12,957.18
Ending bal	lance on 3/31	<del></del>			12,957.18
Totals			\$373.31	\$908.32	

The Ending Daily Balance does not reflect any pending withdrawals or holds on deposited funds that may have been outstanding on your account when your transactions posted. If you had insufficient available funds when a transaction posted, fees may have been assessed.

## Monthly service fee summary

For a complete list of fees and detailed account information, see the disclosures applicable to your account or talk to a banker. Go to wellsfargo.com/feefaq for a link to these documents, and answers to common monthly service fee questions.

Fee period 03/01/2024 - 03/31/2024 Standard monthly service fee		You paid \$0.00
The bank has waived the fee for this fee period.		
How to avoid the monthly service fee Have any ONE of the following each fee period	Minimum required	This fee period
Average ledger balance	\$1,000.00	\$13,026.00 ÷
Minimum daily balance	\$500.00	\$12,774.86 ÷

The Monthly service fee summary fee period ending date shown above includes a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday which are non-business days. Transactions occurring after the last business day of the month will be included in your next fee period.



Merchant Account ID: PayPal ID: info@fssr.org 3/1/24 - 3/31/24

# Statement for March 2024

Friends of St. Sebastian River, Inc. PO Box 284 32957 Roseland

# Balance Summary (3/1/24 - 3/31/24)

	Available beginning	Available ending	Withheld beginning	Withheld ending
USD	481.33	495.54	0.00	0.00

Page 1



Merchant Account ID: PayPal ID: info@fssr.org 3/1/24 - 3/31/24

# Activity Summary (3/1/24 - 3/31/24)

	USD
Beginning Available Balance	481.33
Payments received	15.00
Payments sent	0.00
Withdrawals and Debits	0.00
Deposits and Credits	0.00
Fees	-0.79
Ending Available Balance	495.54

Page 2

Tools & Home Improvement > Building Supplies > Building Materials > Stair Parts > Handrails



Roll over image to zoom in

Grab Bars for Elderly for Wall, 2 Step Handrail for Indoor Steps -Wrought Iron Hand Rails Wall Mounted for 1-3 Stairs - Handicap Railing for Exterior Steps Railings for Deck, Porch and Garage use

Visit the Party Animals Store
4.7 135 ratings
Amazon's Choice in Staircase Handrails by Party Animals
100+ bought in past month

# \$49<sup>99</sup>

#### **FREE Returns**

Get \$10 off instantly: Pay \$39.99 \$49.99 upon approval for the Amazon Store Card. No annual fee.

Available at a lower price from other sellers that may not offer free Prime shipping.

#### Style: Style C

<b>Style A</b>	<b>Style B</b>
\$42.99	\$42.99
Style C	<b>Style D</b>
\$49.99	\$42.99
Style D- 2 Packs \$59.99	

Brand Party Animals
Material Wrought Iron
Color Black

Product 11.8"L x 22.8"W Dimensions

Style Style C

#### About this item

- Durable and Dependable Wrought iron handrail keeps its smooth form over a decade of wear and use.
- Assists Disabilities No matter for elderly, disabled, pregnant women, or kids, this handrail will confidently guard the safety using a stairway. ZERO flimsiness or loosening.
- Simple DIY Installation The kit takes only 5 minutes to install with all accessories included. Upgraded heavyduty screws and an instruction manual are provided.
- Suitable for 1-3 steps The grab bar for stairs can be used for 1-3 steps in a garage door, porch rail, or deck stairs and more situations.
- Maximized Comfort The hold tight handrail ergonomically fits the curve of the human hand with a diameter for optimal grip.
- Suitable For Most Walls Handrails can be mounted on wood, concrete, brick & wooden posts.
- Money Saver You no longer need to hire contractors to come and install pricey railing systems.

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#### Buy new:

\$4999

FREE Returns

FREE delivery Saturday, April
13

Or fastest delivery **Wednesday**, **April 10**. Order within 12 hrs 24 mins

Delivering to Sebastian 32958 -Update location

#### In Stock

# Quantity: 1 Add to Cart Buy Now

Ships from Amazon
Sold by W ART

Returns Eligible for Return,
Refund or Replacement

within 30 days of receipt

Payment Secure transaction

✓ See more

Add a gift receipt for easy returns

# Save with Used - Very Good

\$4079

FREE delivery Friday, April 12

Or fastest delivery **Thursday**, **April 11**. Order within 12 hrs 24 mins

Ships from: Amazon Sold by: Amazon Warehouse

Add to List

New & Used (2) from \$40<sup>79</sup> & FREE Shipping.

Tools & Home Improvement > Building Supplies > Building Materials > Decking & Fencing > Railings & Pickets > Railings



Roll over image to zoom in

Handrail Railings, Wall Mounted Handrails Fits 1 or 2 Step, Handrails for Outdoor Steps, Wrought Iron Handrail Heavy Duty, Stair Rails for Black 12x10.2Inch Handrail Railing Handrail Railing

Brand: Generic

4.7 26 ratings

\$3999

**FREE Returns** 

Get \$10 off instantly: Pay \$29.99 \$39.99 upon approval for the Amazon Store Card. No annual fee.

**Brand** Generic Material Wrought Iron Color Black Product 12"L x 10.2"W

**Dimensions** 

Finish Type Painted

#### About this item

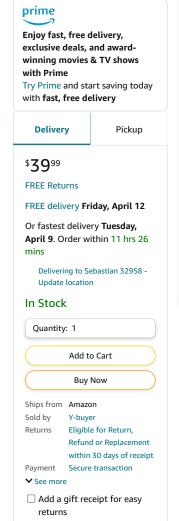
- ✓✓✓[ Main Parameters] About 12" of grip surface on the top area of the handle; Height 12" - You can ajust the heigh fixed to the wall as your needs; Extension length 10.2"- works as a safety handrail for a 1 or 2 outdoor stairs.
- ✓✓✓[ Sturdy Handrail ] Adopt real wrought Iron ,welding tech and spray primer.perfect process make railing handsome and sturdy;Sure,you also can painted it color what you like.
- ✓✓✓[ Easy to Install ] -1,Positioning;2,Drill holes with 3/8" drill bits;3, Mount with masonry bolts;4, Fixed with
- ✓✓✓[ Personal Design ] Friendly Design for the old, child, disabled family member; Very solid handrail helps with a high single step at door.
- ✓✓✓[ Widely Used] Used for gardens, residential buildings, commercial office buildings, hotels, Garage etc. percect for steps to porch.
- See more product details

## Customer ratings by feature

Sturdiness 5.0 Easy to install 5.0 Value for money 4.6

See all reviews

Report an issue with this product or seller



Add to List

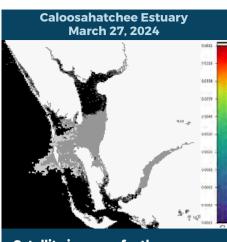
Sponsored



# BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

**REPORTING MARCH 22 - MARCH 28, 2024** 

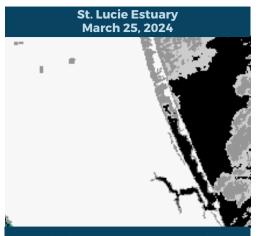
Satellite imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud cover. A value of 0.004 is nominally equivalent to approximately 20-30 ug/L chlorophyll a of cyanobacteria, and 0.06 would be in the 300-500 ug/L chlorophyll a range. Please keep in mind that bloom potential is subject to change due to rapidly changing environmental conditions or satellite inconsistencies (i.e., wind, rain, temperature or stage).



Satellite imagery for the **Caloosahatchee Estuary from** 3/27 is heavily obscured by cloud cover but shows no bloom potential on visible portions of the estuary.

# Lake Okeechobee March 26, 2024

Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 3/26 shows low to moderate bloom potential on approximately 20% of the lake, predominantly in the northwest quadrant of the lake with scattered bloom potential along the western and southern shorelines of the lake.



Satellite imagery for the St. Lucie Estuary from 3/25 shows no bloom potential on visible portions of the estuary.



Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 3/26 shows scattered low bloom potential on Lake George and throughout the mainstem of the river from Lake George downstream to Orange Park.

# **SUMMARY**

There were 25 reported site visits in the past seven days with 25 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at 10 of the sites.

On 3/25 - 3/28, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected 17 harmful algal bloom (HAB) response samples. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

St. Lucie Canal - 96th Street Bridge: Microcystis aeruginosa; 17 parts per billion (ppb) microcystins detected.

Lake Harris - East Central Shore: Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii; no cyanotoxins detected.

Orange River - RV Boat Ramp: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

St. Lucie River - Four Rivers: Microcystis aeruginosa; 11 ppb microcystins detected.

St. Lucie River - Palm City Bridge: Microcystis aeruginosa; trace level (0.92 ppb) microcystins detected.

**Lake Thonotosassa - Center**: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; trace level (0.76 ppb) microcystins detected.

Scott Lake - West: Microcystis aeruginosa and Microcystis wesenbergii co-dominant; trace level (0.83 ppb) microcystins detected.

Lake Hancock - South Central: Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii; trace level (0.34 ppb) anatoxin-a and trace level (0.30 ppb) microcystins detected.

**Lake Parker - Northeast:** *Microcystis aeruginosa*; no cyanotoxins detected.

Lake Gibson - West: Microcystis aeruginosa and Microcystis wesenbergii co-dominant; microcystins estimated to be 1.1 ppb.

Results are pending for Lake Hamilton East - Sample Park, St. Lucie River - Seagate Harbor Boat Ramp, Lake Marion - Ducky's Dock, Lake Pierce - Northwest, St. Lucie River - Harborage, Lake Tarpon - Southeast and St. Lucie Canal - Army Corp Campground.

On 3/26 - 3/27, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) collected eight routine HAB monitoring samples. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

Fellsmere Water Management Area - Center: Microcystis sp.; trace level (0.60 ppb) microcystins detected.

Lake Yale - South of Center: Microcystis sp. and Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii co-dominant; 0.69 ppb microcystins detected.

**Lake Griffin - North of Center:** Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii; no cyanotoxins detected.

Lake Eustis - South Near 441 Boat Ramp: Microcystis sp. and Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii co-dominant; no cyanotoxins detected.

Stick Marsh - North: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

Blue Cypress Lake - Center: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

Lake Jesup - Center: Microcystis aeruginosa and Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii co-dominant; trace level (0.12 ppb) cylindrospermopsin detected.

Lake Monroe - Center: Microcystis aeruginosa and Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii co-dominant; no cyanotoxins detected.

# **Last Week**

On 3/21, DEP staff collected a HAB response sample from Blanton Lake - South and Lake Dowling - Off Dock.

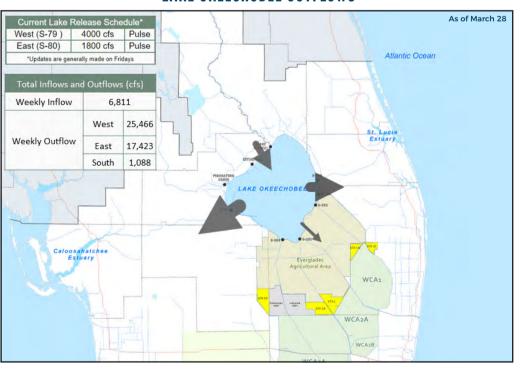
Blanton Lake - South: Microcystis aeruginosa; 3.5 ppb microcystins detected.

Lake Dowling - Off Dock: Microcystis aeruginosa; trace level (0.35 ppb) microcystins detected.

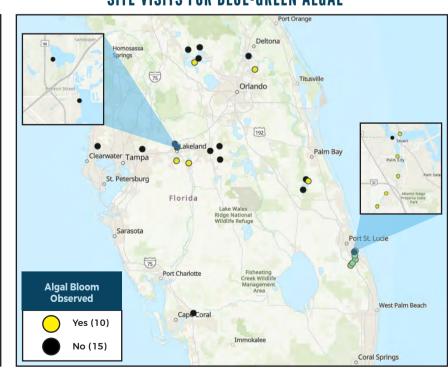
Results for completed analyses are available at FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For all field visit and analytical result details, please refer to the complete algal bloom map with data table by clicking the "Field and Lab Details" Quick Link from the Algal Bloom Dashboard. Different types of blue-green algal bloom species can look different and have different impacts. However, regardless of species, many types of blue-green algae can produce toxins that can make you or your pets sick if swallowed or possibly cause skin and/or eye irritation due to contact. We advise staying out of water where algae is visibly present as specks or mats or where water is discolored pea-green, blue-green or brownish-red. Additionally, pets or livestock should not come into contact with algal bloom-impacted water or with algal bloom material or fish on the shoreline.

# LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



# SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



# **SIGN-UP FOR UPDATES**

# To receive personalized email notifications about blue-green algae and red tide, visit



# **HUMAN ILLNESS**

**Florida Poison Control Centers** can be reached 24/7 at 800-222-1222 (DOH provides grant funding to

REPORT PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

the Florida Poison Control Centers)

# **CONTACT DOH**

(DOH county office) FloridaHealth.gov/ all-county-locations.html



# REPORT ALGAL BLOOMS **SALTWATER BLOOM**

- **Observe stranded wildlife** or a fish kill.
- Information about red tide and other saltwater algal blooms.

# **CONTACT FWC** 800-636-0511 (fish kills) 888-404-3922 (wildlife Alert)

# a lake or freshwater river. Information about bluegreen algal blooms.

FRESHWATER BLOOM

Observe an algal bloom in

**CONTACT DEP** 855-305-3903 (to report freshwater blooms) FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom



Friends of St. Sebastian River <friendsofstsebastian@gmail.com>

# Thank you for Supporting the Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act

1 message

taylor.brumagin@publicinterestnetwork.org <taylor.brumagin@publicinterestnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 1:25

PM

To: info@fssr.org

Dear Friends of St. Sebastian River,

On behalf of Environment America, we want to thank you for signing our letter to Congress in support of the Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act. We delivered it yesterday alongside the Clean Water Network, Waterkeeper Alliance, and more than 150 other clean water and environmental groups across the country. Your signature will help convince your senators and representatives that plastic pellet pollution is a serious issue- thank you! The final letter that was sent to Congress is linked here.

Our work isn't over yet. Please continue to spread the word by sharing this update to your network, on email or social media, and asking people to send a message to their senators. The post contains an easy web action with sample language:

# Clean water groups urge Congress to tackle microplastics

Environment America, U.S. PIRG, and our state offices are also holding a lobby day in support of microplastic free waters in D.C. next Wednesday. The more people who take action, the stronger a message we can deliver to Congress!

Thank you for all you do, Taylor

--

Taylor Brumagin tbrumagin@environmentamerica.org

--

Taylor Brumagin tbrumagin@environmentamerica.org







April 3, 2024

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Plastic pollution is everywhere and it is harming our waterways and wildlife. That's why we're seeking your support for the Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act (S. 2337, H.R. 7634), which stops the dumping of plastic nurdles into our waterways.

Nurdles are tiny plastic pellets that form the raw material for plastic manufacturing. Because nurdles are small, cheap and easily contaminated, they're often dumped by plastics manufacturers or spilled during transport.<sup>1</sup> In the United States, clean water organizations and volunteers have documented pellet dumping and spills in Texas,<sup>2</sup> South Carolina,<sup>3</sup> Pennsylvania<sup>4</sup> and beyond. A study of 66 beaches in the Great Lakes region found 60 percent contained nurdles.<sup>5</sup>

Once plastic enters our waterways, it is easy for animals to mistake it for food. Eighty kinds of seabird<sup>6</sup> and every species of sea turtle<sup>7</sup> have ingested plastic, and concentrations of microplastics have significantly increased in freshwater fish in the Chicago region.<sup>8</sup> Animals who eat plastic can starve to death, and plastic pellets can also absorb toxic chemicals including DDT, PCBs, and mercury.<sup>9</sup>

Plastic pellets are extremely difficult to clean up once they reach our waterways, and often polluters are not held accountable. One example: In Louisiana, 743 million pellets were spilled from a container ship in the Port of New Orleans. It took weeks to begin clean-up while agencies and companies debated who was responsible, by which point a local expert estimated as many as 75 percent of the pellets had already swept downstream.<sup>10</sup>

We need to protect clean water and put wildlife over waste. The Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act would do just that by banning the dumping of plastic pellets into our waterways.

Congress must act before the problem gets any worse. Pellets dumped into our waterways are contaminating the streams and rivers Americans enjoy for fishing, swimming and recreation, and an estimated 10 trillion plastic pellets enter the ocean each year.<sup>11</sup>

We urge you to support the Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act to protect our beloved waterways and put wildlife over waste.







# Signers by state (alphabetical list follows):

<u>National</u>

Clean Water Network Environment America

Environmental Integrity Project Environmental Law & Policy Center Environmental Working Group

Open Water

Plastic Pollution Coalition Surfrider Foundation U.S. PIRG

Waterkeeper Alliance

<u>International</u>

Only One

Alabama

Black Warrior Riverkeeper Cahaba Riverkeeper

<u>Alaska</u>

Cook Inletkeeper Alaska Environment

<u>Arizona</u>

**Environment Arizona** 

<u>Arkansas</u>

Arkansas Ozarks Waterkeeper

California

Humboldt Waterkeeper Orange County Coastkepeer The Last Plastic Straw **CALPIRG** 

**Environment California** 

Colorado

Glen Canyon Institute

CoPIRG

**Environment Colorado** 

Connecticut

ConnPIRG

**Environment Connecticut** 

**Delaware** 

Beaver Valley Preservation Alliance

Florida

Friends of St. Sebastian River Kissimmee Waterkeeper Nature Coast Conservation St. Johns Riverkeeper Environment Florida

Florida PIRG

<u>Georgia</u>

Satilla Riverkeeper Savannah Riverkeeper

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light

Georgia River Network Ogeechee Riverkeeper Science For Georgia 2050 Pictures, Inc. Environment Georgia

Georgia PIRG







<u>Idaho</u>

Snake River Waterkeeper

Illinois

Alliance for the Great Lakes Climate Reality Chicago

**Environment Illinois** 

**Organizing for Plastics Alternatives** 

Illinois PIRG

**Bright Beat** 

Seven Generations Ahead

Triveni Institute

Committee on Environmental Protection &

Energy (City of Chicago) Friends of the Chicago River

Go Green Glen Ellyn

Go Green Vernon Hills & Lincolnshire

Go Plastic Free

John G. Shedd Aquarium

Schaumburg Monarch Initiative

Climate Reality Project - Chicago Metro

Chapter

Green Dolphin Project Global

Iowa

**Environment Iowa** 

Iowa PIRG

**Louisiana** 

Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Healthy Gulf (Gulf Restoration Network)

Micah Six Eight Mission

Maine

**Environment Maine** 

<u>Maryland</u>

ShoreRivers

Maryland PIRG

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Potomac Riverkeeper

**Environment Maryland** 

<u>Massachusetts</u>

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

**Environment Massachusetts** 

**MASSPIRG** 

**Michigan** 

Freshwater Future

**Environment Michigan** 

**PIRGIM** 

<u>Minnesota</u>

Friends of the Mississippi River

**CURE** 

**Environment Minnesota** 

<u>Missouri</u>

Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper

**MoPIRG** 

**Environment Missouri** 

**Montana** 

**Environment Montana** 

<u>Nevada</u>

**Environment Nevada** 

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Environment Energy &

Climate Network Plastic Working Group

NH Network

NH Network Plastics Working Group







**NHPIRG** 

**Reed Family Trust** 

**Environment New Hampshire** 

Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia

**New Jersey** 

Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc.

**NJPIRG** 

The Watershed Institute

**Environment New Jersey** 

**New Mexico** 

**Environment New Mexico** 

**NMPIRG** 

**New York** 

Seneca Lake Guardian Environment New York

**Grassroots Environmental Education** 

WESPAC Foundation, Inc.

North Carolina

MountainTrue

**Environment North Carolina** 

**NCPIRG** 

<u>Ohio</u>

Environment Ohio Lake Erie Foundation

Lake Erie Waterkeeper

Ohio PIRG

<u>Oregon</u>

Tualatin Riverkeepers

**Environment Oregon** 

**OSPIRG** 

<u>Pennsylvania</u>

Phoenixville Green Team

Presque Isle Audubon

Protect PT

RiverWise

Sustainable Pittsburgh

Three Rivers Waterkeeper

Wetlands & Ecology, Inc.

Women for a Healthy Environment

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association

Mountain Watershed Association

Allegheny CleanWays

Breathe Project

Climate Reality: Pittsburgh & Southwestern

PA Chapter

Havertown Area Community Action

Network (H-CAN)

PA Jewish Earth Alliance

PennEnvironment

PennPIRG

Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN)

Beaver County Marcellus Awareness

Community (BCMAC)

Center for Coalfield Justice

Clean Air Council

Community Partners in Asthma Care

**Grounded Strategies** 

**UCWC Social Justice Committee** 

Warrior Trail Association of Greene County

Pennsylvania

**Lower Merion Conservancy** 

Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh (RP3)

Susquehannock Trail Club

Rhode Island

**Environment Rhode Island** 

**RIPIRG** 







# South Carolina

Charleston Waterkeeper Coastal Carolina Riverwatch

# <u>Texas</u>

Turtle Island Restoration Network
Tennessee Riverkeeper
Bayou City Waterkeeper
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper
Environment Texas
Fenceline Watch
Texas Conservation Alliance
TexPIRG
Texas Campaign for the Environment

# <u>Virginia</u>

Environment Virginia Lynnhaven River NOW (LRNow)

# Washington

Environment Washington Puget Soundkeeper Twin Harbors Waterkeeper WashPIRG

# Wisconsin

Milwaukee Riverkeeper Wisconsin Environment WISPIRG







Signers (alphabetical):

2050 Pictures, Inc. Alaska Environment Allegheny CleanWays

Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN)

Alliance for the Great Lakes Arkansas Ozarks Waterkeeper

Atchafalaya Basinkeeper Bayou City Waterkeeper

Beaver County Marcellus Awareness

Community (BCMAC)

Beaver Valley Preservation Alliance

Black Warrior Riverkeeper

Breathe Project Bright Beat

Cahaba Riverkeeper

**CALPIRG** 

Center for Coalfield Justice Charleston Waterkeeper

Clean Air Council Clean Water Network Climate Reality Chicago

Climate Reality Project - Chicago Metro

Chapter

Climate Reality: Pittsburgh & Southwestern

PA Chapter

Coastal Carolina Riverwatch

Committee on Environmental Protection &

Energy (City of Chicago)

Community Partners in Asthma Care

ConnPIRG

Cook Inletkeeper

CoPirg CURE

Environment America Environment Arizona Environment California Environment Colorado **Environment Connecticut** 

Environment Florida
Environment Georgia
Environment Illinois
Environment Iowa

Environment Maine Environment Maryland

**Environment Massachusetts** 

Environment Michigan
Environment Minnesota
Environment Missouri
Environment Montana
Environment Nevada

Environment New Hampshire Environment New Jersey Environment New Mexico Environment New York

**Environment North Carolina** 

Environment Ohio Environment Oregon Environment Rhode Island

Environment Texas
Environment Virginia
Environment Washington

Environmental Integrity Project Environmental Law & Policy Center Environmental Working Group

Fenceline Watch Florida PIRG Freshwater Future

Friends of St. Sebastian River Friends of the Chicago River Friends of the Mississippi River Georgia Interfaith Power and Light

Georgia PIRG

Georgia River Network Glen Canyon Institute Go Green Glen Ellyn







Go Green Vernon Hills & Lincolnshire

Go Plastic Free

**Grassroots Environmental Education** 

Green Dolphin Project Global

**Grounded Strategies** 

Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc.

Havertown Area Community Action

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Healthy Gulf (Gulf Restoration Network)

Humboldt Waterkeeper

Illinois PIRG Iowa PIRG

John G. Shedd Aquarium Kissimmee Waterkeeper Lake Erie Foundation Lake Erie Waterkeeper Lower Merion Conservancy

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association

Lynnhaven River NOW (LRNow)

Maryland PIRG

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

**MASSPIRG** 

Micah Six Eight Mission Milwaukee Riverkeeper

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MoPIRG

**Mountain Watershed Association** 

MountainTrue

Nature Coast Conservation

**NCPIRG** 

New Hampshire Environment Energy & Climate Network Plastic Working Group

**NH Network** 

NH Network Plastics Working Group

NHPIRG NJPIRG NMPIRG Ogeechee Riverkeeper

Ohio PIRG Only One Open Water

**Orange County Coastkepeer** 

Organizing for Plastics Alternatives

**OSPIRG** 

PA Jewish Earth Alliance

PennEnvironment

**PennPIRG** 

Phoenixville Green Team

**PIRGIM** 

Plastic Pollution Coalition Potomac Riverkeeper Presque Isle Audubon

**Protect PT** 

Puget Soundkeeper

Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh (RP3)

Reed Family Trust

RIPIRG RiverWise

San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper

Satilla Riverkeeper Savannah Riverkeeper

Schaumburg Monarch Initiative

Science For Georgia Seneca Lake Guardian Seven Generations Ahead

ShoreRivers

Snake River Waterkeeper St. Johns Riverkeeper Surfrider Foundation Susquehannock Trail Club Sustainable Pittsburgh Tennessee Riverkeeper

Texas Campaign for the Environment

**Texas Conservation Alliance** 

**TexPIRG** 







The Last Plastic Straw
The Watershed Institute
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Triveni Institute
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
U.S. PIRG
UCWC Social Justice Committee

Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia
Warrior Trail Association of Greene County
Pennsylvania
WashPIRG
Waterkeeper Alliance
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
Wetlands & Ecology, Inc.
Wisconsin Environment
WISPIRG

Women for a Healthy Environment

#### **Footnotes**

- 1. Ashleigh Deemer, "What are nurdles?" *PennEnvironment*, Oct. 16, 2023, <a href="https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/articles/what-are-nurdles/">https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/articles/what-are-nurdles/</a>.
- 2. Naveena Sadasivam, "Millions of plastic pellets in Lavaca Bay? Formosa says it's just 'trace amounts'" *Texas Observer*, Feb. 4, 2019,

https://www.texasobserver.org/millions-of-plastic-pellets-in-lavaca-bay-formosa-says-its-just-trace-amounts/.

- 3. Charleston Waterkeeper and South Carolina Coastal Conservation League v. Frontier Logistics, L.P., Dec. 14, 2020, <a href="https://casetext.com/case/waterkeeper-v-frontier-logistics-lp-1/">https://casetext.com/case/waterkeeper-v-frontier-logistics-lp-1/</a>.
- 4. "PennEnvironment, Three Rivers Waterkeeper sue Styropek USA to stop plastic pollution," *PennEnvironment*, Dec. 5, 2023,

https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/media-center/pennenvironment-three-rivers-waterkeeper-sue-styropek-usa-to-stop-plastic-pollution/.

- 5. Patricia L. Corcoran et al, "A comprehensive investigation of industrial plastic pellets on beaches across the Laurentian Great Lakes and the factors governing their distribution," *Science of The Total Environment*, Vol. 747, 141227, Dec. 10, 2020, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.141227.
- $6. Chris \, Wilcox, Erik \, Van \, Sebille, \, and \, Britta \, Denise \, Hardesty, \, ``Threat of plastic pollution to seabirds is global, \, pervasive, \, and \, increasing, \, ``PNAS', \, Vol. \, 112 \, No. \, 38, \, Aug. \, 31, \, 2015, \, Aug. \, 31, \, 3$

https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1502108112.

- 7. Emily M. Duncan et al, "Microplastic ingestion ubiquitous in marine turtles," *Global Change Biology*, Vol. 25, Issue 2, pp. 744-752, Dec. 4, 2018, <a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.14519">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.14519</a>.
- 8. Loren Hou et al, "A fish tale: a century of museum specimens reveal increasing microplastic concentrations in freshwater fish," *Ecological Society of America*, Vol. 31, Issue 5, Mar. 01, 2021, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2320">https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2320</a>.
- 9. See Deemer.
- 10. Jacob Wallace, "When plastic pours into the Mississippi, who's responsible?" E&E News by Politico, Sept.
- 29, 2020, https://www.eenews.net/articles/when-plastic-pours-into-the-mississippi-whos-responsible/.
- 11. Neel Dhanesha, "The massive, unregulated source of plastic pollution you've probably never heard of," Vox, May 6, 2022, <a href="https://www.vox.com/recode/23056251/nurdles-plastic-pollution-ocean-microplastics">https://www.vox.com/recode/23056251/nurdles-plastic-pollution-ocean-microplastics</a>.



By 2050, the Indian River Lagoon, the environmental and economic lifeblood of the globally important east-central Florida region, will be restored to sustainable balance, providing an example to the world of what's possible when people collaborate.

# Marine Resources Council is people working together

Together, we are charting a SEA Change: Science + Education + Advocacy, with science leading the way. Our destination is a collective community vision that we refer to as IMAGINE!

We work to protect, restore, unite, and promote one of our Earth's greatest natural treasures, the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) coastal community of east central Florida. The lagoon supports North America's most diverse natural habitat and is one of only 28 U.S. Estuaries of National Significance.

The first day of spring, Tuesday, March 19, 2024, Marine Resources Council (MRC) marked the mid-way point in a 60-year journey toward that vision.

Together with the community, we launched IMAGINE! A Year of Hope + Action from The Center of the Lagooniverse, Ted Moorhead Lagoon House. Lagoon House is an environmental learning and visitor center, as well as MRC headquarters, located in Palm Bay. Overlooking the lagoon atop Ais Lookout Point, this is a gateway to the lagoon, its National Scenic Byway, and all things lagooniversal.

Since 1984, captains of collaboration and concern have guided the Indian River Lagoon coastal community of east central Florida back toward balance. That year, MRC founders presented the first IRL Action Assembly. The Assemblies bring together representatives of the whole community to collaborate, build consensus, and continue to chart the course back to balance.

IMAGINE! A Year of Hope + Action features the 21<sup>st</sup> IRL Community Action Assembly, July 24-25, hosted at Florida Institute of Technology and presented by MRC LagoonWATCH: Citizens + Science. An Assembly of this scope and magnitude was last hosted in 2014. A great deal of progress has happened since then, yet there is much more to consider if we are to fulfill our community vision.

To help people better understand that progress and the challenges ahead, the first Indian River Lagoon Progress + Action Report, highlighting what is already underway and what else will need to happen regionally to protect our paradise, will be published in collaboration with the community and issued in October 2024.

IMAGINE! A Year of Hope + Action concludes on Friday, February 7, 2025, with a Love Our Lagoon Celebration at the Hilton Melbourne Beach Oceanfront, and you're invited!





By 2050, the Indian River Lagoon, the environmental and economic lifeblood of the globally important east-central Florida region, will be restored to sustainable balance, providing an example to the world of what's possible when people collaborate.

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MAR 13, 2024

# Year-Long Indian River Lagoon Initiative Launches on the First Day of Spring

**PALM BAY, FL** – Marine Resources Council (MRC) is launching IMAGINE! A Year of Hope + Action on the first day or spring, Tues, Mar. 19, presented by MRC LagoonWATCH: Citizens + Science.

The year-long initiative will call attention to the historic progress underway, what anyone can do to help, and what more needs to happen to protect, restore, unite, and promote the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) coastal community of east central Florida. The region is one of our Earth's rarest and most valuable natural treasures, extends east from Orlando, encompasses 40 percent of the state's Atlantic coastline and supports the most bio-diverse habitat in North America.

Community and MRC leaders will hold a 5pm IMAGINE! initiative kick off ceremony.

They will gather from 4-7pm to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ted Moorhead Lagoon House environmental learning and IRL National Scenic Byway visitor center, which is home to MRC. Lagoon House is open to the public Mon.-Sat., 9-1, starting Mar. 25, featuring low impact lagoon living ideas, at 3275 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay.

# The year-long MRC initiative will feature:

- The 21st IRL Community Action Assembly, a collaborative community consensus building initiative bringing together a 100-member delegation of east central Florida stakeholders to assess current science, consider progress already underway, and what else needs to happen to restore balance to the region.
- The first IRL Progress + Action Report, a collaborative community report that will highlight the progress east central Florida already has underway and what else it will need to restore balance by 2050.
- LoveTheIRL.org, a new collaborative website that will help to unite and promote the region.

MRC is people working together to chart a SEA Change: Science + Education + Advocacy. Discover more, register as a supporter or volunteer, or donate and become an annual member at LoveTheIRL.org.

3275 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905 • 321.725.7775

# PROTECT THE ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER TO HELP SAVE THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON





**STOP** 

FERTILIZERS
CHEMICALS
WATERING

Learn more at https://BeFloridianNow.org

# Friends of St. Sebastian River Volunteer Committee Report – Tim Glover April 9, 2024

Judy Greenberg, president of the Roseland Women's Club, reported that there was an issue with a neighbor to the Roseland Community Park cutting down some mangroves along the St. Sebastian River. This occurred around late February. It was brought to my attention by an FSSR member who volunteers on a regular basis with the cleanup and plant trimming the RWC has scheduled, as part of their Adopt-A-Park agreement with Indian River County.

We have been working with the RWC to help with removal of some of the non-native plants in the Park and she asked that I help with identifying them. I, and a couple other of our members, have been participating in their monthly work days.

Judy let me know the County was aware of the issue and has issued a fine against this person. She also asked if I could attend a meeting she scheduled with Beth Powell, Director of IR County Parks and Recreation, IR County Code Enforcement, and other County representatives. The meeting was March 26<sup>th</sup> and I was able to attend. The County also wanted to meet as Judy may have inferred that this neighbor was part of the group doing the work at the Park, and that this person may have thought their efforts were part of those efforts. Judy said that this person or their spouse may have volunteered once and may not have understood what the RWC/Adopt-A-Park efforts were about.

The mangroves the neighbor cut were at the southern end of the Park and diagonally across the street from his house. Their removal apparently provides a better view of the river for him. The neighbor reported there were County employees doing work on vegetation in the Park in this vicinity. He had the chance to talk with those County employees and believed they were in favor of, and had their approval for whatever he was doing, or continued to do. I do not know if this person knew how to identify a mangrove. There was a significant area cleared, the mangroves having been cut to the stumps, and apparently oyster beds in the immediate vicinity also damaged.

An initial fine was issued by the County and several of the neighbors are upset. But they said because this is County property, they are required to self-report the issue to the state, and need to follow through with a resolution of restoration or mitigation. The fine they issued is standard practice in the County for this kind of issue and has never been waived, as far as they knew. They are continuing to work with the neighbor to resolve the issue.

Our efforts with the RWC at the Park are above and beyond the scope of their Adopt-A-Park agreement with the County, but the County is willing to accept these efforts on invasive plant removal and trimming, accepting that FSSR is involved and willing to help/knowledgeable with plant identification, and our mission of improving the health of the River. They do not have concern for the RWC/FSSR efforts conducted at the Park, to date, although some of the "trimming" efforts may be a little too aggressive for my taste. The reason is partially due to the extensive amount of the native Coin Vine adjacent to the shoreline, and trying to determine what is living or dead. I hope to impress upon the volunteers that we need to be a little less aggressive and avoid clear-cutting to the ground.

The monthly work days with the Roseland Women's Club at the Park should resume this month.



4049 Reid Street • P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178-1429 • 386-329-4500 • www.sjrwmd.com

# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 25, 2024

TO: **Interested Parties** 

FROM: Patrick McCord, Land Resource Specialist

Bureau of Land Resources

**SUBJECT: Southern Recreational Public Meeting** 

The St. Johns River Water Management District's Southern Recreational Public Meeting is scheduled for 6–8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. The meeting will be held at the St. Johns River Water Management District's Palm Bay Service Center, Blue Cypress Room, 525 Community College Parkway SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909.

The purpose of this meeting is to collect input from stakeholders regarding recreational use of District conservation land.

District staff will receive comments from the public during the meeting. If you are unable to attend in person and would like to provide a comment or question, please email SouthernRecreationComments@sirwmd.com. The answers will be returned via email after the meeting.

Topics, as they relate to public recreational utilization of District lands, will include:

- Upper St. Johns River Basin Projects and Maintenance Update
- Upper St. Johns River Basin Land Management Update
- Upper St. Johns River Basin Recreation Management Update
- Opportunity for Public Comment

The Recreational Public Meeting calendar can be found at www.sjrwmd.com/meetings-announcements/. You can also visit www.sjrwmd.com/streamlines/ to view Streamlines, the online magazine about the work of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Patrick McCord at 386-643-1154 or pjmccord@sjrwmd.com.

MOUNT DORA

J. Chris Peterson, SECRETARY

WINTER PARK

FERNANDINA BEACH