

## SCCF MEMBER UPDATE

### Florida 2018 Legislative Update

*By Rae Ann Wessel and Holly Schwartz, Natural Resource Policy Staff*

The 2018 State Legislative Session is close to the half way mark and the House and Senate Appropriations Budget proposals have been presented. At this point, we watch for good bills that have not yet been scheduled to be heard in committee and bad bills that are gaining traction. We are also watching for bill amendments and compromises that occur as the session progresses. Here is a short summary of some of the priority bills we are tracking:

#### ***Land Acquisition Trust Fund - SB 370 by Sen. Bradley***

Requires a specified annual appropriation to the Florida Forever Trust Fund, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$100 million. This bill has an identical House companion that is not moving. The House Land Acquisition Trust Fund bill that is gaining momentum is a Government Accountability Committee Bill – PBC-GAC 18-02 by Representative Caldwell that budgets almost half as much (\$57 million) as the senate bill for land conservation efforts.

#### ***Fracking Ban - SB 462/HB 237 by Sen. Young/Rep. Peters***

This bill would ban fracking by prohibiting the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments (fracking); clarifying that permits for drilling or operating a well does not authorize the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments. These bills are very slow to move this year but we are hoping that they gain steam as they did during the 2017 session. The Senate Bill has broad support.

#### ***State Assumption of Federal Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permitting Authority – SB 1402 by Simmons/Galvano***

This bad bill would have the State DEP take over Federal Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permitting; the wetland permitting currently done by the Army Corps of Engineers. It would create the term “state assumed waters”; providing the Department of Environmental Protection with the power and authority to adopt rules to assume and implement the section 404 dredge and fill permitting program pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act; requiring

*See Legislative Session on Page 2*



*SCCF's Rae Ann Wessel (seventh from right) with Everglades Coalition members and local community advocates gathered in Tallahassee on January 22-23. Story on Pg. 6.*

## Legislative Update -- Continued from Page 1

the department to adopt rules to create an expedited permit review process, etc. We strongly oppose this bill based on our past experience fighting to protect mangroves and other wetlands from development. Our experience is that State wetland regulations are less protective than currently required by the Corps of Engineers and permits do not provide adequate protections for wildlife. In addition, expedited State permitting timeframes, passed a few years ago, overwhelm the staff levels to provide sufficient review in established time frames.

**Florida Constitutional Revision Commission** – Environmental and Natural Resource Proposals by CRC Member Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch - Proposal 0091 – Natural Resource and Scenic Beauty (prohibition of oil and natural gas drilling in specified coastal waters) Of the four other environmental proposals made by Thurlow-Lippisch that were either voted upon unfavorably or withdrawn, Proposal 91 to limit oil and gas drilling off the coast of Florida remains on the CRC docket for consideration.

---

## Everglades Coalition Annual Conference

*By Rae Ann Wessel and Holly Schwartz, SCCF Natural Resource Policy Staff*

In January, Hutchinson Island in Stuart was alive with passion for the Everglades at the 33rd annual Everglades Coalition Conference. I was particularly pleased this year to see fresh new faces in the audience from Sanibel including new Councilwoman Holly Smith and Councilman Jason Maughn in addition to frequent participants Mayor Kevin Ruane, City Natural Resource Director James Evans, Sanibel Realtor® David Schuldenfrei and first-timers Wendy Kindig and Phyllis Gresham.

The implementation of last year's SB 10, the EAA Reservoir project, and status of Everglades restoration projects that support moving water south, led off the conference sessions and set the tone for celebrating progress and opportunities. Water quality, growth management and funding for state land acquisition breakout panels fed into the final plenary of the conference and our challenge for the year ahead: *Triple Threat: Florida Policy on Water, Growth, and Conservation Funding*. SCCF's Natural Resource Policy Director, Rae Ann Wessel moderated a panel

on water quality and SCCF's Natural Resource Policy Assistant Holly Schwartz was a panelist discussing growth and the role of grassroots organizing to accomplish land conservation highlighting Lee County's Conservation 2020 campaign in 2016.

The water quality panel highlighted conditions, perspectives and voices from a variety of stakeholders across the geographic regions of the Greater Everglades. Panelists included Betty Osceola from the Miccosukee Tribe, Panther Clan, located in the heart of the Everglades. Betty was awarded the Kabler Award by the Coalition for grassroots organizing. She shared the concerns of the Tribe that are dependent on water quality for their food, culture and way of life. EPA studies show that 100% of fish in the Everglades contain mercury.

Dr. Larry Brand from the University of Miami shared his work on health impacts on wildlife and humans from harmful algal blooms, red tide and cyanobacteria blooms,

*Everglades Coalition continued left above*

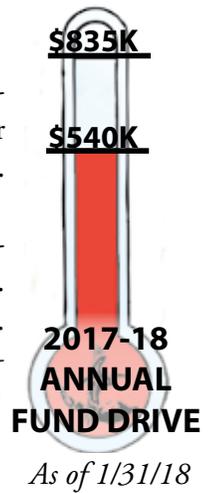


*From left: Rae Ann Wessel moderating a water quality panel; Senator Bob Graham; Rae Ann with state Senator Joe Negron (Stuart), who was the driving force behind the SB10 (EAA Reservoir) Legislation last year.*

## Our Success Depends on YOU!

We cannot do the work that we do without your continued support. The sea turtle program, oyster reef and seagrass restoration, indigo snake and diamondback terrapin surveys, advocacy on water quality issues, stewardship of SCCF preserves purchased through the generosity of the community... None of this would be possible without you.

Please use the envelope provided in the Annual Report or in the recent card that mailed in January, or donate online at [www.sccf.org](http://www.sccf.org) to help us continue to put your Annual Fund Drive gifts to work. Your tax-deductible gift to the Annual Fund Drive is essential for funding SCCF's mission-related work. Thank you in advance for making your most generous contribution. Please call Cheryl Giattini at 239-395-2768 with questions and instructions for gifts of stock and wire transfers. Thank you! Thank you!



## Everglades Coalition -- Continued from left

that occur from Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf and Atlantic coasts and the Keys.

Dr. Steve Davis with the Everglades Foundation reported on his work tracking sources of pollution in the Everglades and Florida Bay and highlighting that Everglades restoration and moving more water south will improve water conditions in the Everglades and Florida Bay and help reduce discharges of pollutants.

Marisa Carrozzo with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida shared their Estuaries Report Card of water quality conditions in the south western Everglades.

The diverse voices and geographic regions represented shared one common element: water quality is critical to our health, economy and quality of life and it all needs to be cleaner to support human and wildlife health.

### *Power of Grassroots to Influence Growth Decision-Makers* By Holly Schwartz, SCCF Natural Resource Policy Assistant

I participated in the January 2018 Everglades Coalition Conference as an invited panelist on the “Power of Grassroots to Influence Growth Decision Makers” breakout, following the epic success of 2016’s grassroots “Yes on Conservation 2020” campaign to approve the referendum to continue the purchase of conservation lands in Lee County.

Other panelists were powerhouses of experience in this area including Richard Grosso, a growth management attorney and icon with more than 30 years of challenging unchecked development; Celeste Depalma from Audubon Florida — a this year’s winner of the Barley “Conservationist of the Year” award for her leadership role in defending the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge; Laura Reynolds from Friends of the Everglades, active in addressing growth through innovative planning; and newly elected Orange County Commissioner Emily Bonilla who, while springing into action to address sprawl in her hometown took the brave leap to become an elected leader when she realized that special interests were superseding the interests of the community’s residents.

While the panel discussion focused on the elements needed to support sustainable growth, it also highlighted the statewide importance of citizen-driven initiatives to protect our limited water resources and conservation habitat against rising sea levels in the face of intense pressure for unconstrained growth.

### *Implications of Growth Planning in Lee County*

It is always a wake-up call to hear about the compounding statewide erosion of our growth management policies, including the dismantlement of our local comprehensive plan, the blueprint for growth created with the input of local residents. The Lee County Comprehensive Plan sets forth the map for future growth and land use that is needed to protect and preserve remaining wetlands and mangrove habitat areas that provide our water supply, clean and filter water, protect us from storm surge and provide wildlife habitat that drive the economic engine of our fishing and tourism industry.

Local efforts to erode our comprehensive plan result in sprawl that not only destroys critical, remaining contiguous uplands and wetlands, it erodes the few rural areas this County has left and adds to the costly need for additional infrastructure and county services such as roads, police and emergency services, schools, etc.

Two examples include a coastal project SCCF is currently fighting to prevent the development of mangroves along Shell Pointe Boulevard at a project called Eden Oak, and a devastating comprehensive plan change the Board of County Commissioners approved in rural Alva at River Hall to add close to 1,800 additional homes to previously existing wetlands. Alva and Fort Myers Shores residents sued to protect their community from the latest change to the comprehensive plan but lost when the

## Lee Growth -- Continued from Page 3

developer and the county joined forces against them, undermining the comprehensive planning the community had worked to create to plan for growth.

With an estimated 1,000 people moving to Florida each day, growth is inevitable. But we can make it smart growth. It takes more than piecemeal growth improvements to address the compounding and cumulative ef-

fects of bad planning — it takes vision, commitment and leadership to protect the environmental resources that our community needs to thrive.

While it's frustrating that good growth plans are sometimes ignored, it's also encouraging to know that there are some very passionate grassroots forces here that are addressing these issues head on.

## Everglades Coalition -- Continued from Page 3

We thought it would be interesting for you to hear the unique perspectives and impressions of two Sanibel residents who attended the conference for the first time and another who has attended several conferences, and who were kind enough to share their impressions of the event. Both Wendy Kindig and Phyllis Gresham are long-time SCCF volunteers and supporters and both attended the conference on behalf of the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society. Wendy serves as Executive Secretary on the Society's Board and Phyllis is also on their Board as well as its Advocacy team. Sanibel Realtor® David Schuldenfrei has long been active on the advocacy front and is with VIP Realty Group.

### *Wendy Kindig*

For a retired Nephrologist transplanted to southwest Florida, this was a meeting of firsts. The first time to drive across the state south and then north of Lake Okeechobee. The first time for attending the Everglades Coalition Meeting. The first time to listen to local, state and federal officials from both political parties discuss the same topic with the same goal. The first time to meet a wide variety of individuals from across the state and U.S., joining together to have civil discourse and work on an extremely complex issue that affects all of us.

Lake Okeechobee with the landscape and communities that surround it will no longer be just a large blue blotch on the Florida map. The experience is similar to visiting Big Cypress and the Everglades, which changed my perception of those massive unique places. Hearing the voices of those living in communities north, east, south and west of the lake was enlightening and encouraging that we can make slow, forward progress to help correct the difficult water problems we have created over the last two hundred years. My final lesson from this meeting was, keep the conversation going and keep the pressure on those in power to move the needed projects forward. Thanks to all those groups and individuals that have worked tirelessly for years towards restoring southwest Florida's water quality and flow

closer to the historic norms.

### *Phyllis Gresham*

As a first time attendee at the EVCO conference, I left thinking what a staggering task confronts Southwest Florida and have continued to think about how much information was shared among the hundreds of participants on the crucial issues surrounding clean water for us all and the problems inherent in sending the water South. I have so much to learn, as do we all!

Traveling to and from the conference, along the boundaries of Lake Okeechobee, seeing the small towns to the south, bordered by the sugar cane fields and the dike, with the vast cattle ranges to the north, clarified many of the concerns expressed in the sessions and helped me put things in context.

As individuals we need to listen carefully and support effective actions, some of which I heard as: Questions of the green harvesting of sugar cane; Efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers; Discussions at the state and federal level by proponents of clean water; Concerns of Native Americans; Health and safety issues; Control of invasive species; Protection of native plants, birds and animals; Clean water for marine ecosystems; and Best Management Practices by landowners.

It is encouraging to see these and other issues being discussed at a bipartisan level. I was grateful to have the opportunity to meet, converse and hear presentations by so many members of the coalition. My understanding expanded and I want to share what I learned with others.

This is the future for us all. Learning, advocacy, strong use of the legislative process and grassroots participation will all be part of the solution we are committed to find.

### *David Schuldenfrei*

This year's 33 Annual Everglades Coalition Conference in Stuart, Florida was attended by over 30 major organizations represented such as the Sierra Club; Everglades Foun-

*See Everglades Coalition on Page 6*

# What Does Stewardship of SCCF's Conservation Land Mean?

By Chris Lechowicz, Director-Wildlife & Habitat Management/Herpetologist

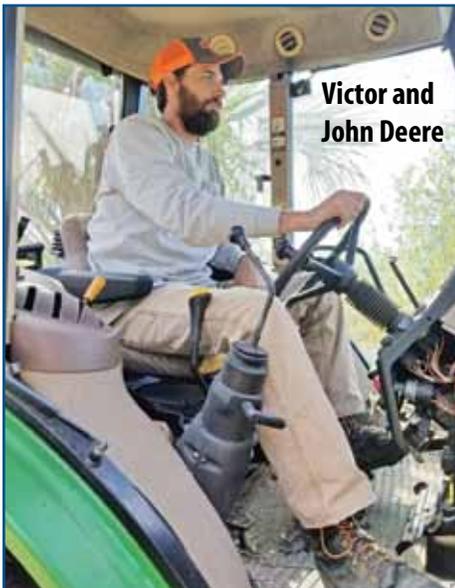
The SCCF Wildlife & Habitat Management (WHM) department is in charge of stewardship of all the foundation's conservation lands (almost 2,000 acres). Wildlife research is conducted by biologists (Kelly Sloan, Audrey Albrecht, and Chris Lechowicz) in the WHM department, but the actual habitat management activities are performed by Victor Young (Land Conservation Steward), Dustin Lucas

(Field Technician), and Chris Lechowicz. This responsibility includes controlling exotic vegetation, performing controlled burns, fire line and trail maintenance, restorations, and grant writing for restorations. All five staff members of WHM assist each other with departmental projects when needed.

Victor and Dustin are the primary staff members on the lands from day to day. You may see them on the tractor mowing, treating exotic vegetation, clearing fire breaks and hiking trails, installing or repairing gates to properties, or rescuing and/or repairing SCCF vehicles in the field. They also mow and trim vegetation around SCCF offices and housing. Victor and Dustin perform maintenance and minor repair on the vehicles at the WHM building, including the sea turtle program vehicles (totaling a dozen vehicles and engines).

During sea turtle season these tasks can become very time-consuming due to the heavy use of the UTV's on the beach and the damage caused from salt water.

Keeping SCCF conservation lands free of the most aggressive exotic plants is an everlasting task. Annual sweeps of properties is essential to keep on top of exotic plant expansion and reoccurrence. Victor and Dustin spend most of their time outside in the habitat keeping checking properties for new exotic infestations, fallen trees blocking fire lines, and preparing units for prescribed fires. They are not often seen by the public because they are usually on closed conservation properties, but their work is extensive and evident. They work in harsh conditions with the heat, humidity, poison ivy, and biting insects much of the year but their work is highly appreciated.



June 5, 2014

June 13, 2014



Above left: June 5, 2014 — Prescribed burn in the swale behind the Nature Center. Above right: June 13 — Victor Young using the tractor to clear out brushwood in the area to the right in the burn photo. July 16 — In July, the rains came, bringing water (and birds) to the swale. Note the open area to the right of the lone cabbage palm.

July 16, 2014



## Everglades Coalition -- Continued from Page 4

dation; Everglades Trust; SCCF; Conservancy of Southwest Florida; “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society; Florida Oceanographic Society; Audubon of Florida; Earthjustice; Florida Wildlife Federation; Merrill G. & Erita E. Hastings Foundation; to name just a few.

Having attended well over 20 of these events over the years as both a speaker and general participant I am always amazed and encouraged by the focus of this many different organizations coming together to share their insights and scientific expertise to the issue of dirty water throughout the state and how to fix the problem. It is a testament to how the Everglades Coalition can gather all these voices and scientific knowledge into one place and speak as one voice to the powers that be “That Dirty Polluted Water” will not be tolerated anywhere in the state of Florida any longer. The science has been in for years and there has been significant progress in passing legislation that will ultimately solve the causes of this pollution and stop the disastrous Lake Okeechobee water releases to the East and West coasts of Florida.

The conference featured a few dignitaries such as Senator Negron; U.S. Senator Nelson; U.S. Senator Graham and U.S. Representatives Francis Rooney and Charlie Crist, all champions of the Florida Everglades. All

these gentleman recognize the future of Florida and its economic health are dependent on the health of the Everglades and clean water throughout the state. Their voices and support have helped us all make serious progress toward our goal of Clean Water for everyone.

One conclusion you could not escape from seeing is the need for funding for the many Federal and State laws that have been passed. Florida residents and our out of state Florida property owners may hold the key to applying the necessary pressure to achieving proper funding for these bills. Our out of State Florida property owners are always asking what they can do to help. The answer is simple –put as much pressure on and make your voices heard repeatedly to your home State Congressional delegations to hold Appropriation Committee meetings to fund all the major bills already passed to clean up both Florida waters as well as water ways in their own state.

We all need to continue the fight for Clean Water. We have made great progress recently but there is not time to rest as saving the environment from extinction will not wait. Dead is Dead and there is no coming back from Dead. Everyone needs to support this effort in any way they can with their time, voice and donations. Together we will win this fight!

---

## Everglades Action Day in Tallahassee

Everglades Coalition members and local community advocates gathered in Tallahassee on January 22-23 (photo on Page 1) urging legislators to support four priorities including; 1) Funding for Everglades restoration including support for DEP’s budget request for \$305.8 million for planning, construction and operation of Everglades restoration projects; 2) Funding and support to implement the EAA reservoir project with \$64 million this year; 3) Support for SB 370 by Senator Bradley to increased and dedicated funding of \$100 million for the Florida Forever land conservation program and 4) Protection of Florida’s investment in Everglades restoration through responsible energy production and through support of the fracking ban bills.

This opportunity provides a unique chance to be part of the legislative process by educating and establishing relationships with lawmakers. This year our team was honored to be in charge of visiting the House and Senate leadership members.

---

## The Coalition for Sugar Reform

Every five years or so the Farm Bill is reauthorized and in 2018 its up again. The farm bill is where the price supports for sugar cane are enshrined that cause U.S. sugar prices to be higher than the world market.

**Only Congress Can Reform the U.S. Sugar Program.** This year the Coalition For Sugar Reform is working to engage broader support to level the playing field by changing the unfair, wasteful taxpayer dollars spent on subsidies that harm small, family-owned businesses that are the backbone of our nation’s economy and Everglades restoration efforts.

According to a 2012 report by RTI International, commissioned by The Everglades Foundation, about 76% of the phosphorus entering and polluting the Everglades is from agriculture, including sugar production. Meanwhile, only 24% of phosphorus clean-up costs are paid by agriculture — sugar producers included. Momentum is building to reform of the U.S. sugar program in this years farm bill. Find out more about the coalition: <http://sugarreform.org/>

# Anchoring Effects on the Benthic Community

By Mark Thompson, Marine Lab Research Associate



*Above: Example impact from boat interaction with seagrass beds. Left: Sorting, counting and identifying creatures found in sediment samples.*

Did you ever pull up an anchor to see a chunk of mud and seagrass still clinging to the flukes? Did you ever feel a little guilty about what just happened to the seagrass community beneath you? If you considered the potential impact even further, you would possibly have envisioned some small critters living in that mud or seagrass which are suddenly thrown out of their home.

And if you are really a deep thinker or worry a lot in general, your mind may have considered: 1) now what happens to these little critters; 2) will they be able to live in that hole I just created? 3) will that hole eventually be naturally repaired? 4) what happens around a popular anchoring area where lots of boats are constantly dropping anchors and chains only to pull them back up?

These are just a few of the questions researchers with SCCF Marine Laboratory hope to answer for the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND). SCCF will design a study to look at anchoring impacts on critters living on the bottom. We at the lab have pulled up anchor many times and pondered the impacts of what we have just done. Previous research on

prop scars in seagrass beds was spear-headed by SCCF's Dr. Rick Bartleson (funded by Humiston and Moore), and gave us insight on the ability of scars to recover lost seagrass. But this study will delve deeper, considering

not only the seagrass but also the worms, clams, crustaceans and other critters living within the sand, mud or muck those anchors dug in to.

It seems like a straightforward thing to study – just go out there and sample some mud from a boat anchor hole, but as you know, about everything is more complicated than it first appears. In designing this study the Marine Lab scientists will need to consider many variables including water depth, seagrass type and density, number of boats and their size and type, anti-fouling paint on the boat, anchor type and chain length, period of time anchored, bottom sediment type, and size of hole dug by anchor system. This isn't all of the issues we will need to consider and you can probably come up with a few important ones as you read this.

To design the study, our scientists will try to “control” many of these variables by making them similar between study sites. If we can't “control” the factors, we use statistics to help guide us toward how each factor is having an impact on critters or seagrass. In the end we hope that this study will allow us to determine if anchoring has significant bad effects and what those effects are.

Once we have the results, WCIND can consider what can be done to reduce anchoring impacts in the area. Those of you familiar with Estero Bay behind Fort Myers Beach know there is a forest of boats floating (or sinking) there. That area will provide the Marine Lab impacted study sites. We will also need to come up with similar sites which do not have anchor craters all over to act as “control” sites. Control sites will allow us to contrast how impacted sites differ from sites where boats don't anchor. The experimental design is now taking shape and we plan to do the study this spring and have a report to WCIND with some interesting answers by September.

Keep the SCCF Newsletter as your primary media source and be one of the first to read the captivating results. You will be glad you did.

## Welcome Native Landscapes & Garden Center Interns

The Native Landscapes & Garden Center welcomed three new interns in January. Please stop by the Bailey Homestead or find them at an event to say hello!

Brenna Hare is a recent graduate of Humboldt State University where she received her B.S. in Environmental Science along with a minor in Rangeland Resource Science. Prior to her arrival at SCCF, Brenna worked with American Conservation Experience at Piedras Blancas Light Station in California. In the future, she plans to pursue a graduate degree focusing on soil microbiology and restoration. Ultimately, Brenna hopes to work as a restoration specialist for a non-



*Garden Center Interns Meredith Roberts, Brenna Hare and Mia Claridy*

profit, where she feels she can put her research and passion to use restoring degraded landscapes. In her free time, Brenna enjoys kayaking, hiking, and traveling in her campervan.

Mia Claridy is a recent graduate from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California where she studied Environmental Management and Protection. Minor in plant biology and sustainable environments cultivated a love for plants and peoples' connection with them, which is what attracted her to SCCF! Mia hopes to pursue a career in environmental advocacy focusing on causes like implementation of renewable energy systems, improvement of treatment towards animals, and protection of land for multiple uses. Mia can't wait to explore all the beaches, tropical fruit, and wildlife viewing in Lee County during her free time!

Meredith came from Virginia to be an intern for SCCF. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 2015 with a major in Communication Studies and a minor in Agricultural Business. Working with the land is her passion! Since graduating she has been working many jobs in three different countries. Although some jobs have been very odd, she has managed to do a bit of what she loves in the United States, New Zealand and Australia; from working with vineyards and beekeepers to u-pick farms and peony farms, each experience has been wildly different and just as rewarding. Meredith came to SCCF to learn more about the importance of native plants in a region and further her knowledge in the ecosystem within the island...and she says the stretch of beach and endless amounts of shells to find aren't too shabby either. After work, you can find her at the beach or exploring the local eateries that Lee County has to offer.

---

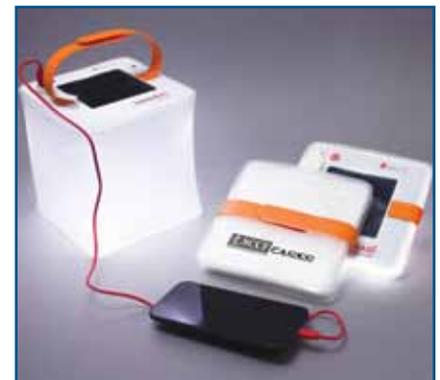
## Earth Day at SCCF on April 22

Mark your calendars for the Sunday, April 22 celebration of Earth Day with the inventor of LuminAid, Anna Stork. Providing solar lights to the 1.4 billion people who have no access to an electrical grid can improve education, increase work production, improve education, enable development, reduced poverty and improve health? And after natural disasters, solar lamps have brought comfort and safety to thousands, sending free lights to disaster victims in time of need..

LuminAid works to provide resources to people in need, while building a \$5 million retail business.

Anna Stork and her design partner, Andrea Sreshta, developed an inflatable light diffuser with an LED bulb and solar panel attached as a college project. Waterproof, energy-efficient and unsinkable, the first LuminAid product was demonstrated on Shark Tank in 2012.

Details will follow in the April newsletter about reservations for her talk. LuminAid recently launched a solar light with a USB port to charge a cell phone. How many of us could have used a handy device like that in September?



## SCCF's Intern Program, a Win-Win Initiative

*By Gwenda Hiatt-Clements, Immediate Past President, SCCF Board of Trustees*

SCCF's intern program provides career-searching college students and recent graduates with valuable experiences in SCCF's Native Landscapes & Garden Center, Marine Laboratory, Wildlife & Habitat Management and Environmental Education programs.

"Their energy and new look at all of SCCF's activities add tremendously to the effectiveness of our programs," said SCCF Executive Director Erick Lindblad.

All department heads agree that the intern experience is valuable for both the program's operation and the selected intern.

Jenny Evans, Native Landscapes and Garden Center Director, said, "Our intern program is dual purposed; it allows early professionals the opportunity to gain more hands-on experience in the conservation and native plant horticulture fields, and we (the NLGC) are able to tackle projects that we wouldn't otherwise have the manpower to accomplish. In addition, our interns bring new, updated information from their educational experiences as well as an enthusiasm about our work that helps to keep our staff and our department energized."

NLGC Intern James Burlage, who graduated from the University: St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, said, "The chance to work for SCCF as an intern was a great opportunity to explore a unique environment, meet a variety of people who are enthusiastic about protecting the natural world, and pick up new skills that would be useful in the career I hope to develop. I've really enjoyed seeing the diverse forms of wildlife on the islands. It's clear that engaging the community to support the native environment has allowed for the biodiversity of the islands to remain mostly intact. What I've learned during the internship will be helpful in opening a dialogue with other communities who could benefit from supporting native wildlife or implementing sustainable landscaping practices."

Sea Turtle Coordinator, Kelly Sloan noted that during the summer nesting season, interns are invaluable to the successful operation of the program with their field work. The night crew works with the adult females to collect important data about nesting, hatching, foraging, and migrations of sea turtles in our area. The daytime interns help with nesting monitoring surveys and strandings.

Sloan said, "In addition to their beach surveys, we rely heavily on interns to keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes, from data management to stocking sup-

plies and keeping the vehicles fueled. They bring amazing enthusiasm to the program that keeps the energy level high even in the busiest part of the season!"

Wildlife & Habitat Management (WHM) Director Chris Lechowicz added that the hiring of interns directly affects the work that can be done in that department. "Most of the projects we work on require more help than our full-time staff can offer. Without interns, the quality and quantity of projects we undertake would be very limited. This would reduce our visibility in the community and in the field as active participants in conservation work."

WHM has interns who help the field technicians with property management, exotic plant control, landscaping around the offices, etc. They can also be active in the biology fields helping with indigo snake, gopher tortoise, diamondback terrapin, box turtle, frog call surveys, fish and macro-invertebrate sampling, and small mammal trapping, as well as the data entry and write-ups on these projects.

Dr. Eric Milbrandt, Marine Lab Director, explained that the opportunity for interns in the marine science area are particularly important. He said that research opportunities for recent graduates in Marine Science are rare and most in Florida are limited to opportunities to work with faculty members and graduate students on an hourly basis or for credits. Unless undergraduates go directly to graduate school, opportunities are lacking.

He said, "The Marine Lab targets these individuals who seek to enrich their experiences before entering graduate school and give them more focus on the specific research that they would like to pursue as a career. As part of their internship with SCCF, they are asked to choose a staff mentor and develop an independent project and present their findings to a public audience before they leave. Most of our interns enter into a graduate program after their SCCF Internship."

Marine Lab intern Claire Cook, who earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aquatic Ecology from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, found that opportunity most valuable. "Having independently driven research experience is vital for admission to graduate school, and it allows me to work through some of the planning troubleshooting processes that will be critical in future master's work.

During her internship she focused on working with marine lab staff to monitor the success of restoration projects. "It's exciting to see restoration projects implemented

*See Interns on Page 10*

## Interns -- Continued from Page 9

... and to see positive results following those projects such as the success of oyster reef restoration projects in Tarpon Bay and San Carlos Bay.”

Environmental Education Director Kristie Anders summoned it up with this observation: “Internships are not free labor. They are two-way streets expanding their horizons as they work as apprentices. Our job is to help in their career development. We are just seeds helping young people grow into productive professionals.

“Interns bring fresh perspectives to our major work areas. They bring contemporary thinking straight from university settings, they can accomplish things on their cell phone with one hand tied behind their backs that one of us dinosaurs can't figure out on our desktops for weeks.”

### *Meeting the Need: Volunteers Give Time, Talent, Treasure to Refurbish Housing*

In 1988 SCCF's two intern housing cottages, one two-unit duplex and one four-unit lodge, were donated by the Colony Resort on the east end of Sanibel and moved to their current site just west of the Nature Center. At that time, they were placed on pilings and brought up to housing codes; however, since then no major updating in the working and living areas had been done.

One of the major goals resulting from the Foundation's 2014 Strategic Planning workshop was to increase the num-

ber of intern opportunities each year by updating the living space. The plan was made for freshening up with new flooring, painting, new appliances, fixtures and furniture.

As it has been said many times in SCCF's history, when the need is identified, someone steps up to meet it. In this case, many SCCF volunteers stepped up and were led by Deborah La Gorce.

To fund the project, Deborah donated money given by friends and family in her husband John's memory. The La Gorce family added necessary funds to refurbish both cottages and to establish the La Gorce Family Intern Housing.

Deborah explained that the Intern Housing project had two purposes for her — an appropriate use of the gifts in memory of John, and an appropriate legacy in which to involve her children and seven grandchildren in the concept of supporting what is meaningful to them and to the community they love.

“Our parents' dedication to preserving the island and its creatures, both in the water and out, means that our children's children will be able to enjoy the natural splendor of an island that will remain as it is today. SCCF is an amazing steward of the beautiful nature that surrounds each of us. We are lucky to have such a dedicated staff and interns, along with so many volunteers who are passionate about preserving 'our' special place,” said Deborah's daughter Judith Bright.

Deborah's daughter Aimee La Gorce-Jeans added that,



*From left: Gillian La Gorce, Henry Bright, Deborah La Gorce, Elliott La Gorce, James Bright, Mary Ellen Pfeifer, Katie Jeans, Izzie Jeans. Grandson William Bright was taking a summer school course.*

## Green Sea Turtle Tagging Results at Next Evening at the Homestead

Last summer, SCCF's sea turtle program teamed up with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida to tag green sea turtles nesting on Sanibel and Keewaydin Islands. By mid-September, the tagging had already shown some amazing results: Isabella, a green tagged on Sanibel on June 26, made her way north to Manasota Key,

then south to the Florida Keys, then up the east coast to Cocoa Beach, then back south to the Marquesas (west of Key West), a known overwintering location for east coast green sea turtles.

Join SCCF on March 5 when SCCF's Sea Turtle Coordinator Kelly Sloan will be joined by Dave Addison (of *See Green Turtles on Page 12*

---

### Interns -- Continued from left

as it is with all the La Gorce children, "Sanibel is a very special place for our family. We come from England every summer to enjoy precious family time in its peaceful, natural surroundings. It is the only American home our children have ever known, and we know that no matter where in the world they will live, they will always come back to Sanibel. I know my siblings and our children are committed to both SCCF and the endowment of the intern housing so that Sanibel and Captiva can be protected for future generations of residents and visitors alike."

#### *It Takes a Village of Volunteers*

Deborah said, "I am most proud of the way everyone worked together – from those who donated in John's memory to those volunteers who worked to the last gasp pitching in their energy and good will."

Deborah, Mary Ellen Pfeifer and Ron Gibson had previously served on an ad hoc Housing Committee in refurbishing SCCF's Wilmeth Cottage which is used by visiting scientists.

Mary Ellen said, "At that point we knew that we had this home to remodel quickly before the scientists arrived and on the horizon were two more intern houses to address immediately

"With a timeline looming it can be overwhelming, but the group worked so well together. I am most proud that in less than three years our team transformed the Wilmeth Cottage to accommodate four to six visiting scientists and created flexible space in the intern houses for 10 to 14 interns. Without the La Gorce family and their generosity, none of this would have been possible."

Mary Ellen and Deborah made many marathon shopping trips. "We had more fun joking with sales reps, asking for discounts, and eating Costco hot dogs. Choosing paint, tile, flooring, appliances, furniture, linens and artwork is daunting."

During the completion of the second intern house, Mary Ellen took on the role of coordinating timelines and keeping everyone on the committee updated weekly to keep work on schedule. Ron Gibson was always on hand

to lend management and muscle.

Other SCCF volunteers put their special, creative touches to the housing, making them truly homes for the interns. Board member Sandy Gross, a professional glass artist with a major studio in Cincinnati, Ohio, personally designed and hand-crafted tiles for the kitchens in both cottages. She handled the installation to make sure everything was placed perfectly to enhance the décor of the homes.

And, of course, the volunteer SCCF Hammerheads, headed by Dean Skaugstad, played a major role, building special furniture to fit the living and dorm spaces. Each dormitory area has Hammerhead-constructed twin beds with storage underneath and a pulldown headboard that serves as a desk. The crew also built a wall unit and re-finished floors.

On visiting the housing, Deborah's grandchildren gave their seals of approval. Katie Jeans, 14, said, "I am so proud my family is involved in preserving these special islands for nature and future generations. I am thinking of becoming a Marine Biologist and would love to be able to stay in such a cool flat like the Intern Housing. I love the storage units behind the twin beds."

Her younger sister Isobel, 10, added, "I want to sleep on the top bunk whilst listening to nature's chorus."

And the interns are very appreciative. James Burlage, NLGC intern, said, "There are plenty of cooking utensils, pots, and pans in the kitchen, and no coins are needed to run the washing machine and dryer (a huge step up for me). There's an alligator in the wetland behind the house that I like to say hi to everyday after work. The Hammerheads have been very helpful in improving living conditions for us — all of us are very grateful for the blinds they installed and everything else they do."

Claire Cook, Marine lab intern, said, "I was very impressed by the condition of the intern housing! Generally, intern or seasonal staff housing is not ideal, so I was expecting to arrive at a hovel. But the house is spacious and bright and far more immaculate than I expected. It wasn't long before it felt like home."

## Green Turtles-- Continued from Page 11

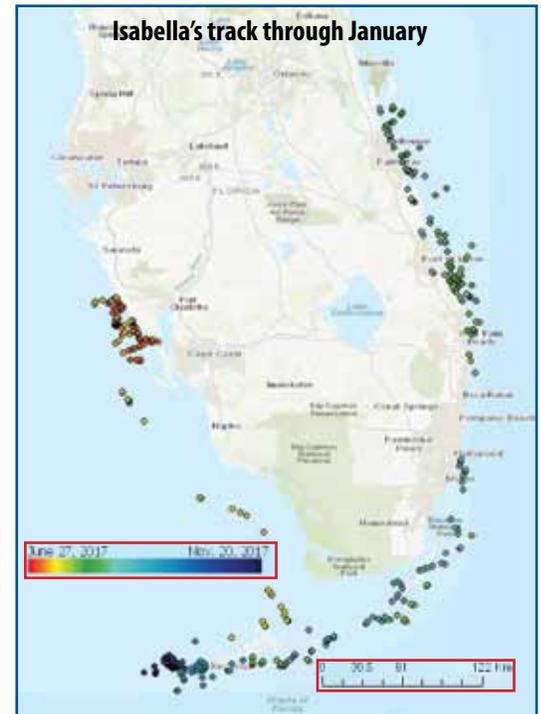
the Conservancy of Southwest Florida) and Dean Bagley (from the University of Central Florida Marine Turtle Research Group, Inwater Research Group) to share what we have learned from these telemetry projects and how the results contribute to sea turtle conservation.

The SCCF/Conservancy project is the first to use satellite telemetry to “follow” locally nesting green turtles. Dean Bagley was among those who pioneered satellite tracking of adult male and female green turtles on Florida’s east coast. Tracking has provided valuable information about the turtles’ post-nesting movements and the location of their foraging grounds.

Decades ago, experts believed that green sea turtles in Florida were on the brink of extinction. After many years of targeted conservation efforts, it appears that they are making a comeback. Data from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) indicate that green turtle nest counts in Florida have increased approximately one hundredfold in the past few decades.

While conservation efforts appear to be having a positive impact, long term protection of sea turtles requires an in-depth understanding about their distributions, migratory patterns, and habitat utilization. Information about the in-water movements of sea turtles allows managers to develop informed conservation strategies and provides scientific support when establishing critical habitat.

The green sea turtle tagging program, the next Evening at the Homestead program, will be held Monday, March 5 in the pavilion at the Bailey Homestead Preserve, 1300 Periwinkle Way. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.; program begins at 7 p.m. Tickets \$10 per person through Eventbrite — at [sccf.org](http://sccf.org) go to Programs, then Calendar.



## New SCCF Weeds 'N' Seeds Native Plant Checklist



*Hot off the Press! SCCF's Weeds 'N' Seeds volunteers have compiled a new SCCF Plant Checklist! The new list will be used for their public botanical walks in January, February, and March. Shown here Candice Ethridge, Mike Rice, Karl Werner, Ruth Brooks, and Betty Eertmoed.*

## Sanibel School 4th Graders Learned about Barn Owls

On a recent trip to the nature center, both 4th grade classes learned about barn owls and how to help them. They took home the barn owl brochure to make sure their family pest control professional was not using these rat poisons toxic to wildlife...brodifacoum, bromaiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone. Here they are seen with the barn owl box that the Hammerheads will install for them by the pavilion at the Sanibel School. The school does not use rat poisons.



# SCCF MARCH 2018

HAPPENINGS  
PROGRAMS  
OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> Turtle Tracks-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11 Shorebirds-2	<b>2</b> Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP Garden Walk-1 @BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Tides/Sea Level-10 <b>Green Sea Turtle Tagging</b> 6:30 pm. at BHP Evening at the Homestead	<b>6</b> Panthers & Wildlife Corridors-10 Honey Sampling-10:30 at BHP	<b>7</b> Bowman's Beach Walk-9 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	<b>8</b> Eagle/Owl Tales-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	<b>9</b> Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11 Garden Walk-1 @ BHP	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Caloosahatchee Oxbow & Riverfore Tour (limited space available March 11). Next cruises on March 25, April 15 and May 13 (Mother's Day). Meet at Franklin Lock.	<b>12</b> Weeds Seeds-8:45 Hurricanes/Lightning-10	<b>13</b> Conservation Photography-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	<b>14</b> Bowman's Beach Walk-9 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-10 Gator/Croc Tales-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	<b>15</b> Turtle Tracks-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11 Shorebirds-2	<b>16</b> Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11 Garden Walk-1 @ BHP	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> City Almost Wasn't-10	<b>20</b> Bobcat Tales-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	<b>21</b> Bowman's Beach Walk-9 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11 Garden Walk-1 @ BHP	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Caloosahatchee Oxbow & Riverfore Tour. Next cruises on April 15 and May 13 (Mother's Day). Meet at Franklin Lock.	<b>26</b> Weeds Seeds-8:45 Tides/Sea Level-10	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Bowman's Beach Walk-9 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-10 Otter Tales-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	<b>29</b> Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11 Shorebirds-2	<b>30</b> Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11 Garden Walk-1 @ BHP	<b>31</b>

# SCCF March 2018 Program Schedule

## **BAILEY HOMESTEAD: MAKING THE LAND WORK**

This one-hour walking tour of the Bailey Homestead Preserve blends SCCF's mission-driven work on the historic property, the history of the land itself and some stories about the Bailey family, which farmed the land for three generations. *Wednesdays at 10 a.m. No reservations. 1300 Periwinkle Way, meet at the Welcome Kiosk at the head of the Shipley Trail, near the entrance. Call Kristie or Dee at 472-2329 for more information. Free to members and children. \$5 for non-members.*

## **BOBCAT TALES**

"Bobcat: Master of Survival" is how author Kevin Hansen describes *Lynx rufus*. While other wild feline species are in trouble, bobcats seem to be flourishing through most of their North American range and this adaptable feline's ability to survive close to humans is one of the reasons for the bobcat's success. Rats and mice can make up to 40% of the bobcat's diet. *Tuesday, March 20 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

## **BOWMAN'S BEACH & BAYOU WALK**

Meet your SCCF guide at Bowman's Beach at the foot of the bridge that crosses the bayou on the way to the beach. Your guide will lead you along the beach towards Blind Pass and back along the back dune/bayou trail. Keep your eyes open for shorebirds and gopher tortoises. Learn about SCCF's 50-year role in island preservation. Free to all. You must pay to park. *Wednesdays at 9 a.m. through March.*

## **CALOOSAHATCHEE OXBOW & RIVERLORE CRUISE**

Come with us to experience the historic meanders of the upriver Caloosahatchee on this 2.5-hour cruise guided by Rae Ann Wessel. Departs at 1 p.m. from the W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam Park off SR 80 in Olga. Friday, November 24, 2017 (sold out) and, in 2018, all on Sunday: January 28 (almost sold out at press time), March 11 and 25, April 15 and May 13. *Space is limited. Advance reservations and payment required. Register online: from [sccf.org](http://sccf.org), click on Resources upper right and follow Oxbow Cruise dropdown. \$45 per person.*

## **THE CITY THAT ALMOST WASN'T**

Chronicling over a century of preserving paradise, the program celebrates the forward thinking of many islanders from the early 20th century thru today. Learn of actions of Theodore Roosevelt through "Ding" Darling, establishment of the Refuge, founding of SCCF, lead-up to the incorporation and ensuing history of the City of Sanibel. Learn about many of the key steps islanders have taken and what lies ahead with most pressing issues for the future of these emeralds in the sea. We live in a rarified place and it is not accident. *Monday, March 19 at 10 a.m. Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

## **CONSERVATION PHOTOGRAPHY: ETHICS IN PRACTICE**

With the rise of digital cameras and smartphones, the world of photography has been made accessible to just about everyone. Wildlife and landscape photography are especially popular in Southwest Florida with our access to unique environments and species. But these ecosystems are fragile and knowing the best practices to protect a species makes for an ethical photographer. Learn about conservation photography and what considerations to keep in mind when photographing the wildness around us. SCCF Public Outreach Coordinator Alexis Horn is a published professional photographer eager to share her knowledge and passion for this subject. *Tuesday, March 20 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

## **EAGLE AND OWL TALES**

Come and hear local tales of island eagles and owls and what is being done to help them thrive. SCCF erected a nesting platform 70 feet tall in place of a dead nesting tree for a pair of eagles and they continue to nest there today. Owls of the islands include the newly returned barn owls as well as screech and great horned owls. You are invited to learn about the life cycles of these silent night hunters and the adaptations that make them so successful in the dark. Learn about how rat poisons can harm our owls and eagles. *Thursday, March 8 at 10 a.m. Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children. \$5 for non-members.*

## **FLORIDA PANTHERS AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**

Florida panthers are the rarest mammals in North America – and their future depends on wildlife corridors. While not found on Sanibel, they play an important role in maintaining the ecosystems of Southwest Florida. The last few years have seen record-breaking panther deaths, but there is hope in protecting their habitat and allowing the elusive cat to spread north into its historic habitat. Prior to joining SCCF, Alexis Horn ran the Sierra Club's Florida Panther program. Learn what makes Florida panthers unique and why they are so vital to our environment. *Tuesday, March 13 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

## **GARDEN WALK AT THE HOMESTEAD**

Take a guided walk through the native plant, wildflower, kitchen and tea gardens at the Bailey Homestead Preserve. Learn about the uses of the plants by humans, butterflies, birds and pollinators. You will end your walk with a sip of tea from the gardens infused with sea grape honey from the island. *Fridays at 1 p.m. Meet on the deck at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

# SCCF March 2018 Program Schedule

## **GATOR & CROCODILE TALES**

The biology of alligators and crocodiles is an ancient tale of survival. Florida's history of gators and humans is closely intertwined. Learn about these living dinosaurs and what we must do to ensure our safety and their survival on the islands. *Wednesday, March 14 at 10 a.m. at the Nature Center. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

## **HONEY DEMONSTRATION & SAMPLING,**

Did you know that Florida beekeepers produce over a dozen different types of honey? Meet local beekeeper David Curtis, who has hives on SCCF preserves and produces our SCCF honey, and learn how local beekeepers extract honey from their hives and taste a variety of different types of Florida honey. A demonstration will be given, along with sampling to follow. *Tuesday, March 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at the Bailey Homestead Preserve, 1300 Periwinkle Way. RSVP to the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at 239-472-1932. Registration: \$10.*

## **HURRICANES, WATERSPOUTS & LIGHTNING**

Stormy Weather looks at some of this area's most lively weather phenomena including waterspouts, hurricanes and lightning storms. Volatile weather is not uncommon in any season. South Florida is the lightning capital of the country. Collisions of clouds, tropical storms and other severe weather events shape our islands and human existence. *Monday, March 12 at 10 a.m. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

## **OTTER TALES**

No one knows how many North American river otters live on Sanibel and Captiva. Some say there are fewer since 2004's Hurricane Charley. Come and learn about this large, aquatically adapted member of the weasel family. river otters are strong and graceful swimmers that capture the hearts of all who see them. Otter sightings have increased recently on SCCF trails. *Wednesday, March 28 at 10 a.m. The cost of the program is \$5 with SCCF members and children attending for free*

## **SHIPLEY TRAIL AT BAILEY HOMESTEAD GUIDED WALK**

Take a guided walk on the SCCF Shipley Trail. Stroll across the Star Thomas Memorial Bridge and then connect with Pond Apple Trail. Learn how SCCF manages this property as wildlife habitat on Sanibel's populated east end. The walk will meander along Pond Apple trail around the man-made ponds that are home to wildlife such as alligators, anhingas, and woodstorks. Even eagles may be spotted. Park and meet your guide at the Welcome Kiosk at the head of the Shipley Trail, at the SCCF Bailey Homestead Preserve at 1300 Periwinkle Way. The kiosk is immediately to the left as you enter thru the gate into the preserve. This is a mostly shaded, easy walk last-

ing approximately one hour. *Fridays at 10 a.m. starting on January 19 through March 30. No charge for the walks.*

## **SHOREBIRDS OF SANIBEL & CAPTIVA**

Join SCCF biologists to learn about the shorebird species that nest on our beaches, including snowy plovers, least terns and wilson's plovers. SCCF has been monitoring beach nesting birds on Sanibel since 2002. Learn how you can safely share the beach and help us protect our feathered friends. *Thursday, March 1, 15 and 29 at 2 p.m. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

## **TIDES/WHERE IS SEA LEVEL?**

Whether it is shelling, fishing, boating, birding or just enjoying the view of the water, tides and currents affect most of our lives daily. Have you ever wondered why the islands sometimes have just one tide a day or why you can see sea grasses when the tide chart says it is high tide? What and where is mean sea level? Why is it important? This is an introduction how water behaves as the earth spins, the moon orbits and the winds blow. *Monday, March 5 and 26 at 10 a.m. Members and children 17 and under are free. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*

## **TRAIL WALKS: EXPLORE SANIBEL'S INTERIOR WETLANDS**

Sanibel Island is a unique barrier island in Florida because it still has an interior freshwater wetland ecosystem that has not been lost to development. Join us for a guided walk through the interior wetlands and mid-island ridges of the Center Tract with discussion of native habitats, natural and cultural history and preservation efforts. *Trail walks begin on January 16 and will be offered through March on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. Meet at the Nature Center and proceed to the trails. \$5 per person for non-members.*

## **TURTLE TRACKS**

Sanibel Island had one of the first sea turtle monitoring programs in the country. Learn about the life cycles and habits of the sea turtles and shorebirds that nest on our beaches, SCCF's monitoring activities, and what we are doing to protect them. *Thursday, March 1 and 15 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

## **WEEDS AND SEEDS**

We are a group of amateur botanists who enjoy finding and identifying native plants on Sanibel. Our walks, visiting different locations on Sanibel, last for two hours, and are guided by a leader with a plant list. The group will meet at the Nature Center porch. Depending on the location visited, you may need parking money. Please bring a hat, water, sun-block and comfortable enclosed shoes with socks. *Mondays, March 12 and 26. Meet at the Nature Center at 8:45 a.m., at the base of the porch and carpool to the site. Walks are free but donations to SCCF are welcome.*



NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 5722  
FT. MYERS, FL

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
P.O. Box 839  
Sanibel, FL 33957

**March 2018 Member Update**



Facebook:  
SCCF



Instagram:  
@SCCF\_SWFL



Twitter:  
@SCCF\_SWFL

**SCCF Nature Center**

**3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road**

*(1 mile west of Tarpon Bay Road) / P.O. Box 839, Sanibel 33957*

**SCCF Nature Center and Main Telephone:**

**(239) 472-2329      Fax: (239) 472-6421      [www.sccf.org](http://www.sccf.org)      [blog.sccf.org](http://blog.sccf.org)**

**Native Landscapes & Garden Center: (239) 472-1932 (at the Bailey Homestead Preserve)**

**Marine Laboratory: (239) 395-4617**

**Wildlife & Habitat Management: (239) 472-3984**

*SCCF is dedicated to the conservation of coastal habitats and aquatic resources on Sanibel and Captiva and in the surrounding watershed through:*



- *Environmental Education*
- *Land Acquisition & Stewardship*
- *Marine Research*
- *Natural Resource Policy*
- *Native Landscapes & Garden Center*
- *Sea Turtles & Shorebirds*
- *Wildlife & Habitat Management*

**Nature Center Hours:**

Monday - Friday      8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. from October - May  
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June - September

**Native Landscapes & Garden Center Hours:**

at 1300 Periwinkle Way, Bailey Homestead Preserve  
Monday - Friday — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday from 10 a.m. — 3 p.m. *(January through April)*

**Visit our Nature Center**

- Trails & Observation Tower
  - Education Center
- \$5/adult, children under 17 free, members free.

Find the latest real-time water quality readings from our RECON sensors at [www.recon.sccf.org](http://www.recon.sccf.org)

**Board of Trustees 2018**

John Morse - <i>President</i>	Susan Beittel	Shelley Marcelli Gregg	Mary Ellen Pfeifer	<i>Member Update Contributors</i>		
Doug Ryckman - <i>Vice President</i>	Claude Crawford, Ph.D.	Robin Krivanek	Paul Roth	Kristie Anders	Cheryl Giattini	Dee Serage
Tom Rathbone - <i>Treasurer</i>	Chauncey Goss	Diane Neitzel	Ty Symroski	Jenny Evans	Erick Lindblad	Kelly Sloan
Linda Uhler - <i>Secretary</i>	Deborah La Gorce			Eric Milbrandt	Karen Nelson	Rae Ann Wessel

Erick Lindblad - *Chief Executive Officer*

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, 3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road, P.O. Box 839, Sanibel, FL 33957 Tel. (239) 472-2329 [www.sccf.org](http://www.sccf.org)