



SCCF MEMBER UPDATE

Shorebird Nesting Season Summary 2019

By Audrey Albrecht, Shorebird Coordinator and Biologist

In 2019, the shorebirds of Sanibel fared much better than in 2018. Though there were fewer individual snowy plovers due to the loss of several individuals during the water quality crisis last year, those that chose to nest here in 2019 were mostly successful. A total of four snowy plover pairs attempted to nest on Sanibel, and four chicks survived to fledging this year. Nesting occurred later than usual, with the last chick taking flight on September 10th. The Wilson's plovers fared just as well, with two nesting pairs fledging four chicks. One of the broods fledged all three of their chicks!

The least tern colony at Bowman's beach was abandoned early in the season, but luckily the birds did not go too far. A colony of 200 birds nested at the north end of North Captiva on some newly formed habitat. As North Captiva is only accessible by boat, this made monitoring a little more challenging. With the help of the SCCF Marine Lab and some helpful volunteers, the shorebird biologist was able to get to North Captiva a few times over the summer to rope off the colony and check in on the birds. A high count of 70 fledglings was observed on one visit, though the total count was likely higher.



Adult male snowy plover with chick.

The four fledgling snowy plovers were banded with unique combinations. It will be very exciting to see where they go now that they can fly. The sole fledgling from 2017 never returned to Sanibel, but continues to nest on Siesta Key each summer. Against all odds, Sanibel's snowy plovers are still surviving and nesting here and around the region.

Sea Turtle Night-time Tagging: Holly, Melanie, Kate & Andrea

By Andrew Glinsky, Sea Turtle Technician

Historically in the state of Florida, nesting green sea turtles were a rare sight. Overexploitation caused their numbers to plummet and seeing a nesting green on the Gulf coast was uncommon. After receiving federal and state protection, nesting numbers began to increase and recently the nesting population along the east coast of Florida has exploded. The number of green sea turtles on Sanibel has also seen a drastic increase, rising from sporadic nesting in the past to over 30 nests this year alone!

For the past three sea turtle seasons, researchers from the SCCF and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida set out to use satellite telemetry tags to track nesting green sea turtles. Satellite telemetry enables researchers to follow the movements of an individual animal by using data gathered from satellites that orbit earth multiple times per day. This research is extremely valuable because in order to protect a highly migratory animal it is crucial that you know where it goes and what locations this subpopulation frequents.

This turtle season, researchers were able to tag four female green sea



Holly returning to sea. Photo courtesy Janet Kirk.

See Sea Turtles on Page 2

Barbara Linstrom Joins SCCF as Communications Director

With an extensive background as a journalist, television producer and digital director, Barbara Linstrom joined SCCF on Oct. 1 in the newly created position of Communications Director.

“Barbara brings a solid depth of experience in covering environmental issues and has the skills we need to expand and strategically develop our presence on various digital platforms,” said Ryan Orgera, CEO. “I’m thrilled to have her on our management team to guide SCCF into a new era.”

Following more than a decade as a writer and producer based on Sanibel, Linstrom served as Executive Producer and Digital Media Director at WGCU, the regional PBS/NPR station for 11 years. At WGCU, she managed the launch of social media platforms and the station’s website. She also served as Executive Producer on more than 100 television productions, including “Water Woes,” a 2006 series tracking the historical influences on water quality issues in the region, as well as numerous award-winning historical documentaries, cultural and environmental productions.

“Through its research, history and policy work, SCCF has so many stories to share that will help citizens and policymakers navigate the future of our coastal ecosystems,” says Linstrom. “The amount of content is phenomenal. SCCF has so much to contribute to vital discussions on water quality and sea turtle research among many other popular topics.”

At WGCU, Linstrom earned national recognition for her work on strategic digital planning and was selected by PBS to serve on the inaugural Digital Immersion Project in 2017.

With a master’s degree from the E.W Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, Linstrom moved to Sanibel in 1993 after working overseas as a journalist in Italy, Venezuela and the British Virgin Islands. She served as editor of the Island Reporter for its 20th anniversary, was editor of the Captiva Current, edited the SCCF book chronicling its history and has interviewed key founders of the organization. Before going full-time at WGCU in 2006, she edited the SCCF newsletter, produced SWFL history documentaries for WGCU and taught writing at FGCU.

Her family first vacationed on Sanibel in 1975 and ever since, she’s found the island to be her favorite outdoor refuge. Linstrom has a 16-year-old daughter, Caitlyn, who also enjoys hiking and swimming. They live in Iona.



Barbara Linstrom

Sea Turtles continued from Page 1

turtles on Sanibel. Their names were Holly (photo Page 1), Melanie, Kate, and Andrea. Holly and Melanie were new turtles to Sanibel and had never been encountered before while Kate and Andrea were familiar faces, returning after originally being encountered and satellite tagged in the 2017 season. Retagging these individuals would allow research teams to reinforce their already valuable data gathered from 2017.

After the nesting season, green turtles Kate and Holly were tracked swimming to foraging grounds located west of Florida Bay, a shallow area of water between the Everglades and the Florida Keys, which has abundant seagrass for them to feed on. While most turtles during the three-year study migrated south to foraging areas, the remaining two, Melanie and Andrea took up residence near nesting beaches. In 2017 and 2019, Andrea displayed an affinity

for an area approximately three miles off the coast of Sanibel. Melanie remained approximately three miles off the coast of Venice after nesting in Sanibel, possibly coming ashore in Casey Key, Manasota Key, and Englewood Beach, based off of satellite data and one encounter.

This project was both challenging and exciting for all researchers involved. It required constant monitoring of field sites at night to intercept target species and also needed supervisors or trained technicians to be on call each evening in case the opportunity arose to deploy a satellite tag. Researchers from SCCF and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida are still analyzing the data gathered from the transmitters and are excited to learn more about the cryptic migrations of these Gulf coast green sea turtles.

Watch Your Mailbox Please

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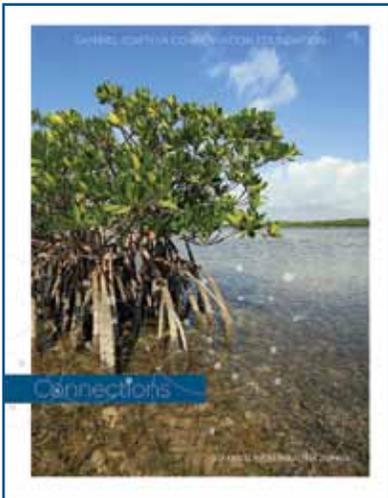
SCCF's Annual Fund Drive request should be arriving by mail shortly in the new Annual Report for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2019.

Please take a moment to read it and consider all the important programs and initiatives made possible by your annual operating support. It shows some of the many ways we put your Annual Fund Drive gifts to good use.

Your tax-deductible gift to the Annual Fund Drive is essential for funding SCCF's mission-related work, and helping us maintain a balanced and conservative budget. Thank you in advance for making your most generous contribution. Please use the reply envelope mailed with the FY18-19 Annual Report, or donate online at www.sccf.org.

Please call Cheryl Giattini at 239-395-2768 with questions and instructions for gifts of stock and wire transfers. Thank you! Thank you!

2019-20
ANNUAL
FUND DRIVE



Your Coastal Cleanup Haul: 475 Pounds of Trash!

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped SCCF complete a very successful Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, September 21. Volunteers cleaned beaches and waterfronts across Captiva, Sanibel, Upper Captiva, and along the Summerlin Road shoreline leading to the Sanibel Causeway.

Working in partnership with Keep Lee County Beautiful (www.klcb.org), SCCF coordinated the efforts of 217 volunteers from Sanibel, Captiva, Upper Captiva, Fort Myers, Cape Coral and Lehigh. The Cleanup, which lasted about two hours, cleared 475 pounds of trash and debris off local beaches and shorelines. Everything from cigarette butts, construction materials, balloons, fishing line, plastic packaging – even a tire and a chair – were collected and removed.

“We are so grateful to everyone – from students to seniors – who came out to help,” said SCCF Events Manager Jeff Siwicke. “We were happy so many stayed for the celebration lunch that followed at our Nature Center. Thanks go to Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille, Great White Grill and Sanibel Deli for donating pizzas and sandwiches.”

In September 2018, the local Coastal Cleanup had to be canceled due to the red tide crisis.

The local Coastal Cleanup efforts are coordinated in partnership by SCCF and Keep Lee County Beautiful as part of the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup. According to the Ocean Conservancy, 10.5 million volunteers have cleaned 350,000 miles of shoreline collecting 192 million pounds of trash in the more than three decades of this international effort.



Marine Lab Selected For Nutrient Sensor Deployment and Trial

By Eric Milbrandt, Ph.D., Marine Laboratory Director

The continuous monitoring of the Caloosahatchee estuary, San Carlos Bay, Pine Island Sound and the Gulf of Mexico by the SCCF Marine Laboratory is accomplished using the River, Estuary and Coastal Observing Network (RECON). RECON has seven sites and data are available in real-time on the dedicated website <http://recon.sccf.org>. We have been operating RECON with two staff members since 2008 and it has been a reliable and stable data source for water quality and weather observations. The unique role that RECON plays as a data provider is to determine the condition of the estuary at any time, day or night, red tide bloom or idyllic conditions. The condition of the estuary is also reported weekly to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who make decisions on the timing and volume of water releases.

RECON is a data provider to a federally supported data portal called the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS). GCOOS is a regional repository for all observing and modeling data for the Gulf of Mexico. Most of the data are physical measurements, such as temperature, salinity, and water currents. However, RECON provides physical plus chemical and biological measurements of the estuary.

The Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT) is dedicated to fostering the development and adoption of effective and reliable sensors and platforms. In 2015, ACT tested several new in-situ nutrient sensors looking for an affordable and reliable sensor. The winning design was submitted by the Italian company Systea. The Systea WIZ Probe uses chemistry to measure nutrients in the water. The samples are drawn through a filter, mixed with reagents and measured for the intensity of the color in the reaction. The chemistry is done autonomously and data are sent remotely to be analyzed.



The Systea WIZ Probe

To further test the sensor in real world application GCOOS, with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has purchased five sensors and partnered with research institutes around the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the reliability, duration and track record of RECON, the SCCF Marine Lab was selected along with the United States Geological Survey, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and the University of Texas Marine Science Institute to carry out the testing. A workshop for the users was held at University of Louisiana Lafayette in September and the equipment was shipped to the lab in October. The plan is to deploy the sensor for one year. After the yearlong test SCCF, along with the other institutions, will evaluate the sensors' performance and report their findings back to GCOOS.



Research Assistant A.J. Martignette (wearing the striped shirt on the right) at the September workshop.



A. J. was interviewed by NBC-2 for a story about SCCF's work on Red Tide, which aired on October 1.

Marine Lab Sampling for Red Tide

Marine Lab scientists have been sampling for Red Tide both onshore and near shore. Read more on Page 10.

Wines in the Wild Set For November 15

SCCF is pleased to announce that Bank of the Islands is the Presenting Sponsor for Wines in the Wild on Friday, November 15.

“We truly appreciate Bank of the Islands’ support of this event for more than a decade,” said founders Tom and Linda Uhler. “This very special evening would not be nearly as lovely without their support.”

Guests in “Island Festive” attire will gather on Friday, November 15 from 6-9 at the Bailey Homestead Preserve. It will be a great opportunity to see friends and explore the grounds and unique features of the Homestead while sampling fine wines and food from Sanibel’s premier purveyors.

“We’ll have five stations set up on the Homestead grounds. Each will feature a savory dish from one of Sanibel’s finest kitchens - Catering by Leslie Adams, Cielo, Malia, Sanibel Catering Company, and Sweet Melissa’s Café,” said Linda Uhler. “The dishes will be paired at each station with specially selected complementary wines from our Wine Sponsor, Bailey’s General Store. We’ll end the evening with a sumptuous dessert buffet from Norman Love Confections in the Homestead Pavilion, and a live auction of very special experiences. There will also be valet parking sponsored by Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille.”

The event’s founders are quick to point out this fundraiser would not be successful without the Presenting Sponsor and the other very generous sponsors joining Bank of the Islands. Diamond Sponsors include Lucy and Paul Roth and Linda and Wayne Boyd. They are joined by Platinum Sponsors Kay and John Morse.

Thanks are also extended to Gold Sponsors Brenda and David Bass, Susan and Cliff Beittel, Tory and Bill Burch, Billye and Ralph Curtis, Barb and Tom Dunham, Sherry and Doug Gentry,

Anne Haslem and Ed Wheeler, Gwenda Hiatt-Clements, Janie Howland and Jack Thomas, Deborah La Gorce, McCallion & McCallion, Roberta and Philip Puschel, Joyce and Don Rice, Nancy and Chip Roach, Kris and Doug Ryckman, Donna and John Schubert, Laura and Shawn Shaffer, Nanelle Wehmann, and Penny



(from left) Event founders Tom and Linda Uhler raise a glass with Bank of the Islands’ Robbie and Geoff Roepstorff.

Wilkinson and Dick Boehning.

The much appreciated Silver Sponsors for the event include Nancy Dehmlow, Allison and Chauncey Goss, Shelley and Bill Greggs, Joan Kearney and Pete Bender, Brenda and Marty Harrity, Mike Kelly, Diane and Leroy Neitzel, Jennifer and Dave Nichols, Melinda Roy and Chris Gourley, and Betty and Bob Van Tassel.

Reservations for Wines in the Wild can be made by calling Linda Uhler at 472-3817. Tickets are priced at \$125 per person. Because this event is likely to sell out in advance, tickets will not be available at the door. The event address is 1300 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.

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, landscaping for wildlife, marine research, natural resource policy, sea turtle conservation and wildlife habitat management. Community support through membership dues and tax-deductible contributions, in addition to grants and staff-generated revenue, make this work possible.

To learn more visit www.sccf.org.

Save the Date
Wines in the Wild 2019



A Peek at the Upcom

NATIVE ART EXHIBIT OPENS NOVEMBER 4

Nov. 4 - Jan. 9, Monday-Friday. This cooperative exhibit between SCCF and the Sanibel Captiva Art League features original works of art interpreting the theme of *Native*. The exhibit will be held inside of the Bailey Homestead house, 1300 Periwinkle Way; admission is free, and hours of the exhibit are Monday-Friday, 9am-noon.

MAKING THE LAND WORK TOURS

Monday, Nov. 4 at 2pm, continuing on Mondays at 2 pm and Thursdays at 10am. This one-hour walking tour of the Bailey Homestead Preserve blends SCCF's conservation work on the historic property, the history of the land itself and some stories about the Bailey family, plus a tour of the Bailey home. Explore the demonstration gardens, the Windmill, the Pavilion, and the Devitt Pond Overlook. Walking shoes recommended. *No reservations are needed. Suggested donation of \$5 to SCCF. 1300 Periwinkle Way, meet at the Conservation Gateway Kiosk at the head of the Shipley Trail, near the entrance. Call the Garden Center at 239-472-1932 for more information.*



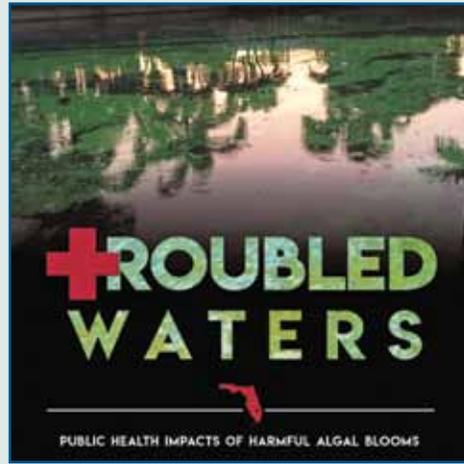
Creating the Devitt Pond and planting the edge, with the help of volunteers and staff.

NATURE CONNECTION THROUGH MOVEMENT AT THE BAILEY HOMESTEAD PRESERVE

Friday, November 8. Connect with the natural serenity of the Bailey Homestead Preserve. Individuals of all ages and physical conditions can benefit from focused body-mind awareness, alignment, balance, breath, flexibility, and relaxation. Suggested attire: loose-fitting comfortable clothing, comfortable shoes. Bring a yoga mat and water if you have one available. *Limited to 15 participants. Fridays (Nov. 8, 15, 22; Dec. 6, 13, 20), 9:30am-10:30am. Suggested donation of \$10 to SCCF greatly appreciated. 1300 Periwinkle Way, meet at the Pavilion. Call the Garden Center at 239-472-1932 for more information.*

EVENING AT THE HOMESTEAD: TROUBLED WATERS SCREENING

Nov. 12. Join us for the first Evening at the Homestead for the 2019-2020 season. We will be screening the film *Troubled Waters*, followed



by a panel discussion. Light refreshments at 6pm; the film starts at 6:30. It will be followed by a panel discussion with representatives from SCCF, Calusa Waterkeeper, and the Center for Biological Diversity. *Advance tickets required. Please visit www.sccf.org to obtain tickets*

online. Doors open at 6 and program begins at 6:30. The trailer is available at <https://youtu.be/GEIRYULijQM>. See Page 10 for more info.

FLORIDA PANTHERS AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Nov. 13. 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 us, SCCF Public Outreach Coordinator Alexis Horn ran the Sierra Club's Florida Panther program. Join her to learn about what makes Florida panthers unique and why they are so vital to our environment. *Wednesday, November 13 at 10 a.m. at the Bailey Homestead Preserve, 1300 Periwinkle Way.*



Wednesday, November 13 at 10 a.m. at the Bailey Homestead Preserve, 1300 Periwinkle Way.



WINES IN THE WILD

Friday, Nov. 15. Guests in "Island Festive" attire will gather from 6-9pm at the Bailey Homestead Preserve. It will be a great opportunity to see friends and explore the grounds and unique features of the

ning Season at SCCF

Homestead while sampling fine wines and food from Sanibel's premier purveyors. *Reservations for Wines in the Wild can be made by calling Linda Uhler at 472-3817. Tickets are \$125 per person. Because this event is likely to sell out in advance, tickets will not be available at the door. The event address is 1300 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. More info on Page 5.*



CALOOSAHATCHEE OXBOW AND RIVERLORE CRUISE

Explore the scenic and historic Caloosahatchee on an Oxbow and Riverlore Cruise hosted by SCCF. The cruise provides a relaxing opportunity to learn about the river, its history, folklore, issues and solutions, as we explore the ancient upriver meanders. Tours are guided by Rae Ann Wessel, a river researcher, long-time river advocate, historian and SCCF Natural Resource Policy Director. The boat is a stable 41-passenger pontoon boat. *Cruises depart from the W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam. Friday cruises depart at 1pm return 3:30pm: Nov. 29, 2019; Feb. 7, 2020; March 6; April 3. Saturday cruises depart at 9am return by 11:30am: Jan. 25, 2020; Feb. 15; March 21; May 9. \$45 per person. Advance reservations required by calling SCCF at 472-2329. Space is limited and tours sell out quickly.*



28TH ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT
December 7-8. SCCF will hold its Tennis Tournament in December this year, December 7-8, again at Beachview Tennis Club. Play Men's and Women's Doubles; winners receive a Luc Century wine glass. See Page 11 for more info.

EVENING AT THE HOMESTEAD:

SEA TURTLE RESEARCH COLLABORATION

December 12. Join us for an Evening at the Homestead for "Sea Turtle Research Collaboration: SCCF and the Loggerhead Marine Life Center" with Dr. Justin Perrault and SCCF's Kelly Sloan. Doors open at 6 and program begins at 6:30. More info TK.

YAUPON HOLLY

December 17. Yaupon Holly, program, tea tasting & food sampling, Tuesday, December 17, time TBD. Join us for a festive afternoon celebrating Yaupon Holly! A brief program will be followed by a Yaupon tea tasting, samples of food made with tea, and plenty of other delights. More information and registration coming soon!

Continued on Page 8

<h1>SCCF NOVEMBER 2019</h1>							HAPPENINGS PROGRAMS OPPORTUNITIES
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
3	4 Making Land Work Native Art Exhibit opens	5	6	7 Making Land Work	1/8 Connection thru Movement	2/9	
10	11 Making Land Work	12 Troubled Waters film	13 Panthers & Corridors @BHP	14 Making Land Work	15 Wines in the Wild	16	
17	18 Making Land Work	19-20 All programs are at the Bailey Homestead Preserve except the Oxbow Tour, which departs from Franklin Lock.		21 Making Land Work	22 Connection thru Movement	23	
24	25	26		28 HOLIDAY — SCCF closed	29 Oxbow Tour-Advance reservation required.	30	

Program Listing continued from Page 7

MAKE YOUR OWN BITTERS WITH ELLEN ZACHOS

Wednesday, Jan. 15. A hands-on workshop, exploring the use of local botanical ingredients to create aromatic bitters. Participants will learn the components used to make your own bitters at home, and take home your own concoction to elevate your favorite cocktail or other recipes. More information and registration coming soon!



EVENINGS AT THE HOMESTEAD:

FORAGING FOR COCKTAIL FLAVORS WITH ELLEN ZACHOS

Wednesday, Jan. 15. Join Ellen Zachos, author of *Wildcrafted Cocktails*, to learn how to combine foraged, local, seasonal flavors with your favorite mixers and spirits. She will show you how to incorporate ingredients found in your Southwest Florida backyard to make a handcrafted, one of a kind drink. *Doors open at 6pm and program begins at 6:30. Tickets on sale soon!*

PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE WILD WORKSHOP

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 9:00am-10:30am. Join Alex Horn, SCCF's Public Outreach Coordinator and an accomplished photographer, for a hands-on learning experience on how to create compelling and eye-catching photographs. The workshop begins with a tutorial and then you will have a chance to explore the Bailey Homestead to put what you just learned to use. All skill levels are welcome and all types of cameras may be used, including mobile phone cameras. Registration coming soon!



ISLAND ART EXHIBIT

Feb. 3-Thursday, April 2; Monday-Saturday, 9am-noon. This cooperative exhibit between SCCF and the Sanibel Captiva Art League features original works of art interpreting the theme of *Island*. *The exhibit will be held in-*

side of the Bailey Homestead house, 1300 Periwinkle Way; admission is free, and hours of the exhibit are Monday-Friday, 9am-noon and Saturdays, 10am-1pm.

PAUL MCCARTHY MEMORIAL LECTURE

Feb. 7. Join us for the 2nd Paul McCarthy Memorial Lecture with a Very Special Speaker. More info TK.

EVENING AT THE HOMESTEAD: FOOD AND CLIMATE CHANGE

March 4. This program is still being developed and is a partnership with the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and FISH. *Doors open at 6pm and program begins at 6:30. More info TK.*

INTRODUCTION TO NATURE JOURNALING WORKSHOP USING DRAWING & WORDS TO CONNECT YOU TO NATURE

Wednesday, March 11th, 1pm-4pm. This hands-on workshop will introduce you to the process of nature journaling. A way to connect more deeply to the outdoors, the class will teach you how to be more creative, look at nature differently, and add art to your life. More details and registration coming soon!



BEER IN THE BUSHES

April 11. Save the date and dig out your dancing shoes for the 9th annual Beer in the Bushes. Great music and an evening filled with amazing food and craft beer from the area's finest food trucks and breweries. More info in the spring.

...And More...

Make Your Own Solitary Bee Box, Date and time TBD. Many of Florida's solitary bees lay their eggs in hollow branches. Attract these wonderful pollinators to your own yard by making your own bee box! More information and registration coming soon! And more programs are still being prepared, including fermentation with native botanicals, terrarium making, native bees, and Florida honey among many other fascinating subjects!



Natural Resource Policy Update

By Rae Ann Wessel, Natural Resource Policy Director

Make plans to attend the 35th annual Everglades Coalition Conference that will be in our backyard at South Seas Resort, Captiva on January 9-12, 2020. This year's theme *America's Everglades; All Hands on Deck*, underscores the critical time we are in with Everglades restoration, dependant on all of us working together.

What makes this conference an important annual gathering and networking opportunity is the broad diversity of decision-makers from federal, state, local and tribal governments, agency representatives, stakeholders, public and private interests including scientists, educators, contractors, conservationists, students and the media all gathered to discuss, debate and advance Everglades restoration. Working together we are making progress. We hope you'll join us.

For more information and reservations visit: www.evergladescoalition.org

Governor Appointments

Governor DeSantis continued progress toward a comprehensive agenda for dealing with Florida's water issues, with his appointments to the Red Tide Task Force and selection of Florida's first Chief Resilience Officer (CRO).

Red Tide Task Force

The Governor appointed 11 people to the revived Red Tide Task Force to evaluate red tide bloom dynamics with \$4.8 million budget from the FL legislature.

- Rhonda Watkins, Collier's Pollution Control environmental specialist
- Donald Anderson: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Senior scientist
- Duane De Freese: IRL Council, Executive Director
- Quay Dortch: National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration, Manager
- Jill Fleiger: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Environmental Administrator
- Leanne Flewelling: FWC's Wildlife Research Institute, Section leader, Ecosystem assessment and restoration
- Charles Jacoby: St. Johns River Water Management District, Supervising environmental scientist for estuaries
- Barb Kirkpatrick: Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observation System, Executive Director
- Sherry Larkin: University of Florida Natural Resource and Environmental Economist
- Andrew Reich: Florida Department of Health, Scientific Adviser Bureau of Environmental Health

- David Whiting: Florida Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Director

Chief Resilience Officer

The Governor has appointed Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, to serve as Florida's first CRO, charged with the responsibility to coordinate a statewide response to prepare Florida for the environmental, physical and economic impacts of sea level rise. The CRO will report to the Executive Office of the Governor and will work in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as well as local communities and stakeholders.

Dr. Julia Nesheiwat's resume indicates she has over 20 years of renewable energy and environmental experience focused on water and natural resources as a senior executive in federal cabinet-level agencies, academia and as a combat veteran. She has an undergraduate degree from Stetson University in sociology, a master's from Georgetown University in national energy security and a Ph.D. from the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

We Can All Do Something

Personal Actions to Improve Water Quality

A takeaway from two August water gatherings, the Save Our Water Forum and Sanibel Captiva Chamber Power Hour, is that we can each take actions to improve water quality in our daily lives. As we head into legislative committee meetings this fall in advance of the 2020 session beginning in January, we are looking for bill sponsors and champions to address water quality legislation.

In the meantime prevention is the one thing we can all do, every day. Here's what you can do:

- Pick up after pets.
- Plant native buffers along waterfront canals, lakes and storm water ponds. Don't spray or fertilize them.
- Establish and protect swales, the first line of treatment for storm water runoff.
- Reconsider annual third party contracts for monthly fertilizing lawns and yard pest management.
- Wash your car at a carwash to keep soap and chemicals out of groundwater and conserve water resources. Car

See Policy on Page 11

Marine Lab and Red Tide -- Continued from Page 4

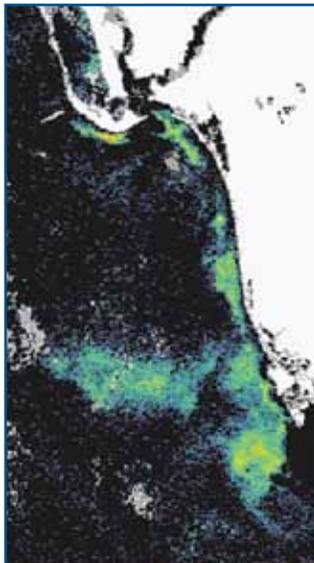
By Mark Thompson, Marine Lab Research Associate

SCCF Marine Laboratory completed 200-square-mile surveys of the Gulf of Mexico and Pine Island Sound September 17-18, 2019 and September 27, aboard the R/V Norma Campbell. Samples were collected at 36 discrete stations. The station furthest offshore was approximately 10 miles (map right).

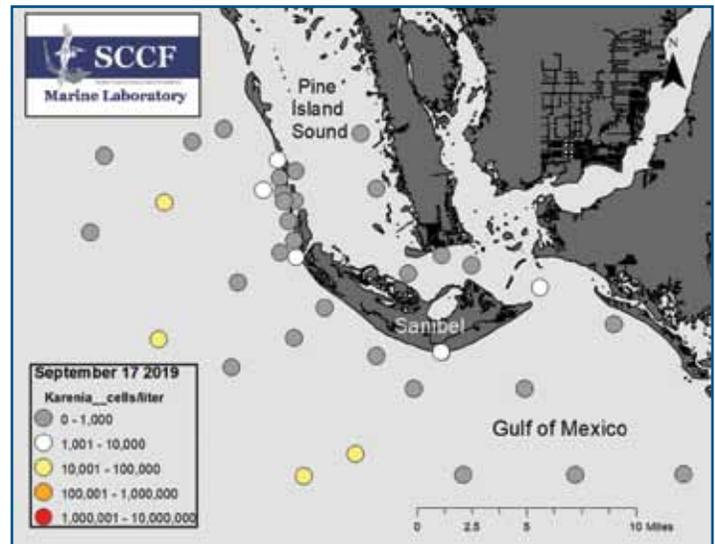
Data collected included water quality data profiles of Dissolved Oxygen, pH, salinity, temperature, chlorophyll *a*, CDOM (colored dissolved organic matter) and turbidity. In addition, grab samples were obtained for phytoplankton community analysis, nutrients and chlorophyll *a* by extraction.

Hypoxic/anoxic conditions (low or no oxygen) were not present in the surveyed area.

Marine Lab Research Associate Mark Thompson reported that in September, a low concentration of *Karenia spp.* were found at nine sites (five near shore and four offshore). The highest concentration of *Karenia* found



Marine Lab Research Scientist Rick Bartleson has been sampling the beach from Algiers over to Access 7 with the help of some volunteers. Samples have been averaging medium concentrations at Tarpon Bay Beach since Friday, October 4. NOAA sent a chlorophyll map (left) that matches up with the counts (red is the highest concentration of Red Tide; green and yellow are lower).



Map of *Karenia* concentrations found during the September surveys.

at any site in September was 34,000 cells/liter at a site eight miles offshore of Sanibel.

In the week beginning October 6, the Lab saw concentrations from 50,000 to over 1,000,000 cells/liter along the Sanibel shoreline from Lighthouse Beach to Bowmans Beach. One million cells/liter is considered a bloom and will cause fish kills and irritation. Lab scientists are monitoring the situation daily and plan to do another offshore cruise before the end of October.

Right: FWC map covering the most recent eight days of sampling (as of Oct. 10).



More Program Info -- Continued from Page 6

EVENING AT THE HOMESTEAD — TROUBLED WATERS

We will be screening the film *Troubled Waters*, on Nov. 12. It will be followed by a panel discussion with Rae Ann Wessel from SCCF, John Cassani of Calusa Waterkeeper, and Jacqui Lopez from the Center for Biological Diversity. Light refreshments will be served at 6pm and the film starts at 6:30.

About *Troubled Waters* — *Troubled Waters* graphically describes the Public Health impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms — particularly in SWFL. The movie features internationally renowned research scientists as well as medical professionals on the front lines and citizens who have

suffered harm — all to convey a complete picture of the public health risks of HABs. The movie was written, directed and produced by Calusa Waterkeeper Executive Director K.C. Schulberg and co-directed, filmed and edited by Cat Chase.

About Calusa Waterkeeper — Calusa Waterkeeper's mission is to "Protect and restore the Caloosahatchee River from Lake Okeechobee to the coastal waters." CWK's work includes testing and reporting, regulatory advisories, educational and community outreach, and public advocacy. **Advance tickets are required to attend. Please visit www.sccf.org to obtain tickets online.**

Is Your Yard Wet?

By Jenny Evans, Native Landscapes & Garden Center Manager

This is a typical question that we ask customers who come to the nursery looking for plant advice. Since it is the end of rainy season, now is a great time to take a walk outside, look closely at the spaces in your yard, and notice which parts are dry, damp, or under water.

The amount of water in soils during the entire year determines what types of plants are appropriate for the site. Areas that appear to be dry during the

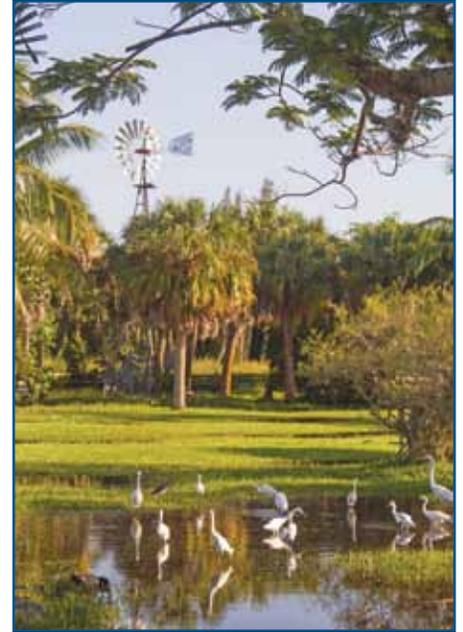


A wetland habitat can often be determined by the plants growing in the area. Giant leather fern and sand cordgrass (foreground) are often indications that soil is wet, particularly in the summer.

middle of winter will often be damp or even underwater during summer. Freshwater wetlands occur in areas with moist or mucky soils during the dry season and standing freshwater during the wet season. Most of this habitat is found along the interior portion of Sanibel, along the Sanibel River and nearby areas.

A huge variety of plants, from large trees to small groundcovers will thrive in wetland situations. Larger trees, including bald cypress, pond cypress, and red maple will provide habitat for nesting birds and provide some shade to the area. Smaller trees, such as sweet bay magnolia, pond apple, and coastal plain willow are also great sites for smaller songbirds. Wax myrtle and white indigo berry both provide food for wildlife, while many grasses, including Fakahatchee grass and sand cordgrass, provide cover for the same creatures. Color is added with the flowers of blue flag iris, canna lily, pickerelweed, and arrowhead.

To create a complete habitat, provide a diverse selection of plants from each of these categories. The birds, butterflies, and other critters will thank you for it!



28TH ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) will hold its 28th Annual Tennis Tournament on Dec. 7 and 8, 2019 at Beachview Tennis Club. The entry fee is \$75 and the deadline for entry is Wednesday, Dec. 4. For more information, please call Toni Halski at Beachview Tennis at 239/472-9099.

Categories are 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0 men's and women's doubles. Court times to be determined and Winners and Runners-up will receive a Luc Century etched wine glass. Play will be at Beachview Tennis, 1101 Par View Drive on Sanibel. To register or for more information, please call Beachview Tennis at 472-9099. To pay by credit card, please call SCCF at 472-2329 or return entry form to Toni Halski at Beachview, 1101 Parview Drive. All entrants will receive a tournament T-shirt plus breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

For sponsorship opportunities, please call SCCF at 472-2329 (credit cards accepted). Sponsorship levels are Championship, \$1200; Match, \$500; Set, \$250; and Game \$150.

Policy -- Continued from Page 9

- washes are required to recycle water.
- Reduce sod and plant natives to save water, fertilizer and make your property wildlife friendly.
- Have your septic tank inspected and maintained.
- Eliminate use of single use plastic - water bottles, plastic bags, straws, product packaging.
- Start a storm drain stenciling campaign in your neighborhood or city - Nothing but Rain down the Drain!
- Contact your electeds, and share your water quality story and concerns.
- Consider water quality actions when you head to the polls at election time.
Make these a habit and together we'll all help improve the quality of our waters.



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

November 2019 Member Update



Facebook:
SCCF

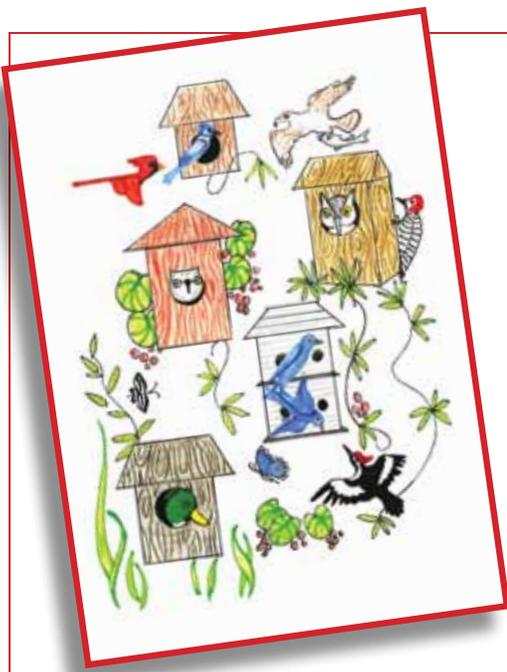


Instagram:
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SCCF's 2019 Christmas Card

Inside greeting:

*From Our Home to Yours...
Happy Holidays!*

Cards are \$15 for 10 cards and they will be available for purchase in the shop at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center.

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