

The Conservationist



Spoil Island Ambassador program by Bill Gibson



The idea started when two of our tour guides told us about SL13 and about the state's own Spoil Island Adopter Program. That was in early 2013. By May, Motorized Kayak Adventures adopted spoil island SL13 in Saint Lucie County. Regular cleanups were scheduled and with a lot of help from the State's IRL Aquatic Preserve staff, we began the process of replacing invasive with native plants. From this was born the idea of ex-

panding public participation and awareness about the 137 man-made spoil islands. To that end, the successful and widely attended First Annual Spoil Island Day event was created and the Ambassador Program introduced. Present were 29 other island adopters, the Aquatic Preserve staff, one County Commissioner and interested citizens, along with representatives from the Governor's office. Speeches were

made, food was shared, and we were on our way. The state endorsed the ambassador idea which would provide for a regular presence on the islands by private volunteers who would visit and encourage campers and other island users to take away their trash and to help in preserving the natural flora and fauna. Watch for details about this program as it develops on the state's Spoil Island Project Facebook page as

Motorized Kayak Adventures conducted a short Power Point presentation on the Ambassador Program to the Conservation Alliance – St. Luce County at its general meeting on February 27 at 6:30 pm



A Word from our President, by Ray Treacy

I hope everyone will join me in welcoming our newly elected board of directors. It has been my pleasure to work with almost everyone on the board in the past and I know they have a wealth of talent and I am sure we will all take advantage of the writing, computer, and organizational skills these members will bring to the table. There are many challenges facing the Conservation Alliance and our success will depend on utilizing every resource

available. The convenience of Email, the reach of our website, the scope of face book, and the ease of distribution of our newsletter thru electronic media are a few of the benefits of our modern era. The balance of the old and new means of communication is a very delicate issue. The pleasure of receiving a hand written letter, reading the daily newspaper, and snuggling up with a good book are some of the things in life I truly cherish. The younger

generation in particular, might not be receptive to many of the "old school" communication methods. The Conservation Alliance must focus on retaining our senior members and attracting the youth of the community. The David and Goliath battle to save the Halpatiokee Trail section of the Savannas Preserve State Park and the North Folk of the St Lucie River Aquatic Preserve is a major concern for all our members. The greatest victories come after

the hardest battles. These areas must and will be protected. The problems with our area's waterways is an ongoing concern that is not being solved by the temporary reprieve from the discharges from Lake Okechobee. This situation demands our constant vigilance. The cooperation from other groups in the environmental community is encouraging. I am extremely optimistic that common sense will prevail.

- I appreciate your confidence and I am optimistic my term as president of the Conservation Alliance will reflect the high caliber of standards of our esteemed organization
- Ray Treacy

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River Warriors, Lagoonatics, Riverlutionaries and River Kidz by: Captain Don Voss

In June, 2013, the locks opened and the discharges joined the massive amounts of county run-off. Long before, the River Kidz had been founded and were spreading their passions and spirit all around Martin County, but the massive discharges drew the attention of adults and the IRL residents. A series of groups sprung up with differing names, but at the time, the same goals: "Stop the Flow."

A few people started Facebook pages to get people involved and spread information. Some more knowledgeable social media members showed the way and these groups moved from the few dozen members range to 5000 to 15,000 to a massive 350,000 followers statewide that cover 150 conservation organizations, 9 Facebook pages and petition signers.

Events at the Locks, the Beach Rally, Clewiston's Sugarland Rally, Bridge Demonstrations, a bus trip to Washington DC, repeated trips to Tallahassee and Fertilizer movements to strengthen those bills across all 63 communities has increased the political capital of the River Movement.

Senator Negron stated this week that the River Warriors made Water a Tier I item for this year's legislative ses-

sion. These events have also increased awareness and brought rise to the Halpatiokee Preserve/Crosstown Road Bridge concerns as well as the startup of Martin County Commissioner Ed Fielding's 6 County Collaborative to delve into local water treatment and storage, fertilizers and septic systems.

The River Kidz have come front and center and have spoken at every event since the first Locks demonstration. So much attention has arisen from the kids along the river, a second northern group... River Kidz of St Lucie County has been founded and Kidz Leader, Katy Lewey has done a masterful job bringing them up to speed and into the everyone's sites. Her 10 year old son Aidan Lewey just spoke in Tallahassee at the Clean Water Rally and brought the house down.

Who are River Warriors? They are us. Any and every person, old or young is a Riverlutionary. We ask one thing... You must love the river. You are free to have any other interests you wish, however, you must just leave them outside the room while we are saving the river. We are non-partisan people of passion while we are in this struggle. Every voice is impor-

tant. Any idea is worthy of a closer look. SAVE OUR RIVERS!

Captain Donald Voss

One Florida Foundation



February/March Issue

Party in the Park, Year 20

The 2014 edition was also a celebration of 20 years of Party in the Park. This year 43 conservation organizations returned to the Ft Pierce Inlet State Park for the day to share ideas, chat, network and to enjoy the Riverkeepers's grilled mushrooms.

All the faces that have made this event and the Conservation Alliance of St Lucie County so successful were there along with a few new and exciting groups. The newest River Warriors, the River Kidz of St Lucie County had a booth and these wonderful chil-

dren were busy painting banners for their Rain Barrel fundraising idea and stamping out Solidarity Fish T-shirts. The Water Wookiee walked the grounds and posed for photos with other celebrities like Lace Vitunac, Commissioner Dzadovsky, all three River Keepers, several County Commission candidates and friends galore.

It has already been a year of change for CA and this event kicks off the season. New members were signed up, kids played with the touch tanks and enjoyed the opportunity to join with other kids to Save the River. A raffle

was held to benefit CA and Commissioner Chris won a hand carved dolphin sculpture donated by artist Tom Gamble.

This free event brought in hundreds of people who roamed the park and learned new things. We could not have had such a successful event without the help of all the volunteers who came out and represented their groups, organizations, clubs and programs. A very big thank you to Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park's manager, Steve Eibl, the Savanna State Park and staff. See you next year!!



Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky and carver Tom Gamble



The Water Wookiee and Lace Vitunac



Crosstown Parkway Bridge Extension

Tell your Representatives: Don't allow Permits for route 1C for the Crosstown B ridge to go through Savanna State Park's Halpatokee Canoe & Nature Trail and the North Fork of the St Lucie River Aquatic Preserve. Seven habitats of the "ecological gem" in the Savanna State Park will disappear, endangered wildlife will be further threatened, noise and water pollution will be created in both the

park and aquatic preserve even though less costly and less eco-damaging alternative routes exist. We may also lose federal funding because of an existing precedent.

Email or Call:

- Paticke Murphy:
sherlean.pervis@mail.house.gov
or 561-253-8433

by Diane Goldberg

- Bill Nelson: 888-671-4091
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- Joe Negron: 888-371-4091
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Conservation Alliance of St Lucie County



Dedicated to protect the water soil, air and native fauna and flora upon which all the earth's creatures depend

The Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County, Inc., was established in 1972 by local citizens who were becoming aware of the growing threat to our natural resources and environment. We "pledge to protect the water, soil, air, native flora and fauna upon which all the Earth's creatures depend on for survival".

Visit our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ConservationAllianceofStLucieCo>

Our webpage <http://www.conservationallianceslc.org/>

Our next General Meeting will be on 3/27/2014
6:30 pm

A FORUM WITH JOSH HART



A RARE OPPORTUNITY!

Director of **Stop Smart Meters** in California

Including A Presentation of the Award Winning Documentary

Take Back Your Power

Saturday, April 5th, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Unitarian Church, 21 SE Central Parkway, Stuart, FL 34994

Josh Hart is the driving force behind California's robust fight against smart meters, and the inspiration behind the spread of anti-smart meter organizations both nationally and internationally. Website: <http://stopsmartmeters.org/>

Josh sees the big picture of how the deployment of smart meters and the smart grid is a metaphor for what ails our society. He will use the documentary as an introduction to the numerous issues surrounding the smart meters: health, safety, security, privacy, and the impact on our environment. Afterwards, Josh will share his personal story, take questions, and then strategize with those of us who want to make a difference here in Florida.

About the film: *With compelling insight from whistleblowers, government agents, lawyers, environmentalists and doctors, the award-winning Take Back Your Power takes us on a journey to expose corruption and erosion of rights in the name of 'smart' and 'green.'* What

you'll discover will surprise, unsettle, and empower you.

Light refreshments will be served.

Seating is limited so we encourage an **RSVP** with your name, organizational affiliation, and number of people in your party to: Event section of Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County's Facebook page, or contact Stephanie at 772-584-3110

To help us recover our expenses we are asking for a \$5.00 donation, however, we welcome all regardless of financial status.

Directions: The Church is easily accessible from US1, 195 or the Turnpike. From US1 go west on Kanner Highway (SR 76) and left on Central Parkway. From 195 or the Turnpike,