

A Chronological History of the Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County

1972 The raison d'être for the formation of the Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County (CASLC) was the threat of condominium development along the coastline of North Beach of the north side of the Fort Pierce Inlet. This site was favored by the locals at least since the 1920s, and loved by families enjoying day-long beach visits, surfers, fisherman and those enticed by the intact habitat for native flora and fauna. In 1971, the 7-member founding group, (later known as the Magnificent Seven*), led a consortium of residents, civic and business organizations (including the Home and Neighborhood Development Society), to gather thousands of petitions requesting this area be protected, and to agree to a **\$10 million Beach Bond referendum** to pay for it. Just one year later, in 1972, **Fort Pierce Inlet State Park** was created, and CASLC became an official conservation and advocacy group. Funds from the bond also enabled purchase of beaches in St. Lucie County on both North and South Hutchinson Island.

1973 The CASLC launched the "**Save the Savannas**" campaign after Founding member Carol Herzog alerted that condominium development was afoot. The first major result was a decree for removal of the Twin Banyan Causeway that had been built across the savannahs, impeding the hydrological flow of the marshes and wetlands. A bi-county effort with the noted Martin County environmental advocate, Maggy Hurchalla as well as Dr. Walter Stokes also taking key actions.

1973 The **Annual Awards dinners** began, with guest speakers such as Arthur R. Marshall and Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and "Environmentalist of the Year" awards. In 1994 the "Permelia Pryor Reed Award" was added in honor of another environmental legend, Nathaniel Pryor Reed. His mother, Permelia, a strong environmental advocate, inspired Nat. [\(Please contact the Alliance if you received an award from us early in our history.\) \[conservationallianceslc@gmail.com\]](#)

1977 The State cabinet approved purchase and creation of the **Savannas Preserve State Park**, with the initial purchase of 3,800 acres. All-terrain vehicles were banned in the park. The Alliance participated in securing a Park Ranger/Manager, and cleanups. CASLC the newly formed Savannas Reserve Endowment organization. Today 6,000 acres are protected, making the Savannas Preserve the largest remaining freshwater coastal marsh in the southeastern United States.

Mid-70s The CASLC participated in many public hearings on the new nuclear power plant on South Hutchinson Island. This resulted in crucial increased safety requirements at the island's new nuclear power plant such as the storm surge barrier along the beach front.

The Alliance objected to the County's use of Lawnwood Recreational Complex property for a County Administration Building. The County built the administration building anyway but as a concession, also built the St. Lucie County Civic Center.

The Alliance began and has continued a successful campaign to show that **impact fees should be placed on new construction** to provide money for new schools, parks, fire and police protection, and water and sewer service. The Alliance worked with the Citrus and Grove organizations as well as the ranchers to get the County to work towards that end.

Seeing thousands of trees being felled by developers, the Alliance in 1973 pushed for a protection ordinance. Commissioners set up a **County Tree Protection Ordinance** Committee to draft language which is now part of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The Alliance has consistently supported the efforts of the Ft. Pierce Sportfishing Club and the Florida League of Anglers to protect and enhance fish populations in Florida waters. The Alliance was foremost in the **campaign for the no-gill netting Amendment which passed with over 80% of the vote in St. Lucie County and 73% Statewide.**

1980s The Alliance's **North Fork of the St. Lucie River Preservation Committee** took their boats and catalogued the pollution of the river coming from citrus processing plants. Because of their efforts, major improvements were made.

The Conservation Alliance worked for the **establishment of the Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserve** and supplied the office with an underwater camera, an aquarium, three canoes and a cash contribution. And for the hiring of an **Aquatic Preserve Manager.**

1982 Under the Conservation Alliance umbrella "**The Turtle Mothers,**" a state-certified sea turtle nest relocation team was organized. By 1986, the team had successfully relocated 28,000 sea turtle eggs.

1986 Alliance members **helped write the award-winning St. Lucie County Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance.** The resulting cooperation of the beachfront businesses and homeowners in turning off or shielding beachfront lights during nesting season made it possible to leave most nests where the sea turtles deposited them. In 1991 only 15 nests required moving; since 1992 the beach has been patrolled daily during the nesting season to provide hatch success data for state records.

1986 The Alliance hosted the first Treasure Coast Environmental Workshop with speakers from state and local agencies. Through their efforts, in 1996, the Port Advisory subcommittee evolved a comprehensive Recreational Port Plan, creating an Environmental Hearing Board, and an Environmental Planner staff position.

1989 Helped assure passage of **\$10 million bond to purchase 6 beaches** in St. Lucie County, including the Dollman tract. A short distance from each other, the **John Brooks Park Beachside Park** (236 acres) and the **Jane Murray Brooks Park** (143 acres) were purchased with these funds and named for this couple, two of CASLC's Founders.

1990 The Alliance continued its push with efforts for passage of the **Preservation 2000** bill that led to the celebration recently of the 1 millionth acre of sensitive lands purchased.

1994 The CASLC, through its **Land 4U2 Campaign**, helped inform voters of the urgent need to save environmentally significant sensitive lands in St. Lucie County. A **\$20 million bond issue passed** with over 67% of the vote, the highest percentage in the state for this issue. This initial funding kicked off the County's Environmental Resources Department efforts to purchase thousands of acres for protection.

The annual **Party in the Park** environmental festival was first held in 1994. The Alliance, looking for a place to celebrate Earth Day, found the ideal spot: The Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park, the very place earlier saved from developers through the Alliance's "Save the Beaches" campaign.

1999/2000 The CASLC led a successful action to **prevent the Walton Road Toll Bridge** from being built through the Savannas Preserve State Park and over the Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserve from moving beyond the proposal stage. (This was the proposed terminus of the Crosstown Parkway in Port St. Lucie.) The Alliance demanded an **Environmental Impact Statement** be conducted for the entire proposed Parkway corridor from I-95 to Hutchinson Island.

2001 The County Commission appointed a representative from the Conservation Alliance to work with consultants to develop a **new Airport Master Plan** for the St. Lucie County International Airport.

2002 The Alliance entered into a unique partnership with the City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County to successfully apply and receive a \$25,000 grant to begin an **Adopt-a-Beach program** in the county.

2005 **Successful protest against proposed coal plant in Port St. Lucie**, which would have been the 6th largest in the U.S. at that time. According to Doug Coward, former SLC Commissioner and member of CASLC BOD, along with CASLC, Audubon and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy were major voices in this community outpouring (500+) to convince the SLC commissioners to change their votes from approve to deny. An all-nighter County Commission meeting proved to be worth it. Wheel-chaired Dottie Hull went the distance.

2010 The Alliance legally **challenged the injection of industrial waste** by Allied Chemical into the aquifer near a drinking water source for the City of Ft. Pierce, and won the lawsuit.

2011 The Alliance urged the protection of a 20-acre undisturbed parcel in Port St. Lucie, and “adopted” and helped name the **Mariposa Cane Slough Preserve**. Activities included conducting tours, species surveys, invasive plant removal workdays, trail markers, brochures, and videos. Later sought first analysis of changed hydrology after EWIP project finished adjacent to the Preserve.

2012 The Alliance and the Indian Riverkeeper registered their opposition with the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation against the proposed Route 1C of the Crosstown Parkway Bridge over the North Fork of the St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve, Coral Reef Waterway, Evans Creek, and through the **Halpatiokee Buffer State Preserve**. The area was purchased by the State because of its exceptionally high functioning contiguous network of wetlands that served to buffer, absorb and filter water. Area distinctive for its biodiverse micro habitats and species, and for providing excellent Essential Fish Habitat for rare, threatened or endangered fish species.

2013 Attended meetings to prevent polluting industries from leading Ft. Pierce port development.

2013–2017 **Took numerous actions to save the Halpatiokee Buffer Unit of Savannas Preserve State Park.** CASLC organized protests, wrote op-eds and White Paper, received print and TV coverage, made videos, appeared before city council, met with government agents, conducted educational tours, species surveys, and examined voluminous documents, local and state-wide engagement. And, filed lawsuits. As George Jones, CASLC former President, and former District 5 Manager of FL State Parks, commented: *This action “would be the first ever taking of a Preserve State Park for highway infrastructure. And it would essentially bifurcate the intact buffer ecosystem, and set precedent.”*

2014 The CASLC **successfully challenged the first South Florida Water Management District's permit** to begin destruction of the Halpatiokee Buffer Preserve (now a riverine unit of Savannas Preserve State Park, known as Evans Creek Park). The City withdrew its permit application after lawsuit was filed.

CASLC organized **written response to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** in response to the city's request to fill wetlands at Halpatiokee Buffer Preserve.

Last Annual Award Luncheon with the Hon. Nathaniel Pryor Reed as speaker and with Lace Vitunac participating. Both have since passed. Mr. Reed presented the Permelia Pryor Reed Award to Shari Anker.

2015 The Alliance and the Indian Riverkeeper filed the initial brief against the FHWA and DOT, claiming that the agencies violated the law against taking parklands for road infrastructure.

We reviewed tens of thousands of pages of documents including the Environmental Impact Statement, and produced summary documents for our attorneys. The effort led to the production of our:

White Paper: "Our Fight to Save Two Preserve State Parks: Why Our Fight Matters: To Us and To You." [https://conservationallianceslc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/caslc_halpatiokee_white_paper.pdf] CASLC received statewide high marks from state environmental organizations, like FCC, FNPS and 1000 Friends of FL. A huge debt of gratitude goes to Ray Treacy for his research skills, Beverly Yoshioka for her expertise, and Bob Post for his volumes of records.

TC Palm op-ed by Shari Anker published in *Florida Politics*, "Battle to save 2 preserve state parks teaches statewide lessons."

TC Palm op-ed by Shari Anker reprinted in *Columbia County Observer*, "1971: Us. Supremes Rule in Favor of Parklands. 2015: Port St. Lucie Preserve Under Attack."

Ichthyologist, Grant Gilmore, PhD., published op-ed in *TC Palm*, "Bridge will negatively impact St. Lucie River."

Moonlight Acoustic Boat Tour of the North Fork of St. Lucie River. Led by Dr. Grant Gilmore - a 3-night event. *TC Palm* articles.

Motorized kayak tour of Evans Creek inside HBP by CASLC board member Billy Gibson.

The Alliance, with help from member biologist Beverly Yoshioka and fish scientist Dr. Grant Gilmore, Ph.D., assisted the defeat of proposed Army Corps permits for proposed developments for the **Island Willow and Island Garden** projects that would have impacted tidal mangrove wetlands and sea grass beds in the south County RiverWatch area on the Indian River Lagoon. Dr. Gilmore's added an amendment to CASLC's comments in which he details expected harmful impact to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). SLC BOCC voted unanimously against it. Efforts were a success, developer abandoned project.

Participated in the opposition to USA Compost Facility in Port St. Lucie, a bio-solid treatment facility, that was expected to contaminate ground water and rivers. CASLC board member, Charles Grande, submitted letter strongly recommending against this Application withdrawn.

2016 CASLC & the Indian Riverkeeper appealed the lower **court decision** rejecting our request for continued protection of our state park, Halpatokee Buffer Preserve, to the 11th Circuit Court. Some of the organizations supporting our efforts were: FL Conservation Coalition, FL and Martin Native Plant Society, Audubon FL, Audubon SLC, Pelican Island Audubon, FL Wildlife Federation, Rivers Coalition, Marne Resources Council, 1000 Friends of Florida, Loxahatchee Sierra Club.

Two members of the CASLC served as expert witnesses in administrative hearings regarding SFWMD's Environment Resource Permit to alter Halpatokee Buffer unit, challenged by Diane Goldberg and the St. Luce County Audubon.

Cezar Orjaliza produced **YouTube video: "Halpatokee Trails: More Than Meets the Eye"** featuring Dr. Grant Gilmore, Indian Riverkeeper Marty Baum, George Jones, Marjorie Shropshire, and Shari Anker. Another huge debt of gratitude goes to Cezar and Bill Gibson for getting this film done. Filmed on site. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrZVgtrSgGs>

Moonlight Acoustic Boat Tour of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. 3-night event sold out. Led by Dr. Grant Gilmore, ichthyologist, and CASLC BOD.

Motorized kayak tour of Evans Creek inside Halpatokee Buffer Preserve by CASLC board member Billy Gibson.

Gave input to Treasure Coast's Planning Organization's 2040 planning committee.

2017 FHWA & DOT Appeal in 11th Circuit Court was denied. Re: **Halpatokee Buffer Unit of SPSP.**

Served on **Advisory Group to evaluate FDEP's Unit Management Plan for Savannas Preserve State Park.**

Coordinated with statewide group behind "**Florida State Parks in Peril**" when state government proposed the taking of state parks for "incompatible uses" such as cattle ranching (proposed for the Savannas) or golf courses (for Jonathan Dickinson State Park). The proposal was abandoned.

Hosted special presentation at IRSC by Alike Moncrief, director of Florida Conservation Voters, re: the passage of Amendment One in Florida.

Led by CASLC BOD Charles Grande, we participated in **opposition to Sunbreak Farms in Fort Pierce spreading bio-solids** on its 6,000-acre farm.

The Conservation Alliance and the Waterfront Council were instrumental in bringing Scott Pearson and his underwater slides of the area to Ft. Pierce. Scott does beautiful work for the National Geographic Society.

Members of the Alliance have worked with the Comprehensive Plan Study Group to improve the County Comprehensive Plan. The Alliance has historically been represented on the County Land Acquisition Selection Committee, the Blueway Advisory Committee and the Restudy Coordination Committee.

Op-ed by Shari Anker in *TCPalm*, "No reason to celebrate the loss of a state park and the precedent it sets." Re-printed in other FL publications.

Aliki Moncrief, director of Florida Conservation Voters and the force behind the passage of Amendment One to FL Constitution gave a special presentation at Indian River State College (IRSC).

Charles Grande led CASLC's opposition to the use of biosolids at Sunbreak Farms in Fort Pierce.

Introduction of Electromagnetic Fields Pollution as a human, animal, and ecosystem issue: A Special Topic presentation.

2018

24th Party in the Park event at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park.

3-Day Evening Indian River Lagoon Acoustic Tour with Dr. Grant Gilmore. Well-attended.

Hosted political debate on environment for local and state candidates for Florida offices.

Hosted screening of "A Plastic Ocean" at IRSC to launch anti-plastics campaign, by member Sarah Cieslinski. Well attended.

2019

Re-established our commitment to developing "**A Sense of Place**" by coordinating nature tours, and **cultivating eco-literacy** with presentations given by county and statewide experts and experienced, knowledgeable local folks.

Special Presentation in coordination with the St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department: "**Our St. Lucie River: The North Fork: Its History and Current Issues,**" given by **Dr. Gary Goforth, Ph.D.** [<https://conservationallianceslc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/GOFORTH-for-the-love.pdf>]

Driving Tour of the Savannas Preserve State Park with Founder Carol Herzog giving introduction and park ranger Paul Milette as tour guide. Carol Herzog spoke of her memories of advocacy efforts to create SPSP.

Presentations via Zoom: SLC ERD on conserved lands in the county; Diane Goldberg on butterflies and moths in our yards; former CASLC President George Jones on his life-long work with FL state parks, now with ORCA, RC, FWF, and EvCo; Sarah Sharkey on FL Conservation Planning Atlas; Marty Baum, 6th generation Floridian and Indian Riverkeeper.

Exhibited at SLC Oxbow EcoFestival for Earth Day (John and Sue Krivosheyff)

SL County Environmental Issues:

Pollution: monitoring Sun Break Farms proposed application of biosolids; auto wreckage facility on Selvitz Road, along with pre-existing oil spill, took steps to conduct water testing in coordination with ORCA.

Opening of Crosstown Parkway Bridge: challenged *TCPalm's* reporting of the issue, as precedent in the taking of other state park lands and environmentally sensitive lands.

Op-ed by CASLC VP Pam Harting in *TCPalm*, "Taking preserve land sets dangerous precedent as Florida plans new toll roads".

Protecting threatened and endangered fish species (Dr. Grant Gilmore) in the St. Lucie River. CASLC scientist members assisted in cataloging fish species).

Continuing efforts to create conservation status for the late scientist Frank Evans 36-acre estate, known as **Sherwood Hammock**, on the North Fork with key oxbows and their habitat for endangered species.

Submitted letter to USACE re: LOSOM, or Lake Okeechobee System Regulation Schedule (Charles Grande).

City of Port St. Lucie asked to cease spraying herbicide inside Mariposa Cane Slough Preserve boundaries.

Co-signatory with 44 other conservation organizations requesting veto of FL HB 7103, which would, in numerous ways, harm Everglades restoration. Created by Sierra Club FL.

CLIMATE CHANGE: CASLC quickly met 2019 BOD goal to begin taking action on climate change. VP Pam Harting led CASLC's effort to create a day-long, "St. Lucie County Community Resilience Planning Workshop." The first of its kind in our area. SLC ERD joined as co-organizer. Geared towards elected representative and city and county staff. To facilitate climate change planning in SLC, speakers included expert or experienced folks of national or statewide import. The workshop was well attended with over 115 participants. Attendees gained an understanding of: 1) the issues faced by Florida governments; 2) resources for dealing with those issues, and; 3) perspective from Florida communities already working to plan for the impacts of climate change.

Partnerships

Joined as friend of the court in the Maggy Hurchalla Frist Amendment legal challenge; TC Solar Co-Op Initiative and SELF; Florida Conservation Coalition asking FL Gov to fully fund Florida Forever; Sierra Club's initiative, "No Roads to Ruin"; long-standing organization member of Rivers Coalition.

2020:

Covid Pandemic and the Great Pause

Our last in-person meeting was in March. Its goal was to serve as another opportunity to discuss the impact of climate change locally and statewide.

Special Presentation: Dr. Ken Lindeman, Ph.D., of Florida Institute of Technology presented, **"Changing Climate, Changing Fisheries: Florida and the Caribbean,"** to a packed room at Morningside Library in PSL. Lindeman managed FIT's Sustainability Program and is a well-published researcher and author. [<https://conservationallianceslc.org/climate-crisis/#educating>]

Via Zoom: Presentations: Dr. Beth Falls, Research Scientist, Ocean Research & Conservation Organization (ORCA), "Supporting Advocacy with Real World Science"; Joanie Regan, Stormwater Manager, Cocoa Beach: "Restoring Rain's Natural Path," including "Low Impact Development" policies for municipalities; Cris Costello, FL Sierra Club, Senior Organizing Manager, Our Wild Florida Campaign, "No Roads to Ruin Campaign," aka M-CORES.

A Sense of Place: Guided Nature Tours: Kayak/canoe tour through mangroves at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park; guided hike at Indrio Savannas County Park with Tessa Roberts.

Advocacy Projects: Protecting Habitat

Sherwood Hammock: 36- acre property of the late scientists Frank & Hedwig Evans (and dear friend of Dr. Grant Gilmore's). Historic native Florida flora and fauna, including rare fish habitat in undisturbed oxbows of North Fork. Evans heirs wish to place in conservation status: would create link to other St. Lucie County conserved areas, natural oxbows. Kayak/canoe science expedition on the North Fork near White City, bordering Sherwood Hammock.

Evans Creek: named after a member of the Evans family. The Creek is an original undisturbed and very narrow oxbow, which is now impacted by reckless boaters and the Crosstown Parkway Bridge. The Alliance spared no effort to protect it from the Bridge (sadly, unsuccessfully) but now we wish to advocate for passive recreation only.

Riverwatch Basin/Channel on the south east Indian River Lagoon threatened by Sopotnick development. Letters of previous support for protection resubmitted.

Projects: Water Flow and Pollution

North Fork of the St. Lucie River: Dr. Beth Falls of ORCA's submitted proposal to obtain baseline water testing near Selvitz road.

Mariposa Cane Slough Preserve: (See 2011 entry.) The Alliance advocated for its conservation, and adopted it as an organization. (The highly invasive ardisia has been mostly eliminated due to SLC's Steve Fousek and Alliance volunteers.) Due to EWIP project abutting the Preserve, the hydrology has been altered, now the water flow is impeded. Also, application of glyphosate has become an issue. Informal assessment taken by Dr. Gary Goforth, Steve Fousek, and SLC ERD staff.

Issues, Advocacy & Alliances

- Along with 120 organizations the Alliance signed on to Sierra Club FL's letter to FDOT challenging M-CORES. Proposed 330 miles of toll roads would cut through environmentally sensitive land, including state parks and preserves, and affect water quality.
- Endorsed the Marine Resources Council promotion of Low Impact Development by cities and municipalities.
- Signed on as Amici in Maggy Hurchalla's 1st Amendment lawsuit through the Appeals Court on to Supreme Court of the U.S.
- Supported Diane Goldberg's challenge to Port St. Lucie re: her right to plant a wide variety native flora in her yard. The Alliance sent out an Action Alert, which received an effective response. Article in TCPalm. Diane won!
- Advocated for the best use of the new Ft. Pierce Mega Yacht facility, including a ban on any plan for a cargo port. (Charles Grande)
- Advocated for sustainable development in the county. We promote best land use practices including the retention of open land, and citizen review of development permits. Submitted comments to the SLC Planning & Zoning Department.
- Long-standing organizational member of the Rivers Coalition, with mission to stop the Lake O discharges and protect the St. Lucie River and Inlet and the Indian River Lagoon, and send the water south.
- Co-signer with Diane Goldberg's comments to the St. Lucie County Legislative Delegation re: state funding of reservoir important to local water quality. FL Rep Overdorf agreed to vote for funding the reservoir.

2021

In-Person Events: During the Gaps We Had Fun!

Presentation of CASLC Lifetime Service Award: A Celebration for CASLC Founder, Carol Herzog at Savannas Preserve State Park. Environmental legend and friend, Maggy Hurchalla, former Americorps volunteers and other longtime colleagues and friends attended, along with the state park manager, staff, and volunteers. Many shared stories to sing Carol's praises.

Two Drive-In Movies, both inspiring takes on innovative solutions and sustainability in the era of climate change: *2040: Join the Regeneration*; and *The Human Element: We are a Force of Nature*.

Advocacy Projects: Protecting Habitat

Protecting Oculina Deep Water Coral Reef off shores of the Atlantic Ocean from Fort Pierce to St. Augustine. CASLC Board member and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Professor Emeritus John Reed led scientific research in the 1970s and 80s that documented the presence of this unique deep water reef. His advocacy resulted in the formation of the Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern (OHAPC) in 1984 by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) within the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The OHAPC was the first marine protected area in the world to protect a deep-water coral reef and prohibited bottom trawls, longlines, dredges, and anchors. CASLC took up the task of advocacy for continued protection of the OHAPC, after a presidential executive order by President Trump sought to open up formerly protected areas in land and sea which allowed the SAFMC to propose opening up portions of the OHAPC to allow bottom trawling by the rock shrimp industry (known as Amendment 10). Bottom shrimp trawling has devastated nearly 90% of the Oculina coral habitat in large portions of the OHAPC. The CASLC contacted TCPalm environmental reporters that resulted in excellent articles. CASLC submitted a letter to the SAFMC. Pam Harting created our Change.org petition: <https://www.change.org/p/save-the-oculina-coral-reef-this-unique-coral-ecosystem-is-found-nowhere-else-on-earth>. We began a partnership with the Marine Conservation Institute, Washington, DC. Dr. Grant Gilmore submitted his letter and research on the critically important fish habitat the reef provides, pointing out in particular the life cycle import of the fish traveling to and from the Oculina reefs and the Indian River Lagoon. Prof Reed submitted numerous letters to the SAFMC and NOAA Fisheries with documentation of his decades of research on the Oculina reefs.

Sherwood Hammock: native Florida flora species survey with Greg Braun and the Treasure Coast Native Plant Society.

Evans Creek: Researched obtaining Non-Motorized Zone for the Creek, met with County Commissioner.

Issues, Advocacy, and Alliances

- Pew Charities contacted CASLC to assist in appeal to NOAA to further protect the critically endangered North American Right Atlantic Whale. The whales migrate through our waters and give birth in the near coastal zone. Submitted letter.
- Met with SLC commissioner and P&D staff re: ordinance to reduce open space requirement for new commercial development; submitted comments
- Monitored possible change to Port of Fort Pierce to include cargo; with FL Conservation Voters Grande's statement read into comments on FL SB 426 and FL HB267.
- Served on Review Committee for Fort Pierce Inlet State Park 10-Year Plan
- Monitored discussion of new bridge to Hutchinson Island
- Monitored LOSOM changes by the Army Corps
- Monitored M-CORES (No Roads to Ruin) with Sierra Club FL

Via Zoom: Presentations: [Paul Strauss](#), Director of Palm Beach County Environmental & Conservation Services, FL Advanced Master Naturalist, and NAI certified interpretive guide, etc. for a "Virtual Tour of the Savannas Preserve State Park"; [Rose Benchard-Butram](#), Natural Resource Specialist and Director of Naturescape Program in Broward County; [Mike Conner](#), Indian Riverkeeper; [Chuck O'Neal](#), Fonder of FL Rights of Nature, on proposed Amendments to FL Constitution; [Greg Braun](#), President of TC Native Plant Society, Executive Director Guardians of Martin County, Sustainable Ecosystems International, on the hunt for native flora and fauna at Sherwood Hammock; [Dr. Richard Baker](#), President, Pelican Island Audubon: on its broad new mission; [Lindsay Cross](#), Water & Policy Director, Florida Conservation Voters, "The 30X30 Campaign to conserve 30% of our land, water, and oceans by 2030"; [Theodora Scorato](#), MSW, Executive Director of Environmental Health [Trust.org](#) on impacts of radio frequency radiation and wireless technology on environment and flora and fauna.

2022 **Stepped up advocacy for Oculina Coral Reef.** Amendment 10 sent to NOAA for approval after SAFMC voted in the affirmative to lift protective status. CASLC served on core group of scientists and other advocates, including Dr. Edie Widder from ORCA, organized by Marine Conservation Institute. CASLC continued to garner signatures on our Change.org petition, while MCI and other national groups created their own petitions. The result was over 40,000 signatures. CASLC recruited local and statewide environmental groups to be signatories to the non-governmental a letter sent to NOAA. MCI effectively involved national NGOs. The result was a wide-ranging outcry. Even Sylvia Earle, nationally recognized oceanographer, was active in this fight. Prof John Reed submitted numerous documents explaining the scientific research showing substantive harm to Oculina HAPC if bottom trawling re-commenced. A hard-fought success: NOAA rejected Amendment 10. We continue monitoring as SAFMC has voted again to try again.

Submitted letter to FL DEP re: proposed lifting of Conservation Easement for the RiverWatch Basin/Channel, which is a mangrove lined narrow channel on South Hutchinson Island, directly connecting to the Indian River Lagoon. Letter co-signed by Sierra Club Loxahatchee, SLCA Audubon, Indian Riverkeeper, and the Presidents Club of Hutchinson Island. Letter reasserts, especially for the Essential Fish Habitat, historical evidence that the proposed dredge and gasoline powered boating activities would have irreversible impacts, and included Dr. Gilmore's Grant Amended report as found in CASLC's earlier letter regarding this area.

Monitored proposed raising of condo/apartment heights on Hutchinson Island. Op-ed by Charles Grande.

Diane Goldberg attends Legislative Delegation Meeting. Re: SB 2508 on sea grass mitigation, arguing for us that there is no ecological sound way to mitigate for the loss of sea grass.

Via Zoom: Presentations: Max Chesnes and Ed Killer, environmental reporters of *TCPalm* on the importance of local news covering environmental issues; Gil Smart, Policy Director of Friends of Everglades; Mike Middlebrook, Assistant Director of SLC ERD; Dr. Grant Gilmore, "Freshwater Aquatic Habitat Restoration by Concerned Citizens"; Tiare Fridich, marine biologist with the Manatee Club, "All About Manatees."

Local NPR affiliate, WQCS, "In Focus" program, featured Shari Anker as President of CASLC on the 50h Anniversary of CASLC, its history and achievements. Interviewed by Kevin Kerrigan.