



Wakulla Riverfront

January 2013

Friends of Wakulla Springs Newsletter
www.wakullasprings.org; Phone: 850-561-7276
465 Wakulla Park Drive, Wakulla Springs, FL 32327



FRIENDS OF WAKULLA SPRINGS STATE PARK - A citizen support group dedicated to the protection of Wakulla Springs State Park

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee: Ron Piasecki, President; Julie Harrington, Vice President; Ann Kennedy, Secretary; Trudy Thompson, Treasurer
Board of Directors: Lynn Artz, Madeleine Carr, Andrea Carter, Cheryl Creel, Elinor Elfner, John Epler, Cal Jamison, Jack Leppert, Sean McGlynn, Cynthia Paulson, Jay Schleuning, Richard Stafford, Cliff Thael, Crystal Wakoa



Important Dates:

January 26, 2013—Campfire Chat with Don Gavin at the Azalea Shelter
February 10, 2013—Friends Annual Gathering at the Lodge
March 23, 2013—District Annual Volunteer Day
April 12-21, 2013—Wild About Wakulla Week
April 20, 2013—Wildlife Festival

Note from the President

Ron Piasecki

.HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and also survived all the football games on New Years week.

The Friends had a very good 2012 and we are looking for an even better 2013.

We will start the New Year off with the Fireside Chat on January 26th beginning at 6:30 PM. Then be sure to mark your calendars for our Friends Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, February 10th. This gathering will kick-off at 12:30 PM with Registration and a chance to renew your dues for 2013. We are very lucky to have Friends members Ernest Toole and granddaughter entertain us in the Lobby. Also at 12:30 PM, in the Dogwood building (past the bathroom bldg.), Jim Stevenson will host a discussion on water issues impacting Wakulla Springs. (Jim is an excellent speaker so please plan to attend). After some excellent hors d'oeuvres we will have a short membership meeting and complete the day with our traditional Tour Boat Ride.

We have attached a copy of the Agenda for our Annual Membership meeting.

See you on January 26th. and also on February 10th.



Friends of Wakulla Springs Membership

Val LaHart

More than 55 new members signed up 2012 and we would love to see more! We currently have more than 200 names in our database. Please remember that a Friends' donation/membership is tax deductible.

Our Annual meeting will be Sunday, February 10th and we hope to see lots of our current members show up. Bring a friend and increase our numbers. I would love to meet you (again) or meet you for the first time.

The Friends would like to have more opportunities where members can interact. Do you know how to take great photos? Would you volunteer for a tour with other members and share this wonderful knowledge? Can you identify plants and trees? Would you conduct a tour with members and share that ability? Are you interested in water quality?

There are lots of ways we can involve our members in more "members only" activities and YOU can help! Let me know what your talents are—please don't be shy, we need you! Your talents will help make our Park a better place. How do YOU think we can make our membership better? How can we better serve you? Your ideas are needed and welcome.

The Annual meeting is an opportunity to not only renew your membership but meet other members. We look forward to seeing you. If you renewed or joined after October 1, 2012, your 2013 membership is paid.

How do you renew? Bring me your check and renew at the Annual Meeting! I look forward to seeing you. OR Mail your check to: **Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park**, 465 Wakulla Park Drive, Wakulla Springs, Florida 32327. OR You can also renew your dues online by visiting www.Wakullasprings.org and clicking on "Join Now."

Why be a member of Friends? You are part of a dynamic, active group of people who care deeply about our springs and help when we can; we have fun functions; you can participate in "Members only" activities; you can interact with other members on Facebook and you can help keep the road into Wakulla Springs free of litter.

PLUS your dues are tax deductible since we are a 501-C (3) organization. I am sure YOU can think of more!

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfWakullaSpringsState-Park>

Please visit us and "like" us.



Do you want to be an "E-Friend" or know someone who would like that? You can send us your email address and you will only receive newsletters. This also means you are not eligible for the members' only boat rides or other functions. E-Friend signup books are out now, one in the waterfront building and one in the lodge lobby.

Looking forward to meeting you at our annual meeting !



Putting Your Arms Where Your Heart Is
Madeleine Carr

Our Friends groups is justly proud of all the accolades we have received from the Florida Park Service. We are the top receiver of best this, best that and such awards make us want to strive to do even better.

When you come to the annual meeting on Feb. 10, check out the awards, for sure. But also check out how we intend to do better. Your help is needed to achieve more.

Our various committees probably have just the right kind of activity with the right amount of time commitment geared to your interest or talent. You are a valued member of the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park.

You also have hidden talents we need to become ***The*** super citizens support organization. This is the year to put your full strengths to work, to connect with the park on a deeper level.

See what you might want to do and talk to the committee chairs before the annual meeting.

Sue Damon recently took these pictures of three Cormorants and a Gator sunning themselves at Wakulla Springs





Friends of Wakulla Springs
 Annual Members Meeting Agenda
 February 10, 2013 @ 12:30 PM
 Wakulla Springs Lodge

- 12:30PM Registration and membership payments
 (Music by Ernest Toole and Granddaughter)
- 12:30 PM Cash Bar opens and Social hour

 (Presentation by Jim Stevenson in the Dogwood Pavilion)
- 1:15 PM Light hors d'oeuvre served
- Membership Meeting
- 2:00 PM Introduction by President (Ron Piasecki)
- 2:05 PM Park Manager's Report (Pete Scalco)
- 2:10 PM Friends President's Report (Ron Piasecki)
- 2:15 PM Treasurer's Report (Trudy Thompson)
- 2:20 PM COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Grants Committee Report (Julie Harrington)
 Fund Raising Committee (Andrea Carter)
 Membership Committee (Val LaHart)
 Communications Committee (Cynthia Paulson)
 Events Committee (Elinor Elfner)
- 2:50 PM Re-election and election of Board Members (Jack Leppert)
- 2:55 PM Presidents Award for 2012 (Ron Piasecki)
- 3:00 PM Meeting adjourned
- 3:30 PM Friends Tour Boat Ride Waterfront

ELECTIONS

Each year the membership elects, or reelects, members to the Board of Directors for a two-year term.

To introduce new candidates to the Membership, they are asked to complete a questionnaire. We have three new candidates:

Heather Encinosa

1. Briefly describe your historical connection to Wakulla Springs and the Park.

I have lived in Tallahassee since 1997 and enjoyed several recreational trips to the springs. In 2009, my firm became the county attorney for Wakulla County and I began to truly understand the recreational, environmental, and historical value that Wakulla Springs lends to the County and the region when we represented the county in the TP Smith permit modification. Balancing the numerous development pressures with the preservation of this fragile resource requires vigilance and a dedicated group like the friends.

2. Do you feel you have a good sense of the various goals and activities of the Friends or would you like to have more briefing time with current members?

I think I generally understand the friends' goals, but would likely benefit from more exposure.

3. What, and to what extent, are your motivations for participation?

Wakulla Springs is a vital resource to this region and I want to help ensure that it is preserved.

4. Please provide us with a bit of your educational, professional and avocational interests and background.



I am a practicing attorney with the law firm of Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, PA with offices in Tallahassee, Tampa, Fort Myers, and Fort Lauderdale. I have a BJ from the University of Missouri and a JD from the American University Washington College of Law. I have been practicing law in Florida since 1997 and currently represent Wakulla County.

5. Can you identify some interest areas, both general or specific, in which you would want to contribute? Examples- administrative support, e.g. financial management and investing, legal, biological research, publicity and other communications, hydrological understandings, historical or biological understanding, facilities or boat maintenance, political advocacy, and the list goes on. Don't select from the above, but please help us define your interests.

My skills are most likely best suited for political advocacy and fund raising.

6. Recognizing fully that we all are engaged in competing time and distance responsibilities, please assess your ability to contribute time, energy, and skills to the ongoing work of the Board.

With a full-time law practice and two young children time is the one commodity that I am short of, but at this point I believe I will be able to dedicate enough time and energy to assist the board. I cannot guarantee that I will make every meeting if I have a sick child or a competing business trip, but I can commit to give it a try.

7. Are you on other boards or do you engaged in other civic activities that might conflict with, or complement, your ability to publicly advocate for the goals of our board?

I am the county attorney for Wakulla County and as such, I will not be able to engage in any political advocacy with the Board of County Commissioners. If the Friends and the County ever found themselves in adverse legal positions I would ethically have to resign from the Friends board.

8. Have you been sufficiently briefed on the purposes, goals and processes of the board to the extent that you could commit to partner with us or

do you feel you would need a bit more time and information about our purposes?

I have assisted the Friends in fundraising for several years and thus have a general familiarity with your group.

9. Do you have any business, family, or political obligations that you sense may, from time to time, impede your ability to be an independent advocate for Wakulla Springs State Park? Simply describe any. We all have limitations.

See Number 7 above.

Audrine Finnerty

1. Briefly describe your historical connection to Wakulla Springs and the Park.

I first visited Wakulla Springs after my parents moved to Wakulla County in 2002 and have been entranced ever since.



2. Do you feel you have a good sense of the various goals and activities of the Friends or would you like to have more briefing time with current members?

I have been following the activities of the Friends for many years and have a good sense of their goals.

3. What, and to what extent, are your motivations for participation?

I wish to contribute my time and efforts to further the mission of the Friends - to conserve, protect, restore and enhance the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of Wakulla Springs State Park for present and future generations.

4. Please provide us with a bit of your educational, professional and avocational interests and background.

Educational:
JD, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; BA, American Studies, George Mason University

Professional:
Current: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Manage two federal grant programs and work with non-profit boards across the state to improve their programs and board performance.

Past: Law Clerk, National Park Service, Historic Housing Division; Private law practice concentrating on real estate and environmental matters.

Avocational interests and background:
I began volunteering in earnest in 1996, when my daughter was one. My first major endeavor was to form a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to raise funds for a state-of-the art playground facility in Independence, Ohio. As President of the group, I led a team that raised \$250,000.00 to develop the facility. The playground thrives to this date, and includes a dedicated classroom facility donated and built by the Cleveland Clinic, two main playgrounds and a unique safety-town roadway system that includes buildings, city streets with working streetlights and a winding country roadway.

In 1996, I was elected to the board of the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce, and successfully worked with the board to incorporate not only the business interests of the member communities, but educational, cultural and environmental groups as well.

In 1999, I joined the West Creek Preservation Committee, at the time a small grassroots group of citizens committed to preserving a local watershed that was being threatened by development. I joined the board in 2000. The West Creek Preservation Committee has evolved into a preeminent and nationally recognized watershed conservation group and has expanded its mission to serve the greater Cleveland area as a land bank and stewardship advocate. Conservation of our natural and cultural resources remains a very important topic for me.

Since 2000, I have been involved with the Girl Scouts in many capacities, from troop leader to national delegate. I was able to increase membership within my daughter's school, and while serving as the director of 35 local troops, was able to increase member-

ship and recruit and retain successful troop leaders.

Upon my move to Tallahassee, I committed myself to volunteer efforts at John Paul II Catholic High School. Over the past 3 1/2 years I have chaired many fundraising events and have been heavily involved in SouthWoodstock – John Paul II Catholic High School’s annual fine arts and music festival. I was elected President of the school Parent Teacher Organization in May, 2012 and have introduced new events and I am currently in the process of reorganizing the entire organization.

My daughter will be graduating in May, 2013 and I look forward to being able to focus my time and energy to the Friends.

5. Can you identify some interest areas, both general or specific, in which you would want to contribute? Examples- administrative support, e.g. financial management and investing, legal, biological research, publicity and other communications, hydrological understandings, historical or biological understanding, facilities or boat maintenance, political advocacy, and the list goes on. Don’t select from the above, but please help us define your interests.

My strengths lie in fundraising, event planning, community partnerships and membership promotion. I am happy to help in any of those areas.

6. Recognizing fully that we all are engaged in competing time and distance responsibilities, please assess your ability to contribute time, energy, and skills to the ongoing work of the Board.

As I work full time I am generally not available in person during working hours. I travel for work throughout the state about a week every other month. I am available in the evenings and during the weekends.

7. Are you on other boards or do you engaged in other civic activities that might conflict with, or complement, your ability to publicly advocate for the goals of our board?

No.

8. Have you been sufficiently briefed on the purposes, goals and processes of the board to the extent

that you could commit to partner with us or do you feel you would need a bit more time and information about our purposes?

I have been sufficiently briefed.

9. Do you have any business, family, or political obligations that you sense may, from time to time, impede your ability to be an independent advocate for Wakulla Springs State Park? Simply describe any. We all have limitations.

No.

10. Would you like to further engage in a private or small group discussion about any of the above questions, or pose a few of your own to current members, so that you might better evaluate your interest and ability to contribute to our Board? How can we assist you in further evaluating this “opportunity”?

No.

Robert Peloquin



Qualifications for election of Board of Directors for Robert Peloquin.

To Whom it concerns:

I wish to submit my request to be a candidate for election to the BOD of Friends of Wakulla Springs. I became aware of the organization when I attended the Annual meeting in 2012. I was very impressed with the goals of the group and the success and recognition of

the achievements through the State. I had the opportunity to meet very interesting and dedicated people who shared a common interest in the preservation of our natural heritage and environment. I was particularly intrigued with the Volunteer opportunities the park system offered. I became a member at that meeting. I have always been involved with protecting and enjoying the natural world, particularly of Florida.

As a result of being introduced to Jackie Turner, I applied for and was accepted as a Florida State Park Volunteer. My first opportunity to serve was to assist at the children's activities booth at the Wildlife festival. Several weeks later I was asked to help out with the LIFE program for the middle school students. I have also just completed training as a Green Guide at TCC class eleven.

Soon thereafter I applied for training as a volunteer river boat guide. I received my park certification in mid august and have had the privilege of working regularly twice a week since that time. I have worked over 200 volunteer hours since joining the park service.

I am retired from my own general contracting business and have a lot of time on my hands. In addition to owning and operating my own business for over 35 years, I am a past president and currently on the Board of Directors of Magnolia Forest Home Owners Assn as well as the BOD of the Friends of Lake Talquin.

I feel that I would be an asset to the FOWSSP. I have business and teaching and communication skills as well as all the experiences and skills as a general contractor. The one area I do not have strong skill and desire is in fund raising.

Current board members standing for re-election are as follows:

John Epler

John is an aquatic entomologist; he studies insects that are associated with water. He is a world renowned expert on chironomy (non-biting) midges and an expert on Florida's water



beetles. He has produced numerous identification manuals for midges, water beetles and water bugs for Florida and the Southeast US, and has named over 35 new species of insects.

John first visited Wakulla Springs in 1961 and has lived near the river for the last 28 years. Needless to say, with a specialty in aquatic insects, he has a strong interest in protecting all bodies of water!

He hopes to continue to furnish the Board with a bit of scientific knowledge concerning important environmental issues.

Julie Harrington

Julie holds a doctorate in Economics and an MS in Fisheries from Auburn University. Her Bachelor's degree was in Fish and Wildlife Management, from Montana State University.



She has been employed at FSU since 2001 as Director (and Asst. Director) of the Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis. Her primary research efforts are in the areas of environmental/natural resources, sustainable energy, aerospace, education and economic development. She is active in community activities ranging from the School of Arts and Sciences Board to grant writing and awards (lakes restoration, aquaculture, community projects, etc.). She has served and is serving on the Tallahassee/Leon County Watershed Policy Board, Florida Lakewatch, Wakulla Spring working group, and the Leon County Septic Advisory Committee (as the FOWS representative). She has served as the VP for FOWS for the last year. She is looking forward to working with the many Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, and supporting the primary goals of park preservation, water resources protection, grant writing and education/outreach.

Jack Leppert

I wish to affirm my continued interest in serving another term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park.

I have been a continuous member of this board since it's founding in 1995. I served as the founding president, when Madeleine Carr served as the vice president, Dorothy Routh as Secretary, and Sandy Cook assumed the responsibilities of Treasurer (in addition to those of Park Manager). We were inspired to take on these volunteer tasks by the then State Parks Director Fran Minnella. We jointly developed Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, and concurrently recruited a membership that included several of the still active members. (Ann Kennedy, John Epler, Trudy Thompson, Cal Jamerson, Crystal Wakoia).

We had many successes, not the least of which has been the development of an alliance of petitioners who sought and won a court and public relations victory over complex issues relating to the degradation of ground waters flowing to Wakulla Springs. Additionally hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised (mostly by Madeleine) in those years for multiple restoration investments in the Lodge building. Continuing fund raising activities and generous donations continue to support the grounds, the tour boats and ticket office museum.

Following my retirement from government and education I was selected to serve for seven years on the Board of the Friends of Florida State Parks, the last two as President.

Three events have caused me to be less involved in recent years. Personal illnesses, state government reprioritizations, and extended summertime vacations to the mountains. I have however continued to give considerable support to efforts to continue research and advocacy related to protecting from degradation the groundwater flowing to Wakulla Springs. That struggle will renew again this winter when the city of Tallahassee will again be seeking a new DEP permit establishing its future obligations to operate its waste water treatment and disposal systems.

As a person long involved in supporting educational and recreational experiences throughout the "Real



Florida", I remain intensely supportive of our State Parks, and do wish to continue to advocate, both state-wide and within the Park system for even more effective interpretation and protection of our natural Florida.

In addition I will advocate continuously for expanded public, Friends' members, and Board participation in natural events and affairs within our park. I believe expanding updates on critical issues such as bird migration population patterns, water quality monitoring, forestry management reports etc. at Board meetings and to the public will give more people more reason and energy to give our Park the continued support and protection required from ever threatening multiple forms of degradation.

Thus I request your vote to continue my participation for two more years.

Sean McGlynn

It is a pleasure and an honor to be again considered for the Board of Directors of Wakulla Springs. When I was little, that was my favorite place in the world. It still is too, except that sometimes it hurts to see the hydrilla and the algae as well as darker water in the spring. I would like to continue to do all that I can to make it as it once was so that others can appreciate the wonder I felt as a child. I have been involved in the Wakulla Springs water quality monitoring for the past decade.

I am an environmental scientist with over 33 years of experience addressing a wide range of environmental issues. My technical expertise is ecosystem ecology and water quality, vegetative analysis and macro invertebrate ecology. I am currently the President of McGlynn Laboratories Inc., a nationally accredited environmental laboratory and consulting firm founded in 1997. Education: BS Biochemistry, LSU, 1977; MA History, FSU, 1989; PhD Biology, Area III, Ecology, FSU 1995.

Ron Piasecki

Ron is a retired Senior Executive of the Federal Government. Prior to his government service Ron spent several years working in industry with AT&T, Southern Railway and the University of Maryland.



Since moving to Wakulla County in 2002 Ron has become very active in community activities. He is the past Commander of the Coast Guard Auxiliary at Shell Point; started the Wakulla County Citizen’s Infrastructure Advisory Committee (past chairman); chairman of Wakulla County Code Enforcement Board; and a member of the FSU Marine Lab Board of Trustees.

For the past couple of years Ron has served as President of the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park. Along with his wife Angret they publish the Friends quarterly newsletter the Wakulla Riverfront.

Trudy Thompson

Trudy has lived in Wakulla County since 1978, and has enjoyed and loved Wakulla Springs since then. She has been involved with the Friends as a Board Director almost since its inception, having served as President, and currently as Treasurer (since 2006). Her contributions are otherwise devoted to helping with our fundraising events, and being part of the litter patrol of our Adopt-a-Road area. She is very devoted to the Park, and to the Friends' mission, and would be happy to serve another term.





Wakulla Springs State Park

Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, Inc.,

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please Print)

| |
|---|
| First Name |
| Last Name |
| Street |
| City/Zip/State |
| Phones |
| E-mail |
| Tell us about your skills and talents - we would love to have your input! |
| <input type="radio"/> Membership check enclosed |
| <input type="radio"/> Students - \$15 |
| <input type="radio"/> Individuals - \$20 |
| <input type="radio"/> Families - \$25 |
| <input type="radio"/> Good Friend - \$50 |
| <input type="radio"/> Best Friend - \$100 |
| <input type="radio"/> Business Friend - \$250 |
| <input type="radio"/> Lifetime Friend membership - \$1000 or more |

Please fill out form, enclose membership check, and mail to:

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465 Wakulla Park Drive
Wakulla Springs, Florida 32327
Phone: 850-561-7276
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