



FLORIDA STATE PARKS

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**2020  
VOLUNTEER &  
DIVISION RECOGNITION  
AWARDS**

The image features a background of a topographic map with white contour lines on a light grey background. A large, solid dark green rectangle is centered on the page, serving as a backdrop for the text.

**2020 VOLUNTEER  
RECOGNITION AWARDS**



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



## 20 Years of Service and Adult Volunteer of the Year for Administration

### ANNE PIERCE

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park

Anne has made numerous accomplishments over her 1,760 hours of service. She is a fearless champion for the park and is deeply beloved by her colleagues. Anne became an active member of the Friends of The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc. in 1998 and has served as treasurer since 2004. She has pioneered the conservation and documentation efforts of the park's extensive historic collection throughout her time as a volunteer.



## 20 Years of Service

### VERNON COMPTON

Blackwater Heritage State Trail

An outstanding advocate for Blackwater Heritage Trail, Vernon worked with Santa Rosa County to secure Restore Act funding for the trail. Working with the trail and county, Vernon kept the project on track enabling the trail to receive a new vault style restroom, 16 park benches, three water fountains and asphalt repairs.



## 20 Years of Service

### LOIS WATSON

Myakka River State Park

Lois began volunteering with Myakka River in 1998. Lois fulfilled many volunteer job positions over the years in areas across the park. She has been a mentor and role model and is a rare example of a person who makes an impact on everyone they meet.



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS

## 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



### Adult Volunteer of the Year for Maintenance

**DANIEL CLEARY**

Lake Louisa State Park

Daniel has been volunteering at Lake Louisa State Park for 18 years, contributing over 13,000 hours of service. He helps with building and repairing wooden features, mowing road shoulders, cleaning cabins and more. In 2020, he built benches for the campground that provided a safe sitting area for campers waiting for laundry and restrooms.



### Adult Volunteer of the Year for Protection

**PAM REED**

Silver Springs State Park

Pam has been a local volunteer at Silver Springs for over six years, contributing over 3,000 hours of service. She is the head volunteer for the River Patrol Program, organizing the program and scheduling volunteers. Pam can be found patrolling the river multiple days a week to protect the Silver River's natural resources.



### Adult Volunteer of the Year for Resource Management

**MIKE PETELLAT**

Crystal River Archaeological State Park

In only seven years Mike has provided over 3,700 service hours to Crystal River Archaeological State Park. He is a powerful advocate for the park, leaving everyone he interacts with more knowledgeable about the park's significance. Mike is diligent, industrious and dedicated, making him a true asset to the park.



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS

## 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



### Adult Volunteer of the Year for Visitor Services

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#### **ED WIRKUS**

Topsail Hill Preserve State Park

Ed is a selfless individual who dedicates his time to ensure Topsail Hill Preserve's beach is clean and beautiful. Ed has faithfully walked the three miles of beach each weekend for years. He makes the 3.5-hour round-trip walk before daylight, leaving the beach pristine for both visitors and wildlife.



### Youth Volunteer of the Year for Administration

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#### **DELANEY DOUM**

Henderson Beach State Park

Delaney was instrumental in helping office operations during peak visitor times at Henderson Beach State Park. Her dedication and personality shined, making a positive first impression to over 100,000 visitors within a four-month period. She has also made positive impacts within the community by recruiting new volunteers for the park.



### Youth Volunteer of the Year for Maintenance

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#### **SOPHIA HOWARD**

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Sophia began her service in July 2020 and provided the park an extra set of hands during the summer. She works independently and safely, and takes pride in preparing the bath houses, parking lots and picnic areas for busy weekends.



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



## Youth Volunteer of the Year for Resource Management

**SPENCER MACKENZIE**

Henderson Beach State Park

Spencer has spent the last two years working with the Florida Park Service and local businesses in designing, building, fundraising and installing five borrow bin boxes. Spencer's goal in building the borrow bins was to promote the reuse and recycling of beach gear, such as toys, chairs, umbrellas and boogie boards.



## Youth Volunteer of the Year for Visitor Services

**SAVANNAH LEBEDEKER**

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Savannah's passion and commitment to supporting work at MacArthur Beach is evident. She has served as a leader in the summer camp and in the Junior Friends of MacArthur Beach programs. She sets a wonderful example for her peers and shares her enthusiasm for nature with campers.



## Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Administration

**CAROLYN MORGAN & CAROL CONE**

Oscar Scherer State Park

During their time volunteering at Oscar Scherer State Park, Carol and Carolyn have protected historic photography slides through systematic teamwork. Their efforts are invaluable, as these photographs provide powerful educational tools for visual learners and preserving slide film for future generations can provide tangible evidence of the past.



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS

## 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



### Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Maintenance

**RICK MUNGEAM & TODD WISE**

Bahia Honda State Park

Rick and Todd enjoy volunteering at and supporting Bahia Honda State Park. It shows not only in the quantity and quality of their work but in the enjoyment and friendship they bring to every task they are involved in. The pair are problem solvers and strive to fix issues permanently to provide long-lasting enjoyment to visitors at the park.



### Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Protection

**TYLER & JILL SHEFF**

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

Tyler and Jill are both dedicated, skilled, hardworking and delightful people. They have assisted the park in many different areas, from interpretive programming and administrative duties to safety and maintenance projects. The work that Tyler and Jill have done as a team has been extremely valuable to both staff and visitors.



### Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Resource Management

**TOM & LYNN MAIZE**

Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area  
at Flagler Beach

Tom and Lynn are key contributors to removing invasive plant species at Gamble Rogers. In three months, they removed over 11,500 air potato vines from  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of park land. The removal of this heavy infestation will allow for reestablishment of native plants and improved wildlife habitat.



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



## Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Visitor Services

### **WILLIAM H. "BILL" & ANITA JOHNSON**

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

Since 2015, Bill and Anita have worked very hard to go above and beyond throughout their time as volunteers. Their positive attitudes are infectious and impact everyone they meet. This team brings excellence to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park every day.

## Volunteer Team of Three of the Year for Administration

### **DIANA GREGORY, SUE HAMBURGER & SUE MUNSON**

Savannas Preserve State Park

Diana, Sue and Sue refined, re-drew, re-thought and replaced friends group operations at Savannas Preserve. Despite different leadership styles, communication preferences and learning styles, they meshed strengths to form a highly productive team. They worked relentlessly to renewed reenergize and motivate the friends group to best support the park.







# FLORIDA STATE PARKS

## 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

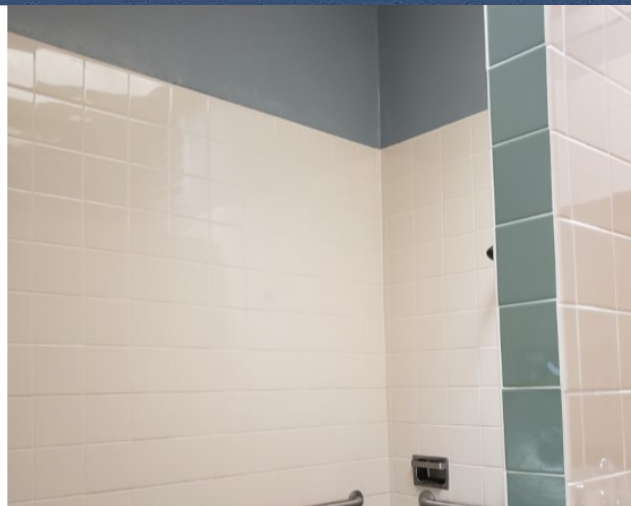
### Volunteer Team of Three of the Year for Maintenance

#### FACILITY CLOSURE CAMPING AREA MAINTENANCE TEAM

Silver Springs State Park

**CATHERINE "CAT" GORTON, LARRY MATHIS, ROD TAYLOR, RUSTY RAMSEY, ALICIA RAMSEY, DEBRA WELCH, JANE KAUFMAN, JIM KAUFMAN, LISA DONNELLY, KEVIN DONNELLY, PETE ELLIS & BILL HAHN**

A diverse team of volunteers tackled many projects in the Silver Springs campground during 2020. Accomplishments included painting and deep cleaning bathhouses, installing 12 new fans, repairing and pressure washing picnic tables, weeding and trimming 59 sites, deep cleaning carpets in all 10 cabins and more!





# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

## Volunteer Team of Three of the Year for Protection

### **RAINBOW SPRINGS BOAT CREW**

Rainbow Springs State Park

**STEVE AUSTIN, JOE PRIMOSCH, ALBERT SMITH, GREG RIHERD, CARLOS PEREZ, KELLY STRUGALA, DON DEWITT, KAREN DEWITT, PHIL MASTEN, LAURA FRONK, CAMERON WILSON, GARY MOTT, DAVA MCGAHEE & LISA FOREST**

The Rainbow Springs Boat Crew volunteers are invaluable for their role in offering interpretation and park protection. They help countless boaters and safely assist visitors. Their presence has decreased the need for law enforcement and EMT presence while also keeping the headspring pristine and ensuring visitors' enjoyment.





# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

## Volunteer Team of Three of the Year for Maintenance

### TIM ROCKWELL, MIKE WATSON & DANNY BUSTOS

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

Tim, Mike & Danny worked together to restore Hugh Taylor Birch State Park's old weathered cabins at our Elks Youth Camp. This project took a lot of time, communication and talent to complete. Each of these individuals looked forward to the advancement each day would bring.



## Volunteer Team of Three of the Year for Resource Management

### SEA TURTLE TEAM

Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park

### ALLISON SCHEFLOW, GERALD MADDEN & CARLA ALBANO

The Sea Turtle Team consists of three dedicated volunteers who have done an exemplary job for the last three years surveying the park's beach for sea turtle activity. They also assisted the park by removing trash and acting as park ambassadors, informing the public about the sea turtles and the park.





# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

## Volunteer Team of Three of the Year for Visitor Services

### HIGHLANDS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Highlands Hammock State Park

### ROBERTA LAKE & STEVE BLAIR

This team contributed to a visitor service project consisting of an uplands elevated wildlife observation pavilion in pine flatwoods and an interpretive kiosk. Construction was completed in January 2020. Visitors in the primitive wilderness area will be able to observe various migratory and endemic bird species within the park thanks to the contributions of these volunteers.



## Long-Term Project of the Year for Cultural Resources

### HISTORIC ORANGE GROVE RESTORATION

Highlands Hammock State Park

### TOMMY GOULD, JOHN GROSE, RYAN MCMEEKIN, DARREN MIDLANE, JOHN PAYNE & DAVID SCHMIDT

As one of the remaining intact orange groves at Highlands Hammock, it was imperative to restore the grove with heirloom trees and remove colonizing exotic trees. The Friends of Highlands Hammock State Park led the project with volunteers. Over 100 trees were planted on a workday by the group in June 2020.





# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

## Long-Term Project of the Year for Resource-Based Recreation

### EXPLORE WEKIWA APP

Wekiwa Springs State Park

### CHRIS CROWELL, DEBBIE SALAMONE & DON PHILPOTT

Chris, an iOS and Android application developer, volunteered his time to develop an interpretive guide and trail map for Wekiwa Springs. The project involved collaboration between the Wekiwa Wilderness Trust, FPS staff and volunteers. It launched in 2020 and allows visitors to easily navigate trails while learning about park resources.



## Short-Term Project of the Year for Natural Resources

### FRANCIS FOLKERS

Oscar Scherer State Park

Francis started volunteering at Oscar Scherer State Park in 2009 and has 8,200 hours. Some examples of her efforts include the survey of every management zone in the park for invasive species; the planting and tracking of longleaf pine trees; and taking charge of the Florida scrub-jay surveys.





# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



## Short-Term Project of the Year for Historic Resources

**RICK & RUTH CHEVERIE**  
Hillsborough River State Park

Rick and Ruth restored a historic Civilian Conservation Corps cabin built in the late 1930s. Their hard work resulted in stabilization, relocation and complete restoration of the cabin. The project was completed within two months and cost less than \$4,000.



## Short-Term Project of the Year for Resource-Based Recreation

**ACCESSIBLE FISHING DOCK**  
Oscar Scherer State Park

**MIKE MURPHY, JIM MURRAY, LEE IELPI,  
ED DEROCHE, JEFF COHEN, BOB SENDRY  
& STEVE MORRIS**

Volunteers at Oscar Scherer State Park worked to repair and improve a historically valuable fishing dock to ensure that any accessibility requirements were met. Thanks to volunteer efforts, all visitors can now use the dock to fish or just take in the scenery and enjoy the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>.



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

## Special Event of the Year for Cultural Resources

### FLORIDA SERIES FOUR!

Highlands Hammock State Park

### JOHN PAYNE, RUSSELL SHARP, DAVID SCHMIDT & ALEX BUELL

Florida Series Four is a program funded by the Florida Humanities and was held annually for four years. This free guest speaker series connects people to history and culture in ways that ignite curiosity and create connections within families and communities through sharing history, stories and tradition across generations.



## Special Event of the Year for Resource-Based Recreation

### ENDLESS SUMMER RUN

Anastasia State Park

### RICH GALLIK

In 2020, The Endless Summer Run, an annual 5K and 10K event that raises funds for the Friends of Anastasia, was successfully modified to COVID-19 safety guidelines. Participants had a safe and enjoyable experience running on the beach. Friends group members and volunteers contributed to event planning and course setup, ensuring a successful event for everyone involved.





# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

## Corporate Contributor of the Year

### NUTRIEN

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

### MIKE WILLIAMS

Nutrien is a steadfast supporter of Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park and the friends group. From their support and volunteering at events such as the Florida Folk Festival and the Festival of Lights, to supporting preservation efforts of the Museum and Carillon Tower, their contributions are invaluable.



## Citizen Support Organization of the Year for Historical Resources

### FORT MOSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

### CHARLES ELLIS, THOMAS JACKSON, MILDRED WILLIAMS & VIOLA WHITE

Fort Mose Historic State Park

The Fort Mose Historical Society celebrates 25 years of telling the story of Fort Mose, the first free Black settlement in the United States and southernmost destination of the original underground railroad. Thank you to these four founding members for 25 years of service and dedication to preserving this national treasure.







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## 2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



### Citizen Support Organization of the Year for Cultural Resources

#### **FRIENDS OF MACLAY GARDENS, INC.**

Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park

#### **GARY GRIFFIN & MARNIE GEORGE**

This phenomenal group of individuals found ways to get donations and new members during the pandemic through a Virtual Tour of Gardens and online camellia sale. Through their efforts, they were able to raise \$50,000 for an important irrigation fix for the historic gardens.



### Citizen Support Organization of the Year for Resource-Based Recreation

#### **STEVE UGLINICA & FRIENDS OF OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK, INC.**

Oscar Scherer State Park

Steve has volunteered at Oscar Scherer since 2011, and he has contributed more than 2,600 hours of service. Originally, Steve started as a campground host. He serves on the board of directors for the park's friends group. Steve is a true park ambassador. He is an active member in the community and represents the friends group with various organizations such as Friends of the Legacy Trail, the Venice and Osprey chambers of commerce, and the Sorrento Homeowners Association.



**2020 DIVISION  
RECOGNITION AWARDS**



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS

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## 2020 DIVISION RECOGNITION AWARDS

### DIRECTOR'S EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND DEDICATION AWARD

25,000 Hours Served



#### SUE BUCHHEISTER

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25,784 Hours Served

Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs  
Wildlife State Park

For the last 16 years, Sue has used her skills to make valuable contributions to the park, taking on any job no matter how large or small. Sue's positivity and unmatched work ethic inspires the community and local businesses to be part of special events and park improvements.

### IRENE DELABY AWARD

10,000 Hours Served



#### JOHN NORRIS

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11,150 Hours Served

Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park

John has lent his time, enthusiasm and skill to cataloging, digitizing and sharing the archival records of more than 20 Florida state parks. He created an index of searchable copies of early newspaper pressbooks, making thousands of scanned images easy to research; and he used optical character recognition to create audio files of historic documents so researchers with vision impairments can listen.



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS

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## 2020 DIVISION RECOGNITION AWARDS

### IRENE DELABY AWARD

10,000 Hours Served



### MIKE CRANE

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12,387 Hours Served

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Mike is a campground host who goes above and beyond expectations, accomplishing all tasks to the highest standards. Mike always put his best foot forward. Campers and staff appreciate his friendly positive attitude and that he anticipates problems and jumps in to fix them.



### NELLY BROOS

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10,870 Hours Served

Rainbow Springs State Park

Nelly has volunteered for 24 years while serving in a wide variety of roles – trails, campground, events and the toll booth with her well-known smile. She wholeheartedly dives into every project with an unstoppable work ethic and enthusiasm.



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS 2020 DIVISION RECOGNITION AWARDS

## IRENE DELABY AWARD 10,000 Hours Served



### STEPHANIE GRANT

10,455 Hours Served

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Stephanie is an inspiration to park staff, volunteers and visitors. She is dedicated to the service of others and is extraordinarily enthusiastic and passionate about education. She is appreciated for her wealth of knowledge and for her talent for interpreting to the next generation.



### JEFF FARNSWORTH

10,000 Hours Served

Oscar Scherer State Park and  
Myakka River State Park

Jeff has served at Oscar Scherer and Myakka River since November 2013. Last year, Jeff spearheaded a renovation for a campground restroom at Oscar Scherer. Jeff managed the restoration project completely by coordinating other volunteers and communicating with staff.



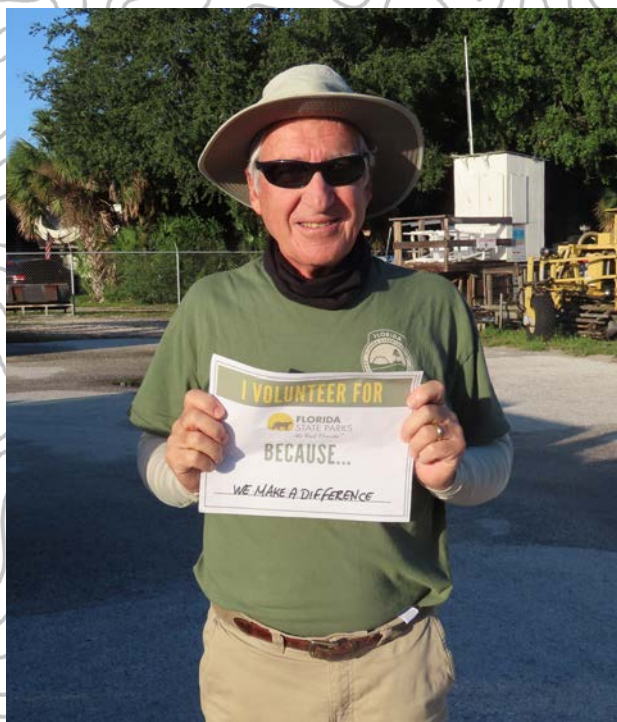
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## 2020 DIVISION RECOGNITION AWARDS

### IRENE DELABY AWARD

10,000 Hours Served



### GEORGE SKALKEAS

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10,000 Hours Served

Honeymoon Island State Park

George is very involved with the park's friends group, holding various positions on the board. He also comes out every Tuesday and Thursday to work on carpentry projects.