



FPZA

FLORIDA PLANNING AND ZONING ASSOCIATION

Surfcoast Chapter

Surfcoast Chapter Newsletter

January 2015

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Happy New Year! The chapter ended the year with our annual December Awards Gala. On behalf of the chapter I would like to extend special thanks to our sponsors for their support and congratulations to all the award winners.

As usual the chapter was very active in 2014. The chapter accomplishments include the hosting and/or cohosting of 10 events, providing up to 70 continuing credit hours and the publishing of 3 quarterly newsletters. The 2014 Membership drive resulted in 16 new members and the chapter also received the statewide 'Chapter of Year' award in 2014.

The chapter started 2015 with the January 9th Regional Forum. The forum entitled *Revitalizing Downtown* was hosted at the newly reconstructed Sanborn Activity Center in DeLand. Special thanks to our featured speakers for taking time out of their busy day to speak at the event.

The events currently being planned include an ethics program, a membership appreciation social, and a community service project. In February the chapter is co-hosting VCARD's Permitting and Development: Advances and Opportunities Forum and a March monthly luncheon program will cover Amendment 1. If you have a topic or event suggestion that you would like the chapter to host please contact any board member with your information.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in your local FPZA Chapter.

Helen LaValley

Chapter President

The President's Corner...

by

Helen LaValley

2015 Upcoming Events

February 13th - VCARD Permitting and Development Forum at Halifax Plantation Clubhouse 9:30 to Noon. Contact dave@daytonachamber.com for more information.

March Luncheon Program - Amendment 1

Look for details on these upcoming events -

- an ethics program;
- membership appreciation social; and,
- a community service project.

Save the Date

2015 FPZA Annual Conference
Hosted by the Gulf Coast Chapter
June 10-13, 2015

The Hampton Inn & Suites
Downtown Bradenton, Florida

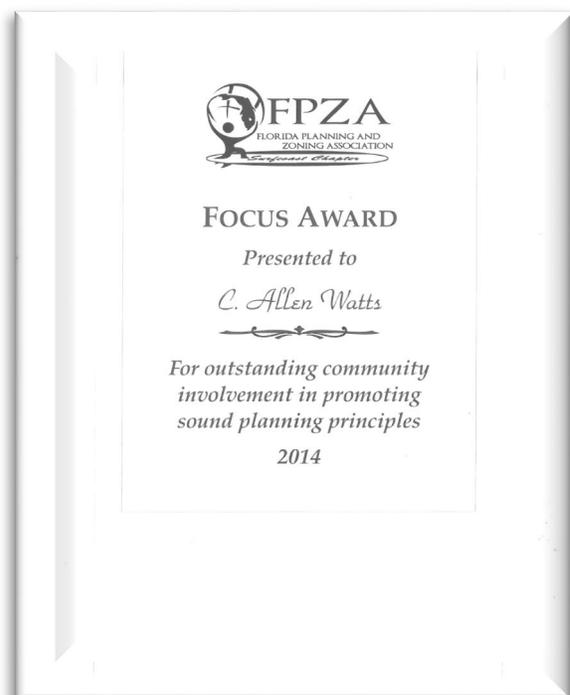


2014 HOLIDAY AWARDS GALA

The chapter hosted their annual Awards Gala at the Venetian Bay Country Club on December 12, 2014. The award categories included Outstanding Innovation and Design, Outstanding Public/Private Partnership (2 awards this year), Sustainability, Outstanding Planning Study, Member of the Year and the Focus Award. The following photos give you a glimpse of the excitement of the evening.



Focus Award Winner: C. Allen Watts, for outstanding community involvement in promoting sound planning principles.



2014 HOLIDAY AWARDS GALA



Outstanding Innovation & Design: New Smyrna Beach Holdings, LLC



Outstanding Public/Private Partnership: Opportunity Site Grant Program, City of New Smyrna Beach



Sustainability Award: Farnton Master DRI: Miami Corporation; Glenn D. Storch, Esq.; Lassiter Transportation Group

2014 HOLIDAY AWARDS GALA



Outstanding Public/Private Partnership: Persimmon Hollow Brewing Company and the City of DeLand



Chapter Member of the Year: Clay Ervin, Lassiter Transportation Group

Regional Forum

The Association's Regional Forum was held on January 9th at the newly reconstructed Sanborn Activity Center in DeLand. A group of 50 attendees gathered to hear a presentation entitled "Revitalizing Downtown". The featured speakers were Dale Arrington, Assistant City Manager of DeLand, Wayne Carter, Executive Director of Mainstreet DeLand, Frank Hale, Sanford Regional Chamber of Commerce President, and Gus Gianikas, Assistant Director of Planning and Development for Mt. Dora. The speakers represented local efforts in successful downtown revitalizations. The topics discussed were Supportive Ordinances, Public/Private Partnerships, Special Event Management, Business Districts/Merchants Associations and Public Outreach.

Copies of the presentations from the forum are available. For a copy contact Becky Mendez at bmendez@volusia.org or call her at 386-736-5959.



Outstanding Planning Study: Marina Village Study: City of Daytona Beach; City of Holly Hill; Planning Solutions Corp.; EDSA Planners and Landscape Architects

Principles of Amendment 1 Implementation and Restoration by Tom Brooks, AICP

One month after Florida voters' overwhelming approval by a three to one margin, the water and land conservation constitutional amendment, excitement has turned into trepidation over how the governor and Legislature will spend the money. The 75 percent support is a statement that Democrats, Republicans and non party affiliated voters want officials in Tallahassee to reinstate money for conservation programs that had proven records of success for decades before they were defunded by the economic impacts of the Great Recession that began in November 2007.

Those initiatives include Florida Forever, which once received \$300 million annually, the Florida Communities Trust land acquisition fund for local governments and environmental nonprofits, Save Our Rivers and the Surface Water Improvement and Management Program for impaired water bodies. Will Abberger, the campaign manager of the political committee that launched the voter petition drive to get the referendum on the ballot, said the following in an interview with the Gainesville Sun in the December 13, 2014, edition:

"Amendment 1 is intended to put additional wildlife habitat and land near water resources into protection and to meet unfunded needs to manage conservation land through ecological restoration, the removal of invasive plant species and the provision of public access, including trail systems." The cleanup of Indian River Lagoon and the restoration of the Everglades are specific large projects in the mix, he said.

That same article states Will Abberger and Alachua County Commissioner Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, also oppose the Legislature's desire to shift millions of dollars set aside by the amendment put toward the construction or expansion of sewer systems on the rationale that they protect the springs by taking out nitrate-seeping septic tanks.

Hutchinson said some conservationists see the argument that investments in sewer systems protect the environment as "counterintuitive." The concern, he said, is that the installation of sewers allows for more homes to be built more closely together than would have been allowed on septic. Near rivers or in a springshed, that development actually leads to more pollution from runoff.

"It's important not to incentivize sprawl into natural areas on the backs of reducing a little bit of the nitrates going into the springs" Hutchinson said in the Gainesville Sun interview.

Conservation supporters, the Alachua County Commission and the Florida Association of Counties are opposed to the Legislature and governor using money set aside by the amendment — at least 33 percent of the revenues raised from the state document stamp tax on real estate transactions and loan documents — to replace any of what the state currently spends on beach re-nourishment, springs protection or other environmental programs.

They equate this potential shift of funds similar to the Florida Lottery where money raised by the lottery to enhance education was in reality a replacement of general revenue dollars spent on education. This will be a major battle in the Florida Legislature in 2015.

Thank You 2014 Gala Sponsors
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This spot is reserved for you! Please contact John H. Stockham, Newsletter Editor at: jstockham@volusia.org

Volusia County Farm Tour 2014 – East Side by John H. Stockham, ASLA, CFM

On November 21, 2014, I attended a farm tour conducted by the University of Florida Agricultural Extension office in cooperation with local farmers and producers of agricultural products within Volusia County. The tour that I attended was the east side tour, which concentrated on locations east of DeLand and along the coast. This was the second year that I attended the tour. I decided to take the east side tour again to see what had changed and to explore the two new locations that were added to the tour. The sites included the Tiger Bay State Forest (new); Beeman's aquatic plant nursery (new); Tomazin Farms; Tropical Bee Honey Co.; and the Green Flamingo organic farm.

First, let's go over the Tiger Bay State Forest. This forest exists for timber management and allows recreational activities to take place. The ranger station off highway 92 had various demonstrations to discuss various things such as pruning techniques and planting, fighting forest fires and conducting controlled burns, recreational opportunities, as well as, exhibits on wildlife and invasive species. Overall the exhibits were very informative and the forest rangers were very helpful and knowledgeable, while being approachable and friendly. This new stop on the tour was different since it didn't focus on edible agricultural products, but rather focused on forest management, which is a different type of agricultural pursuit than traditional farming.

The second stop was also new on the tour and focused on the growth and production of aquatic plants that are used to help remove nutrients from water bodies. Beeman's aquatic nursery focuses on native grasses, aquatics, wetland restoration, and mitigation. The nursery is a wholesale supplier of plants that help filter water that is on the way to the ocean. They've create a product called "beemats" that are floating mats of plants that filter nutrients out of water bodies that are overloaded. This in turn helps to prevent algal out-breaks, maintain oxygen levels and provide greater clarity in the water. Examples given were installations in The Villages where several ponds and lakes contain the beemats to improve and maintain water quality. Another example is a 30 acre lake in Ft. Pierce where there are 12 islands that include about 3,500 square feet of beemats. Scientific research has been done on the effectiveness of beemats with Dr. Sarah White of Clemson University being the most notable.

The next stop on the tour is a returning favorite known as Tomazin Farms, home of the barefoot farmer. They farm most of the year and grow vegetables and greens for various local farm markets and restaurants. The reason they don't wear shoes is because they work in rows of sandy, wet conditions that would ruin any pair of shoes.

The other two tour stops were repeats that upheld the same quality and interest as last year, with excellent honey selections at Tropical Bee and excellent produce at Green Flamingo.

Surfcoast Chapter Officers and Directors for 2015

The Surfcoast Chapter Officers and Directors for 2015 are:

Officers :

Helen LaValley—President
 Vacant —Vice President
 Wendy Hickey—Secretary
 Becky Mendez—Treasurer
 John Stockham—Newsletter Editor
 Tom Brooks—Professional Development Officer

Directors:

John Dillard
 Tom Harowski
 Joel Ivey
 John Thomson
 James Stowers
 Scott Ashley

Past President:

Scott McGrath

Your officers are also well represented at the State FPZA Board level. John Thomson serves as the state FPZA President Elect. In addition, Helen LaValley, Scott McGrath, and Tom Brooks serve as Directors on the State FPZA Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report

Becky Mendez, AICP – Chapter Treasurer

The Chapter's closing balance, as of December 31, 2014, is \$10,408.15. Year-to-date revenue totals \$6,600.18 and year-to-date expenses total \$7,221.48 for a net loss of \$621.30.

Your Contacts for Officers and Committees for 2015

Name	Email Address	Board Position/ Committee Chair
Helen LaValley	hlaValley@planningsolutionscorp.com	President
Wendy Hickey	whickey@ourorangecity.com	Secretary/Bylaws
Becky Mendez	bmendez@volusia.org	Treasurer/Awards
John Stockham	jstockham@volusia.org	Newsletter/Sponsorship
Tom Brooks	tbrooks@volusia.org	Professional Development Officer/ Legislative
Joel Ivey	jivey@iveyplanninggroup.com	Membership

For program information or suggestions please contact any board member



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WWW.FPZA.ORG

To get to the Surfcoast Chapter website, go to http://www.fpza.org/main/page_chapters_surfcoast_surfcoast_chapter_officers.html

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