



FLORIDA STATE PARKS

2021

**VOLUNTEER
AND DIVISION
RECOGNITION
AWARDS**

The background of the entire page is a dark green color with a subtle, intricate pattern of light green contour lines, resembling a topographic map. The lines are irregular and flow across the page, creating a textured effect.

**2021 VOLUNTEER
RECOGNITION AWARDS**



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2021 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



30 Years of Service

MARGARET JENSON

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Margaret began volunteering at Paynes Prairie on Sept. 1, 1990. Every Wednesday for 31 years, Margaret has been at the visitor center to answer questions or give advice about natural history and recreation at the preserve. Throughout these years, Margaret has been an integral member of the park family.



25 Years of Service

ROBERT SENDREY

Oscar Scherer State Park

Bob has contributed to every aspect of the park, from repairs and maintenance to cutting firewood and participating in events. Within his years of service, he has also served as president of the Friends of Oscar Scherer. Bob has been a true ambassador for the park.



20 Years of Service

STEPHANIE GRANT

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Stephanie has volunteered in many different roles: nature walk guide, turtle nesting walk group guide, nature center docent, NatureScaping event helper and education assistant. Her favorite volunteering moments by far are those when she can teach others.



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20 Years of Service

JACKIE DEGAYNER

Dagny Johnson Key Largo
Hammock Botanical State Park

Jackie's hard work helps with the park's program of preserving, interpreting and restoring natural resources, particularly as a botanical site. Jackie is committed to educating and giving hands-on assistance to the community.



20 Years of Service

BONITA "BUNNY" BRADOV

Dagny Johnson Key Largo
Hammock Botanical State Park

Bunny is responsible for tending plants in the park and native plant nursery. She cheerfully undertakes routine weeding, vegetation trimming, seedling repotting, removal of invasive species and litter pickup. Bunny has represented the park at several community events and conducts surveys for the Schaus' swallowtail butterfly in North Key Largo.



20 Years of Service

PETER KAISER

Oscar Scherer State Park

Serving seasonally since 1998, Pete works to ensure outstanding visitor experiences. He consistently ensures there is firewood for campers, and he contributes to park repairs and construction. Pete makes the park shine.



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Adult Volunteer of the Year for Administration

KAREN BARRY

Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area
at Flagler Beach

Karen is dedicated to providing exceptional administrative service. She wholeheartedly supports park management, staff, volunteers and the friends group, going above and beyond to assist her team and fulfill our mission. Karen's willingness to help in any way possible has endeared her to all volunteers and staff at the park.



Adult Volunteer of the Year for Maintenance

WESLEY STYLES

Three Rivers State Park

A true renaissance man, Wes provides the park with unparalleled skills and talents. Wes has amassed more than 5,000 hours in the few years that he has been volunteering. Three Rivers wouldn't be what it is today without him. Wes is the epitome of volunteerism.



Adult Volunteer of the Year for Protection

MIKE EMMERICH

Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park

In the spring of 2021, the park manager and park services specialist were promoted to different parks, leaving one park ranger to temporarily cover all the shifts. Mike stepped in to assist the ranger with many different tasks. His contributions during this time kept the park running smoothly.



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Adult Volunteer of the Year for Resource Management

SPENCER ASPY

Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park

Spencer has become an integral part of the park during his 450-plus volunteer hours. Spencer is 100% one of us. He has worked hard to help maintain the natural and cultural resources of the gardens, and his help is valued more than he knows.



Adult Volunteer of the Year for Visitor Services

KAREN CLOUD

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

Under Karen's leadership, Dade's youth participate as volunteers at park events and at park workdays. Karen is a cheerful addition to the park, and park staff coordinate with her regularly on her outreach projects.



Youth Volunteer of the Year for Natural Resources

ALICIA "ELLIE" BICKEL

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Alicia is highly motivated to learn about the park's natural resources and does all she can to help preserve them. She has been a very active and passionate member of our Junior Friends program.



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Youth Volunteer of the Year for Visitor Services

NOLAN AND HADLEY HEPBURN

Myakka River State Park

Nolan and Hadley have contributed more than 250 combined hours since December 2020. They set a good example for visitors enjoying the campgrounds, restoring each campsite to Leave No Trace standards. They are ambitious and eager to help and learn about complex maintenance issues.



Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Maintenance

MONTE EVANS AND ROSIE FAIS

Lake Manatee State Park

Monte and Rose have been instrumental in keeping equipment such as UTVs and vehicles running while also splitting firewood that is sold to campers. Monte and Rose have been volunteers for eight years and have contributed a combined 8,500 total hours.



Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Protection

BARRY AND ROSALIE CODDINGTON

Myakka River State Park

Barry and Rosalie have been Myakka's dedicated, workhorse summer volunteers, logging more than 3,200 hours each since June 2017. The Coddingtons prioritize protection of resources while achieving high maintenance standards and providing a positive visitor experience via roving interpretation.



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Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Resource Management

DONALD AND PATRICIA GARNER

Talbot Islands State Parks

Whether Don and Patti are waking at dawn for turtle patrol on the beach, photographing rare species of shorebirds or discovering a previously unknown bald eagle nest, they find their happy place at the Talbot Islands State Parks while assisting park staff with natural resource management.



Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Visitor Services

BRITT AND BONNIE HALSELL

Silver Springs State Park

Britt and Bonnie help protect Silver Springs through interpretation, and they love to share their passion with the public. This team often can be found leading photography programs and patrolling the river with Aquatic Motor Patrol, along with educating visitors about the sensitive environment and how they can help preserve this magnificent waterway.



Volunteer Team of Two of the Year for Visitor Services

RUSSELL SHARP AND ARIN MORTON

Highlands Hammock State Park

Russell has served as vice president and Arin has served as treasurer for the Friends of Highlands Hammock. Their leadership has guided the friends group to provide successful concessionaire services. Both work tirelessly to improve the organization and park, and they are immersed in the day-to-day business operations of the friends group.



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Volunteer Team of Three+ of the Year for Natural Resource Management

RIDGE RANGERS

Highlands Hammock State Park

The Ridge Rangers are a diverse and dedicated group that greatly contributed to reducing sand pine density in three management zones totaling 125 acres and transforming acreage to optimal oak scrub suitable for Florida scrub-jays. Work to remove coral ardisia in heavily infested areas in the park is ongoing.



Volunteer Team of Three+ of the Year for Protection

NELSON GOLDMAN, KEN ROBINSON, CARL WINNER, ROBBIE HAIR, JIM MAULDIN AND JOYCE MILLER

Fort Clinch State Park

Originally designed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, the historic 3-mile drive at Fort Clinch winds through hardwood hammock and ancient dunes. The Historic Canopy Drive Protection Team works to prevent RV incidents and maintain visibility in order to protect bicyclists and pedestrians. The team also is indispensable during storm cleanup.





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Volunteer Team of Three+ of the Year for Maintenance

MIKE WALKER, GARY WEHNES AND DICK WIREY

Oscar Scherer State Park

Mike, Gary and Dick – also known as the Ws – have worked together on major park projects. Their skills range from fabrication to electrical work. They have built a pavilion, renovated park residences, upgraded the campground electrical grid, built fire rings and more. Their efforts have consistently improved the park.



Volunteer Team of Three+ of the Year for Visitor Services

ADA KAYAK INSTALLATION TEAM

Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach

The team identified a need, requested funding and installed an ADA-compliant kayak launch. This project improved the park's community visibility by adding a recreational opportunity and allowing park staff to interpret our mission to a new audience. The kayak installation team showed resourcefulness, overcame challenges and worked together using their unique skills.





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Long-Term Project of the Year for Nature-Based Recreation

FRIENDS OF OSCAR SCHERER PARK INC.

Oscar Scherer State Park

The Friends of Oscar Scherer used sustained teamwork and fundraising to provide their park a cost-effective project consistent with location, purpose and function. The result of their efforts is a universally accessible fishing pier at Lake Osprey.

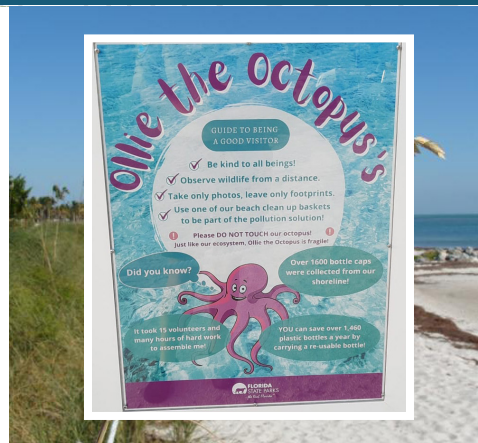


Short-Term Project of the Year for Historic Resources

CHARLIE AND GLENEL FULLMAN

Curry Hammock State Park

Charlie and Glennel used their expertise in construction and artistry to design and build a life-sized octopus sculpture made up of more than 1,600 bottle caps collected from the park's shoreline. The octopus promotes visitor involvement by bringing attention to the topic of plastic pollution in a constructive and artistic way.





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Short-Term Project of the Year for Resource Management

FRIENDS OF BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK INC.

Bahia Honda State Park

The Friends of Bahia Honda has supported the park by partnering on improvement projects and working with management, park staff and volunteers. The enhancements they have made through the Loggerhead/Calusa project have made an enormous difference in the park.



Special Event of the Year for Cultural Resources

FRIENDS OF FORT CLINCH INC. – HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

Fort Clinch State Park

For 20 years, the History of the American Soldier event at Fort Clinch has been celebrated every Saturday following Veterans Day. The friends group does not treat this event as a fundraiser. Instead, all proceeds support the Barnabas Center, a local food bank, to stock shelves and provide for families in need before Thanksgiving.





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Special Event of the Year for Resource-Based Recreation

BIKE MYAKKA! FOR BIODIVERSITY

Myakka River State Park

This event combined a guided interpretive bike ride with a service project to remove invasive plants while simultaneously celebrating Adventure Cycling's "Bike Your Park Day" and National Public Lands Day.



Special Event of the Year for Nature-Based Recreation

BIKE MYAKKA! DAY

Myakka River State Park

A self-guided interpretive bike-ride event resulted from a partnership of the Friends of Myakka, volunteers and park staff. Grab-and-go breakfasts were provided by the friends group. Riders dispersed in waves, while roving park staff and volunteers traversed the routes assisting visitors in finding scavenger hunt items.





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Corporate Contributor of the Year

PUBLIX AT CASEY KEY

Oscar Scherer State Park

For the last six years, Publix employees have donated goods and time to help make Oscar Scherer's annual Haunted Halloween events a success. Recently, store manager Angela Meyers, as well as generous Publix employees, contributed more than 100 hours collectively toward our first ever Halloween Haunted Drive.



Citizen Support Organization of the Year for Resource-Based Recreation

FRIENDS OF CAMP HELEN STATE PARK INC.

Camp Helen State Park

The Friends of Camp Helen State Park has made a huge impact on the park, providing funds and programming that continue to send positive waves through the community. The group has gone above and beyond in every aspect, surpassing fundraising goals, increasing membership and deepening community connections.





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Citizen Support Organization of the Year for Resource Management

FRIENDS OF GAMBLE ROGERS STATE PARK INC.

Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach

The Friends of Gamble Rogers stepped up to upgrade the park's main use area. The park and the friends group formed a partnership with a local designer to brainstorm, research, purchase native plants, schedule installation and establish a volunteer group to maintain the newly planted native garden.





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IRENE DELABY AWARD 10,000 Hours Served



FRANCIS FOLKERS

Oscar Scherer State Park

Francis has volunteered at Oscar Scherer State Park since June 2009. Her main focus is removal and treatment of non-native plants, yet she's involved in every aspect of the exotic plant removal process. Francis is a leader in the field, often training new employees and volunteers on resource management methods.

IRENE DELABY AWARD 10,000 Hours Served



RICHARD AXE

St. Andrews State Park

Richard earned the esteemed Irene DeLaby award for contributing more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service. He began volunteering as a camp host at Camp Helen nearly 10 years ago and has since volunteered at many state parks, including St. Andrews, Topsail Hill Preserve, Henderson Beach, John Pennekamp Coral Reef and Big Lagoon.



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IRENE DELABY AWARD 10,000 Hours Served



LINDA BROWN

Rainbow Springs State Park

Linda has volunteered at Rainbow Springs State Park for many years and has recently served as an officer on the board of Friends of Rainbow Springs as the secretary. Her hard work and attention to detail greatly assist with the operations of this citizen support organization.

IRENE DELABY AWARD 10,000 Hours Served



DON LEONARD

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

Over the last 16 years, Don has contributed more than 10,000 hours, serving as a resident maintenance volunteer, landscaping facilities and serving on the board of the Friends of Fakahatchee. One his tasks was to grade the park's main road, Janes Scenic Drive, to keep it smooth, safe and enjoyable for visitors.