

Dr. John M. DeGrove Community Steward Webinar Series

Audio Options

TO USE YOUR COMPUTER'S AUDIO:

When the Webinar begins, you will be connected to audio using your computer's microphone and speakers (VOIP).

TO USE YOUR TELEPHONE:

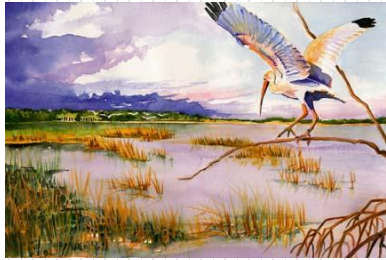
If you prefer to use your phone, select "Use Telephone" after joining the Webinar.

2013 Florida Legislative Preview

- Wednesday, January 9, 2013, 12:00-1:30
- Approved for 1.5 AICP CM Legal Credits – [Event # 22487](#)
- Have applied for CLE Credits. If you need a Certificate of Attendance for the Florida Bar, please email vyoung@1000fof.org.
- This PowerPoint is available for downloading at www.1000friendsofflorida.org. Look at “What’s New” scrolling panel on right of page, then click on “2013 Legislative Preview” for link: 1000friendsofflorida.org/wp-content/themes/1000freinds/2013-legislative-preview.pdf

About 1000 Friends of Florida

- Founded in 1986, 1000 Friends of Florida is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization.
- We work to save special places, fight sprawl and build better communities.
- We educate, advocate and negotiate to protect Florida's high quality of life.
- Our bipartisan board of directors includes advocates and experts from across the state.



Better Community Awards

Please nominate your favorite person, project, community or organization for 1000 Friends' Better Community Award. Categories include Community Steward (for notable individuals), Better Community (for outstanding plans and projects that have been substantially implemented), Bill Sadowski (for regional and statewide leaders), and Al Burt (for excellence in journalism).

The deadline is February 15, 2013. Click here for the nomination form: www.1000friendsofflorida.org/communications/better-community-awards

Upcoming John M. DeGrove Community Steward Webinars

- Wednesday, February 13, Noon – 1:00 p.m. – Ecosystem Services and Land Conservation in the Red Hills Region of Florida – [Register Now!](#)
- Wednesday, March 13, Noon – 1:30 p.m. – 2013 Legislative Update – [Register Now!](#)
- Find out about more upcoming, free webinars at www.1000friendsofflorida.org/communications/webinars

Outreach

- Visit www.1000friendsofflorida.org/join-us/?alerts to sign up for email alerts!
- Follow 1000 Friends on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

2013 Florida Legislative Preview

The focus is on pending and potential legislation related to:

- Growth management and infrastructure
- The environment and water resources,
- Affordable housing
- Other related topics

This PowerPoint is posted at www.1000friendsofflorida.org.

Questions?

- The control panel for this webinar includes a “Questions” box.
- Please type any questions in this box.
- Please refer to the slide number when you post your question.
- Staff will monitor the questions which will be asked of the presenters at the end of the webinar, as time permits.

Links

- We have included links to useful articles and sites.
- If you have difficulty opening them, please try to right click on the link and then click on “open.”
- If you still have problems, this PowerPoint is posted as a PDF at www.1000friendsofflorida.org so please try to access the links that way.

Presenters

About Charles Pattison, FAICP



- President of 1000 Friends of Florida since 1998.
- Director for the Division of Resource Planning and Management at the Department of Community Affairs from 1992 to 1998.
- Field Representative for The Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve from 1989 to 1992.
- Opened and ran the DCA Keys Field Office in Key West between 1983 and 1989, serving as Monroe County Planning, Building and Zoning Director and first Executive Director of the Monroe County Land Authority.



About Lester Abberger



- Board Member Emeritus of 1000 Friends of Florida.
- Chairman of The Trust for Public Land (TPL) Florida Advisory Council, and serves on the TPL National Leadership Council.
- Chairs the Florida Conservation Campaign, and is a director and chair of the Finance Committee.
- Past Chair of Leadership Florida, The Seaside Institute, and the City of Tallahassee Urban Design Commission.
- A graduate of Davidson College, where he serves on the Board of Visitors.
- A Knight Fellow at the University of Miami School of Architecture.



About Vicki Tschinkel



- Past Chair of 1000 Friends of Florida.
- Founding member of the Florida Conservation Coalition.
- Past State Director of the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.
- Senior Consultant with the law firm of Landers and Parsons from 1988 to 2002, specializing in environmental matters.
- Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection from 1981 to 1987 and previously various positions at Florida's environmental agencies

About Jaimie Ross



- Affordable Housing Director with 1000 Friends since 1991.
- Position funded primarily from a grant from the Florida Bar Foundation.
- President of the Florida Housing Coalition.
- Director of the Florida Community Land Trust Institute.
- Director of the Florida Nonprofit Housing Advocates Network.
- Currently serves on national board of Innovative Housing Institute.
- Served as Chair of Affordable Housing Committee of the Florida Bar RPPTL Section.
- Served as Commissioner, Florida Affordable Housing Study Commission.
- Served as board member of National Low Income Housing Coalition.
- James A. Johnson Community Fellow, named in 2004 by the Fannie Mae Foundation.

Session Overview

Major issues

- Budget and revenue
- Affordable Health Care Act
- Florida Retirement System
- Fiscal cliff
- Elections reform

Culture of the Legislature

- No supermajority
- Leadership driven
- Tea Party

Growth Management/Infrastructure

Context

- Florida is emerging from the recession.
- Florida is expected to become the third most populous state by 2015. [Population growth likely to push Florida past New York, experts say](#), Laura C. Morel, Tampa Bay Times, January 5, 2013.
- Sea level is anticipated to rise a minimum of 6 inches by 2050 (SFWMD). [Rising sea comes at a cost for South Florida cities](#), Curtis Morgan, Miami Herald, September 1, 2012.
- New growth means more demands on infrastructure and the environment.

2011 Community Planning Act

- Major overhaul of Florida's 1986 Growth Management Act.
- The 2011 changes did not “fix” everything as claimed.
- [DEO now working with – rather than challenging – local land-use decisions](#), Bruce Ritchie, The Florida Current, December 21, 2012.
- [Court ruling leads to another push to address referendums on growth approvals](#), Bruce Ritchie, The Florida Current, January 3, 2013.

DEO Annual Report 2012

- “There is a critical need for a more proactive, effective and collaborative approach to making decisions about future development and infrastructure investments at the state, regional and local levels.”
- “...there are significant concerns about long term availability of the water supply.”
- “Florida needs to make economic development decisions that also enhance or preserve Florida’s communities and environment. This will require closer integration of state and local economic planning and decisions with community development and environmental stewardship, so that public investments support multiple goals.”
- [DEO Annual Report 2012 link.](#)
- [Report on state business climate cites need for energy and environmental planning](#), Bruce Ritchie, The Florida Current, January 2, 2013.

Bills filed

SB 50 relating to public meetings

- Filed by Senator Negron
- Public to get reasonable opportunity to speak prior to elected board action
- Does not have to be at meeting where decision is made
- Attorney fees may be assessed for violations or frivolous challenges.
- [Link to bill](#)

SB 84 relating to public-private partnerships

- Filed by Senator Diaz de la Portilla
- Allows public-private agreements for construction/upgrades of “predominantly” public facilities if determined to be in the public interest
- Very broad allowance for all types of infrastructure including roads, schools, water, wastewater, etc.
- Such projects involving school boards require local government approval
- Notice must be given to affected local jurisdictions (contains some or all of the project) that are not partners
- [Link to bill](#)

Potential legislation

Future Corridors Action Plan

- For more information on this project, including a link to the plan, please visit www.1000friendsofflorida.org/building-better-communities/transportation/floridas-future-corridors-action-plan/
- Possible legislation to “incentivize” landowners for donating right-of-way
- Possible additional expedited review allowance
- Mobility plans

Environment/Water Resources

Florida Conservation Coalition

The [Florida Conservation Coalition](#) is devoted to protecting and conserving Florida's land, fish and wildlife and water resources that are essential to the well-being and quality of life of the residents of this state, and for its long-term economic prosperity.



FCC issues

- Florida Forever
- Everglades Restoration
- Water Resources
 - Funding of Water Management Districts
 - Restoration and recovery
 - Privatization
 - Sovereign ownership
- [Scott maintains narrow view on water, energy issues](#), Bruce Ritchie, The Florida Current, January 7, 2013.
- [Natural Florida needs stewards, not profiteers](#), Bill Maxwell, Tampa Bay Times, January 6, 2013.

2012 Session Summary

Land acquisition and restoration – Florida Forever

- Florida Forever – sad recent history
- In 2011, Gov. Scott requested \$0 for Florida Forever. The legislature authorized expenditure of up to \$305 million from proceeds of sales of surplus lands, but Gov. Scott vetoed the item, resulting in \$0 for Florida Forever.
- In 2012, Gov. Scott requested \$15 million for Florida Forever (both the House and Senate recommended \$0 funding) and the legislature appropriated \$8.37 million.

Land acquisition and restoration – The Everglades

- In 2011, CERP Everglades funding included \$10 million from General Revenue and \$19,955,500 from Save Our Everglades Trust Fund, for a total of \$29,995,500.
- In 2012, Gov. Scott requested \$40 million for Everglades restoration. \$30 million was appropriated for CERP, plus additional funds (approximately \$5 million) were allocated for a pilot wetlands treatment program and agricultural best management practices.

Water resources in 2012

- Governance of Water Management Districts
 - SB 1968, return of the status quo pre-2011
- Funding for Water Management Districts, 2011-2012
 - Reduction of about 1200 staff, with reductions continuing
 - Between 6-20% reductions in funding for districts
- Privatization
 - House Bill 639
- Sovereign Lands Bill
 - House Bill 1103 – did not pass

Bills filed

HB 33 regarding state lands

- Introduced by Representative Smith
- State owned lands exchanged for conservation easements on private lands
- Allows individuals to ask Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to trade state owned land for a conservation easement on adjacent lands
- Easement does not have to be permanent
- [Link to bill](#)

HB 7 regarding water management districts

- Introduced by Representatives Porter and Pilon
- Addresses water reservations and minimum flows and levels developed by water management districts
- Must provide DEP with methodology
- Allows areas affected by multiple water management districts to designate a single district for all regulatory activity
- [Link to bill](#)

Crystal Ball for 2013

Potential legislation

- Rumor – Sovereign Lands Bill
- Privatization – Current DEP CUPCON Process, and Relation to the Legislature, Stay on Alert
- Changes to the mean high water was tried last year but failed.
- Legislation to pre-empt local fertilizer ordinances failed last year and is likely to be reintroduced.

Florida Forever 2013

- The Department of Environmental Protection is recommending authorizing expenditure of \$50 million for Florida Forever for 2013, but based on “surplusing” existing state ownerships.
- The Florida Forever Coalition is supporting \$100 million for Florida Forever for 2013.
- Conservation groups are also working for a long-term program called [Florida’s Water and Land Legacy](#) for 2014.
- [What we think: Revive land buying for environment, economy](#), Orlando Sentinel editorial, December 13, 2012.

Everglades funding 2013

- Dissatisfaction over funding for the last 3 years -- there will be an effort to get more funding this year
- DEP has requested \$50 million
- Some Everglades supporters are calling for \$100 million for Everglades restoration and related projects

Affordable Housing

Context

- Florida's Comprehensive Planning Law includes a Housing Element that requires all jurisdictions to provide for housing its entire current and anticipated populations, including those with special housing needs. Section 163.3177, Florida Statutes.
- Without a revenue source, local governments perceived this as an “unfunded mandate”

Appropriations

Sadowski Housing Coalition

Housing = Jobs

- 1000 Friends of Florida initiated the Sadowski Coalition in 1991 to obtain a dedicated revenue source for Florida's affordable housing programs, and continues to facilitate it today.
- A nonpartisan collection of 25 diverse statewide organizations.
- The Act which created that dedicated revenue is called the Sadowski Act, and monies dedicated from the Act to the state and local housing trust funds are called Sadowski funds.
- Link to [Sadowski Housing Coalition](#)

BUSINESS/ INDUSTRY GROUPS

- Associated Industries of Florida
- Coalition of Affordable Housing Providers
- Florida Realtors
- Florida Bankers Association
- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Florida Home Builders Association
- Florida Manufactured Housing Association
- Florida Retail Federation
- Florida Green Building Coalition

GOVERNMENT

- Florida Association of Counties
- Florida Association of Local Housing Finance Authorities
- Florida League of Cities
- Florida Regional Councils Association

ADVOCATES FOR THE ELDERLY & VETERANS

- AARP of Florida
- Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

SOCIAL SERVICES/LOW INCOME HOUSING ADVOCATES

- Florida Legal Services
- Florida Coalition for the Homeless
- Florida Housing Coalition
- Florida Supportive Housing Coalition
- United Way of Florida

PLANNING/GROWTH MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

- 1000 Friends of Florida
- Florida Chapter of American Planning Association

FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- Florida Catholic Conference
- Florida Impact
- Habitat for Humanity of Florida

How are Florida's Sadowski housing programs funded?

- Doc stamp tax paid on all real estate transactions was increased in 1992;
- Those monies were dedicated to the state and local housing trust funds;
- 70% of directed funds to local governments (all 67 counties) and Florida's entitlement cities to fund the SHIP program;
- 30% of funds used by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for programs such as SAIL.

How can these programs help Florida's economy right now?

- SHIP funds can be used for rehabilitation/renovation of existing empty housing stock to ready it for families to move in;
- SHIP funds can be used to move the existing housing stock by providing down payment and closing cost assistance;
- SAIL funds can be used to rehabilitate existing apartments in dire need of repair; apartments that house Florida's most vulnerable populations, such as the frail elderly and persons with disabilities who might otherwise need to live in an institutional setting.

Why is this the best use of Sadowski Funds right now?

- The faster Florida's housing market recovers, the faster Florida's economy recovers.
- Housing dollars will put Florida's out-of-work housing industry back to work repairing homes and improving the real estate market.
- The appropriation of the estimated \$193.8 million in the state and local housing trust funds in Fiscal Year 2013-14 into Florida's housing programs will create nearly **14,923 jobs** and **\$1.485 BILLION in positive economic impact in Florida.***
- Using housing monies for housing will help Florida out of its continuing deficit problem.

*\$193.8 million based upon documentary stamp projection of \$147.3 million (August 2012 revenue estimate) plus balance in housing trust funds as of July 1, 2012. \$193.8 million is the appropriation amount requested by FHFC for FY 2012-2013.



What is our priority for the 2013 session?

- The Sadowski Coalition urges the Florida Legislature to use Florida's housing trust fund monies solely for housing.

Potential legislation

- Amendment or repeal of a portion of 196.1978 Florida Statutes, adopted in 2011, related to a property tax exemption for Limited Liability Companies, akin to the property tax exemption that has previously only been for nonprofits.
- [Florida builders' rich tax loophole hurts local governments](#), Susan Taylor Martin, Tampa Bay Times, December 16, 2012.

Effective Public Participation

Making a difference

Find your legislators

- Visit www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find and enter your mailing address or zip code
- This site will provide your State and U.S. Senators and Representatives as well as their contact information

Strategies (from most to least effective):

- Personal visits with your legislators.
- Personal calls and letters to your legislators.
- Emails.
- Form letters.

Effective communication with a Legislator (from the [Florida Senate website](#))

- Know who your legislators are and how to contact them.
- Make sure you understand the legislative [process](#).
- Contact your legislator about a particular issue before the Legislature takes action on it.
- Use a variety of communication methods. You might choose to telephone, write, email, fax, or visit your legislator.
- Tell your legislator what effect you think a particular bill, if it becomes law, will have on you, your children, business, or community. Be concise, but specific.
- Be polite, even if you disagree strongly with the legislator you are addressing.
- Suggest a course of action and offer assistance.

Writing effective letters

Address letters to your Representatives this way:

The Honorable John Doe
Florida House of Representatives
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Address letters to your Senator this way:

Senator Jane Doe
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

- Be absolutely certain you spell your legislator's name correctly and use the correct address.
- Type or print legibly. Sign your name neatly and give your address correctly so they can respond to your letter.
- Keep letters, email, and faxes brief. Try not to write more than one page.
- Identify your issue or opinion at the beginning of the letter, don't bury your main point under trivial text.
- Cover only one issue per letter. If you have another issue to address, write another letter.
- Back up your opinions with supporting facts.
- Avoid abbreviations or acronyms, and don't use technical jargon.
- Personalized letters have more impact.

Calling or visiting your Legislator

- Plan your call or visit carefully. Organize your thoughts ahead of time and make notes to help you stay on track.
- When planning to visit your legislator, make an appointment in advance.
- Prepare a one-page fact sheet concerning your issue to give to your legislator. This will help him or her better retain what you present.

Staying informed

- Attend 1000 Friends' free March 13 webinar, 2013 Legislative Update, for information on specific legislation. [Register now!](#)
- Sign up for 1000 Friends of Florida's email alerts at www.1000friendsofflorida.org/join-us/?alerts.
- Visit 1000 Friends' website at www.1000friendsofflorida.org.
- Follow 1000 Friends of Florida on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Attend the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association's Public Policy Workshop in Tallahassee on February 6 ([registration information here](#)).



Questions?

- The control panel for this webinar includes a “Questions” box.
- Please type any questions in this box.
- Please refer to the slide number when you post your question.
- Staff will ask the questions of the presenters, as time permits.

Upcoming events

- The deadline is February 15 for 1000 Friends' 2013 Better Community Awards:
www.1000friendsofflorida.org/communications/better-community-awards
- Find out about upcoming free webinars at:
www.1000friendsofflorida.org/communications/webinars
- Sign up for 1000 Friends' email alerts at:
www.1000friendsofflorida.org/join-us/?alerts
- Follow 1000 Friends on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)