

1000  
FRIENDS  
of FLORIDA



***“We are custodians of Florida’s future.  
We are caretakers of Florida’s dreams.  
We can help make that future all we hope it will be.”***

***– State Comprehensive Plan Committee  
Keys to Florida’s Future, 1987***



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# From the President

by Ryan Smart

The following pages take you on a journey through three decades of 1000 Friends of Florida's history as told by some of its greatest Friends. Our contributors – including a former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator, legendary conservationists, planners and environmental attorneys, visionary developers, acclaimed nature photographers, and current and former staff and board members – provide a testament to the impact 1000 Friends has had in shaping our state.



*Alyssa and Ryan Smart*

One of the most challenging and rewarding parts of our work is advocating for legislation and appropriations to protect Florida's natural resources, improve Floridians' quality of life, and foster sustainable development that preserves the best of our state for future generations. For approximately sixty days each year, while Florida's Legislature is in session, 1000 Friends' staff is in the trenches at the Capitol, taking on the most powerful special interests to tip the scales toward the public's interest.

Every year 1000 Friends engages on legislation ranging from affordable housing to zoning and from springs protection to transportation planning. We take great pride that 1000 Friends is viewed by legislators,

lobbyists, and our conservation partners alike as a foremost expert on planning and growth management.

But what makes 1000 Friends formidable is not only our expertise, but our commitment to further the long-term best interest of Floridians, regardless of the whims of politics and funders. We are the tip of the spear, but you, our dedicated and passionate Friends, are our driving force.

We recently released *Florida 2070* illustrating how

Florida is poised to change over the next fifty-plus-years if we do not become better stewards of our lands. It reveals how small changes now in how we develop and preserve natural resources can have a significant impact down the road.

Looking at the alternative futures depicted in *Florida 2070*, nothing is clearer than just how much 1000 Friends has left to do if my daughter is to inherit the Florida that I love. I hope you enjoy this 30th Anniversary retrospective and continue to support the mission and works of 1000 Friends of Florida.

Ryan Smart, *President*



## Celebrating 30 Years of Achievement...

Nathaniel Pryor Reed, *Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus, 1000 Friends of Florida*

More than 30 years ago, a cadre of compatriots and I set out on what would prove a life-long crusade to ensure the protection of the best of our state for future generations. As a founder of 1000 Friends of Florida – now celebrating its 30th anniversary – it is with particular pride that I look back on the part this small

but tenacious not-for-profit has played in innumerable landmark achievements over the decades – serving on visionary panels to craft sweeping legislation and programs, supporting dedicated funding to address the many impacts of growth, steadfastly calling for meaningful citizen participation to shape the future of our communities and state, and so much more.

Aware of all that remains to be done, I am so pleased that 1000 Friends continues in the forefront, fighting on behalf of us all.

All that has been – and will be – accomplished is thanks to our generous donors who, over the decades, share our commitment to saving special places and building better communities in the third largest state in the nation. From the Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation – first to buy into this bold new venture – to the thousands of individuals who have regularly donated what they can to make Florida better for us all, I give you my heartfelt thanks.

It is no secret that due to profound political and economic changes Florida faces greater challenges now than it did a scant ten years ago. But in the period from the 1960s to 1980s the challenges were no less intense – pollution threatened our offshore waters, inappropriate



*Alita and Nathaniel Pryor Reed and Family*

development encroached on iconic eco-systems like the Everglades, and an “any growth is good growth” mentality reigned.

It was in this context that I returned to Florida in 1977 after 5 years in Washington, D.C. as Assistant Secretary of the US Department of the Interior. I

joined forces with Bob Graham, Reubin Askew, Buddy MacKay, John DeGrove, Earl Starnes, Carl Feiss and others over our deep concern about the rate and quality of growth that Florida faced during yet another of its many land booms. We were involved with Governor Graham in crafting Florida’s sweeping Growth Management Act in 1985, and establishing the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to oversee the fledgling program.

We soon recognized the need for a watchdog organization similar to 1000 Friends of Oregon to keep a close eye on the legislature and build support for the act. After due consideration, I volunteered my services to raise needed funds to secure a highly competent staff for Florida’s 1000 Friends.

Over the decades we have attracted a world class board of directors who share a mutual love of Florida and are committed to wise land use management. We stood firmly for the most important legacy of our years of work: the requirement by cities and counties to complete – publicly – local comprehensive plans, at times taking legal action to achieve compliance.

But many of Florida’s visionary state programs are now under siege. Once again a thousand new residents

move here every day. Innumerable manifestations of poorly planned growth capture the headlines, from the perils facing the Indian River Lagoon to Florida's springs. None of us who cared so deeply about the need for land use management can rest until we see a recommitment to meaningful planning for the many impacts of growth.

But I would argue that we are so very far ahead of where we were decades ago. We know that bipartisan leadership and visionary planning work. Millions of acres of land once open for development are now protected. Communities from large to small have plans in place, many with a much greater appreciation that planning works.

Crises spurred leaders from both parties into action in the 1970s and 1980s. The time is now to step up to the plate again. Let's learn from the past; let's create a better future for us, our children and our grandchildren. Now more than ever, Florida needs 1000 Friends.

**“ . . . Let's learn from the past; let's create a better future for us, our children and our grandchildren. Now more than ever, Florida needs 1000 Friends . . . ”**

## Dr. John M. DeGrove Family



*The DeGrove Family in 1998 – Andy, Jim, John, Gail and Kim*

My family supports 1000 Friends of Florida not only to honor the legacy of my father, John M. DeGrove, but because we are ardent supporters of the work they do on behalf of Florida's citizens.

Our family roots are deep in Florida, generations deep, and they run the length and width of the state. My brothers and I grew up exploring Florida's beaches, wilderness, waterways and swamps. We have a deep and abiding love for this state. We understand that preserving our special places – our unique forests, hammocks, rivers, coastlines, and wildlife – makes our state stronger.

Florida will continue to grow and develop. I hope this will happen in a thoughtful, considered manner that results in beautiful, vibrant communities while preserving our wonderful natural spaces. This will not happen without someone paying attention, to sound the alarm, and to help educate us when a misstep is made.

This is what 1000 Friends of Florida does for my family. Thank you for 30 years of service to the citizens of Florida.

*Kim DeGrove, Daughter of 1000 Friends of Florida Co-Founder Dr. John M. DeGrove.*



*Eglin Air Force Base, Part of World's Largest Connected Corridor of Longleaf Pine Trees*

*Photo by Carlton Ward*

*Visit [CarltonWard.com](http://CarltonWard.com) and [@CarltonWard](https://www.instagram.com/CarltonWard) on Instagram and Twitter*

## **In the Beginning...**

**Jim Murley**, *Chief Resilience Officer, Miami-Dade County*

**1**000 Friends of Florida was created through the leadership and foresight of the original incorporators of a Florida not-for-profit corporation, Nathaniel Reed, Buddy McKay, John DeGrove and Earl Starnes, ably assisted in their formative period by Al Hadeed and Lois Bush with the Southern Legal Counsel in Gainesville. They chose to identify and brand the new entity after the similarly named 1000 Friends of Oregon, founded by the late former Governor of Oregon, Tom McCall, and directed by a brilliant legal and tactical leader, Henry Richmond.

When asked to join 1000 Friends of Florida as their first Executive Director in 1986, I sought Henry Richmond's advice. He provided guiding principles that have served 1000 Friends of Florida well over the last three decades:

1. Locate in the state capital and create ongoing relationships with the Chief Executive Office and agencies, the Legislature and other similar statewide civic organizations;
2. Identify the organization with all aspects of the statewide planning law, including technical assistance, community education and when necessary, legal intervention;
3. Work directly with local governments throughout the state, seeing them as potential partners, not adversaries;
4. Create a broad-based fundraising platform, including foundations, corporations, and individuals who share a love for Florida; and
5. Be leaders in new statewide initiatives that complement and further the goals of statewide planning.

Leading new statewide initiatives is where I feel that the role of 1000 Friends is sometimes underestimated. Knowing that planning and regulation alone would not protect all of Florida's splendid natural places, our first President, Nathaniel Reed, took leadership in the Commission for the Future of Florida's Environment that led to the eventual passage of Preservation 2000, the forerunner of Florida Forever and the Land and Water Legacy Amendment. John DeGrove pushed 1000 Friends to help address the needs of Floridians who lacked affordable housing, resulting in the successful passage of the Sadowski Affordable Housing Act. Bob Parks insisted that our legal advocacy insure that sound legal planning principles be instilled in Florida judicial precedent. Tim Jackson led the groundbreaking *Florida 2060* project, forming the basis for regional visioning throughout the state.

1000 Friends' board and staff stepped forward to serve on all the Environmental Land and Management Commissions (ELMS), numerous task forces, committee and commissions. They were counted on to provide factual examples of successful growth management and bring consensus and reasonable outcome to the disparate and passionate voices of Florida.

At the occasion of the 40th anniversary of 1000 Friends of Oregon, Henry Richmond recalled a line Governor McCall would ask about the way forward. "Does this meet the test of sweet reason?" Based on the last 30 years of 1000 Friends of Florida, sweet reason and a love of Florida can be our way forward.



*Amy Kimball Murley (wife), Lucas Gonzalez (grandson), Bowen Murley (daughter), and Tula Gonzalez (granddaughter) with Jim Murley, 1000 Friends' Executive Director from 1986 - 1994*

## The Davis Family



*Micah, Chandler, Daryl and Robert Davis*

30 years ago, *Up for Grabs*, a story of Florida's colorful and often crooked development schemers and dreamers, was being written by John Rothschild.

30 years ago, John DeGrove and Nat Reed founded 1000 Friends, an organization that would try to channel our dreaming and scheming toward building communities that did not degrade the paradise that was attracting so many visitors and residents to our home, that would protect our fragile ecosystem and provide high quality habitat for all of these new humans, as well.

Florida politics makes 1000 Friends' role even harder than it was in the eighties and nineties, and even more vital to the future of the place we call home.

*Robert Davis,  
Founder, Seaside, Florida*

# Looking at the Big Picture

Patricia M. McKay

Where to begin? Looking in the 30-year rear-view mirror tells me a lot about the contribution 1000 Friends has made to make a better Florida. My mother's family settled in Florida in the late 1880s, so let's just say I have a lot of family history here. Although I may live on the other side of the equator these days, Florida is always in my heart. Always.

Let me share three thoughts.

**First,** 1000 Friends has always been able to look at the big picture while recognizing that the little things matter. The Florida Keys and Everglades are a good example. 1000 Friends has helped everyone understand it is the connections, large and small, that make them so important. It is the natural system connections, the water connections, the cultural connections, the recreational connections and spiritual connections with the land that renew each of us.

**Second,** 1000 Friends always has personified the importance of collaboration to get the best outcomes for Florida. Nothing demonstrates this better than our



*Caroline, Neil and Catherine Sipe with Patti McKay – Patti was 1000 Friends' Second Executive Director from 1994 -1998.*

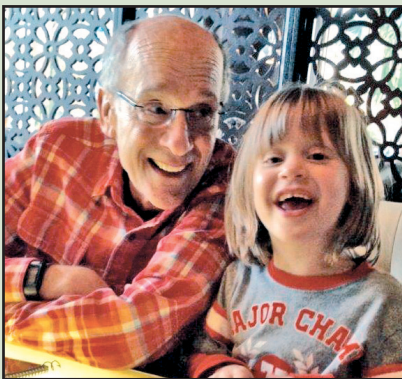
contribution to affordable housing. Without the leadership provided by 1000 Friends there would have been no productive dialogue among the key players, no Sadowski Act, no money. This is indisputable. The life of many Floridians has been dramatically changed by these actions.

**Third,** 1000 Friends has made the lives of all Floridians better by tirelessly telling the important stories. Stories we all need to hear.

Stories that make us think and rethink what is important about the state we love. We told the stories of working waterfronts and their challenges of marrying the old and the new for a better future. We told the stories of Florida's greenways that helped chart the path to a shared vision of their future. We told the stories of many local heroes that work to make their communities better. We told the stories that inspired us to see our part in making Florida a great place.

So join me in celebrating 30 years of incredible success by 1000 Friends of Florida.

## The Rhodes Family



*Bob Rhodes and granddaughter Robin Rhodes*

1000 Friends' Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinars enable us to stay on top of cutting edge planning techniques and current policy. The webinars are delivered in a balanced format with opportunity for interaction with knowledgeable speakers.

Experience over the past 30 years shows that sound and effective community planning works best when all interests, private, public and government, are informed and engaged. The DeGrove offerings promote this very important goal and I'm pleased to support this valuable program.

**Robert M. Rhodes, Attorney and Former Corporate Executive**

## Empowering Citizens

Courtney Cunningham, CEO/Managing Partner, The Brand Advocates

Good governance ensures citizen engagement on many matters – from transportation planning to environmental impact. It's the opportunity that local and state governments have accorded the people of our state and nation to give their opinion on policies that affect their communities.

Why is it important? In Miami, the Florida Department of Transportation has been in the process of developing and planning the reconstruction of I-395 and some portions of I-95. When it is completed, I-395 will have an iconic bridge, and a community that was torn apart will be reconnected.

When those highways were planned in the late 1960's little care and consideration was given to the residents who would be displaced. They ripped Overtown in half, one half on one side of I-95 and the other half on the opposite side of I-95. Businesses closed. Families and neighbors who had known each other for many years were torn apart. The intangible concept of community and place were rendered fallow. These citizens saw first-hand that their opinions, thoughts and suggestions did not matter. The impact on their communities did not matter.

In reaction to incidents like this and others, Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act requiring citizen involvement and participation in the planning process. Many states also passed laws to allow greater citizen participation. While it is true that Florida's laws have been weakened in recent years, there are still opportunities to get involved.

But too often, citizens take these rights for granted. They don't participate in the process. When public meeting and hearings occur, many times there are more consultants, lawyers and agency staff than there are



*Courtney, Tasha and Connor Cunningham*

citizens at these meetings. It's one of most precious rights that we have as a citizen. The planning process gives us our opportunity to speak up. Many people don't get involved until agencies have moved into construction. By then, it's too late.

1000 Friends of Florida understands that when we all get involved, we help create and preserve special and important communities in our state. We use our website, webinars, special reports and email blasts to keep stakeholders informed and involved. Our fragile state, with its one-of-a-kind beauty and growing population, needs friends and protectors. Join us in helping Florida continue to balance the needs of current and future generations.

“ . . . when we all get involved, we help create and preserve special and important communities in our state . . . ”

## At the Jupiter Island Club



Wolcott Henry's grandfather,  
Dexter Cummings, in the 1940s

I am the third generation of my family to live in Florida. Here, it is impossible to separate quality of life from how we use and manage our natural resources. Those resources are part of what drew our family here many decades ago, and what makes living here unique.

The impact of human activities is inevitable. How we manage that impact to ensure a sustainable future for our state is the foundation for everything 1000 Friends of Florida undertakes.

For most of the past three decades, the Munson Foundation has invested in 1000 Friends' work in Palm Beach and Martin Counties because we know that land use issues have to be addressed year in and year out— it's not always glamorous or exciting, but we know it is absolutely vital to the future of our state.

**Wolcott Henry, Chair, Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation**

## Defending Martin County

**Maggie Hurchalla, Past Martin County Commissioner for 20 years,  
The Guardians of Martin County Board Advisor**

**L**ocal activists trying to protect their neighborhood and their environment tend to feel like David versus Goliath.

Local officials trying to do the right thing are frequently reminded that the developers can afford to sue them but their constituents can't.

Fighting for what's right can be lonesome.

But not if you have a thousand friends behind you.

In Martin County we know the difference 1000 Friends can make. We're proud of our development rules and our comprehensive plan. The overall goal is to:

*...endeavor to establish a Comprehensive Growth Management Plan which broadens, enhances, and protects the quality of life for its residents.*



**Martin County Advocate Maggie Hurchalla**

Our residents recognize that you don't build a strong economy by trashing the place you live.

Since our first comp plan was adopted 35 years ago, three generations of residents have fought to keep Martin County a good place to live.

We've won some. We've lost some. Through it all 1000 Friends of Florida has had our back.

- They have been an accurate source of information on "what works" in planning a community's future and how to phrase that in regulations that are legal and effective.
- They've been a participant in educating residents at public forums on local and state planning issues.

- They have testified as expert professional planners defending our Plan against developers' lawsuits.
- They've helped to fight off Tallahassee initiatives to take away local control of development.

1000 Friends has been more than a best friend to folks who care about their community. They have been the face of sanity and professionalism in planning.

They have supported the idea that we can have a future that we want our children to live in and we can do it

legally and wisely so that business prospers without destroying what we care about.

When you've been a good friend for thirty years...

When you've always been there...

When you've done what was right...

You can proudly say you have been successful.

Happy Birthday, 1000 Friends. You done good.

## Protecting the Florida Keys

**Charles Pattison, FAICP, Executive Director, Monroe County Land Authority**

First working in the Florida Keys in the 1980s, like so many others I was immediately struck by both the beauty and fragility of this unique chain of islands. I also became familiar with 1000 Friends of Florida which would play an instrumental role in shaping the county's comprehensive plan.



*Ben, Charles, Pat and Drew Pattison – Charles was 1000 Friends' Third President and Policy Director from 1998-2016*

Over the decades, this still-in-effect plan has resulted in significant purchases of

environmentally sensitive lands, the adoption of a rate-of-growth ordinance limiting development based on hurricane evacuation clearance times, and – at a cost of close to one billion dollars – replacement of septic tanks and cesspits with advanced wastewater treatment central sewer systems that protect the Keys' nearshore water quality and iconic offshore reef system.

Monroe County drafted its initial plan in the mid-1980s, but already-approved development and pending applications threatened to overwhelm the Keys ecosystem. 1000 Friends successfully challenged this version, then playing a major role in crafting its

replacement to better balance reasonable development, environmental protection and a sound economy.

When the revised plan in turn was challenged, 1000 Friends defended it in the courts, successfully establishing that natural systems have a "carrying capacity" and the legitimacy of basing planning on that concept. In other challenges with statewide ramifications, 1000 Friends also

established the right of local government to adopt land development regulations for environmental purposes and helped confirm how landowners' "vested rights" are determined.

After 18 years as President and Policy Director of 1000 Friends, I have now returned to the Keys as the Executive Director of the Monroe County Land Authority. I appreciate more than ever the impact of 1000 Friends of Florida. Residents and visitors alike continue to benefit from sound planning to protect the irreplaceable environment, history, economy and distinctive quality of life in the Keys.

# Saving Special Places

**Will Abberger**, *Director of Conservation Finance, The Trust for Public Land*

As a new employee at 1000 Friends in the late 1980s, one of my first assignments was to help staff Governor Bob Martinez' 1989 Commission on the Future of Florida's Environment. Chaired by 1000 Friends founder and president Nathaniel Reed with support from executive director Jim Murley, the Commission's primary recommendation – to significantly increase funding for conservation and recreation land acquisition – would launch Florida's "golden age" of land conservation. 1000 Friends helped win legislative approval for Governor Martinez' Preservation 2000 (P2000) in 1990, resulting in \$3 billion over ten years to protect Florida's natural treasures and water resources.



*Mary Ann Koos and Will Abberger*

1000 Friends also led the charge to convince the Legislature to create Florida Communities Trust, a matching grant program to help communities implement conservation, recreation, and coastal management elements of their comprehensive plans through land acquisition.

1000 Friends supported my efforts as part of The World Wildlife Fund's "Successful Communities" program in Palm Beach County to acquire \$100 million of environmentally endangered lands which was overwhelmingly approved by county voters in 1991. Between 1988 and 2014, Florida voters approved

eighty-five city and county land conservation measures, creating \$12 billion in local funding for park and natural area acquisition.

With P2000 set to expire, 1000 Friends partnered with the Trust for Public Land, where I by now worked, and others to envision and lobby for a successor program.

In 1999 Florida Forever established a \$300 million per year commitment for land conservation. P2000 and Florida Forever together have conserved 2.5 million acres of Florida's finest natural areas.

But due to profound economic and political shifts, in 2009 the Legislature eliminated Florida Forever funding; Governor Scott followed suit the next year.

1000 Friends and Chairman Emeritus Nathaniel Reed were among the original members of the coalition that came together to back Amendment 1, providing financial support and public outreach. Amendment 1 passed with a 75 percent "yes" vote in 2014, but the Legislature has chosen to ignore the will of the voters.

1000 Friends of Florida and allies continue to fight to ensure that Amendment 1 provides significant funding for land conservation to protect the best of our state for future generations.



*Deer Lake State Park*

*Photo by Elam Stoltzfus  
as featured in his book, "Coastal Dune Lakes: Jewels of Florida's Emerald Coast"*

## The Stoltzfus Family



*Ira Brown, Laura Stoltzfus-Brown, and Elam, Esther and Nic Stoltzfus*

Throughout my past 30 years of documentary filmmaking in the State of Florida, I have always been able to count on 1000 Friends of Florida to be a consistent and reasonable voice for Florida conservation. I respect their leadership in working diligently for responsible management of our state's most beautiful vistas.

**– Elam Stoltzfus**

When I think of 1000 Friends of Florida, I think of a pragmatic organization that is working hard to preserve one of my favorite places in our state, the coastal dune lakes in northwest Florida. Because of their efforts, many people can enjoy a place near and dear to my heart.

**– Nic Stoltzfus**



*Fisherman Greg Atchley looks at the Emerald Coast*

*Photo by Nic Stoltzfus  
as featured in his book, "Coastal Dune Lakes: Jewels of Florida's Emerald Coast"*

# Building Better Communities

Vivian Young, *Communications Director, 1000 Friends of Florida*

Since its inception, 1000 Friends has understood the complex interrelationship between building better communities and saving special places. As a thousand new residents stream into our state each and every day, sprawling development encroaches on natural and agricultural lands at an alarming rate.

But Floridians have a choice. Instead of endless sprawl, we can foster walkable communities – near or within existing urban areas – with places for people to live, learn, work, shop and play in close proximity. These communities feature neighborhoods with a range of housing choices and transportation options. This design enhances residents’ health by offering easy opportunities for walking and biking, helps Floridians “age in place,” and is supportive of millions of residents who can’t drive or don’t have access to cars.

Well-designed communities protect farmlands and natural areas vital for wildlife habitat, clean drinking water, fresh air and recreation. Taxpayers also pay less for roads, sewer lines and other infrastructure when homes, shops, schools and offices are near or within existing communities. Early on, 1000 Friends established the coalition which secured passage of one



*Colin McGorty, Vivian Young, Ian McGorty and Kevin McGorty*

of the nation’s largest dedicated housing funds – the Sadowski Affordable Housing Act of 1992 – and ensured its continuation. Over the decades the Sadowski Trust Fund has provided thousands of Florida families with safe, decent and affordable housing.

Understanding the importance of

keeping urban lands urban and rural lands rural, we have successfully brought legal challenges to protect “urban service boundaries,” participated in Eastward Ho! and other initiatives promoting infill and redevelopment, and conducted webinars on smart, sustainable community design.

At the same time, we have protected what makes Florida’s communities distinctive and real, preparing award-winning manuals on disaster planning to preserve Florida’s threatened historic resources. Through programs like Waterfronts Florida, initially administered by 1000 Friends, we have promoted revitalized downtowns and waterfront communities.

Saving taxpayer dollars, protecting vanishing natural lands and historic resources, strengthening Florida’s economy, improving our health, enhancing our quality of life? Building better communities is a “win win” for us all.

“ . . . strengthening Florida’s economy, improving our health, enhancing our quality of life . . . ”

## Connecting Wild Florida

Carlton Ward Jr., *Founder, Florida Wildlife Corridor, National Geographic Explorer*

During the summer of 2006, I began photographing a small population of Florida black bears living primarily on private ranchlands in Highlands County. GPS collar data revealed the importance of these lands in a regional wildlife corridor connecting Fisheating Creek to the Kissimmee River and beyond.

That same year, 1000 Friends of Florida published *Florida 2060*, showing that if patterns of development did not change, more than 7 million acres of undeveloped lands would be converted to urban uses by 2060. These bears were right in the crosshairs. Habitat loss and fragmentation threatened not just bears but also the heritage and livelihoods of agricultural families who sustain wildlife habitat and water resources for all Floridians.

*Florida 2060* was pivotal to my understanding of what was at stake. In fact, the Florida Wildlife Corridor campaign is a direct result of these realizations. As a photographer, I wanted the rest of the world to see the scope of land protection needed to balance the development forecast.

The first Florida Wildlife Corridor map was published in 1000 Friends' 2010 report, *Florida's Evolving Large-scale Ecological Greenways System*. Since then, I participated in two 1000-mile Florida Wildlife Corridor Expeditions to bring attention to the statewide Corridor network.

Throughout these expeditions, our team walked in the footsteps of 1000 Friends' landscape planning. The Corridor is a subset of high priority linkages in the Florida Ecological Greenways Network, which 1000 Friends helped create through establishment of its Florida Greenways Project in 1991, and subsequent



*Carlton and Susie Ward with daughters Nell and Eldridge*

involvement with the Florida Greenways Commission in 1993, Florida Office of Greenways Management in the Department of Environmental Protection in 1994, and Florida Greenways and Trails Act in 1995.

In addition to planning tools and policy framework, 1000 Friends also helped establish financial stepping-stones for a statewide Corridor with a series of visionary land acquisition programs. From the beginning, 1000 Friends has helped create and co-sponsor 1988's Preservation 2000, 1998's Florida Forever, and 2014's Amendment 1, Florida's Water and Land Legacy. Together, these form the nation's largest land acquisition initiative.

If properly implemented, which 1000 Friends will diligently pursue, Amendment 1 is poised to fill in the remaining gaps in the Corridor over the next 18 years, protecting the 2.1 million acres of conservation priorities remaining on the Florida Forever list.

“... 1000 Friends' Florida 2060 was pivotal to my understanding of what was at stake...”

## Taking a Stand in the Courts

**Richard Grosso**, *Director, Environmental & Land Use Law Clinic, Nova Southeastern University*

**1**000 Friends was created to give Floridians the capability to enforce our state's planning laws. In the early days of implementation of the landmark 1985 Growth Management Act, its lawyers provided written legal analysis of the initial comprehensive plans for each County in Florida that the lawyers and local citizens used to advocate for improvements to those plans.



*Richard Grosso, wife Shannon Estenoz, and sons Spencer and Nick*

Armed with detailed legal analysis, local growth management advocates had significant positive impacts on these initial plans. 1000 Friends' lawyers also helped convince the state to legally challenge several plans, intervened into those cases, and sometimes brought their own challenges to represent the public's interest.

Standing before county commissioners, 1000 Friends lawyers bolstered local growth management advocates, who were typically outnumbered by those opposed to tougher planning measures. Appearing in court, or writing legal briefs, 1000 Friends' lawyers could make points and aggressive arguments that the state's lawyers

found difficult to make in the highly-charged political atmosphere.

This advocacy, either at trial, or through "friend of the court" briefs, vastly improved the initial comprehensive plans and the first major round of amendments, or set legal precedents that shaped planning law for the next 25 years.

These legal successes spanned the issues of balancing private property rights with the public's

rights to environmental and neighborhood protection and adequate infrastructure requirements, and resulted in an "Allies" award bestowed by the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers.

As growth management has evolved and faced political and legal challenges over the years, by participating in close to 50 challenges to date, 1000 Friends and its lawyers have won some of the biggest legal cases in the land use law field in the nation. This has significantly improved results on the ground from the Keys to the Panhandle, and given citizens the legal tools to enforce the planning laws that are determining Florida's future.

**“ ... 1000 Friends and its lawyers have won some of the biggest legal cases in the land use law field in the nation. This has significantly improved results on the ground ... ”**



*One of Highland County's endangered black bears*

*Photo by Carlton Ward  
Visit [CarltonWard.com](http://CarltonWard.com) and @CarltonWard on Instagram and Twitter*

### **The Delgadillo Family**



*Gladys Delgadillo and her mother, Gladys Jimenez*

1000 Friends of Florida is a widely-respected leader within the environmental community. As the administrator of the Florida Conservation Coalition (FCC), I know that the FCC and other environmental organizations rely on 1000 Friends to provide their expertise on policy issues and political strategy in order to make our messaging more effective.

1000 Friends of Florida's dedication to and engagement with the FCC has also allowed me to benefit from the mentorship of 1000 Friends' president, Ryan Smart, who has been an incredible resource during my time in Tallahassee.

***Gladys Delgadillo, Administrator, Florida Conservation Coalition***

# Conserving Palm Beach County and Protecting the Everglades

Robert Hartsell, *Legal Counsel, 1000 Friends of Florida*

Long a special focus for 1000 Friends, Palm Beach County is home to vibrant and often historic urban areas neighboring some of Florida's most bountiful agricultural lands. But how can these rural lands – producing close to a billion dollars worth of agricultural products each year and buffering the greater Everglades ecosystem – be protected from sprawling development?

Opening its Palm Beach County office in 1998, 1000 Friends continues to maintain staff in this critical region, mounting some of its most significant and complex legal and advocacy efforts.

A decade ago, 1000 Friends led the campaign to secure relocation of the Scripps Research Institute campus from a remote former orange grove in rural Palm Beach County known as Mecca Farms to its now thriving urban site in Jupiter near existing development and infrastructure.

And Mecca Farms? Instead of hosting a massive community the size of downtown West Palm Beach, today it is owned by the South Florida Water Management District as proposed by 1000 Friends. Protected in perpetuity, these lands now provide freshwater flows essential to the health of the federally designated "Wild and Scenic" Loxahatchee River and the Everglades.

In addition to ongoing advocacy to protect the Loxahatchee, 1000 Friends also secured landmark court victories, halting rock mining in the Everglades Agricultural Area on the ground it would harm Everglades restoration.

Now 1000 Friends of Florida is challenging Westlake (formerly Minto West) which would bring commercial development – equivalent to five regional malls – to rural western Palm Beach County. The recent incorporation of Westlake adds yet another layer of complexity to an already difficult dispute but, as always, 1000 Friends perseveres.

Recognizing that smart, compact development is essential to protect rural areas and create more livable communities, over the years 1000 Friends has prepared

and disseminated Palm Beach County-specific educational materials, conducted workshops, encouraged compatible infill development in communities such as the historic Limestone Creek, presented Better Community Awards to stellar redevelopment efforts in Lake Worth, and so much more.

Relentless pressure for sprawling development into some of the nation's most productive agricultural lands creates an ongoing challenge in Palm Beach County. But 1000 Friends remains committed to draw a line in the sand, keeping urban areas vital and healthy and rural areas rural.

## BikeWalkLEE



*Members of BikeWalkLEE*

1000 Friends of Florida is playing a vital role in BikeWalkLee's advocacy work by furthering the complete streets/livable communities movement throughout Florida through its many webinars, as well as its complete streets resources webpage.

Its excellent statewide webinars provide valuable information and an exchange of ideas that are helping the broad range of stakeholders in Lee County – from government staff, consultants, the media, and BikeWalkLee advocates – to "get further faster" in our complete streets implementation journey.

**Darla Letourneau, BikeWalkLEE**

# Moving Florida into the 21st Century

Tim Jackson, *Director of Real Estate, Weyerhaeuser*

In years past, the focus of transportation planning was on building more, wider and faster roads to move cars from one location to the next. But as on-the-ground experience has shown, this has come with significant financial and social costs to communities and residents, with new and expanded roads and associated development sprawling into the countryside.

Over the last 25 years, 1000 Friends of Florida has been at the forefront of a significant shift in transportation philosophy in this state. 1000 Friends was an early advocate for growth leadership in Florida calling for better linkages between land use, environmental and transportation planning.

Instead of roadbuilding, 1000 Friends has instead advocated for thoughtful investment in holistic community solutions – prioritizing transportation funding first within existing cities and towns to build and enhance networks of sidewalks, bike facilities, multi-use trails, transit, and streets that improve our communities’ livability and economic vitality, and supporting economic growth through regional networks of roads and rail to airports and seaports.

Launching its *Beyond Roads Initiative* in 1994, 1000 Friends promoted compact development patterns and alternative transportation in key areas of the state. Over the next two-plus decades, board and staff members have served on and led key Florida Department of Transportation state and regional commissions, conducted workshops and hosted webinars to integrate community values and local economic development into state, regional and local transportation plans and policies. Friends also played a leading role in the



*Matt, Tim, Carol, Patrick and Sam Jackson*

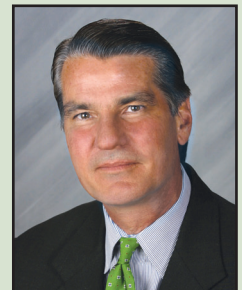
creation and passage of the 2004 Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act, developing a model approach to plan for regional transportation linkages while protecting key natural resources.

Building on years of advocacy by 1000 Friends and in a fundamental philosophical shift, last year the Florida

Department of Transportation affirmed its commitment to community-friendly transportation planning through adoption of its Complete Streets Policy. As we all have learned, sound transportation planning creates the link between our economic future, our environmental future, and our community future.

## Lester Abberger, *1000 Friends of Florida Board Member Emeritus*

I care passionately about our state’s future as reflected in its patterns of growth and the protection of its fragile resources.



Now more than ever, with 20 million residents and 105 million tourists and more pouring in every day, the work of 1000 Friends of Florida is absolutely essential.

1000 Friends of Florida is poised to lead Florida’s transition to a more enlightened era of informed, innovative, incentive-based, and environmentally sensitive smarter growth.

## Advocating for Springs Protection

**Jim A. Stevenson**, *Florida Springs Institute & Wakulla Springs Alliance Board of Directors, Florida Springs Task Force Former Chairman*

Florida's 1000 springs have immense natural and cultural values for Floridians and tourists, first attracting invalids to be healed in their pristine waters, and later as principal tourist attractions long before our beaches became popular. However, their popularity led to trampling and erosion and, more importantly, degraded water quality from agriculture and development in their springsheds.



*Tara Tanaka and Jim Stevenson*

My first springs protection efforts as the new chief naturalist for the state park system was prompted by the acquisition of Ichetucknee Springs State Park near Lake City. Although we could see the physical damage to the spring and river, we were not aware of the incipient pollution from human and livestock waste and fertilizer. The park service resolved overuse within the park but we had no influence over human activities within in the springshed.

A stakeholder group, the Ichetucknee Springs Basin Working Group, resulted in a close working relationship with 1000 Friends of Florida guiding collaboration with city and county governments in the springshed. Their

professional planners enhanced our progress in reducing pollution in the 300-square-mile springshed and supported local government efforts to communicate with their constituents.

In 1992 we recognized serious water quality problems at Wakulla Spring, a state park 15 miles south of Tallahassee. Again, 1000 Friends guided

the work of the Wakulla Spring Basin Working Group, facilitating land use planning and collaboration with local governments and other agencies.

1000 Friends began providing planning guidance for protection of all springs in north and central Florida, producing *Protecting Florida Springs: Land Use Strategies and Best Management Practices* (winning state and national awards from the American Planning Association), coordinating workshops, and advocating for increased state funding and improved water quality standards for springs protection. Through the years, 1000 Friends has proven a strong ally in the difficult task of protecting Florida's renowned springs for the enjoyment of us all.

“ . . . a strong ally in the difficult task of protecting Florida's renowned springs for the enjoyment of us all . . . ”



*Headspring Plunge*

*Photo by John Moran  
Springs Eternal Project*

**Victoria Tschinkel**, *Former Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Regulation*

When Walter and I moved to Tallahassee in 1970, it was because of the day we spent at Wakulla Springs the previous year. Wakulla Springs was the postcard for the Florida of our imagination: Live Oaks, clear cool water your eyes could penetrate for a hundred feet, and alligators and limpkins everywhere.

The history of the State was there, too, with the Lodge Ed Ball had built, where hundreds came to swim for the relief from sultry summers, and the images of Tarzan being filled in the mysterious jungle around the Wakulla River.

Wakulla Springs has suffered since then, it is true, but we have 1000 Friends of Florida fighting for this Florida Treasure and others around the State and for the way of life they represent.



# Leading Florida into the 21st Century

Senator Bob Graham



*Adele and Senator Bob Graham and Family*

From the late 1960's until this decade, Floridians rejected the previous definition that our state was a commodity of no intrinsic value. Instead, they recognized Florida as a unique treasure which each generation has an obligation to protect for themselves and the future.

The environmental movement which fundamentally changed Floridians' perception of themselves and the place in which they live was based on sound science supporting wise policy.

Symbolizing this was a series of Environmental Land Management Study (ELMS) Commissions, the offspring

of the Everglades fires of 1970 and 1971. These fires awakened a population which had taken the Everglades for granted. Something was going wrong. Someone needed to take control.

That someone became the new governor, Rueben Askew. He established ELMS I in 1971, led by Dr. John M. DeGrove, director of the urban center at Florida Atlantic University, a knowledgeable and passionate advocate for Florida, and later co-founder of 1000 Friends of Florida.

The bipartisan ELMS I committee members developed and presented to the Legislature a challenging reform

agenda which was full throttle endorsed by Governor Askew: comprehensive water management through five regional districts; state engagement in growth management in areas of critical state concern such as the Florida Keys; and oversight of developments of regional impact including the proposed – and subsequently cancelled – mega airport in the Florida Everglades.

Local governments would be required to develop comprehensive plans consistent with state goals. These efforts were to be financially supported by a taxpayer-approved bond issue for the purchase of land necessary for the protection of conservation land and water resources. Most of these initiatives were law by the end of the legislative session

As Governor, I convened ELMS II in 1982, leading to passage of legislation mandating a state comprehensive plan, regional planning councils to prepare regional policy plans, greater coordination between state, regional and local plans, and the requirement that the state review and approve local comprehensive plans, with emphasis first on coastal counties.

Many of these provisions were included in what is known as the 1985 Growth Management Act. The following year, I named Dr. DeGrove secretary of the newly created state Department of Community Affairs to oversee these efforts. Gov. Chiles created ELMS III in 1991, leading to a number of procedural refinements to growth management.

Then came the great recession and its political consequences. Rather than recognizing that Florida's

economic future and its contemporary commitment to growth management and environmental protection were symbiotic, new political voices shouted that the protective environmental standards were a barrier to economic development and jobs. This came to a head in 2011 when a legislative wrecking crew demolished almost 40 years of environmental protection.

Absent from this chapter of Florida history was the ELMS approach. There was no thoughtful analysis of the relationship between environmental protection and economic growth. There was little legislative consideration of the four decade contribution of intelligent and sustained land and water policy to the most dynamic period of economic growth in Florida's history.

Rather than the scalpel which had been used throughout that time span to modify polices as changed circumstances dictated, a sledgehammer was taken to the foundations of Florida's quality of life-led economy.

What is needed now is a return to a thoughtful and diverse stakeholder approach to establish evolving policies necessary to manage booming population growth while maintaining Florida's unique environmental treasures. Such a body should ask, what state policies are needed to ensure that Florida attract quality economic development while maintaining the planet's most attractive climate and abundant natural resources?

That is an agenda worthy of Florida's best thinking. That is why we need 1000 Friends of Florida more than ever.

*“ . . . what is needed now is a return to a thoughtful and diverse stakeholder approach to establish evolving policies necessary to manage Florida's booming population growth . . . ”*

## Our Vision for Florida's Future...

*Picture a Florida with vibrant cities and towns, thriving and livable neighborhoods, and an outstanding quality of life.*

*Imagine communities where kids can ride their bikes to school or the park, and parents can walk to the store or take a bus to work if they wish.*

*Envision our state with abundant natural lands, a verdant network of wildlife corridors and greenways, productive farms, and pristine springs and rivers.*

*Think about a Florida with a vital economy, well-paying jobs, and affordable housing choices.*

*This is the future toward which 1000 Friends of Florida is working. Find out more about how you can help!*



building better communities • saving special places

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