

Thank You, Park Volunteers!

2017 Volunteer Recognition Award Winners



Florida State Parks

Volunteers | Valued Park Partners

You Assist with the Mission



FLORIDA
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Provide resource-based recreation,
while preserving, interpreting and restoring
natural and cultural resources.



You Serve in All Areas of “The Big Five”



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1. Visitor Services



2. Administration



3. Resource Management



4. Protection



5. Maintenance

You Are Our Valued Park Partners



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You are **INTEGRAL** to the work we do to accomplish **THE MISSION**



Each year, volunteers like you contribute over 1 million hours!



Thank You! Friends of FL State Parks

Volunteer Recognition Awards sponsor



FLORIDA STATE PARKS
FOUNDATION



2017 Director's Special Service Award



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Jim Ellis, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park



Thank You Jim!

- \$5 million in park projects
- Building park partners
- Finding new funding sources
- Solutions to problems
- Providing his staff to ensure success



2017 Corporate Contributor of the Year



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Motorola Solutions, Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park

Thank You Motorola Solutions!

- Corporate annual work day
- 66 employees and officers
- Beach cleanup
- Planted native trees
- Donated \$5,000



Brian D. Laine Photography

2017 Citizen Support Organization of the Year



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Friends of Fort Clinch

Thank You Friends of Ft Clinch!

- Exemplary park partnership
- UTV for sea turtle patrol
- Enhanced visitor services
- Support for living history programs
- Improvements for resident volunteers



2017 Citizen Support Organization of the Year



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Friends of Topsail Hill Preserve State Park



Thank You Friends of Topsail Hill!!

- Washer & dryer for volunteers
- Vacuum for 32 rental cabins
- 2 Wi-Fi hotspots for visitors
- Volunteer uniform purchases
- Camp store remodel
- Operate the camp-store and rentals



2017 Volunteer of the Year - Administration



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Nancy Olson, Bahia Honda State Park



Thank You Nancy!

- 400 hours of service in 2017
- 1500 lifetime hours of service
- Creates and organizes databases
- Assists and leads other volunteers
- Successful event fundraiser
- Promotes the Jr Ranger program



2017 Volunteer of the Year – Park Maintenance



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Bill Lewis, Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway



Thank You Bill!

- 2000 hours of service in 2017
- 4000 lifetime hours of service
- Expert buildings and equipment repairs
- Attention to safety and security
- Campground host



2017 Volunteer of the Year – Park Maintenance



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Jean Fletcher, Hontoon Island State Park



Thank You Jean!

- 13 years as island store manager
- Dedicated service during a hurricane
- First to report to Park Manger on island conditions after the hurricane
- First to come and help



2017 Volunteer of the Year – Resource Management



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Susan Kolterman, Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park



Thank You Susan!

- 600 hours in three months in 2017
- 6000 lifetime hours
- Dedicated to preserve, protect and interpret natural resource in the Keys



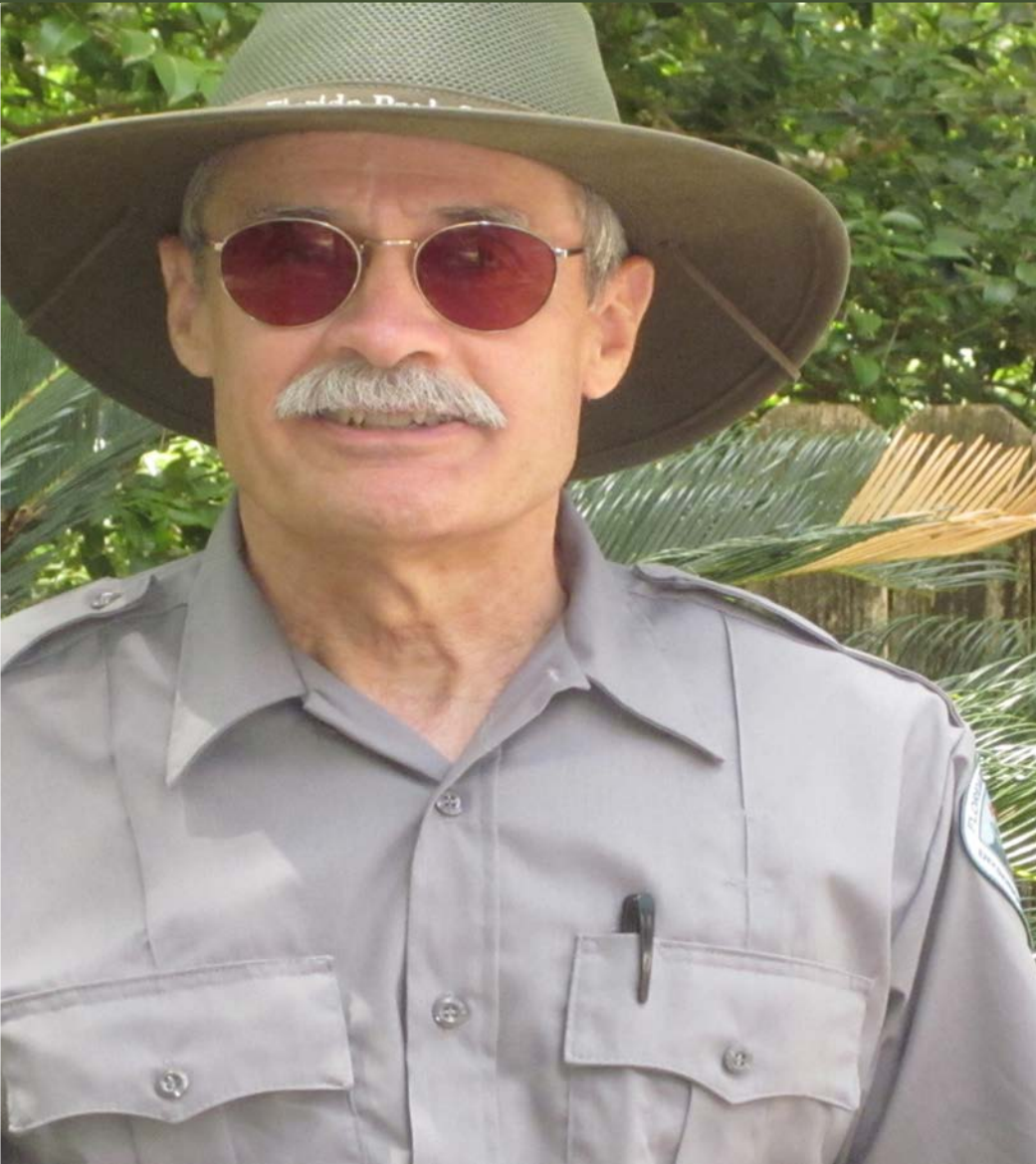
2017 Volunteer of the Year – Resource Management



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Robert 'Bob' Deyle, Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park



Thank You Bob!

- Dedication and passion for service
- Expert on FL aquifer, Wakulla springs, and the Wakulla River and basin
- Wakulla River boat guide
- Teacher of staff and students at all levels of education



2017 Volunteer of the Year – Visitor Services



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Karen Cloud, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park



Thank You Karen!

- Loved for her upbeat attitude and passion for service
- Builds community partners for the park
- Leads events and initiates new events
- Proactively greets and engages visitors of all ages



2017 Volunteer of the Year – Visitor Services



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Sam Carr, Dunns Creek State Park



Thank You Sam!

- Driving force of the Friends Group
- Organizes events
- Leads kayak tours
- Builds community partners
- Tireless work on park projects



2017 Youth Volunteer of the Year – Maintenance



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Matthew Thayer, Colt Creek State Park



Thank You Matthew!

- Volunteers every Thursday after school
- Takes on all things park maintenance
- Self motivated and fantastic attitude
- Wants to be a Park Ranger



2017 Youth Volunteer of the Year – Visitor Service



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Makenzie Shaw, Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs State Park



Thank You Makenzie!

- Started at the park at age 12
- 650 hours of service
- Mentors other volunteers
- Extraordinary interpreter
- Volunteers at all events



2017 Team of 2 of the Year – Maintenance



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Darwin and JoAnne Matthews, Anastasia and Ravine Gardens State Parks



Thank You Darwin & JoAnne!

- Extraordinary campground hosts
- Identifies and solves problems
- Experts in all types of facilities maintenance
- Expert carpentry - created a fine crafted conference table, shelves and more



2017 Team of 2 of the Year – Resource Management



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Bob and Marteen Dillon, Bahia Honda State Parks



Thank You Bob & Marteen!

- Green iguana's an exotic animal, irradiation experts
- Dedicated to preserving native wildlife
- 9000 lifetime hours of service each



2017 Team of 2 of the Year – Visitor Service



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Philip and Ann 'Mickie' Anderson , Myakka River State Parks



Thank You Philip & Mickie!

- Campground hosts always going above and beyond
- Leadership as liaisons with the park's CSO
- Manages events, membership, donations, and CSO gallery inventory



2017 Team of 3+ of the Year – Maintenance



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Freddie & Deb Morgan, Chris Graves and Mike Crane, Paynes Prairie



Thank You Fred, Deb, Chris & Mike!

- Campground revitalization
- Clear and clean campsites
- Level camp pads and trim vegetation
- Add new picnic and campfire areas
- Repair and deep clean the bathhouse



2017 Team of 3+ of the Year – Resource Management



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Beach Cleanup Team, Gamble Rogers and North Peninsula State Park



Thank You Team!

- Partnership of volunteers and community
- 400 hours of service clearing after Hurricanes Matthew and Irma
- Completed cleanup before the sea turtle nesting season



2017 Team of 3+ of the Year – Protection



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Bulkhead Reinforcement Team, Hontoon Island State Park



Thank You Team!

- 270 hour contribution
- 670 concrete bags
- Protecting the island and cultural resources before hurricane season



2017 Special Cultural Event of the Year



Moon Over Maclay, Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park



Thank You Friends of Maclay!

- 700 attendees
- \$15,000 raised for park projects
- Guests enjoy Jazz and the gardens by full moonlight



2017 Special Event of the Year



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Celebrate Cayo Costa, Cayo Costa State Park



Thank You Friends of Cayo Costa!

- 200 visitors
- Improved parks visibility in the community
- Provided reduced fairy rates so more could attend
- Guests enjoyed the unspoiled island
- Naturalists offered guided tours



2017 Team of 3+ of the Year – Visitor Services



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Volunteer Maintenance Team, Myakka River State Park



Thank You Tom, Earl, Barry, Shaun, Mike & Steve!

- Regularly repairs and maintains all park facilities and buildings
- Completed full facelift of visitor center
- Became experts in historic building restoration
- Tireless work team for the park

2017 Special Event of the Year – Historical



CCC Festival, Highlands Hammock State Park



Thank You Friends of Highlands Hammock!

- Organized 144 event volunteers
- Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) veterans participated
- Heritage games, crafts, tram rides, folk bands, demonstrations and vendors



2017 Special Event of the Year – Resource Mng.



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Get to Know Colt Creek, Colt Creek State Park



Thank You Friends of Colt Creek!

- Introducing the community to the park
- 1000 visitors
- Organized 100 event volunteers
- Fishing, horseback riding, canoe and kayaking, demonstrations and vendors



2017 Special Event of the Year – Education



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Earth Day Celebration, Dunns Creek State Park



Thank You Friends of Dunns Creek!

- Introducing the community to the park
- 17 partnering agencies
- Guided hikes, wagon tours, canoe and kayaking, kids activities and vendors



2017 Long-Term Project of the Year – Historical



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CCC Statue, Fort Clinch State Park



Thank You Friends of Fort Clinch!

- Fundraise and purchase a Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) workers statue
- Constructed a new viewing area
- Added interpretive signs



2017 Short-Term Project of the Year – Cultural



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Bird Peninsula Restoration, Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs State Park



Thank You Friends of Homosassa!

- Restore the natural habitat for captive and native birds
- 500 hours contributed
- \$7000 raised to restore
- Partnership with community volunteers
- Improved visitor experience



2017 Short-Term Project of the Year - Recreation



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Manatee Pavilion, Gamble Rogers Memorial Rec Area at Flagler Beach



Thank You Jerry Allen!

- Pavilion kit saved the park \$8500
- 30 years in construction, Jerry constructed, supervised and advised the project
- Provides shade and protection for visitors
- Includes universally accessible picnic area and parking



2017 Special Event of the Year - Recreation



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Earth Day Bio Blitz, Oscar Scherer State Park



Thank You Friends of Oscar Scherer!

- 200 participants in the Bio Blitz
- Participants learn native plants and animals and new places in the park
- Partnership with county schools

Join Oscar Scherer State Park on Earth Day for our first ever



BioBlitz



Saturday, April 22, 2017 10am–4pm

FREE PARK ENTRY!

Help us discover the **biodiversity** in
Oscar Scherer State Park!

Learn how to **observe** the sights, sounds,
and signs of wildlife!

Explore the park and become a **citizen
scientist!**

For more information, contact (941) 483-5957, or lee.hibbeler@dep.state.fl.us



21 Years of Service – Lynn Cherry



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Camp Helen State Park



Thank You Lynn!

- Led the grassroots campaign for Camp Helen to become a state park
- Leads the CSO and tirelessly promotes the park
- Developed the kayak program
- Coordinates numerous events and fundraisers



30 Years of Service – Arthur Nersadian



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Fort Cooper State Park



Thank You Arthur!

- Dedicated to the park since 1987
- Founding member of the Friends Group
- Tireless park promoter
- Extraordinary willingness to help with all park needs

24 Years of Service – Agnes Eslava



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Rainbow Springs State Park



Thank You Agnus!

- Dedicated to the gift shop
- Leader in the 'Crafty Ladies' committee
- Tireless worker
- Self-motivated and detailed



26 Years of Service – Amilcar Eslava



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Rainbow Springs State Park



Thank You Amilcar!

- Park volunteer since 1991
- Prepared the park to open to the public
- Specialist in repairs and maintenance
- Dedicated lighting crew for 'Santa Over the Rainbow' and construction crew member



21 Years of Service – Shirley Kuntz



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Rainbow Springs State Park



Thank You Shirley!

- Park volunteer since 1994
- Charter member of the Friends Group
- Leader of the 'Crafty Ladies' selling handmade items in the giftshop



22 Years of Service – Linda Brown



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Rainbow Springs State Park



Thank You Linda!

- Park volunteer since 1995
- Leader of the toll booth volunteers
- Active Friends Group member
- Chairs the garden committee
- Teaches 4th graders park history



32 Years of Service – Cathy Moore



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Little Manatee River State Park



Thank You Cathy!

- Founding member of the Friends Group
- Continues to be a leader on the board
- Tireless park advocate
- Coordinates multiple events per year



20 Years of Service – Myra Coggeshall



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Highlands Hammock State Park



Thank You Myra!

- 6900 lifetime hours of service
- Expert park interpreter
- Provides outstanding visitor service
- Passionate about natural resources and educating all ages



21 Years of Service – Bob Sendry



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Oscar Scherer State Park



Thank You Bob!

- 21 years volunteering every Monday & Wednesday
- Expert in maintenance
- Passionate about the Lester Finley 'Barrier Free' trail

