

ECO SUMMIT

5-6 DECEMBER 2023

**VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL
SARASOTA, FLORIDA**

eco-summit.org

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

scienceandenvironment.org

Founded in 2001, the Science and Environment Council of Southwest Florida (SEC) is a non-profit collaborative of 43 leading science-based environmental organizations working between Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor. Our network of scientists, educators, and resource managers works to increase science-based environmental understanding, conservation, and restoration through collaboration and public engagement in Southwest Florida. Our network serves as a catalyst and multiplier creating powerful synergy and leverage among our member organizations and the community to initiate and accomplish impactful projects no one organization would pursue on its own. The EcoSummit is our premiere event.



Florida
Rewilding
Collective



Welcome to the 2023 EcoSummit!

Our quality of life depends on a healthy, resilient natural environment. Nature cleans our air and water, supports fish and wildlife, promotes public health, and drives our economy. As impacts from population growth, development, and climate change increase, we must increase the capacity of our environment to accommodate or mitigate those impacts and decrease our per capita impacts.

Over the next two days, a lively and entertaining solutions-oriented experience will unfold, with lectures, panel discussions, storytelling, and music. Fifty-four invited experts and storytellers will explore insights and innovations for recharging our environment and reducing our impacts and will animate our environmental heritage as a touchstone for a resilient future.

We are thrilled to host our keynote speakers — award-winning storytellers Damon Gameau and Carl Hiaasen — who will inspire us to know and tell our own stories of who we are and what is possible. The phenomenal singer-songwriter Karen Jonas is here with her band to blow the purple roof off the joint.

The 2023 EcoSummit will be like nothing you've ever seen. We hope you learn new things, meet new people, laugh, and dance. Most importantly, we hope to inspire you to make our region greener, healthier, and more resilient.

Thank you for joining us and showing up for the environment. Envisioning and producing this event started 18 months ago, involving dozens of collaborating partners and sponsors. We're grateful to our co-producing partner Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability. We especially thank the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation (presenting sponsor), Elizabeth Moore (lead sponsor), Gulf Coast Community Foundation (Florida Stories with Carl Hiaasen sponsor), and our generous venue host, the City of Sarasota and Van Wezel. None of this could have happened without them — and you.

Cheers,

David Shafer, PhD
Jennifer Shafer, PhD
Coexecutive Directors



LEAD SPONSORS

PRESENTED BY



ECOSUMMIT



ELIZABETH MOORE

FLORIDA STORIES WITH CARL HIASSEN

**GULF COAST
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

GREEN LIVING EXPO



VENUE HOST



ECOSUMMIT SCHEDULE

**MONDAY
DECEMBER 4**
The Bay Park Nest

5:00 pm–8:00 pm
Kick-Off Reception

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 5**
Van Wezel
Performing Arts Hall

9:00 am–10:00 am
Opening Keynote

10:00 am–12:25 pm
SESSION 1:
**Growth and
Balance**

LUNCH BREAK

1:25 pm–3:00 pm
SESSION 2:
**Land, Legacy &
Special Places**

3:20 pm–5:00 pm
SESSION 3:
**Making a Place
for Nature**

DINNER BREAK

7:00 pm–9:00 pm
Florida Stories

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 6**
Van Wezel
Performing Arts Hall

9:00 am–12:00 pm
SESSION 4:
**Billion Dollar
Bays**

LUNCH BREAK

1:00 pm–2:40 pm
SESSION 5:
**It's All About
Clean Water**

2:55 pm–4:50 pm
SESSION 6:
**When Pollution
Is Personal**

4:50 pm–5:00 pm
Closing



MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
5:00 pm–8:00 pm
KICK-OFF RECEPTION

The Bay Park Nest
1055 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota

Let's kick it off with a drink and movie under the stars! Join us for a very special family-friendly screening of 2040 with the film's creator, award-winning Australian documentary filmmaker and EcoSummit Keynoter Damon Gameau. It's a journey to explore what the future could look like by the year 2040 if we simply embraced the best solutions already available to improve our planet and shifted them rapidly into the mainstream. *Free and open to the public.*

5:00 pm–6:00 pm Meet and mingle with a complimentary beverage for registered EcoSummit attendees and snacks for purchase at the Nest concession.

6:00 pm–8:00 pm Set up your lawn chair or spread a blanket at The Bay's outdoor cinema. Director Damon Gameau and his daughter Velvet will introduce his film 2040 then take audience questions after the screening. The film runs 90 minutes.

ECOSUMMIT 2023

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL

9:00 am–10:00 am

OPENING KEYNOTE

Documentary film writer, director, and producer **Damon Gameau** journeys to uncover how stories shape our community understanding of who we are and what is possible. The story of mankind's relationship with the earth has changed over millennia as have our stories of how we measure our own success and happiness. Now we must seek new stories of planetary boundaries, a new balance with nature, and growing and regenerating the environment to safeguard our communities and quality of life.



Join the discussion on Mentimeter! Scan the code with your smart phone camera. Or type bit.ly/2023ecosummit into your mobile web browser.



10:00 am–12:25 pm

SESSION 1: GROWTH AND BALANCE

Sponsored by Live Wildly Foundation

Over the past century, population growth and development patterns have increased pollution and decreased the environment's capacity to process it. In the face of continued rapid population growth, loss of environmental function and connectivity, and climate stressors, how can we grow the environment as we grow communities? Can we find balance through more sensitive land development practices that contain and minimize impacts?

10:05 am–10:30 am

VIEWPOINT:

Our Story of Growth and Balance

Sarasota native and three term Sarasota County Commissioner Jon Thaxton brings the last half-century of growth into focus with thoughts on our community-driven legacy of environmental stewardship and advocacy.

JON THAXTON

Vice-President of Community Investment
Gulf Coast Community Foundation

10:30 am–10:50 am **BREAK**

10:50 am–11:50 am

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Growth and Balance

There is a better way. Led by smart growth expert Paul Owens from 1000 Friends of Florida, expert panelists discuss strategies for sustainable land development practices that grow environmental infrastructure, resiliency, and quality of life.

PAUL OWENS

President
1000 Friends of Florida

VAN LINKOUS, PHD

Associate Professor
University of South Florida

STEVE COVER

Planning Director
City of Sarasota

JULIETTE DESFEUX

Sustainability Advisor
Spinnaker Group

11:50 am–12:25 pm

CASE STUDIES:

Green Development

Case studies demonstrate that we can build back nature's ecosystem services into projects. Nature-based infrastructure becomes a critical "utility" that cleans water, protects against flooding, provides habitat, cools, and captures carbon.

JENNIFER ROMINIECKI

CEO and President
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

BILL WADDILL

COO
The Bay

TIMOTHEE SALLIN

President
Cherry Lake Tree Farm

12:25 PM–1:25 PM LUNCH BREAK

Take an hour to fill up and refresh.

- Use your lunch coupon at the food trucks for your choice of one: entree salad (vv/gf), personal pizza (v), greek wrap (v), or street tacos (v) plus a drink.
- Unwind and restore with a quick wellness session with **Petra** on the bayfront, including breathing, gentle movement, and healing sound to make you feel energized and rejuvenated.
- Stretch the legs with a short, guided walk with The Bay's COO Bill Waddill to learn about the amazing environmental restoration techniques built right into the park.

1:25 pm–3:00 pm

SESSION 2: LAND, LEGACY & SPECIAL PLACES

The fate of our last remaining natural lands will be decided in the next decade. What lands have we saved and what's left to protect? Saving land protects wild places for wildlife, waterways, and people. Managed conservation and agricultural lands support habitat connectivity, biodiversity, water flow, soil health, and local food systems. It's an insurance policy on our changing future.

1:30 pm–2:30 pm

PANEL DISCUSSION

Saving our Natural Areas and Working Lands

Locally and statewide, voters overwhelmingly support protection of our natural lands through acquisition of public lands and easements on private lands. Panelists discuss how this may not be enough to protect the last remaining critical lands.

ALIKI MONCRIEF, JD

Executive Director
Florida Conservation Voters

CHRISTINE JOHNSON

President
Conservation Foundation
of the Gulf Coast

CHARLIE HUNSICKER

Director
Manatee County Natural Resources

JIM STRICKLAND

Owner
Strickland Ranch

2:30 pm–3:00 pm

STORYTELLING

Stories from the Field

Perspective is everything. Some see a threat, some see beauty. Through the lenses of time and culture, these storytellers will open your eyes to the magic and danger of Florida's wildlands and beasts.

HILLARY VAN DYKE

President
Invincible Summer Enterprises

UZI BARAM, PHD

Director of Public Archaeology
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

TONY CLEMENTS

Division Manager
Sarasota County Natural Areas and Trails

3:00 pm–3:20 pm BREAK

3:20 pm–5:00 pm

SESSION 3: MAKING A PLACE FOR NATURE

Sponsored by Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension & Sustainability

Where have all the birds gone? Has a generation lost touch with nature herself? Our urban and suburban environments are built for people not nature, but we can invite nature back. How could making space for nature in our urban and suburban places make us healthier and more resilient to heat and floods? We can safely regenerate and recharge natural systems right in our own backyards, neighborhood parks, and regional recreation areas to bring back water quality and wildlife.

3:25 pm–4:25 pm

PANEL DISCUSSION

Recharging Nature with Urban Restoration

Urban and suburban restoration matters at all scales from backyard to local golf course to regional park. Mark Hostetler, author of the how-to book *Green Leap*, is joined by three experts with big successes to their credit.

MARK HOSTETLER, PHD

Professor
University of Florida

JOHN KEIFER, PHD

Principal Engineer
Black and Veatch

JEANNE DUBI

President
Sarasota Audubon Society

AEDAN STOCKDALE

Education and Volunteer Division
Manager
Manatee County Natural Resources

4:25 pm–5:00 pm

STORYTELLING

Fish Tales

Three Stories. Only Two Are True. You Decide. It takes guts and grit to make a career out of studying wild Florida. These accomplished scientists can tell you some stories you won't believe.

JONO MILLER

Author and Natural Historian

EMILY HALL, PHD

Senior Scientist
Mote Marine Laboratory

RANDY WELLS, PHD

Director
Sarasota Dolphin Research Program

5:00 PM–7:00 PM DINNER BREAK

Take two hours to fill up and refresh.

Dinner is on your own. There are several delicious spots within a 10-minute walk, such as The Nest at the Bay, H2O Bistro at Hotel Indigo, Currents at the Hyatt, or make a reservation at Duval's on Main Street and their free 9-passenger shuttle will pick you up!

7:00 pm–9:00 pm

FLORIDA STORIES

Sponsored by Gulf Coast Community Foundation

Enjoy an unforgettable evening with **Carl Hiaasen**, Florida's most savagely funny, riotous, and cathartic storyteller. Hiaasen has published 13 novels for adults, among them nine national bestsellers – including *Strip Tease*, *Sick Puppy*, *Skinny Dip*, *Nature Girl*, and *Bad Monkey*. Carl Hiaasen has also taken his humor and irreverence to the pages of kids' books. His most recent, *Wrecker*, debuted in September as a *New York Times* #1 Bestseller.



Hiaasen will be joined by bestselling author and environmental journalist **Craig Pittman**, local storyteller and dolphin expert **Dr. Randy Wells**, and award-winning Americana songwriter **Karen Jonas** and her band, who *Rolling Stone Germany* calls “a bit wicked, a bit dangerous.” It's an irreverent evening of Florida Stories and music recounting Floridians' relationship with our enchantingly wild lands, waters, and creatures.

Craig Pittman underwritten by *Florida Humanities*.

5:30–6:30 PM

Pre-show Reception for VIP ticketed guests

Sponsored by Chiles Hospitality

Enjoy delicious and artful wines and hors d'oeuvres from the sustainability leader **Chiles Hospitality**. Ed Chiles famously owns a family of three waterfront restaurants serving sustainable

seafood, an in-house bakery, and Gamble Creek Farm with 26 acres of organic vegetables, fruits and flowers delivering local and sustainably sourced ingredients.

ECOSUMMIT 2023

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL

9:00 am–12:00 pm

SESSION 4: BILLION DOLLAR BAYS

Estuaries are engines for wildlife, fisheries, tourism, culture, real estate, and recreation. From Charlotte Harbor to Tampa Bay, our region has three of America's 28 prestigious Estuaries of National Significance. Can conservation and restoration gains keep up with impacts from population growth and climate change? What's our plan to reduce macroalgal blooms and red tide? What is the status of our fish and wildlife populations? Are we at a tipping point with pollution?

9:05 am–10:05 am

PANEL DISCUSSION

Recharging Nature with Estuary Restoration

Award-winning Florida environmental journalist and author Craig Pittman joins the Directors of the three National Estuary Programs charged with protecting and restoring our estuaries from Estero Bay to Tampa Bay.

CRAIG PITTMAN

Environmental Journalist
Florida Phoenix

ED SHERWOOD

Director
Tampa Bay Estuary Program

DAVE TOMASKO, PHD

Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

JENNIFER HECKER

Director
Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership

10:05 am–10:35 am

CASE STUDIES

Bay Habitat and Wildlife Restoration

From sportfish to oysters to dolphins, restoration and protection efforts are underway to support the recovery and resilience of habitat and wildlife in the face of human and climate induced pressures.

NATE BRENNAN, PHD

Staff Scientist
Mote Marine Laboratory

DAMON MOORE

President
Oyster Reef Ecology

KATIE MCHUGH, PHD

Staff Scientist
Sarasota Bay Dolphin Research Program

10:35 am–10:55 am BREAK

10:55 am-11:25 pm

CASE STUDIES

**Community In Action
Protecting Wildlife**

Community-driven initiatives are energized and making a difference across the Suncoast. Meet some of the heroes from 100% volunteer run organizations who work the early, late and weekend shifts to protect wildlife.

RONDA RYAN

Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Watch

HOWARD HOCHHALTER

Director
Suncoast Stargazers

KYLIE WILSON

Shorebird Coordinator
Florida Audubon (seasonal)

11:25 am-11:55 am

STORYTELLING

**Cultural Stories
from the Estuary**

The stories we tell define our culture - who we are and what we believe is possible. These storytellers explore relationships with our watery world: our political, divine, and cultural right to coexist and flourish together.

JOE BONASIA

Chair/SWFL Regional Director
Florida Rights of Nature Network

RABBI ED ROSENTHAL

Executive Director
Repair the Sea

JOHN MCCARTHY

Vice President for Regional History
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

12:00 PM-1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

Take an hour to fill up and refresh.

- Use your lunch coupon at the food trucks for your choice of one: entree salad (vv/gf), personal pizza (v), greek wrap (v), or street tacos (v) plus a drink.
- Unwind and restore with a quick wellness session with **Petra** on the bayfront, including breathing, gentle movement, and healing sound to make you feel energized and rejuvenated.
- Stretch the legs with a short, guided walk with The Bay's COO Bill Waddill to learn about the amazing environmental restoration techniques built right into the park.

1:00 pm-2:35 pm

SESSION 5: IT'S ALL ABOUT CLEAN WATER

Sponsored by Sarasota County Stormwater Environmental Utility

There is no new water on earth, only the same raindrops cycled over and over again. The water we drink and use to wash, flush, and irrigate is borrowed from the environment. In turn, whatever we put on land, or down the drain, eventually winds up back in our waters. How can we follow nature's example for building efficient and resilient wastewater and stormwater systems that protect our water supply and prevent pollution? There are smart ways to keep us and our waterways healthy, in an endless cycle.

1:05 pm-2:05 pm

PANEL DISCUSSION

**Reducing Pollution
with Holistic Water
Management**

Erica Gies has been around the world as a National Geographic Explorer and journalist collecting stories about water, society and climate change captured in her book *Water Always Wins*. She joins a trio of regional water professionals to discuss our water future.

ERICA GIES

Author and Journalist

MAYA BURKE

Assistant Director
Tampa Bay Estuary Program

AMANDA BOONE

Project Engineer
Woodard & Curran

JACLYN LOPEZ, JD

Assistant Professor
Stetson College of Law

2:05 pm-2:35 pm

CASE STUDIES

**Water Management and
Resilience**

Building communities using last century's techniques leads to the flooding and water pollution that those techniques were designed to prevent. Case studies show how nature-based water management techniques can help us adapt to a changing future.

SANDY GILBERT

Chair
Solutions To Avoid Red Tide

ABBEY TYRNA, PHD

Executive Director
Suncoast Waterkeeper

BOB BUNTING

CEO
Climate Adaptation Center

2:35 pm-2:55 pm BREAK

2:55 pm–4:50 pm

SESSION 6: WHEN POLLUTION IS PERSONAL

Sponsored by Tervis

Home is where we produce most of our trash – about three pounds per adult per day. How can we create less waste in the first place by refusing, reducing, reusing, repurposing and recycling –so we don't let waste go to waste? Homeowners also play a big role in reducing carbon pollution because our homes consume more than half of all Florida's electricity. Improving home energy efficiency to reduce energy use and installing home rooftop solar for clean renewable energy is easier than you think.

3:00 pm–3:55 pm

PANEL DISCUSSION

Reducing Personal Pollution: Don't Let Waste Go To Waste

What do we do with all this stuff? From throw-away containers, to worn out household goods, to unwanted food, these waste streams can be redirected to good use and reused as materials that feed the circular economy.

SARAH DEARMAN

CIO
The Recycling Partnership

DONN GITHENS

President
Goodwill Manasota

MIKE KELCOURSE

CEO
Compost Jax

EMILY GRANT

Florida Program Manager
MEANS Database

ZACK RASMUSSEN

Manager
Gamble Creek Farms

3:55 pm–4:50 pm

PANEL DISCUSSION

Reducing Personal Pollution: Efficient & Renewable Energy Use

Energy experts on policy, financing, solar, transportation, and home improvement, provide myth-busting advice for transitioning your lifestyle to the carbon and cost savings of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

SUSAN GLICKMAN

Energy Consultant

BILL JOHNSON

President
Brilliant Harvest

LEE HAYES BYRON

Director
UF/IFAS Extension & Sustainability

DUANNE ANDRADE

Executive Director
Solar & Energy Loan Fund (SELF)

AMBER WHITTLE, PHD

Executive Director
Southface Sarasota

4:50 pm–5:00 pm

CLOSING

A final burst of inspiration to propel you towards a more green, healthy, and sustainable future.



KAREN JONAS and her band will excite and delight, energizing the moments between big ideas and stories with song.

Flanked by her longtime guitarist the inimitable TIM BRAY, bassist SETH MORRISSEY, and SETH BROWN on drums, KAREN will dazzle with energy that showcases their nine-year touring chemistry and the true joy of their art.

KAREN JONAS



Her new album *The Restless* is “a stunning collection of dreamy and dark alt-country confessionals; a deep exploration of love and vulnerability from one of Americana’s most hopeless romantics”

- Holler.Country

Karen has released five full-length records and is a three-time Wammie (Washington Area Music) Award winner for Best Country and Americana Artist, Mid Atlantic Song Contest winner, Ameripolitan Award nominee, and official SXSW and UK Americanafest Showcasing Artist.



CHAMPION SPONSORS

SESSION 1: GROWTH AND BALANCE



SESSION 3: MAKING A PLACE FOR NATURE AT HOME



SESSION 5: IT'S ALL ABOUT WATER



SESSION 6: PERSONAL POLLUTION

TERVIS

HERO SPONSORS



**MOTE SCIENTIFIC
FOUNDATION**



Pauline
Wamsler

SUPPORTERS



CONTRIBUTORS

Jean
Blackburn



Robert A
Richardson



FRIENDS

Estuary
Escapes LLC

John &
Susan Darovec

Innovative
Dining

Oyster
River
Ecology

Seagrape
Wines

Venice Area
Audubon Society

MEDIA SPONSORS



Stage imagery courtesy of Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast /
Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation | Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

DUANNE ANDRADE

Duanne is the Executive Director of the Solar and Energy Loan Fund, a CDFI/Green Bank based in Florida. Duanne is a passionate advocate for social, environmental, and economic equity and has spent the past 20+ years working on innovative financing models to unlock access to fair capital for populations in underserved communities in the United States and Latin America. She has worked extensively with nonprofit microfinance models focused on lifting vulnerable populations out of poverty as well as for-profit financing models to address financing gaps for small businesses and expanded energy efficiency and clean energy financing as a critical component of sustainable development.



UZI BARAM, PHD

Uzi is the Director of Public Archaeology for Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and has decades of experience in community-based public archaeology to facilitate connecting people and organizations to the robust heritage of the Florida Gulf Coast. Dr. Baram taught for 25 years at New College of Florida and founded its Public Archaeology Lab. Uzi raised his three children in Sarasota, taking them to seemingly every museum, beach, park, and preserve across the region.



Dr. Baram's efforts focus on addressing the landscape of rising sea levels, recovering histories of freedom-seeking peoples, and emphasizing the significance of heritage for community and individual health.

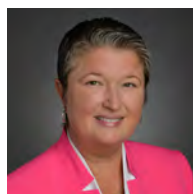
JOE BONASIA

Joe is a Chair of Florida Rights of Nature Network and Communications Director of FloridaRightToCleanWater.org, the two organizations behind the campaign to amend our Florida Constitution with a fundamental "Right to Clean and Healthy Waters." He also serves as Citizens' Climate Lobby's volunteer liaison to Senator Rick Scott's office, is a founding board member of the SWFL RESET Center, and is co-leading efforts to prevent the destruction of critical wetlands in Cape Coral. He writes about the Right to Clean Water, Rights of Nature, and our climate crisis.



AMANDA BOONE, PE

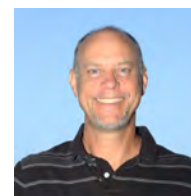
Amanda is Project Manager with Woodard and Curran and a multi-disciplined engineer and project manager with over 20 years of experience influencing decision-makers and leading teams through end-to-end program execution. Amanda has a Bachelor's and Masters degree in Biological Systems Engineering from Virginia



Tech. Her experience spans both private and public sectors in Florida and North Carolina. While her expertise is primarily focused on stormwater quantity and quality management, she also has experience with erosion control; stream and wetland restoration; and water and sewer utilities. She utilizes her diverse background to approach projects holistically and bring together the right team.

NATE BRENNAN, PHD

Nate is a Staff Scientist at Mote Marine Laboratory in the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. With a primary research focus on snook stock enhancement, he conducts release experiments to evaluate post-release growth, survival, diet, habitat use, and movement and dispersal in tidal creeks and estuaries. Dr. Brennan's foundational work began in Hawaii working on striped mullet aquaculture and stock enhancement. Recently he is coupling his experience of integrated aquaculture systems and juvenile snook ecology towards fish habitat restoration and ecosystem conservation.



BOB BUNTING

Bob is a scientist, serial entrepreneur and educator, moving easily between private enterprise, government and academic spheres, making him a true "bridge" person and uniquely qualified to lead the



CAC. He is the CEO of Waterstone Strategies, a consulting firm that assists its early stage high technology clients to "plan and execute" their business and funding strategies.

MAYA BURKE

Maya is the Assistant Director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. She is responsible for strategic planning, and implementation reporting for the benefit of a healthy bay; she distills research for a broader audience; and facilitates working groups including the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium and the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel. Maya is a native Floridian and has spent 20 years working in water resource management and environmental land use planning. Prior to working at the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, she worked for the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.



LEE HAYES BYRON

Lee Hayes is the Director for Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability which is a partnership between the University of Florida and Sarasota County to bring researched-based information to our community. From agriculture to wildlife and composting to solar, Sarasota County Extension provides classes, speakers, technical assistance, and programs to help resi-



dents and businesses build a better future. Previously she was the Sustainability Manager for Sarasota County, overseeing sustainability improvements within government operations and the efforts to create a sustainable community across Sarasota County.

TONY CLEMENTS

Tony started his career with the Florida Park Service in 1993 and worked at Oscar Scherer State Park for 20 years, five as a Park Ranger, six as the Assistant Manager and ten as the Park Manager with a four-year break in the middle working for King County Parks at Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park in Washington State doing wildland restoration and trail construction. He is currently working for Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources as the Division Manager for Natural Areas and Trails.



STEVE COVER

Steve is the Director of Planning for the City of Sarasota and was instrumental in securing approval of "The Bay" Master Plan, implementing the City's Bay Runner Trolley and bike/scooter share program, initiating the City's Public Art and Historic Preservation Programs and The City's Downtown Attainable Housing Program. Prior to arriving in Sarasota, Steve was Planning Director for Atlanta where he laid the groundwork for



the Beltline Project and helped design and implement Serenbe, an award-winning sustainable community that utilizes green building technology, preserved 70% of the land for green space, and farms produce and meat products serving both restaurants and residents.

WASTE SESSION LEADER

SARAH DEARMAN

From corporate to government and nonprofit sustainability initiatives, Sarah has spent her career collaborating for good. Sarah is the Chief Innovation Officer for The Recycling Partnership, a national nonprofit organization advancing a circular economy by building a better recycling system. Sarah specializes in creating action-oriented collaborations to accelerate the circular economy. Having spent time leading sustainable packaging at Coca-Cola as well as managing sustainability initiatives for Georgia's Department of Natural Resources, Sarah understands the power of public-private collaboration and is passionate about maximizing partnerships for positive change.



JULIETTE DESFEUX

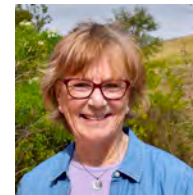
Juliette possesses three LEED AP credentials, including Neighborhood Development, is an Ecodistricts AP, and FGBC DP. She has a master's degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from the university



of Torino in Italy. Until the end of 2019, she worked as a sustainable consultant in Tahiti, French Polynesia, helping the government and local architects promote and develop green construction in a remote-island context; as well as Lima, Peru, as a LEED consultant while working on LEED certifications from corporate to education buildings projects. Juliette has lived in several European countries while studying and working as an urban planner.

JEANNE DUBI

Jeanne is the President of the Sarasota Audubon Society and has played a key role in turning the Celery Fields, a regional stormwater treatment facility, into the wildlife habitat it is today. That effort included fundraising and overseeing the construction of a new Audubon nature center. In 2021, she received the Charles H. Callison Award from the National Audubon Society for her commitment to birds and habitat conservation.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DAMON GAMEAU

Damon's first feature length film as a director (*That Sugar Film*) won Best Documentary at the Australian AACTA awards in 2016 and became the highest grossing Australian documentary of all time at the cinema. Damon's second film, *2040*,



is an innovative feature documentary that explores what the future would look like by the year 2040 if we embraced the best solutions already available to us to improve our planet. It was released in April 2019 and now sits in the top 4 highest grossing documentaries of all time in Australia cinema. Gameau was nominated for New South Wales Australian of the Year in 2020 for his work in creating 'the Regeneration' movement which is associated with his film *2040*. His short film *Regenerate Australia 2030* was released in 2022 and is a vision for Australia in 2030 based on interviews with a variety of Australians from differing backgrounds.

WATER MANAGEMENT SESSION LEADER

ERICA GIES

Erica is the author of *Water Always Wins: Thriving in an age of drought and deluge*, published in the U.S., the U.K., and China. An independent journalist and National Geographic Explorer, her reporting on water, climate change, plants and critters appears in *Scientific American*, *Nature*, *The New York Times*, *bioGraphic*, *The Guardian*, and other publications. Erica has received the Sierra Club's Rachel Carson Award, Friends of the River's California River Award, the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation's Excellence in Journalism Award, and was a finalist for the Berlin-based Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year Award.



SANDY GILBERT

Sandy is a retired publishing executive from TIME and Smithsonian Magazines

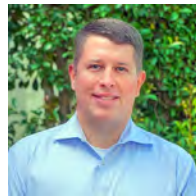
who is the Chairman of START (Solution To Avoid Red Tide). In his fifteen-year tenure at START, he has overseen the Shuck 'N Save Oyster Program in Manatee County that has restored local oyster reefs. He also helped sponsor the clam seeding program with the Sarasota Bay Watch that has seeded over 2 million clams in the Bay and administered the Healthy Pond Collaborative's stormwater pond enhancement program that has planted over 15 miles of new pond shoreline in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.



DONN GITHENS

Donn is the President & CEO of Goodwill Industries-

Manasota, Inc. (GIMI), a non-profit dedicated to closing the skills gap and addressing inequities. With 17 years experience in the Goodwill network, he led GIMI's DGR, operations, and oversaw marketing, real estate, and more before his current role. He also held key roles at Goodwill of North Georgia and Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers. Githens holds an MBA from Ashford University, a Bachelor of Science from Florida State University, and has completed leadership programs with Goodwill Industries International and the University of Georgia-Fanning Institute.



ENERGY SESSION LEADER

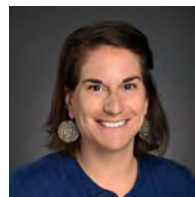
SUSAN GLICKMAN

Named to Florida Trend's Inaugural 500 Most Influential Business Leaders, Susan is a consultant to ReThink Energy Florida and Florida Clinicians for Climate Action - educating medical professionals on the health harms of climate change. She's worked with Natural Resources Defense Council, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Our Children's Trust and the Union of Concerned Scientists. Susan's on the board of Solar & Energy Loan Fund (SELF) which provides affordable financing for weatherization and solar for low and moderate income families. She's on the Steering Committee of East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative and initiated the Tampa Bay Regional Resilience Coalition.



EMILY GRANT

Emily is the Senior Program Manager for the MEANS (Matching Excess and Needs for Stability) Database, an online platform connecting those with excess food, like grocery stores, co-ops, and restaurants, with nearby emergency food providers. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in Urban Studies and Spanish. She has over 6 years of experience program planning and over 4 years of professional work in the Florida food system. When she's not coordinating the donation of excess



food, you can find her taking care of 40+ plants, playing with her dog Ziggy, or being a cookie monster.

EMILY HALL, PHD

Emily is a Senior Scientist and Program Manager at Mote Marine Laboratory where she manages the Chemical and Physical Ecology Program and the Ocean Acidification Program. Her research focuses on nutrient patterns related to harmful algal blooms and the effects of acidification on estuarine and coastal ecosystems. Dr. Hall developed ocean acidification and climate change experimental systems in the Florida Keys and Sarasota to study global and local stressors on estuarine and coastal ecosystems. She also focuses on unique coastal and marine habitats that could withstand or alleviate the effects of global changes on organisms like seagrass beds and offshore deep holes.



JENNIFER HECKER

Jennifer is the Executive Director of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (US EPA National Estuary Program), responsible the past 7 years for working with non-profits and local, state, and federal govts. to restore and protect natural resources in Central and Southwest Florida. She serves as a Science Advisory Committee member to Everglades Restoration, as well as on the Environmental Advisory Committee for the Southwest Florida Water Man-



agement District. Prior, Jennifer was the Director of Natural Resource Policy for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for 13 years, and an environmental scientist for private and local governmental organizations.

HOWARD HOCHHALTER

Howard is the Director of the Planetarium in Venice. He never anticipated becoming a self-taught man of science. As a young Marine proudly serving his country, he was more inclined to travel than ponder complex cosmological questions. However, a chance visit to a local planetarium changed the course of his life and led to a career working at the premier astronomy education facility on Florida's west coast. Howard's engaging and entertaining style of teaching peels away the intimidating veil of science and makes astronomy accessible to all.



URBAN RESTORATION SESSION LEADER

MARK HOSTETLER, PHD Mark is a professor and Extension specialist at the UF/IFAS

Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. His work focuses on design and management of "green" communities, especially how biodiversity is affected by urban landscape design and management strategies. *The Green Leap* is his practical guide for conserving biodiversity in subdivision development.



FLORIDA STORIES KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CARL HIAASEN

A Florida native, Carl has been writing about the Sunshine State since his father gave him a typewriter at age six. From 1985 until 2021, Hiaasen wrote a column for *The Miami Herald*, covering everything from local issues like polluted rivers, the criminal justice system, and animal welfare, to national stories like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Trayvon Martin case, Bernie Madoff's trial, and Florida's presidential election woes. His sharp observations and eye-opening reporting have earned him three Pulitzer Prize nominations. Hiaasen turned to writing novels in the 1980s. To date, Carl Hiaasen has published 13 novels for adults, among them nine national bestsellers – *Strip Tease*, *Stormy Weather*, *Lucky You*, *Sick Puppy*, *Basket Case*, *Skinny Dip*, *Nature Girl*, *Star Island*, and *Bad Monkey*. Carl Hiaasen has also taken his humor and irreverence to the pages of kids' books, publishing several popular novels for young readers, most recently *Skink* – *No Surrender*.



CHARLIE HUNSICKER

Charlie is the Director of the Parks and Natural Resources for Manatee County. He holds a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Wisconsin-



Madison, and a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University. He oversees three divisions responsible for over 30,000 acres of preserve lands, coastal resources, and boating facilities; the County's surface and groundwater resources, air quality, and phosphate mining and mineral extraction permits; and outreach and volunteer programs. Mr. Hunsicker also directs the beach renourishment program for Anna Maria Island, develops environmental grants for the county, and serves as the County Commission's congressional liaison.

BILL JOHNSON

Bill is the Owner and President of Brilliant Harvest, LLC. He grew up in Sarasota with solar hot water and solar pool systems on his roof. Bill has a B.S. in physics from Emory University, a Masters in Physics from the University of South Florida, and an MBA from the University of Florida. He founded Brilliant Harvest, a state certified solar contractor, in 2009, to serve residential and commercial clients on the west coast of Florida. Bill is certified by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners as a Solar Photovoltaic installation professional and currently serves as Treasurer of the Florida Solar Energy Industry Association.



CHRISTINE JOHNSON

Christine is the President of the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast where she works to save land, ensure good land conservation, public policy, and that all have access to natural places. She has worked in management and consulted with Fortune 500 companies in fields ranging from manufacturing to media. She has also worked in the Sarasota region's nonprofit sector since 2004, successfully overseeing multi-million-dollar campaigns for the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast and Ringling College of Art and Design.



JOHN KEIFER, PHD

John is a Principal Engineer at Black and Veach and an award-winning ecosystem restoration designer, specializing in the improvement of flowing waters for flood hazard mitigation, water quality, sediment management, fisheries, biodiversity, recreation, quality of life and economic stimulus. He is a wetland scientist, fluvial geomorphologist, and environmental engineer who develops actionable science into resilient design. John has co-authored well received technical reports including peer-review journal articles, a stream classification and design manual, and a book chapter on tropical wetland mitigation. He has special training and experience in mutual gains negotiations, furthering his ability to work with the public.



MIKE KELCOURSE

Mike is an experienced innovator in the waste management industry. He has intimate knowledge of how the waste industry works and over 20 years of formal recycling industry experience. In 2013, Michael started Kelco Recycling, a cardboard, paper and plastics recycler in the Jacksonville market. In 2019, he noticed a large opportunity in the industry for food waste and compost, which eventually led to him forming Sunshine Organics and Compost in 2020. The company collects food, agricultural, and forestry waste, processes it into organic compost and biochar, then returns it to the soil while making the environment and local communities healthier.



EVANGELINE LINKOUS, PHD

Evangeline is Program Director and an Associate Professor for Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of South Florida. She studies the fiscal and legal instruments used to manage land in areas of growth and change. Her research has been published in journals including the Journal of the American Planning Association and Urban Affairs Review. She has a Ph.D. and Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA from New College of Florida. She is a recipient of a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award and the USF



Outstanding Community-Engaged Teaching Award.

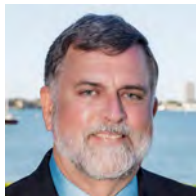
JACLYN LOPEZ,

JD Jaclyn is the director of the Jacobs Public Interest Law Clinic for Democracy and the Environment at Stetson University, College of Law, where she also teaches professional responsibility and advanced legal research and writing. She previously worked at the Center for Biological Diversity, where she served as the nonprofit's Florida Director and senior attorney for over a decade. She holds a master of laws in environmental and land-use law from the University of Florida, a J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and a master's of science in urban planning from the University of Arizona.



JOHN MCCARTHY

John is the Vice President for Regional History for Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and passionate about Florida ecology and history. A skilled storyteller, John is well known for his encyclopedic knowledge of the Sarasota area, which he shares through presentations, tours and publications. John received his BS from Goshen College and worked with Sarasota County Government for 32 years as an Environmental Specialist, County Historian, and Director of Parks and Recreation. An avid cyclist and kay-



aker, John enjoys exploring natural lands and waterways throughout the region.

KATIE MC'HUGH, PHD

Katie is a Senior Scientist and Deputy Program Director at the Chicago Zoological Society's Sarasota Dolphin Research Program (SDRP), based at Mote Marine Laboratory. Katie first began studying wild dolphins with the SDRP as a Mote intern in 2000. She returned as a graduate student researcher focused on juvenile dolphin behavior and the effects of harmful algal blooms on dolphins. Katie's current research focuses on understanding and mitigating adverse human-dolphin interactions, and she is also responsible for overseeing the Sarasota Bay Listening Network and the SDRP's conservation training programs.



JONO MILLER

Jono is a natural historian, environmental educator, and activist who has worked for over a half century to understand and protect the wild places in Southwest Florida. Jono is both a graduate and former Director of the Environmental Studies Program at New College of Florida. He is also a graduate of the Florida Studies Program of USF St. Pete, and the Florida Natural Resource Leadership Institute. In addition to his work on environmental lands,



Jono is known for his leadership on the Myakka River, cabbage palms, tree protection, barrier island issues, water management, and backyard chickens.

LAND CONSERVATION SESSION LEADER

ALIKI MONCRIEF, JD

Aliki works to build political power to protect our environment and democracy and create a healthy, sustainable future. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and B.A. from Emory University. She has experience in the government and non-profit sectors providing legal assistance to communities harmed by hazardous waste sites, lobbying the Florida state legislature on environmental and public health issues, and protecting natural areas and species. In 2011, she played a pivotal role leading a statewide coalition that changed Florida's constitution to dedicate \$20 billion for protecting public lands, waters, and critical ecosystems.



DAMON MOORE

Damon is a habitat restoration practitioner with 20 years of experience developing and implementing large-scale habitat restoration projects and is a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) through the Society for Ecological



Restoration. He recently founded a project-implementation focused environmental nonprofit organization called Oyster River Ecology, Inc. (ORE) and serves as President of the Manatee Fish & Game Association. In his free time, Damon enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, kayaking, hiking, uploading plant and insect observations in iNaturalist, leading nature tours, and volunteering on habitat restoration projects.

GROWTH AND BALANCE SESSION LEADER

PAUL OWENS

Paul is president of 1000 Friends of Florida, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to planning for sustainable communities amid our state's rapid growth. Prior to joining 1000 Friends in 2018, Paul was an editorial writer and ultimately the opinions editor for the Orlando Sentinel. In that position, he wrote extensively on the environment, the economy, growth and development in Florida. Earlier in his career, Paul worked for the Associated Press, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Department of Energy. He earned his graduate degree in journalism from Stanford University.



ESTUARIES SESSION LEADER

CRAIG PITTMAN Craig is a Florida native and award-winning investigative journalist and author. In



30 years at the Tampa Bay Times, he won numerous awards for his environmental reporting, including the Waldo Proffitt Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism and the top investigative reporting award from the Society of Environmental Journalists. He is the author of six books documenting the wild and weird of Florida, including *Manatee Insanity: Inside the War Over Florida's Most Famous Endangered Species*, *Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther*, and the New York Times Bestseller *Oh Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country*. In 2020 the Florida Heritage Book Festival named him a Florida Literary Legend.

JENNIFER ROMINICKI

Jennifer is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. She has been at Selby since 2015 and has overseen the creation and execution of an innovative Master Site Plan to increase green space, protect the collections, and implement green building technology. She has over twenty years of varied and senior-level management experience at major, audience-driven, and complex cul-



tural institutions with educational missions and historic preservation aspects including The New York Botanical Garden, The Metropolitan Opera and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

RABBI ED ROSENTHAL

Ed is the Executive Director and Campus Rabbi of the Suncoast Hillels and brings with him a passion for Jewish life and spirituality, Israel and the Jewish People. Before coming to work for Hillel, Ed was a congregational rabbi in Auckland, New Zealand and Brownsville, Texas. He loves working with college students and came to Suncoast Hillels after serving as the executive director of Hillel at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York for eight years. Before that, he was the campus rabbi at Emory University in Atlanta for two years.



RONDA RYAN

As Executive Director of Sarasota Bay Watch, Ronda developed the marine debris program and partnered with other organizations, municipalities, scientific groups, and friends to assist in debris collection efforts and methods. She's a member of NOAA's Marine Debris Reduction and NOAA's Derelict Fishing Gear workgroups. Ronda revels working with the community and mentors students in the SBW Youth Leadership Program. She's made



indelible friendships with hard working, purpose driven individuals who share her passion. She is a wife to one, a mother to two, and a critical care nurse to many.

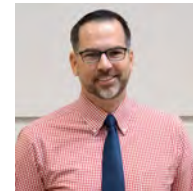
TIMOTHEE SALLIN Tim serves as the Co-CEO of

Cherrylake, an environmentally conscious horticulture and landscaping company. Tim is also president of The OUTSIDE Sustainable Landscape Collaborative, a non-profit dedicated to increasing the adoption of sustainable landscape practices in Florida. Tim believes in creating broad based collaborations to pursue purposeful goals that promote our connection to Nature and one another. Tim is a graduate from New College of Florida where he earned a degree in Economics and International Studies.



ED SHERWOOD

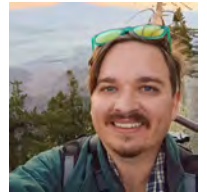
Ed became Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Executive Director in 2018 after serving as the Program Scientist since 2008. Ed is responsible for maintaining TBEP's strong interlocal partnership and continuing the bay's science-based restoration and recovery strategies. He directs TBEP's technical and public outreach initiatives and serves as the primary policy liaison between its many public and private partners. Ed holds a B.S. degree in Marine Biology from the University of West Florida, and



a M.S. degree in Marine Fisheries and Ecology from the University of Florida.

AEDAN STOCKDALE

Aedan Stokdale is the Education and Volunteer Division Manager for Manatee County Natural Resources. While pursuing a B. A. in Marine Biology from New College of Florida, Aedan worked at Mote Marine honing his passion and skills for teaching others about coastal environments. Aedan came to work for Manatee County full-time after graduating, where he now develops educational programs, creates exhibits, teaches archery, and takes people kayaking. A rare Florida-born native, Aedan grew up hiking through palmettos, tromping across mangrove swamps, and swimming in the Gulf – experiences he now uses to help others foster their own connections to the outdoors.



JIM STRICKLAND

Jim is a multi-generational Florida Rancher with a passion for cattle and land conservation. He is the owner of Strickland Ranch and managing partner of Big Red Cattle Company and Blackbeard's Ranch. Jim is currently the Vice Chairman of the Florida Conservation Group, which advocates for funding for conservation programs statewide and assists landowners on conservation easements and environ-



mental issues. Jim is co-chairman of the Florida Smart Agriculture Work Group, and has been a board member of Manatee County Farm Bureau for 28 years. He has won several awards for land stewardship and sustainable ranching.

GROWTH AND BALANCE VIEWPOINT SPEAKER

JON THAXTON

Jon is a leading advocate for protecting the natural environment. A fifth-generation Sarasotan, he was raised on a family farm near Osprey and began working at his family's real estate company at 14. Jon began his environmental advocacy at Venice High School in 1974 as a founding member of the Ecology Club, and in 1996 he was featured in National Geographic for his efforts to protect endangered species. He served 12 years on the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners. Short Jon Thaxton is a leading advocate for protecting the natural environment. A fifth-generation Sarasotan, he served 12 years on the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners and is currently Vice-President of Community Investment at Gulf Coast Community Foundation.



DAVE TOMASKO, PHD

Dave has more than 30 years of experience in water quality assessments and the development of science-based natural resource plans in the Gulf of Mexico and international locations. He holds a Ph.D. in biology from the University of South Florida, a Master of Science in marine biology from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Science in biology from Old Dominion University. Dave was also the first-ever SBEP Program Scientist.



ABBEY TYRNA, PHD

Abbey joined Suncoast Waterkeeper as their Executive Director in 2022. Tyrna has a doctorate in geography from Pennsylvania State University, where her research examined the positional importance of wetland systems across watersheds. In 2015, she became an adjunct professor of Environmental Studies at State College of Florida and later the Water Resources Agent for UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability. Tyrna is a founding member of the Healthy Pond Collaborative and a lead author of the Healthy Pond Guide. At Suncoast Waterkeeper, Abbey works in pursuit of achieving the 1972 federal Clean Water Act goal of swimmable, fishable, and drinkable waters for all.



HILLARY VAN DYKE

Hillary is the President of Invincible Summer Enterprises and works with museums, nonprofits, and educational companies to help students, faculty, and the community to see their inherent brilliance. She is also a project manager for Impact Florida. From 2008 to 2021, she served in roles from middle school ELA teacher to high school staff developer to district administrator over DEI initiatives. Hillary is currently pursuing a doctorate in social sciences curriculum and instruction at the University of South Florida.



BILL WADDILL

Bill is the Chief Implementation Officer of The Bay Park Conservancy and a designer and developer of parks and public spaces across the nation. He is a certified planner and landscape architect with over 32 years of experience managing the design, public engagement, and implementation process for both public and private projects, including the Bradenton Riverwalk, Siesta Beach Park, Perry Harvey Park in Tampa, Babcock Ranch Town Center in Ft. Myers, and Baker Park in Naples. He is a member of the AICP, PLA, and ASLA.



RANDY WELLS, PHD

Randall is a co-founder and directs the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, the world's longest-running dolphin conservation research program. He began studying dolphins as a high school volunteer at Mote Marine Laboratory in 1970. Wells received his PhD from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a post-doctoral fellowship at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, before joining the Chicago Zoological Society in 1989. He has worked internationally on whale, dolphin, and manatee conservation. Wells has mentored 77 graduate students, led/co-authored 323 publications, been lead/co-author of 786 presentations, and serves on the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission's Committee of Scientific Advisors.



AMBER WHITTLE, PHD

Amber is a Sarasota local and currently is the Executive Director of Southface Sarasota, a resilience nonprofit focused on energy efficiency, climate change, and social equity and health. She is also the Director of the Pritzker Marine Lab at New College. She received her BA in English and her BS in Zoology from the University of Florida and her PhD in Zoology/Ecology, Evolution & Conservation Biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Her conservation efforts have spanned climate change mitigation, corals, larval fish, sea turtles,



watershed restoration, water quality, habitat restoration, microplastics, endangered species, MPAs, and policy work.

KYLIE WILSON

Kylie was born and raised in Sarasota, Florida. From a young age, she was interested in the environment and wildlife and always knew she wanted to pursue a career as a biologist. She attended Pine View School for high school and Florida State University for her bachelor's degree. After college, she interned for various wildlife organizations mainly involved in work with birds and sea turtles. In 2018, she started working as the local Shorebird Coordinator for Audubon Florida where her main duties were to protect beach-nesting birds and coordinate the stewardship program in Sarasota.



ZACK RASMUSSEN

Zack got his first taste of ecological farming in South India and has spent over 10 years studying permaculture design with an interest in Agroforestry, Korean natural farming, and syn-tropic farming systems. His journey with Chiles Hospitality began when he installed multiple self-sustaining gardens for its Sandbar restaurant. Now, as a farm manager at Gamble Creek Farms, Zack grows a unique variety of herbs, spices, vegetables, fruits and flowers through organic practices and permaculture principles that have become a staple for all of Chiles Hospitality's restaurants. One of his current goals at the farm is to build cohesive plant relationships.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. David Tomasko (Chair),
Director, Sarasota Bay Estuary
Program

Dr. Michael Crosby (Vice Chair),
President/CEO Mote Marine
Laboratory

Amber Whittle (Secretary/
Treasurer), Director, Southface
Sarasota

Charlie Hunsicker, Director Parks
& Natural Resources, Manatee
County

Christine Johnson, President,
Conservation Foundation of the
Gulf Coast

Jennifer Rominiecki, CEO, Marie
Selby Botanical Gardens

Andrew Sandall, CEO, Bishop
Museum of Science and Nature

**Dr. Jennifer Shafer & Dr. David
Shafer** (Co-Executive Directors)

We're Bringing our Green Game

At the EcoSummit, we walk the talk! Here are the sustainability actions we're taking to reduce the carbon and resource footprint of this event.

- Triple offsetting all of the energy use of the event and our travelling guests through renewable energy credits. In other words, we purchased enough megawatts of solar power to triple offset any fossil fuel use.
- Providing reusable Tervis Tumblers for all attendees (thank you TERVIS!).
- Eliminating single-use plastics in our food service.
- Composting all food waste and recycling all we can.
- Using caterers that source local and organic produce and ingredients when possible.
- Reusing name badges—please return these to us at the end of the event.
- Printing on paper made from certified sustainable forests.
- Partnering with businesses that offer electric transport and free shuttle rides to the event.

Get Your Green On

After two fast-paced, stimulating days at the EcoSummit, your mind is whirling with ideas. But what happens next? What real steps can you take to help build a green, healthy, and sustainable future for you, your family, and your community. We've put our heads together to recommend twenty-four local sustainability solutions and organized them as action steps on the next page. Choose the solutions that make the most sense for you and pledge to make them happen! Visit greenlivingtoolkit.org for expert advice.

To get started, turn the page. Let one thing lead to another.

EcoSummit Next

Are you interested in doing more in your community, but not sure where to start? Are you excited and energized to get involved and activated as part of a group of like-minded people? Use our EcoSummit Next sign-up form to indicate your areas of interest, and we'll get you connected!

To get started, scan the code or type bit.ly/2023ecosummit-next into your web browser.



PLEDGE: Adopt these local sustainability solutions.
ACTIVATE: Volunteer, take a class, organize a group.

BUILDINGS & CITIES

GIVE YOUR HOME A TUNE UP

I will contact my local UF/IFAS Extension to learn how to make my home more energy efficient and watershed friendly.

GET AN ENERGY AUDIT

I will call Florida Power and Light at 1-800-342-5375 to set up an in-person Energy Survey for my home or business.

GET A ROOFTOP SOLAR CONSULTATION

I will contact a local installer/distributor for a solar panel installation consultation on my house.

SUPPORT COMPANIES LEADING IN GREEN ENERGY

I will use my spending power to reward and incentivize companies taking the lead in purchasing and investing in green energy.

WATER

REDUCE FERTILIZER USE

I will use (____)% less fertilizer for my lawn, and NO fertilizer during the summer months (June - Sept)

LEARN ABOUT LAWN ALTERNATIVES

I will spend (____) minutes researching native and Florida Friendly alternatives for my lawn to support healthy waterways.

PROTECT COASTAL WETLANDS

I will volunteer (____) hours on a coastal protection or restoration project with a local organization.

SUPPORT MANGROVE CANOPIES

I will learn about mangrove care and advocate in my neighborhood or on my property for maintenance that preserves mangrove canopies.

FOOD

BECOME A REDUCETARIAN

I will enjoy meatless meals (____) days each week.

SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

I will source 20% of the ingredients for my meals from local producers, such as a local farm, farmer's market or my own garden.

START COMPOSTING

I will start a compost bin where I live or join/initiate a local community composting program.

LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT EXPIRATION DATES

I will spend at least (____) minutes learning how to differentiate between sell by, use by, and best by dates to reduce food waste.

LAND & WILDLIFE

EXPLORE NATURAL FLORIDA

I will go to (____) parks or preserves this year to walk, paddle, bike, or just spend time outdoors.

PLANT A TREE

I will learn more about the benefits of native trees, what type of tree is best for my property, then plant one.

CHOOSE BETTER WOOD PRODUCTS

I will only purchase wood and paper products from recycled or ecologically certified sources like Forest Stewardship Council.

SUPPORT WILDLIFE

I will research (____) ways to support wildlife in my backyard and neighborhood.

MATERIALS

RECYCLE EVERYTHING I CAN

I will research what waste can be recycled curbside and where plastic bag/film drop-off bins are located and recycle all I can.

REFUSE AND REDUCE USE OF PLASTIC

I will learn about the lifecycle of plastics, avoid buying toxic plastics, and instead replace them with durable options.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF REFRIGERANTS

I will spend at least (____) minutes learning how to properly dispose of my refrigerator, freezer, and a/c at the end of their useful lives.

REDUCE WATER USE IN THE BATHROOM

I will install a low-flow showerhead and a toilet tank bank or low-flow toilet to save 25 gallons of water a day.

TRANSPORT

TRY WALKING, BIKING OR CARPOOLING

I will choose to walk or bike instead of driving for trips under one mile, and try carpooling for longer trips at least once per week.

CONDUCT VIRTUAL MEETINGS

I will avoid traveling to at least (____) meetings and will instead conduct them virtually.

PURCHASE A CARBON OFFSET

If I buy a plane ticket, I will purchase a carbon offset.

RESEARCH A HYBRID OR ELECTRIC VEHICLE

I will spend at least (____) minutes researching my options to see if a hybrid or electric vehicle makes sense for my lifestyle.