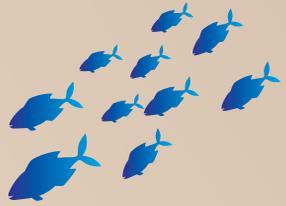




MARINE RESOURCES COUNCIL



19th Annual
CONSERVATION
Awards Dinner



Hilton

MELBOURNE BEACH
OCEANFRONT

February 22, 2020

Thank You to Our Title Sponsors





Message from MRC Executive Director *Dr. Leesa Souto*

Dear MRC friends and supporters,

As we celebrate 19 years of Lagoon Conservation Awards, I am reminded that we couldn't do it without the many scientists, political leaders, educators, advocates, and supporters who are the true lagoon heroes.

Since 1986, MRC has coordinated community input at numerous facilitated American Assemblies to share diverse viewpoints and create consensus for programmatic and political actions. Out of these Assemblies came the creation of the lagoon's first comprehensive management plan in 1986, the passing of bills to protect the lagoon including the Indian River Lagoon Act in 1991, the creation of the National Estuary Program, and MRC's keystone citizen science program, LagoonWatch. Federally recognized as one of our nation's leading citizen science programs, LagoonWatch currently has no dedicated government funding and only continues thanks to the generous support of people like you. The Indian River Lagoon Report card was a priority action that came out of the 2014 Lagoon Action Assembly and was produced last year as MRC's first IRL Health Update. These are just a few of the many examples of how collaboration

has been key to moving forward. We can't bring the lagoon back to health by working alone, it will take a community!

Looking ahead to the next thirty years, Florida's east coast will be facing the monumental challenge of increasing population clashing with increasing sea level, increasing rainfall, and increasing storm intensity. We will rely on future lagoon heroes taking the lead on actionable research, land use and conservation planning, reducing nutrient pollution, and developing innovative technologies. We need buffer lands to protect the lagoon and open spaces to provide stormwater infiltration and absorption. Open spaces like parks, wetlands, and conservation lands are important as well as using Low Impact Design to reduce pavement on residential and commercial lands. We need political leaders who will disregard short-term interests to protect our community's long-term quality of life.

Thank you for your encouraging words, your intense dedication, your brilliant ideas, and your contributions to MRC and our lagoon. You are all lagoon heroes!

Yours in the lagoon,

~Leesa Souto, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Thank You Sponsors!

We Succeed Through Your Love of the Lagoon

Dolphin Sponsor +

Jim Moir
Canaveral Port Authority
Mary Baldwin & Associates
City of Satellite Beach

Manatee Sponsor +

Delaware North Parks & Resorts at
Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center
KSC, Inc.
Wesche Jewelers
Artistic Signs Inc.

Redfish Sponsor

Naumann NatureScapes, Inc.

Oyster Sponsor

Brevard Federation of Teachers
Boaters Exchange

Media Sponsors

Digital Ink Design & Printing
WFIT
A Better Copy Too
iHeartMedia Melbourne
Old Tyme Photo Revival

Media Contributors

Evensi
Indian River Lagoon Project
News Break

Donors

Stephen Chalmers

Contributing Businesses

Chili's Palm Bay
SeaDek Marine Products
Mo-Bay Grill
Mulligan's Beach House Bar & Grill
Tommy's Pizza & Subs
Island Fish Grill
El Leoncito
RP Wine International
Hilton Melbourne Beach Oceanfront
Space Coast Carbon Solutions LLC
Boaters Exchange

Contributors

Robert "Wingnut" Daniel
George S. Campbell
Maggy Hurchalla
Virginia Barker
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
Kathy Meehan
Bill Cox
Paul Laura
Jessica Larned
Future Sasha Sharkey
Stephen Sharkey
Dale Nemeth
Christina de la Vega
Vernon Mattioli
Bo Platt

Volunteers

Dennis Mayo
Rhonda Mayo
Mark Priebe
Jane Priebe
James Ahrens
Linda Altman



Do You want to Help The Lagoon More?

Let's talk about tax efficient giving & qualified charitable distributions.

A fee-only financial planner is a fiduciary and always puts the client's needs first.

OUR SERVICES

- Comprehensive Financial Planning
- Investment Advice and Monitoring
- Business Succession Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Estate Planning
- Risk Management and Insurance Planning
- Tax Planning

Proud supporter of the Marine Resources Council

Baldwin & Associates

FEE-ONLY FINANCIAL PLANNING

Helping You Help Our Lagoon

(321)-428-4555
2000 S. Patrick Dr. Ste 6
Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937
mebaldwin.com

Event Proceedings

Presented by MC, Robert "Wingnut" Daniel of iHeart Radio

5:00 Cocktail Social, Live Music, & Silent Auction Begins
(The event is open seating. Please find a good seat and place your food selection marker on your plate for the table server.)

5:45 Please be seated

6:00 Welcome from MRC Executive Director, Dr. Leesa Souto

6:15 Awards Ceremony and Dinner Service Begin

8:00 Live Auction Sponsored by iHeart Radio Begins

*Silent Auction & 50/50 Raffle Concludes After Live Auction

Introducing Event MC Robert "Wingnut" Daniel



As a resident of Brevard County, Wingnut has been on our local airwaves since 2005. Please tune into his show on the Kiss 95.1 air waves (7p.m.-11p.m.), for the best music, entertainment, community updates, and current events! Brevard County means everything to him due to our history with the space program but he is also fascinated by the hidden history within our community. He's been hosting a Brevard County History podcast for the past year and a half, collecting some amazing stories and connecting with great people. And then there's Disney. If he's not at the beach on the weekends, he's playing at the house of the Mouse. He'll talk your ear off about Disney World or Brevard County, seriously.



Creative Services

that help your business grow

Graphics & Printing Services

that express the quality of your business

brochures | business cards | postcards | flyers
banners | sell sheets | table tents | labels & stickers
magnets | bottle tags | hang tags & so much more!

Now offering:

Content Creation for Ads, Web and Digital Marketing
& Social Media Services for Events & Business

DIGITAL *Ink*
DESIGN & PRINTING

Call today!

321.723.8005 www.PrintDigitalInk.com

Mon-Fri 9-4 Downtown Melbourne 720 E New Haven Ave #4



Live Auction Item

Donated by Wesche Jewelers
Value \$895.00

Effy Novelty 14K White Gold Sapphire and Diamond Ship's Wheel Pendant, 0.09 Total Carat Weight. Stones: Round Diamond 0.08/ Round Blue Sapphire 0.01 / 17" Attached Chain. Pendant Length: 7/16".

**Please support local
businesses that support
our lagoon.**

ONE DAY ONLY!



\$3 Million Collection!

**Vintage, Antique, &
Contemporary Jewelry**

All Price Ranges – Starting at \$500

8145 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne, FL 32940

Breathtaking jewelry and watches from Cartier, Tiffany & Co. and much more! Beautiful gems set in gold & platinum from small collections and grand estates, here and abroad.

Don't miss this incredible collection where you can acquire your own piece of the past. It's certain to be a beautiful part of your future!

One Day Only!
March 14th, 10am - 6pm



321-254-5441
weschejewelers.com

**CELEBRITY PIECES From Elizabeth Taylor, Joan Collins,
Olivia Newton-John, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Hugh Hefner and more!**


MRC
19th Annual
CONSERVATION
Award

**2019 Albert Tuttle Award
for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the IRL**

The MRC Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Indian River Lagoon is named after Albert Joseph Tuttle,

a local resident, who was the chief proponent of the trail now bearing his name in South Brevard County. The Al Tuttle Trail, which meanders along the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary border, is fitting testimony to his work with many individuals and groups over many years. The multi-use trail is part of the proposed 22-mile South Brevard Linear Trail, which connects various preserve lands within the communities of Malabar, Palm Bay, Grant-Valkaria, and Micco. Al passed away in 2001. The Marine Resources Council is keeping Al's standard of commitment alive by honoring a member of our community for their outstanding volunteer service to the Indian River Lagoon.



We are pleased to announce Jane and Mark Priebe as the presenters of this year's Albert Tuttle Award.

Jane and Mark are active volunteers with the MRC beginning with a relocation from Wisconsin to the Lagoon in 2006. Their dream since they were married in 1972 has always been to move to Florida after visiting the Florida Keys numerous times and seeing the beautiful environment Florida represented. As high school sweethearts, they organized the first Earth Day Celebration in their home town of Merrill, WI in 1970 and have been volunteers in many aspects of life since then. Being part of the communities they have lived in has always been a part of their life. Seeing 15 years of changes in the Lagoon since they have arrived sparked their interest in becoming part of the MRC program to help improve the Lagoon.



The Solution

NAUMANN NATURE SCAPES

To All Your Exhibit Needs

(321) 544-3377

NaumannNatureScapes.com

Albert Tuttle Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Indian River Lagoon

Presented by Jane & Mark Priebe & Sponsored by Naumann Nature Scapes, Inc.

Nominees



The Brevard County Citizens Oversight

Committee was nominated for their rigorous work to assure that tax dollars collected through the voter approved half-cent sales tax are managed effectively. The COC monitors data on the timeliness of project delivery, actual and updated project costs, and actual nutrient removal effectiveness. It reviews new literature and local studies on the types of projects included in the plan and potential alternative project types, evaluates alternative project proposals received from the community, and recommends annual adjustments to the plan.

Captain Paul Fafeita is the President and one of the founders of the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association and also a Vice-President on the Florida State Board of the Coastal Conservation Association. Paul has taken his message of restoring the Indian River Lagoon through improved wastewater treatment, safe bio-solid disposal, no-discharge zones for boats, and a clean and sufficient supply of potable water for current and future generations to the public through speaking engagements at the Environmental Learning Center, Vero Beach Exchange Club, Vero Beach City Council, Indian River County Commission, the Sebastian City Council, and local state legislators. Paul has been instrumental in working with other organizations in helping to create a legislative packet, starting a water sampling program and other lagoon and water related projects.



Gayle Ryan became active in environmental issues in 2013 and increased her environmental knowledge through attending many meetings and events sponsored by area environmental groups. In 2018, she was elected Executive Director of the Indian RiverKeeper Board of Directors and in 2019 was honored at the EVCO Conference with the Environmental Activist award. Gayle advocates for the environment through the meetings and events with the many organizations she supports but also sets an example by living an environmentally friendly lifestyle by recycling, buying environmental friendly products, and promoting solar products.

NAUMANN NATURE SCAPES




MRC
19th Annual
CONSERVATION
Award

**2019 Stan Blum Award for
Lifetime Service to the IRL**

The MRC Award for Lifetime Service to the Indian River Lagoon is named after J. Stanley "Stan" Blum. The water was always in his life. He was a marine biologist and avid environmentalist. Other noted environmentalists recognize his enthusiasm and his determination to ensure sustainability in the face of adversity. "It never discouraged him," said Maggy Hurchalla. "He just kept on trying." "The environment is poorer because Stan is no longer here," said Lloyd Brumfield, Conservation Alliance member. Stan's attitude about the environment is best summed up in his own words, "If you kill off the environment to make a dollar, then what have you gained?" Stan passed in 1998. The Marine Resources Council is keeping Stan's determination alive by honoring a member of our community for their lifetime service to the Indian River Lagoon.



MRC is honored to announce Maggy Hurchalla as the presenter of this year's Stan Blum Award. Maggy was born in Miami in 1940 and grew up there. She was a Martin County Commissioner from 1974 to 1994. In 1982 she was named Environmentalist of the Year by the Florida Audubon Society and given the Land and Water Conservation Award by the Florida Wildlife Federation. Maggy was on the Governor's Commission committee that worked with the Corps of Engineers to create CERP and was part of the team that created the Indian River Lagoon component. For her Everglades work she received the Environmentalist of the Year Award from the Everglades Coalition, the Conservation Achievement Award from the National Wildlife Federation, and the National Wetlands Award sponsored by the Environmental Land Institute and the EPA and is a member of the Everglades Coalition Hall of Fame. She continues to live happily ever after in south Florida with her family. Her current joys in life are adoring her two grandchildren, getting lost in the wilderness, and whitewater kayaking.

We Stand with Maggy!

Stan Blum Award for Lifetime Service to the Indian River Lagoon

Presented by Maggy Hurchalla & Sponsored by Baldwin & Associates

Nominees



M. Dennis Hanisak, Ph.D., Research Professor at FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, has conducted research on the marine plants in the Indian River Lagoon and in other parts of Florida, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean for over four decades. Among his IRL accomplishments, he initiated and directs the Indian River Lagoon Observatory (<https://www.fau.edu/hboi/irlo/index.php>) and its network of environmental sensors that provides high-resolution water quality/weather data through a dedicated interactive website (<http://fau.loboviz.com>). He launched and continues to lead the Indian River Lagoon Symposium, an annual forum for Indian River Lagoon science and its application to lagoon management ([http://www.](http://www.indianriverlagoon.org/symposium.html)

[indianriverlagoon.org/symposium.html](http://www.indianriverlagoon.org/symposium.html)). He is a co-author of *Submersed Plants of the Indian River Lagoon* (2008), the first comprehensive floristic field guide for IRL use by researchers, educators, resource managers and the general public. As Harbor Branch's Education Director, he develops and leads programs that engage students with the IRL including the Semester By The Sea program and the Harbor Branch Summer Intern program for university students; innovative programs with St. Lucie County School District (including the Marine & Oceanographic Academy on the Harbor Branch campus), the Junior Scientists Program (with the Indian River Land Trust) for high school students, and the Ocean Science Lecture Series for the public.



Marty Baum, a sixth-generation Floridian, has committed his life to saving the Indian River Lagoon. He grew up covered in river water—fishing, boating, drinking beer on sandbars, soaking in the stars. “The value of everything here we love comes from good clean water,” Baum said. “If the quality of our water goes down, so does the value of life here. The water is what makes us special.” His family's history includes saving marooned sailors and his modern-day efforts to save the animals, plants, and people who live along our lagoon. Marty has been the lagoon's loudest and most fearless advocate and served as the Indian

Riverkeeper from 2012-2019. He has wielded his outgoing public persona to wake up our community to the polluted and dangerous water quality of our coastal waterways, initiating and attending countless speaking engagements, community outreach forums, government meetings, rallies, seminars, and classrooms, and has spearheaded many lawsuits fighting for tougher environmental reforms and policy for the well-being of our water. “Our waterways are in a state of emergency. The only hope we really have to restore the water quality and beauty of our estuary right now is the ballot box.”

Baldwin & Associates

FEE-ONLY FINANCIAL PLANNING



MRC is pleased to announce Mr. Bill Cox

as the presenter of the 2019 Indian River Lagoon Project of the Year Award. Bill is CEO of Kationx Corp, a Florida-based manufacturer of specialty performance materials for multiple industrial markets. He is a board member of the MRC where he also serves as the Board Secretary. Bill is a life member of the Military Officer's Association of America, and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Bill retired as a Commander from the Navy Reserve, and he actively volunteers with the U.S. Coast Guard's Auxiliary.



KCD-X is a complete lift station cleanser. KCD-X is not only environmentally friendly, but also reduces the need for VAC truck visits. By consistently using KCD-X the customer greatly reduces the operating and maintenance costs.

- Scavenges Toxic Gasses
- Removes Odors
- Loosens & Cleans Sludge Mats
- Controls Corrosion
- Preconditions WWCS Influent
- Maintains Microbial Health

Environmentally Friendly, Remarkably Effective, and 100% Safe and Non-Toxic

Kationx's all-natural mineral blend is bio-inert and will not harm animal, plant, or microbial life while still clearing obtrusive odors and FOG buildup.

KCD-X™
6-in-1 Lift Station Treatment

For more information please visit kationx.com
General Inquiries: email info@kationx.com or call (321) 914-0722

Indian River Lagoon Project of the Year Award

Presented by Bill Cox & Sponsored by Kationx

Nominees



Indian River Lagoon Clam Restoration Project

Spearheaded by Capt. Blair Wiggins in collaboration with Coastal Conservation Association, University of Florida's Whitney Laboratory, Addictive Fishing Television, Keep America Fishing, FWC, IRLNEP, Brevard Tourism Board, and Starbrite to create a clam hatchery program to aid in restoring shellfish populations in the IRL. This effort will improve the reliability and feasibility of utilizing

filter-feeders to restore water quality and to reestablish clam populations. With 30 native Mosquito Lagoon Super Clams, this project has successfully spawned and is releasing over 4 million clams back into the Northern IRL. Aiding native shellfish populations to overcome hurdles such as low reproductive success caused by diminished brood stock and reduced ability for spawning can have significant positive effects on ecosystem health due to increased water filtration and nutrient retention.

IRL National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update

This newest update is a significant revision of the 2008 CCMP and looks ahead to the year 2030. It responds to the dramatic water quality changes, seagrass losses, and declining fisheries that the Indian River Lagoon has faced since the 2011 superbloom. This IRL CCMP revision looks beyond the defined IRL watershed to consider connected waters and watersheds more explicitly. The document promotes long-term protection of the lagoon which is threatened by pollution, development, and overuse. The plan's recommended restoration is to be implemented through collaborative and voluntary efforts by local, city, state, federal, private, and interest group stakeholders.

IRL Comprehensive
Conservation &
Management Plan
Looking Forward
to 2030



Blue Green Algae Task Force

Governor Ron DeSantis made a historic commitment to Florida's environment and affirmed that science would guide Florida's restoration efforts. He created the Blue-Green Algae Task Force, made up of scientists and researchers from around the state. The Task Force is charged to lead the clean up of Florida's lakes and rivers by recommending solutions for blue-green algae blooms like that suffered by Lake Okeechobee and our estuaries in 2018. He will prioritize projects that target sources contributing to nutrient pollution in our waterways.



MRC Volunteers Are Needed at the Beach!

Join MRC at the highly anticipated Cocoa Beach Uncorked event on April 25 & 26, 2020! MRC is proud to announce our three year collaboration with the best event on the Space Coast. We are grateful to be part of this high impact community outreach opportunity, which gives MRC a chance to earn over \$8,000 in 2 days by enlisting volunteers to support the event. For every MRC volunteer who gives their time to work a 5-hour shift (11am-4pm) on either Saturday or Sunday, MRC will receive a \$100 contribution from the Uncorked organization. Pledge your time today and help us reach our goal of 80 volunteers at one of Brevard's most prestigious and fun events! Please email Cassidy@mrcirl.org or call 321-725-7775 to learn more and to get involved today. Thank you.



WINE IN YOUR HAND,
TOES IN THE SAND. ENJOY
THE FINEST FARE, CRAFT
BEERS, AND WINES ON
FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST!

APRIL 25 & 26, 2020

www.CocoaBeachUncorked.com



Publix.



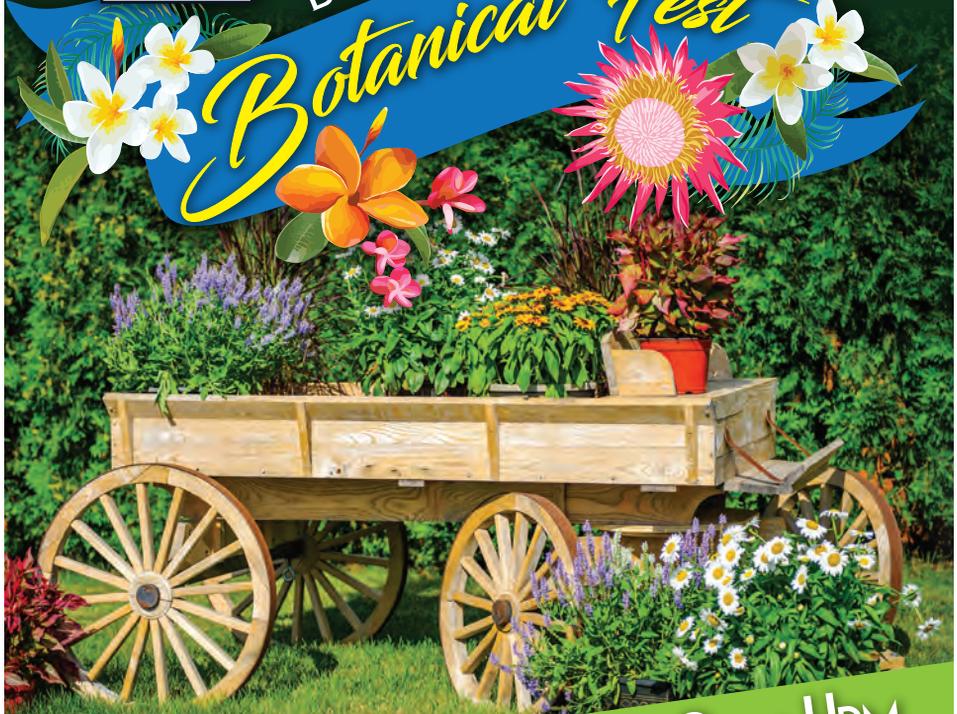
Sysco
At the heart of
food and service





4th Annual
DOWNTOWN MELBOURNE

Botanical Fest



SAT, MARCH 7, 2020 · 8AM-4PM

1900 S HARBOR CITY BLVD

GET YOUR YARD READY FOR SPRING

MRC TO HOST BOT FEST RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS!

Attendees will have the opportunity to build their own 55-gallon rain barrel for a fee of \$55. Learn how you can help our lagoon by collecting rainwater. Please RSVP at SaveTheIRL.org.

*\$50 rain barrel rebates are available for City of Melbourne residents and Cocoa Utility customers. Hope to see you there.

save THE DATE!

MRC'S LAGOON CASTAWAY SUMMER CAMP 2020: SCIENCE, NATURE, & STEWARDSHIP

Camp Session 1: June 8 - 12 / Camp Session 2: June 22 - 26

Each year MRC hosts educational Lagoon youth summer camps, two separate weeks in June. We are currently seeking community supporters to donate and sponsor this educational experience. We humbly invite our friends and lagoon-loving coastal community to support this effort to connect our youth to the lagoon. Your donation will help offset camp costs and make the experience affordable. Activities & fees include spoil island excursions, boat rentals, special educators, workshops, food & beverage, etc. In addition to and with your support, we are excited to announce the Bo Platt Castaway Camp Scholarship to help children attend who otherwise couldn't afford this opportunity.

For camp registration and details please email Nicole@mrcirl.org.

To become a sponsor or to contribute to the scholarship fund please contact Steve at 321.978.8862.





Are you looking for a unique venue for your next event?

The MRC Ted Moorhead Lagoon House is one of the area's best-kept secrets for corporate retreats, educational seminars, weddings, holiday celebrations, and other special gatherings. The Lagoon House's lush and distinct natural surroundings offer unparalleled charm and beauty that create an unforgettable experience for you and your guests, with the beautiful Indian River Lagoon as your backdrop. The Lagoon House is a 3,000-square-foot indoor space, complemented by an abundance of outdoor space and is waiting to satisfy your next dream event. Hosting experiences at the Lagoon House makes a difference! Meetings and events held at the Lagoon House help support MRC's advocacy, education, and conservation programs. The venue is located about one and a half miles south of the Melbourne Causeway. Many clubs, government agencies, and organizations gather at the Lagoon House, so be sure to book your event well in advance. To secure your date email Steve at SharkeyMRC@gmail.com or call 321.978.8862.



MRC's Outstanding Service to the Indian River Lagoon by an Elected Government Official Award

is named after Maggie Bowman. Maggie Bowman best represents what can result from tireless effort on the part of an elected official. Maggie was not just a founder of the Marine Resources Council, who honors her name with this award. Often noted as an unstoppable force, she was an elected County Commissioner. Additionally, she was a one of the founders of the Pelican Island Audubon Society. Maggy also served as its president, recording secretary, and newsletter editor. Maggy and other Audubon members began planning the Environmental Learning Center as a way students could spend a day outside, away from the classroom, experiencing the Indian River Lagoon. Located on Wabasso Island between Vero Beach and Sebastian, the 64-acre sanctuary, surrounded by the Indian River Lagoon, became a reality in 1988. Maggy passed away in 2008. The Marine Resources Council is honored to keep Maggy's shining example alive by recognizing a dedicated member of local government each year for outstanding service to the Indian River Lagoon.



19th Annual
CONSERVATION
Award

2019 Maggie Bowman Award for Outstanding Service to the IRL by an Elected Government Official



MRC is pleased to announce Melbourne Mayor,

Kathy Meehan as the presenter for the 2019 Maggie Bowman Award for Outstanding Service to the Indian River Lagoon by an Elected Official.

Kathy Meehan was re-elected Mayor of the City of Melbourne in November 2016 and is currently serving her second four-year term. Mayor Meehan completed two terms as council member from District 3 in 2012. She is a past President of the Board of Directors for the Space Coast League of Cities (2009-2010). She was a board member of the FL League of Cities Board of Directors from 2017-2019. She chaired the Land Use & Economic Development Committee from 2018-2019. Mayor Meehan currently serves on the Space Coast League of Cities Advocacy Team.



Maggie Bowman Award for Outstanding Service to the IRL by an Elected Government Official

Presented by Mayor Kathy Meehan & Sponsored by Wesche Jewelers

Nominees



Governor Ron DeSantis launched efforts to Achieve More for Florida's Environment when he signed Executive Order 19-12 within two weeks of taking office. He has approved \$2.5 billion in spending for water quality and Everglades restoration work, appointed two new environmental-related positions — a chief science officer and a chief resiliency officer, called for the resignations of, and later replaced, the entire South Florida Water Management District board, created blue-green algae and red tide task forces and published a water quality monitoring website that tracks water quality in the state's major waterways and lakes and provides information on blue-green algae blooms and red tide, as well as providing information on key environmental projects.



Florida State Senator Debbie Mayfield is an avid advocate for protecting and improving water quality in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and across Florida. As Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, Senator Mayfield made historic investments in our environment during the 2019 Session by allocating \$682.6 million for Everglades and water quality restoration, which will reduce harmful discharges into the St. Lucie Estuary- a major tributary to the southern Indian River Lagoon. In 2019, Senator Mayfield also secured more than \$2.6 million to support local water quality research and restoration projects for the Indian River Lagoon. Currently, Senator Mayfield is championing comprehensive legislation, SB 712: The Clean Waterways Act, to accomplish multi-faceted improvements in wastewater and stormwater management.





MRC
19th Annual
CONSERVATION
Award

2019 Paul Kroegel Award for Outstanding Service to the IRL by a Government Employee.

Paul Kroegel Award for Outstanding Service to the Indian River Lagoon by a Government Employee

This Marine Resources Council award is named in honor of Paul Kroegel in recognition of his stature as the first warden of a national wildfire refuge system. Paul grew up on the banks of the Indian River Lagoon in what is now the town of Sebastian. In the mid-1800s, brown pelicans were found in great numbers in the last rookery on the East Coast; the area is now known as Pelican Island. The birds were on the edge of extinction at that time as a result of vandals who perceived them to be a threat to fisheries. Florida passed state legislation protecting non-game birds in 1901. The Florida Audubon Society then hired four wardens to enforce the new law. After two of the wardens were murdered in the line of duty, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an executive order in 1903 establishing Pelican Island as the first federal bird reservation. This was the first time land had been set aside on behalf of wildlife in the United States. Today, the Pelican Island Wildlife Refuge has over 4,359 acres of mangrove islands, bottomlands, and uplands with hiking trails. It is fitting testimony to the dedication of government employees like Paul Kroegel. The Marine Resources Council is honored to keep Paul's commitment alive by recognizing a government employee each year for outstanding service to the Indian River Lagoon.



Virginia H. Barker, Director Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department

Virginia Barker completed undergraduate degrees in Science and Math at Duke University and returned to Duke after 5 years of professional work to pursue a Masters in Coastal Environmental Management. Her thesis was in Resource Economics. She has worked in Sri Lanka for US AID, as a research diver for the Florida Department of Natural Resources, and in marine and environmental management positions for Monroe County and Brevard County. Ms. Barker currently serves as the Director of Brevard County's Natural Resources Management Department. During her 20+ years with the County, she has been responsible for beach management, the stormwater utility program, mosquito control, Indian River Lagoon efforts, and numerous other environmental initiatives and programs.

In 2016, Virginia spearheaded development of a Citizen Oversight Committee. The Project Plan and Oversight Committee guide to how the Brevard County voter approved 1/2 cent sales tax will fund nearly \$500 million of pollution elimination efforts to restore healthy conditions to the Indian River lagoon. Implementation of the 10-year Save Our Indian River lagoon Project began in 2017.

Paul Krogel Award for Outstanding Service to the IRL by a Government Employee

Presented by Virginia Barker & Sponsored by Canaveral Port Authority

Nominees



Vincent Encomio is the Florida Sea Grant agent with UF/IFAS Extension in Martin and St. Lucie counties. He was formerly the Director of Scientific Research at the Florida Oceanographic Society. In his new role, Dr. Encomio develops educational programming related to coastal habitat restoration, water quality, and enhancing knowledge of local coastal habitats. Continuing his previous work, he works with local communities to help plan, design, and install “living shorelines,” a phrase that describes shoreline restoration techniques that use natural materials such as oysters, mangroves, marsh grasses, and sea grasses. He has also been involved in storm water education efforts to encourage residents to adopt “estuary-friendly” practices

to reduce the impacts of storm water runoff. He has incorporated Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) education into his programming and works with citizen scientists to expand algae monitoring efforts in the southern Indian River Lagoon. In addition to his habitat restoration efforts, he has conducted research on disease tolerance in oysters and its application to aquaculture, the effects of freshwater releases on wild and cultured shellfish populations, and how oyster reef soundscapes can be used as a non-invasive tool to monitor restoration success and ecosystem health.



Jennifer Wilster is the Environmental Community Outreach Manager for the City of Melbourne and has been with the city since 1996. During this time, she has served on countless environmental teams for events such as Indian River Lagoon Day, Trash Bash, Hands Across the Lagoon, and many more. Jennifer started the annual Environmental Care and Ownership (ECO) Schools Program in 2015 which continues to grow. She serves as the staff liaison to the Melbourne Beautification and Energy Efficiency Board and is also the vice chair of the Keep Brevard Beautiful board, having been an active member since 2011.



Dianne Hughes has been working for Florida’s water quality in state and local government for nearly 30 years. As Senior Ecosystem Specialist with Martin County, she coordinates and reports on water quality, manages projects to reduce pollutant loads to the Indian River Lagoon through the NPDES and TMDL programs, oversees the investigation of harmful algal blooms, develops creative public education programs like the Water Ambassador Program and the multi-county Be Floridian Now campaign, and much more.



Tuesday
March 3rd, 2020



Plastics Ingestion of
Post-Hatchling Sea Turtles

Ted Moorhead
Lagoon House



You Are Invited!

Tues, March 3rd, 2020
12p.m.-1p.m.

Plastics Ingestion of Post-Hatchling Sea Turtles

Lunch & Learn Seminar

Location:
MRC Ted Moorhead Lagoon House

RSVP at SaveTheIRL.org

World's Best Cruise Port Global Traveler Magazine 2019 Reader's Survey



WaveMaker Award for Outstanding Education and Advocacy for the Well-being of the Indian River Lagoon

Presented By Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch & Sponsored by iHeart Radio

The MRC WaveMaker Award is earned by groups or individuals that disrupt the social norms that allow the destruction of our environment and waterways.



MRC is pleased to announce Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch

as the presenter of the 2019 MRC Wave Maker of the Year Award. Jacqui is a former high school teacher who taught English and German. For the past 18 years, she has practiced real estate and is currently a referral agent with the Life Style Realty Group. Thurlow-Lippisch is a longtime advocate for the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon, publishes a blog sharing commentary about the impacts to the health of those waterways. In 2019 Governor Ron DeSantis chose her to serve on the SFWMD. A former commissioner of the Town of Sewall's Point, Thurlow-Lippisch also served as the town's mayor. She is very active in environmental and community issues on the local, county, and state level. She was appointed by Senate President Joe Negron to serve as commissioner for Florida's Constitution Revision Commission. In 2018, she sponsored the bill to Prohibit Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling in Florida's Territorial Seas that became part of Ballot Amendment 9 and overwhelmingly passed with over 68% of the voters. Other key leadership

positions include Chairing the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments and the Florida League of Cities Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Legislative Committee. She also served as Vice-Chair of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and as an SFWMD Water Resource Advisory Commission alternate. Thurlow-Lippisch grew up in Stuart and lives in Sewall's Point with her husband, Dr. Ed Lippisch. The couple is well known for taking thousands of aerial photographs exposing pollution in Lake Okeechobee and St Lucie River. She holds leadership roles in various organizations to bring awareness to preserving and protecting the environment. She currently is a member of Florida Wildlife Federation, the Guardians of Martin County, and the Rivers Coalition Inc. as Volunteer Administrator of the River Kidz.



MRC is honored to present Mr. Blair Wickstrom with the 2019 WaveMaker Award for his outstanding efforts in advocacy for the well-being of the Indian River Lagoon.

As publisher of Florida Sportsman magazine, Blair Wickstrom oversees all related media and products associated with the brand including: television, online, social media, Expos, and radio. In addition, beginning in the March 2020 issue Wickstrom will begin to write a regular column in the magazine, Florida Sportsman Watermen, which focuses on water quality issues facing

the state. Wickstrom is currently a Board of Director for: Friends of the Everglades, Rivers Coalition, Now or Neverglades coalition, and Bullsugar.org. Mr. Wickstrom has tried to use his past involvement as a board member with the Coastal Conservation Association and American Sport Fishing Association to get these fishery-focused organizations more involved in the fight for clean and healthy water throughout the state. Without healthy water you don't have a healthy habitat and without that you can't have a healthy fishery. This was the focus behind the successful launch of Florida Sportsman Watermen, which aired nationally in 2019. In the first season FS Watermen went statewide to address water related issues while working with several key groups such as: Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, Captains For Clean Water, Bullsugar, Friends of the Everglades, Florida Wildlife Federation, Apalachicola River Keeper, St. Johns River Keeper and the Miami Waterkeeper.



Thank You Sponsors!

