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## FOSCP Board Member receives award

Andy Gerberich was the selected "Citizen of the Year" for his community spirit and personal commitment to the quality of life in North Port. For his donation of time and resources to local organizations, his participation in community events and activities and for his role in enhancing parks and creating new recreational opportunities as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Andy is a worthy recipient of this honor.

Contratulations to Andy and his family.

## FOSCP's FIRST ANNUAL FUND RAISER

Do not miss our first annual fund raiser to be held at Snook Haven on March 12 starting at 10AM. **Spring into Outdoors Fest** Music, raffles, food, displays, vendors, tours, children's activities and more. All the funds raised at this event will go towards the Sarasota County Parks projects/events. Contact [President@FOSCP.org](mailto:President@FOSCP.org) for more information, to be a participant or a volunteer. Volunteers are needed!

### BIRD WALKS AT SHAMROCK PARK

Wednesday February 9, 7:30 AM

Wednesday March 30, 7:30 AM

Wednesday April 13, 7:30AM

Join Charlie Sample of the Venice Area Audubon and Friends of Sarasota County Parks for a guided walk of the park to discover a variety of birds that frequent the park or reside year-round. Hikes begin at 7:30 AM and end about 10:00-10:30AM. Meet in the parking lot in front of the Nature Center.

Bring comfortable outdoor clothing, walking shoes, water and field guide. The program is offered FREE of charge.

### Important Lighting Code Changes

The lighting code changes for standard incandescent light bulbs will be phased in starting in July 2012 and will be fully implemented by 2014, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. The changes are federally mandated and aim at decreasing energy consumption and reducing environmental impacts. Starting 2012 the 100-watt bulbs will no longer be manufactured, in 2013 the 75-watt bulbs and 2014 the 40 and 60 watt bulbs.

Earth, it is worth saving.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE REGATTAS AT BENDERSON PARK FOR 2011

Another busy year has been scheduled for the spring regatta season. Please look at the calendar below and mark your calendars -- lots of volunteers are needed!

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## Sarasota County Natural Events for February

\*The Little Naturalist for children ages 3-5 from 9:30 to 10:30 on Feb. 5, at Red Bug Slough Preserve.

Birding on the South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve on Feb. 7th from 8 to 10:00 am.\*

Take a walk on the East Side of Manasota Scrub Preserve on Feb. 9 from 9 to 11.\*

Hike the River Trails at Sleeping Turtles Preserve North on Feb. 10 from 9 to 11.\*

Guided Hike at South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve on Feb. 11 starting at 9AM.\*

**Feb 26&27 Sarasota Invitational**

**March 26 Dragon Boat Regatta**

**April 2 Florida Districts**

**April 8&9 Florida Intercolligate Rowing Association**

**April 15&16 Florida Sprints**

**April 29,30 & May 1 FSRA (High School)**

**Contact [President@FOSCP.org](mailto:President@FOSCP.org) if you can help in this community adventure -- again, we need a lot of community volunteers for one or two hours at one or more of these events. Let's show our visitors Sarasota hospitality.**

### **Phillippi Farmhouse Market**

is every Wednesday at Phillippi Estates Park, 5500 South Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. Over 2,000 people are enjoying the great produce prices and on site food plus other vendors. To become a Friend of Phillippi Estates Park please contact the [President@FOSCP.org](mailto:President@FOSCP.org). For more information please visit:

<http://www.farmhousemarket.org>

### **Invest in "Your" County Parks**

People who use Sarasota County Parks and Recreation facilities say that spending time in nature and staying active significantly enhances their quality of life. When people want to connect with their families and friends, they often get together at a favorite park, beach or community center. Now individuals, families, groups and businesses have a tax-deductible gift program that allows you to invest in park amenities to preserve, enhance and expand Sarasota's parks, trails and recreation programs. The "Forever Green" sponsorship/naming opportunity is available in all county park facilities at various levels. Join with FOSCP to enrich our County's quality of life now and for future generations. For more information, click the "Donation" link at the top of this e-newsletter or contact FOSCP to receive a complete listing of opportunities to invest in your community. Please contact [President@FOSCP.org](mailto:President@FOSCP.org) or call 861-5483 for more information.

### **Looking for an activity?**

Please go to [Parksonline@scgov.net](http://Parksonline@scgov.net) for more information on offered activities and new programs.

### **County Parkland and Natural Resources listed activities**

You can go to [scgov.net](http://scgov.net) and under Calendar to sign up for

Curious about the Carlton tour of the T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve on February 13 from 10 to noon.\*

\*Family Bike Adventures at the Carlton Reserve on February 20 starting at 10am.

Winter Bird Walk at Curry Creek Preserve on February 19 from 9 to 11 am.\*

The Nature of South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve on Feb. 22 from 9 to 11.\*

In search of Wild Lupine at South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve on Feb. 23 from 9 to 11 am\*

Winter Woodland Stroll at Pocono Trail Preserve on February 24th from 9 to 11 am.

Guided hike at Myakka Islands Point on

an event. While there you can choose to receive a monthly calendar of programs on Sarasota County Parklands. Or you can request that your name be added to the list by emailing

DZeilman@scgov.net.

## Essential tips to save money now!

This was sent to us from Betty Alpaugh, Education Specialist with the U.F./Sarasota County Extension Program. DwellGreen invites you to attend a FREE educational seminar on how to save money in home performance, lower your utility/insurance bills, save energy and more. Join in the fun on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at the Hampton Inn at the Sarasota/Bradenton Airport at 5:30 P.M. with light snacks available. See you there!

## Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Events

Go to [info@sarasotabay.org](mailto:info@sarasotabay.org) to find a list a great programs and Bay opportunities from Kayaking, low impact development, the LIDAR Map project, Science reports and more. Great information!

### Like to get your hands dirty?

The Friends of Red Bug Slough Preserve will be hosting another Learn and Lend a Hand Day at the preserve on Saturday, February 12th from 9 a.m. to noon. Please join in for the fresh air and various projects to spruce up the preserve. Bring gloves, water, sunscreen, an interest in the environment.

### Discover Natural Sarasota

For information on Sarasota County beaches, water, sports, recreational activities, parks and more go to this great web-site:

[www.DiscoverNaturalSarasota.org](http://www.DiscoverNaturalSarasota.org).

### Englewood Center for Sustainability

Interested in sustainability, speakers, community garden, nature trails, landscaping, demonstrations, etc. Then the Englewood Center for Sustainability is the place for you. Volunteers are wanted that have an interest in community garden. Conservation businesses have a place to show their products. Sign up for one of the speakers/classes in the restored Decagon Buildings at the Bucan Airfield Park (corner of 776 and Ole Englewood Rd. For more information go to [www.EC4S.org](http://www.EC4S.org).

### Brown Bag Concert Series at Phillippi Estates

Bring your brown bag lunch and lawn chair and enjoy a variety of music in a beautiful outdoor setting. These free concerts are on Thursdays from 12 to 1 through March.

February 25th starting at 9 am.\*

\*Register on-line at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net). Click Calendar of Events on the left, then click the "all events" drop down list, choose Nature walks and click go. Many of the events listed have required registration and limits on the number of participants. Please call 861-6222 for more information

## **Volunteers are recognized**

**Our volunteers are playing an ever-increasing role in Sarasota County Parks, spending time doing something they love while making a real difference in the lives of all who benefit from the Parks and Recreation services. With that said, I am creating a monthly "spotlight" recognition program in FOSCP's e-newsletter to an individual(s) that has committed their time and energy to the success of their Chapter, FOSCP and ultimately, Sarasota County Parks and recreation. Please send me an email with details, if you would like to spotlight you volunteer's accomplishments. My e-mail address is President@FOSCP. The phenomenal success of FOSCP is a reflection of the ever-increasing dedication and enthusiasm our volunteers display. Volunteers are shaping and changing the future of Sarasota County parks daily. Their commitment in fundraising for FOSCP and for their individual parks has united all in common goal to continue the quest to maintain and enhance Sarasota County Parks. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two individuals for their demonstrated passion for FOSCP's mission through their continued commitment and support of FOSCP. Kirsten Sheet, President FOSCP.**

### **Ray and Connie Bresciani from Rothenbach Park**

**Connie and Ray devoted 12-14 hour days grilling and serving customers at FOSCP's concession stand during four Regatt's plus other concession events last year. They are on the "Spring into Outdoors Fest" (the FOSCP fundraiser on March 12) and have secured multiple commitments from businesses for the event. Ray and Connie never miss being a part of their community, FOSCP or a Rothenbach Park event. Ray was recently appointed to the FOSCP Board of Directors. FOSCP extends a heartfelt THANK YOU to Connie and Ray for their support and dedication to FOSCP, their community and the Sarasota County Parks.**

### **Contact Friends of Sarasota County Parks**

For Donations 941-861-5483

To Contact Us 941-486-2706

FOSCP South County: 3900 Shamrock Drive, Venice, Florida 34293

FOSCP North County: 4012 Honore Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34233

FOSCP Mailing Address: 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, Florida 34241

