

SCCF MEMBER UPDATE

Well-deserved Staff Changes Announced

Jeff Siwicke — Facilities & Events Manager

Ashley Graham — Data Coordinator/Administrative Assistant

Effective immediately, Marine Lab staffers Jeff Siwicke and Ashley Graham will be taking on broader responsibilities in support of SCCF's mission.

Jeff has accepted the newly created role of Facilities & Events Manager. Like Ashley, he will report directly to the CEO and work in coordination with the Business Manager and Development Director.

Since late 2005, Jeff has been studying the effects of large freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee by monitoring seagrass growth rates and having line responsibility for the installation and servicing of the RECON sensors. In 2007, with the introduction of Wines in the Wild, it became clear Jeff also had a strong talent for and interest in event coordination. In fact, he subsequently conceived and continues to produce SCCF's wildly successful Beer in the Bushes annual fundraiser.

"Jeff will be able to seamlessly take over the lead role for special events and facilities management," said CEO Erick Lindblad. "Realigning these responsibilities under a new position so capably filled by Jeff will be a tremendous help to the next CEO. The Board and I are very pleased he has accepted the position."



Jeff Siwicke

Ashley is taking on a new Data Coordinator/Administrative Assistant position.

"This use of Ashley's abilities will be tremendously helpful for grants management across all our program areas, as well as optimizing the use of our membership database," said Lindblad. "The administrative staff is looking forward to her joining their team in this new way."

The previous positions held by Jeff and Ashley remain essential for the Marine Lab's proper functioning, and replacements are being sought.

"With the move to the new Lab building, the heightened concern for water quality degradation, and the launching of a new research vessel, this has been a tremendously taxing summer for Eric Milbrandt," Lindblad said of the Marine Lab's Director. "I appreciate his understanding that Jeff and Ashley have higher contributions to make for SCCF, and look forward to helping him find suitable new hires for the Lab positions they are leaving behind."



*Ashley Graham
out in the field
with the Lab.*

The Curious Man: The Marine Lab's Dr. Rick Bartleson

"What is a scientist after all? It is a curious man looking through a keyhole, the keyhole of nature, trying to know what's going on." — Jacques Cousteau

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Kristie and Red Anders.



Kristie Anders

It is with deep appreciation and emotion that we announce the retirement of Kristie Anders.

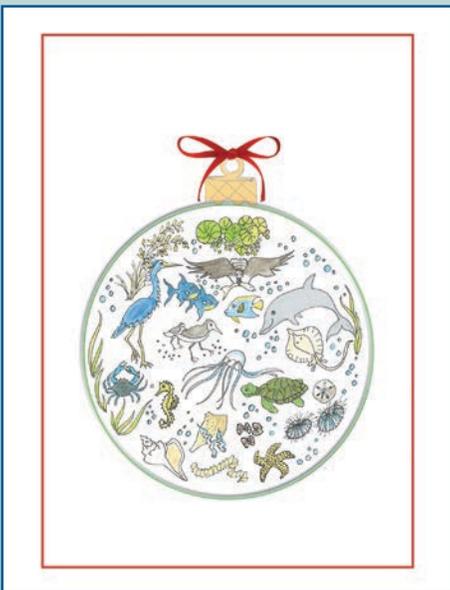
"I have made a decision that I do not take lightly. For my well-being, I must withdraw from doing the work I love. I want to continue to contribute to Islanders' understanding of the majestic nature of our islands and will volunteer my time as I can. It is a privilege to work at SCCF. Thank you all for the support you lend SCCF. I cherish the three glorious decades I have spent here."

Kristie, whose retirement is effective in October, has served as SCCF's Education Director since 1988.

She has been the heart and soul of the organization, teaching thousands of residents and visitors about our good nature and history. Kristie forged strategic partnerships with Captiva Cruises, island realtors, Captiva Historical Society and many other organizations, multiplying exponentially her educational outreach. Our "Story Teller" extraordinaire.

One of Kristie's final initiatives was the creation of the Paul McCarthy Memorial Lecture Series, honoring the late founder of Captiva Cruises. As a volunteer, Kristie will oversee the series' first lecture on February 6, 2019.

SCCF Christmas Cards



Hope the holidays bring you many reasons to smile

Cards are \$15 for 10 cards and they will be available in the shop at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center.

Rick Bartleson -- Continued from Page 1

We are so very fortunate to have such a curious man dedicating himself to SCCF's work. Dr. Rick Bartleson quietly goes about studying sea grasses and water quality. He handles most of the science-based media inquiries and co-authors with Rae Ann Wessel the weekly Caloosahatchee Conditions Report. He also is the "go to" for odd phenomena occurring on the beaches such as a die off of fighting conchs or a pile of bleached out *Syringodium* sea grass that appear like miniature white straws.

When it came time to examine some of the dozens of dead sea turtles gathered by SCCF staff during the current Red Tide bloom, Rick decided to learn more about what killed them. Some looked like boat strikes, but when Rick performed dissections he found that even the ones hit by boats appeared to have ingested high concentrations of brevetoxin. Brevetoxin is the noxious product of the red tide organism. The animals were impaired and unable to avoid boats speeding through the water.

Performed outside in 95 degree heat, Rick has carefully dissected stomachs and intestines and found that most loggerhead and Kemp's ridley sea turtles have ingested clams, fighting conchs and lightning whelks. These shellfish eat smaller things and the red tide organism. Basically the turtles had been eating the nerve toxin in very high concentrations, which affected their nervous system. So it is not the air they breathe as much as it is the food they eat.

Rick's curiosity and discipline as a scientist has brought new light to SCCF and everyone else. His knowledge created hopefulness for the young hatchling sea turtles heading out to sea. Hatchlings have a sufficient amount of food energy in their bodies when they emerge from the nest to swim without feeding for a week or more. The babies head out to sea to find floating rafts of

Continued right

...to the Next Generation

Dee Sarge Century

Dee, SCCF's Living with Wildlife Educator, started her career with SCCF in the early days of the Native Plant Nursery, becoming its retail sales manager in 1980.

She will be retiring effective October 1.

Nobody brings passion to the understanding of the association between native wildlife and vegetation like Dee does. She has written that encouraging people to support wildlife like otters, gopher tortoises, and nesting screech owls is "an easy and joyful task" for her.

That statement speaks volumes about Dee's gentle spirit and the passion she has brought to her work over these many years.

"As they finish their professional working years, the Board of Trustees is so grateful that they both spent the majority of their conservation careers working in support of SCCF's mission," said SCCF President John Morse. "They will be missed."

Wishing to celebrate their longstanding service and recognizing their countless contributions we will gather in their honor this fall.

Please watch for the invitations.



Dee with the butterfly flyer that she produced.

SCCF PROGRAMS							OCTOBER 2018						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Turtle Tracks-10	5	6	7	8	9 Panther Corridors-10	10	11 Turtle Tracks-10	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Turtle Tracks-10	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Turtle Tracks-10	26	27
28	29	30	31										

FLORIDA PANTHERS AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS
 Florida panthers are the rarest mammals in North America – and their future depends on wildlife corridors. While not found on Sanibel, they play an important role in maintaining the ecosystems of Southwest Florida. The last few years have seen record-breaking panther deaths, but there is hope in protecting their habitat and allowing the elusive cat to spread north into its historic habitat. Prior to joining SCCF, Alexis Horn ran the Sierra Club's Florida Panther program. Learn what makes Florida panthers unique and why they are so vital to our environment. *Tuesday, October 9 at 10 a.m. in*

the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.

TURTLE TRACKS
 Sanibel Island had one of the first sea turtle monitoring programs in the country. Learn about the life cycles and habits of the sea turtles and shorebirds that nest on our beaches, SCCF's monitoring activities, and what we are doing to protect them. *Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

Sargassum algae which may be far away from the heavy concentrations of red tide. Their food source will be other tiny organisms that cling to the raft such as small shrimp and crabs. Thankfully Rick's willingness to go above and beyond has enriched us all. This is simply a shout out to say thank you to Rick.

— Kristie Anders



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Wines in the Wild

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The SCCF Member Update is printed by an FSC® certified printer (FSC® C103525). Forest Stewardship Council® certification imposes stringent standards for forest management that benefits people, wildlife and the environment.



Friday, November 9, 2018
The Bailey Homestead Preserve
Look for an invitation and upcoming emails with more information.

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
\$125 per person

October 2018 Member Update

SCCF Nature Center

3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road
(1 mile west of Tarpon Bay Road) / P.O. Box 839, Sanibel 33957

SCCF Nature Center and Main Telephone:

(239) 472-2329 Fax: (239) 472-6421 www.sccf.org blog.sccf.org

Native Landscapes & Garden Center: (239) 472-1932 (at the Bailey Homestead Preserve)

Marine Laboratory: (239) 395-4617

Wildlife & Habitat Management: (239) 472-3984

SCCF is dedicated to the conservation of coastal habitats and aquatic resources on Sanibel and Captiva and in the surrounding watershed through:

- Environmental Education
- Land Acquisition & Stewardship
- Marine Research
- Natural Resource Policy
- Native Landscapes & Garden Center
- Sea Turtles & Shorebirds
- Wildlife & Habitat Management



Nature Center Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. from October - May
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June - September

Native Landscapes & Garden Center Hours:

at 1300 Periwinkle Way, Bailey Homestead Preserve
Monday - Friday — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday from 10 a.m. — 3 p.m. (January through April)

Visit our Nature Center

- Trails & Observation Tower
 - Education Center
- \$5/adult, children under 17 free, members free.

Find the latest real-time water quality readings from our RECON sensors at www.recon.sccf.org

Board of Trustees 2018

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