Statewide Recreation Workshop Series 2015-2016
South Florida Outdoor Recreation Workshop

March 3, 2016
City of Sunrise Civic Center
10610 West Oakland Park Blvd.
Sunrise, FL 33351

A project of Florida’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Hosted by:
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks, Office of Park Planning
Welcome to the Statewide Recreation Workshop Series!

These four workshops are networking events and information exchanges designed to bring together public and private recreation providers, recreational user groups, and outdoor recreational professionals of all kinds to help promote the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the value of outdoor recreation to the State of Florida. An overarching goal of the workshops is to build and strengthen connections among Florida’s recreation providers.

Each workshop will feature presentations covering an array of outdoor recreation topics, as well as a facilitated discussion session and time for making new friends. Central to these conversations is SCORP’s mission: raising awareness of the health and economic benefits of outdoor recreation, improving public access and reconnecting people to the outdoors.

Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to seeing you in Sunrise!
South Florida Outdoor Recreation/SCORP Workshop
City of Sunrise Civic Center, Sunrise, FL
March 3, 2016

AGENDA

8:30 AM  Open registration/meet and greet

9:00 AM  Welcome and introductions - Salon B

9:10 AM  What is SCORP? & workshop goals - Salon B

Concurrent Presentation Sessions

9:45 AM  Session 1) Liz Sparks: “Establishing and Promoting Paddling Trails” - Salon B
Session 2) Rob Barrett: “Getting Healthy with SCORP” - Salon C

10:15 AM  Session 3) Matthew King: “Palm Beach County Natural Areas Management: Where Do We Go From Here?” - Salon B
Session 4) Rob Barrett: “Volunteers and CSOs – Providing Essential Services” - Salon C

10:45 AM  Break

11:00 AM  Session 5) David Jones: “Active Leisure for Life, ALL Ages and ALL Abilities” - Salon B
Session 6) Meg Daly: “Turning Leftover Lands into Community Assets” - Salon C

11:30 AM  Session 7) Joanne Howes, Katie Hendrickson, & Nikki Hochberg: “Connecting Patrons to Nature” - Salon B
Session 8) David Ramirez: “Nurturing the Need for Nature” - Salon C

12:00 PM  Lunch/networking/special presentations - Salon B
Maddie Southard, Florida Wildlife Corridor
Eric Katz, Green Mobility Network

1:30 PM  Session 9) Paul Gray: “Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation in South Florida” - Salon B
Session 10) Nancy MacPhee: “What is Florida SEE and How Can it Help ME?” - Salon C

2:00 PM  Panel Discussion - Salon B
* Economic/health benefits of outdoor recreation
* Improving public access
* Reconnecting people to the outdoors

2:55 PM  Wrap-up

3:00 PM  Adjourn
South Florida Outdoor Recreation/SCORP Workshop  
Sunrise Civic Center, Sunrise, FL; March 3, 2016

Presenters and Panelists

Session 1. 9:45 AM, Salon B - Liz Sparks, Paddling Trails Coordinator, Office of Greenways and Trails, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

“Establishing and Promoting Paddling Trails”

Liz will present information about Florida’s outstanding water trails, her work with rural tourism development to create and promote trails, and how paddling trails bring positive economic benefits to local communities. She will discuss the steps needed to create, manage, and promote your own water trail.

Liz Sparks has been active in the realm of Florida outdoor recreation, rural tourism development, and connecting people with the outdoors since 2001. As a Recreation Planner with Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission she developed 6 National Recreation Trails on FWC waterways. Liz also organized workshops and led initiatives to promote paddling in rural communities to benefit local economies through sustainable tourism. A Volunteer Paddlesports Program she helped to develop provides training for volunteers who share basic kayaking skills with families and lead nature tours on the water. The program’s ultimate goal is to create future generations of safe paddlers and stewards of Florida’s outstanding waterways. Liz became Florida’s Paddling Trail Coordinator in DEP’s Office of Greenways & Trails in 2013 and continues to develop and promote our state’s fantastic waterways. Liz is also a board member of Florida SEE.

Session 2. 9:45 AM, Salon C - Rob Barrett, Programs Manager, Office of Operations, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

“Getting Healthy with SCORP”

Rob will discuss how he uses SCORP in his role as the Programs Manager for DEP’s Land and Recreation program, with an emphasis on realizing the potential of public lands as sources of health. Rob will present information about Florida Park Fit, Nature Play Prescription, Healthy Campfire Cooking and more, while highlighting existing and potential public/private partnerships.

Rob Barrett holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology from the Florida State University and joined the Florida Park Service in 2012. He has served as a Graphics Assistant, Park Ranger and Recreation Program Manager. He is currently the Programs Manager for Land and Recreation and oversees Training, Targeted and Interpretive programming. Rob began working in wildlife rehabilitation and education in high school and continues to volunteer in this role at the Tallahassee Museum. Most weekends you can find him hiking, bird watching, or otherwise being outside.
Matthew King is an Environmental Program Supervisor for Palm Beach County’s Department of Environmental Resources Management, Natural Resources Stewardship Division. Matthew is a (South) Florida native and attended Florida State University with a B.S. in Biology. He started his environmental career with Miami-Dade County in environmental regulation and as a land manager for several Environmental Endangered Lands Program sites. Matthew has been with Palm Beach County since 2000 where he is currently spearheading natural areas outreach activities along with coordinating GIS/GPS management and biological monitoring.

Session 3. 10:15 AM, Salon B - Matthew King, Environmental Program Supervisor, Palm Beach County, Department of Environmental Resources Management

“Palm Beach County Natural Areas Management: Where Do We Go From Here?

In the 1990s, Palm Beach County voters approved two referenda for the sale of $150 million in bonds to purchase, conserve, and manage natural areas throughout the County. The County has conserved more than 31,000 acres across 37 sites, 26 of which have some form of public use facilities. After years of active restoration and management, it has become apparent that increasing public awareness of the natural areas and providing compatible recreation activities is important to their long-term survival.

Session 4. 10:15 AM, Salon C - Rob Barrett, Programs Manager, Office of Operations, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

“Volunteers and CSOs - Providing Essential Services”

In this session, Rob returns to discuss the roles of volunteers and Community Support Organizations (CSOs) in the Florida State Parks system. Volunteers donate their time to state parks while CSO members volunteer and help raise funds and host special events. The partnership between parks and volunteers provide essential services and capital improvements to our parks and trails. Rob’s info can be found on page 4.

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time; they just have the heart!” – Elizabeth Andrew
“Active Leisure for Life, ALL Ages and ALL Abilities: Promoting Diversity of Outdoor Recreation Activities and Diversity of the People Recreating Makes Sense and Dollars for Florida.”

David will discuss the efforts of the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association, now in its 25th year, to enrich the lives of all Floridians through accessible, inclusive recreation. This not-for-profit organization offers many programs and services to people with disabilities, and works with numerous partners to ensure that our public and private lands have high quality, barrier-free outdoor recreation opportunities for everyone.

It is rare that someone can take a “tragedy” as an opportunity to change their life and help others. That is exactly what David Jones did. His injury became a personal commitment to help others. In 1988, David Jones was shot in a hunting accident resulting in a serious head injury that left him with permanent paralyses of his left leg, limiting mobility and no use of his left hand. David utilized a wheelchair for one year and gradually increased his mobility to the point where he could walk with a walker and now walks with a slight limp without any device. He remains paralyzed in one arm. In the process of his rehabilitation, he became aware of the importance of recreation for rehabilitation – not only to improve mobility, but to improve mental well-being. David saw this event in his life as a challenge and an opportunity to assist others. This life changing event developed into his personal crusade. David went back to school and received his Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Florida State University. David Jones overcame the challenge of his disability utilizing sports for himself and others by forming the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association in 1990. This organization came out of the positive experience David had from using sports and recreation for his own rehabilitation.

Session 6. 11:00 AM, Salon C – Meg Daly, President/CEO, Friends of the Underline

“Turning Leftover Lands into Community Assets”

If you are looking for inspiration or even a road map of how to turn an idea into a reality, join Meg Daly, Founder of Friends of The Underline as she shares her journey of the discovery of a transformational idea that happened because of a bike accident. Meg Daly is CEO and President of Friends of The Underline, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization leading the initiative to transform the underutilized land below Miami’s Metrorail into a 10-mile, urban trail, linear park, and living art destination (www.theunderline.org).

A 30-year sales and marketing veteran, Meg owned a breakthrough target marketing company catering to the broadcast television industry. She has also held executive positions in the public relations, advertising, technology, and real estate industries. Meg has a BA in English from Vanderbilt University and has served on a number of philanthropic boards. She is a member of the City of Coral Gables Sustainability Board, TransitAlliance Board, Miami Dade County Parks Summit Planning committee, and the Bike305 Executive Committee. For her love of community, she was named one of Miami’s Angels by the Miami Herald.
Joanne Howes has been a Naturalist at Anne Kolb Nature Center since August 1996. She grew up in Philadelphia, PA and earned a biology degree from Temple University along with science and biology teaching certifications from the State of New Jersey. She spent 12 years in Atlantic City, New Jersey working for the Oceanic Society and the City of Atlantic City as a Marine Science Program Coordinator and Aquarist before moving to South Florida in 1991 with her family. Sailing, kayaking, nature observation, hiking and camping are some of the outdoor activities she enjoys.

Katharine Hendrickson (Park Naturalist/Manager) is a paleo marine ecologist, adjunct professor, and park naturalist who oversees Deerfield Island Park, Quiet Waters Park, Easterlin Park and 10 North Broward Natural Area sites.

Nikki Hochberg is a Park Naturalist II and Manager of Fern Forest Nature Center. She has taught high school marine science at Catalina Island Marine Institute, worked as a Dolphin Girl and animal handler at Ocean World in Fort Lauderdale, and trained with the Peace Corps in Paraguay. She earned a B.S. in Marine Science from Long Island University and a M.S. in Freshwater Ecology from Florida Atlantic University.

Dave Ramirez is a Certified Parks and Recreational Professional who has worked for the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department for 24 years. Since 1996, he has managed the Gardenville Community
Center, which provides recreational programs and activities for residents of all ages. Dave also conducts and oversees the fishing and outdoors program which includes saltwater fishing camps, camping events and afterschool clubs. Dave is active in his community, serving on boards, and volunteering with several organizations and local civic groups. He enjoys fishing, kayaking, boating and “everything” outdoors.

Lunch/Special Presentations. 12:00 to 1:30 PM, Salon B

A. Maddie Southard, Program Manager, Florida Wildlife Corridor

Maddie will discuss the Florida Wildlife Corridor’s mission, and will present their latest film, The Forgotten Coast: Return to Wild Florida.

Film synopsis: Following in the footsteps of a wandering Florida black bear, three friends leave civilization and become immersed in a vast and unexplored wildlife corridor stretching from the Everglades to the Florida-Alabama border. The rugged thousand-mile journey by foot, paddle, and bike traverses Florida’s Forgotten Coast – a wilderness that has the potential to change the way we see the natural world.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor is a statewide vision to keep Florida wild by integrating Florida’s leading conservation science with compelling fine art images and rich storytelling to raise awareness about the Corridor and the need to connect and protect it. The centerpiece of our awareness campaign is the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expeditions.

The Expeditions have showcased the need to protect the missing links in the Corridor, preserve Florida’s waters, and sustain working lands and rural economies from the Everglades to Georgia and Alabama. A dedicated statewide Corridor will benefit wildlife, watersheds and people for generations to come.

Maddie Southard is the Program Manager for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, working in an array of capacities related to shaping the organization’s message to donors, government agencies, and other public audiences. A fourth generation Floridian born in Clearwater, Maddie has lived all around Tampa Bay. She moved to Tampa to attend the University of South Florida, where she completed a BA in Communication in 2010 and an MA in Environmental Communication in 2013. As a graduate student, Maddie studied corporate communication strategies in the area of sustainable energy and environmental awareness and acquired a rich understanding of the issues associated with wildlife welfare and conservation. By employing the communication strategies best suited to our community’s needs, Maddie passionately engages the Florida Wildlife Corridor’s mission to conserve and protect Florida’s natural environment.

B. Eric Katz, Program Manager, Green Mobility Network

The Green Mobility Network is a coalition of individuals and organizations advocating to make Miami-Dade a safer – and more enjoyable - place to bicycle, run, and walk. Eric will present an overview of their current projects.

“It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men’s hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.”

– Robert Louis Stevenson
Session 9. 1:30 PM, Salon B – Dr. Paul Gray, Science Coordinator, Everglades Restoration Program, Audubon Florida

“Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation in South Florida”

Paul will discuss some history of environmental degradation in south Florida, how it happened, why it happened, and what is needed to reverse it with all the people still here. He will cover various restoration activities that often enhance recreational opportunities through better wildlife viewing and access to new places. These increased opportunities also sometimes run into conflict with recreational goals, and he’ll discuss how to evaluate opportunities.

Dr. Gray provides technical support for Audubon policy teams in issues ranging from water quality, water management, agricultural best management practices, and ecosystem and bird conservation issues. He has been with Audubon for 21 years and working in and around Lake Okeechobee since 1988. Paul’s educational background includes a B.S. from the University of Missouri, an M.S. from Texas Tech University and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida.

Session 10. 1:30 PM, Salon C – Nancy MacPhee, Tourism Development Manager, Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau

“What is FLORIDA SEE and How Can it Help ME?”

Ecotourism, as defined by the International Ecotourism Society, is “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.” Nancy’s presentation will feature an overview of the Florida Society of Ethical Ecotourism (SEE), and will include describe the benefits of membership and their certification program. Florida SEE is recognized as the leading authority on authentic ecotourism in Florida.

Nancy MacPhee, a lifelong outdoor enthusiast, spent 25 years as a Parks & Recreation professional, developing resource-based facilities, implementing outdoor recreation opportunities and interpretive programs. She passionately works with eco tour operators to ensure the delivery of authentic experiences for visitors to the Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel. A Florida Master Naturalist and Certified Outdoor leader, MacPhee is active on several nonprofit boards including, Friends of Cayo Costa, Florida Superior Small Lodging, and Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism.

“When is the last time your computer restarted you? Don’t forget about nature. Recreation means to re-create yourself.” - Bryant McGill

“One day I undertook a tour through the country, and the diversity and beauties of nature I met with in this charming season, expelled every gloomy and vexatious thought.” – Daniel Boone
“What is SCORP?”

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is Florida’s official document for outdoor recreation planning. Mark will discuss the 2013-2018 SCORP, how it’s being implemented, the Florida Outdoor Recreation Inventory (FORI), and what’s in store for the 2018-2023 plan.

Mark Kiser joined DEP’s Office of Park Planning in October 2014 as the SCORP coordinator and as a park planner. Previously, as a wildlife biologist, he coordinated both the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail program and Bat Conservation International’s North American Bat House Research Project. He enjoys birding, wildlife viewing, hiking, and kayaking.

More Quotable Recreation Quotes:

*The intellect must not be kept at consistent tension, but diverted by pastimes...The mind must have relaxation, And will rise stronger and keener after recreation.* - Lucius Seneca

*People who cannot find time for recreation are obliged sooner or later to find time for illness.* - John Wanamaker

*It is in his pleasure that a man really lives; it is from his leisure that he constructs the true fabric of self.* - Agnes Repplier

*The best intelligence test is what we do with our leisure.* - Laurence J. Peter

*People tend to forget that play is serious.* - David Hockney

Find the complete 2013-2018 SCORP document, an executive summary, and other SCORP materials on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s website: [www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/outdoor/scorp.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/outdoor/scorp.htm)
Florida Fast Facts:

Nearly 90% of Floridians reside in urban areas.

Florida has more than 450 county and municipal park and recreation departments serving 20 million residents.

Florida has 9,100 tennis courts, 5,700 baseball fields, 5,200 equipped play areas, 2,100 football fields, 2,000 outdoor swimming pools and 1,200 golf courses.

Of Florida’s visitors, 98% say that outdoor recreation is important to their tourist experience.

Nearly 14 million acres of land and water are available for outdoor recreation in Florida.

Florida has 9,000-plus miles of land trails, 4,500 miles of shared-use trails and 4,000-plus miles of paddling trails.

More than 2.8 million acres of Florida are covered by water. Florida has 12,650 miles of rivers and streams, 7,700 lakes and 1,350 miles of coastline.

Florida has the highest bird, butterfly and wildflower diversity in eastern North America.

“Recreation’s purpose is not to kill time, but to make life, not to keep a person occupied, but to keep them refreshed; no to offer an escape from life, but to provide a discovery of life.” - Author Unknown

Thank you for attending! Please stay in touch for the FORI update and 2018 SCORP process!

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FLORIDA: THE OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE

“There was a hint of Florida’s potential as an outdoor recreation state in Ponce de Leon’s first impression of this peninsula in 1513 when he named it ‘the Land of Flowers.’ ... Florida [is laced with] rich veins of history. These, coupled with a climate and natural beauty not found anywhere else in the continental United States, have combined to make this a state of unparalleled opportunities in outdoor recreation.” – SCORP, 1971