

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



1000
FRIENDS
of FLORIDA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

There were some big changes at 1000 Friends of Florida from January 2018 through June 2019, the period covered by this report. We lost our beloved co-founder, Nathaniel Reed. We gained two new Board members, Andrew Dickman and Jim Swann, and named a new Chair, Victoria Tschinkel. We appointed a new Legislative Affairs committee. We welcomed a new president (his photo is on this page). Our talented Policy and Planning Director, Thomas Hawkins, departed to take a position with the University of Florida in his hometown of Gainesville.

Yet the most important things haven't changed. 1000 Friends of Florida is still passionately committed to Nat Reed's mission of preserving Florida's environment, economy and quality of life amid our state's booming population growth. We remain dedicated to empowering Floridians to shape a better future in their communities. And we will continue to pursue these goals, with energy and passion, from the state Capitol to county commission chambers to courthouses across Florida. By the time you read this, we hope to have a new Policy and Planning Director on board, joining Communications Director Vivian Young, Development Director Toni Russell and me in our efforts to save special places and build better communities in Florida.

Nat's passing in July 2018 was a loss we still feel acutely. But generous members, inspired by his legacy, boosted their contributions and strengthened 1000 Friends' balance sheet, leading to the positive financial results documented in this report. When we published Nat's final project, the Trouble in Paradise report, posthumously in August 2018, it set the environmental agenda for candidates in that year's elections. Two days after Florida's new governor took office in January 2019, he issued an executive order making the environment his top priority and seeking a large spending hike in that category during the upcoming legislative session. Legislators, surprisingly, provided even more than the governor requested.

In both the 2018 and 2019 sessions, we were regulars at the Capitol, testifying at hearings, communicating with

legislators and staff, and sharing updates on dozens of bills with our thousands of followers through email alerts and social media posts. While we enjoyed more success in 2018, our opposition to a pair of bad bills passed in 2019 galvanized our members, attracted unprecedented attention from media outlets, and shined the spotlight anew on conservation and planning issues in Florida. And we haven't given up; we're working to repeal one of the bills, and mitigate the damage from the other, a bill to build three new expressways through large tracts of unspoiled

rural Florida. 1000 Friends has secured appointments on state task forces for each of the expressways. We'll do our best from these influential positions to protect vulnerable environmental and community assets.

Our activities were not limited to Tallahassee over the past 18 months – not by a long shot. 1000 Friends partnered throughout Florida with local allies, providing planning and legal expertise on growth and development issues. We did it from

the Panhandle (Escambia, Gadsden and Walton counties) to the middle of the state (Marion, Orange and Seminole counties) to the southwest (Sarasota and Collier counties) to the southeast (Martin, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties). Our free webinar series, featuring experts on timely policy and planning topics, attracted more people than ever from throughout Florida.

Changes inevitably come with challenges. But guided by Nat Reed's mission, and sustained by the generous support of our members, 1000 Friends of Florida looks forward to even brighter days in the future.



Paul Owens
President



Martin County Outing

Vivian Young, AICP

1000 FRIENDS of FLORIDA

2018-2019 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Summertime at
Madison Blue Spring

SAVING SPECIAL PLACES

Vivian Young, ACP

■ **Advocating for State Conservation Funding** –

Advocated strongly for funding that resulted in a \$100 million Florida Forever allocation in 2018 and supported successful 2019 budget including a massive \$682 million for Everglades restoration, and springs and water quality improvements.

■ **Opposing Toll Roads Through Pristine Rural Lands** –

Led the campaign to oppose the damaging Senate Bill 7068 – Senate President Galvano's number one priority during the 2019 Florida Legislative Session – which authorized the construction of three tolled expressways extending from Jefferson County south to Collier County. With passage of SB 7068, launched multi-year advocacy initiative to promote citizen engagement and agreed to provide representatives on three Florida Department of Transportation Task Forces with the goal of protecting sensitive natural resources and farms and limiting sprawling development.

■ **Publishing *Trouble in Paradise*** – At the request of Nathaniel Pryor Reed shortly before his passing, worked with leading conservation groups to finalize and publish *Trouble in Paradise*, conduct a statewide webinar, and secure media coverage on strategies to share with

Florida elected officials and candidates pressing environmental issues facing Florida and ways to address them.

■ **Safeguarding Agricultural Lands** – Successfully opposed the Poets Walk II comprehensive plan amendment which would have allowed incompatible development at significantly increased densities in Palm Beach County's designated Agricultural Reserve and continued to monitor and oppose proposal by Indian Trails Grove to transfer development density into the Ag Reserve.

■ **Protecting Springsheds** – Continued assisting residents opposing the Golden Ocala development in the Rainbow Springs springshed, providing expert testimony which helped lead to a settlement agreement to connect all new units to central water and wastewater and make transportation improvements.

■ **Defending the imperiled Coastal Dunes Lakes** – Reviewed and provided input on the study required under a 2016 Walton County Compliance Agreement with 1000 Friends and others, identifying findings and policy recommendations warranting Walton County's ongoing attention.

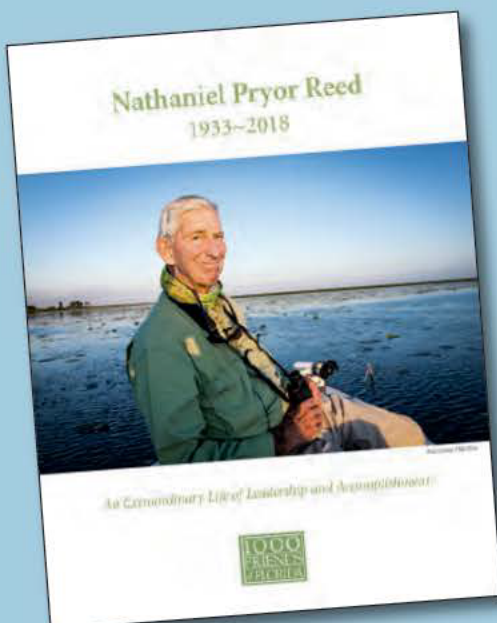
- **Upholding Rural Land Stewardship Areas** – Conducted analysis of Collier County’s RLSA program on behalf of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida to support a County review to further refine the program.
- **Standing Up for Military Lands** – Provided expert planning analysis to assist South Walton Community Council in successfully challenging a damaging County proposal to allow major residential density increases, including a significant increase in density on rural lands adjacent to Eglin Air Force Base.

- **Providing Input on State and Federal Legislation** – Commented on Florida’s Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) to better protect springs and endangered waters, on federal delegation of authority to the State of Florida under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and other critical issues.

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

- **Protecting Martin County’s Quality of Life** – Successfully opposed the Harmony Ranch development, which would have allowed 2,402 residential units outside the urban services district, provided recommendations that were adopted by the County Commission to improve the mixed-use new urban Pineland Prairie development, and advocated for the County to hold additional public workshops on EAR-based comprehensive plan amendments.
- **Testifying Against the Sprawl-inducing Everglades Expressway** – Strongly opposed the Miami-Dade County comprehensive plan amendment to extend the SR 836 highway outside the Urban Development Boundary and into the historical footprint of the Everglades. After the amendment was approved, we gave expert testimony on transportation and planning in support of the resulting legal challenge.

- **Upholding Urban Growth Boundaries** – Continued to provide planning expertise to citizen organizations concerned about proposals to develop River Cross in Seminole County and The Grow (formerly Lake Pickett South) in Orange County, both on rural lands outside the urban growth boundaries.
- **Supporting Walkable Communities** – Provided guidance and expert testimony in a citizen challenge of the Sarasota County Grand Lakes comprehensive plan amendment that allows single-family development in an area east of I-75 intended for walkable, mixed-use villages and conservation set-asides to buffer adjoining publicly owned conservation lands.
- **Standing Up for Comprehensive Planning** – Filed amicus brief in *Imhof v. Walton*, maintaining that County action weakened tools to require that local governments comply with their own comprehensive plans.



In Memoriam: **Nathaniel Pryor Reed, 1933-2018**

Nathaniel Pryor Reed, who passed away on July 11, 2018, left an incredible and lasting legacy – in Florida, across the nation, and internationally. In addition to his vast conservation accomplishments, he played a key role in the passage of Florida’s 1985 Growth Management Act and also co-founded 1000 Friends of Florida. He remained an actively involved guiding force as 1000 Friends’ Chairman Emeritus until his final days.

1000 Friends’ newsletter honoring Nat Reed is available at www.1000fof.org/nathaniel-reed-memorial.

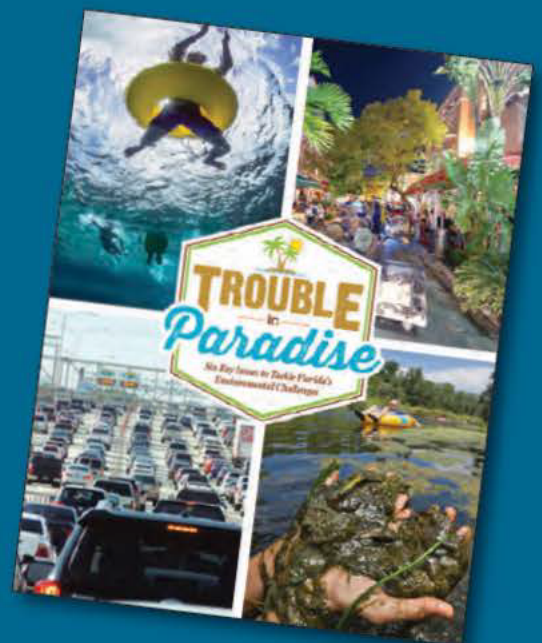
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH PLANNING

- **Advocating on Behalf of Citizens before the Florida Legislature** – Tracked more than 60 bills and budget issues during each of the 2018 and 2019 Florida legislative sessions.
- **Strongly Opposing Legislation to Curtail Citizen Involvement** – Launched a major initiative to reverse last-minute changes to 2019's House Bill 7103 which make citizens and others liable for the prevailing party's attorney fees on comprehensive plan amendment challenges.
- **Increasing Traffic Safety** – Joined the FL DNT TXT N DRV Coalition, helping to secure passage of HB 107 during the 2019 Session which strengthened Florida's law against texting while driving.
- **Conducting 2070 Visioning Workshops in Martin, Palm Beach and Walton Counties** – Building on the Florida 2070 project and partnering with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, The Guardians of Martin County, the Palm Beach County North County Neighborhood Coalition, and the South Walton Community Council, conducted a series of workshops and seminars – attracting more than 250 attendees – to explore planning strategies for a more sustainable future. The Martin and Palm Beach County workshops were funded by the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties and The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation.
- **Promoting the Citizen Planning Bill of Rights** – Partnering with Horse Farms Forever and Stop Coastal Connector, helped convince Marion County to require a supermajority vote for comprehensive plan amendments related to the Farmland Preservation Area, and assisted Gadsden County with retaining its adopted Citizen Planning Bill of Rights.
- **Educating Community Leaders** – Through the free Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinar Series, attracted more than 4,700 attendees to 13 webinars on topics including Florida planning and conservation legislation, community resilience, sustainable landscaping practices and more.
- **Working with the Florida Conservation Coalition** – Continued to provide administrative and policy support for the FCC including assisting with development of consensus-based strategies to protect Florida's lands and waters.
- **Partnering for Positive Change** – Advocated for sound planning and conservation with a host of organizations including the League of Women Voters, Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, Florida Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, Florida Defenders of the Environment, Florida Springs Council, Florida Wildlife Corridor, Apalachicola Riverkeeper, Everglades Coalition, Guardians of Martin County, North County Neighborhood Coalition of Palm Beach County, North Florida Land Trust, Save Orange County, South Walton Community Council, Wakulla Springs Alliance and many others to promote sound planning and conservation in one of the fastest growing states in the nation.

Trouble in Paradise

The *Trouble in Paradise* project was spearheaded by Nathaniel Pryor Reed to share with Florida elected officials and candidates for office six key environmental issues facing our state and overarching strategies to address them. Shortly before his passing, he asked 1000 Friends of Florida to edit and publish the white paper, which is dedicated in his memory and was produced in cooperation with leaders from other conservation groups across Florida. Eight of those organizations signed on as our partners on the project.

The full report is available at www.troubleinparadiseflorida.org.



THANK YOU

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Donations of \$1,000 and greater for the period from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

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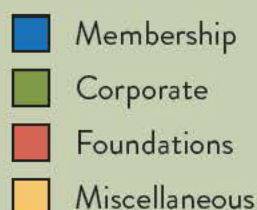
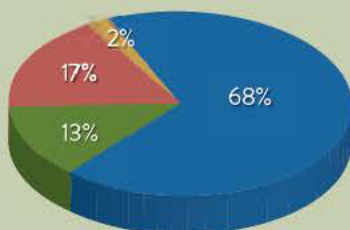
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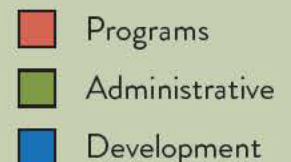
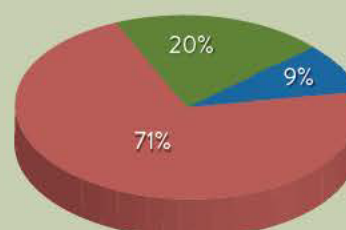
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JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2018

REVENUE \$229,164



EXPENSES \$223,627



In 2018, Friends changed its fiscal year from calendar year to July-June fiscal year to assist with budgeting. The numbers above reflect revenue and expenses for the 6-month period from January 1 to June 30, 2018. Future annual reports will cover a 12-month period.

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Mosaic

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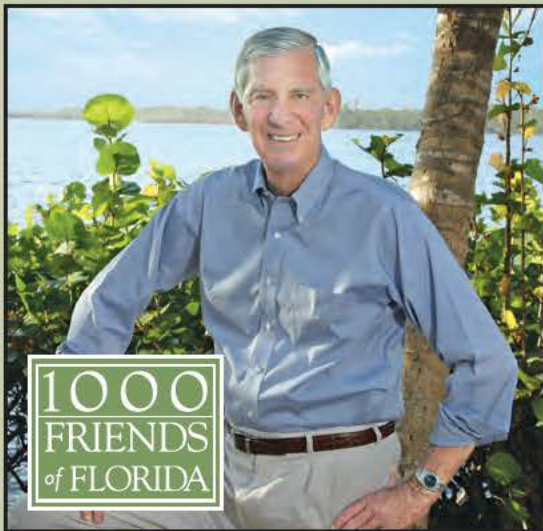
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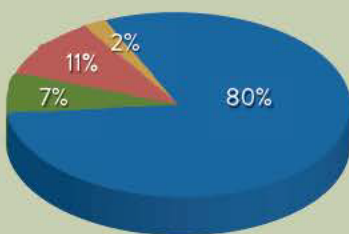


Honoring Nathaniel Pryor Reed

*1000 Friends of Florida
 gratefully acknowledges
 Nat Reed's innumerable
 contributions to our state,
 nation and world.*

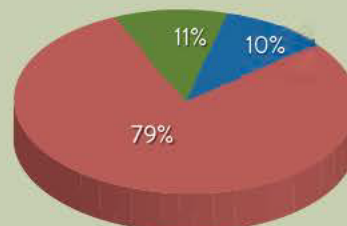
JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

REVENUE \$690,421



- Membership
- Corporate
- Foundations
- Miscellaneous

EXPENSES \$584,103



- Programs
- Administrative
- Development

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1000 Friends of Florida

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