

The Spoonbill
Friends of A1A March 31, 2007 Volume 1, Issue 4
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A1A SCENIC BYWAY TRASH BUSTERS
Keeping Our Byway Beautiful



"Trash Busters"

Thursday, March 1st, saw the kick-off of volunteer activities here in St. Johns and Flagler Counties. In cooperation with Chris Benjamin of St. Johns County Environmental Waste Management and two of his own volunteers, Christine Golay and Darryl Vickery, the Friends performed admirably in removing litter

and debris from the small beach area north and west of the bridge just a mile north of Marineland and south of Summer Haven.

Volunteers assembled starting at 8:30 AM in the parking area supplied by Jim Netherton at the Whitney Lab, and car-pooled a mile to the site. We were met with a steady rain which did nothing to dampen the spirits of those involved. Julie Stearns, who first notified the Friends of the serious problem at the beach, led the volunteers including her husband, Jack, Sallie O'Hara, our Administrator, and Bernie Gay, Volunteer Coordinator, Tom Orr and Donna Schuster. As a committed team we attacked the heaps of trash accumulated. By the end of our work, we had made a serious impact on the beach, collecting 1400 pounds of trash, including 1000 pounds of bottles.

On Thursday, April 5th, our Friends of A1A volunteers assembled once again to complete the cleanup of the beach at the NW corner of the bridge just a mile north of Marineland. Chris Benjamin pitched in as well and also removed everything collected by the group, which included Julie and Jack Stearns, Tom Orr, Bernie Gay, and our most recent participants, Nora Psula, Inge Haberzeth, and Bruce Ewing. In all, we estimate several hundred pounds of trash were collected, bringing the total for our two efforts to nearly a ton for this small beach alone!



Well done, Volunteers! Nora, Inge and Bruce

April 7th saw Friends of A1A also pitching in with the Friends of Anastasia doing the roadside cleanup along the A1A corridor. Mary Held of Anastasia State Park, John Cheatwood of the Department of environmental Protection, and Conrad Kubiniec, of Friends of A1A, removed the trash along the road from the intersection near McDonalds all the way to the Southeast border of the park at the beginning of Beach Boulevard.



Anastasia Friends Mary, Conrad and John

To further keep our byway beautiful the Adopt-a- Highway Program enlists volunteers and assigns segments of roadway for different groups to perform clean-ups four times a year for a two year period. In St. Johns County there are numerous organizations committed to A1A beautification including the Naturist Organization, the Ponte Vedra Council on Aging, the Florida Conservation Commission, the Shark Bait Foundation, and several families. The main groups in Flagler County are the Flagler Beach Rotary Club, Matanzas Shores Women's Club, Flagler Ocean Wave Square Dance Group and the Hammock Community Civic Association.

Sallie and I are both very well pleased with this inaugural event and look forward to hearing from more community members who may wish to participate in similar activities along the entire length of the Byway.

Contributed by Bernie Gay Visit our Scrapbook for more snaps!
www.scenic1a.org//Beautification.aspx

America's Resource Center Byways Specialist Visits A1A

Dennis Adams, byway specialist with The America's Byways Resource Center, visited the A1A National Scenic Byway during the week of March 26th to discuss plans for a Scenic Conservation Workshop. The Friends of A1A is one of six national groups selected to participate in this program. Dennis Adams recently moved from the Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways Program to the Resource Center in November 2006. The Resource Center provides technical assistance and guidance to over 126 national byways groups. Dennis is an "old highway guy", having worked for Minnesota Department of Transportation for 31 years. He practiced transportation landscape architecture for most of those years, designing and constructing rest areas, participating in road design teams and providing specialized services to the agency. He helped develop and coordinate Minnesota's scenic byway program.



Board Members Irene Kaufman and Anne Wilson listen intently to Dennis Adams, Byways Specialist

Scenic conservation is a process for preserving and enhancing the visual quality of a community, or landscape. It provides a means of addressing the planning, design and management of those elements in the man-made and natural environment that affect the visual quality, aesthetic appeal, or character of a place. Key steps in scenic conservation planning include; 1) engaging partners 2) assessing and mapping the visual character of the byway 3) identifying and prioritizing scenic issues and concerns 4) developing and implementing a scenic conservation action plan.

A scenic conservation workshop format has been developed by Scenic America, in conjunction with the America's Byways Resource Center, to help train byways in how to address visual character issues along their byway. The two day workshop format is designed to engage the key players along a byway that have a stake in or influence on the visual character of the roadway corridor. The format of the workshop follows the structure outlined in the *Conserving Our Treasured Places: Managing Visual Quality on Scenic Byways*.

As a byway specialist, Dennis travels the southeast states and designated byways. He participates in other resource center activities including planning the National Byways Conference slated for the end of May in Baltimore, MD. He addressed the Board of the Friends of A1A on March 28th at Whitney Auditorium at Marineland and provided a few recommendations for improving wayfinding for the traveler. Planning for the workshop will continue over the next several months with the assistance of Scenic America consultant, Brad Cownover.

A Word From Our President

“The future is not some place we arrive. It is a place we create.”

I am proud of the progress our entire volunteer team has made over the past few months. We have benefited greatly from the energies of our Volunteer Coordinator, Bernie Gay, and Byway Program Administrator, Sallie O’Hara, organizing scenic clean-ups, participating in community outreach events, and arranging educational presentations on our beautiful byway. Our revenues are growing with a new Admiral charter member, Ginn Championship Hammock Beach Resort, and our new volunteers continue to increase. Soon our organization will have *arrived* in the minds of our byway community residents and travelers. But let’s not get too reliant on a few volunteers. It takes *everyone* contributing a little to gain a whole lot.

“If we start getting melancholy and looking at the dark side of things, such negativity will become a habit. It will not only color our way of viewing the world but more importantly will have a negative impact on the way we react to it. “

We have much to do with your help to implement our well planned vision. I believe we have the right mix of businesses with a passion for preserving A1A. We have tradition laden and education rich attractions which draw byway travelers from around the world. Let’s help each other stay the course in advocating and implementing our corridor goals.

Sincerely, *Charlie*

St. Augustine

Beach Outreach



Volunteer Coordinator Bernie Gay has, through the good graces of Bob Samuels, presented the Friends of A1A story at the weekly Farmers Market which is held every Wednesday at the St. Johns County Pier parking area. Beginning with just a table and a poster board display created by Sallie O'Hara, Bernie created this outreach idea after seeing the crowds which visit the venue each week.

He is planning on developing a cadre of four or more local volunteers who will take turns manning this outreach and to be a face for the Friends of A1A in order to explain our mission, distribute literature of the Friends of A1A, and of other civic groups in the immediate area such as South Augustine Community Association and the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association. Eight new members were added to the Friends in just the first few hours of this endeavor on February 28th.

The following week volunteer Tom Orr joined the effort and a total of 17 members were added, most of whom are local residents, and who wish to be kept abreast of our efforts. An additional 10 members joined on March 14th, and Bernie also secured a participating merchant for the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association's discount program.

Bernie is encouraging the purchase of a regular 10'x10' promotion tent with flaps for inclement weather, and additional tables and displays so that this outreach, the first of many he is hoping for, may take place in all but the most inclement weather. His goal is to have a vehicle with all of the materials stored within for transportation to sites all along the Byway all 72 miles! And as each venue would require volunteers locally to that particular area, he feels that this would generate even more involvement and interest in our Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway.

To continue outreach efforts with an informed cadre of volunteers, a Volunteer Orientation Program has been designed to educate and inform our outreach volunteers about the secret treasures of A1A and how our efforts are so important in the protection of our byway. The first scheduled event is planned for May 3rd from 9 am to 11 am in the St. Johns Parks and Recreation Conference room located at 2175 Mizell Road. Any one interested in joining the session please

contact 904-425-8055 or email bernie_gay@scenicala.org.

Contributed by Bernie Gay

Secret Literary Treasures of A1A

In order to gain a National Scenic Byway designation, a roadway needs to possess intrinsic qualities related to nature, culture, recreation, archeology, scenic vistas and historic sites. A1A certainly has all of these traits over and above its primary recreational attraction afforded to it by

its coastal locale. The communities along A1A are rich in art, music and literary talents of old and new. Recently in March several of the area authors participated in a book signing event at the Palm Valley Community Center. For our travelers' reading pleasure, here is a short list of area books written by local authors and some about our area.

Windrusher and Windrusher and the Cave of Tho-hoth , Vic DiGenti – fantasy works about cats

In Honor of Justice, Ken Gorman – action suspense novel of good versus evil

Path of the Golden Dragon, William “Bill” Kerr – suspense thriller novel

She Said What?! and She Said A Landfill Where? , Mary Kohnke, - murder mysteries based in the Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley areas

Cabbageberries, Duck Feathers and the Tides, Grahl Barkoskie Neitz – collection of memories about Palm Valley

The Manatee That Flew, John Oberheu – children's book about nature

Camel to Moses, W.D.”Bill” West – western adventure novel

A visit to the St. Augustine Historical Society at www.staugustinehistoricalsociety.org will open up a catalog of society publications not available elsewhere including some of these titles.

The Awakening of St. Augustine: The Anderson Family and the Oldest City, 1821-1924,

Thomas Graham – three generation family account of St. Augustine from 1821 to modern times

Civil War Times in St. Augustine, Jacqueline Fretwell, ed. – six historian accounts of St.

Augustine during the Civil War

The Houses of St. Augustine, 15-65-1821, Ablert C. Manucy, basic reference book for colonial period restoration

Lest we not forget the wealth of local history in Flagler Beach, once known as Ocean City, travelers will want to spend some time browsing the Flagler Historic Museum at www.flaglerbeachmuseum.com.

***On the Road* with the Byway Program Administrator "Building Bridges"**

While traveling the byway, I marvel at the character of our bridges. Like our scenic highway groups reaching higher to form our Friends of A1A organization, each bridge possesses unique qualities not found elsewhere. There are bridges and then there are ***bridges with vista!*** Dennis Adams recently reminded us that our byway travelers enter our A1A Coastal Byway from many areas – not just north to south or south to north. Leading to and on our byway you will find: The Palm Valley Bridge (Intracoastal Waterway) at SR 210; The Vilano Bridge (named after Francis and Mary Usina) on A1A; the famous Bridge of Lions in downtown St. Augustine on A1A; the Mickler-O'Connell Bridge at SR 312; the Crescent Beach Bridge at SR 206; the Matanzas Inlet Bridge; the north Summer Haven Bridge, the last bridge leading to Marineland south of Summer Haven; the Hammock Dune Bridge in Palm Coast; and the Flagler Intracoastal Waterway Bridge at Flagler Beach. All attest to the coastal essence of our byway rich in estuaries and ocean views.

The height and vision of the bridges reminds me of where the Corridor Management Plans guide us....upward to higher goals of preservation, protection and enhancements for A1A. Recently grant writers for Flalger County (Brenda Akins), St. Johns County (Vickie Renna), Flagler Beach (Caryn Miller), and St. Augustine Beach (Melissa Burns) and the Town of Marineland (Kristee Booth) submitted National Scenic Byway grant requests which may help us bridge the corridor implementation gaps. With business and government support, our group and all the neighborhood associations along the corridor can continue ***building bridges with vision!***

Sallie O'Hara, Byway Program Administrator





Bridge of Lions Restoration Miraculous Matanzas Inlet Palm Valley Bridge

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Who' Who on the A1A Byway

<p>Kathy Fleming, Executive Director of the St. Augustine Lighthouse, successfully conducted the 13th Annual Lighthouse Celebration on March 17th. Record numbers of visitors enjoyed climbing the 219 lighthouse steps and viewing the city. The St. Augustine Lighthouse is featured on the A1A Brochure and is one of the highlights in the area.</p>	<p>Michael Wallwork, local highway engineer and planner from Orange Park, rejoined the St. Johns County Corridor Management Council meeting in February offering insights into county plans for maintenance and improvements along A1A promoting pedestrian friendly roadways.</p>
<p>Dr. Michael Shirley, joined the GTM NERR as the new Director in January and is including the Friends of A1A in his long list of community groups involved in renewing a management plan for new improvements in the North and South ends of the preserve.</p>	<p>Pat Hamilton, leader of the South Anastasia Communities Association, along with David Wiles and others are working to save tortoises from developers in relocation efforts underway. Involved in the effort are volunteers in both Flalger and St. Johns Counties. Sea Turtles are high on their concerns as well.</p>
<p>Vivian Browning, chair of the Vilano Main Street group, continues to monitor the progress of the restoration in the Town of Vilano. As part of a major Community Redevelopment Area, the main street scaping of Vilano is expected to be complete by late summer given natural cooperation of weather</p>	<p>Ann Wilson, Barbara Jenness, Garry Balogh, Sallie O'Hara, and Kristee Booth will be attending the Baltimore Maryland National Scenic Byways Conference on May 20th through May 23rd. In addition to many informative workshops, the attendees will experience field trips to National Scenic</p>

and working conditions.	Byway destinations – such as Gettysburg.
<i>Barbara Jenness</i> , Board Member, and <i>Wil Smith</i> , St. Johns Parks and Recreation Manager and grantwriter, attended a March Historic Preservation Grant Review on behalf of the Friends of A1A and South Anastasia Communities Association to obtain grant funding to renovate Windswept Acres for a byway interpretive center. Of more than 80 projects reviewed, the St. Johns County grant did not make the funding cut, however plans will move forward by other means.	<i>Dennis Clark</i> , Scenic PRIDE A1A Site Review Chair, is busy working with the Flagler County staff and the community residents to refine the Site Review Protocols for development in the county. The integrated practice of involving government, citizens and planners is hailed as an innovative approach to preservation and enhancement of the National Scenic Byway.
<i>Charlie Helm</i> , <i>Mary Ann Ruzewski</i> , <i>Catherine Wilson</i> , and <i>Teri Pruden</i> , Flagler Beach community activists, are busy crafting language for the Ocean Shore Heritage Marker which the Friends of A1A will be erecting at three or four specific sites along the corridor.	<i>Lea Stokes and the Flagler Beach Rotary Club</i> are thrilled the Friends of A1A will have designated volunteers for the 100 mile bike ride at vital stops in St. Johns and Flagler Counties for the upcoming Century Bike Ride on May 6 th . The event is a major fundraiser for the club.

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A1A Byway Community Happenings

Regional Workshop – On February 26th the Land Acquisition Management Program held a regional workshop at Princess Place Preserve to discuss regional strategies for St. Johns, Flagler, and Volusia Counties – many commissioners, county staff and state agency representatives were in attendance. Representatives from the Florida Communities Trust were present. The FCT is instrumental in identifying and purchasing Greenway and Blueway lands for future conservation.

Lighthouse Association – The Friends of A1A are partnering with the statewide event planners for a Spring 2008 statewide lighthouse event. This event will have bikers stopping at eight Florida Lighthouses – most of which are located on A1A along the coast. Affiliated with the local St. Augustine Lighthouse is the LAMP (Lighthouse Archeological Maritime Program) which had its inaugural North East Florida Symposium on Underwater Archeology held at Guana Tolomato Matanzas Estuarine Research Reserver (GTM NERR) on March 20th – 22nd. The event features more than 14 notable speakers from around Florida.

Films – Chuck Pfarrer, Hollywood screenwriter renowned for the “Jackel”, “Red Man”, and “Navy Seals” film productions is planning an independent full length film on Fort Mose, the first free black settlement in America. Fort Mose is one of those nearby planned destination along A1A slightly north of the St. Augustine. Other films being made in St.

Johns County this spring include: “The Legend of the Red Reaper” a mystical story of a heroine, Aella, whose people, the Reapers, are fighting for their lives filmed at the Castillo de San Marcos by the dean Production Group; “Elliot Rocket,” a major motion picture featuring Sharon Stone partially filmed in Ponte Vedra; and an independent film on scouting to be staged near Washington Oaks and the Fountain of Youth.

Erosion Concerns – The new non-profit South Ponte Vedra - Vilano Beach Restoration Association, Inc. has recently formed to establish goals for restoring, protecting and preserving the dune system, habitat and beaches of South Ponte Vedra and Vilano Beach. Its primary focus currently is on sharing information and enlisting the support of the many entities that have an interest in the sustainment of a healthy beach environment. The group meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at the South Ponte Vedra Community Center, at 2724 South Ponte Vedra Boulevard, just south of the Gate Station. Interested participants can send email to the association at info@SPV-Vilano.com, or

contact Tom Turnage at 904-387-0770 or TTurnage@SPV-Vilano.com. More information on the group’s activities can be found at www.SPV-Vilano.com. Concerns of a similar nature are ongoing in Flagler Beach. Commissioner John Feind and Ocean Shore Community Advocacy Group members attended FDOT sponsored public workshops on alternative methods for containment earlier this year.

Neighborhood Association Bill of Rights – The St. Johns County Neighborhood Bill of Rights which passed in January encourages community groups to register voluntarily with county officials in order to be notified of impending government actions affecting their communities. Emails will be issued to key leaders of residential communities informing them of the land use changes proposed in their areas. The on line website resource was launched in early April and may be accessed at http://www.co.st-johns.fl.us/County_Information+/Neighborhood_BillOf_Rights/index.aspx. Sarah Taylor is the county administrative assistant, helping residents with the data process.

Right Whale Watchers – Dr. Jim Hain of the University of Florida’s Whitney Lab has been making his rounds talking with the Corridor Advocacy Groups. He is promoting the Marineland Right Whale Survey Project sponsored by Associated Scientists at Woods Hole

and Marineland. Report Whale Sightings to 1-888-979-4253 and make a difference in tracking and preserving these beautiful creatures. Right whales received their name from early whalers, who considered them “right whale to kill.” Jim and the research teams want volunteers to do the right thing in helping with sightings and the study. Jim spoke to the Ocean Shores A1A CME and the Scenic PRIDE A1A CME in March.

Casa del Mar at Vilano Beach has received designation as the first environmentally friendly hotel in St. Johns County and the 22nd so designated in Florida. The FI Department of Environmental Protection standards for a green hotel involves reusing linens and towels, installing low-flow showerheads and faucets to conserve water, and installing programmable thermostats and sensors for lighting. Just recently the hotel has changed ownership and it will be renamed as a Hampton Hotel.

Event Planning – The Events Committee for the Friends of A1A has established its annual calendar and plan to be involved for the next several months in: Florida’s First Coast Birding and Nature Festival; Earth Day Events at Washington Oaks State Park and the Vilano Beach Annual Turtle Town Coastal Clean-up; the Flagler Rotary Club Bile Florida; the Vilano 5K Run; the Gamble Rogers Folks Festival; and the Anastasia Day in Nature. These venues are in addition to the Friends’ regular presence at community farmers’ markets in St. Johns and Flagler Counties and planned beautification clean-up projects along the byway.

Famous Folks Passing – Bowie K. Kuhn, former Commissioner of baseball, died March 15, 2007. Kuhn and his wife relocated in 1990 to Ponte Vedra Beach after a distinguished career in Baseball’s National Leagues. He was involved in many charitable community activities and authored Hardball, The Education of a Baseball Commissioner.

National Tourism Week – May 12th through May 20th, 2007 – During a recent trip to Tallahassee, the CEO of VISIT FLORIDA announced that the Editor of the London Times will be traveling the A1A Scenic and Historic Byway in May 2007 to encourage tourism to our market from Europe.

Presentations – Sallie O’Hara continues to visit area associations and clubs spreading the word about all good things happening along A1A. Groups such as the Sawgrass Women’s Association, South Beaches Chamber of Commerce, Council on Aging and Rotary are among the groups re-discovering the treasures in our own backyard. Please contact Sallie

for scheduling a presentation soon for your group – 904-540-0402 or

904-425-8055 .

St. Johns County Parks & Recreation – Increased responsibilities are falling on Parks and Recs in St. Johns. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners voted on March 6th to purchase the Fiddler’s Green Restaurant Site to become an Oceanfront Park using a Florida Communities Trust Forever Grant for 75% of the purchase prices. This site is marked with a Florida Heritage Historic Marker where the Vilano Beach Casino stood from 1926- to 1936. The outpouring of community support in favor of parks and not condos turned the tide for the Commissioners to decide in favor of increased recreational future use for the property. Another park along A1A across from the Alligator Farm is slated to be constructed in 2008 and will be named the Anastasia Island Skateboard Park. It is the 2nd skateboard park in the county.

Marineland – The Center for Marine Studies (CMS), located at Whitney Labs located on the Matanzas River, officially opened March 17th. The new 17,000 square foot facility is the home to a rapidly growing elementary school program, *A Day at the Whitney Lab*, and features two teaching labs, aquarium tanks, interactive exhibits, and more. *Evenings at Whitney*, a popular public lecture series, are now held in the east side of the building. For the schedule of informative lectures visit www.whitney.ufl.edu. Whitney Lab has recently adopted a new name – “The Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience” better befitting the focus of studies. And a step across the highway provides travelers with the opportunity

to *Swim with the Dolphins* at the newly renovated oceanarium. Nellie, Marineland's oldest living dolphin, recently celebrated her 54th birthday on February 28, 2007.

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Ginn Championship Hammock Beach Resort Becomes an [Admiral](#) Crew of 72 Charter Member

Bobby Ginn, residential and resort developer and promoter of the Ginn Championship at Hammock Beach, recently enrolled as a charter member for the Crew of 72 for the Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway. The Friends of A1A is one of the area's newest non-profit organizations with a mission to promote, enhance and protect the intrinsic resources of the National Scenic Byway. This A1A corridor stretches 72 miles along the Atlantic Coast in St. Johns and Flagler Counties and is one of 126 such treasured roads in the collection of America's Byways with qualities rich in history, nature, archeology, culture, scenery and recreation. The recreational and coastal qualities of A1A catapulted the A1A Florida Scenic Highway to National designation as a Scenic Byway in 2002. A natural gem along the corridor is The Ocean Hammock Golf Club which boasts a new Jack Nicklaus design featuring six of its 18 holes along the spectacular Atlantic Ocean coastal setting. The Lodge and all its amenities certainly add to the value of the area.

The Ginn Championship at Hammock Beach kicked off its inaugural event this year on March 29th through April 1st with a field of players including 28 of the 30 top golfers in the nation and a \$2.5 million dollar purse. John Suber, Tournament Director for Ginn Sports Entertainment, described the successful event as a tremendous first event. "The community supported us in every way accommodating an estimated 50,000 attendees." In addition to accolades received by local organizers and volunteers, residents of the Hammock reported that it was a very well planned and orchestrated tournament that was executed tastefully and in keeping with the sleepy surrounds of the A1A Hammock area. The Friends of A1A work hard to balance growth with economic development and preserve natural serenity. The city of the Hammock is a small coastal community, just north of Palm Coast, Florida. It is home to a 2-acre Jungle Hut Road Park, an eleven acre park and historical site known as Bing's Landing and the area home to Florida's first territorial representative to the U.S. Congress, Brigadier general Joseph Hernandez.

Champion Tour events generate significant amounts of money for charities. In addition to becoming an "Admiral" level charter member for the Friends of A1A, the Ginn Championship Hammock Beach Resort supports about a dozen other charities in Flagler County including, the Cancer Society, Flagler Hospital and the Boy Scouts. Subers says the Ginn Championship wants to leave an imprint in the community. The Champions Tour's

to Senate Bill 2804 (a transportation bill) that will change Florida's statutes regulating outdoor advertising with regard to "wall wraps" - billboard type advertising affixed to the sides of buildings. The amendment, which is now part of the bill, will allow wall wraps (often referred to as "wall murals" by the outdoor advertising industry) to be; Any Height; Up to 1200 square feet in size; and Spaced as close as 1000 feet on an Interstate. Scenic America and Friends of A1A are actively trying to stop this legislation.



Pelican and Egret



Jellyfish



Turtle

New Digs at Mizell Road Office

The Friends of A1A has moved to the new offices of the St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Department, courtesy of Troy Blevins, Acting Director. The new office, at 2175 Mizell Road in St. Augustine Beach, now has a Comcast internet cable connection, and our own VOIP [voice over internet protocol] telephone service.

Be sure to make a note of our new number: **904-425-8055** . The beauty of the internet is that messages can be retrieved anytime and any place, so rest assured we will get and respond to your calls.



**Friends of A1A Mizell Office
Courtesy of St. Johns County Parks & Recreations**

And Jim Netherton has graciously provided us a recent model Dell desktop computer from Whitney Labs which is more than ample for our needs for months to come.

With minimum additional purchases, and with the additional office furniture and infrastructure provided by Troy, we now have a fully functional office in which to advance the progress of the Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway.

At the moment, Sallie and Bernie take turns staffing the office each morning, and consolidating our records in the new computer. As you may know, Sallie and Bernie have been working on their own notebooks up to now, so this will ensure a complete central database for our operations as all pertinent files are transferred to the office system.

.....And Windswept Park awaits new arrivals in 2008 !!!

Contributed by Bernie Gay

Partners in A1A PRIDE



Publix / Sun Trust Shopping Area at the Hammock in Flagler County

In Flagler County the County Commission voted to require that all developments along the scenic byway needing plat or site plan approval from the Planning Board or County Commission must be reviewed by the scenic A1A Corridor Management Entity (CME). The formal document used for the site plan review is the Site Review Protocol. An excellent example of the use of the Site Review Protocol process is the Publix/Sun Trust Shopping Area at the corner of state road A1A and 16th Road in the Hammock section of Flagler County, Florida. It is a six-acre commercial development containing a bank and a supermarket.

The property owner's family had owned the property since the 1960s, and she wanted the property to be a model for development on the Scenic Byway and wanted to save as much of the tree canopy as possible. A local arborist was hired to work with the CME site review committee and the developer and evaluate the trees on the property to identify what trees could be saved. The landscape architect and the builder also worked closely with the committee. The county planning and engineering departments provided a lot of assistance in conceptual review of the site plan. FDOT worked closely with the committee and the developer to keep the scenic highway a two-lane road with safe turnoffs. Members of the Site Review Committee provided planning assistance to achieve the goals of internal connectivity, pedestrian convenience, and architectural style in keeping with the Hammock area. Although this property is zoned C-2 general commercial/shopping center, the property was not developed as a strip center with lifeless parking lots adjoining the highway. Instead, it has been built as a park like setting that meets the Corridor Management Plan goals. After many draft versions of the site plan, the end product saved much of the magnificent tree canopies.

Three 60-inch oaks were preserved and 70% of the index tree caliper inches saved. The natural vegetation on the site has been enhanced through a lush landscaping plan. The perimeter buffers are living walls of native vegetation instead of the usual structural walls. The grocery is not the typical 54,000 square foot box style but a resort sized, upscale grocery of less than 29,000 square feet. It is tucked unobtrusively into the A1A-16th Road

intersection. There also is a national bank on the south side of the property. Both buildings use an Old Florida Key West architectural style; the market has synthetic wood siding, Hardiplank, used for the exterior walls. Both buildings are set within the native canopy.

Significant scenic benefits are the result of all partners collaborating in site plans. The architectural front of the grocery store has been pulled up to the street for a pedestrian scale orientation. The main AIA bike path has been routed into the tree canopy near the grocery front and bike path extensions take the traveler to the front door of the grocery. The interior parking lot has many enhancements, including a pedestrian corridor that connects the grocery and the bank. The corridor has an avenue feel with a walkway lined with sable palms. Within the main parking area are a number of landscaped islands including a larger one that saves a 60-inch oak. There are no rectangular retention ponds on the site, as all are shaped to protect the root zones of index trees. There are two main entries, from 16th Road and from State Road AIA, which reduce traffic loading on AIA because of the connectivity of 16th Road east to the beach communities.



Volunteers of AIA PRIDE performing Site Review

Contributed by George Harnden; pictures by Dennis Clark

Friends Helping Friends

The Friends of AIA are working closely with the Friends of Vialno, the Friends of Guana, the Friends of Washington Oaks, and the Friends of Anastasia to support each others efforts along the National Scenic Byway. Travelers and residents may find our promotional products available in several of the community venues and online. Anyone wishing to order

special products with America's Byways or the Spoonbill logo on it, please contact Sallie or [Bernie Gay@ScenicA1A.org](mailto:Bernie_Gay@ScenicA1A.org) (904-425-8055). We have t-shirts, polo shirts, hats and other novelties.