

Scenic Watch



News
April
2021

Earth Day: "Florida Springs film series: Biodiversity"



Photo: Florida Museum

"...Watch two free films online and register to view a corresponding panel discussion about the important role of Florida springs with the Florida Museum of

Natural History and the UF Thompson Earth Systems Institute.

The films, 'The Santa Fe River Turtle Project' and 'Welcome to the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex,' will be posted online at the museum's website and YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/channel/UCv0fbbG8Lgnuk-InziLDZ1Q, for six days from April 22-27 with the panel discussion held the last day.

Documentary filmmakers Eli O'Hearn and Eric Flagg make up the panel along with Santa Fe College biology professor and Santa Fe River Turtle Project leader Jerry Johnston. It will be moderated by Stacie Greco, water conservation coordinator at the Alachua County EPD..."

-- Danielle Ivanov, Gainesville Sun

[Read entire article](#)

[Register online here](#)

[Visit Florida Museum's site for complete details about this event](#)

"A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway wins NSBF Byway Community Award"

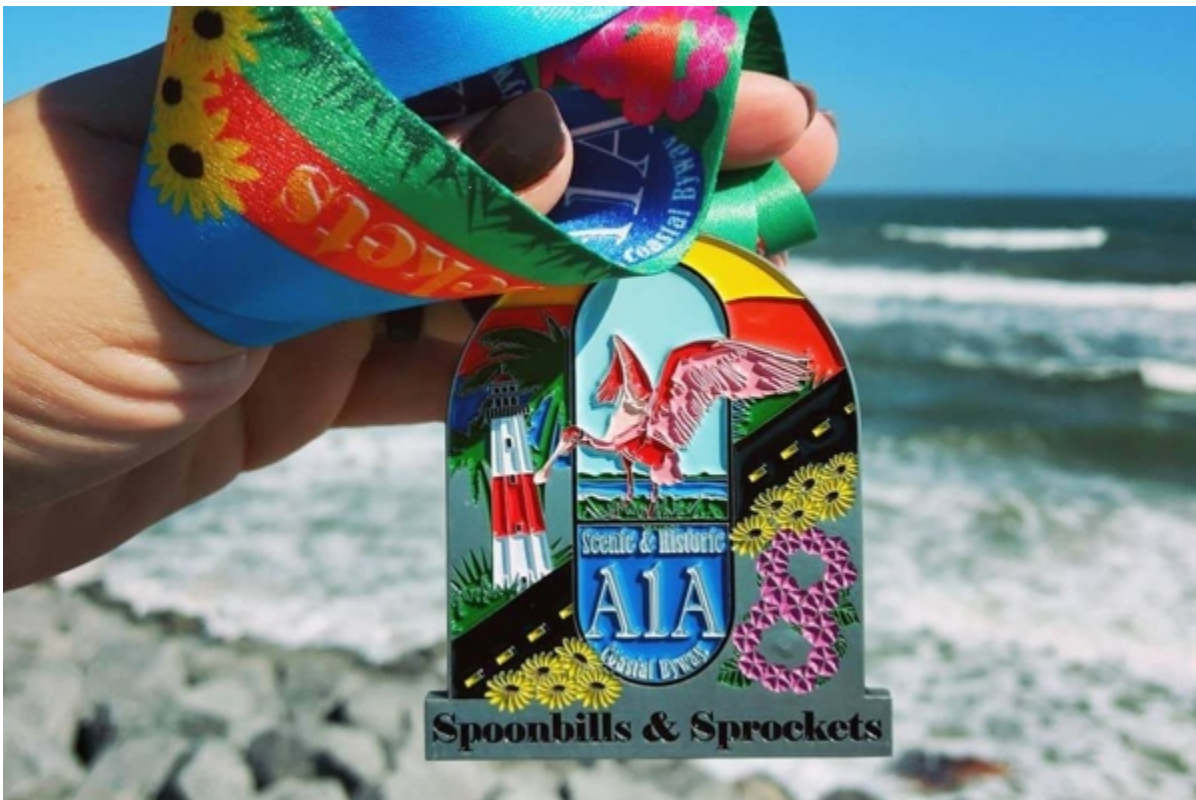


Photo: Spoonbills and Sprochets in Palm Coast Observer

"The A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway is a winner of the 2021 National Scenic Byway Foundation's Byway Community Award for its eighth-annual Spoonbills and Sprockets Cycling Tour - Crazy 8's event. In its 10th year (2021), the Spoonbills and Sprockets Cycling Tour won in the Event Category. It introduces the byway to new participants while challenging our returning riders to see the byway with fresh eyes through requiring eight selfies of their time along A1A to win prizes.

From photos at the historic Marineland Dolphin Adventure to the Castillo de San Marcos, the Bridge of Lions, the St. Augustine Alligator Farm, and south to the beaches and waterways along A1A in Flagler County, riders compared photos and laughed together at the Marineland attraction after-party.

Spoonbills and Sprockets Cycling Tour is an example of a byway best practice that has grown through the cycling community's support and has developed a reputation for excellence. While keeping the fundamentals in place, adding a new element each year keeps it fresh and fun. From designing custom medals and signature jerseys each year, creating a theme, and wowing our riders with celebrity entertainers and unique activities, it never seems like the same event twice! And SAG/rest stops are at locations along the byway, which correspond to our A1A Scenic Byway Mobile Tour..."

-- National Scenic Biway Guest, Palm Coast Observer

[Read entire article](#)

[Read more about the A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway](#)

[Read more about the National Scenic Byway Foundation](#)

Jacksonville Update: What do the 5G poles look like now that they are installed in historic Riverside?



Photo: Resident Community News

"Tall, black, monolithic poles are starting to crop up in Riverside...



Photo: Resident Community News

To work effectively, the towers must be spaced close to each other, approximately 200 feet apart, said District 14 City Councilwoman Randy Defoor..."

-- Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

[Read entire article](#)

"Volusia County to conserve portion of Ormond Scenic Loop - 71,000 signatures were collected in hopes to save land from development"



Photo: Molly Reed, WKMG News 6 Orlando

"Residents who had been fighting to stop planned development along a beloved scenic route in Volusia County have won their battle.

The county council on Tuesday voted to buy 36 acres of historic land on the Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail.

'The public literally rose up and supported this project,' Founder of Dream Green Volusia Suzanne Scheiber said.

Scheiber's organization handed out over 600 yard-signs and collected 71,000 signatures in hopes to save the land from development.

'If you drive the loop today you can see all of the developments, you can see all the traffic and you can see the loss of wildlife habitat,' she said.

Scheiber was able to get the developer of the plantation oaks subdivision to sell 36 acres to the county for \$988,000. The organization raised money to help with that cost, too.

'We raised collectively with North Florida Land Trust \$26,250,' she said.

On Tuesday, the council voted to do that, after the county ECHO committee approved the land as historic with portions of Old King's Road running through it.

'Old Kings Road was built by the British in the 1700s and it was called an engineering treasure and one of the most important roadways in the growth of Florida,' Dona Butler with the county's community services said..."

-- Molly Reed, WKMG News 6 Orlando

[Read entire article](#)

Leesburg Historic Preservation: "Lee School plan gets planning and zoning blessing for multi-family housing"



Photo: Cindy Peterson

"...While the main building will stand, other buildings will be razed on the five-acre site, including a large brick building just north of the main building..."

Plans meet four city goals and requirements...remove blight, fit in with the city's

Historic District, and be compatible with the Downtown Master Plan and surrounding zoning.

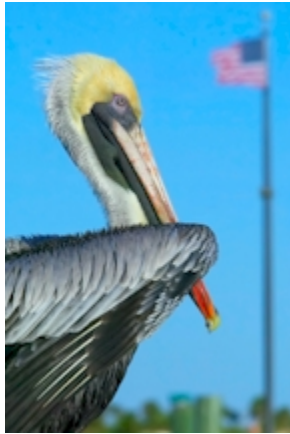
Currently, the rundown buildings are an eyesore and a sometime home for vagrants and homeless people.

The back-and-forth sales and proposals for the old school site are almost as historic as the building, which was erected in 1915.

Former mayor and president of the Leesburg Heritage Society, Sanna Henderson, is onboard with the plan."

-- Frank Stanfield, Daily Commercial

[Read entire article](#)



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