

July 24, 2018

## **Concerned about Water Quality and Water Use in St. Johns County? Become a Water Advocate!**

St. Johns County Audubon (SJCA) is looking for motivated individuals interested in improving the water resources of St. Johns County. SJCA recently was awarded a grant from the National Audubon Society to help St. Johns County residents develop their own local water advocacy projects.

St. Johns County is undergoing another period of rapid commercial and residential development, which affects the quality of our water and places future supplies in jeopardy. We need Water Advocates to spread awareness and encourage responsible water stewardship to the public, local government officials, and homeowner and condominium associations. You can be part of this important mission!

Under this grant program, SJCA and our allies will assist you as you develop your own advocacy project. *Individuals can join the program, but we also welcome teams that will work on a project together.* We will offer educational workshops and coaching from environmental professionals to help you begin the process, and provide feedback and guidance as you create your project. Projects could include (but not be limited to), developing a program on responsible water use to be given to HOA or condominium boards, developing a bird-friendly community program that discusses responsible water use for local officials and HOA boards, or developing a project to advocate for the restoration of a particular habitat. We are also looking for projects that could be beneficial across the economic sectors and geographic sectors of the County, from agricultural to tourism, and from the St. Johns River to our beaches.

Partnering with the Friends of the GTM Reserve (Friends), SJCA will do the following:

- Assist the Water Advocate in developing a realistic project for their local community
- Provide factual information that they will need to be a successful advocate
- Provide advocacy skills training
- Act as a clearinghouse for experts who can help the Water Advocate in the field
- Provide up to \$300 per Water Advocate for project costs, such as the development of written materials, general printing, and mailing

Water Advocacy training will start this fall and projects will be funded through July 2019. If you are interested in becoming a Water Advocate or would like further information, please contact Amy Koch at [president@stjohnsaudubon.com](mailto:president@stjohnsaudubon.com), or Chris Farrell at [cfarrell@audubon.org](mailto:cfarrell@audubon.org).

To apply, please send Amy or Chris (1) a brief biographical description of yourself and/or team members and why this program interests you, (2) your initial ideas on what type of project you might create or what audience you would like to connect with, and (3) an estimate of how many hours per month you could devote to your project.

We are accepting applications through September 15, 2018.