



The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

Special Edition

October 2018

Our Mission:

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Editor's Note: If you do not see photos below, click on "display images" in your email program.

RSVP Today!
Water Currents:
Causes, Solutions & Actions
Impacting Water Quality

LWV of Sanibel
Program and Luncheon
Thursday, November 15, 2018

Expert Panel Featuring:
John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper
James Evans, City of Sanibel Director
of Natural Resources, and
Rae Ann Wessel,
Natural Resources Policy Director, SCCF

We kick off the 2018-19 Series of LWV of Sanibel luncheon programs with a topic that is high on the list of concerns for every resident and visitor to Sanibel and for all environmentally aware people up and down both coasts of Florida. We have asked the experts to take off the kid gloves and tell it like it is. The election will be behind us, we will have a new governor, and we will be curious to learn how the elections will affect our panelists' strategies as they continue advocating for water quality.

We will be particularly interested to hear our panelists provide us with "insider" information on the most relevant questions, such as: Who is responsible for water quality? What can be done to improve water quality? How will the reservoir impact/help water issues? What can the public/legislature do to improve water quality in the short and long term? And much more.

If you have spent the late spring and summer months with tears in your eyes, both literally and figuratively, from the blue-green algae and red tide disaster affecting our waters and wildlife, and for those who are just coming back to the stark realities, you will want to hear from this outstanding panel. All of them have been central to the ongoing dialogue and strategies involving the past and current impacts of red tide and blue-green algae on our local and all of Florida's incredible waterways and the wildlife living in our midst.



John

John Cassani accepted the position of Calusa Waterkeeper in December, 2016, licensed through the Waterkeeper Alliance. John's professional career as an ecologist started in Lee County in 1978 after he received degrees in Biology and Fish and Wildlife. From 1978 to 2014 he worked as a resource manager for local government, managing waterways of southwest Florida. He has authored both peer-reviewed science publications and popular media sources on resource management, history, water policy and conservation issues. John is a courtesy faculty member at FGCU in the Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences with research interests in the areas of exotic species and biodiversity. His service on advisory boards, commitment to community and involvement with land and water conservation has received recognition from various civic groups. Because of his expertise as a fisheries scientist and water manager, he has been sought as a consultant to private industry, government and academia.



James

James Evans is the Director of Natural Resources for the City of Sanibel, where he has worked as a biologist and resource manager for the past 18 years. He has a B.A. in Environmental Studies and a M.S. in Environmental Science from FGCU. As part of his graduate research, James investigated the influence of freshwater inflow on fish and invertebrates in Estero Bay. Prior to working with City, James was employed by the Center for Environmental Studies, where he monitored tape grass, oysters, and water quality in the Caloosahatchee River and estuary as part of the South Florida Water Management District's Valued Ecosystem Component Study. Most recently, he authored the Caloosahatchee Watershed Regional Water Management issues white paper, a document outlining short- and long-term strategies to address the freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee watershed.



Rae Ann

Rae Ann Wessel is the Natural Resources Policy Director for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. She is an expert in freshwater and marine ecosystems; a gifted and knowledgeable limnologist (a scientist who studies fresh water bodies) and marine scientist, with more than 30 years of experience working in South Florida on environmental issues and policy. She was instrumental in the formation in 1994 of the non-profit Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association that focuses on improving the ecological health of the River, promoting public awareness of issues affecting the River, and monitoring governmental agencies responsible for management of the River

and its watershed. Rae Ann is appointee to the 2020 Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Committee and has received a number of awards for her environmental work.

When: Thursday, November 15. Registration at 11:30 am for the noon to 2 pm luncheon and program, with time for Q&A.

Where: The Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel

RSVP: [Click here](#) to reserve your place by email, or call Robyn Cook at 239-312-4996.

Deadline to RSVP (or to cancel a reservation) is by NOON, Monday, November 12.

Cost: \$25 per person. Mail your check with names of all attendees to: LWV Sanibel, PO Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957. Or you may pay at the door. Please note: Because LWV Sanibel is required to pay for each reserved meal, persons with unpaid or absent reservations will be billed.

Those who would like to attend just the program are welcome to do so. Please let us know ahead of time and we will arrange a seat for you. Arrive around 12:30 pm.

2018-2019 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors

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2018-2019 Nominating Committee

Robin Krivanek (Chair), Judy Adler, Linda Kramer, Bob Terry

LWVS Founders, aka "founding mother's"



Carla Benninga
 Linda Kramer
 Linda Robison

LWV Sanibel Board Meetings

Members are invited to attend all board meetings, which are held at Noon during the second Thursday (with one exception*) of the month at the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank: November 7 (*Wednesday), December 13, January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11.



Try it FREE today.

League of Women Voters of Sanibel | P.O. Box 1194 | Sanibel | FL | 33957