

**FRIENDS OF  
THE LOWER  
SUWANNEE &  
CEDAR KEYS  
NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGES**

**Annual Meeting  
2025**



## ▶ Program

- ▶ Notables for 2024
- ▶ Election of officers
- ▶ What's on the horizon for 2025
- ▶ Andrew Gude  
Refuge Update
- ▶ Feature presentation by  
Desiree Sorenson-Groves
- ▶ Luncheon provided by  
Treasure Camp
- ▶ John Thalacker will lead  
the Cypress Wetland  
Walk



# Notables for 2024



- ❑ Strategic Planning Meeting  
Wakulla Springs  
January 2024



# Notables from 2024



- ❑ Roving Refuge Rover
  - ❑ Dogs in the Park
  - ❑ Old Florida Celebration of the Arts
  - ❑ Summer Solstice at Shell Mound
  - ❑ Florida Manatee Festival



# Notables from 2024

## Vista Cook's House weatherization project continues



# Notables from 2024



- ❑ Summer Solstice at Shell Mound
- ❑ Hunter's section of website improved





## Notables from 2024

- ❑ Hurricanes: Idalia, Helene, Debby required support and put stop to many activities (butterfly walk, Seahorse Key open houses, festivals, Junior Ranger programs, and more)
- ❑ Dennis Creek Trail cleanup
  - ❑ Loss of River Trail
  - ❑ Seahorse Key severely damaged
  - ❑ Shell Mound Pier re-damaged
- ❑ Representative Kat Cammack visits Refuge - hoping for support for law enforcement officer and hurricane relief





## Some Good News!

- ❑ **Winter Solstice** held at Tiki Bar due to damaged Shell Mound Pier
- ❑ Vista's Cook House survived hurricanes with no damage!
- ❑ November Board Retreat - board function improvement exercises; goals for 2025-2026 term
- ❑ Suwannee 22's - successful migration to South America days before Hurricane Debby





# Financial Summary

	2023	2024
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$40,161</b>	<b>\$57,011</b>
<b>General Income</b>	<b>33,293</b>	<b>15,300</b>
<b>Grant Income</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>55,600</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>48,293</b>	<b>70,900</b>
<b>General Expenditures</b>	<b>23,921</b>	<b>13,600</b>
<b>Grant Expenditures</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>70,100</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>31,421</b>	<b>83,700</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$57,011</b>	<b>\$44,211</b>

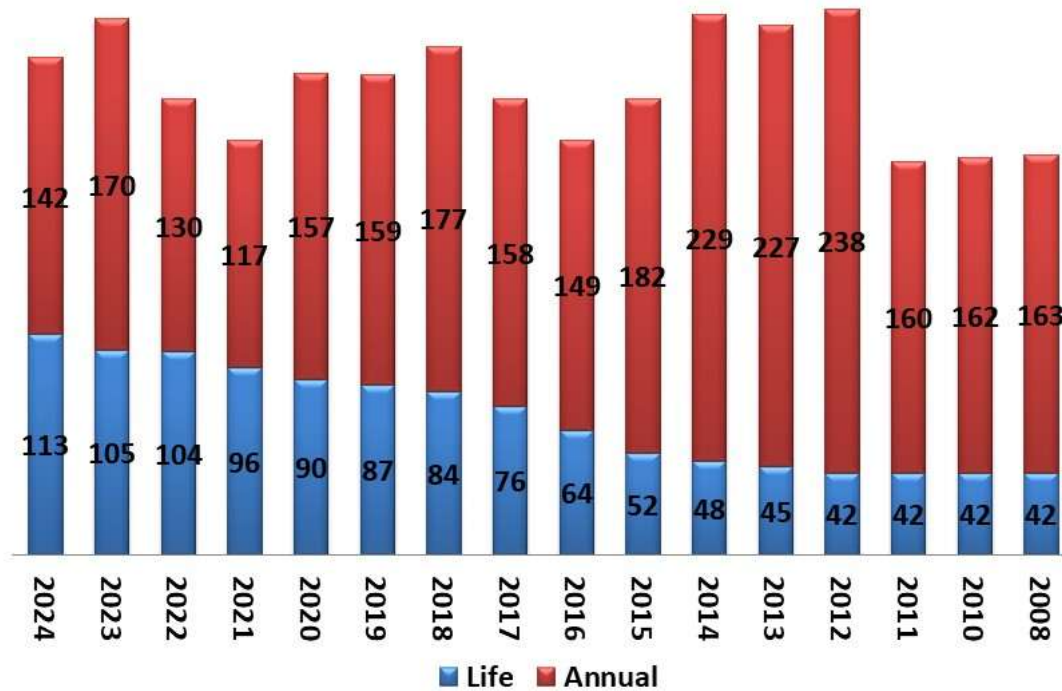
Vista grant income/expenses explains the differences in the beginning and ending balances.



# 2024 Memberships

142 Annual + 113 Life = 255

## Memberships



# Communications Summary

## ❑ News Briefs

- ❑ Monthly email
- ❑ 700 emails - 15% shared addresses
- ❑ Opened 800 times monthly
  - ❑ Popular topics: Vista, solstices, advocacy, online store, annual meeting

## ❑ Website

- ❑ 1,000 unique visits
- ❑ 2,000 pageviews per month
- ❑ Maps, trail guides, hunting and fishing info, Vista Camp projects/history
- ❑ Friends meeting minutes and financials

## Friends of Refuges January News Brief



### Announcement! Announcement!

Friends' Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, Feb 8.

See the details here.

8:00 Optional Bird Walk  
9:30 Sign-in, Friends' merchandise for sale  
10:15 Program begins  
11:15 Feature Presentation  
12:00 Lunch  
12:45 Optional Nature Walk

## Friends of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges

HOME ABOUT JOIN MAPS VISTA WILDLIFE HUNTING ADVOCACY JOURNALISM  
SEARCH STORE CONTACT



Welcome

We are the Friends of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges, a nonprofit organization.

The mission of the Friends of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge is to provide active advocacy and physical support for the successful stewardship of the Refuges.



# 2025 Slate of Officers

- ▶ **Terms of Officers and Directors**
- ▶ President, President-elect, and Immediate Past President serve for one year.
- ▶ Treasurer, Secretary, and Director terms are for two years.



# 2025 Slate of Officers



**Ron Kamzelski**  
President



**Tara Barney**  
President-Elect



**Denise Feiber**  
Past-President



**Pete Tirrell**  
Secretary



**Ethan Bittner**  
Treasurer



# 2025 Slate

## Returning Directors



Ginessa Mahar



Debbie Meeks



John Thalacker



Scott Wright



Robin Gallup



# 2025 Slate

## New Directors



Bob Piscura



Claire Keating



Lukas Desjardins



Ken Gray



# 2025 Slate Vote

Ron Kamzelski - President  
Tara Barney - President Elect  
Denise Feiber - Past President  
Pete Tirrell - Secretary  
Ethan Bittner - Treasurer  
Ginessa Mahar - Director  
Robin Gallup - Director

Scott Wright - Director  
Debbie Meeks - Director  
John Thalacker - Director  
Bob Piscura - Director  
Claire Keating - Director  
Ken Gray - Director  
Lukas Desjardins - Director

**Are there any nominations from the floor?**

Motion to approve ...

Second ...

All in favor ...





# Board Members

## Rolling Off

and we **thank them so** for all their contributions!!!



**Chuck Adams**



**Boyd Kimball**

Others rolling off, but will serve as champions for programs/activities:



**Jeri Treat**  
Outreach



**Bill Dummitt**  
Events



**Linda Kimball**  
Membership



**Dan Kline**  
Insects



# Key Volunteers/Champions



**Peg Hall**

Communications/Advocacy



**Barbara  
Woodmansee**  
Pollinators



**Debbie Jordan**  
Birds



**Dan Kline**  
Insects



**Jeri Treat**  
Outreach



**Jay Bushnell**  
Advocacy



**Bill Dummitt**  
Events



**Linda  
Kimball**  
Membership



**Russ Hall**  
Science

# What's on the Horizon for 2025

