

We Couldn't Do It Without These Folks

Gayle Reynolds from the Manatee-Sarasota Group also received a Panther Award for conservation work in her local group. As co-conservation chair, Gayle has put in many hours of study, meetings and hearings over the last couple of years. She helped the Group form its stance on the Sarasota County 2050 plan, which is a major overhaul of the county's master plan. She has worked on the issue of University of South Florida's expansion onto the Crosley Estate, which is located in a coastal upland area that is very unique. She has done an incredible amount of research, chaired numerous meetings and prepared for a petition and possible lawsuit.



the highest turtle roadkill mortality recorded anywhere. This was also altering the male/female ratio, leaving the female population down and the reproductive potential significantly reduced. He has convinced the Department of Transportation that a permanent ecopassage needs to be constructed to allow the animals safe passage beneath the highway.

Scott Streater, from the Pensacola News Journal, received an Indigo Award for environmental reporting. His articles have become a critical part of local decision-making. In 1999 a grand jury was convened in Pensacola to address environmental issues in Escambia County, the most polluted county in Florida. Much of its information came from leads given in Streater's articles. One of his series revealed the staggering volume of toxic chemicals released into the air, water, land and underground in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties and the possible contribution of this pollution to the high rates of cancer and other health problems. His latest report on toxics describes some of the improvements that have been made in pollution control in this region. He should take credit for some of this improvement.

Ron Wilson, the Ombudsman with Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), won the Osprey Award, presented for extraordinary effort by a governmental staff person to promote changes in policy to protect Florida's environment. His work has become popular because of a report he drafted relating to a hazardous waste site in Tarpon Springs. According to Mary Mosley from Florida Sierra, "Mr. Wilson has displayed the highest integrity and instituted controls which are beneficial not only for the Tarpon Springs Superfund community, but for Superfund communities across the nation." His effort showed that there are unbiased methods of seeking, and even demanding (legally) the production of data needed to assess environmental health issues. Thanks to his efforts, ATSDR is developing guidelines to demand data and materials from principal responsible parties.

-- Article by Mary-Slater Linn, photos by Kathy Criscola



Linda Jamison with Matthew Aresco

Matthew Aresco of Tallahassee won the Cypress Award, which is given to an individual who has contributed greatly to the public's environmental awareness. Matt has been rescuing thousands of turtles endangered on U.S. Highway 27, which divides 4,000-acre Lake Jackson in Tallahassee. The turtles crossing here were being killed by the thousands, resulting in

Outings Chair Rudy Scheffer Receives National Honors

Long-time Chapter Outings Chair Rudy Scheffer received the Oliver Kehrlein Award for outstanding service to the club's outings program last fall at National Sierra's annual banquet.

Other Florida honorees were:

- Brian Scherf of Hollywood got a Special Service Award for strong and consistent commitment to conservation over an extended period of time.
- Benjamin Brumberg, former ombudsman for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award, which honors persons in public service for strong and consistent commitment to conservation.