



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION  
2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT  
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, Inc.  
Mailing Address: c/o Scott Taylor PO Box 1479 Sorrento, FL 32776-1479  
Telephone Number: 407-381-1144  
Website Address (*required if applicable*): AquaticPreserveAlliance.org (site is under development)  
 Check to confirm your Code of Ethics is posted conspicuously on your website.

**Statutory Authority:**

**Section 20.2551, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit; public records; partnerships.** In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements, operational parameters, duties of a CSO to support the Department of Environmental Protection (Department), or individual units of the Department, use of Department property, audit requirements, public records requirements, and authorizes public-private partnerships to enhance lands managed by the Department.

**Section 20.058, F.S., Citizen support and direct-support organizations.** In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements to submit an annual report each year for each designated CSO and to post that information on the Departments website.

**YOUR MISSION AND LAST CALENDAR YEAR'S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

**CSO's Mission:** *Consistent with your Articles and Bylaws*

The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, Inc. (Alliance) mission is to promote and support charitable, educational, and scientific activities that directly and indirectly benefit the Aquatic Preserves of Central Florida. The organization is dedicated to raising awareness and educating the public about the Aquatic Preserves' ecosystems.

**Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained:** *List or discuss the past calendar year's accomplishments and contributions.*

Please see the attached report on Page 5.

**Describe the CSO's Plans for the Next Three Calendar Years:**

The Alliance will continue to:

- Support Aquatic Preserve volunteer resource management and education/outreach activities; continue to conduct fundraising to support aquatic preserve activities; and "To better serve the needs of basin researchers and the public, a Freshwater Research Center with an education component is envisioned at a direct river access location." *Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, 2014.*
- Work with partners to acquire a suitable location for the Freshwater Research and Education Center, develop a Grants Package for funding solicitation, coordinate stakeholder planning committees, and assist with the relocation of the Aquatic Preserve office.
- Participate in inter-agency working groups and support local environmental organizations on projects and issues which affect the Aquatic Preserves and surrounding areas.
- Enhance and update our website.

**CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:**

**Total Number of CSO General Membership: 22**

**Total Number of Board of Directors: 9**

**Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 491**

**ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:**

**Site Manager's Comments on the CSO & ORCP Relationship and Support:**

*Provide your perspective on*

- *Changing developments of the managed area provided by the CSO.*
- *Effectiveness of the organization in fulfilling their purpose to support the managed area(s).*
- *Effectiveness of the Board of Directors in completing their Annual Program Plan.*
- *The relationship between ORCP and CSO What went well? Are there areas of improvement?*

The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida (Alliance) gained effectiveness in supporting the managed area and completing their Annual Program Plan in 2021 over the previous year. Members assisted with research, educational outreach, technical advising and participation in meetings and projects of local environmental groups and agencies such as the restoration of a section of the Little Wekiva River. The Alliance secured two URLs and is developing a website: [AquaticPreserveAlliance.org](http://AquaticPreserveAlliance.org) (and .com).

The Alliance continued promotion of the Aquatic Preserve Program by coordinating another Clyde Butcher *Living Waters* exhibit in Casselberry, Florida. After the exhibit, board members labeled and packed the 29 images in new protective sleeving purchased by the Aquatic Preserve Society and facilitated transport to the next exhibit. Alliance VP traveled to Clyde Butcher's gallery in Venice, FL to return unsold merchandise from a previous exhibit.

Our major accomplishment for 2021 was slow but steady progress toward the Aquatic Preserve and Alliance's long-term goal of creating a Freshwater Research and Education Center. The Alliance's partnership with the City of DeBary on a Boundary Amendment for the inclusion of 170 riverfront acres into the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway resulted in Board of Trustees approval in May 2021. A subsequent application to the Volusia Forever program was approved by Volusia County to provide Volusia Forever acquisition funding for this project.

Open communications between the Alliance and the ORCP, from the Aquatic Preserve Manager to the Director, are amicable and frequent, in part due to the Alliance President and Vice President's continued service on the Aquatic Preserve Society's Board.

**CSO President's Comments on the CSO & ORCP Relationship and Support:**

*Provide your perspective on the relationship between ORCP and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?*

The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida (Alliance) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (ORCP) work well together to accomplish mutual goals. The Alliance frequently works closely with the Aquatic Preserve (AP) Manager on numerous projects and activities. Two Alliance Board members serve on the Board of the Aquatic Preserve Society (APS) and the Alliance President is also the VP of the APS. They attend monthly teleconference meetings with APS which are also frequently attended by the AP Manager, ORCP liaison, and often by the ORCP Director. ORCP is consulted where Alliance issues require interaction with ORCP, as in the Boundary Amendment submitted to Division of State Lands for inclusion in a Florida Forever project. ORCP assists the Alliance as needed and we believe we have an excellent working relationship with the AP Manager and the Tallahassee team.

**SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, SPECIFIC MANAGED AREA(S) SUPPORT:**

**Program Service Expenses** are costs related to providing your organization's programs or services in accordance with your mission. For CSO's provide expenses that directly support the managed area(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expense of the organization. For the last calendar year provide totals \$ for each that apply.

Building improvement, construction or renovations	\$ 0
Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation)	\$ 0
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$ 0
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$ 0
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$ 0
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$ 0
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	\$ 0
Managed area employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or	\$ 0
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$ 0
Managed area exhibits, displays, signage	\$ 0
Managed area publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$ 0
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$ 0
Other program services	\$ 150
<b>Total Program Service Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 150</b>

**Total Operating Expenses** (Overhead including fees, memberships, postage, rent, utilities, etc.) **\$ 65**

**Visitor Services Revenue**

Managed area gift shops, craft stores and concession sales	\$ 0
Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.)	\$ 0
Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.)	\$ 0
Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.)	\$ 0
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.)	\$ 0
Donation boxes	\$ 500
Other visitor services revenue	\$ 0
<b>Total Visitor Services Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**Other Revenue**

Public Interest Funding	\$ 5,000
Other Revenue	\$ 0

**Balance**


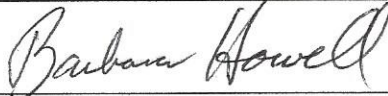
<b>Beginning Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,676.44</b>
<b>Ending Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 11,176.44</b>

**CSO AUDIT:**

**Total of Last Calendar Year's Expenses (including grants) \$215.00**

Section 215.981(2), Florida Statute requires an independent CPA audit using Government Audit Standards ([U.S. GAO Yellow Book](#)) when the CSOs annual expenses are \$300,000 including grants. The audit is **due by September 1** (or 9 months after the CSO's calendar year ends) to the Florida Auditor General and to the Department.

This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes

Title	Name	Signature	Date
CSO President	Deborah Shelley		6/01/2022
ORCP Site Manager	Barbara Howell		6/01/2022

- CSO's Code of Ethics is attached
- CSO has attached the most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N Receipt. All IRS Form 990's must be *complete* with Part III Program Service and *all* appropriate Schedules (A, O and others as appropriate). If filing an IRS extension, attach the IRS 8868 receipt and the most recent 990 and schedules.

## **Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida**

### **Annual Report January – December 2021**

#### **Brief Description of the Alliance Results Obtained:**

Alliance Meetings - Officers were elected at the February 2021 Board Meeting. Elected officers were Deborah Shelley/President, Dean Barber/Vice President, Scott Taylor/Treasurer, Patricia Smith/Secretary. President Deborah Shelley, Vice President Dean Barber, and other board members met with each other, the Aquatic Preserve Manager, or volunteers two to three times monthly by phone or in person to discuss or implement various planned activities and events. An annual meeting was held in Winter Garden on 12/03/2021. A new Technical Advisor was added to the team.

Aquatic Preserve Society (APS) - Alliance President and Vice President (VP) participated in monthly Teams meetings as Board members of the APS. Alliance President continued to serve as the VP of the APS and took minutes of several Board meetings in the absence of a secretary.

*Living Waters and the Florida Landscape* Exhibit - Alliance members coordinated, promoted, and staged a joint exhibit with Clyde Butcher's photographic images and paintings created by members of the Pastel Society of Central Florida. The exhibit was displayed during the month of June. After the exhibit, the 29 *Living Waters* images were labeled and packed in new protective sleeves and prepared for transport to the next two exhibits planned for St. Lucie County.

Education Programs - President prepared and presented education programs to Ocklawaha Valley Audubon, Oakwood Nature Club, and the Lake County Conservation Council on the *History of the Wekiva River* and *How Land Acquisition and Conservation Can Help Protect Water Quality*.

Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc. (FOWR) - Alliance President served as liaison to FOWR and attended monthly Zoom meetings. Alliance Board members continued coordination with the AP Manager and residents along the Little Wekiva River regarding the sand deposition that has filled in parts of the river. Board members reviewed restoration renderings, draft legislation, and participated in several related stakeholder meetings. The Board assisted FOWR with comments to the Lake County Commission on a project that would have impacted wetlands along Shell Creek, a tributary of the St. Johns River reach of the Aquatic Preserve.

Wekiva Wild and Scenic River - The Alliance President was interviewed as a local expert for inclusion in a documentary on the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River. A short-form version of the film was completed and entered in the Florida Environmental Virtual Film Festival which ran from November 12-21, 2021. Produced by Ian Sasso of Pigeon Media, completion of the long-form version is planned for Fall 2022. The Wild and Scenic River Ambassador Ashley Konon, and the AP Manager visited board member Scott Taylor, an experienced videographer who provided technical advice.

Research and Education Center - A 170-acre parcel, submitted to the Florida Forever program by the Alliance in partnership with the City of DeBary, was included in the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway boundary as of May 4, 2021. The Alliance Board assisted the City of DeBary with their Volusia Forever application submittal requesting funding assistance for the parcel. The Board also assisted with written responses to Volusia County staff comments on the original application. The Board also participated in several site visits, including one with U.S. Representative Michael Waltz.

Audubon Annual Christmas Bird Count - Vice President used an Aquatic Preserve boat to assist Audubon birders to survey of a section of the St. Johns River.

River Reconnaissance - Vice President and volunteers paddled Black Water Creek in the spring and fall and the Wekiva River during the summer to assess the status of snags and exotic vegetation and report to the Aquatic Preserve Manager and FWC Invasive Plant Management Section.

Maintenance - Board and volunteers assisted with boat maintenance.