



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION  
2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT  
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: **Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves**

Mailing Address: **13013 Seminole Blvd #1036 Largo, FL 33778**

Telephone Number: **813-389-3359**

Website Address (required if applicable): **<http://tampabayaquaticpreserves.org>**

☒ 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 mission of the Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. is to support the management of Tampa Bay's Aquatic Preserves. This will be accomplished through community/local support of the protection, conservation and restoration of coastal and aquatic resources within the preserves and watersheds as well as fostering public awareness and stewardship within these areas.

**Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained:** Brag! (List or discuss the past calendar year's accomplishments and contributions. Cite specific support from last calendar year's Annual Program Plan.)

-FTBAP volunteers contributed towards time/efforts at the 2024 annual St. Petersburg Boat Show and Shark Con.

-FTBAP volunteers helped to coordinate and sponsor a celebration of the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Boca Ciega Aquatic Preserve at the TBAP staff's new headquarters location. *Activity projected in last year's Annual Program Plan.*

-FTBAP contributed time/efforts and funding towards the Clyde Butcher Living Waters exhibit at TBAP headquarters in Clearwater (exhibit took place from June 5<sup>th</sup> – July 27<sup>th</sup>). Contributions included funding and construction of the physical structures needed for the Clyde Butcher Living Waters exhibit. These walled exhibit structures will also be able to be used by AP staff as well as the Clearwater Historical Society for future exhibits. *Activity projected in last year's Annual Program Plan.*

-FTBAP volunteered at several Tarpon Springs First Fridays to help bring awareness to the work and efforts of AP staff as well as exposure to our citizen support organization.

-FTBAP co-sponsored (with the Clearwater Historical Society) a fund raising event: Beneath the 12 Mile Reef film showing (dinner and a movie).

-During our Annual Meeting/Earth Day celebration - FTBAP presented Dr. Randy Runnels with a plaque expressing appreciation for 30 years of dedication and work in restoring, protecting and preserving natural systems within the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves.

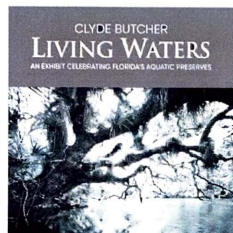
-FTBAP members contributed man hours towards AP field work days (over 100 hours). Several of our volunteers assisted with cleanup/planting and invasive plant removal at several islands under the management of the TBAP staff.

-FTBAP contributed funding (light breakfast items) to assist Dr. Runnels in hosting contractors working within the Aquatic Preserve. Dr. Runnels provided valuable information and guidance so as to reduce impacts while removing derelict vessels subsequent to Hurricanes Helena and Milton.

-FTBAP donated Clyde Butcher's recent "Lifeworks in Photography" book (through a member donation to purchase books) books to Brooker Creek Preserve, Clearwater Historical Society and Blake High School's photography department.

-FTBAP has maintained relatively good exposure/following on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

Boca Ciega AP 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



JUNE 5 - JULY 27, 2024  
CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Admission: A \$5 donation



Clyde Butcher Exhibit



Plaque given to Dr. Runnels by FTBAP



Blake High School Students viewing  
Clyde Butcher book donated by FTBAP.



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

- Increase membership through increased public exposure to our CSO.
- Make efforts to develop local school curriculum and bring awareness of our aquatic preserves to K-12 students.
- Continue efforts to install and maintain a demonstration native garden in cooperation with the Clearwater Historical Society on CHS grounds (location of TBAP offices).

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

**Total Number of CSO General Membership: 21**

**Total Number of Board of Directors: 7**

**Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 240**

**ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:**

{Do not duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. in the above Results Obtained.}

**Below, describe the relationship.**

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

No two years are the same for Tampa Bay's aquatic preserves, but the past year was especially challenging with effects of two hurricanes in one season. In addition to their normal supportive activities, the CSO stepped up to provide additional manpower for rehabilitation of storm-damaged island habitats and to support activities like marine debris removal BMP trainings that TBAP provided for contractors.

Of course, the CSO also continued to support TBAP's operations more conventionally through helping with outreach exhibits and sponsoring events. External events like the St Petersburg Boat Show, Shark Con and First Friday events were staffed mon thoroughly and more authoritatively with CSO members as supplements to TBAP staff. In addition to several teachers, several members of the CSO are former staff of TBAP, and these backgrounds proved invaluable in outreach efforts.

One of the aspects of the CSO's activities that continues to be a pleasant surprise is their relationship with the Clearwater Historical Society, which leases office and storage space to TBAP. Together, the two nonprofits have cosponsored several events for the public at the Clearwater Historical Museum's facility. These included an exhibition, with opening event, of Clyde Butcher's "Living Waters: Aquatic Preserves of Florida" photographic exhibition, the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for the legislative designation of the Boca Ciega Bay Aquatic Preserve and a dinner and movie night with an aquatic themed movie of local historical importance. The partnership between the CSO and the Historical Society has reached the point where the TBAP manager doesn't need to act as a go-between. Mutual respect and camaraderie between the two organizations continues to grow, and that benefits the efforts of TBAP.

The strength of the CSO is the knowledge and enthusiasm of its board members, who, collectively, represent many years of coastal management experience. They immediately understand the issues and projects faced by TBAP, and they often bring outside knowledge to help address these challenges. They are excellent communicators, both internally and with the public, and this helps the organization bridge the gap between the TBAP program and the citizenry it serves. Having such an engagege board makes the integration of the CSO and the TBAP program almost seamless.

Now that the CSO has become pretty well established, they have indicated that they intend to find ways to boost membership in the CSO. This would benefit TBAP considerably, as there is plenty of work for volunteers in habitat enhancement, public outreach and nearly any aspect of TBAP's work.

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

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

We have a very good working relationship between our CSO and the Tampa Bay AP staff. Our CSO has a tremendous respect and appreciation for Dr. Runnels and his staff. We see the difference that the AP staff is making within the Tampa Bay region and have a deep gratitude for their efforts. This is significant - considering the amount of work that gets done with a such a lean staff. Communication between AP staff and CSO board members occur on a consistent basis. Recent efforts such as the purchase and assistance with construction of AP kiosk materials demonstrates how well our CSO and AP staff can work together and be efficient - significantly reducing expenditures from the AP budget.

We understand the need to continue to make efforts to grow our membership. This would help to provide for a more consistent volunteer base. We would also like to increase fund raising efforts so that we can better function as a supplementary funding source for needed resources by the AP staff.

**SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR. DIRECT AP(S) SUPPORT & REVENUES:** Program Services are costs related to providing your organization's programs or services in accordance with your mission. Describe and provide expenses that directly support the AP(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expenses of the organization. For the last calendar year provide the total \$ for each that apply.

Building improvement, construction, or renovations .....	\$
Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation) .....	\$
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration) .....	\$
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws) .....	\$
Other facilities and landscape maintenance .....	\$

Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.) .....	\$
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.) .....	\$
ORCP employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or recognition) .....	\$ <b>150.00</b>
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates .....	\$
Preserve exhibits, displays, signage .....	\$ <b>839.54</b>
Preserve publications, brochures, maps, etc .....	\$
Programing/interpretation support material purchases .....	\$
Other program services .....	\$ <b>1975.94</b>
Registration fees for St. Petersburg Boat Show .....	\$ <b>1043.00</b>
Total Program Service Expenses .....	\$ <b>4008.48</b>

**Visitor Services Revenue** are revenues and the resources generated from fundraising on preserve property.

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

**NET ASSETS .....** **\$3881.71**

Organizations end of last year's Total Assets minus Total Liabilities. This is not the above's Visitor Service Revenue minus Program Service Expenses.

#### **CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:**

**Last Calendar Year's Total Expenses (including grants) .....** **\$ 4008.48**

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

#### **CONFIRM ATTACHMENTS:**

**IZ| Code of Ethics**

**IZ| 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 fill appropriate Schedules (A, 0, and others as appropriate). If filing an IRS extension, attach the IRS 8868 receipt and the most recent complete 990 and schedules.**

**2025 CSO Legislative Report Acknowledgment**

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

Signature: Rose Poy

Print name: **Rose Poynor, CSO President**

**Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc.**

Date: **June 1, 2025**

Signature: Randy Runnels

Print name: Randy Runnels, AP Manager

Date: 6-4-2024



**Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc.  
CODE OF ETHICS**

**PREAMBLE**

- (1) It is essential to the conduct and operation of the Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. (herein “FTBAP”) that board members, officers and employees be independent and impartial and that their position not be used for private gain. Therefore, the Florida Legislature in Section 112.3251, Florida Statute (Fla. Stat.), requires that the law protect against any conflict of interest and establish standards for the conduct of CSO board members, officers and employees in situations where conflicts may exist.
- (2) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state that no FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties for FTBAP. To implement this policy and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people in Citizen Support Organizations, there is enacted a code of ethics setting forth standards of conduct required of Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc., board members, officers, and employees in the performance of their official duties.

**STANDARDS**

The following standards of conduct are enumerated in Chapter 112, Fla. Stat., and are required by Section 112.3251, Fla. Stat., to be observed by FTBAP board members, officers, and employees.

**1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts**

No FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official

## **Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. Code of Ethics – Sept. 2020**

action, or judgment of the FTBAP board member, officer, or employee would be influenced thereby.

### **2. Prohibition of Accepting Compensation Given to Influence a Vote**

No FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall accept any compensation, payment, or thing of value when the person knows, or, with reasonable care, should know that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the FTBAP board member, officer, or employee was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

### **3. Salary and Expenses**

No FTBAP board member or officer shall be prohibited from voting on a matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as a FTBAP board member or officer, as provided by law.

### **4. Prohibition of Misuse of Position**

A FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall not corruptly use or attempt to use one's official position or any property or resource which may be within one's trust, or perform official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption.

### **5. Prohibition of Misuse of Privileged Information**

No FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall disclose or use information not available to members of the general public and gained by reason of one's official position for one's own personal gain or benefit or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity.

### **6. Post-Office/Employment Restrictions**



## **Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. Code of Ethics – Sept. 2020**

A person who has been elected to any FTBAP board or office or who is employed by the FTBAP may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the governing body of the FTBAP of which he or she was a board member, officer, or employee for a period of two years after he or she vacates that office or employment position.

### **7. Prohibition of Employees Holding Office**

No person may be, at one time, both a FTBAP employee and a FTBAP board member at the same time.

### **8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting**

A FTBAP board member or officer shall not vote in official capacity upon any measure which would affect his or her special private gain or loss, or which he or she knows would affect the special gain or any principal by whom the board member or officer is retained. When abstaining, the FTBAP board member or officer, prior to the vote being taken, shall make every reasonable effort to disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. If it is not possible for the FTBAP board member or officer to file a memorandum before the vote, the memorandum must be filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting no later than 15 days after the vote.

### **9. Failure to Observe Code of Ethics**

Failure of a FTBAP board member, officer, or employee to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the removal of that person from their position. Further, failure of the FTBAP to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection terminating its Agreement with the FTBAP.

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

for Tax-Exempt Organization not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ

2024

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2024 Calendar year, or tax year beginning 2024-01-01 and ending 2024-12-31

B Check if available  
☐ Terminated for Business  
☒ Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less

C Name of Organization: FRIENDS OF TAMPA BAY AQUATIC PRESERVES INC  
2878 Deer Hound Way, Palm Harbor, FL, US, 34683

D Employee Identification Number 84-3755324

E Website:

F Name of Principal Officer: George Skalkeas  
Deer Hound Way, Palm Harbor, FL, US, 34683

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice: We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws.

The organization is not required to provide information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. The rules governing the confidentiality of the Form 990-N is covered in code section 6104.

The time needed to complete and file this form and related schedules will vary depending on the individual circumstances. The estimated average times is 15 minutes.

Note: This image is provided for your records only. Do Not mail this page to the IRS. The IRS will not accept this filing via paper. You must file your Form 990-N (e-Postcard) electronically.