

The *flora*, FAUNA, & FOSSIL Flash

The Volunteer Newsletter of the Florida Museum of Natural History • SUMMER 2009

Florida Museum Volunteers Recognized at the Museum and Beyond

By Julie Crosby

During April, the Museum took several opportunities to recognize its faithful, hard-working volunteers. The recognition efforts were also expanded beyond the Museum, with great success!

The recognition began with the annual volunteer reception April 1 at Powell Hall. Over 100 volunteers and staff enjoyed the beautiful decorations, catered food and relaxed mood set by the lovely guitar music of Mike Boulware. Group photos were also taken and later distributed to everyone who participated.

Forty-six volunteers received the first “years of service” pins, including: 20 years - Albert Caracausa, Betty Haeseker, Jerry Hessels, Pat Hylton, William Keeler, Marion Kissam, Barbara Muschlitz, Annette Perry, Pat Smart, Barbara Toomey; 25 years - Evelyn Hemp; 30 years - Bronia Lowenstein; 35 years - Libby Furlow, Leslie Klein.

The James Pope Cheney Volunteer of the Year Award presentation had an exciting addition this year. For the first time, awards were presented to two volunteers in separate categories - Exhibits and Public Programs and Research and Collections.

Martha Cade was recognized as the research and collections volunteer of the year for her work in the natural history and anthropology divisions, where she has served more than 3,000 hours over the past 13 years. Libby Furlow was honored as the exhibits and public programs volunteer of the year. She has

Letter from the Coordinator



The Museum is full of butterflies this summer, and not just the insect variety! Junior volunteers flit about assisting staff and visitors, and camp children flutter everywhere. Hundreds of butterflies in the Butterfly Rainforest exhibit attract thousands

of visitors and the newest temporary exhibit, “Amazing Butterflies,” opens June 13.

Volunteers help ensure that exhibits are educational and enjoyable. Exhibit docents demonstrate the



Julie Crosby and Director Doug Noble with the Volunteers of the Year Libby Furlow (center left) and Martha Cade (center right). Photo by Jeff Gage.

volunteered for 38 years in at least a dozen positions, including the Museum Associates Board. Happily, two volunteers also received recognition beyond the Museum level. Maureen Anderson, public programs assistant, was honored as the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Arts and Culture Volunteer of the Year at an awards luncheon on April 22. Twelve Florida Museum volunteers belong to RSVP, which is a federal program managed by Alachua County. Maureen has been an invaluable clerical assistant for public programs.

In another exciting recognition program addition, our volunteers of the year were nominated for the Work of Heart volunteer awards program for the first time. Work of Heart is a local recognition event co-sponsored by community organizations. To our delight, Libby Furlow won the Work of Heart award for Arts and Recreation Volunteer of the Year! It was exciting and gratifying to see Libby and Maureen recognized by the whole county with the presentation of these well-deserved awards.

interactive components of the “Amazing Butterflies” exhibit; horticultural assistants ready the Butterfly Rainforest for daily opening; greeters prepare visitors to enter the exhibit; interpreters answer their questions; and plant sale assistants sell lots of butterfly plants. Behind the scenes, 20 volunteers pin, catalogue or research butterfly specimens in the Lepidoptera collections of the McGuire Center.

Thanks to our volunteers, summer is a great time to “hover around” the Museum.

Julie Crosby