



Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 1 October 2011

Inside this issue

Mariano Berrios	1
National Scenic	
Byway Award	1-2
TE Trail Funding	2
Photos	3
Contact Info	3

Message From Mariano Berrios

State Scenic Byways Coordinator

Dear Florida Scenic Highways Colleagues:

I am proud to have been part of the Florida Scenic Highways Program for about 10 years. During that time we have grown into a collection of 25 state scenic highways each one with a unique story to tell to the

scenic highways travelers. I am also proud to say, we have also had the distinction of having 6 of our own scenic highways, designated at the national level. Five of those have been designated National Scenic Byways and one has been designated as an All-American Road. The National Scenic Byways are: Big Bend Scenic Byway, A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway, Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway, Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway and the Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail. The Florida Keys Scenic Highway has had the honor of becoming one of the nation's elite with its designation as an All-American Road.

Whether your highway has been designated at the national or state level, it is the hard work of all the Corridor Advocacy Groups and Corridor Management Entities volunteers that have put their efforts together to say "I have a story to tell and a lot to show you." I personally want to thank all of you for your great work and am proud that you have made the Florida Scenic Highways Program one of the best in the nation. I also want to thank the state agencies members of the Scenic Highway Advisory Committee that volunteer their work to review your National Scenic Byways Grants applications and designation applications. Volunteer agencies are the Department of State – Historic Resources, the Department of Agriculture – Division of Forestry, the former Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Environmental Protection – Office of Greenways and Trails, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Visit Florida. Their work is greatly appreciated.

We have accomplished a lot through the years including providing numerous training sessions; in person, through webinars and through "Lunch on the Byway" teleconferences; and several state-wide workshops, including the latest one in June 2011 in beautiful and historic St. Augustine. With the assistance of the America's Byways Resource Center, additional training and technical assistance has been provided to the designated corridors.

Through the years, the combined amount of grants received from both state sources and National Scenic Byways Grants has surpassed \$32 million. The total length of the state designated highways is now over 1,300 miles.

We have been able to produce materials that assist us in marketing the program, including a statewide map, themed maps, a tourism video and a program specific video. And to top it off, with the assistance of a National Scenic Byways Grant, we were able to create a tourism website and a program website.

There is not enough room in this column to mention all the accomplishments we have made together. I just want to thank all of you for your enthusiasm in participating in the program and most of all for your dedication in heightening the awareness of our state's history and intrinsic resources.

This newsletter is the first one of what I hope will be a continuing and periodic effort. I want to thank Ms. Joan Bernat with the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway who has volunteered to produce this newsletter for the program. Her efforts are really appreciated. Please help us continue with this effort and help us make it an avenue through which we can share information, successes, stories about your corridors, etc. We can only make it better with your help. Feel free to submit articles and ideas to

Joan at spokebusters@gmail.com or
Clint Eliason at ccelison@transystems.com.

Capture Florida! Drive a Scenic Highway!

Local Byway Project Wins National Scenic Byway Award

The A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway in Florida received a 2011 Scenic Byway Award for the Environmental Education Fair, in the Resource Protection category. Presentation was made Aug. 24 at the National Scenic Byways 2011 Conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

The Friends of A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway planned and implemented the Environmental Education Fair to help build appreciation of the byway's resources and foster resource stewardship.

In addition to interactive learning activities, the fair also featured unique aerial art to focus attention on the corridor.

Sponsored by the America's Byways Resource Center, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the prestigious Scenic Byway Awards recognize eight projects of excellence from byway nominations across the country.

Selection by a panel of byway-community experts is based on four criteria, including community involvement and public

Local Byway Project Wins National Scenic Byway Award Continued

outreach; partnerships; advancing the goals of the byway's corridor management plan; and, innovation. The winning projects must also serve as successful models for other byway organizations and corridors.

Anne Wilson, President of Friends of A1A and Sallie O'Hara, Byway Program Administrator accept the 2011 Scenic Byway Award.



Also shown are Gary Jensen, Federal Highway Administration; Michelle Johnson, America's Byways Resource Center; John Horsley, American Association of Highway Transportation Officials; and Curt Pianalto, America's Byways Resource Center.

The A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway is part of the America's Byways collection of 150 distinctive routes designated by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

We hope these winning projects will inspire new efforts to preserve, protect, interpret, and promote the intrinsic qualities along America's Byways," commented Michelle Johnson, director of America's Byways Resource Center.

For information about the A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway and America's Byways, go to www.byways.org

Thanks to everyone, trail funding will continue!

On September 13, 2011, U.S. Senator Tom Coburn (Okla.) pushed to eliminate dedicated funding for the Transportation Enhancements (TE) program in the proposed six-month extension of our federal transportation bill ("SAFETEA-LU"). TE is the nation's largest funding source for trails, walking and bicycling.

After tens of thousands of supporters from around the country encouraged their senators to stand firm behind the program Sen. Coburn withdrew his amendment! Many partners of the National Scenic Byways Program and the Florida Scenic Highways Program helped spread the word.

On September 19 a vote of 92 to 6, the Senate voted to pass a clean extension of our nation's transportation bill including continued dedicated funding for trails, walking and bicycling!

Had the extension not been passed it could have meant many problems for the wealth of trails we have, not only in Florida but in the entire country. This extension will expire at the end of March 2012.

TE improves not only our transportation system, but also our economy, by helping individuals, communities and the nation save money, all the while creating quality jobs.

Name this Newsletter

By Joan Bernat

A newsletter is the most powerful and effective tool that one can use. Most business and companies run their own newsletters because they realize the value of such a practice.

When you are in a library or book store browsing books, what is it that really pushes you to pick up that book off the shelf, when you have a newspaper in your hands, do you read every article, what is it about the article that makes you want to read it? The answer to the questions would most certainly be the title of the book or the head lines on a newspaper article. If the title or headlines are well written it should show you that it is relevant to what you are looking for because there are a dozen of other books and newspaper articles that are calling for your attention.

You might ask the question what does this have to do with our newsletter, good question? It has been suggested it is time to give this newsletter a name, something of which I am not good at. That leaves it up to everyone to come up with a name. "This newsletter is an avenue through to which we can share information, success, and stories about your corridors." Mariano stated in his opening comments. Based on what this newsletter is all about we should be able to come up with an eye catching name. You can email your suggestion to either Joan or Clint.

Joan at: spokebusters@gmail.com

Clint Eliason at ccelison@transystems.com

Website Information

Tourism Website: www.floridascenichighways.com

Program Website: www.floridascenichighways.com/program

Follow us on Twitter: @FLscenichighway"

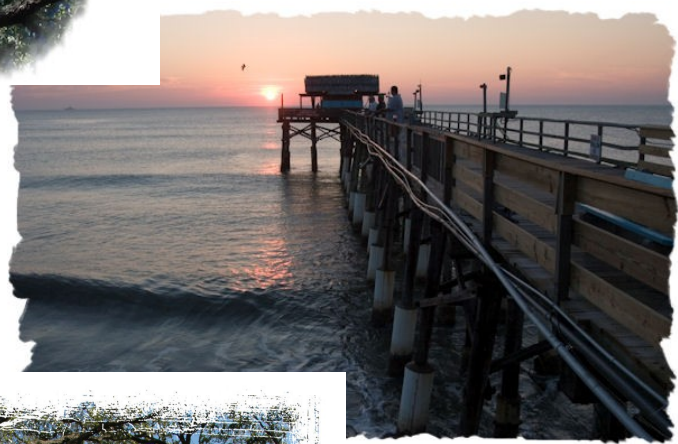
Pictures of Scenic Byways and Highways



A1A Light-house



Florida Keys



Indian River Lagoon



Ormond Scenic Loop

Contact Information

Mariano Berrios—Program Coordinator
 Florida Department of Transportation
 Tallahassee, FL
 Phone: (850) 414-5250

Steffanie Workman —Program Coordinator
 Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise
 Tampa, FL 33610
 Phone: (813) 675-3716

Manon Lavoie—FDOT District 1 Office
 Sarasota, FL 34243
 Phone: (813) 402-4150

Debrah Miller—FDOT District 2 Office
 Lake City, FL 32025
 Phone: (386) 961-7793

Ray La Fontaine—FDOT District 3 Office
 Chipley, FL 32428-0607
 Phone: (850) 415-9507

John-Mark Palacios —FDOT District 4 Office
 FT. Lauderdale, FL 33309-3421
 Phone: (954) 777-4336

Garry Balogh — FDOT District 5 Office
 Deland, FL 32720-6800
 Phone: (386) 943-5393

Paul Moss—FDOT District 6 Office
 Miami, FL 33172
 Phone: (305) 470-5384

Lori Marable — FDOT District 7 Office
 Tampa, FL 33612
 Phone: (813) 975-6405

Joan Bernat — Production Editor
 Email: Spokebusters@gmail.com