



St. Andrew Bay Watch

PROTECTING OUR BAY SINCE 1989

Monitoring, Restoration, Research, Education

St. Andrew Bay Watch Receives St. Joe Foundation Community Grant

St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association, (St. Andrew Bay Watch) receives a \$55,800 St. Joe Foundation Community Grant to assist with funding for a laptop, a waterproof camera and truck capable of towing a trailer and boat.

PANAMA CITY, FL. (JULY 28, 2022) – Since 1989, St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association (St. Andrew Bay Watch) has followed its mission to inspire the citizens of Bay County to protect and improve the ecological integrity of the St. Andrew Bay watershed and its surrounding shorelines and to foster the next generation of watershed stewards. St. Andrew Bay Watch, is a non-profit 501(c)3 citizens group whose members are committed to the proper management of the St. Andrew Bay watershed. St. Andrew Bay Watch recognizes that St. Andrew Bay is Bay County's most valuable natural resource, and that the bay plays a key role in the local economy.

Each month, Bay Watch volunteers and staff monitor water quality at 70 stations across the St. Andrew Bay system. The Water Quality Data collected by these Bay Watch Volunteers is used by local, state, and federal stakeholders to implement Best Management Practices that ensure that St. Andrew Bay meets the standards for intended uses for commercial and recreational fishing, swimming and drinking. St. Andrew Bay Watch also enlists the help of students through its Grasses in Classes (GIC) Program, an environmental education program that engages Bay County youth in their watershed. The program increases environmental literacy through the use of meaningful watershed experiences which culminate in an exciting end of year project to “Stem the Tides” with living shorelines along St. Andrew Bay. Participants in the GIC program learn in hands-on, student centered and nature-based methods that increase environmental awareness and encourages sustainable futures for our next generation of watershed stewards.

Christina Cantrell, Program Director with Bay Watch shared, “Community-based volunteer programs are essential to ensuring the future of the Water Quality Monitoring Program and the health of local wetlands, streams, lakes, and estuaries.” She continued, “No experience is needed to volunteer with Bay Watch. Our staff will train anyone interested, this will give you the opportunity to learn about the Bay and become a Citizen Scientist.”

St. Andrew Bay Watch is a registered nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. Bay Watch programs are made possible by a combination of grants, donations, and membership dues. Donations are tax deductible. To learn more about volunteering with St. Andrew Bay Watch, email us at sabw@standrewbaywatch.org

###

PRESS CONTACT:

CHARISSA THACKER • SABW OUTREACH
M 850.814.5365 • O 850.236.6065
CHARISSA.THACKER@YAHOO.COM