



# FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAYS PROGRAM

## 2019 Statewide Meeting Speakers



### JASON WATTS

**Jason Watts** is the Director of the Office of Environmental Management (OEM) for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Through OEM, Mr. Watts establishes the policies and procedures for the Department's environmental review of potential projects as well as serving as the final approving authority for projects that have the potential to have significant impact on the environment. He obtained a law degree from Florida State University after receiving his BS in analytical mathematics from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Previously, he served as Chief Counsel for Contracts and Special Projects for FDOT where he managed a staff of attorneys and also advised on public-private partnership projects, design-build projects, utility issues, complex transactions, and various other contractual issues.

### BRENNA DACKS

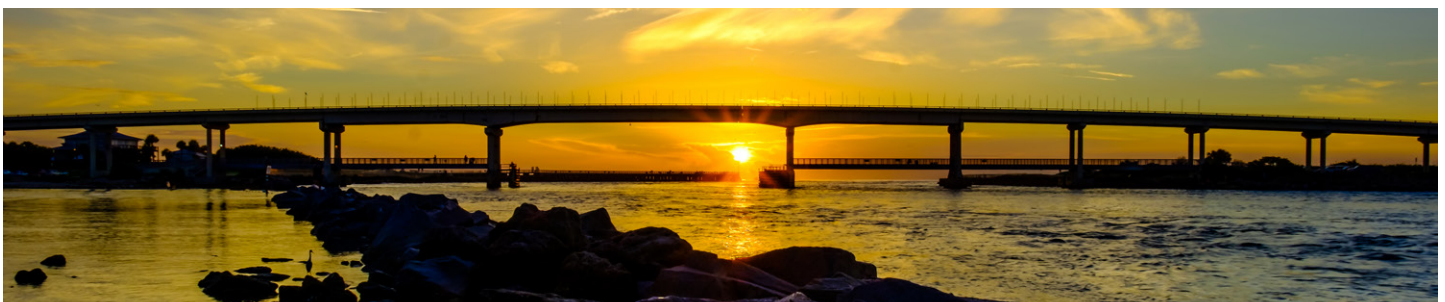
**Brenna Dacks** is the VISIT FLORIDA Regional Partnership Manager based out of the greater St. Augustine and Jacksonville area. She handles partnership service and sales across the North Florida region, which encompasses 35 counties and spans from Pensacola to New Smyrna Beach. Brenna started at VISIT FLORIDA in 2001 and has worked in PR, promotions, travel industry sales, advertising sales and industry relations. In her current role, Brenna helps current and prospective Partners engage in VISIT FLORIDA programs.

### JIM SIPES

**Jim Sipes** is an award-winning urban designer, environmental planner, landscape architect, and writer with over thirty years of experience. His design solutions focus on taking an integrated approach to water resources and green infrastructure. He has written more than a dozen books, including *Creating Green Roadways* (Island Press), and has written approximately 400 articles over the years. He is the founding principal of Sand County Studios and is a Visiting Professor at Penn State University. He is a Certified Landscape Architect and is registered in several states.

### TIM BAYLIE

**Tim Baylie** started his career with Volusia County in the Management and Budget office in 1992. He was promoted to Special Projects Coordinator in the Economic Resources Division in 1996 where he developed and monitored various departmental budgets, including public health, public transportation, tourism, beach and recreational services, and public works. In 1999 he transferred to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Division and became the Manager of Operations and Fiscal Resources. He was responsible for park maintenance, staff hiring and training, budget development and financial reporting. He was promoted to Parks, Recreation and Culture Director in 2008. Tim received his undergraduate degree in business from the University of Florida in 1989 and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Central Florida in 1996.



## **TRACY MESTRE**

**Tracy Mestre** has been working with Volusia County Parks and Recreation for more than 3 years and is currently the manager of DeBary Hall Historic Site. As an American History Teacher for over 15 years in Seminole County, Tracy was recognized as the Teacher of the Year for her school, and Seminole County's Social Studies Teacher of the Year during her tenure. With a degree in history, she considers the opportunity to manage a historical site as her dream job. Tracy says she loves living in Volusia County where she has been a resident for over 20 years while raising a family in the county that has so much to offer its residents.

## **JOHN CRESCIMBENI**

**John Crescimbeni** is currently the Executive Director of Citizens for a Scenic Florida, an organization dedicated to enhancing, protecting and preserving the visual environment of Florida as mandated by the Scenic Beauty Clause of the Florida Constitution. He was a Jacksonville City Council member for a combined 18 plus years. He is also the former local franchisee of Hickory Farms, a company he began working for in high school and went on to operate for 37 years. Mr. Crescimbeni has served on the Board of Directors for a variety of charitable organizations, including the Jacksonville Humane Society, The Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library and Arlington's Tree Hill Nature Center. He was recently awarded the 2018 Charles E. Bennett Champion of the Environment Award from the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board (EPB), the EPB's highest award.

## **MICHAEL PALOZZI**

**Michael Palozzi** has nearly 40 years of transportation experience in Florida. He has been involved with the Florida Scenic Highways Program for the last 13 years. During this time, he has served as a District Scenic Highway Coordinator for three FDOT Districts and has worked with most Byway Organizations around the state, developing designation documents and supporting the day-to-day efforts of these organizations. He is currently a Byways Specialist on the Florida Scenic Highways Program consultant team supporting FDOT's central office with policy and statewide implementation.

## **WANDA MALONEY**

**Wanda Maloney** is a national byway expert with over 20 years of experience. As owner of Corridor Solutions, she provides policy, planning, evaluation, and organizational development services for state byway programs and scenic byway organizations. As a Byways Specialist with the America's Byways Resource Center, she assisted communities and citizen groups in managing, promoting, and protecting America's National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads. Her extensive experience with community groups helps bridge the gap between sound planning and grassroots capacity. Wanda currently serves on the board of directors of the National Scenic Byway Foundation and the Piedmont Environmental Alliance along with her position as a Byways Specialist on the Florida Scenic Highways Program consultant team. She holds a master's in Public Administration from the University of Houston.

## **JEFF CASTER**

**Jeff Caster** is the State Transportation Landscape Architect at FDOT in the Production Support Office overseeing Florida's Highway Beautification Programs, including the Florida Scenic Highways Program and Wildflower Program. Jeff has worked for FDOT for 26 years and is considered an advocate and activist for natural resources and scenic beauty; public health, safety, and welfare. He holds a BS degree in Community Development from Purdue University, a BS in Landscape Design from Florida A&M University and a Masters of Landscape Architecture from Cornell University.