



FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAYS PROGRAM

2021 Annual Report

25th Anniversary Edition







Welcome to the **Florida Scenic Highways Program** 25th Anniversary edition of our Annual Report. I'm Dean Stoddart, the new FDOT **Florida Scenic Highways Program** Coordinator and State Transportation Landscape Architect. Before joining the Florida Department of Transportation, I worked for our great State of Florida for 14 years with the Florida State Parks/Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. These roles have allowed me the privilege of traveling throughout, and experiencing a great deal of the State – often on Scenic Highways. I'm stating the obvious by saying, "There are some truly exceptional places to see in Florida!"

The **Florida Scenic Highways Program** was launched in 1996, and is one of the most unique programs of the Florida Department of Transportation since it includes a strong grassroots component. Our biggest assets are the volunteer byway organizations that are the lifeblood of the Program, and we thank all of the volunteers for being part of this.

The year 2021 was significant to the Program, since it not only marked its 25th Anniversary, but it also welcomed 3 new national designations by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation: A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway was designated as an All-American Road, with River of Lakes Heritage Corridor and Scenic Highway 30A being designated as National Scenic Byways. With these additions, the Program currently includes two All-American Roads and six National Scenic Byways as part of the 27 scenic highways that total the collection. Currently, the Program includes nearly 1,600 miles of the most remarkable highways in Florida and in the nation.

This Annual Report is a representation of the numerous accomplishments of many of the Florida byway organizations during the year 2021. We invite you to browse through them and visit them, to learn about the Real Places and Real Stories that the **Florida Scenic Highways Program** offers.

Dean Stoddart, June 2022

Back cover, top photo: Mural in DeLand on River of Lakes Heritage Corridor;
back cover aerial: Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail; front cover aerial: William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway

Left page image: Pirate found on A1A Ocean Islands Trail; the aerial view of Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail;
and a canopy road on Green Mountain Scenic Byway



The Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP) is an FDOT program that establishes and manages the process and criteria to designate a public road as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The FSHP originates and propels forward through grass-roots and collaborative efforts. Program participation provides benefits to each byway's region, including resource preservation, enhancement and economic development.



Real Places. Real Stories...

MISSION

Help Florida communities deliver high-quality experiences to visitors.

VISION

Promote economic development, enhance local quality of life, and conserve important resources.

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FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAYS DESIGNATIONS

ID	SCENIC HIGHWAY	REGION	DISTRICT	DISTRICT SCENIC HIGHWAY COORDINATOR (DSHC)	STATE DESIGNATION	NATIONAL DESIGNATION	ALL AMERICAN ROAD DESIGNATION
1	Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway	Panhandle	3	Zena Riley-Taylor	4/24/98		
2	Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway	Central	4	Larry Wallace	6/13/00	NSB (2002)	
			5	Claudia Calzaretta			
3	Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway	Central	1	Darryl Richard	4/17/01		
4	Old Florida Heritage Highway	Northern	2	Janice Charles	6/7/01		
5	Florida Keys Scenic Highway	Southern	6	Kevin Schot	6/22/01		AAR (2009)
6	A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway	Northern	2	Janice Charles	1/17/02	NSB (2002)	AAR (2021)
			5	Claudia Calzaretta			
7	Tamiami Trail - Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters	Southern	1	Darryl Richard	12/19/03		
8	Palma Sola Scenic Highway	Central	1	Darryl Richard	5/28/04		
9	Green Mountain Scenic Byway	Central	5	Claudia Calzaretta	7/19/04		
10	The Ridge Scenic Highway	Central	1	Darryl Richard	2/16/05		
11	Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway	Central	7	Roger Roscoe	5/23/05		
12	William Bartram Scenic and Historic Scenic Highway	Northern	2	Janice Charles	10/31/05		
13	Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway	Southern	4	Larry Wallace	12/14/05		
14	Suncoast Scenic Parkway	Central	Turnpike	Daniel Kastelic	8/18/06		
15	Big Bend Scenic Byway	Panhandle	3	Zena Riley-Taylor	11/14/06	NSB (2009)	
16	Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail	Central	5	Claudia Calzaretta	7/9/07	NSB (2009)	
17	Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway	Central	2	Janice Charles	4/9/08	NSB (2009)	
			5	Claudia Calzaretta			
18	Lemon Bay / Myakka Trail Scenic Highway	Southern	1	Darryl Richard	4/9/08		
19	Scenic Highway 30A	Panhandle	3	Zena Riley-Taylor	4/9/08	NSB (2021)	
20	Heritage Crossroads: Miles of History	Northern	5	Claudia Calzaretta	11/19/08		
21	River of Lakes Heritage Corridor	Central	5	Claudia Calzaretta	3/12/09	NSB (2021)	
22	Broward County A1A Scenic Highway	Southern	4	Larry Wallace	7/20/09		
23	J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway	Northern	2	Janice Charles	4/30/10		
24	Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway	Central	5	Claudia Calzaretta	5/2/13		
25	Martin Grade Scenic Highway	Southern	4	Larry Wallace	1/28/15		
26	A1A Ocean Islands Trail	Northern	2	Janice Charles	7/26/16		
27	Halifax Heritage Byway	Central	5	Claudia Calzaretta	10/5/20		

2021 FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAYS COLLECTION



25 YEARS OF PROGRAM HISTORY: MILESTONES

The Florida Scenic Highways Program celebrated its 25-year Anniversary in 2021. Many great accomplishments were achieved during these years, most importantly the designation of 27 Florida Scenic Highways (nearly 1,600 miles), six of which have been designated National Scenic Byways (NSB), and two as All-American Roads (AAR).



Dedication and hard work from the Program's State Coordinators, District Scenic Highway Coordinators, and especially from the passionate volunteers and staff of the Byway Organizations that contribute hundreds of volunteer hours annually, is difficult to quantify.

Our grass roots byway organizations are the foundation of this program. They have shown a dedication to their communities that has helped to preserve and protect Florida's intrinsic resources that are so highly valued by our residents and visitors to the State.

The following are some of the milestones represented over time, since the federal creation of the Scenic Byways Protection Act in 1989, inception of the Florida Scenic Highways Program in 1996, until 2021, the Program's 25th Anniversary.

The Program's off-the-beaten-path experiences tell the story of Florida.



top: *A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway* receives their designation plaque at Union Station in Washington DC. © June 2002 FHWA-NSBP.

right: *2018 Statewide meeting* in Lake Helen, FL



Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway becomes official at the 2008 FSHP Statewide Meeting



Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway installs a kiosk at the *Yearling Trail* in 2012



1989

- **Scenic Byways Study Act of 1989**

1990

- **U.S. Department of Transportation Appropriations Act**

1991

- **ISTEA: Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, which established the National Scenic Byways Program (NSBP)**

1993

- **State Legislation is passed to allow the Florida Department of Transportation to establish an official program for scenic highways**

1994

- **FDOT was awarded a Scenic Byways Grant from the FHWA for the creation of the Florida Scenic Highways Program**

1996 Program Initiation

- **Florida Scenic Highways Program was launched and the Program Manual was created**



1997

- **Florida's Secretary of Transportation approved and signed an FDOT Procedure establishing the Florida Scenic Highways Program**
- **The Program received Federal recognition**
FDOT received from the Federal Highway Administration the Environmental Excellence Award for Excellence in Environmental Process, for its creation of the Florida Scenic Highways Program

1998

- **First State Designation:**
 - Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway



View of Philip Payne Bridge, at the southern terminus of [Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway](#)

2000

- **State Designation:**
 - Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway

2001

- **State Designations:**
 - Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway
 - Old Florida Heritage Highway
 - Florida Keys Scenic Highway

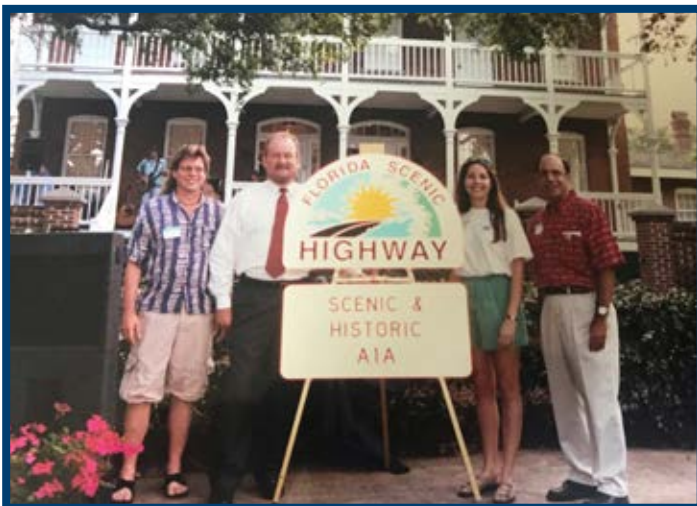


Unveiling of [Old Florida Heritage Highway](#) sign in 2001

25 YEARS OF PROGRAM HISTORY: MILESTONES

2002

- **State Designation:**
 - Scenic & Historic A1A Scenic Highway
- **First National Designations:**
 - Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway (NSB)
 - A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway (NSB)



State Designation Ceremony for *Scenic & Historic A1A Scenic Highway*. This designation was facilitated through DSHC Kristee Booth of FDOT District 2 (second from the right). Attending are Garry Balogh, DSHC of District 5 (left), the FDOT District 2 Secretary, and Mariano Berrios, former FSHP State Coordinator.

2003

- **State Designation:**
 - Tamiami Trail - Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters

2004

- **State Designations:**
 - Palma Sola Scenic Highway
 - Green Mountain Scenic Byway

2005

- **State Designations:**
 - The Ridge Scenic Highway
 - Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway
 - William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway
 - Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway

2006 Program's 10th Anniversary



- **State Designations:**
 - Suncoast Scenic Parkway
 - Big Bend Scenic Byway

2007

- **State Designation:**
 - Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail

2008

- **State Designations:**
 - Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway
 - Lemon Bay / Myakka Trail Scenic Highway
 - Scenic Highway 30A
 - Heritage Crossroads: Miles of History

2009

- **State Designations:**
 - River of Lakes Heritage Corridor
 - Broward County A1A Scenic Highway
- **National Designations:**
 - Florida Keys Scenic Highway (AAR)
 - Big Bend Scenic Byway (NSB)
 - Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail (NSB)
 - Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway (NSB)



- **Update of the FSHP Manual**

2010

- **State Designation:**
 - J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway

2013

- **State Designation:**
 - Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

2014

- **Garry Balogh Inspiring Excellence Award (GBIEA) is established**



Medallion designed for presentation to GBIE award recipients

2015

- **State Designation:**
 - Martin Grade Scenic Highway
- **GBIEA first recipient:**
 - A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway Organization

2016 Program's 20th Anniversary



- **State Designation:**
 - A1A Ocean Islands Trail
- **2016 GBIEA recipient:**
 - Jean Wallace (Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway)
- **FSHP Handbook**
- **New FSHP website was launched**

2017

- **2017 GBIEA recipient:**
 - Glenn Burns (Green Mountain Scenic Byway & Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway)

2018

- **2018 GBIEA recipient:**
 - Dawn Cary (Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway)

2019

- **2019 GBIEA recipient:**
 - Judy Hull (Florida Keys Scenic Highway)
- **Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Organization issues:** "Economic Assessment of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway in Sumter County, Florida"

2020

- **State Designation:**
 - Halifax Heritage Byway
- **FSHP Economic Study:** "Measuring the Impact of Florida Scenic Highway Designation," prepared by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida
- **River Of Lakes Heritage Corridor Byway Organization issues:** "Economic Assessment of the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor"

2021 Program's 25th Anniversary



- **National Designations:**
 - A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway (AAR)
 - Scenic Highway 30A (NSB)
 - River of Lakes Heritage Corridor (NSB)



- **2021 GBIEA recipient:**
 - Cathie Parrott (J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway)

Garry Balogh

Inspiring Excellence Award

2014-2021

Garry Balogh served as the District Five Florida Scenic Highway Program Coordinator for nearly 20 years. Starting with the Program's inception in 1996, Garry became a guiding force that provided advice, expertise, and support to not only his District Five byway organizations but to any organization or District Coordinator in the state that needed advice or mentoring. As a DSHC, Garry spent many of his days traveling from one District Five byway meeting to the next. For many of the small byway communities in the District, Garry became the face of FDOT. He enjoyed his job immensely and worked to build friendships, partnerships and grassroots support for his byway organizations, the FSHP and FDOT.

While Garry had a low-key personality with his byway organizations, he always had fresh viewpoints and offered outside the box ideas to help his organizations overcome challenges and build momentum. Additionally, Garry was called upon many times by other FDOT districts to help train new District Scenic Highway Coordinators or offer thoughts on how to jump-start a struggling byway organization. Almost everyone in the byway community knew Garry.

After Garry's retirement in 2014, the Garry Balogh Inspiring Excellence Award (GBIEA) was established, not only in recognition for his contributions to the Program, but also to inspire other members of the Florida Scenic Highways community to follow Garry's footsteps in leadership, stewardship and mentoring.

The GBIEA is the highest honor bestowed by the FSHP. The award recognizes the leadership, innovation, stewardship, and inspiring achievements of an individual, organization or agency that has made a significant and lasting impact on Florida Scenic Highways, byway communities, and/or the Program.



Dani Anderson and Garry Balogh

"Garry Balogh recommended the selection of the Friends of A1A byway organization as the first recipient of the Inspiring Excellence Award to recognize the group's outstanding achievements in community outreach and participation."

The Friends of A1A have the largest contact list and host more special events each year than any other scenic highway in the state."

From the 2015 FSHP Annual Report (pg. 8)

The 2015 GBIEA Inaugural Recipient was A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway

"The Florida Scenic Highway Program is more than just a volunteer opportunity, it's a chance to truly make an impact in your community. Whether it's through highway and beach cleanups, education and safety enhancements or supporting local businesses, members of the byway community share a special bond through this unique program that yields positive results for not only the local residents, but the visitors who travel these off the beaten path scenic routes."

...Knowing how (Garry) felt about the organization and the people associated with it, having him there to present the inaugural award is one none of us will ever forget. Every single day we strive to live up to the expectations and belief he had in our success and to be that example to other byways by lending a hand, sharing our knowledge, and continuing to build this program into the very best in the nation."

Dani Anderson, May 2022



2016 Recipient Jean Wallace of Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway



2017 Recipient Glenn Burns of Green Mountain Scenic Byway

"...The 2017 recipient of the award was Glenn Burns of Montverde, a local leader and 17-year advocate for the Green Mountain Scenic Byway. Glenn served the Green Mountain Scenic Byway as community liaison, administrator and grant writer, but also spent countless hours representing the byway at public meetings and special events. He is described by many as Green Mountain's greatest champion."

From the 2017 FSHP Annual Report (pg. 1)



2018 Recipient Dawn Cary of Scenic Sumter Scenic Byway

"Having personally worked with Garry and sharing some of his goals for the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, this award has meant a lot to me as I strive for excellence in all that I accomplish and hopefully pass these values down to my children. Garry was a steward of community involvement and making the world a better place for all to enjoy and the embodiment of his ethics will be carried out in all those that have been fortunate to be recipients of this prestigious award."

Dawn Cary, May 2022



2019 Recipient Judy Hull of Florida Keys Scenic Highway

"Receiving the prestigious "Garry Balogh Inspiring Excellence Award" while attending the 2019 Annual State Scenic Highway Meeting in DeBary, Florida, where 25 of the state's scenic highway organizations were assembled, was a tremendous tribute to my efforts on behalf of the Florida Keys Scenic Highway All-American Road. This award is the highest honor the Florida Scenic Highway organization presents and I am extremely honored to be among the esteemed group of recipients."

I never had the privilege of meeting Garry, but I have heard and read about his dedication and belief in the Scenic Highway Program which makes this award even more special to me - I believe we were kindred spirits."

Judy Hull, May 2022

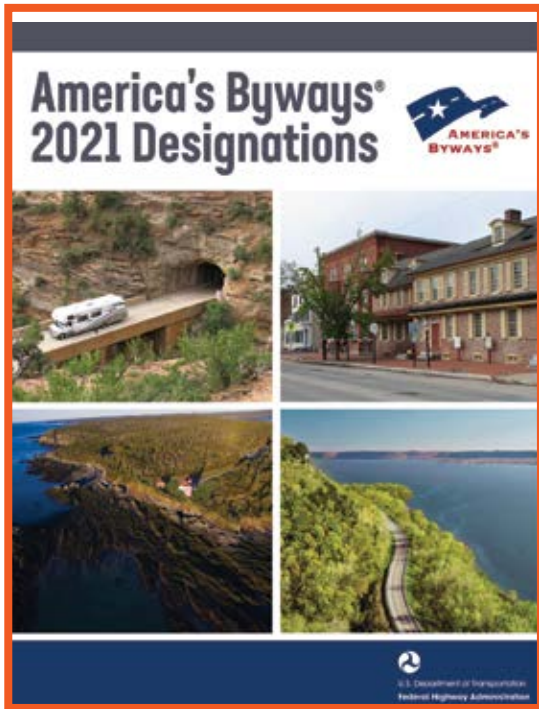


2021 Recipient Cathie Parrott of J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway

"I was so surprised to receive the Garry Balogh award for 2021. Being such a small byway, located in a small Florida town it's easy to get lost in the discussion. That's why it was so rewarding to be recognized. While the award typically goes to a single individual, we are a grass roots organization with passionate volunteers and a wonderfully supportive town. Our team deserves the honor of this award more than any single person."

Cathie Parrot, May 2022

FLORIDA IS PART OF THE BYWAYS RENAISSANCE



Early in the year 2021, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognized nationwide 49 new designations of All-American Roads (AAR) and National Scenic Byways (NSB). These Federal Designations are declarations of the US Secretary of Transportation, and elevate these select roadways to status in the “America’s Byways” collection, administered within the National Scenic Byways Program (NSBP). The FSHP has participated in the NSBP since its inception. In the year 1994 FDOT was awarded a Scenic Byways Grant from the FHWA for the creation of the FSHP. Since then, until the year 2020, five Florida byways received the NSB designation and one received the AAR designation.

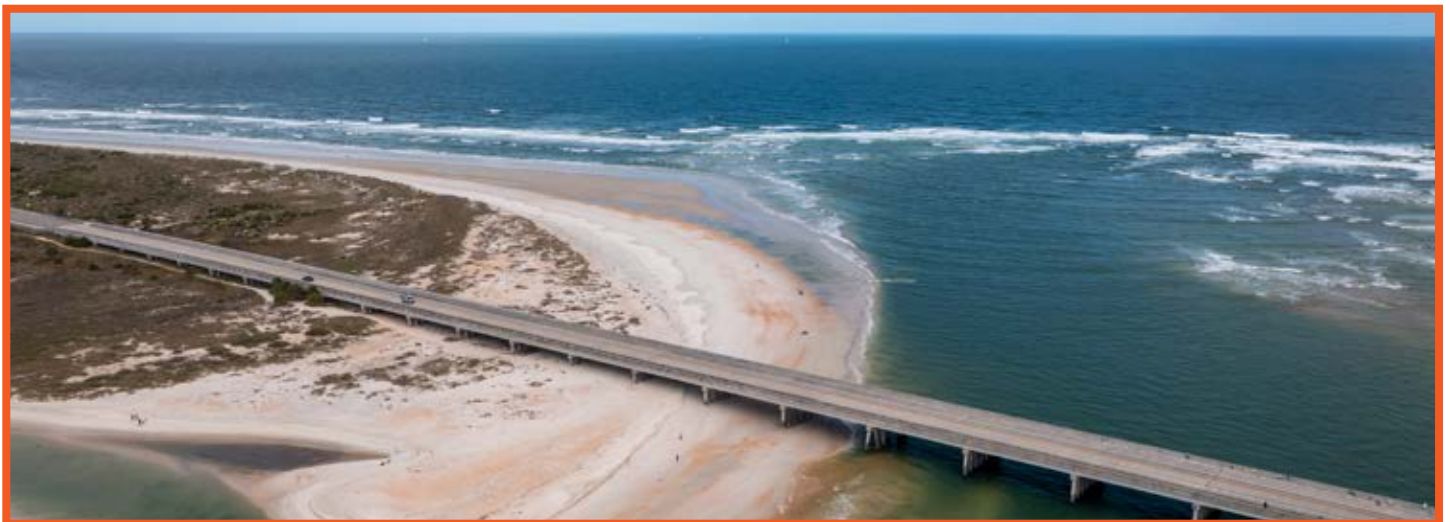
Three of Florida’s Scenic Highways were raised in their status in 2021. Of these, the **A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway**, originally designated in 2002 as a National Scenic Byway, was elevated to designation as an All-American Road, becoming among those of the highest honor achievable in the NSBP. Of great achievement also, the **River of Lakes Heritage Corridor**, and **Scenic Highway 30A** both joined the collection of America’s Byways, having been designated as National Scenic Byways.

All these newly designated byways are being represented and promoted in the publication “America’s Byways® 2021 Designations” published by the FHWA. For detailed information of Florida’s new national designations visit: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/designations/

2021 ALL-AMERICAN ROAD DESIGNATION

A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway

Traveling on A1A in northeast Florida takes you along the Atlantic Ocean from south of Jacksonville through one of America’s oldest cities, St Augustine, settled in 1565. The byway skirts along the barrier island east of the mainland and the inland waterway passing through beach communities and beautiful scenery. This byway has long been one of the most iconic drives in Florida, attracting cyclists to their successful annual Spoonbills & Sprockets event every fall, and motorcyclists all year long. There is something for everyone on this route, and the byway organization provides ample guidance with an often-updated website and mobile tour.



2021 NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS

Scenic Highway 30A

30A unspools along the Gulf of Mexico coastline in Northwest Florida's where sugar-white sand beaches, rare coastal dune lakes, Caribbean colors invite travelers to savor the stunning beach vistas a traveler would expect of the best of Florida.

30A has a long history of regional tourism which continues today. Old Florida traditional cottages with white picket fences sprinkle long stretches of beach, and the region includes miles of greenway trails connect the state parks and preserves along the byway.



River of Lakes Heritage Corridor



This byway's tagline is "There's More to Florida." River of Lakes Heritage Corridor embodies all the things Floridians love but visitors may not know about: stunning springs, the mighty St. Johns River with its attendant lakes, and great cultural and historical sites and museums.

This is a byway where you can get away into nature, and still be close to a 4-star meal or a great theatre performance at the end of the day.





A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway

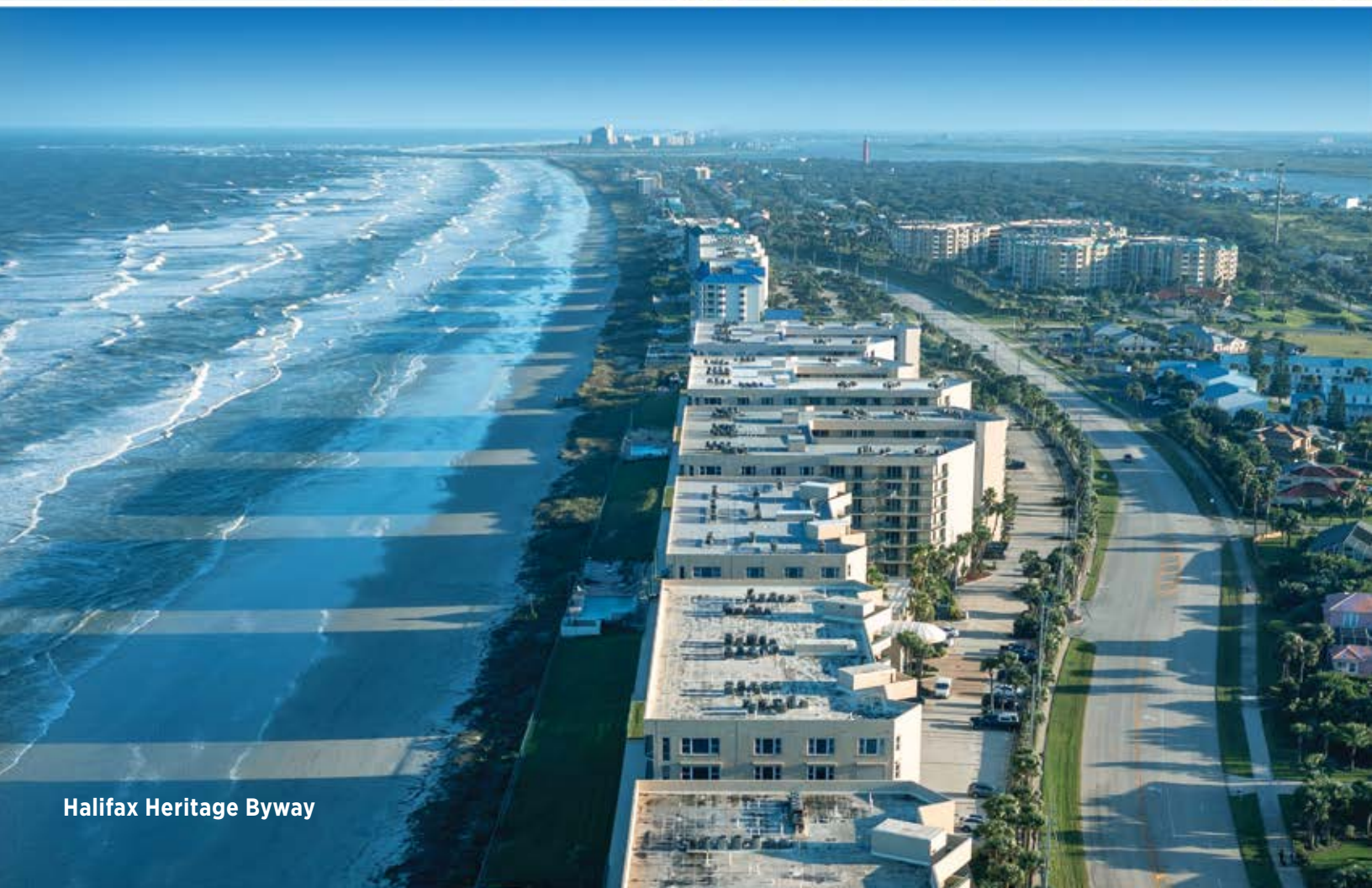


AERIAL IMAGES 2021

Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail



Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway



Halifax Heritage Byway

INDIVIDUAL BYWAY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following Individual Byway Accomplishments were prepared based upon the Byway Annual Reports submitted for the year 2021. The Byway Annual Reports, or BARs, are prepared by the leadership of each byway organization and submitted to their respective District Scenic Highway Coordinators. This provides the Program with information concerning each organization's activities, projects accomplished, and fundraising efforts.

For 2021, twenty BARs were submitted indicating and describing byway activity during the year. Some of those not reporting were affected by the COVID pandemic, which resulted in limited to no activity in 2021. However, the highlights of projects and accomplishments of those that did remain active, through virtual meetings and/or limited face-to-face events, are summarized on the following pages, based upon alphabetical order:

- **A1A Ocean Islands Trail**
- **A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway**
- **Big Bend Scenic Byway**
- **Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway**
- **Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway**
- **Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway**
- **Green Mountain Scenic Byway**
- **Halifax Heritage Byway**
- **Heritage Crossroads: Miles of History**
- **Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway**
- **J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway**
- **Martin Grade Scenic Highway**
- **Old Florida Heritage Highway**
- **Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail**
- **Palma Sola Scenic Highway**
- **River of Lakes Heritage Corridor**
- **Scenic Highway 30A**
- **Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway**
- **The Ridge Scenic Highway**
- **William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway**



A1A Ocean Islands Trail



Downtown Fernandina Beach is a charming part of A1A Ocean Islands Trail.

The A1A Ocean Islands Trail byway was one of the four byway organizations that participated in the A1A Super Scenic 150-Mile Garage Sale. Improvements have been made every year since the event has taken place, including the availability of a free A1A Scenic Byway Mobi Tour App from TravelStorys, which assists guests in finding bargains, enjoying delicious meals, and experiencing this amalgam of scenic highways in the best possible way.

In order to enhance the byway's organizational sustainability, the leadership team participated in a virtual retreat in December of 2021. This renewed the members' commitment to advancing the byway's mission.



View of A1A Ocean Islands Trail from Big Talbot State Park's beach



A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway

A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway had a busy year in 2021, full of community activities and events, and perhaps most exciting: federal designation as Florida's second All-American Road!

The "Friends of A1A" byway organization was recognized by the National Scenic Byway Foundation with an award in the events category. The event awarded was the "Crazy 8's Photo Contest" -- part of the 2019 8th Annual Spoonbills and Sprockets Cycling Tour, where Friends of A1A invited visitors to showcase through photography how they experienced the byway.



The byway was recognized by NSBF for the *Crazy 8's Photo Contest*. A *Spoonbills and Sprockets* participant displays their event medal as part of their experience of the byway.

Acquainting children with nature helps lead to more respect and love for the environment, a fact that guides the "Kids' Ocean Day Florida" event led every year by the Friends of A1A.

This event alternates between St. Johns and Flagler counties, where a Title One school is selected, and an entire grade level is invited to join in an environmental education fair.



In 2021, students of Bunnell Elementary School participated in a morning replete with hands-on activities and learning.

In preparation, local high-schools contributed via participation in a poster contest, with cash awards, where the winning design was used as the Ocean Day event's official poster.

The event was made possible through supporting partners and agencies, from the UF Sea Turtle Hospital, to the Tale Tellers of St. Augustine, and many others.

The 13th Annual Super Scenic Garage Sale -- a treasure trove of shopping opportunities that run along 150 miles of four Scenic Highways -- took place in November of 2021. The event was led by Friends of A1A, and included A1A Ocean Islands Trail, A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway, Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail, and the Halifax Heritage Byway. The event lends awareness to the many small businesses along the corridor by attracting thousands of shoppers to the area.

Every year, people around the world join in the International Coastal Cleanup, hosted by the Ocean Conservancy and organized by local organizations and community members. In 2021, Friends of A1A was able to coordinate staffing and volunteers to execute this cleanup effort. By the end of the day over 5 million pounds of trash and debris were removed from the Oceans' coastal environments worldwide.



Another byway-led activity, taking inspiration from the National Park Service program "Leave No Trace", the Pack It In, Pack It Out pilot project serves to reduce litter along the byway, especially in eco-sensitive areas. The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida funded this pilot project through a grant.



This byway regularly involves youth in programs to clean up the byway region, including *Kids' Ocean Day Florida* and *Pack It In, Pack It Out*.

After a 30-day advanced notice, trash receptacles were removed from the River to Sea Preserve coastline and within the Intracoastal Waterway park preserve, litter was substantially reduced. The funding from the grant was also used to install clever signage encouraging children to pick up after themselves, helping them to be environmentally friendly and to create positive habits for a better collective future.

Byway Organization Highlights



Big Bend Scenic Byway



The *St. Marks Lighthouse* is a beloved icon of the byway region.

The Big Bend Scenic Byway organization primarily focused on supporting their Wayshowing and Interpretive Exhibit Panel and Signage project.

Through coordination with Leon County and the Florida Department of Transportation, the project will continue into 2022 with a supplemental agreement and a construction bid package.



Big Bend Scenic Byway is known for some of the most stunning wetland areas in the state, including *Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park*.



Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway

The Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway byway organization saw many improvements over the past year. Katie Pierola Sunset Park located on Bradenton Beach, received enhancements such as the addition of benches, widened walkways, and the installation of four native sabal palms. Project funding for this byway-led project was obtained through private donations, government grants, and budget available in the Department of Public Works.



The *Tree City USA* designation was re-certified this year by the byway and its partners.



New trees planted along the *Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway*

Through participation on the City's Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee, the byway organization influenced the Bradenton Beach Community Redevelopment Association in funding and initiating Hardscape Landscape projects along Gulf Drive, which led to the installment of 38 trees.

These changes made the Gulf Drive and Bridge Street business areas far more pedestrian-friendly and aesthetically pleasing. In addition, Bradenton Beach underwent the yearly recertification process for Tree City USA, reasserting its commitment to being an environmentally-friendly community.



Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway

The Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway byway organization's focus has been mainly on preserving and protecting the local environment. Through collaboration with Keep America Beautiful affiliates whose territory spans the byway, the byway organization was able to participate in multiple cleanup events.

The sum of these efforts has resulted in the removal of over 100 tons of trash. Events like these increase the public's awareness of stewardship, with many families and local businesses contributing to the prevention of litter making its way into Tampa Bay.

The Cooper's Point Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project comprises elements such as dredging, the creation of additional habitat (with mangrove shelves, salt marsh habitat, and seagrass habitat), and the improvement of recreational areas.

The effort was funded by FDOT along with the City of Clearwater, due to the need for an improved water quality in Old Tampa Bay. With permitting underway, Cooper's Point is slated to begin construction in August 2023.

The Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway has been collaborating with local stakeholders in all of these endeavors, demonstrating how the community maintains a sense of respect and environmental guardianship of the land and water surrounding them.



Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway features remarkable multi-use trails.



Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway



Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway has been active this past year on social media, and has distributed a monthly newsletter to keep members and supporters abreast of developments.

The Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway Organization has been primarily focused on the implementation of a public awareness program to draw the local community's attention to the group.

Due to COVID, the organization's regular bimonthly meetings were held virtually until late 2021, when a hybrid in-person and virtual option was introduced. For each of the meetings, the organization began a new tactic of disseminating minutes as a short newsletter. This evolved into a monthly newsletter that details the byway organization's updates, information about the Ocala National Forest, and the animals that gave the byway its name.

The organization has also provided guest speakers at many of the meetings, helping members educate themselves on the byway that they spend so much time and energy supporting.

The byway organization submitted an application requesting a National Scenic Byway Foundation/Toyota Automotive partnership to receive funding to install native trees around a storm water retention pond along the byway near the City of Ormond Beach. The grant was intended also to support the President's "Million Trees" initiative.

Byway Organization Highlights



Green Mountain Scenic Byway

Green Mountain Scenic Byway organization, through much discussion and effort, several new board members were appointed, which has brought a collective sense of renewed vigor and passion for the byway organization and its mission.

An exciting event from 2021 was the Roadside Chat, part of a series of virtual “brown bag seminars” on topics of relevant interest that District Five has been hosting during the pandemic. For one of these Chats, Green Mountain chose to partner with the Central Florida Railroad Museum to give a presentation about the history of the state’s railroad industry.

Phil Cross, an accomplished local history expert, shared his abundance of knowledge drawn from years spent researching photos, maps, and stories of the County and the Central Florida Railroad network.

Organization members participated in the FDOT/D5 FSHP 2021 Workshop. Members continued planning efforts with Phase II of development of a byway scenic overlook. The addition of a virtual tour of the corridor on the GeoTourist app meant that visitors could learn more about the resources that line the byway.



Green Mountain Scenic Byway members at work at the Oakland Nature Preserve.

While the organization’s running event was postponed due to COVID, members still contributed by volunteering at many bicycle events.

The Green Mountain byway organization remained active and invested during 2021, bettering the communities it serves via the development of trails, the Overlook, educational kiosks, and engaging events.



Halifax Heritage Byway

Halifax Heritage Byway, Florida’s newest scenic highway, the byway organization spent a great deal of time and effort establishing itself as an organization, both internally through increasing membership, and externally through outreach to the greater community.



Halifax Heritage Byway worked on establishing its new organization, after being officially designated in late 2020.

Halifax Heritage Byway, along with A1A Ocean Islands Trail, A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway, and Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail participated in the 13th Annual Super Scenic 150-Mile Garage Sale.

The organization also assisted in the reinstatement of the Adopt-A-Road and Adopt-A-Highway programs in Volusia County, which helps improve the local environment and keep the roadways clean and green. Efforts were also made towards advocating for more walking trails that offer more interaction with the area’s natural spaces.



Halifax Heritage Byway was among several participating in the 13th Annual Super Scenic 150-Mile Garage Sale.



Heritage Crossroads: Miles of History

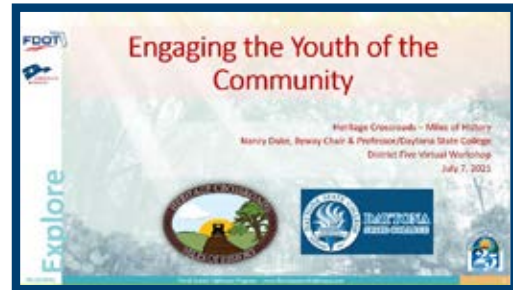
The Heritage Crossroads: Miles of History byway organization is a source of education for the communities it serves.

Dr. Nancy Duke, byway chair and Associate Professor of History at Daytona State College, gave her students assignments related to the community as seen through the lens of local history and culture. The results of these assignments led to the development of a virtual presentation for the FDOT District 5 2021 Byway Workshop titled “Engaging Youth of the Community”.



Heritage Crossroads: Miles of History has created learning programs to engage youth in understanding their byway.

Heritage Crossroads contributed to the Roadside Chats series with a 25-minute talk about Old Kings Road in Flagler County, developed and presented by Bill Ryan, a member of the Board.



The byway organization also supported the Flagler County Historical Society, a byway partner, in its efforts to recover the Deen Doll House. In 1955, a miniature home was built for the granddaughter of William Henry “Doc” Deen, a local farmer and producer of turpentine. The Doll House soon became a local icon for the town of Bunnell.

In 2021 the house was relocated to the Holden House Museum, where it was restored. The byway organization’s partnership with the Flagler Historical Society continued in 2021 with an oral history series.



Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway

The Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway Coalition continued its practice of bi-monthly meetings, albeit virtually, throughout 2021.

Each of these meetings included guest speakers, with topics such as the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program in Brevard County, the Wildflower Plantings initiative along the Byway, and the Satellite Beach Park Improvement Projects.



Byway members learned about the *Wildflower Plantings* initiative along the byway.



Additionally, the Coalition continued with its byway kiosk program and plans to install more kiosks in the near future. Steps towards byway organizational sustainability were taken by filling openings on the Board, including the new Coalition Chair.

Other efforts included expanding upon the general member base and participating in virtual seminars and workshops presented by FDOT and District Five.

The Coalition was happy to introduce the byway organization’s newly-designed website, which was transferred to a “non-profit friendly” host, eliminating the need of paying a hosting fee.

Byway Organization Highlights



J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway

J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway byway organization completed the renovation of the Town of Penney Farms' former volunteer fire station into a Historical Museum.

This partnership project received additional funding from Clay County. The Scenic Highway, along with the Historical Society of Penney Farms and other small donors provided funding as well. This is an exciting addition to the picturesque corridor and a home to future functions and community learning.



Inside the new *Town of Penney Farms Historic Museum*



The new historic museum on the *J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway* is now open.

The byway's celebration of Arbor Day 2021 took place at Kohler Park. An "All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast" kicked off the day. Residents of the Penney Retirement Community, a helpful partner of the Scenic Highway Program, donated surplus funds from their meal accounts in order to purchase the necessary supplies. Unlike typical Arbor Days, due to COVID there was no speaker or tree planting for the year.

The Commemorative Postage Stamp Committee is preparing an application for a postage stamp designed to celebrate the 150th anniversary of J.C. Penney's birthday. This Commemorative stamp will also honor the centennial anniversary of three establishments at Penney Farms: the Penney Retirement Community (1926), the Penney Memorial Church (1927), and the Town of Penney Farms (1927).



Martin Grade Scenic Highway

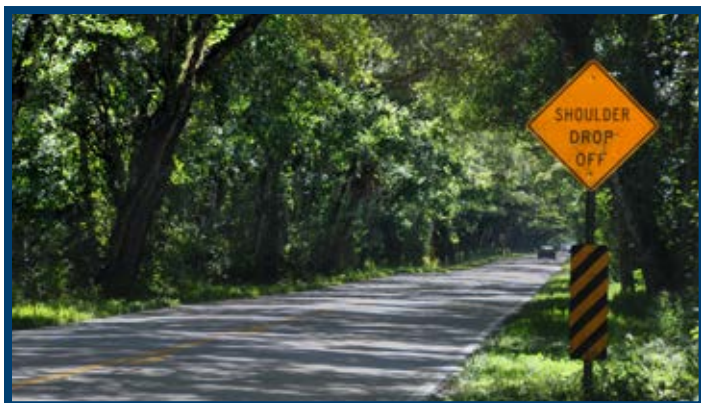
Martin Grade Scenic Highway formed a partnership with Martin County to respond to the need for tree and vegetation maintenance along the corridor.

This endeavor has already been subject to multiple meetings and strategizing and will hopefully come to fruition in 2022.

Apart from this, the byway organization maintained its Facebook page and updated its website, which has continued to foster communication with its 4000+ followers and supporters.



Martin Grade Scenic Highway maintains an active web and social media presence.





Old Florida Heritage Highway

Old Florida Heritage Highway, along with partner organization -- Keep Alachua County Beautiful -- secured funding for the Love Our Byways event from a grant by the National Scenic Byway Foundation/Toyota Automotive partnership. On September 12th, 2021, volunteers clad in "Love Our Byway" t-shirts donated by Toyota gathered for a pre-litter cleanup pep rally. The local car dealership set up a tent with a Toyota showcase vehicle to summon enthusiasm for the event's participants.



Old Florida Heritage Highway won one of the few *Love Our Byways* grants from the National Scenic Byway Foundation in 2021 by partnering with *Keep Alachua Beautiful*.



Volunteers plant new milkweed plants to attract monarch butterflies.

Kathleen Pagan, Senior Planner for Alachua County, gave a presentation highlighting the importance of scenic byways for preserving nature and enhancing tourism. After being briefed on safety protocols and provided with safety vests, groups of volunteers walked along a 4.4 mile long section of US 441 cleaning the roadside of litter.

Once finished, they planted milkweed plants at the rally site to provide sustenance for migrating Monarch butterflies. Keep Alachua County Beautiful and county staff gave plants to volunteers to plant at their homes.



Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail

The Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail is a 30-mile byway that runs through creeks, marshes, and along the Oceanside. Every fall, the byway organization arranges professionally guided walks through the trails that line the corridor. This past year marked the 22nd educational hike since 2008, showing remarkable consistency and dedication to this ongoing project. Thirty six participants, the largest group in the walks' history, traipsed through a trail in North Peninsula State Park in Ormond-by-the-Seas, the location of a recently-completed marsh restoration project.



Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail participates in the *Super Scenic 150-Mile Garage Sale* each year with several other scenic highways.

The organization continued with their educational programming through their participation in District 5's Roadside Chats, with a session called "Plant It and They Will Come" led by Melissa Lammers of the Southeast Volusia Audubon Society.

The byway organization participated in the 13th Annual Super Scenic 150-mile Garage Sale. An event first created by the A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway, the Sale has become a collaboration that draws many visitors and boasts over one hundred points of interest from Fernandina Beach north of Jacksonville, to Ponce Inlet, at the southern terminus of Daytona Beach.



The byway organization develops annual guided trail walks.

Byway Organization Highlights



Palma Sola Scenic Highway

Palma Sola Scenic Highway byway organization provided support and community outreach to the Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department for the Winston Tract Habitat Enhancement Project. As part of the Robinson Expansion and Robinson Preserve, the 53.25 acres of the Winston Tract was set up for the creation of estuarine habitats.

Through the restoration of this area, the site has stabilized, allowing for regular maintenance by the County to preserve the mangroves and other flora. All of these efforts provide more habitat for wildlife and native plants, as well as an increased diversity of food sources for local fish and wildlife inhabitants.



Maintaining the scenic highway is a labor of love performed by many organizations, including Adopt-a-Highway groups, Keep Manatee Beautiful, and the Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources and Property Management Departments.



The byway organization provided help for the Winston Tract Habitat Enhancement Project.



Palma Sola Scenic Highway member volunteering to keep the byway clean

From landscaping maintenance to litter cleanups, local stakeholders come together to ensure that the Palma Sola Causeway remains beautiful and clean.



River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

The River of Lakes Heritage Corridor byway organization made some major strides forward in 2021.

River of Lakes Heritage Corridor became one of two byways in the state to receive the National Scenic Byway designation. The organization maneuvered around a tight deadline with the help of FDOT in order to deliver a winning application.



The byway participated in an American Park Network and KIND Foods marketing opportunity.

The byway organization chose to participate in a unique marketing opportunity with the American Park Network and KIND Foods in which they received 4,000 KIND granola bars for distribution to byway partners, and as “icebreakers” in donor strategy efforts.

A longstanding goal of the organization is to educate the community about the stories that make the corridor what it is.



River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Chair Cindy Sullivan answers a question about a byway destination during the public ceremony for the new kiosk at the DeBary SunRail Station.

One example of their efforts is a kiosk program, the latest installation of which was done in close coordination with the City of DeBary.

Due to the dedication of the project's stakeholders, a ribbon cutting for the new kiosk took place in the spring of 2021.



Scenic Highway 30A

The Scenic Highway 30A byway organization decided to delay all of its planned projects for 2021 and suspend the monthly member meetings. The Friends Corner Project has remained ongoing since 2018. A sponsor donation of a topographic and boundary survey in 2021 will be used to continue developing plans for the project.

The byway organization was also involved with the Scenic Overlook Pilot Project which is still in the early stages of identifying potential overlook sites. The vision for this project is to create an overlook that showcases the beautiful Coastal Dune Lakes that line Scenic Highway 30A. This project will provide locals and visitors alike with the perfect spot for dramatic views and photographic opportunities.



Scenic Highway 30A offers more than just gorgeous beaches along its iconic Florida corridors.



Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway organization, through coordination with the City of Bushnell, was able to execute the creation of a kiosk located in Downtown Bushnell. Standing near the Sumter County Courthouse, the informational panels contain a walking tour designed to better acquaint visitors with the town.

Fishing folks around the county enjoyed the continuation of the Fish-in-the-Pan Fishing Tournament after its introduction in November of 2020. The byway organization partnered with the Coastal Angler Magazine and the Pana Vista Lodge in order to host a day of storytelling, fish weigh-ins, silent raffles, prize drawings, and awards, followed by a lunch prepared by byway volunteers.



A new kiosk was installed near the *Sumter County Courthouse* in downtown Bushnell.



Clays2Raise is a successful, annual fundraising event.

In April of 2021, the third annual Clays-2-Raise Fundraiser was held, in partnership with Blackjack Sporting Clays. Proceeds went to sustaining the byway organization. Participants spent the day shooting at flying clay targets, while byway volunteers assisted in hosting the event, raising awareness of the surrounding natural and historic sites. Around 70 hours of volunteer time made the fundraiser possible, and members were able to raise \$700 for the organization.

Byway Organization Highlights



The Ridge Scenic Highway

The Ridge Scenic Highway byway organization coordinated a 39-Mile Scenic Highway Yard Sale event in order to bring visitors to the community, promote the corridor, and stimulate the local economy. The revenue from this event provides for the maintenance of its website, which allows them to continue informing visitors of the features and news related to The Ridge.



The *39-Mile Scenic Highway Yard Sale* is a popular annual event organized by *The Ridge Scenic Highway*.



The Ridge Scenic Highway features beautiful agricultural views of Florida.

Another highlight for The Ridge byway organization was a dramatic increase in Facebook followers, from 920 to 1,428. The Facebook page shares local news and stories, as well as information deemed relevant for safety.

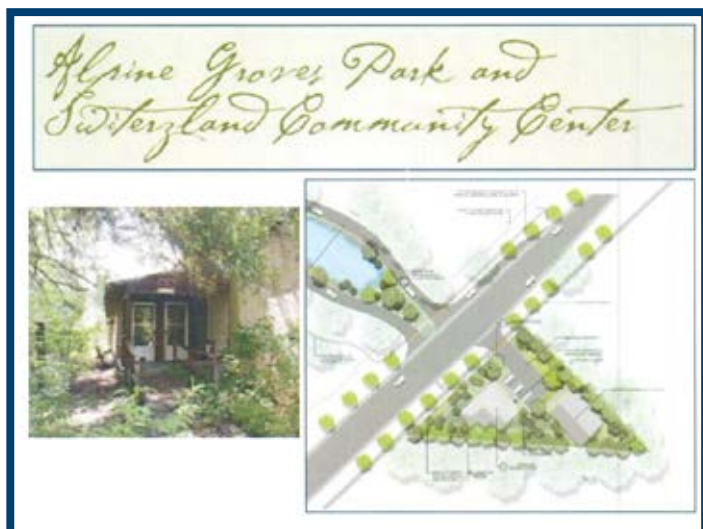


William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway

The William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway byway organization continued meeting virtually throughout the pandemic.

During 2021, members focused on their BMP intentions of the refurbishment of the Switzerland Community Center, a historic structure that used to house local civic functions. The organization began leasing the community center from St. Johns County in late 2020, which allowed them to complete Phase 1 of their efforts.

The long-term vision for this project is to restore the center into a museum and a byway welcome center. While the plan has been delayed due to the pandemic, they began cleaning the interior, and have identified several local contractors that may assist with cleanup of the exterior.



Refurbishment plans for the *Switzerland Community Center*



Broward County A1A Scenic Highway



Florida Keys Scenic Highway



**Indian River Lagoon -
Treasure Coast Scenic Highway**



**Lemon Bay/Myakka Trail
Scenic Highway**



Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway



Suncoast Scenic Parkway



**Tamiami Trail -
Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters**





Celebrating 25 Years



2007 Grant Writing Workshop



2015 Meeting of District Scenic Highway Coordinators

Sallie O'Hara, Garry Balogh and Mariano Berrios at the 2011 Workshop



Marge Rooyackers at the 2019 Statewide Meeting dinner



Mike Woods welcomes the Florida Scenic Highways group to Cassadaga in 2018



Group at the 2006 FSHP Statewide Conference



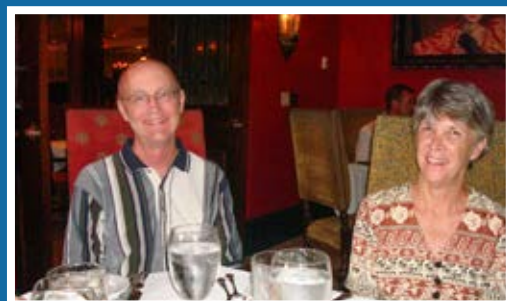
Tim Baylie welcomes FSHP Statewide Meeting attendees to "The Stable" at the DeBary Hall Site in Volusia county for the 2019 Statewide Meeting



Garry Balogh is presented with an achievement award from Dani Anderson of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway in gratitude for his guidance in 2015



Joan Bernat of Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway speaks at the 2019 Statewide Meeting



Greg Gensheimer and Mona Phipps from Green Mountain Scenic Byway attend the 2011 Workshop in St. Augustine



A new sign is unveiled for the Florida Keys Scenic Highway at the 2018 Statewide Meeting in Lake Helen, proudly displayed by former FSHP State Coordinator, Jeff Caster (on left) and Bill Doxey (right) of the Florida Keys Scenic Corridor Alliance



Unveiling of the newly designated Old Florida Heritage Highway in 2002



Former FSHP State Coordinator Mariano Berrios (left) with Kristee Booth and a representative from the National Scenic Byways program (right) at the 2011 workshop in St. Augustine



Cathie Parrott, chair of the J.C. Penney Scenic Highway, Debrah Miller, District 2 Scenic Byway Coordinator (who retired in 2022), and Georgia Turner, Executive Director of the West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority (WVTAA), enjoy a tour of a church in Cassadaga during the 2018 Florida Scenic Highways Statewide Meeting

2021 HIGHLIGHTED AFFILIATES

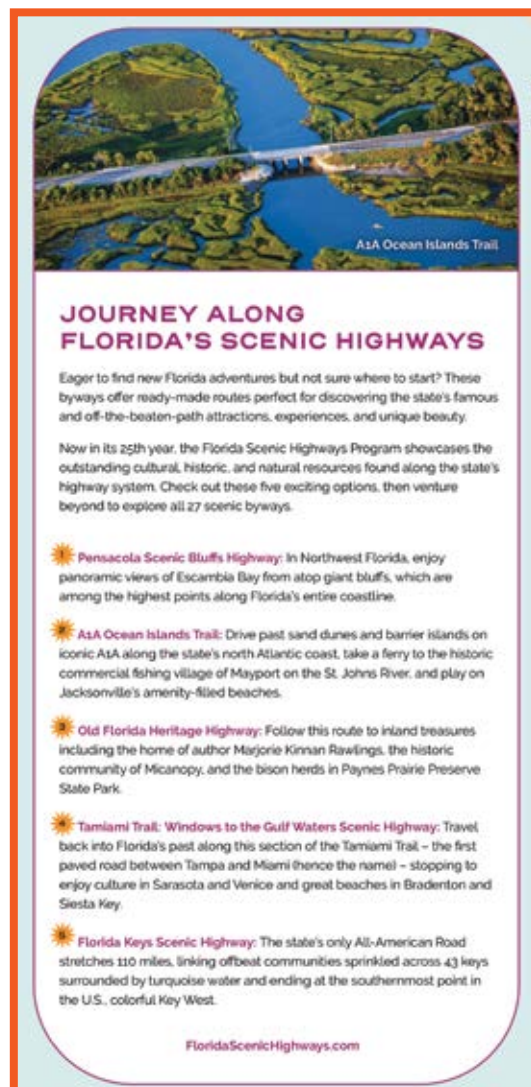
VISIT FLORIDA

The Florida Scenic Highways Program and VISIT FLORIDA have shared a mutual and beneficial partnership since the initiation of both in the year 1996. The FSHP was one of the first Visit Florida Partners, and VISIT FLORIDA holds a seat on the FSHP Scenic Highway Advisory Committee (SHAC).

Florida's Scenic Highways provide Real Places to go and experience, with Real Stories to discover. VISIT FLORIDA markets and promotes Florida travel to statewide, national and international audiences. VISIT FLORIDA maintains a "go to" website that presents the Florida Scenic Highways with links to trip-planning resources and additional, relevant and related information to attract and assist travelers as they research and decide on where and what to do during their time in Florida.

In 2021, VISIT FLORIDA included the 25th Anniversary of the Florida Scenic Highways Program prominently in the centerfold of their printed Travel Guide. VISIT FLORIDA not only provides outreach to travelers from outside the state, but benefits the local, resident tourists' interests as well.

visitflorida.com/travel-ideas/articles/scenic-florida-drives



National Scenic Byway Foundation



The Florida Scenic Highways Program maintains a membership with the National Scenic Byway Foundation (NSBF), which offers to Florida's Byway Organization Leaders, and to State and District Scenic Highway Coordinators access to NSBF expertise, training materials and resources, as well as national promotion and advocacy for the Program.

Our membership helps support promotion and advocacy for Scenic Byways at a National level. A key benefit of the state-wide program membership is that byway leaders can participate in NSBF webinars at no cost.

nsbfoundation.com

FDOT DISTRICT MAP AND FSHP LEADERSHIP

Florida Scenic Highways Program Coordinator

Dean Stoddart | Florida Department of Transportation

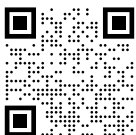
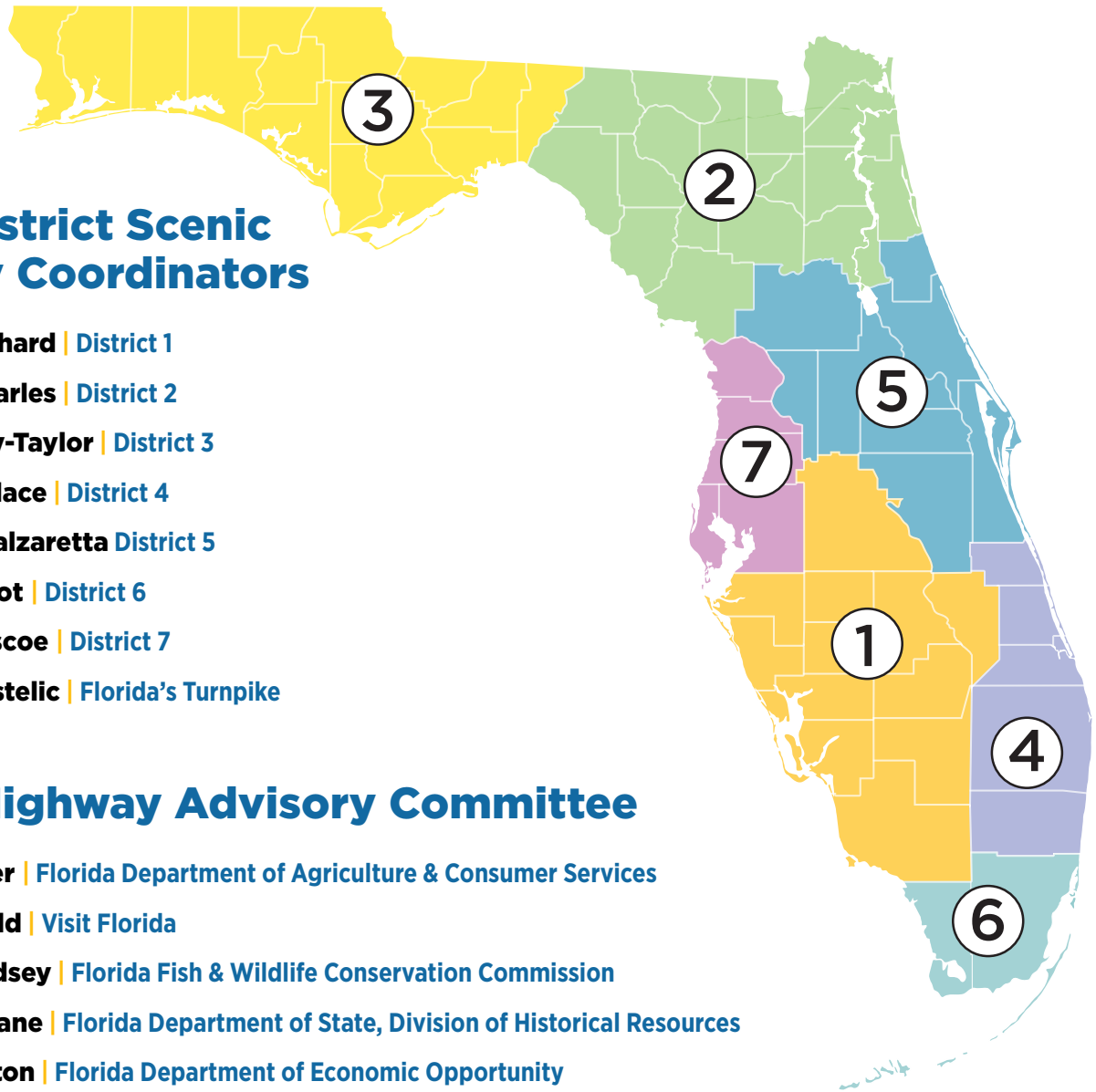
FSHP contact email: info@floridascenichighways.com

FDOT District Scenic Highway Coordinators

- **Darryl Richard** | District 1
- **Janice Charles** | District 2
- **Zena Riley-Taylor** | District 3
- **Larry Wallace** | District 4
- **Claudia Calzaretta** | District 5
- **Kevin Schot** | District 6
- **Roger Roscoe** | District 7
- **Daniel Kastelic** | Florida's Turnpike

Scenic Highway Advisory Committee

- **Marti Miller** | Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- **David Dodd** | Visit Florida
- **Jerrie Lindsey** | Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- **Alissa Lotane** | Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources
- **Matt Preston** | Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- **Britney Moore** | Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails
- **Brian Telfair** | Federal Highway Administration
- **Dale Allen** | Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation



[FloridaScenicHighways.com](https://www.floridascenichighways.com)

Historic Photos

before Scenic Highway designations



1975 (circa) "Bird's eye view looking south along Avenida Menendez in Saint Augustine" (A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway)



1948 (circa) "Bird's eye view overlooking the Courtney Campbell Parkway connecting Clearwater and Tampa" (Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway)



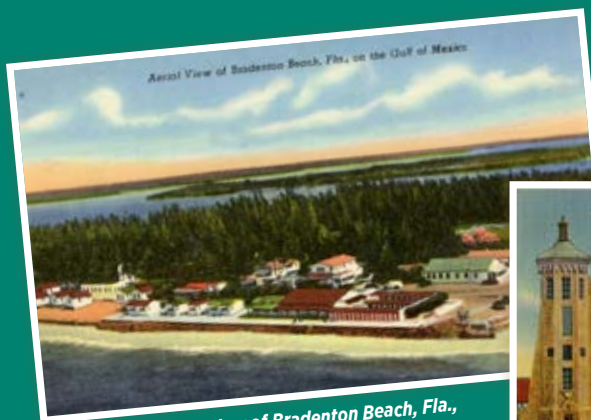
1966 "Dinosaur sculpture at Rainforest - Sumterville, Florida" (Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway)



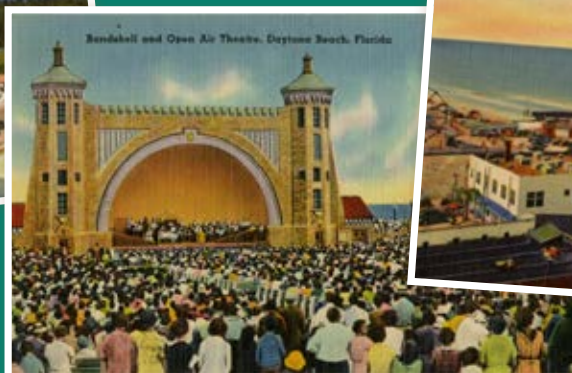
1940 (circa) "Coastal Highway entering Melbourne, Florida, from the South" (Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway)



20th century "Bulow Creek and Date palms, Daytona Beach, Florida" (Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail)



1947 "Aerial view of Bradenton Beach, Fla., on the Gulf of Mexico" (Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway)



1937 (circa) "Bandshell and Open Air Theatre, Daytona Beach, Florida" (Halifax Heritage Byway)



1938 "Driving and Bathing, Jacksonville Beach, Fla." (A1A Ocean Islands Trail)



1938 "Scenic Highway along Pensacola Bay, Pensacola, Florida"
(Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway)



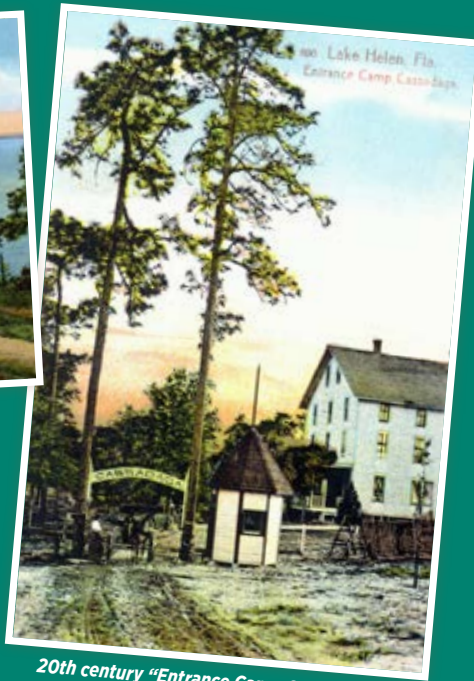
1920 (circa) "View from the chapel tower - Penney Farms, Florida"
(J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway)



20th century "Beach Scene - Fort Lauderdale, Florida."
(Broward County A1A Scenic Highway)



1923 "Tamiami trail blazers holding sign - Tamiami Trail, Florida"
(Tamiami Trail - Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters)



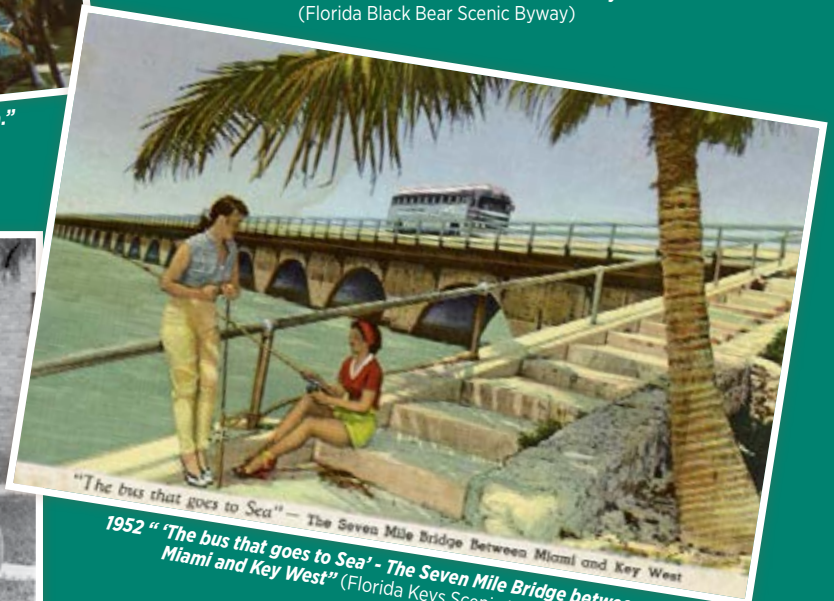
20th century "Entrance Camp Cassadaga - Lake Helen, Florida"
(River of Lakes Heritage Corridor)



1930 (circa) "Bok Tower at night"
(The Ridge Scenic Highway)



20th century "A bird's-eye view of Florida's Silver Springs, known the world over as nature's underwater fairyland"
(Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway)



1952 "The bus that goes to Sea" - The Seven Mile Bridge between Miami and Key West
(Florida Keys Scenic Highway)

Source of content and photos: State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory



Real Places. Real Stories.™



floridascenichighways.com