

## March Rangers of the Month

March 2017

Caloosa Waterkeeper Rangers Jim and Ruth Watkins are our March Rangers of the Month. Jim and Ruth live on Hendry Creek, a tributary to Estero Bay, and spend many hours on the water exploring the creek and the bay's Aquatic Preserve.

Jim was a founding board member and past president of the Kaniksu Land Trust and a number of water quality watch dog groups such as the Clark Fork Coalition and the Rock Creek Alliance. He is an avid fisherman and was involved in sportsman/fisheries groups in the Clark Fork/Pend Oreille Lake watershed in the North Idaho panhandle.

Ruth has over 30 years experience working for water quality-focused environmental organizations in the Pacific Northwest. Much of that time was spent coordinating with agencies, local governments and diverse groups to undertake multifaceted projects to protect vulnerable water resources.

Together, they are helping to watch over Hendry Creek and Estero Bay. Based on their observations over the past 12 years, they don't see that a trend is evident in the Bay or Creek, other than occasional algae blooms in some of the smaller tributaries and the ups and downs of the fishery due to changing weather cycles.