Resume

John R. Cassani, Jr.

Education

- B.S. Michigan State University, 1975 in Fisheries and Wildlife
- M.S. Central Michigan University, 1977 in Biology (concentration in aquatic ecology).

Residence

- Resident of Lee County since 1978. Currently reside in Alva with my wife Holly and dogs Ollie and Carmen.

Experience as an Educator:

- Currently FGCU Adjunct Faculty in Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences
- Courses taught at FGCU:
    - Limnology (study of estuarine and freshwater ecosystems)
    - Watershed Science
    - Special Topics Course on water resource management
    - Served on graduate student committees
- Organized the annual Lee County Pond Management Workshop (ca. 1991-2002)
- Presented more than 50 oral presentations at various professional society, advisory and civic group meetings 1977-2016

Professional Experience Managing Water Resources:

- 36 years managing water resources in Lee County and the Caloosahatchee River for the Lee County Hyacinth Control District (LCHCD). Retired as LCHCD Deputy Director at which time I was responsible for personnel management, scientific research, budgeting and all aspects of field operations including airboats and science research vessels and water sampling equipment.
- Started the Lee County Pond Watch Program under LCHCD in 1991, currently still in operation.
- Responsible for the LCHCD research program from 1979 until retirement (2014), senior author of more than 25 peer reviewed publications, a book on managing aquatic vegetation and two book chapters related to water resource management, most titles available at www. http://lchcd.org/lchcd-publications-reports/
- Supervised a state certified water quality laboratory at LCHCD
- Certified as a Professional Entomologist by the Entomological Society of America
- Worked as a fish hatchery technician (summer intern) for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (1974). Assisted hatchery personnel and conducted boat operated creel survey on several Indiana reservoirs, field sampling and age and growth of fish assessment

Advisory and Planning Experience

- Currently: appointed to the seven-member Lee County Local Planning Agency, advisory to BOCC on the Lee Comprehensive Plan, Chairman of the Southwest Florida Watershed Council, a

member of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Board of Directors, the FGCU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, the American Fisheries Society, Florida Lake Management Society and the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association Board of Directors

- Served 17 years on the Lee County Conservation Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee
- Ongoing participant in the Caloosahatchee Estuary BMAP planning process (2011-)
- Served on the Caloosahatchee Estuary TMDL Technical Committee (2008)
- Represented the Southwest Florida Watershed Council on the Lake Okeechobee Adaptive Protocols Revision (2010)
- Appointed to the SFWMD Lake Okeechobee Water Resource Advisory Commission (2007/08)
- Appointed to the SFWMD Caloosahatchee Water Management Plan Advisory Committee (1998-2000)
- Served on the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Technical Advisory Committee from inception to 2010 (10 years plus)
- Served on the Estero Bay Agency for Bay Management from inception to 2007, (10 years plus)
- Participated in the development of the Caloosahatchee MFL Rule in (2000/2001)
- Appointed to the Alternatives Development Group for the Southwest Florida Environmental Impact Statement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (1999)
- Participated in the development of the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study (A Western Everglades CERP Project)
- Invited participant in the Southeast Watershed Leadership Train-the Trainer Academy
- Consultant to the Imperial Irrigation District (California) and the Alberta Provincial Government related to aquatic vegetation management and fish culture (1986-1989)
- Invited technical reviewer for Florida State Wildlife Grants Program

Leadership and Innovation Experience

- Founded the Lee County Pond Watch Program, Southwest Florida Watershed Council, Southwest Florida Amphibian Monitoring Network (Frog Watch), Estero Bay Nutrient Management Partnership and the Southwest Florida Aquatic Nuisance Species Surveillance and Education Network.
- Developed the technology for triploid (sterility) induction and certification in grass carp, a biological control for aquatic weeds in 1986. The technology is still the industry standard for grass carp sterilization today. The original technology is archived at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish, SD.
- Served as Chairman or President of the Southwest Florida Watershed Council, Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida, Audubon Society of Southwest Florida, Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium, Introduced Fish Section of the American Fisheries Society and Governing Board Member 1999/2000, Florida Audubon Society Board of Directors 1995-1999 and Science and Sanctuary Committee Chair 1996-1999, Chairman of the Conservation 2020 Advisory Committee CLASAC (2011-2013).
- Organized and led educational ecotours for FGCU and Audubon to Peru, Belize and Costa Rica

Grant Awards

- Florida Advisory Council on Environmental Education, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, American Fisheries Society Publications Endowment, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, Isabella County (Michigan) Department of Health

Advocacy

- Regular contributor to the Fort Myers News Press opinion page since 1999, and occasionally to the Naples Daily News and Tallahassee Democrat on issues related to land, water and wildlife conservation, policy and regulation.
- Author of resource conservation related articles in popular media publications including Tropicalia, WGCU Expressions, Aquatics Magazine and CHNEP Harbor Happenings.
- I was one of three local advocates for the Audubon Society of Southwest Florida along with Lyle Danielson and the late Roger Clark who brought the concept of what is now Conservation 2020 to the Lee BOCC in 1995. Served on the Conservation 2020 grassroots citizen committee that promoted the program and developed the original ballot question for the successful referendum on Conservation 2020 in 1996. This program resulted in over $300 million dollars spent on land acquisition in Lee County totaling nearly 25,000 acres acquired to date.

Recognitions

- 2010-2016: Invited speaker for AWRA (twice), Committee of the Islands (2016 Keynote Speaker), Corkscrew and Big Cypress Science Forums, Responsible Growth Management Coalition, Calusa Herpetological Society, Bailey Mathews Shell Museum, Sierra Club, IFAS Pond Management Program and various civic organizations and schools in Lee County
- Guest lecturer at FGCU in marine science and resource management related courses
- 2010 Recipient of the Everglades Coalition's John V. Kabler Award, for grassroots advocacy on conservation issues
- Lee County Board of County Commissioners Resolution (in appreciation for community activism, 2010)
- Estero Bay Agency for Bay Management "Outstanding Contributions" 2007
- Estero Bay Agency for Bay Management "Outstanding Conservation Volunteer" 2003
- Responsible Growth Management Coalition, Recognition Award 2003
- Florida Audubon Society, "Special Recognition Award" 1999
- Audubon Society of Southwest Florida, "Conservationist of the Year Award" 1996