

 **Lee County Legislative Delegation Meeting**

400 Palmetto Avenue

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Osprey, FL 34229-0902

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**conservationfoundation.com**

**October 18, 2017**

 **Presentation by: Christine P. Johnson, President**

1. **Support using “Florida Forever” funds for land and conservation easement acquisition:** Protect natural Florida for people and wildlife; Protect land buffering waterways; Protect working lands.
* **Benefits:** Protects water quality and quantity; Essential for tourism and agricultural industries; Preserves unique Florida natural resources.
* **Examples:** Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, Estero Bay, Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park
* **Opportunities:** Additions and buffers to and inholdings in existing state parks and wildlife management areas:
	+ Edison Farms addition to CREW (land)
	+ Coral Creek in Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park (*land*)
	+ Myakka Ranchlands
		- Orange Hammock Ranch (*land*)
		- Murphy Marsh on Myakka River (*easement*)
1. **Support “Florida Community Trust” grants for parks and other public places.**
* **Benefits:** Leverages local governments' and nonprofits' dollars to meet recreational needs of residents and visitors. Improves health by connecting people to nature.
* **Examples:** Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve, Bay Preserve at Osprey, Robinson Preserve
* **Opportunities:** community parks and preserves providing water access and recreation, opportunities to enjoy and learn about nature.

***Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast is a nonprofit conservancy working to save the bays, beaches, barrier islands and their watersheds in Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee Counties.***

**Land Protection Priorities:**

* Conserve habitat for imperiled plants and animals
* Protect shoreline and provide water access
* Connect conserved lands for people and animals
* Provide unique, highly desired recreational access for the public

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