



Gulf Partnership Annual Conference

Planning for the Future

Agenda

October 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Holiday Inn Resort

14 Via De Luna Drive Pensacola Beach, Florida 32561

**Thursday, October 19th**

- 7:00 am – Registration [*St. Bart's pre-function space*]
- 7:30 am – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast [*St. Bart's pre-function space*]
- 8:30 am – 8:35 am **Welcome and Introduction** [*Guadeloupe Room*]: Pensacola Mayor D.C. Reeves
- 8:35 am - 10:00 am **Plenary Session I** [*Guadeloupe*]: *Planning for the future, land conservation investments, and building collaboration with the land trust community. Learn and be inspired by a plenary session dedicated to advancing local, state, and regional conservation.*
- Shawn Hamilton (Secretary): Florida Department of Environmental Protection
  - Jon Scott (Program Director, Southern Forests): National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
  - Meredith Budd (Director, External Affairs): Live Wildly Foundation
  - Moderator: Vance Crain (Gulf Partnership)
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am Coffee Break with light refreshments [*St. Bart's pre-function space*]
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Unpacking the USDA Farm Bill Breakout Session** [*Guadeloupe*]: *Learn about policy and moments that led to the creation of the new Farm Bill, and how changes to the program will impact your organization.*
- Lori Faeth (Senior Director of Government Relations): Land Trust Alliance
  - Tim Fink (Policy Director): American Farmland Trust
  - Ben Knuth (Agriculture Policy Specialist): National Wildlife Federation
  - Moderator: Neil Fleckenstein (Tall Timbers)
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Partnering with the US Fish & Wildlife Service Breakout Session** [*Antilles*]: *USFWS personnel will discuss updates/directions of the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) process and how conservation partners can work with the Coastal and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.*
- Doug Phillips: North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Administrator
  - Melody Ray-Culp: Florida Panhandle Coastal Program Coordinator
  - Chris Metcalf: Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator
  - Moderator: Beau Hardegree (USFWS)
- 12:00 am – 1:30 pm Lunch Provided [*St. Bart's pre-function space*]

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<p><b>Florida Conservation Corner Breakout Session C [Guadeloupe]:</b> <i>Learn about the numerous funding opportunities and conservation initiatives from programs that aid acquisition and easement efforts in Florida.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callie DeHaven (Division of State Lands Director): Florida Department of Environmental Protection</li> <li>• Sue Mullins (Rural and Family Lands Director): Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</li> <li>• Jason Lauritsen (Chief Conservation Officer): Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation</li> <li>• Kent Wimmer (Northwest Florida Senior Representative and Coordinator, Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape): Defenders of Wildlife</li> <li>• Moderator: Tom Kay (Alachua Conservation Trust)</li> </ul>
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<p><b>State Funds for Conservation Breakout Session D [Antilles]:</b> <i>This is an exciting time for conservation across the Gulf. With established, emerging, and new state funding initiatives in Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas, this panel discussion will discuss the successes, challenges, and opportunities they each create.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori Olson (Executive Director): Texas Land Trust Council</li> <li>• Ricky Flint (Executive Director): Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Fund</li> <li>• Patti McCurdy (State Lands Director): State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</li> <li>• Moderator: Doug Hattaway (Trust for Public Land)</li> </ul>
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p>Afternoon Break <i>[St. Bart’s pre-function space]</i></p>
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	<p><b>RESTORE Act Plenary Session II [Guadeloupe]:</b> <i>A Practitioner’s Perspective. Learn from RESTORE Act Coordinators about getting through their process, and from partners who have successfully navigated RESTORE funding to get projects on the ground.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa Robertson (Senior Advisor): RESTORE Council</li> <li>• Heather Young: RESTORE Council</li> <li>• Matt Singer (Director of Land Conservation): Galveston Bay Foundation</li> <li>• Moderator: Christina Mohrman (Gulf of Mexico Alliance)</li> </ul>
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<p>PGCLC Business Meeting - <i>Members Only [Antilles]</i></p>
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	<p>Conservation Florida and Innisfree Hotels Welcome Reception <i>[St. Bart’s pre-function space]</i></p>
7:00 pm	<p>Dinner (on your own)</p>

## Friday, October 20th

- 7:00 am – Registration [*St. Bart's pre-function space*]
- 7:30 am – 8:30 am **Beach Tour:** Interpretive beach tour learning about the natural history of Pensacola Beach, the species that call this unique ecosystem home, and the efforts conservation partners are making to protect, manage, and restore the Gulf Islands National Seashore.
- 7:30 am – 9:00 am Continental Breakfast [*St. Bart's pre-function space*]
- 9:00 am – 9:20 am **Welcome and Introduction** [*Guadeloupe*]: PGCLC Chair – Shane Wellendorf  
**NRCS Keynote Address:** Ron Howard – Senior Advisor Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Team
- 9:20 am – 10:30 am **Building Partnerships with NRCS ACEP & RCPP Programs:** *The USDA-NRCS and conservation partners will provide updates on USDA-NRCS conservation programs such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), followed by an open discussion about how the land trust community can better engage with NRCS partners.*
- ACEP – Danielle Balduff: Branch Chief, Easement Division
  - RCPP – Kesha Harvey: Projects Branch, RCPP Team, Natural Resource Specialist
- 10:30 am – 11:00 am Break [*St. Bart's pre-function space*]
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm **NRCS State Conservationist Breakout Sessions:** *PGCLC and NRCS will host individual breakout sessions with your state conservationists for additional state-level details and one-on-one discussions with your state representative.*
- Ben Malone: AL State Conservationist
  - Juan Hernandez: FL State Conservationist
  - Kurt Readus: MS State Conservationist
  - Richard 'Chad' Kacir: LA State Conservationist
  - Kristy Oates: TX State Conservationist
- 12:00 am – 1:00 pm Lunch (on your own)
- 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm **Kayak Tour [FULL]:** Paddle along the intercoastal waterway on a guided nature tour, observing waterfowl, wading birds, and the beautiful Gulf Seashore habitat. Kayaks, paddles, life vests, etc. will be provided.

**Thank you for joining us!**