

# Proclamation

## DEDICATING THE WABASSO SCRUB CONSERVATION AREA OVERLOOK IN HONOR OF JOE CARROLL

*Whereas*, Joe Carroll, over a long public sector career, served in the U.S. Army during World War II and later worked at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve wildlife and habitat; and

*Whereas*, until his passing on October 14, 2022, Joe had served on the County's Conservation Lands Advisory Committee, maintained an active membership in both the Florida Native Plant Society and the Pelican Island Audubon Society, and co-founded the IRC JayWatch Program, which uses volunteers to track the population of Florida Scrub-jays; and

*Whereas*, the Wabasso Scrub Conservation Area, or WSCA, was one of several scrub-jay lands that Joe tirelessly monitored for the County, featuring an overlook of a beautiful wetland with the opportunity to hear scrub-jays in their natural habitat; and

*Whereas*, since the *Sebastian Area-Wide Florida Scrub-jay Habitat Conservation Plan* was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the year 2000, the conservation and management of WSCA has been an integral component of mitigating for the incidental take of Florida Scrub-jays within platted lots of the Sebastian Highlands; and

*Whereas*, the WSCA has also been utilized as a recipient site for relocated Florida gopher tortoises that, along with scrub-jays, are often considered "keystone" species whose presence plays a major role in maintaining the composite balance of species in an area; and

*Whereas*, on October 19, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved a motion to name the WSCA wetland overlook after Joe, with the official ribbon cutting taking place on March 17, 2023.

*Now, Therefore, be it Proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida*, that the Board dedicates the Wabasso Scrub Conservation Area overlook to the memory of Joe Carroll, who in both his professional and private lives spent decades working to preserve scrub-jay habitats and the plants and animals that live in these vital areas.

Adopted this 7th day of March, 2023.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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Joseph H. Earman, Chairman

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Susan Adams, Vice Chairman

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Joseph E. Flescher

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Deryl Loar

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Laura Moss