



Friends of Wakulla Springs  
State Park, Inc. Board  
(FOWS)



**Year 2020-21 FOWS Nominating Committee Slate  
of Proposed Board Members**

**Renewing Members:**

- Cal Jamison
- Renee Murray
- Steve Gauding
- Scott Davis
- Dara Wilson
- Sue Damon

**Proposed New Members:**

- Melanie Lewis

## **Cal Jamison**

Wakulla Springs and the local sinkholes have been part of my life since the early 1960's. I have been awed by their beauty and restored in their waters. Protecting these places is a sacred trust to me...and a willing debt I owe. Serving as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Wakulla Springs Ambassador (Retired) since March of 2002 and being a board member of the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park since 2006 has allowed me to repay some of this wonderful debt. I hope to continue my role as board member.

In 2011 DEP's Springs Ambassador Program was terminated. Since that time I have continued in that role advocating for our aquifer and our springs.

For the past few years I have been participating in ongoing studies at Wakulla Spring and in Wakulla and Leon Counties. These studies are funded by a Florida License Plate Grant that is managed by the Wakulla Springs Alliance. Our weekly monitoring at the Wakulla Spring boil provides data on light penetration, visibility and other pertinent areas of concern. Dye traces during this study have connected Upper Lake Lafayette, Lake Jackson and Lake Iamonia to Wakulla Spring. Dye from each lake arrived within 35 days or less.

Other current activities include participating in the Park's quarterly Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Survey and in the monthly data collection for the Florida Springs Watch.

Providing water conditions updates for the Woodville Karst Plain Project divers and responding to sinkhole openings for local property owners remain part of my continuing Springs Ambassador efforts.

### **Current Boards and Activities**

Board Member of the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park

Board Member of the Wakulla Springs Alliance

Elected Supervisor, Wakulla Soil and Water Conservation District, Seat 5 in 2012

Founding Member and Board Member of the Wakulla County Historical Society

Founding Member of the Wakulla County Historical Society Heritage Village Project

Member of the Wakulla State Forest Liaison Committee

Member of the Big Bend Scenic Byway Committee

Appointed to the Wakulla County Historic Preservation Board 5Aug13

## **Some Past Activities**

As Springs Ambassador created a karst feature database of over 500 sinkholes and springs in Wakulla and Leon Counties

Instructor for the TCC Green Guide Program—leading Wakulla karst features and historic tours

Director of the Wakulla County Historical Society Museum and Archives

Participated in the WCHS Cemetery project and still searching.

Participated in many Tree Identification workshops, UF/IFAS

Designed and completed the Bob Rose Trail on the Riversinks Tract of Wakulla Springs State Park. The trail follows the cave system south and winds around many sinks and karst features that are not often readily observed.

Directed three major sinkhole restoration projects at Indian Spring, Tucker Sink and Corbett Sinks and assisted in the Butler and Cherokee Sink restoration projects.

Please see some of my other information below:

Calvin H. Jamison, born July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1941 in New Brighton, Pennsylvania  
Married in 1981 to Susan Wade Jamison, Retired as Librarian at Shadeville Elementary School in May of 2019.

Two Adult children, Rachael and Wade

Residence is 411 White Oak Drive, Crawfordville, Fl (30 years)

Contact: [caljamison@msn.com](mailto:caljamison@msn.com) 850-926-6586 Home

509-4814 Cell

## **Education:**

Associate of Arts Degree, Polk Community College

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology/Archaeology, FSU

Master of Science Degree in Anthropology/Archaeology/Higher Education

Certifications: Master Wildlife Conservationist, UF/IFAS





**Renee Murray Ph.D.**

I would like the opportunity to serve on the Board of the Friends of Wakulla Springs for another term. I am currently serving as Secretary for the Board.

I consider the opportunity to be involved with the Board as a chance to give back to an area that has been part of her life for decades! I appreciate and treasure our natural resources and believe it is critical to promote and preserve our natural areas. Wakulla Springs serves as a model representative of all our Florida Springs and our groundwater quality Statewide. By using Wakulla Springs as an icon - a spokesperson, for all our Springs - this will enlighten visitors to appreciate the less well-known Springs across Florida and throughout our nation.

There are exciting and tangible projects going on now with the Friends of Wakulla Springs, this organization truly makes a difference for Wakulla Springs and the Park. Thank you for your support.

**Education:** Ph.D. Science Education; Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry.

Professional: Chemical Safety Officer for FSU's Environmental Health and Safety

**Other Interests:** Active and founding member of the Big Bend Coastal Conservancy. She has worked as educational outreach efforts for 319 nonpoint source education campaigns. Renee enjoys canoeing/kayaking, hiking, fishing, gardening and our wonderful natural resources of the area.





Friends of Wakulla Springs

## **Steve Gauding**

I was born and raised in St Petersburg, Florida. My parents instilled in me a love for the outdoors at a young age through camping trips and eventually a weekend place near the Withlacoochee River in Citrus County. I also began a love of cars and motorcycles that would become very passionate hobbies and eventually influence my career. I moved to Tallahassee in 1982 to finish my Bachelor's degree in Criminology at FSU. I began coming to Wakulla Springs almost immediately and have always enjoyed the park, especially the history and the wildlife. In the mid 1990's I trained for the Escape from Alcatraz triathlon in San Francisco by swimming in the springs to get used to the cold water.

I began my career with the Tallahassee Police Department in 1983. I started as a patrol officer and then a field training officer. I then became an investigator, working first in burglary then homicide. I then moved to the traffic unit, riding motors and traffic homicide. I was promoted to Sergeant in 1999, going back to patrol, then as a field training Sergeant. I moved back to the traffic unit in 2005 as the motor and traffic homicide Sergeant. I was also a negotiator on the Tactical Apprehension and Control (TAC) Team. I retired full time from TPD in December of 2008, however remained a reserve officer until 2013. After retiring in 2008, I started me second career as an Investigator at the law firm of Fonvielle, Lewis Messer & McConnaughay where I am still employed. I am also an (inactive) reserve deputy with the Leon County Sheriff's Office. My hobbies include traveling and wildlife photography, as well as restoring and showing vintage cars and motorcycles. I am also a volunteer race steward for the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) officiating at many amateur races at Daytona and Sebring. After joining the board here at Wakulla Springs I became a volunteer riverboat guide as well.



## Scott Davis

- Briefly describe your historical connection to Wakulla Springs and the Park.  
**14 years of experience with the natural communities that occur within the Park's boundaries.**
- Do you feel you have a good sense of the various goals and activities of the Friends or would you like to have more briefing time with current members?  
**The last two years of experience (serving on the board) has aptly adjusted me to the priorities of the Friends, and given me insight into the proper interpretations of the Friend's Mission Statement.**
- What, and to what extent, are your motivations for participation?  
**I hold vast concerns for the future of the park – these concerns are a result of forces outside of the park, and are not at the fault of park management. I am motivated to bring further-awareness of the park's importance to the local community, and to the state as a whole. In developing more awareness, it is my hope that growing environmental and economic problems (potentially facing the park in the future) can be mitigated for.**
- Please provide us with a bit of your educational, professional and avocational interests and background.
  - **Academics – trained in biology, field ecology, environmental ethics, human resources, management, fundraising, budgeting, etc.**
  - **Professional and vocational – botany, land management, environmental horticulture, real estate investment and management, volunteer recruitment and retention, social networking, carpentry, masonry, politics, debate, etc.**
- Can you identify some interest areas, both general or specific, in which you would want to contribute? Examples- administrative support, e.g. financial management and investing, legal, biological research, publicity and other communications, hydrological understandings, historical or biological understanding, facilities or boat maintenance, political advocacy, and the list goes on. Don't select from the above, but please help us define your interests.  
**My broad background of experience allows me to be of assistance in a menagerie of subject areas. Strategic planning has helped me to understand where the Friends needs the most-help – e.g. building and diversifying the member base, generating monies, etc. – and this is where I am (currently) focusing my efforts.**



- Recognizing fully that we all are engaged in competing time and distance responsibilities, please assess your ability to contribute time, energy, and skills to the ongoing work of the Board.  
**I am capable of volunteering time to the Friends – the majority of my open-time windows occur during the week. My job (at St. Marks NWR) obligates me to 2-3 weekends per/month, which detracts from my ability to volunteer on many Saturdays. However, much of the refuge weekend workdays are related to student work days. It is my hope to transition (some) of those weekend work days to WSSP, and work there (more) on Saturdays.**
- Are you on other boards or do you engaged in other civic activities that might conflict with, or complement, your ability to publicly advocate for the goals of our board?  
**I am on several other NGO boards, but none hold conflicting interests.**
- Have you been sufficiently briefed on the purposes, goals and processes of the board to the extent that you could commit to partner with us or do you feel you would need a bit more time and information about our purposes?  
**Appropriately briefed.**
- Do you have any business, family, or political obligations that you sense may, from time to time, impede your ability to be an independent advocate for Wakulla Springs State Park? Simply describe any. We all have limitations.  
**No**
- Would you like to further engage in a private or small group discussion about any of the above questions, or pose a few of your own to current members, so that you might better evaluate your interest and ability to contribute to our Board? How can we assist you in further evaluating this “opportunity”?  
**If further questions are posited to me, I will answer them. I have no additional questions at this time, but enjoy the idea of small-group workings.**

Please visit [www.wakullasprings.org](http://www.wakullasprings.org) to read our by-laws and Code of Ethics.





## **Dara Wilson**

I am a huge advocate of informal education and the institutions that enable experiential-centered learning to occur. Because of parks, I gained my appreciation for the outdoors later in life as a young adult. I moved to Tallahassee in 2016 and I felt an immediate connection to this historic location.

I have served on the FOWS Board since 2017 which has given me sufficient time to see where the challenges the Friends face as well as the many opportunities for growth that are upon the horizon. I look forward to this next period of growth now that the new membership system has been implemented and website has been revealed. Though there is still much to be done.

I bring value to people and organizations by refining their communication strategies and tactics to increase engagement with their audiences and helping them achieve their greatest potential. When I was first invited to join the board, my sponsor cited the need for individuals with a firm understanding of organizational effectiveness and institutional development – which I do have. Furthermore, I have a partiality towards learning hubs (museums, nature centers, etc.) and a particularly affinity for parks given their role in educating the public in effective, nontraditional ways. It would be an honor to serve to the board of a park and have a positive influence on visitor experiences.

I graduated from American University in Washington, DC with an interest in sustainable development. I have worked with a variety of sponsored research programs and offer experience in strategic communications geared towards academic audiences and the general public.

I have had the pleasure of interpreting Amazonian wildlife at the Smithsonian National Zoo, walking rehabilitated mountain lions through the Amazonian jungle in Bolivia, catching frogs on the brink of extinction due to the global amphibian crisis and moving them to ex situ laboratories and exhibits in the Republic of Panama, and conducting microsurgery on passerine birds in the tropical rainforest.

Over the years I have gained much hands-on scientific research practice in the field, and science learning experience in education facilities – but I do not make light of the fact that these experiences began by volunteering in a national park. Service, above all else, is what I attribute to my career path's success and my passion.

Now that the groundwork of developing Wild Apricot is done and there is a paid Webmaster, I am interested in developing marketing materials for business partner packages, the FOWS communications plan, and other projects as needed while someone else fixes site bugs and implements site changes.

In addition to serving on the Friends of Wakulla Springs Board of Directors, I also serve on the Apalachee Audubon Society Board of Directors and I am a 2019 Knight Creative Communities Institute Catalyst Fellow tasked with building a musical park on the southwest corner of Railroad Square in Tallahassee. Neither of these commitments conflict with my duties as a FOWS Board Member.

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Friends of Wakulla Springs

## **Sue Damon**

- Briefly describe your historical connection to Wakulla Springs and the Park.

**I served on the Board of the Friends for one term in about 2008. After I left the Board, I was a volunteer river boat guide for about four years and during that time, and after, I assisted with Friend activities under the tutelage of Ron Piasecki.**

- Do you feel you have a good sense of the various goals and activities of the Friends or would you like to have more briefing time with current members?

**Yes, I understand that the function of the Friends varies in many ways. From education, to outreach, and membership and marketing. The Board needs a variety of talented people to achieve their goals. I have coordinated the 5k Run with Jeff Hugo, changed the membership levels of the Friends, developed the donation box program on the boats, and also implemented the penny coin machine, as well as being involved in a number of marketing projects.**

- What, and to what extent, are your motivations for participation?

**I was a volunteer at Wakulla Springs for over seven years. I had to stop being part of Wakulla Springs due to the wetlands referendum in our County, and the death of family members. Enough time has gone by that I can get involved again with the Friends.**

- Please provide us with a bit of your educational, professional and avocational interests and background.

**I have a BS in Business Administration from the University of Florida. I am a marketing and advertising professional. I have been actively involved in the Wakulla County Wetlands initiative, protecting Wakulla Springs from public diving interests, stopping a commercial development of environmentally sensitive land in Shell Point, helped in stopping Wakulla Springs from water bottling interests, been politically active for conservation and environmental protection. I started the Friends of Wakulla Springs Facebook page and currently admin the Wakulla Citizens Page on FB. And, our son's Eagle Project was the tree identification trail and kiosk in the parking area in front of the Lodge at Wakulla Springs.**

- Can you identify some interest areas, both general or specific, in which you would want to contribute? Examples- administrative support, e.g. financial management and investing, legal, biological research, publicity and other communications,

hydrological understandings, historical or biological understanding, facilities or boat maintenance, political advocacy, and the list goes on. Don't select from the above, but please help us define your interests.

**I am proficient in marketing and advertising. When I was on the Board in the past, I brought new partners to the Board, local companies and partners from Tallahassee. Changed membership levels, developed the boat donation campaign, helped in strategizing a new Friends application with various levels of membership.**

- Recognizing fully that we all are engaged in competing time and distance responsibilities, please assess your ability to contribute time, energy, and skills to the ongoing work of the Board.

**I would be perfect for events. Getting sponsorships and helping to promote events and projects.**

- Are you on other boards or do you engaged in other civic activities that might conflict with, or complement, your ability to publicly advocate for the goals of our board?

**No**

- Have you been sufficiently briefed on the purposes, goals and processes of the board to the extent that you could commit to partner with us or do you feel you would need a bit more time and information about our purposes?

**I am well aware of your purposes and I am ready to contribute what I can offer.**

- Do you have any business, family, or political obligations that you sense may, from time to time, impede your ability to be an independent advocate for Wakulla Springs State Park? Simply describe any. We all have limitations.

**None.**

- Would you like to further engage in a private or small group discussion about any of the above questions, or pose a few of your own to current members, so that you might better evaluate your interest and ability to contribute to our Board? How can we assist you in further evaluating this "opportunity"?

**Having been on the Board in the past, I understand the contributions that are necessary on my end and I would look forward to serving again.**

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## **Melanie Lewis**

1. My family grew up in Wakulla County all the way back to 1860, my husband and I own land on the Wakulla River, and we have brought family and guests to the park for decades. My daughter actually worked on the red dye study.
2. I feel like a review of the website gave me a basic sense of the goals and activities.
3. My motives are to see that the springs are preserved and actually improved to their natural state in regards to water quality and wild life.
4. FSU graduate in Psychology 1992. 25+ year paralegal career. Avid bike rider.
5. My husband and I love history. I am best suited for marketing, publicity, working with young children, and fundraising.
6. My time is plentiful now that my children are grown and gone. I only work part time.
7. I am not on any other boards, but I used to volunteer at church bible camp. I have no conflicts that would prevent me from serving.
8. I am prepared to commit and then learn on the job.
9. My whole family loves Wakulla Springs, so I can think of nothing that would impede me. My husband's law firm is already a business sponsor, so any potential conflicts from his law firm have already been accounted for and resolved.
10. I do not need any discussions prior to committing, but I am happy to meet with anyone at anytime!

