

*“We do not inherit the earth
from our ancestors; we borrow
it from our children.”*

- NATIVE AMERICAN PROVERB

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012



CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION
of the Gulf Coast

Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast works to protect the environmental character, biodiversity and natural integrity of the bays, beaches, barrier islands and watersheds of Florida's Gulf Coast by:

holding *conservation*
easements and
owning nature
preserves

collaborating
with individuals,
organizations and
communities

educating for
responsible land
stewardship

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*We envision an emerald necklace
of pocket parks and protected places
along the Gulf Coast.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT



We are pleased to bring you Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast's annual report for 2011-2012. Our work during this period was strategic and proactive, because saving land requires thoughtful planning. Our board of trustees and advisors continue to give their energy and wisdom as we build on the solid foundation of our collective hard work.

Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast saved five properties this fiscal year. More importantly, we began our land acquisition project, reaching out to owners of environmentally significant properties to introduce them to land conservation. These initial conversations are just the beginning of our bold plan to save land on Florida's Gulf Coast.

Our efforts to collaborate on important projects have been increasingly successful. Only through strategic collaboration can we achieve the goals we have set before us, and face the challenges of our time. It is exciting to see how these collaborations ripple throughout our organization and impact the bottom line. We've been good stewards of the land we vowed to protect and good stewards of your support.

Our educational programming continues to widen our reach, expanding our conservation community. We want all citizens on Florida's Gulf Coast to understand the value of conserving land and to know that conservation should be part of every thoughtful land planning discussion. Our goal is for Conservation Foundation to be the thought leader and nerve center for land conservation in our region.

We cannot do this alone. It takes the energy, enthusiasm and support of our members to help us save land. If you are a member, we can't thank you enough! If you're not a member, I encourage you to join us. Be part of our conservation community. Help us protect land forever in our region, while we still have the chance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine P. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine P. Johnson
President

CONSERVATION

“Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.”

- GARY SNYDER

We are setting a pace for conservation that is swift, proactive and strategic.

We identified and contacted the landowners of over 250 properties that have conservation value. The landowners' responses were overwhelming.

We made significant progress on removing invasive plants on our Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Pass. This work is integral to making the four different natural habitats a place for people to learn about and enjoy Florida's natural beauty. The work is necessary and critical to the wildlife on the property, including gopher tortoises and a nesting pair of bald eagles.

We were gifted acreage on lower Myakka River and received a grant from The Mosaic Company Foundation to restore it and create a place for visitors to enjoy. Tarpon Point

Landing will improve accessibility to the rare estuarine habitats for canoe and kayak users.

We continue to save land with Sarasota County as their purchasing agent for the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program. We are especially proud of our work on Warm Mineral Springs Creek, a unique Florida site that also protects critical winter habitat for the endangered manatee.

We save land. Together with generous landowners and partners, we have protected 8,432 acres on 29 properties in Manatee, Sarasota and Lee Counties.

We are grateful to the individuals, families and organizations that support land conservation through donations, acquisitions and conservation easements. Together we can protect and preserve the natural assets of the Gulf Coast for our children and grandchildren.

Together, we save land.



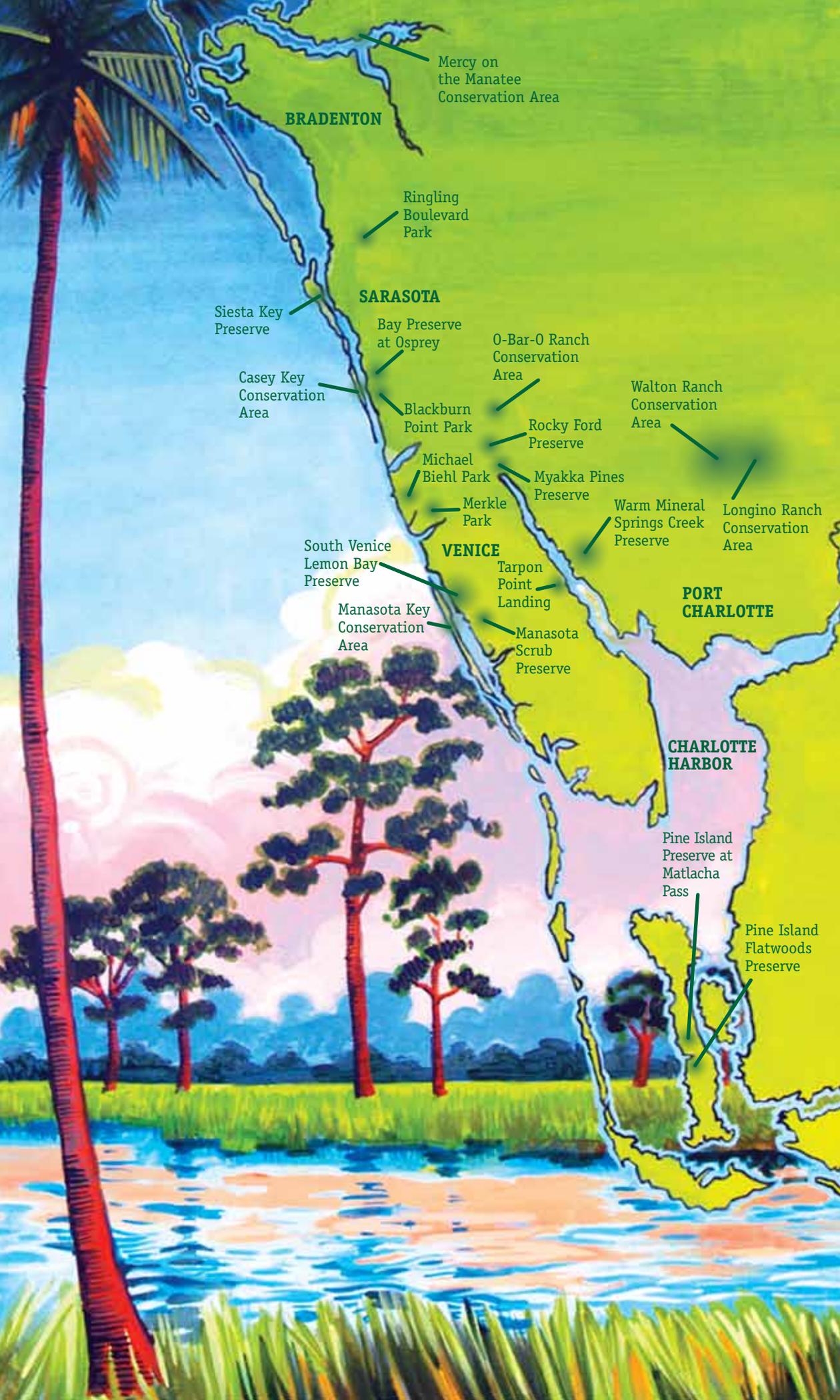
Pine Island



Young Gopher Tortoise



Tarpon Point Landing



Mercy on the Manatee Conservation Area

BRADENTON

Ringling Boulevard Park

SARASOTA

Siesta Key Preserve

Bay Preserve at Osprey

O-Bar-O Ranch Conservation Area

Casey Key Conservation Area

Blackburn Point Park

Rocky Ford Preserve

Walton Ranch Conservation Area

Michael Biehl Park

Myakka Pines Preserve

Merkle Park

Warm Mineral Springs Creek Preserve

Longino Ranch Conservation Area

VENICE

South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve

Tarpon Point Landing

Manasota Key Conservation Area

Manasota Scrub Preserve

PORT CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE HARBOR

Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Pass

Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve

COLLABORATION

*“If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.”*

- AFRICAN PROVERB

It takes intention coupled with strategy to protect the extraordinary natural beauty of our region. Fragile ecosystems are not stand alone entities; they are preserved through interconnected natural communities. Likewise, we must work with collaborative partners to protect the character and biodiversity of our area.

We seek out partners who will open doors, complement our mission, share their knowledge and help us connect the dots to tell our story.

We nurtured an exciting collaboration through our **Artist in Residence** program. Architect Jerry Sparkman, partner in Sweet Sparkman Architects, used his residency at Bay Preserve to create an exhibit for Italy's Venice Biennale 2012, in concert with students from Ringling College of Art and Design. The theme of “Common Ground” was explored through the element of sand, as part of the natural environment that informs Mr. Sparkman's designs.

We are creating a conservation

community. To do this, we begin with the collaborative partners in our own back yard. We have had the good fortune of sharing beautiful Bay Preserve at Osprey with **Sarasota Crew** for the past five years. Their mission to create a positive competitive rowing experience for youth is contingent on access to local waterways.

This year, **Sarasota Bay Watch** and **START (Solutions to Avoid Red Tide)** joined us at Bay Preserve. Sarasota Bay Watch is steeped with committed volunteers dedicated to protecting and restoring Sarasota Bay's ecosystem through education and citizen participation. START is a leader in supporting scientific research and increasing public awareness on the importance of preserving our marine environment. Their missions go hand-in-hand with Conservation Foundation: They focus on protecting the very assets that we save. We are excited about the possibilities for collaborative projects and public programs in the future.



Sarasota Crew



START



Sarasota Bay Watch



Architect Jerry Sparkman and Ringling College of Art and Design students demonstrate the inspiration of sand, the focal element in their joint conceptual architectural exhibit, 'ORIGINS' in preparation for the 2012 Architectural Biennale in Venice, Italy.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

EDUCATION

*“In the end, we will conserve only what we love;
we will love only what we understand and
we will understand only what we are taught.”*

- BABA DIOUM

Education is at the heart of our mission and we strive to bring innovative conservation programs to people of all ages. This year, we conducted 12 programs for more than 1100 people. These programs ranged from paddle boarding demonstrations to environmental law.

We are building a conservation community. Our environmental art exhibits continue to educate Bay Preserve visitors on just how much the environment inspires artistic expression. Our art exhibits included the detailed artistry of acclaimed botanical illustrator, O.M. Braida; the fine art images of Alan S. Maltz, official wildlife photographer of the State of Florida; and

the unique gamefish illustrations of Steve Whitlock.

Our annual Fall Family Festival continues to bring nearly 1,000 guests to Bay Preserve to enjoy and learn about conserved lands through games, crafts and programs, with no need for electronic games, computers or cell phones.

We began hosting additional educational events on Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Pass, including a bird-watching hike, an informational session for the neighborhood on prescribed burns and two guided tours of the Preserve.



Alan S. Maltz Art Exhibit



Fall Family Festival



Paddleboard Demo



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

September 30, 2012 and 2011

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted revenues, gains, and other support | | |
| Contributions and grants | \$506,573 | \$971,879 |
| Gift of land | \$100,000 | - |
| Program income | \$172,806 | \$240,566 |
| Realized and unrealized investment returns | \$414,248 | (\$101,184) |
| Net assets released from restrictions | \$608,438 | \$554,810 |
| Total unrestricted revenues, gains and other support | \$1,802,065 | \$1,666,071 |
| Expenses | | |
| Program services | \$880,956 | \$965,088 |
| Management and general | \$88,752 | \$96,481 |
| Fundraising | \$42,435 | \$46,124 |
| Total expenses | \$1,012,143 | \$1,107,693 |
| INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS | \$789,922 | \$558,378 |
| TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS | | |
| Contributions and grants | \$257,268 | \$172,261 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | (\$608,438) | (\$554,810) |
| (DECREASE) INCREASE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS | \$(351,170) | (\$382,549) |
| INCREASE IN NET ASSETS | \$438,752 | \$175,829 |
| NET ASSETS at beginning of year | \$27,815,216 | \$27,639,387 |
| NET ASSETS at end of year | \$28,253,968 | \$27,815,216 |



The view of Myakka River from Tarpon Point Landing

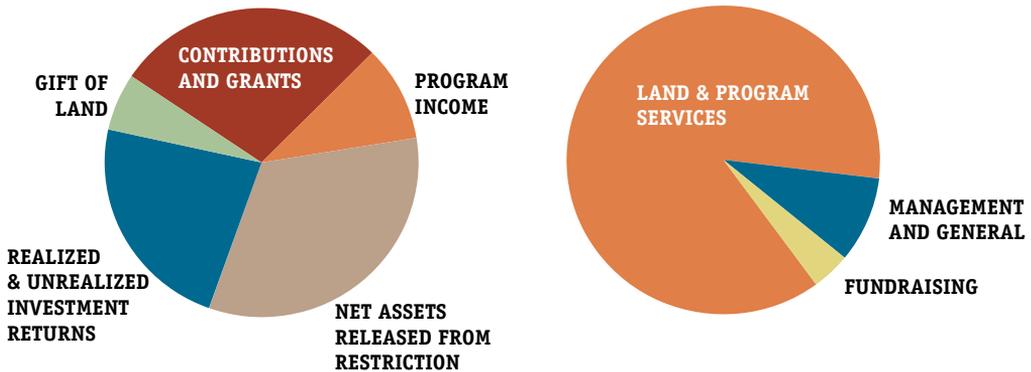
SUMMARIZED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

September 30, 2012

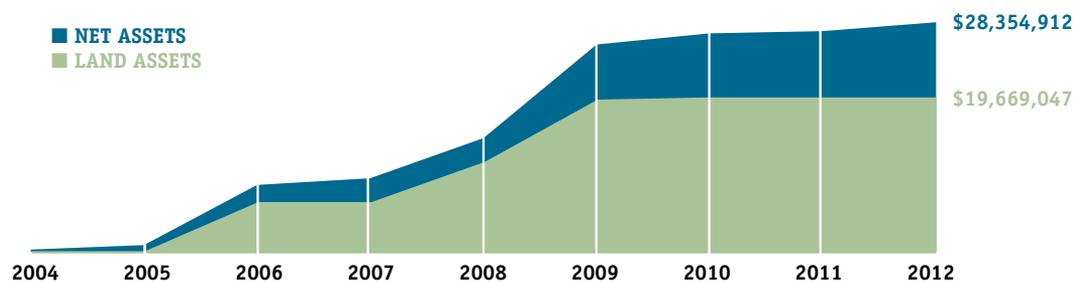
| ASSETS | 2012 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Current assets | \$352,493 |
| Contributions and other receivables | \$104,420 |
| Cash committed for projects | \$1,904,894 |
| Quasi-endowment | \$3,118,833 |
| Buildings and equipment, net | \$3,205,225 |
| Land held for conservation | \$19,669,047 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$28,354,912 |

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | |
|---|---------------------|
| Current liabilities | \$100,944 |
| <i>NET ASSETS</i> | |
| Unrestricted undesignated | \$3,202,927 |
| Unrestricted board designated | \$5,063,156 |
| Temporarily restricted | \$318,838 |
| Permanently restricted | \$19,669,047 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$28,354,912 |

SOURCES AND USES



HISTORICAL GROWTH OF NET ASSETS



WE SAVE LAND, TOGETHER, WITH YOU.

Together, we can protect and preserve the natural beauty and heritage of the Gulf Coast, for the enjoyment of future generations. The opportunities we have to protect land will not be here forever. Want to help?

Here are three simple things you can do:

1 Save land. Support Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast with donations of money, land or time.

2 Speak up. Let your elected officials know you believe Florida's natural Gulf Coast is an economic engine. Urge them to fund Florida Forever — the most successful statewide land conservation program in the nation.

3 Spread the word. Share your knowledge with landowners. Tell them land trusts provide benefits such as tax advantages, preserving family agricultural lands, managing land and more.



CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION
of the Gulf Coast

PO Box 902
400 Palmetto Avenue
Osprey, Florida 34229
941.918.2100 T
941.918.2103 F

www.conservationfoundation.com



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START courtesy of START

Sarasota Bay Watch courtesy of Sarasota Bay Watch

Page 5: Artist in residence by CFGC staff

Page 6 & 7: All photos by CFGC staff

Page 8: Myakka River courtesy of staff biologist Lee Amos

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