Volunteers recognized for 100 hours or more of service

Please congratulate these 46 volunteers who reached multiples of 100 hours of service during the first quarter of 2010. Each volunteer received four coupons for free fee-based exhibits for every 100 hours of service. The total number of hours (rounded) served since April 1, 2005, is listed in parentheses. Junior volunteers are indicated by JV. Florida Museum volunteers contributed 7,690 hours during the quarter.

Albury, Donald (100) Boutelle, Anita (500) Beamam, John (100) Beville, James (5,700) Birkmeyer, Andrew (800) Brown, La Touanna (100) Cade, Martha (1,300) Caster, Sharon (200) Combs, Leland (350) Dolder, Virginia (400) Donaldson-Fortier, Gay (100) Erlele, Robert (1,600) Fan, Alicia (IV) (100) Flanagan, Anthony (1,000) Goen, Bob (500) Haeveker, Betty (130) Hamby, Emily (60) Hessels, Jerry (70) Hodge, B. J. (100) Homer, Andrea (800) Kien, Leslie (700) Kline, Maranda (100) Lesl, Sandra (200) Martin, Marilyn (200) McBride, Mike (1,500) Meesnick, John (100) Orisima, Barbara (1,000) Pymolosh, Mark (100) Riley, Irma (200) Roll, Cindy (100) Rossetti, Kristin (100) Rouse, Amanda (300) Schmidt, Deanna (100) Seiler, Francine (3,100) Smith, Virginia (200)

Museum Contact Information
Exhibits & Public Programs (Powell Hall), (352) 846-2000

Assistant Director of Education and Visitor Services ……………………Jamie Creola, 273-2057
Volunteer Program ……………………Julie Crosby, 273-2055
Email: jrcrosby@flmnh.ufl.edu
Education Programs …………………….Kendra Lanza-Kaduce, 273-2064
Visitor Services ……………………..Brittany Snipes, 273-2037
Butterfly Rainforest ……………………..Jeff Hansen, 273-1898
Mike Boulware, 273-2043

McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity (352) 392-5994

Research & Collections (Dickinson Hall) (352) 392-1721

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By Amanda Arner

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Interns serve the Museum in many ways. Kim Meinhof and Tessa Yelton help supervise junior volunteers – 12 to 17-year-olds who work as Discovery Cart attendants, Discovery Room and camp assistants, and exhibit docents during the summer. Kim said she has enjoyed meeting and talking with the JVs. “These volunteers are some of the most intelligent and mature group of kids I’ve met,” she said. “They have impressed me in every way.”

The summer camp intern teacher program is designed for college students majoring in math, sciences or education who are interested in getting first-hand teaching experience. Interns Michael Calkins and Chi Zhang are students in the UF Teach program.

“Learning about teaching only goes so far,” Chi said. “To be a good teacher, I must constantly interact with students. The Museum affords me a great opportunity to do this in a creative and expressive environment.”

The Volunteer Newsletter of the Florida Museum of Natural History • SUMMER 2010

This is Michael’s second summer with the program, and he said he has learned a lot from his experiences. “Managing a group full of third- and fourth-graders can get a little hectic sometimes, but it’s taught me that it’s OK if everything doesn’t go exactly to plan, and that I shouldn’t expect it to,” he said.

Rachel Gerace, an intern working in the Discovery Room and teaching camp classes, is a student in the IFAS family, youth and community sciences department. She says her favorite experience is “being able to see the Discovery Room transform from an empty, bare-walled room to a place full of activities and interesting things for our visitors to experience.”

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The junior volunteers are everywhere – it must be summer! In their brightly colored T-shirts and volunteer vests, they attract staff and visitors alike to Discovery Carts, the Discovery Room and the CSI exhibit. Others are inside classrooms or the Butterfly Rainforest, assisting camp teachers, exhibit visitors and staff. They enhance the museum experience for our visitors and campers all summer.

Here is an example of why I love working with junior volunteers:
JV: “Do you see that piece of cheese in the bottom of the butterfly case?”
Me: “That isn’t cheese...”
JV: “Yes, and it is in all of them and do you know why they put cheese in the cases?”
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JV: (Earnestly) “Because then the dead butterflies won’t smell like butterflies, they will smell like cheese and dead butterflies.”

Whereupon I grabbed a staff member who was walking by and asked him to clarify the presence of the preservative in the cases. I had never noticed the preservative before this JV pointed it out; and now you can bet I’ll never forget it!

Cheerily,

The Flora, Fauna, and Foilis Flash

Interns Tessa Yelton, Jovanna Labady, Sarah Joels, Michael Calkins and Robert Day. Photo by Jen Hazel ""
Volunteering at the Florida Museum...

**Volunteering Profile:**

**Anita Battista**

By Bonnie DeVero

After living in places as varied as Boston, Los Angeles, Oklahoma, Germany and New Zealand, Anita Battista finally settled in Gainesville. After 46 years in the city, she considers herself “almost a native.” Though she already had a chemistry degree, Anita earned a degree in library science from the University of Florida and worked as a reference librarian at Marston Library for 23 years. By the time she joined the Museum as an exhibit docent and butterfly interpreter, she already had lots of experience working with Museum staff and volunteers.

“I was very impressed by the scholars from Dickinson Hall who used the library – they didn’t need much help,” she said.

Once retired, Anita looked forward to volunteering to show the public the wonders of the Museum. Since she began three years ago, Anita has contributed more than 500 hours of service to the Museum. A few of the activities she enjoys most include meeting visiting tourists, constantly learning about new exhibits and working with the staff and other volunteers.

**Volunteering Profile:**

**Ruth Sherwood**

By Bonnie DeVero

When Ruth Sherwood moved from England to Gainesville with her husband, she began volunteering at the Museum in Dickinson Hall. A frequent visitor herself, she felt that volunteering would be a great way to meet new people – and she was right! Nearly 20 years later, Ruth says one of the best things about the Museum is “the supportive staff and getting to know such a diverse and interesting group of people as my fellow docents.”

A former music, French and English teacher in the United Kingdom, Ruth missed interacting with children after the move to Florida, but soon found her niche as a school programs docent. She views her job as an opportunity to spark an enthusiasm for learning in the students she meets on her tours. Though she took time off to care for her two children, she has returned to lead school tours and help wherever she can.

Her favorite part of a tour is showing kids the A-long-time museum visitor, Anita remembers bringing her two children to visit the Florida Museum when it was located in the Seagle Building and later in Dickinson Hall. Anita now enjoys impressing her two grandchildren with her knowledge of the exhibits when they come to visit.

“My grandchildren especially enjoyed learning about the “Hatching the Past” temporary exhibit, but I’m very fond of the cave in the North Florida Waterways and Wildlife exhibit, although I miss the old one at Dickinson,” she said.

Exhibit docent and butterfly rainforest interpreter Anita Battista. Photo by Jeff Gage.

Ruth Sherwood teaches visitors about the butterfly life cycle in front of the Rearing Lab. Photo by Jeff Gage.

**Dig Into These New Volunteer Opportunities!**

By Julie Crosby

Two new volunteer positions, Greenhouse Volunteer and Native Garden Horticulture Volunteer, are available for individuals or groups. Both are available as short-term projects or ongoing, long-term volunteer commitments.

Current volunteer positions in these groups include Alachua YouthBuild, students who volunteer in the native garden as part of the leadership and development portion of their program, and Santa Fe College students serving eight-hour shifts as greenhouse volunteers to fulfill requirements for their ecology classes.

If either of the positions interests you, contact Julie Crosby, 352-273-2055 or jcroby@flmnh.ufl.edu for more information.

Greenhouse Volunteer - Assist horticulturalist with all aspects of greenhouse operations including plant and compost management. Areas of work include the greenhouse, nursery, compost area and Florida Wildflower and Butterfly Garden. **Time required:** One (two-hour) shift per week, Weds-Thurs/Fri., from 8 to 10 a.m. or 10 a.m. to noon.

Native Garden Horticulture Volunteer - General maintenance of select garden areas within the Florida Wildflower and Butterfly Garden located west of the McGuire Center. Volunteers will weed, prune, plant, and dispose of materials. **Time Required:** One shift, Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m. to noon/1 to 5 p.m. or Sat./Sun., 8 a.m. to noon.

**Staff Profile:**

**Stacey Cramond, Museum Shops Manager**

By Bonnie DeVero

The Museum Gift Shops are a fun part of the visitor experience and important source of revenue for the Museum. The person behind their success is Stacey Cramond, who has worked for the Museum for 11 years and manages all areas of the shops. The variety of her previous work experiences is as colorful and unique as the rock collection in the gift shop: managing a cookie store, catering, using power tools in a mosquito trap factory, and working as a teaching assistant for undergraduate religion classes, where she “graded hundreds of awful papers.”

Originally from St. Petersburg, Stacey came to Gainesville in 1993 to earn U.F. degrees in history (B.A.) and religion (M.A.), specializing in modern Judaism and adult Jewish education. She enjoys cooking, old movies and reading, especially cookbooks. Recently she became a new mom of Mia Dolores, 5 months old.

Stacey enjoys many aspects of her job, including the variety of tasks and discovering new merchandise. Most of all, she says “I love working closely with my staff, coming up with new ideas together, and the mentoring relationship that usually develops.”

Several junior volunteers have assisted in the shops and been hired by Stacey, who reminds volunteers to show their name tags and receive a 10 percent discount on all store purchases.

**Stacey Cramond, Museum Shops Manager. Photo by Jeff Gage.**
Volunteering at the Florida Museum...

Amita Battista

By Bonnie DeVero

After living in places as varied as Boston, Los Angeles, Oklahoma, Germany and New Zealand, Amita Battista finally settled in Gainesville. After 46 years in the city, she considers herself “almost a native.”

Though she already had a chemistry degree, Amita earned a degree in library science from the University of Florida and worked as a reference librarian at Marston Library for 23 years. By the time she joined the Museum as an exhibit docent and butterfly interpreter, she already had lots of experience working with Museum staff and volunteers.

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Exhibit docent and Butterfly Rainforest interpreter Amita Battista. Photo by Jeff Gage.

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Beaman, John (100)
Beville, James (1,700)
Bingham, Andrew (800)
Brown, Loma (100)
Cade, Martha (1,300)
Caster, Sharon (200)
Coombs, Janet (400)
Doldor, Virginia (400)
Donaldson-Fortier, Gay (100)
Eriele, Robert (1,600)
Fan, Alicia (100)
Flanagan, Anthony (1,000)
Graf, Jan (100)
Guin, Bob (500)
Hauke, Betty (300)
Hamby, Emily (600)
Hessels, Jerry (700)
Hodges, B. J. (100)
Homer, Andrea (800)
Kleen, Lerdie (700)
Klen, Maranda (100)
Leslies, Sandra (200)
Martin, Marilyn (200)
McClain, Mike (1,500)
Menoski, John (100)
Murphy, Barbara (100)
Pymor, Mark (100)
Riley, Irma (200)
Roll, Cindy (100)
Rossetti, Kristin (100)
Rowe, Amanda (300)
Samborn, Sari (400)
Schmidt, Deanna (100)
Seiler, Frances (5,300)
Smith, Virginia (200)
Tammuz, Robert (1,100)
Tjema-Wilkin, Johanna (300)
Walker, Ellen (100)
Wallbrunn, Reyna (300)
Weber, Jay (100)
Welsh, Mise (100)
Wu, Hoo (100)

Junior Volunteer Alex Collins waters greenhouse plants.

Photo by Eric Zamora

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Welcome These New Volunteers!

D = Dickinson Hall
M = McGuire Center
P = Powell Hall

Anderson, Matthew (M)
Boli, Kathleen (P)
Boushla, Hamont (D)
Byrdston, Danielle (D)
Cattaneo, Eldia (M)
Cotter, Kathy (M)
Cotter, Patrick (M)
Collins, Matthew (M)
Comstock, Richard (M)
Cook, Howard (M)
Edwards, George (P)
Engelhardt, Hyacinth (M)
Essel, Emily (M)
Facca, Jeanne (M)
Fitzgerald, Jessica (P)
Fulmer, Luis (P)
Gelletly, Kyle (M)
Gosman, Janelle (M)
Haythorn, Wicora (M)
Hest, Erin (M)
Hussard, Leslie (M)
Johnson, Mike (M)
Korth, Meba (M)
Lana, Robert (M)
Latif, Elen (M)
Littrell, Janet (M)
Miller, Ashley (M)
Martin, Madeline (P)
Martinez, Juliana (M)
Olffy, Charles (P)
Rutledge, Sarah (D)
Robinson, MacKenzie (P)
Sharma, Aditya (M)
Shishkov, Alec (D)
Sams, Mark (M)
Sprague, Marie (P)
Stauffer, Vanessa (D, M)
Sax, Sergio (M)

By learning you will teach,
by teaching you will understand.
—Latin Proverb

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Julie Cody

Interns Tessa Yelton, Jerrusha Labady, Saraiba Joso, Michael Calkins and Robert Day. Photo by Jeszardes.

The Volunteer Newsletter of the Florida Museum of Natural History • SUMMER 2010

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