



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 6, 2009

New GLEE Board Represents Many Aspects of Green

Florida Keys Green Living & Energy Education (GLEE) has installed eight new board members, bringing the total number of GLEE directors to 11.

Joining the board from the Upper Keys are Christi Allen, Sara Hamilton, and Leda Dunmire. Steve Grasley represents the Middle Keys. New board member Nicole Medina comes from the Lower Keys, while Val Candy, Kathy Kirkland, and Jeff Ruberg all hail from Key West.

Outgoing board members include Diane Marshall, TJ Patterson, Shirley Gun, and Jedde Regante.

Continuing board members include GLEE president Alison Higgins, vice-president Jody Smith Williams, and GLEE secretary Karen Beal.

GLEE's mission is to promote sustainability through education working with individuals, government and businesses.

New GLEE Directors' Bios

Leda Dunmire has worked in non-profit marine conservation for 12 years. She is currently a senior associate with the Pew Environment Group's campaign to end overfishing in the southeast and looks forward to helping coordinate activities for EcoWeek 2010.

Sara Hamilton is the Environmental Affairs Coordinator at Florida Keys Electric Cooperative. She holds a master's degree in Coastal Zone Management and Marine Biology and has a background in marine and environmental education.

Steve Grasley earned a bachelor's of science in electrical engineering from Marquette University and a master's of science in electrical engineering from Syracuse University. Later he added MBA credentials from Wharton School of Business. After a 20-year corporate career with P&G, GE and Honeywell, he established Solaria Design &

Consulting Co. in early 2009 by partnering with a planner and architect. Steve has been involved with GLEE since its inception and brings a deep technical background to the board.

Val Candy, Summa Cum Laud, BSc in Executive Management, spent over 20 years working for Her Majesty's Government in London, UK, as a policy adviser and project manager in a variety of Central Government Departments including Trade and Industry, Small Firms and Tourism, Foreign Affairs, and Education and Skills. She moved to the Keys in 2002 on a sabbatical and was so taken by the way of life and culture decided to stay. She has enjoyed being involved in several community activities -- most recently as an original member of thy City of Key West's Climate Action Team and Business Focus Group.

Christi Allen, is a CHEK Certified Nutrition and Holistic Lifestyle Coach Level One, and Certified Pilates Instructor through Romana's Pilates. She is owner of Pilates in Paradise in Key Largo, the regional publisher for the EcoGuide Florida Keys, and hosts a radio talk show called Living Fit, and a blog talk radio show on the EcoGuide Florida Keys website. She sits on the Board for the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce and heads the Eco-Committee while chairing the Upper Keys Chapter of GLEE. And finally, Christi Allen is one of the Co-Producers of EcoWeek 2010.

Nicole Medina started working with GLEE while she was working for the Lodging Association of the Florida Keys and Key West and was a liaison to help members achieve Green Lodging Status. When she moved to Coca Cola she became the company's local CRS Champion, encouraging employees to embrace Coca Cola's Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability commitments. Nicole has participated in the Big Pine and Key West Recycling Fairs bringing their brand new hybrid delivery truck for display along with information on Coca Cola's efforts towards recycling & sustainability.

Jeff Ruberg is a LEED Accredited Professional working with SALT Service, Inc., where he assesses buildings for efficiency and renewable energy potential. He received an Industrial Engineering degree from the University of Central Florida and launched his career managing high-volume production of precast structures for storm water, sewage and electrical projects throughout the state of Florida. Jeff soon realized that a more altruistic career dedicated to sustainability would utilize similar knowledge and skills. Seeking further education and experience in sustainability he moved to Nicaragua and worked on multiple projects including the construction of an Earthship sustainable home and assembling solar photovoltaic modules. Since his return to Florida, Jeff has been steadfast on a mission to create a more sustainable community, one building at a time.

Kathy Kirkland, a Floridian, has long had a personal interest in environmental issues and alternative energy. Kathy and her partner are building an off-grid home in the Florida Panhandle on 140 acres to be set aside as a wildlife preserve with the Wildlife

Land Trust Fund. Kathy is a past board member of the Florida Keys Audubon Society and an avid birder.

More information about the organization can be found at KeysGLEE.com, or by contacting info@KeysGlee.com.