



## *News Release*

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### **ELEANOR GODWIN TO RECEIVE AWARD FROM 1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA** *Godwin Honored For Activities Supporting Protection Of Pensacola Bay Watershed*

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (June 8, 2007)** – Retired West Florida Regional Planning Council employee Eleanor Godwin will receive a Community Steward Award for her many planning, environmental and educational accomplishments aimed at protecting the Pensacola Bay Watershed. The award will be presented by 1000 Friends of Florida on Monday, June 18, at an open house sponsored by the West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC) at 4081 East Olive Road; Suite A.

WFRPC Director Terry Joseph nominated Godwin for the award, noting that “her dedication and leadership have brought about positive and lasting change in our region.” As regional planner with the WFRPC, Godwin served as coordinator of the Bay Area Resource Council (BARC) for six years, which applies smart growth principles to improving the quality of life in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

“We were particularly impressed with the way Eleanor worked tirelessly to engage citizens in the process,” said 1000 Friends President Charles Pattison. “Not only has Eleanor helped develop a smart growth plan for Pensacola Bay, but she is helping to train the next generation of leaders to be responsible stewards for the environment.”

Among other accomplishments, Godwin oversaw updating the Pensacola Bay Watershed Management Plan, adopted in 2005. This plan incorporates smart growth principles to direct population growth away from coastal and estuarine areas and promotes adoption of environmentally friendly requirements for future development in coastal areas. Called “a model” by The Nature Conservancy’s Vernon Compton, the plan focuses on land use and land management as tools to assist in the formation of a sustainable community. The guide is directed to local governments, community organizations, environmental groups and state and federal agencies within the watershed system, all of which participated in the creation of the plan.

Godwin also led the Resource Rangers, an environmental club in area schools that promotes responsible attitudes towards the environment, particularly coastal resources.

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She made classroom visits and organized field trips as well as produced a series of videos. Each video episode identifies what the responsible viewer can do to make a difference, and the series continues to run weekly on television, reaching 400,000 homes from Florida to Massachusetts. The Resource Rangers series has won seven state and national awards, including one from *Coastal Living* magazine in January 2007.

Another educational outreach effort, which Godwin organized, was the 2006 “Bay Day,” described as a two-day “environmental extravaganza.” More than 1,000 sixth graders were bussed to the grounds of Gulf Power Company for hands-on environmental activities. Local governments, extension services, regulatory agencies and private industry sponsored 25 booths that featured child-friendly displays on everything from the use of bacteria for wastewater treatment to sea turtle protection and dune restoration.

#### **About 1000 Friends**

1000 Friends’ Community Steward Award is presented annually to individuals, organizations, local governments, agencies and public/private partnerships that have brought about positive and lasting change in the way their community manages growth. 1000 Friends of Florida is presenting six other awards at separate events over the course of 2007.

A statewide nonprofit organization, 1000 Friends was founded in 1986 to serve as Florida’s growth management watchdog. It has been presenting awards for innovative growth management efforts since 1990. For more information on 1000 Friends, visit [www.1000friendsofflorida.org](http://www.1000friendsofflorida.org).

#### **About West Florida Regional Planning Council**

The West Florida Regional Planning Council is a not-for-profit agency that provides professional planning, coordinating and advisory services to local governments, state and federal agencies and the public in order to preserve and enhance quality of life in Northwest Florida.

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