

Celebrating Our 26th Season!



# Tallahassee Scientific Society

2013-2014 Annual Report

## HORIZONS 2014 Marks Third Year of Hit Series

For the third year in a row, in 2014 the Tallahassee Scientific Society hosted a speaker series unlike anything offered elsewhere. Tallahassee returned with another line-up of exemplary presenters who both informed and entertained audiences at the Challenger Learning Center's IMAX Theater.



## Horizons 2014

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO JOIN US FOR HORIZONS 2014, OUR THIRD SPRING SPEAKER SERIES!

FEBRUARY 27

**OVER THE RAINBOW:  
EXPLORING SHANGRI-LA,  
THE LOST WORLDS OF  
SOUTH AMERICA**



BRUCE MEANS,  
naturalist, author,  
director of the  
Coastal Plains  
Institute

MARCH 20

**CLAMELOT:  
HOW A CLAM SAVED A  
COASTAL COMMUNITY**



LESLIE STURMER,  
marine aqua-  
culturist, Cedar Key

APRIL 24

**THE CORRIDOR  
EXPEDITION: CONNECTING  
THE FLORIDA WILD**



CARLTON WARD,  
JR., conservation  
photographer,  
author

MAY 22

**CELEBRATING THE  
WILD SIDE OF FLORIDA:  
PORTALS INTO NATURE,  
CULTURE, AND  
SENSE OF  
PLACE**



BILL BELLEVILLE,  
author, filmmaker

The series kicked off Feb. 27 with a presentation by

**BRUCE MEANS**, Based in Tallahassee, Means is one of the world's preeminent authorities on some of the animals that inhabit South America's spectacular geologic formations known as "tepuis" — essentially flat-topped mountains that rise to astonishing heights from rainforest floors. His talk included rare photographs and a video that reveals tepuis' stunning biological secrets.

For more information [www.brucemeans.com](http://www.brucemeans.com)

and <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1392667967/islands-in-the-sky-lost-worlds-of-el-dorado>

**LESLIE STURMER** a professional marine aquaculturist appeared March 30 to present "Clamalot: How a clam saved a coastal community." She orchestrated one of the most remarkable recoveries in a traditional fishing community devastated by pollution-borne and conservation closures. Cedar Key, Florida, now is the top producer of farm-raised clams in the Southeast. For more about Leslie and her work at Cedar Key, see  
<http://research.ufl.edu/publications/exploremagazine/spring-2013/saving-cedar-key.html>

On April 24, **CARLTON WARD Jr.**, conservation photographer and author presented "The Corridor Expedition: Connecting the Florida Wild. This presentation is also documented in the book of the same name (2012) and chronicles his 1,000-mile trek from the tip of Florida to Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp. For more about Carlton see  
<http://www.carltonward.com/>

The acclaimed Florida environmental writer and documentary filmmaker by **BILL BELLEVILLE** on May 22 concluded HORIZONS 2014. Based in Sanford, Bill is widely considered the "dean" of Florida environmental writers. He is the author of six non-fiction books and hundreds of articles and essays that have appeared in the leading magazines and newspapers across the U.S. For more about Bill see <http://www.billbelleville.com/>

## Tickets Sold

	Season	Means	Sturmer	Ward	Ballister	totals
Members	96	64	42	58	73	621
Non members	10	105	14	89	82	330
Totals	106	275	162	253	261	951

Community Outreach in the Name of Science--- A TSS Specialty since  
1989

**Student creates junior individual web site**

**TALLAHASSEE STUDENT WINS SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD AT SCIENCE HERITAGE EVENT**

This photo is from the Awards Ceremony at the Tallahassee Automobile Museum on May 6 is of Reid Harwell with Barry R. Boerner President of the Tallahassee Scientific Society. Mr. Harwell attends Gulf Breeze Middle School in Santa Rosa County. Under the direction of Grace Freeman, his teacher, he created a junior individual web site.



## **Second Saturday Science Lab**

This last February, your Society started a new initiative in Leon County. We want to reach our young citizens and encourage them to think about STEM careers or to at least understand the benefits science brings to the American society. On the second Saturday of each month, in partnership with the Leon County Public Library and the Leon County Public Schools, we are presenting a program of a scientific nature.

A local scientist presents a topic, provides a hands-on lab exercise, and a lecture. These have been well-received. The programs are promoted for teenagers, but students of all ages have attended and found the labs to be informative and enjoyable.

The programs have covered such topics as "How Does Sea Level Rise?" and "How Does CSI Work?" to a delicious topic like, "Going with the Flow: The Mighty Mississippi & a Side of Syrup."

We invite our members to recommend presenters for the labs, so if you know of a good presenter -- one who can relate to teens and has a short, succinct presentation and a hand-on experiment or exercise that demonstrates the science of the topic being presented -- please let us know.

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## **Walter R. Tschinkel Named TSS Gold Medal Recipient in 2013**



**Frank Stevenson, chair of Horizons 2014 committee with [Walter Tschinkel](#).**

Last year's Annual Meeting, the Society's highest honor, the annual Gold Medal Award, was handed to **Dr. Walter R. Tschinkel** at the organization's meeting held on Nov. 7 at the Challenger Learning Center.

Dr. Tschinkel, Robert O. Lawton Professor of Biological Science, has also received the University Teaching Excellence Award. He has been president of the International Congress for the Study of Social Insects, an invited lecturer in Germany, India, Paris, Australia, South America, and numerous locations throughout the United States.

He has published and been featured in articles of community interest regarding insects and ants, in *Outdoor Magazine*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Discover Magazine*, *GEO* (German), BBC, *National Geographic* and many others. His publications in sociobiology and population dynamics of ants, includes his highly lauded book, "The Fire Ants," which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

## The Joseph Lannutti Memorial Lecture

### Dark Energy Expert JoAnne Hewett Named 2014 Lannutti Memorial Lecturer



On April 3, 2014, we had our 17th annual Lannutti Memorial Lecture 3:45 pm on FSU campus in the Richards Bldg Room 101 and dinner for our speaker and board members.

Our speaker was JoAnne Hewett, theoretical physicist at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. She was awarded the Lannutti Medal "The LHC Confronts Supersymmetry" with the president of TSS, Barry Boerner on the left, and Todd Adams of the FSU Department of Physics on the right.

In addition to this technical lecture a well attended public lecture was given 8 pm April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Medical School auditorium At FSU on the discovery of the Higgs Boson, and how important it is to understanding the origin of our universe.



## JOSEPH LANNUTTI (1926-1997)

The annual Joseph Lannutti Memorial Lecture commemorates the life and career achievements of the late Joseph Lannutti who served on FSU's physics faculty from 1957 until his death in 1997. Dr. Lannutti founded FSU's High Energy Physics Group and was a leading champion behind the establishment of the

FAMU-FSU College of Engineering.



Bill & Diane Green and Dr. Hewitt



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Submitted by Carol Zimmerman, Vice-President, Membership

At the end of the 2013-2014 membership year ending May 31, 2014, TSS membership had grown to 245. Of this number, 79 were new members who joined during the Horizons 2014 series. These new members received a welcome letter, which also explained how to access information about future events posted on the TSS website.

For the new 2014-2015 membership year beginning June 1, 2014, TSS has 266 current members. In addition to 148 new members, 74% of previous year's members have renewed.

**Not yet a member? Join us today by visiting [www.tallysci.org!](http://www.tallysci.org)**

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## 2013-2014 Treasurer's Report

submitted by Bob Henderson, TSS Treasurer

Both the General fund and the Lannutti fund showed gains in fund balance over the fiscal year. These improvements suggest good management of the Society's funds and provide a cushion for future lean years. The Society Board of Directors is also preparing for some new initiatives that further the Society's purpose and goals, which may require upfront investments.

We have lost a dear friend and benefactor of the Lannutti fund, Mrs. Peggy Lannutti. We will need to find a replacement patron or tap the Lannutti fund balance to make up the financial loss.

We thank Hopping Green & Sams, P.A. for their generous support of the Lannutti Lectures.

Additionally, we thank the many members who make a donation in addition to their membership fee. Your support is greatly appreciated.

	General Fund	Lannutti Fund
BFB (May 1, 2013)	11746.99	4830.71
FB (May 1, 2013)		
Revenue	13142.2	1712
Expenses	9568.34	1278.78
EFB (April 30, 2014)	15320.87	5263.93

# HORIZONS 2015

A SPRING SPEAKER SERIES SPONSORED BY THE TALLAHASSEE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY



**FEBRUARY 26**

"The Shark Whisperer & Other Exotic Tales of the Sea"

**ELLEN PRAGER** is a well-respected marine scientist and author, widely recognized for her expertise and ability to bring science to lay audiences. She has built a national reputation as a scientist and spokesperson on earth and ocean science issues and is a sought-after speaker for public-oriented events and as an expert by the media. She has appeared on *The Today Show, Good Morning America, Fox News, CBS Early Show and News, CNN American Morning, Larry King, and Lou Dobbs.*

**MARCH 26**

"My Beloved Brontosaurus: A Trip Through the Days of the Big Dinosaurs"

**BRIAN SWITEK** is a freelance science writer and author of the critically-acclaimed books *My Beloved Brontosaurus* (2013) and *Written in Stone* (2010). He has written articles on fossils and natural history for a variety of popular and academic publications—from *Slate* and the *Wall Street Journal* to *Nature*.



**APRIL 23**

*Deepwater Horizons 5th Anniversary Panel Discussion*

On April 20, 2010, a blow out of a deep-sea oil rig operated by British Petroleum spewed nearly 5 million barrels of crude oil into the Northern Gulf of Mexico before it was finally capped three months later. Five years on, exactly what impact has this all-time worst oil spill in history had on fish and other marine wildlife and coastal ecosystems throughout the Gulf? Four expert marine scientists in diverse fields will provide the best answers to this key question.

**MAY 28**

"Man in the Gray Suit: The Truth about Shark Attacks"

**GEORGE H. BURGESS** is literally Florida's No. 1 "shark man." A fisheries biologist with the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Burgess is the director of the International Shark Attack File and author/coauthor of numerous books and papers on sharks and other fish. The Shark Attack File is the largest database in the world on shark attacks from around the globe. Burgess has appeared on countless media outlets over the years, most notably the Discovery Channel, to help the public better understand shark behavior and the animals' storied encounters with humans.



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