



Grass Roots Newsletter - Special Edition

There's simply too much fantastic news to keep to ourselves! We're kicking off 2026 on a high note with incredible goals set for the year. With your support, we can rally around these wonderful objectives and positively impact the waterways of Crystal River and beyond!



Legislative Days Tallahassee

We had a fantastic day at the Capitol, celebrating the positive effects of seagrass restoration in Kings Bay. A heartfelt thank you to all the lawmakers, staff, and advocates who visited to learn about how ongoing legislative funding can propel springs restoration and enhance island resilience.

Special appreciation goes to ****Senator Ralph Massullo**** of District 11 and ****Representative JJ Grow**** for taking the time to connect with us.



**Success is
Crystal Clear!**

How Can *You* Play an
Important Part?

Donate Today!

- 850+ Spring Vents Opened
- 133+ of 171 Permitted Acres Cleaned
- 650K+ Eelgrass Pods, Hand Planted
- 700M+ lbs Lyngbya & Detrital Material Removed
- 99% Phosphorous & 50% Nitrogen Removed

Through Specialized Filtration



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Legislative Days Tallahassee



Islands situated along the southern edge of Kings Bay in Crystal River, FL, cover roughly 33.2 acres. The Shoreline Restoration project for these marsh islands focuses on revitalization through the installation of nearshore wave breaks, strategic sediment placement, and the restoration of marsh plants and seagrass. These efforts aim to enhance elevation and mitigate future losses.

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Save Crystal River aims to restore and protect the area's waterways for future generations through a science-driven approach. Key initiatives include:

- **Algae Removal:** Targeting invasive Lyngbya algae to improve water clarity.
- **Seagrass Restoration:** Replanting native seagrass meadows to enhance marine life and ecosystem health.
- **Spring System Revitalization:** Restoring natural spring flows by removing accumulated sand, Lyngbya, and debris from spring vents caused by erosion and nutrient excess.



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Legislative Days Tallahassee



A Heartfelt Thank You to Crystal River High School's Culinary Class

A tremendous shoutout goes to the culinary class at Crystal River High School for baking the delicious cookies that delighted everyone who visited our booth. We extend our special gratitude to their teacher, Autumn Crabtree, Citrus County's Teacher of the Year, for guiding such an outstanding group of students. We truly enjoyed showcasing their talents within the community!

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Manatee Festival

We thoroughly enjoyed showcasing our restoration initiatives, celebrating manatees, and connecting with so many wonderful supporters. Your enthusiasm and generosity play a vital role in keeping Crystal River vibrant. Thank you for being a part of this journey!



Take a Stand... with Congressman Bilirakis

We recently met with **Congressman Gus Bilirakis** to discuss Save Crystal River's work to protect our springs and the priorities ahead. We appreciate the opportunity to share our progress and the importance of continued Legislative support.

Make your voice heard! Consider reaching out to Congressman Gus Bilirakis and **Senator Ralph Massullo, District 11** to show your support.

ralph.massullo@myfloridahouse.gov
<https://bilirakis.house.gov/contact/email>





Volunteers Spotlight

Meet Chuck: A Dedicated Floridian

Chuck is a genuine Floridian, hailing from Leesburg, Florida. His passion for the water began at an early age with activities such as fishing, swimming, skiing, and eventually diving into the stunning waters of Florida.

- Often working behind the scenes, Chuck takes on various roles including:
 - Gathering supplies and materials
 - Setting up booths and tents at events
 - Cooking hot dogs for the kids during planting day

He also actively participates in planting grass, engaging in educational events, and keeping an eye out for stranded eelgrass cages and manatees.

When he's not volunteering for SCR, Chuck creates beautiful metal art for art festivals and custom orders. This month, he crafted more amazing art for the 2026 Manatee Festival. We're so lucky to have you on board as a Super Star Volunteer, Chuck!

