

Roger Bass Awarded SCOTT DRIVER AWARD from FLMS



Roger Bass accepting the Scott Driver Award from Shannon Carter Wetzel, FLMS President. Jennifer Sagan (center) announced the award.

Roger Bass was awarded the SCOTT DRIVER AWARD at the 22nd annual Florida Lakes Management Society Conference, June 2011. The SCOTT DRIVER AWARD is given to an environmental advocate who has promoted the restoration, protection and/or appreciation of Florida's aquatic resources. Scott was a well know activist on behalf of Lake Okeechobee and a member of the steering committee that founded the FLMS at the time of his death.

Roger Bass, a marine surveyor in Jacksonville, Florida, was an active member and chairman of the St. Johns River advocacy group, the Stewards of the St. Johns. This was the same group of which 2003 Scott Driver Award recipient, Thom Fortson, was a member. In the late 1990s, Roger Bass was the leading voice and organizer for a group that worked to develop an organization based on Riverkeepers, an advocacy group that has inspired dozens of privately funded river protection networks nationally. It took a two-year period to get a non-profit organization approved but in 1999 that goal was reached and the St. Johns Riverkeeper program was founded. Roger Bass became the director of the organization and lead the search for the first St. Johns Riverkeeper, Mike Hollingsworth, who was hired in 2001. Roger Bass served as the board of directors chair for the St. Johns Riverkeeper through the 2000's and now continues to support the organization as an active volunteer.