



# Tallahassee Scientific Society

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

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# TO OUR MEMBERS

## Welcome to the 2021-2022 Annual Meeting of Tallahassee Scientific Society

This report covers the TSS fiscal year from May 1st, 2021, to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## SUMMARY OF 2020-2021

- This year we awarded three science camp organizations with funds to enhance their scholarship for underserved students. The camps took place in summer 2021.
- We partnered with BLAST offering grants for teachers to help with classroom supplies and for students to use toward science fair materials.
- Science fairs are an important experience for K12 students; TSS provided judges for five elementary and middle school science fairs.
- TSS presented again at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tallahassee Science Festival held at Kleman Plaza.
- The first Giving Tuesday campaign by TSS was a huge success! We raised close to \$3000. Thank you to all who donated!
- We partnered with Temple Israel and other non-profit organizations for a climate workshop featuring “Climate Up-Close,” a group of climate scientists from all over the United States. The event took place at Temple Israel.
- Our first in-person field trip in two years took place in February 2022 with a visit to a dry Lake Jackson with State Geologist Harley Means.
- The Annual Horizons Speaker Series resumed in person in February 2022 after a two-year hiatus with three guest speakers: Drs. Stephen Leatherman, Bruce Means, and Elizabeth Jones.
- Our Annual Gold Medal Award Reception and Ceremony was a first by awarding two scientist educators for the years 2020 and 2021 in one amazing event: Dr. Susan Blessing (2020) and Mr. Carlos Villa (2021).
- We participated in the fourth STEAM-Expo (formerly the Providence STEAM Camp Fair, to *promote science summer enrichment for underserved K-12 students*).
- TSS again partnered with The Florida Museum of History for their annual [Florida History Day](#) on May 4, 2022, which was held in person this year.

# DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS FROM 2021-2022

[Tallysci.org](https://tallysci.org) main web page reflects our focus on the Tallahassee community.



## Summer Science Camp Scholarship Program

There is an abundance of opportunities for summer science enrichment within our community; however, many are not within reach of many students due to the cost of even one week of camp. TSS donated \$1000 to be shared between three summer science programs to provide scholarships for students: ReThink Energy Camp, MagLab's Camp TESLA, and the Young Engineers of Tallahassee. (For two previous years, TSS provided support to a ReThink Energy Camp for students that was held at a



Tallahassee Housing Authority location, making it free and convenient.) Through hands-on activities and real-life scenarios, students are introduced to various STEM fields. Additionally, these camps make summer science learning fun and exciting while they learn 21st century skills like communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

## Partnership with BLAST Provides Support for Teachers and Students

The Big Bend/Leon Association for Science Teaching (BLAST) is a subsidiary organization of the Tallahassee Scientific Society. BLAST is also affiliated with the Florida Association of Science Teachers. TSS provides funding for teacher grants to benefit classroom resources and funding for student grants to help with science fair expenses.

## Leon County Schools Science Fair Judging



TSS works with local schools to recruit judges for their science fairs. For the period 2021-2022, TSS provided judges for Tallahassee School of Math, Raa MS, Trinity Catholic School, Cobb MS, and Fairview MS. Not all schools in Leon County - and not all students - participate in a science fair, which can include elementary through high schools. The experience of having to choose a topic, design experiments to test your hypothesis,

making sense of your results, writing a report, and constructing a poster that explains all the steps involved can be overwhelming to many students and their families. But the benefits in problem solving, critical thinking, and learning to communicate your project to a volunteer judge are invaluable. TSS facilitates the experience of science fairs by helping schools provide volunteers that talk to the students and offer encouragement in their efforts and results.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tallahassee Science Festival



TSS once again joined other community science organizations to showcase our activities and engage students and their parents in STEM topics.

Tallahassee Community College and the City of Tallahassee joined forces for this annual event at Kleman Plaza in Downtown Tallahassee to showcase all-things

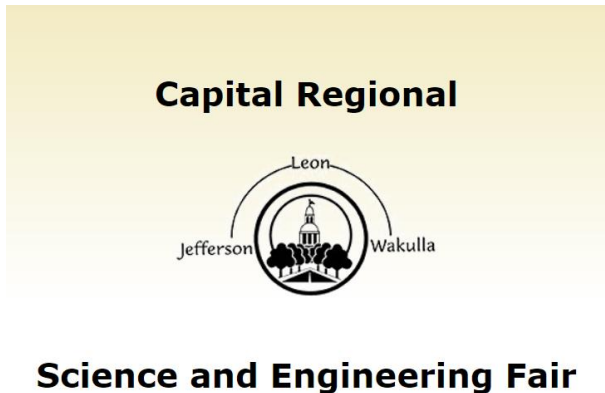
STEM. There were demonstrations, live presentations, and hands-on activities. Organizations from around the Big Bend region and beyond were on-site including STEM departments and programs from TCC, Florida State University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, University of Florida, and Keiser University.

## Giving Tuesday for TSS

# GIVING TUESDAY

**GivingTuesday** is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good, and takes place annually in November. This was the first year TSS participated in the event. We raised close to \$3000 through this philanthropic initiative. Thank you!

## Capital Regional Science and Engineering Fair



TSS is a sponsor of The Capital Regional Science and Engineering Fair (CRSEF), an event that selects students to proceed to state and possibly international competition. The event is held in early February with the support of the FSU Office of STEM Teaching Activities. Approximately 250 high school and middle school students are selected by their school

fairs from Leon, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties to compete in the CRSEF.

## A Conversation with “Climate Up Close”

The Tallahassee community was treated to a conversation with Climate Up Close, a panel of climate scientists from Harvard University, NOAA, UC Berkeley, and NYU. These scientists traveled to Florida in person for this. We were lucky to be on their tour!



This event was hosted by Temple Israel, and co-sponsored by Tallahassee Green Faith Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Rethink Energy Florida, and

the Tallahassee Scientific Society. The event was held at Temple Israel on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Horizons Speaker Series

HORIZONS  
SERIES

February 24 • STEPHEN LEATHERMAN, Ph.D., aka Dr. Beach, Professor and Director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University.

**Beach Ratings, Rip Currents, and Surf Safety.** Dr. Leatherman is an internationally recognized authority on hurricane impacts, beach



erosion, effects of sea level

rise, and rip currents. As

“Dr. Beach,” he is known

for his annual ratings of the

650 public beaches along the U.S. Coast. In this

presentation, he discussed the criteria for beach

ratings, the most important being clean water, clean

sand, and safety, with rip currents being the biggest

safety hazard at recreational beaches. Dr.

Leatherman also discussed a project in Florida to

acquire video of rip currents in action; “seeing is believing.”

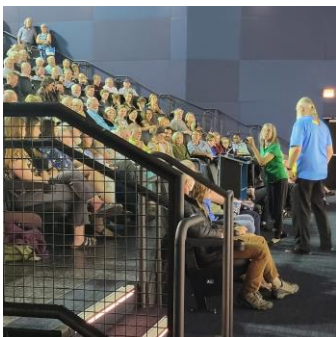


April 27 • BRUCE MEANS, Ph.D., Ecologist and President and Executive Director of the Coastal Plains Institute and Land Conservancy. **Lost World Found.**

Surrounded by thousand-foot cliffs, Arthur Conan Doyle’s Lost World on the

table-top summits of northeastern South America have been explored by

helicopter expeditions. The real “Lost World” of biodiversity lies, however, in



the impenetrable cloud forests of the talus slopes

below the foot of the cliffs. As he turns 80, Bruce Means continues

to search for new species in a biodiversity hotspot he has been

exploring for more than 30 years. Traveling by dugout, on foot

through trackless rainforest, and scaling the cliffs of unexplored Mt.

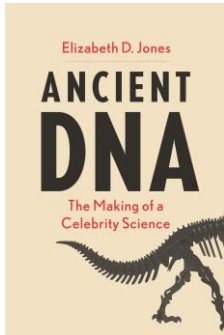
Weiassipu, free solo climber Alex Honnold and Mark Synnott assist

Means in his swan song scientific expedition.



May 19 • ELIZABETH JONES, Ph.D.,

Cretaceous Creatures Coordinator at the the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. [Ancient DNA: The Making of a Celebrity Science](#). Ancient DNA research—the recovery of genetic material from long-dead organisms—is a discipline that developed from science fiction into a reality between the



1980s and today. Drawing on scientific, historical, and archival material, as well as original interviews with more than fifty researchers worldwide, Elizabeth Jones explores the field's formation and explains its relationship with the media by examining its close connection to de-extinction, the science and technology of resurrecting extinct species. In her new book, *Ancient DNA*, Jones argues that ancient DNA research is more than a public-facing science: it is a celebrity science.

## Neighborhood STEAM Summer Camp Fairs



TSS board members supported MagLab scientist Ilya Litvak at the summer camp fairs for Elementary/Middle and Middle/High School students. These fairs feature free and subsidized camp programs. Typically, 20 organizations that offer STEAM summer camps participate and talk to kids and their families about the nature of their camp as well as engage the families in activities.

Vendors at either one or both programs included STEMOut, STEMS4Girls, Inc., LeMoyne Arts, UF/IFAS Extension Leon County, ReThink Energy Florida, AgriSTEM @ FAMU, FAMU 4H camps, Camp TESLA, Saturday At The Sea, BuddyKnit, Young Engineers of Tallahassee, Young Actor's Theatre, Girls-4-STEM,

Upward Bound Math Science Program, AG-Tech and AG Discovery, FSU-FAMU COE Engineering Academic Camps, and the Leon County Public Library.



## 2020 and 2021 Gold Medal Awards



TSS had to combine the 2020 and 2021 Gold Medal Award events because of the response to the COVID pandemic.

The honorees were announced fall 2021 (see [TD Chronicle link](#)) but opted to delay the celebration until spring 2022.

The 2020/2021 Gold Medal Award was held at Challenger Learning Center on March 30, 2022, with a reception beginning at 6:00 pm followed by the presentation at 7:00 pm. Dr. Susan Blessing, the 2020 honoree, spoke about her involvement with the Women in Math, Science, and Engineering (WIMSE) program at Florida State University

(FSU). Carlos Villa, the 2021 honoree, presented an overview of the science outreach programs that he has developed at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (NHMFL). In addition to members of the Tallahassee Scientific Society, friends from NHMFL, FSU students from Martin Bremer's class and Rickards HS students enjoyed the reception and presentation

totaling 40. Assisting with event logistics were board members Martin Bremer, Chris Harvey, Kerry Maddox, Adrienne Stephenson, Carol Zimmerman, TSS members Rick Phillips and Jackie Zimmerman, and Rickards HS STEMout students Astrid and Joshua.



## Science Heritage Award

Sponsored by the Museum of Florida History, the Florida History Day (FHD) is an annual, statewide activity that enhances the teaching and learning of history at elementary and secondary levels. As an affiliate of National History Day, FHD promotes history in the classroom by offering students the means and encouragement to do original research about people, ideas, and events of the past. The Museum has coordinated FHD since the 1988-89 school year.



Students who participate in history day acquire valuable, life-long skills. Among these are self-directed study; the ability to conduct purposeful research and to identify, analyze, and

interpret primary and secondary sources; awareness of past events and their impact on society; the ability to convey synthesized information in popular formats; and poise and self-assurance during contests with peers. Because students can present their new-found knowledge in one of four media, history day enhances academic and creative expression among students with different learning styles.

The 2022 Florida History Day was on May 2, 2022. Students present their research in several categories, including science, and following judging of the presentations, awards are made to students within their category. TSS supports the Science Heritage Award with a contribution to the museum every spring providing the winning student with a monetary award. This year the award went to Jesielle Rosenberg with her exhibit “Washing Debate Away: How Ignaz Semmelwies Faced Success, Failures, and Consequences in his Medical Career.” She attends Dunedin Highland Middle School with teacher Teresa Bergstrom at their Center for Gifted Studies. Congratulations Jesielle!

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Kerry Maddox, President	2023
Chris Harvey, Vice-President	2023
Carol Zimmerman, Treasurer	2025
Amelia Maddox, Secretary	2024
Barry Boerner	2023
Martin Bremer	2023
Mabry Gaboardi Calhoun	2023
Jake Edwards	2023
Alicia Hudson	2025
Adrienne Stephenson	2025
Kathyrn Travis	2024
Susan Vinson	2024
Charlisa Whyms	2025

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Tallahassee Scientific Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (EIN 59-3128863)

Rebuilding after the covid shut down of activities has been a slow but steady process with Spring 2022 seeing the launch of TSS in-person events again that generate membership participation. The majority of 2022 Horizons income was deposited after this fiscal year ended and is thus not reflected in the table because the last two speakers were at the end of the fiscal year and beginning of current fiscal year. Prior to that, to develop interest, TSS did a mail out fall 2021 for Giving Tuesday detailing some of our goals and requesting support through membership and/or donation. We were gratified by the support we received of approximately \$3000 in December 2021. We particularly thank our generous donors and those who joined at a higher membership level for helping us continue our outreach efforts.\*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>Opening Balance May 1st, 2021</b>		<b>8359.35</b>
Receipts:	Dues Received	2269.10
	Contributing Members	2085.19
	Donations Received	4510.67
	Horizons Income	282.87
	Interest	4.55
	Subtotal	9152.38
Expenditures:	Horizons Expense	2255.11
	Gold Medal Award Expense	1216.10
	Fees (State fee)	70.00
	Professional Memberships and subscriptions	296.88
	Office and Mailing Supplies	729.04
	Science Outreach/Awards*	2199.00
	Website	353.75
	Board Retreat (Rental and printing expenses)	290.79
	Subtotal	7410.67
<b>Closing Balance April 30, 2022</b>		<b>10,101.06</b>

## DONATIONS

A grateful thank you to all our generous donors this past fiscal year:

- Up to \$50 : Martha Maddox, Amelia Maddox, William Herrnkind, Alan J. Moreton, Marvin and Lee Cook, Sarah Marcos, Koren Taylor, Sandra Brinkman, Grayal E. Farr, Gerry Hammond, Sharon Hagopian, Barry Boerner, Christine Reilly.
- \$50 to \$99: Sanford Safron, Rick Grant, Janice and Richard Rubino, Amazon Smile
- \$100 to \$499: Bob Calder, Mabry Gaboardi Calhoun, Kerry Maddox, Joel and George Dawson, Network For Good (Facebook), Envision Credit Union
- \$500-\$1250: Carl and Helen Owenby, Walker Banning, Charles Hinson, Tallahassee Action Grants (Tallahassee Community Thrift Shop)

## MEMBERSHIP

**A big thank you to all of our members!**

TSS membership increased during the 2021-2022 year with 111 members, which includes the BLAST membership. (Membership has increased to 120 by October 2022.) We also have more “**contributing members**” at the Dirac, Kroto, Gilmer, and Hall levels, adding to our membership revenues. Your continued membership is vital for us to continue providing science outreach support and activities in the community.

- **Al Hall Level** :\$250: Rick Phillips, Chris Harvey, Max Salfinger, Meredith McKinney.
- **Penny Gilmer Level**: \$200: Kerry Maddox, William Herrnkind, Sharon Hagopian, Carol Zimmerman.
- **Harry Kroto Level**: \$100: Grayal Farr, Bryon Ehlmann, Walker Banning, Ann Hosford
- Smith
- **Paul Dirac Level**: \$75: Mabry Gaboardi Calhoun, Todd Adams, Alan Marshall