



# Wetland Warriors

An Interactive Magazine



Jack & Anne Rudloe reach  
millions in battle to save  
North Florida wetlands



Jack and Anne Rudloe have spent 50 years fighting to preserve North Florida wetlands and promoting the importance of estuarine ecosystems. The activist couple led the push for legislative protections in the state when none existed and contributed to the conservation of more than 35,000 acres of wetlands habitat.

Jack Rudloe continues today to battle moneyed interests that threaten to repeal established laws protecting wetlands, even as new studies show the devastating impact of disappearing wetland habitat nationwide.

Their work is cited in nearly 100 scholarly articles related to wetlands research. Universities across the

country rely on their unique knowledge of coastal and inland aquatic ecosystems to support both life-saving research and the education of budding marine scientists. Their literary accomplishments draw attention to the significance and endangered status of wetland habitats.

Holding the state's oldest sea turtle rehabilitation license, the Rudloes'



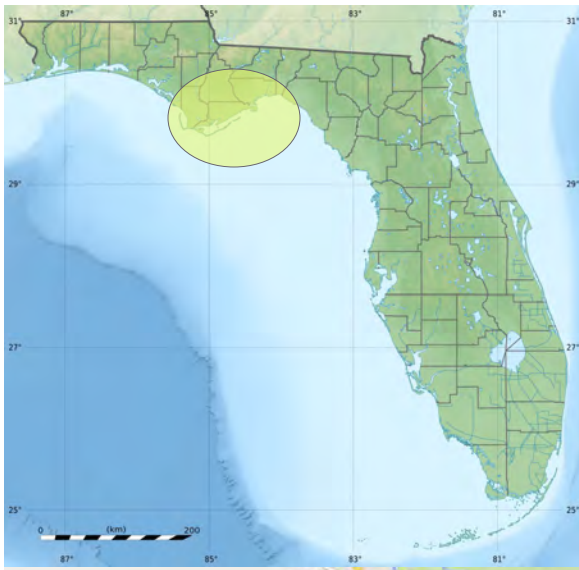
Recognized for their dedication to wetlands conservation, the Rudloes are recipients of the National EPA Award (2003) and the ChevronTexaco Conservationist of the Year (2005).

non-profit marine lab specializes in rescue and education regarding the world's most endangered sea turtle species, the Kemp's Ridley. Frequenting Florida's Gulf waters, the turtle feeds in shallow wetland areas which underscores the importance of preserving coastal wetland habitats. Additionally, GSML was the site of Project Noah's Arc, brainchild of Jack Rudloe, an effort to rescue the many wetland-dwelling animals at

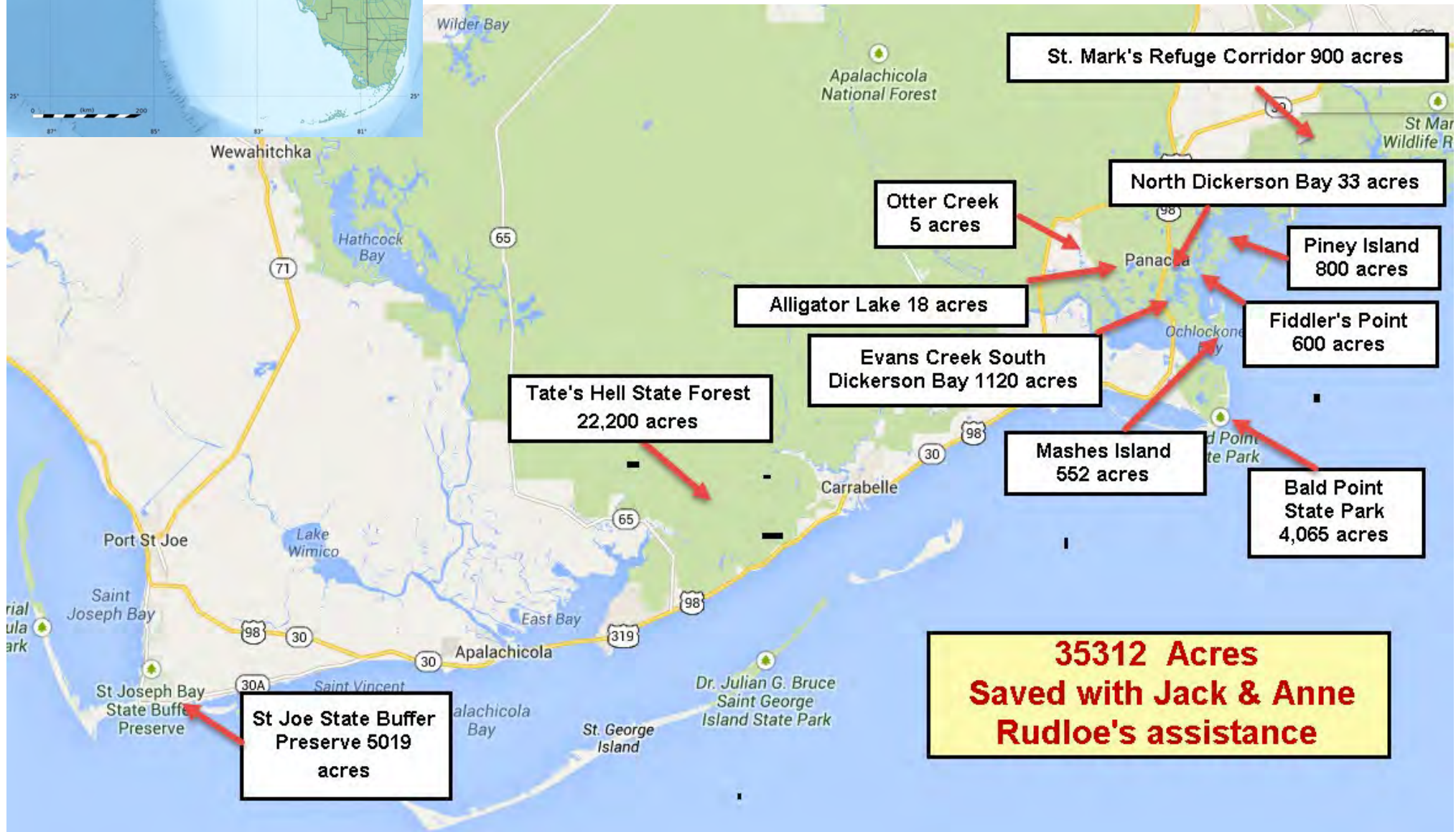
risk from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. The project received network news coverage and was broadcast around the world.

Through their nationally-recognized educational center, Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory and Aquarium (GSML), the Rudloes have engaged the general public with innovative awareness techniques that prompt ecological stewardship and preservation of area rivers, swamps, marshes and shallow bays.

Unique in its public mission, GSML specializes in wetland animal life, the small crustaceans and invertebrates that support the better known animals farther up the food chain. More than a quarter million people have passed through their doors, leaving with a greater understanding and deeper connection to the wetland flora and fauna that play a vital role in the health of our planet.



# Area of Detail: Wetland Acquisitions Made/Influenced by Rudloes





## The Steinbeck Papers

"Remember the Land of Oz? Maybe we could help to colonize the World of Is. It is more fantastic than the moon and littler known than Mars and it has the curious advantage of being here."

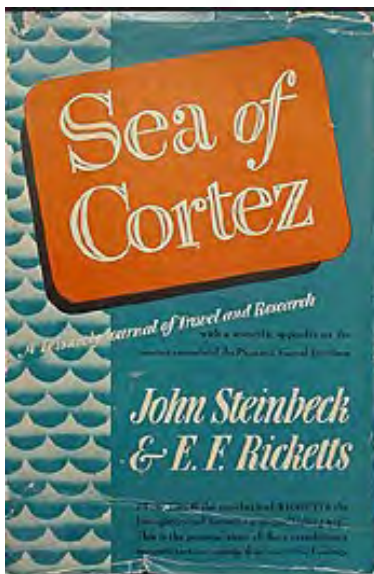
In the winter of 1962 I began a correspondence with John Steinbeck, one of America's most famous novelists. Among his most noted works were *The Grapes of Wrath*, *East of Eden*, *Tortilla Flat* and many others. But at the time, two of his works, "Cannery Row" and the "Log of the Sea of Cortez" were the most important to me because I was starting my business of collecting marine life in Panama.

Long before I ever picked up the book, people were telling me I was Doc in Cannery Row. Doc was a biologist who had a small commercial laboratory that sold pickled sea creatures, embalmed cats and rattlesnakes to schools and research laboratories. Next door to "Western Biological" was a whore house, a sardine cannery, and a Chinese Grocery store. Doc was a real person, Edward F. Ricketts, owner of Pacific Biological Laboratories and John Steinbeck was a partner at one point in time, and his wife Carole was Ed's secretary. Together Ricketts and Steinbeck wrote the Log of the Sea of Cortez, about their expedition into the Gulf of California to collect marine invertebrates and bring them back to study. They were traveling around uncharted ground at the time in a purse seiner called the "Western Flier"



I read both books, and I was particularly interested in the difficulties they encountered with academia. At the time I was having my troubles with Florida State University, having just been booted out, and I wrote Steinbeck a letter telling him that things hadn't changed since the book was written in 1941; that some of the professors were still antagonistic to individual scientific pursuits outside of the university and hostile to entrepreneur. I was nineteen years old, my esteem was at its lowest point ever. I didn't expect an answer because I knew he got tons of mail, but it was the beginning of a long correspondence. Through his letters, and during our visits John Steinbeck encouraged me to go on with my dream, to build Gulf Specimen Marine Lab and go on with my writing.

But one time when I was visiting him in New York, I complained about how hard it is to get published. He got angry, "Don't give me that crap, Jack. If you're worth a damn you'll get published; it may take a long time but sooner or later you will. And if you're not, you won't."



# The Steinbeck Letters

[Jack's First Letter to Steinbeck](#)  
[Steinbeck's Reply](#)

[Rudloe to Steinbeck 4/9/63](#)

[Steinbeck's Reply 5/16/63](#)

[Steinbeck's first postcard to Jack](#)

[Rudloe to Stienbeck 8/19/63](#)

[Steinbeck to Rudloe Delivered in Person 9/25/63](#)

[Steinbeck to Rudloe 2/7/64](#)

[Rudloe to Steinbeck 11/24/64](#)

[Steinbeck to Rudloe 2/17/65](#)

[Rudloe to Steinbeck 2/28/65](#)

[Rudloe to Steinbeck 3/19/65](#)

[Steinbeck to Rudloe 3/22/65](#)

[Rudloe to Steinbeck 4/10/65](#)

[Steinbeck to Rudloe 4/26/65](#)

[Rudloe to Steinbeck 9/22/65](#)

[Steinbeck to Rudloe 4??/65](#)

[Rudloe to Steinbeck 1/21/66](#)

[Steinbeck's postcard to Rudloe 3/5/66](#)

[Steinbeck to Rudloe 3/18/66](#)

[Steinbeck's postcard to Rudloe 5/24/66](#)

[Steinbeck's postcard to Rudloe 6/3/66](#)

[Steinbeck's final postcard to Rudloe](#)

[Rudloe to Steinbeck 9/11/67](#)

[Steinbeck's final letter to Jack 9/14/67](#)



John Steinbeck  
190 East Seventy-second St.  
New York 21, New York

Dear Jack Rudloe:

It was a great pleasure to get your letter of April 1 (P). As you must know, my mail has become a matter of horror to me. It is like the smooth wave and confusion of flatterers (they think) people who want something, women who have confused prose and sex, plus a large group of just plain busy busses. Your letter made my day.

I wish I could see your part of the country. The name panacea is charming. Your letter had (hmm) heart and a moray unless I am sleeping) very good.

Your restlessness with the specialists is not unknown to me. Ed and I had some of it, except for the great ones. They were always friendly and easy and open. Only the half-arsed are priestly. You see they aren't very secure. They are fighting for positions, and for promotions. They are usually pretty dull people. Be kind to them. They are as vain as actors and flattery will get you any place with them. But they do have value in identification under our rotten taxonomic structure.

Of course there is a way of joining the club - a degree and a grant of some kind came from an institution - you have to invest - will work. And still, there are some awfully good people working in the field. There's a tagging station on St John VI also studying the panacea factors which has some algae and the people there are fine and friendly.

You say your theme sufficiently much identification. We have found some at certain points in the ...



# Christopher Still's Paintings at Gulf Specimen



In 1968 I was only seven years old when my dad was studying at Florida State University. We had moved from our home in Dunedin and were far away from the beach that I loved. My dad discovered the Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory and brought me here for a visit one weekend. What a day that was! Jack Rudloe showed me sea squirts and pulled creatures from the tanks fueling my imagination. It was a lasting and impressionable experience. I would pour over the Rudloe's book, "The Sea Brings Forth for years to come.

We returned to the Tampa Bay area where I pursued my love for art. After studying at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and in Europe I decided to return to Florida. Now some 40 years later when I heard about the oil spill, I rushed to the Florida panhandle to paint the endangered coastline. On my trip back I was passing through Panacea and saw a once familiar sign and made a stop here.

When I walked into the Gulf Specimen Aquarium and saw the touch tanks and met the founders Anne and Jack Rudloe, all of those memories came back. I realized that the trip to the Laboratory as a child had a great impact on my life. Many of the details in recent works are still distant memories of that day. I decided with the Rudloes that my artwork should be a part of this very special place. So with the concern and generosity of Jimmy Buffet, we made reproductions of the artwork before you. The originals can be viewed in the Florida House of Representatives in Tallahassee and the Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater.









# MISSION or CRUSADE?

## Rudloe Angers Developers

“Everybody has a favorite cause, but for some people the cause becomes an all consuming effort. Sometimes, these people are just tilting at windmills: sometimes they end up changing a nation.”

- “Lonely Causes,” Wall Street Journal

Click images  
to read full articles







Jack Rudloe is the poet of Florida's waters and wetlands. *The Wilderness Coast* is a marvelous gathering of marine adventures exploring the shallows and estuaries of Florida's northwest Gulf Coast. Anyone who loves life in its bewildering and fascinating forms will treasure this book." —James Dickey

*Shrimp: The Endless Quest for Pink Gold is a deep and expert look not only at an important human food source but also of the fragile complexity of the ecosystem in which it is created.* —E. O. Wilson



[Click here](#) for links to full articles. [Click here](#) for books, book previews and a full bibliography.

We had been involved in endless controversies over the years to slow down the conversion of our wilderness coast into condominiums and trailer parks. The swamp represented 14 acres where the concrete, steel and asphalt could not follow.

— Jack & Anne Rudloe, "Why We Sank Our Money Into a Swamp"



# INNOVATING WETLANDS EDUCATION



## Aquarium, Living Dock & Marsh Tours

***"We consider the vital role of marshes as nursery habitat and look at how tides control the way marshes grow."*** - Gulf Specimen Marine Lab's Aquarium Brochure



## 55,000 Gallons

***"Unlike most public aquariums, we specialize in invertebrates and other small living treasures of the North Florida coast."***



## Videos

***"Your willingness to nurture our students' curiosity about nature and helping them become good stewards of the environment has had positive impact on their views about the natural environment."*** - Jackie High, Principal, Riversink Elementary School, Wakulla County FL





# INNOVATING WETLANDS EDUCATION



*"Five large touch-tanks containing safe to handle colorful starfish, conchs, sea urchins, sponges, hermit crabs and other creatures provide the ultimate hands-on experience."*

*- Sea Mobile Field Trip Brochure*



**"This is not 'extra stuff.' ... It is critical to impart to our children ways they can help out now to avoid problems in the future. Our students want to be proactive, not reactive. They are realizing that the world they will inherit will need help."**

**Pam Bridges, 5th Grade Science  
Seminole Elementary, Donaldson GA**

## Gulf Specimen Marine Lab's SeaMobile



**WATCH THE SEAMOBILE IN ACTION**



# Gulf Specimen Aquarist Intern Program

The Aquarist Internship is an on the job training type internship that explores biological supply, marine life educational programs and sea turtle rehabilitation. Our goal is to expose the interns to all aspects of the operations of the aquarium and prepare them for their chosen career path



**From the album: 2012-2013 Aquarist Interns**  
By Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Chelsea graduated from the Florida State University with a double degree in Psychology and History. She has been a part of Gulf Specimens since 2012 and loves to give aquarium tours and play with the stingrays. Her future plans include interning in January 2014 for the Marine Mammal Department at the John G. Shedd Aquarium. She is shown tagging a Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle after a hook was removed before release.



**From the album: Spring 2014 Aquarist Interns**  
By Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Sophie Owens is one of our new interns from Pensacola, FL. She currently attends Florida State University and is majoring in psychology with a minor in biology. Her dream job is to work with dolphins. She loves learning about marine animals and wants to help educate kids about why the ocean and its inhabitants are so important.



**From the album: Spring 2014 Aquarist Interns**  
By Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Sam helping measure a rescue Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Sam is a Senior at Leon High School, Tallahassee, FL. This will be her 2nd semester interning with us and we appreciate all of her hard work and the great job she does as a tour guide.



**From the album: Spring 2014 Aquarist Interns**  
By Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Katie tagging a nurse shark in the Gulf of Mexico.

Katie Chandler one of our new interns currently lives in Tallahassee FL and is attending the Florida State University. She is majoring in Environmental Science with the hopes of conducting her own research on water quality in the Apalachicola Bay through stable isotope analysis. She has a passion for shark research and hopes to obtain an internship with NOAA Marine Laboratory after graduating.



**From the album: Spring 2014 Aquarist Interns**  
By Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Taylor Swanson one of our new interns recently returned from a month in Bali working with sea turtles.



**From the album: Spring 2014 Aquarist Interns**  
By Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Feeding an Oscillating Moray Eel. This will be her 2nd semester interning with us. She is great with the animals and guests. Janice lives in Thomasville, GA and is studying Veterinary Technology at Southwest Georgia Technical College. She has enjoyed working hands-on with our veterinarian and will continue to intern next semester. She has a passion to help sea turtles and plans to intern in May at St. George Island.





# Sourcing Scientific Breakthroughs

**New species of jellyfish type known as “sea wasp” found in Madagascar mangroves, named for Jack Rudloe: [Chiropsella rudloe](#)**

*“The specific name was chosen to honor Jack Rudloe for his dedication to the study and protection of the marine environment and it’s inhabitants.” - Bastian Benthage, Univ of Maryland*

*[Marine Biodiversity Records](#), accepted 8 October 2013, Smithsonian Institution*

“The services of Gulf Specimen support research funded by NSF, NIH and the Office of Naval Research and are thus important to our national science infrastructure.”

- Marc Weissberg, Ph.D., Biology  
Georgia Institute of Technology

“I know of no other institute along the Gulf’s shores that has done more to heighten this awareness, both by direct educational work and by facilitating the instructional efforts of others.”

- Michael Hellberg, Ph.D., Biology, LSU

“I also use fiddler crabs from GSML in my research program, a program that is aimed at understanding how salt transport proteins function. These proteins are important in human health and disease (for example, hypertension). Again, having a reliable source of healthy animals is needed if this important research is to continue, and as such GSML is providing a very important service to the research community.”

- Chris Gillen, Asst. Professor Biology, Kenyon College



# Local & National Recognition For Rudloes' Conservation Efforts



Anne Rudloe,  
12/24/1947 to 4/27/2012

*"Protecting the earth gives meaning and wholeness and a sense that you are contributing to a greater good. This earth should not be allowed to disappear. Now it is your turn."*

Anne Rudloe, Co-Founder of Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, in a speech upon receiving the 50th Annual Chevron/Texaco Environmental Award in 2005.



## Gulf Specimen Gets National EPA Award

Jack and Anne Rudloe, owners of Gulf Specimen Marine Lab in Panama, recently learned that the lab has received national recognition as an award winner in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program.

The Rudloes were notified that Gulf Specimen Marine Lab is the third place winner of the Gulf Guardian Award for 2003 in the Youth and Education category. The award will be presented at the Southern States

tions, government, and partnership efforts.

Gulf Specimen Marine Lab has spent more than 40 years protecting the gulf coast through education and activism. Many of their education campaigns have focused on creating awareness of the importance of healthy estuaries and coastal salt marshes. The lab has made a point of focusing on opportunities for children to experience biology hands-

on through marsh field trips and special "touch tanks."

Jack and Anne Rudloe have published eight books and have had numerous articles printed in major national magazines dealing with protecting the Gulf from pollution. They also have years of experience and have conducted extensive research in sea turtle rehabilitation.

"Our oceans and coasts are

priceless resources," said Jimmy Palmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator in Atlanta. "Coastal and marine waters provide some of the most diverse and biologically productive habitats on the planet," he added. "This year's Gulf Guardian Award winners are doing their part to keep these valuable resources healthy and productive."



[GSML named ChevronTexaco Conservationist of the Year 2004](#)



Jack Rudloe, President & Founder of Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory, receiving the 2003 Gulf Guardian Award for Youth Education from US EPA Region 4 Administrator Jimmy Palmer, and US EPA Region 6 Administrator Richard E. Greene at the Southern States Environmental Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi.

American Association of  
University Women

2009

Outstanding Community Women  
Awards Luncheon

2009

AAUW Outstanding Community Women

Anne Rudloe, Ph.D.



Dr. Rudloe lives in Panama, Florida where she and her husband Jack run the Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory. She is the Managing Director of the Lab where she has led its transformation into an award winning non-profit environmental center and public aquarium.

She is the author of 18 scientific research publications in the fields of animal behavior, marine ecology and endangered

## Gulf Specimen Receives Environmental Award

The Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce awarded the first annual Environmental Stewardship Award on Monday, Sept. 26, to Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratories, Inc. The award was accepted by Jack Rudloe, vice president, and Anne Rudloe, president.

ment and Wakulla Medical Center.

The criteria used for selection included: use of environmentally sensitive building materials and methods; groundwater protection efforts; limiting use of chemicals and/or pesticides; use of alternative energy sources; and educational component; and



Mary Ellen Davis With Jack And Anne Rudloe





# Tribute: Anne Activist/Educator

Anne Rudloe's courage and unwavering commitment to the environment, her family, the many students that found enthusiasm for preserving vital wetlands due to her guidance and instruction, is unmatched. Her legacy lives in literary work, scientific research and the educational center she helped found and directed until her death in 2012.



[A Memorial to Anne Rudloe](#)



"We slog through marshes, pull beach seines, snorkel in sea grass meadows, hike across barrier islands, go down the watershed of an undeveloped estuary, and discover the rare, endemic wildflowers blooming in the globally endangered longleaf pine forests that grow behind the salt marshes,' she wrote in the 2002 spring issue of FSU's marine lab newsletter. 'The professor of record—me—is often upstaged by the real teachers of this class—the land and sea themselves.'"

- Anne Rudloe quoted by Elizabeth Bettendorf in "A Place, A Purpose, A Panacea,"  
[Florida State University Research in Review Summer 2009](#) (link to full article)





# Still in the Fight



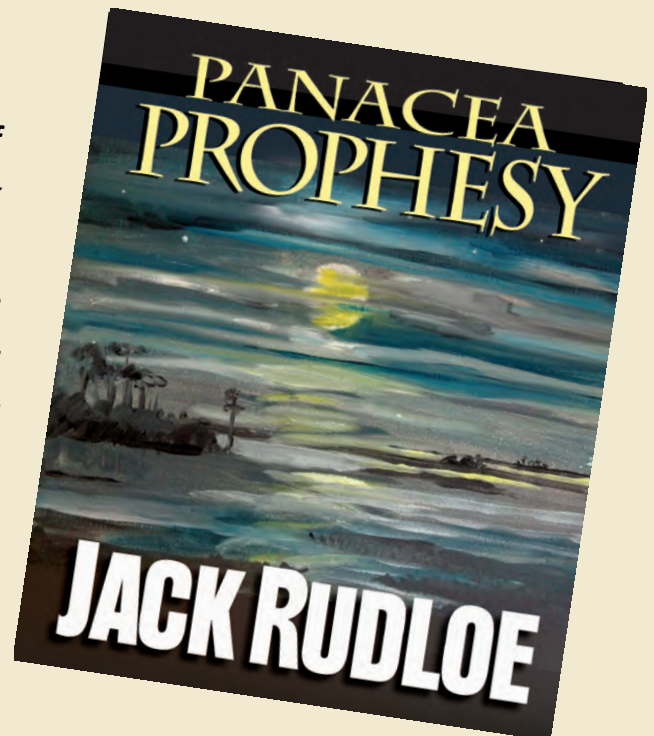
Read the full article  
and other letters @  
[Save Our Wetlands](#)

*"To a mullet foraging among the marsh  
grass on an incoming tide, there is no  
such thing as 'mean high water.'"*

*- Jack Rudloe, "Why Save Wetlands" 1/26/13*

***"Laden with the author's customary blend of  
humor and unapologetic candor, the book  
chronicles Rudloe's capers on behalf of his be-  
loved coastal wilderness. Expected release  
Summer 2014, Panacea Prophecy whispers  
with the ghosts of dredged marshland begging  
us this time to take heed."***

- Preprint Book Summary



Rudloe Reach		
Vehicle	Time Span	People Reached*
Gulf Specimen Aquarium Visitors	1980 - 2013	350,000
SeaMobile Audience	2010 - 2013	175,000
Rudloe Books	1968 - 2010	100,000
<a href="#">Lecture Appearances</a>	1966 - 2014	25,000
<a href="#">Network/Cable TV News Appearances</a>	1976 - 2011	20 million
<b>Total</b>		<b>20,650,000*</b>



# IN ACTION

A video thumbnail showing a group of people standing in front of a building with large glass windows. A digital clock in the bottom right corner shows 8:03.

## Gulf Specimen "Through the Years"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDSX4t7TWx4>

A video thumbnail showing a person in a red shirt standing in a marshy area. A digital clock in the bottom right corner shows 7:24.

## Tides and Marshes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlcxUGWEqNk>

A video thumbnail showing a close-up of a rocky or shell-covered surface. A digital clock in the bottom right corner shows 5:52.

## The Estuary

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1XBG\\_bj0ws](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1XBG_bj0ws)

## Mud is Good Stuff

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAWblMFjNtl>

A video thumbnail showing a person's hands holding a small object, possibly a sea grass seedling, over a body of water. A digital clock in the bottom right corner shows 6:22.

## Sea Grasses

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHTluEXoEXQ>

A video thumbnail showing a man in a white shirt holding a small object. A digital clock in the bottom right corner shows 3:07.

## Seamobile

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JidGwow0Dj0>

3:23