



# SUN CITY CENTER AUDUBON CLUB

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Mary Duncan  
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July 9, 2019

Ed Sherwood  
Executive Director  
Tampa Bay Estuary Program  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Sherwood,

Please share this letter with Hillsborough County Commissioners and with the Manatee County Commissioners.

The Sun City Center Audubon Club enthusiastically supports the federal designation of the Little Manatee River as a Wild and Scenic River. The Little Manatee is indeed both wild and scenic. I have been authorized by our Board to speak for our Club and its 250 members in affirming our support of this designation. As Florida grows and becomes more congested with housing, commerce and roads, it is vital that we preserve what we can of the natural beauty that has made Florida special.

The Little Manatee State Park is only a few miles from our town and is always filled with visitors trying to get away from stress and enjoy the peace and beauty of the river. People hike along the trail near the river; canoe and kayak down the river; and sometimes just sit in contemplation. Of course, as an Audubon Club, we are especially appreciative of the opportunity to see the birds, wildlife, and native plants that abound along the river.

In moving to this part of Florida, it was the open fields and the Little Manatee River just outside of town that made the move attractive. The fields are now almost completely gone as housing developments go up all over. The scenic country road (301) connecting us to Parrish and Ellenton is now becoming a busy highway. I grew up in California when open fields and country

roads abounded. However, because no one thought ahead, the valley where I lived is now totally congested and almost unlivable. Let's at least think ahead to save this river that flows through our two counties. To do that, we must give it the respect it needs by designating it a federal Wild and Scenic River.

Thank you for all of your efforts in getting this done; you certainly have our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary A. Duncan".

Mary A. Duncan  
President  
Sun City Center Audubon Club

Cc Stacy White, Hillsborough County Commissioner