

**Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

Staff Profile

Susan Cone

Education Coordinator



Susan Cone is the Education Coordinator at Rookery Bay Reserve, joining the staff in the summer of 2008. She has a B.A. in Marine Science from Florida Gulf Coast University. While a student at FGCU, she worked as a research assistant for the marine lab, interned as an education ranger at Big Cypress National Preserve and spent a summer as an education ranger at Olympic National Park. Her research, presented at the Geological Society of America, focused on the stratigraphy of the Ten Thousand islands as a tool to understanding past sea-level rise. Prior to obtaining her Marine Science degree, she enjoyed a successful career in Naples as a self-employed accountant for 25 years and as a middle-school science teacher and cross country coach for four years.

Susan is an instructor in the Florida Master Naturalist Program and is an ACA certified kayak instructor. In her position at Rookery Bay, Susan is responsible for the coordination and implementation of a variety of educational programs including school field trips, daily programs at the Environmental Learning Center, guided kayak tours, special events and festivals, and outreach programs.

A resident of Naples since 1975, Susan enjoys kayaking, gardening, boating, and relaxing on our beautiful beaches. She is a competitive age-group triathlete, having competed in over 100 triathlons of all distances. The accomplishment which brings her the greatest pride are her 3 children, all of whom have graduated from Florida universities, and moved on to their own successful careers.

“To deliver positive, rewarding experiences that increase awareness and understanding of the value of coastal ecosystems”



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