



Philip P. Schaeffer

Current Position: Chair, Monroe County Democratic Executive Committee

Phil was elected to serve as Chair at the December 2010 meeting of the Monroe County Democratic Party, Phil will serve a 2-year term leading the Democratic Party's efforts in the Florida Keys. He has served on the DEC since 2008 and was elected Vice Chair in January, 2010.

Background and Experience

Following his military service in 1963 Phil had a career in the business world as a Corporate Systems Analyst at CBS, Columbia Records, and at Loews Hotels and Theaters designing production, cost accounting and cash flow systems for a variety of operations in the hotel and entertainment industry. Phil has a degree in business administration and accounting from Pace University in New York.

Phil and his wife Margaret left New York in 1969 and he returned to school obtaining a B.A in Zoology from the University of California - Davis. Phil's career with the National Audubon Society began in 1973 as Manager of Audubon's 6,000 acre San Francisco Bay Wildlife Sanctuaries and Director of the Society's Western Environmental Education Center. He moved to Connecticut in 1980 as Director of the Society's National Environmental Education Center. He also took over management of the Society's four university-accredited adult education programs at camps and lodges in Connecticut, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Maine. Phil both directed and taught in all of these programs, primarily in teacher education, as well as managing and hiring the staff for these four programs. He also managed a number of other nation-wide programs most notably Audubon Adventures, the national youth education program of the Audubon Society that had some 500,000 children enrolled in 16,000 school classrooms around the country.

While still with Audubon, Phil and his wife Margaret formed their own travel company in 1982, Caligo Ventures, an international birding tour operator. Margaret managed the company and it's daily operations while Phil designed and implemented the promotional and marketing strategies utilizing his many strong professional and personal connections in the field of ecotourism.

Phil went on to serve as Vice-president of three departments of the National Audubon Society - Management Information Systems; Grass-roots Programs; and the Education Division. A major part of his work throughout his career with Audubon was in the area of Environmental Advocacy through the development of a national grass-roots network of Audubon members - citizen activists. Lobbying at the state and federal level ranged from his early work on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in the early 1970s to legislation on Clean Air, Clean Water, Forest Practices and many other important environmental issues.

Phil left Audubon in 1997 and founded a technology-based company - Collaborative Technology Group (CTG) along with several Audubon colleagues. CTG provided database, internet technological support, and website design to a number of national and regional environmental organizations such as Yellowstone Ecosystems Institute, Grand Canyon Trust, American Hiking Society, Appalachian Trail Conference and the Potomac Conservancy to name a few. In 2004 Phil turned over operation of CTG to his partners and devoted full time to Caligo Ventures at their office in Key West until they sold their business and retired in 2009.

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