

Public Invited – Free

Overdevelopment in SWFL: Sacrificing Wildlife and Erasing Agriculture

Saturday April 4, 2026 9:00-11:00am

9:00 Registration & Networking, 9:30 Program Begins
At **The Collaboratory**, 2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers & virtual, *via Zoom*



Information and Registration

<https://LWVLeeEnvironmentUpdate.eventbrite.com>

Email: lwvlee@lwvlee.org Call: 239-278-1032

How does fast-tracking overdevelopment of agricultural lands threaten *food security* and endanger Florida's farms?

How is destruction of habitat and depriving food *jeopardizing species*?

Amber Crooks specializes in wildlife and water policy as Senior Environmental Policy Advisor for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Amber represents the Conservancy on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Panther Recovery task force to minimize wildlife being hit on the roadways and other committees focusing on the protection of black bears, burrowing owls, and manatees.



Expert Speaker
Amber Crooks
Conservancy of SWFL



Expert Speaker
Katrina Shadix
Bear Warriors United

Katrina Shadix is the Executive Director of Bear Warriors United, a nonprofit dedicated to defending Florida's wildlife and ensuring peaceful coexistence between humans and nature. In 2025, a federal judge ruled in favor of Bear Warriors United in a lawsuit against the FDEP finding that nutrient pollution violated the Endangered Species Act by destroying seagrass and causing mass manatee starvation. This ruling is considered a landmark victory for Florida's environmental protection efforts.



Expert Speaker
John Hallman
Defending Rural Florida

John Hallman hails from a long line of Florida cattle ranchers spanning seven generations. With a rich family heritage rooted in cattle ranching, John's passion for preserving Florida's working farms and ranches comes naturally. He has an extensive experience in legislative affairs in Tallahassee, navigating complexities of state government and public policy. John's strategic insights into the legislative process have been instrumental in shaping policies that address the needs of diverse communities. His ability to engage with both political and community leaders reflects his commitment to fostering collaboration and advancing initiatives.

The League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc. is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates and/or political parties.

The League of Women Voters is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice.

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