

WATER QUALITY SUMMIT



John McCarthy, who is executive director of Gulf Coast Heritage Association and Historic Spanish Point, is a native Floridian and has lived in Sarasota for most of his life. John received his bachelor's degree from Goshen College in Indiana.

Prior to joining the team at Historic Spanish Point, John served as the executive director of Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence (SCOPE), a community data and engagement organization. In 2012, John retired after working for 33 years with Sarasota County Government where he served as environmental specialist, county historian and general manager (director) of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources department.

John has served as president of the Historical Society of Sarasota County for two terms, and served as president of the Florida Recreation and Parks Association Foundation.

John is a frequent presenter of local history lectures, educational programs and tours and has written a number of articles for Sarasota Magazine. In May 2017, John was awarded the Hero of History award by the Historical Society of Sarasota County for his dedication to sharing local history. John's work in various communities within Sarasota County was recognized by the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) with their Citizen of the Year Award in 2018.