

Friday, February 26, 2010

At the University of Florida's Lewin College of Law's Public Interest Environmental Conference, Susan was honored as this year's "Unsung Hero" for her work to force Marion County to follow the Comprehensive Plan which lays out the terms under which land may be developed.

Susan's remarks at the banquet:

I'm here tonight to share some news with you.
There's bad news, good news and weird news.

The Bad news you are already well aware of--the economy is dreadful, there's no money for land preservation, the developers are ramping up again, and the legislature does not appear ready to create a "green revolution" in Florida. Instead, they're taking our water and potentially opening the floodgates to ever more urban development.

The Good news is that Lyn Recio and I won our case, and you can too. I'm not being glib; it's the truth. If a couple of middle-aged, clueless horse farm ladies can do this, believe me, ANYBODY can!

And now for the Weird news: there are angels among us.

I know it for sure, because I have seen them, and even talked to them. Some of them are some of you--I won't embarrass you by pointing you out, but you know who you are.

You've been at this game for a long time, teaching people like me about the splendid miracles of Florida's land and water, and inspiring us to go out and do our part to keep it all from becoming one more dreary subdivision.

But that's not the weirdest part.

Here's the really weird part: some angels have even chosen to appear to us as....
lawyers.

I know-- it must sound as if I'm off my medication again, but I swear to you, it's true. I can even name them. They go by innocuous names like Tom, Carol, Pete and Ralf. (Actually, the Ralf angel has misspelled his own name, so I suspected him, right from the start, of being new on this planet.)

But they can't fool me. I know them to be angels, and you can't convince me otherwise.

And to our many angels, old and new, and yes, *even the ones with briefcases*, Lyn and I owe all of our success.

To every one of all of you...we say...with the greatest of love and appreciation,
THANK YOU.