

## Riverkeeper award honors its namesake

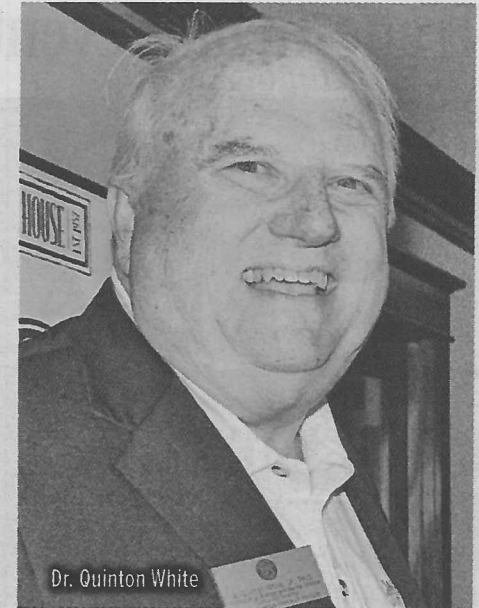
When it came to deciding who would become the first recipient of the inaugural Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. For the River Award, St. Johns RIVERKEEPER decided the person best suited to receive it the first time was its namesake, Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr., of San Marco.

“After recently celebrating our 20th Anniversary, we decided it was time to honor and recognize those truly special people who have dedicated their lives to the protection and restoration of the St. Johns,” explained Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper. “Well, needless to say, it didn’t take us long to decide who the award should be named after and who should receive the first one.”

The Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. For the River Award was created to recognize select individuals who have made substantial contributions over their lifetime to the St. Johns River. Their actions have led to a more informed, educated, and engaged constituency for the river and have advanced efforts towards a clean and healthy St. Johns. These individuals are driven by a commitment, respect, and passion for the St. Johns.

White is the Executive Director of the Marine Science Research Institute (MSRI) and Professor of Biology and Marine Science at Jacksonville University (JU). A highly regarded educator, researcher, and leader, he is one of the foremost experts on the St. Johns. Because of his leadership and vision, JU was able to establish the MSRI in 2010, a premier biological and environmental research and education facility located on the banks of the St. Johns. White also helped to establish the annual “Lower St. Johns River Basin State of the River Report” that has informed policymakers and the public about the health status of the river for the last 13 years.

Over the years, White has served in numerous leadership positions and on numerous nonprofit boards including the Museum of Science and History, Tree Hill Nature Center, and Leadership Jacksonville. He is also a Founding Board Member of St. Johns RIVERKEEPER. White has also been a trusted advisor and expert consultant for elected officials, agency staff, and appointed bodies, such as the Jacksonville Waterways Commission.



“I am extremely grateful to the entire St. Johns Riverkeeper organization for the recognition. I am fortunate to have spent my life doing what I love. It is very humbling to have an award named in your honor,” said White.

St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, Inc. is a member-supported, nonprofit advocacy organization with the mission to defend the St. Johns River and advocate for its protection. To learn more, visit [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org).