

This is our Volunteer Of The Year for 2012  
**This is John Roberts.**



John was born 1935 in Louisville, Kentucky to John and Evelyn Roberts.



John's father owned a grocery business where John worked while attending high school and college. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. "It's in the gene's".



John, Jr is pictured with his father, younger brother Marshal and hunting dogs Jill and Jack



He finished high school, joined the Army Reserves and attended college.



John met Annette in 1952. They were married in Nashville in 1954.  
He finished college at the University of Louisville.



Two years later he joined the Army on regular duty for two years.

Their daughter Angela was born in 1964.



In 1964 John and Annette got the camping bug and in 1994 purchased their first camper.

John took an interest in gardening. He became an expert gardener. While they lived in Louisville their backyard was featured on a gardening tour.



John continued to work with his father and brother at the grocery store.



He was not only a gardener but he was also an avid fisherman, as we know.

John and Annette retired and went camping for six weeks in the state of Washington. (They almost retired there) and, of course, he found a great lake to go fishing in.



They bought a house in New Hampshire, to be close to their daughter Angela and her family.



Guess what? It was on a lake...



In this picture his grandson is getting a great training session.

In 1998 they decided to go camping at Fort Wilderness (Disney) heard about T.G.O. and checked it out. They fell in love with T.G.O. They found the perfect house that was for sale and it was on a pond. “What a break for him and for us” and bought it. The rest is history....



John and Annette have 2 grand sons, Connor and Jamison.



Connor is shown with his 14 pound 4 oz. fish from Gator Lake at T.G.O.



Here is John with his record 18 pound 1 ounce Large Mouth Bass in Lake Judy. In 2002 the Florida Today reporters were visiting T.G.O. to write an article about retirement. They spotted John fishing and here is the result.

FLORIDA TODAY, Sunday, February 10, 2002



Florida Today

Since he moved to The Great Outdoors he has served as a

- Volunteer Pond Monitor for the golf course.
- Nature Center pond committee...He reports monthly. There is always a different topic and shows pictures he has taken to illustrate.
- Award winning fisherman for many years.



- Volunteers time to conduct instructional classes and clinics for the Nature Center
- Acts as a resource for defining healthy plants, stocking of fish and cleaning ponds at T.G.O. (He plants and trims the plants himself) He spends hours researching best plants and best locations. He has saved T.G.O. a great deal of money purchasing plants with his external contacts.
- He makes at least weekly trips along the entrance road picking up litter. He is never without a plastic bag to pick up litter wherever he sees it. This directly impacts not only the environment at T.G.O. but the aesthetic view of our community.
- Wonderful resource for the Beautification Committee...He knows native Florida plants and what should be planted where.
- John is also on the wildlife Committee BBQ. He helps get the pork and chickens to cook, get the wood for the pit fire, fix side dishes and serve the meal as well as sell tickets.
- He is currently on the Board of Directors and is Vice President of Condo 8.

John teaches everyone patience. He's ready to push for things he feels need to be done and politely influences others.

John has a great sense of humor. He always has a smile on his face that is genuine and welcoming.

He is a passionate supporter of T.G.O. He wants to make sure that T.G.O. is the best place on Earth for all of us.

**Congratulations to John Roberts our 2012 Volunteer of the year award winner.**



## **John Roberts Update - November 2013**

John continues to clean up trash on the access road to the Guard Gate and the CSA Maintenance Area once or twice a week. He also picks up trash throughout the resort during his travels.

He gives a talk each month at the Nature Center about our Ponds and is working on TGO's fish distributions for 2014.

John has planted two additional Butterfly Weed Plants. These Weed Plants are the recommended host plant for the depleting Monarch butterflies. In addition, he has planted three new and rare Coreopsis (Tickseed Plants). He has cleared high weeds so we can now see Lake Judy, its fountain and the Plantation Manor in the background more clearly.

As a wildlife admirer, he recently removed a fish hook from a small alligator.

He continues to work with CSA to update fishing rules for Lake Judy and Bass Lake.

He is working on obtaining some approved EPA and St. John's Water Management plants for Blue Heron Lake and the lake on the 15<sup>th</sup> Fairway.

He is also working on obtaining and planting a second Cassia Bahama Plant on CSA property. There is a small beauty on the east side of Lake Judy or dock area.

John said, "I continue to fish and have fun at the greatest park in the USA; a place I love."