

A full-page photograph of Elizabeth Moore standing in a large, ancient tree. She is wearing a white floral blouse, blue trousers, and tan sandals. The tree's trunk is massive and textured, with many branches spreading out. The background shows more trees and a glimpse of a body of water.

# Elizabeth Moore

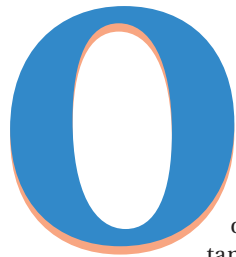
*President of  
TREE Foundation*

On her Myakka ranch, at a nonprofit board meeting, at a gala, or at her Sarasota condo, or Bradenton, Montana or Massachusetts homes, she wears many hats. She's a land conservationist, philanthropist, environmentalist, cattle rancher, and science educator.

Elizabeth has donated \$2 million to Mote Marine, \$1 million to the Marine Science Center at St. Stephen's Episcopal, and, for \$3.3 million, purchased the 1,100-acre Triangle Ranch near Myakka River State Park keeping it from development.

Most recently, she was elected President of TREE Foundation, a 30-year Sarasota old nonprofit whose mission is tree and forest research, exploration, education, and conservation locally, nationally, and globally.





On her Myakka ranch, at a nonprofit board meeting, at a gala, or at her downtown Sarasota condo, or Bradenton, Montana or Massachusetts homes, Elizabeth Moore wears many hats. She is a land conservationist, philanthropist, environmentalist, cattle rancher, and science educator.

She donated \$2 million to Mote Marine Laboratory for the Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research & Restoration on Summerland Key, \$1 million to the Marine Science Center at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton, and her \$3.3 million purchase of the 1,100-acre Triangle Ranch near Myakka River State Park means permanent preservation from development.

In 2005 she purchased an island in Massachusetts and donated it to the Audubon Society. She is the sponsor of the current special exhibition *Myakka River: A Florida Treasure* featuring photographs by renowned photographer Clyde Butcher at The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature in Bradenton. She was recently elected President of TREE Foundation, a 30-year old international non-profit organization based in Sarasota whose mission is tree and forest research, exploration, education, and conservation locally, nationally, and globally.

"My whole life I have been an outdoors girl loving animals, birds, snakes. Even in fierce winters, we would put on our boots and heavy clothes and play outside. I have always felt that we need to take care of our environment and health first. My vision for the TREE Foundation (the only tree foundation in the nation) is advocacy particularly local and national policy regarding tree removal. Trees need a voice and we need to recognize all they do for our quality of life.

"My upcoming trips include the Amazon with Dr. Margaret (Meg) Lowman working with native people to appreciate the rain forest and to build a walkway canopy, to Madagascar's lemur forest with my daughter Grace and 12 conservationists and scientists from Sarasota talking with the natives about deforestation and aquaculture alternatives to avoid "slash and burn," and Ethiopia with Meg to discuss deforestation and food for animals. I also want to bring awareness to the needed repairs to the Myakka River State Park canopy walkway—85 feet long through the hammock, 25 feet above the ground, with a 74-foot tower. I would like to establish a youth advocacy board. I encourage people to read *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv and *The Gulf: The Making of An American Sea* by Jack E. Davis."

Dr. Lowman, Director, TREE Foundation, and National Geographic Explorer, explains Elizabeth's vision. "Elizabeth is a visionary for the planet. She recognizes that no amount of funding for cultural activities or social services will improve our quality of human life unless we take care of our planet and Mother Nature first. She believes in getting kids outdoors, conserving forests, and ensuring that the next generation has clean air and fresh water. We are blessed to have her energy and enthusiasm in our community and leadership when so many global forests are burning or getting cleared."

On her ranch with 180 head of cattle and three miles of the Myakka River, Elizabeth is currently building a traditional Florida Cracker village with four modern solar-powered pecky cypress cottages. She also moved a Siesta Key two-bedroom pecky cypress house in the middle of the night to the ranch. She has 12 Cracker Cows as pets. Her

family and visitors will have biking, fishing, kayaking, and horseback riding while experiencing the natural beauty. With her nod to nostalgia of old Florida, she is looking forward to the Great Florida Cattle Drive across Florida—an event that occurs every 10 years.


"Each of us protects what we love, and Elizabeth has a great love of nature and the environment. Because of Elizabeth's passion, commitment and generous philanthropy, in 2016, the Conservation Foundation permanently protected the 1,143-acre Triangle Ranch. Protecting Triangle Ranch means that future generations will have clean water and beautiful vistas to enjoy, and that many endangered animals will have a home," notes Christine Johnson, president of Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. "As a Board of Trustees member, she participates in our strategic planning and goal setting. She continues to give generously to conserve our region's heritage, natural beauty, and water resources for endless generations. We call her our conservation angel."

Bob Bunting, CEO, Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Center, says, "In 2019 Elizabeth Moore became a founding director of the first Climate Adaptation Center (CAC) of Sarasota with a focus on the adaptation and mitigation of the worst impacts already being felt from climate warming in our region including Red Tide, the changing characteristics of hurricanes, and sea level rise. The CAC intends to bring industry, academia, and government together to foster understanding of climate warming and its Florida-specific impacts. The hope is to help society adapt to and mitigate the worst impacts in the most expeditious and cost-effective way while more global solutions evolve in the years ahead. Elizabeth, being well versed in environmental issues, is a citizen scientist and she puts her capital behind her intention."


Elizabeth says her motivation is knowing she can make a difference in her actions, experience, and income that allows her to do what she does. She believes that with hard work and honesty, everything else will fall into place. A word she uses often is collaboration through engagement and involvement in the community. She says all human beings are social beings; we do not live in silos; all is achieved through collaboration, technology, ethics, and self-reflection.

Elizabeth serves on the Boards of the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, the Lemur Conservation Foundation, the CAC, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, and Board of Museum Advisors of the Museum of Science in Boston. In the July 2019 issue of Sarasota Magazine, she was one of "Six Women Shaping Our Region—and Our World."

Elizabeth was raised in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, with two sisters and two brothers. She received her Bachelor's degree in Economics and French Literature from Denison University, Ohio, and Master's degree in International Affairs from American University. She has five children (and one grandchild): William is a permaculture farmer in North Carolina; Nicholas is an entrepreneur in New York City; Peter is in graduate school at Tufts University in theoretical physics; Grace is an NYU student, environmental filmmaker and journalist; and Merry is studying marine biology at USC. Elizabeth snow skis, scuba dives, climbs trees, cooks, gardens, and attends social events with beau Dr. Chris Gelvin.

Her guiding principle: Lead the charge on what is meaningful to you and share your passion with purely good intentions and collaboration. 

 STORY: Carol Darling

 IMAGES: Evelyn England