

Joelle Crahay Bio

I was born and raised in Belgium and moved to the United States in 1982 with my (American) husband. We first lived in Maryland and Illinois but ended up in Jacksonville in 1990. By then, I had completed a master's degree in agronomy at the University of Maryland with the intention of pursuing a career as an extension agent, encouraging biological control and organic farming. With three very young children, it proved too difficult to launch and I returned to my previous nursing career. I worked as a Nurse life Care Planner until my retirement in 2017.

It was a fortuitous occurrence that made our family discover Amelia Island. It didn't take very long for us to fall in love with the area. In 2003, we bought a small condominium on the island. Our 3 children have very fond memories of summer days playing in the ocean, riding their bike, and looking at all the amazing nature surrounding us. In 2013 we bought our permanent residence.

After I retired from work, I found myself with a lot more time on my hands. Soon after, I joined the board of the Amelia Island Book Festival and the Wild Amelia Board. I served on the AIBF for several years and I am now an ambassador. I joined the keep Nassau Beautiful Board in July 2022. I am presently co-chairing the education committee.

My daughter got married in Amelia Island and named her first child "Amelia". As of now, I have 2 amazing grandchildren marveling at the prodigious riches around us. I want to keep our island and surrounding area pristine for future generations. We have a stewardship responsibility to our fragile ecosystem that we cannot ignore and Keep Nassau Beautiful answers that mission.