

**Observations from Early Photographs of
Saint Philips and Saint Josephs
John B. Smith, March 27, 2019**

1. Saint Josephs in 2000 - The conservation easement area to the north of and adjacent to Saint Josephs appears to be a grassy area plus landscaping with, at minimum, palm trees and spartina grass. In the photo the man standing in what is designated as part of the conservation easement area does not seem to be standing in marshy, swampy, or wet ground which is expected within the conservation easement area.
2. Saint Josephs in 2000 - Photos of the pouring of foundations in Saint Philips show Saint Josephs in the background. The conservation easement area to the north of and adjacent to Saint Josephs appears to be landscaped. View of the area mostly is blocked with two pickup trucks.
3. Saint Josephs in 2000 and Saint Philips in 2001 - Photos of each area show most of the currently (2019) untrimmed mangroves much lower in 2000 or 2001 than they are today. A few of the photos show some mangroves to be trimmed since the tops are uniform rather than ragged. In some cases, it is inconclusive whether mangroves in the distance of the photos are trimmed or not. It appears that areas of the mangroves in the conservation easement were allowed to grow to the normal maximum height of 20 feet, typical for this area, and up to 30 to 50 feet for some mangrove species under optimum conditions.
4. Saint Philips in 2001 - The hillside within the conservation easement area north of Saint Philips originally was planted with spartina grass, probably to stabilize the embankment. The spartina grass is gone. Was it required to be in this zone?
5. Saint Philips in 2000 - Looking roughly northeast from the golf cart path for River 16, it appears that the mangroves in the conservation easement area might extend farther east (closer to the cart path) than they do today. The same photo shows the landscaping to the north of Saint Josephs along Harbor Drive, an area designated as part of the conservation easement to a point 30 feet east of the centerline of Harbor Drive. Thus, it appears that at least part of this section of the conservation easement area was not landscaped with plants typical of an estuarine area.