



Florida Fish and Wildlife News

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February, 2012

Everglades Water Supply Summit

The Everglades Foundation held a major event in Tallahassee January 17th and 18th to educate our policy makers on the importance of Everglades Restoration.



Left: Manley Fuller presented the FWF Wildlife Conservationist of the Year Award to Debbie Harrison during the Everglades Summit Breakfast. Debbie and her late husband, Thom Rumberger, have been champions of Everglades restoration for many years.

Right: Sarah Owen Gledhill, FWF Northeast Florida Planning Advocate, and Sarah Bailey, FWF Wildlife Legacy Club member and former St Johns County Commissioner, stand with the Honorable Bob Graham at the Everglades Summit on January 17.



FWF VP & General Counsel Preston Robertson with Senator Bob Graham.

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FWF staff and volunteers help at the Everglades Summit registration table. From left: Neal George, Rosanna Gill, Jake Gwynn-Shapiro and Michelle Hakemoller.



From left: Neal George (FWF Staff), Henry Harding and Jessica Whalen (I.D.E.A.S. Representatives), Rep. Rich Glorioso (R) of Plant City, Claudia Farren (FWF Consultant) and Mary Jean Yon (Audubon of Florida).

Betsy Knight 1938-2012



Photo by John Spohrer
Apalachicola, Florida.

Betsy Knight will be remembered as a woman who devoted a major portion of her life to Florida's wildlife. She served as a member of the FWF board of directors from 1995 to 2008. Betsy passed away on February 17, 2012 at the age of 73. Up until two years ago, Betsy was the only wildlife rehabilitator in Florida who was certified to rehabilitate bear cubs. It took a great deal of convincing by Betsy for the state's wildlife agency to allow her to raise bear cubs that were orphaned by fires

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Announcing the 75th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet, June 16, 2012.



Please mark your calendars and watch for further information about upcoming events at the St. Petersburg Bayfront Hilton, June 15-17, marking the Federation's 75th anniversary.

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www.fwfonline.org

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Jim Schuette



'tis the season to be active

Some people say Florida has no seasons. Those people have insulated themselves from seeing nature's reality. I wonder...if they can't see the seasons, how can they see how anything else natural functions, much less how it affects them? Occasionally I stop and send wishes their way such that their lives might be enriched as much as mine has been. I may not be a rich man, but I feel rich for all I can see.

In my opinion, spring is the golden time for being outdoors. The chances of frost visiting us are diminishing, although this winter there wasn't much of that where I

am anyway. Yet we can open the windows at night and enjoy cooler mornings while not paying for AC time! From now until hurricane season, or scallop season...or summer as some people call it, is the season of outdoor festivals, ideal for camping, hiking, fishing, biking, county fairs, outdoor weddings and innumerable other excuses to get into the outdoors. On my to-do list is Everglades Day at the Loxahatchee NWR this coming weekend (Feb 11), then to the Rally on the River at Rodman Dam the following Saturday, including a kayak/camping paddle down the Ocklawaha, followed by some biking at Santos or Alafia River, more kayak camping at Fisheating Creek...and that about covers my plans through March! Hopefully a turkey hunt along the Kissimmee can be squeezed in, and maybe even a camping visit to hear some wonderful music at the Spirit of the Suwannee...there just isn't enough time to enjoy all that is happening!!

In January, on a visit to St. Vincent Island, I helped the Feds protect sea turtles eggs by removing an egg-eating wild boar through their hunting program. In Haines City I was fortunate to witness Secretary Salazar officially announcing the creation of the Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area. Closer to home, I took a trip down Florida's first wild and scenic river...the Loxahatchee. Due to scheduling issues I will miss out on the

great annual Ocean-to-Lake event where bikers, hikers and horseback riders camp their way across Palm Beach County. It's been a busy year so far!! I can hardly wait to see where the Boy Scout destinations will be...and I refuse to add up how much I have provided to local economies!

Writing this, it comes to my attention that one thing ties all these activities together...WATER!! It is what makes Florida livable in the most literal sense of the word. Our economy, quality of life and simply our ability to survive is dependent upon protecting our water sources. It doesn't matter what your political affiliation is; or what church you do or don't go to; or if your children are in public or private schools; or if you are 7th generation or a Yankee; or even if you are still doing 40/week, or have finished that portion of your life. Everyone needs Florida to have clean fresh water.

Although the epicenter of Legislative Session season occurs in Tallahassee, it is an event in which everyone can and should be involved...and you can participate from your own home on your own schedule!

How and why would you engage in this season's activities?

First, I'll do the why. There are several bills in this year's session that would result in the further deterioration of Florida's water quality and abundance. One extends and expands withdrawal permits from aquifers, which would fur-

ther jeopardize water quantities. To get a visual of this, when you visit Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park, stop at the actual spring for which they named White Springs. It's that green puddle in the middle of the remains of the bath-house and hotel. Then wonder where the water went. Or go to Gold Head Branch State Park and look at the lake beds there, with the series of water level gauges marking the water's retreat. Note the huge, empty parking lots. Wonder about the economic impacts these environmental disasters had. Where did all the people move to whose livelihoods depended upon these natural attractions? Is the continued loss of these natural wonders and the lack of places to take the kids on the weekend or after school the reason Florida's population has lost their connection to nature and appreciation for the importance of quality water?

Unfortunately, we still witness natural catastrophes occurring. Although BP has been able to keep most of its disaster under the surface, tell that to the people who are out of business because of it. Or go look at a green Indian River Lagoon, dying of thirst from lack of fresh water. A similar image was seen in the Caloosahatchee earlier in the year, but that was mainly nutrients in the water. Imagine where all the surrounding businesses will go if we allow the water they depend

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2545 Blairstone Pines Drive; P.O. Box 6870
Tallahassee, Florida 32314-6870
850-656-7113; FAX 850-942-4431

www.fwfonline.org E-mail: dhines@fwfonline.org

Affiliated With National Wildlife Federation

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

CHAIR

Jim Schuette
16736 94th St. N
Loxahatchee, FL 33470
561-301-4883

VICE-CHAIR

George Tanner
2320 South Tanner Rd
Orlando, FL 32820
407-568-2277

VICE-CHAIR

Janice Kerber
P O Box 33076
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
33420-3076
561-358-4011

VICE-CHAIR

Steve O'Hara
1061 Holly Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32207
904-803-4965

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Linda Stanley
PAST CHAIR'S COUNCIL
Walt Brandon
Steve O'Hara
Bob Reid
Jenny Brock
David J. White
Lynn Alan Thompson
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OF LIFE MEMBERS'
COUNCIL**
David Theriaque

2012 DELEGATES TO NWF
Delegate: Janice Kerber

Alternate: George Tanner

NORTHWEST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Jenny Brock
311 Old Magnolia Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327
850-421-6640

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR

Glenn Griffith
3045 Windermere Dr
Pensacola, FL 32503
850-595-3538

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR

Diane Roberts
516 Ward Street
Tallahassee, FL 32308
850-508-5867

NORTHEAST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

David White
1700 Fairway Drive South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-365-9794

DISTRICT III DIRECTOR

To be Appointed

DISTRICT IV DIRECTOR

Matt Kenyon
3020 Lake Shore Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32210
904-759-2300

CENTRAL REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Jim Thomas
14908 Tilden Rd, Winter Garden, FL 34787
407-656-8277

DISTRICT V DIRECTOR

Robert E. "Bob" Taylor
P O Box 688
Lake Hamilton, FL 33851
863-439-2251

DISTRICT VI DIRECTOR

Ann Vanek-Dasovich
489 W Davis Blvd,
Tampa, FL 33606
813-205-9810

SOUTHERN REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Ned Stone
2012 Coral Shores Dr, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306
954-205-9595

DISTRICT VII DIRECTOR

Richard Kuepker
3928 Victoria Drive
West Palm Beh, FL 33406
561-683-2144

DISTRICT VIII DIRECTOR

Franklin Adams
761 15th St. NW,
Naples, FL 34120
239-455-1567 H

EIGHT AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Martha Musgrove
2432 Edgewater Drive
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
561-965-9409

Terry Gibson
2060 NE 23rd Terrace
Jensen Beach, FL 32309
772-285-7683

Ted Everett
1963 Hard Labor Rd
P O Box 739
Chipley, FL 32428
850-638-4157

Emory "E. C." Vandagriff
4405 NW 79th Terrace Rd
Ocala, FL 34482
352-804-2019

Tom Evans, Jr.
1000 Warwick Lane
Wilmington, DE 19807
302-656-0880

Tim Bachmeyer
10566 SE 32 Ave
Ocala, FL 34480
352-307-4742

Billy Causey
30939 Delgado Lane
Big Pine Key, FL 33043
305-809-4670

Rick Abbott
3233 Heather Hill Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32309
(850) 599-8998

STAFF

TALLAHASSEE OFFICE

PRESIDENT

Manley K. Fuller, III

Vice President for Conservation & General Counsel
Preston T. Robertson

Vice President of Administration
Diane Hines

Membership Coordinator
Lynn Jones

Habitats Coordinator
Pat Pearson

Bookkeeper
Joe E. Cox

Policy Consultant
Jay Liles

Communications Specialist
Cole Sousa

Florida Fish & Wildlife News
Producer/Editor:
Danny Gwynn-Shapiro

Administrative Assistants

Neal George, Tessa Kleck, Michelle Hakemoller, Jake Gwynn-Shapiro

FWF SW FL OFFICE

SW Florida Field Representative
Nancy Payton
2590 Golden Gate Pkwy, Ste. 105
Naples, FL 34105
(239) 643-4111

FWF NE FL OFFICE

NE Florida Planning Advocate
Sarah Owen Gledhill
201A Owens Ave,
St. Augustine, FL 32080
(904) 461-1160

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EDITOR in CHIEF
Manley K. Fuller, III

CONTACT US AT
dhines@fwfonline.org

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**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**
by Manley Fuller



Manley received recognition from the board of directors for his 25 years of service to FWF at the January Board meeting.

Dear Florida Wildlife Federation Members,

Thank you all for your wonderful support. It keeps us going. We are working across Florida on behalf of conservation of our lands, water, fish and wildlife. Recently, Federal Judge Robert Hinkle reaffirmed our efforts to protect Florida's waterways from excessive nutrients. We have been well represented by Earthjustice in our lawsuit in defense of Florida's waters. Contrary to what our opponents say, Florida cannot afford to further delay addressing our current water pollution challenges. This is a long tough slog, but as they say in the country, there is no quit in us. We are working with many partners in support of restoring the Everglades and for the state's budget to contain needed funding to help us accomplish this great goal. We, through a number of our Directors, staff and members, actively assisted the Everglades Foundation with their Everglades Water Summit in Tallahassee where I was able to present Debbie Harrison with FWF's Wildlife Conservationist of

the Year award for her lifetime of dedicated work on behalf of Florida's environment as well as acknowledging the great commitment she and her late husband, Thom Rumberger, have shown for the restoration of Florida's Everglades. Earlier in January, Nancy Payton and I representing our staff, and FWF directors Ned Stone, Billy Causey, Terry Gibson and Martha Musgrove participated in the Everglades Coalition Annual Conference at Hutchinson Island.

I was honored at the Everglades Coalition to be able to present awards to two of Florida's long term conservation champions, Estus Whitfield and Nathaniel Pryor Reed. Estus was a recipient of the Jim Webb award from the Everglades Coalition recognizing Estus' long term dedication to restoring Florida's Everglades and promoting sound environmental policies for Florida in multiple gubernatorial administrations from Governor Askew to Governor Bush. Nat Reed received the Florida Wildlife Federation's Eagle statuette recognizing his lifetime of dedication to conserving Florida's and our nation's environment. Nat is the Florida Wildlife Federation's most recent inductee into the Florida Wildlife Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame. It is an honor to continue to work with both of these gentlemen on behalf of Florida's outdoors!

Amidst all of that we had our winter board meeting at the new educational center at the St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge where we had a refuge tour in their new electric vehicle and at Wakulla Springs State Park where we took the tour boat now powered by electric motors manufactured by Ray Electric motors in Cape Coral, Florida. The Federation is a strong supporter of the expansion of St. Mark's Refuge to help protect Gulf Coastal watersheds which are great fish and wildlife habitat and which provide great outdoors recreation including nature observation, fishing and hunting. We have been working for funding for this worthwhile project.

FWF along with many others has been working on behalf of the

PRESIDENT *con't page 12*

FWF Scholarship Update February 2012

Dear Members and Friends of FWF,

In 2004 with the support and encouragement of Tim O'Brien, FWF Eagle Club member #1, the Florida Wildlife Federation established the FWF Scholarship Fund to benefit students in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. In October 2006, once enough funds had been contributed, the FWF was able to enter into an agreement with the University of Florida Foundation with plans to raise \$100,000 for the purpose of the endowed scholarship with the U. F. Foundation.

We are very proud to report that the FWF Scholarship Fund had grown to \$58,044 by the end of our last fiscal year, ending on September 30, 2011.

The Florida Wildlife Federation wishes to acknowledge the following individuals and entities that have made very generous donations since October 1, 2011, to the FWF Scholarship Fund:

James E. Pettus, Flagler Beach
The Ehrhart Family Foundation, Venice
Nace Hopple, Jr., Gainesville

Because of these generous contributions, the FWF Scholarship Fund has reached \$67,544, bringing us much closer to the goal of \$100,000. Once our FWF Scholarship Fund reaches \$100,000, it becomes eligible for a match of \$50,000 from the state.

Please consider making a donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund.

Sincerely, *Manley*

To make an online donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund, please go to: http://development.ifas.ufl.edu/online_giving.html

Please go to this link to be taken directly to the IFAS page. Scroll down to Endowment Funds. The Florida Wildlife Federation Scholarship Fund for Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (Fund #013403) will be found in alphabetical order. Double Click on the FWF Fund, which then goes to a donor page to enter a donation for our fund specifically. A receipt will be sent to the donor by email and regular mail from the U. F. Foundation.

Among the 40 Most Influential

Gulfshore Business magazine's Tenth Anniversary Issue listed **FWF's Nancy Payton among its "40 most influential people of the last decade."** Ms. Payton was the only conservationist among the honorees. Congratulations, Nancy!

The article is available at: <http://www.gulfshorebusiness.com/Articles/Current-Issue/Celebrating-10-Years.aspx>





Florida Panther Update

In 2011 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reported the deaths of 22 panthers and the recovery of a panther's skeletal remains. Eight of the deaths were documented road deaths. One panther was shot and another was listed as poached. Below is a complete summary of information relating to each panther's death. UCFP is an Uncollared Florida Panther and FP is a Collared Florida Panther.

2011 DEATHS

Discovered	Panther ID	Age	Sex	Cause of Death	County	Location
10/30/11	UCFP165	3-4 years	female	Vehicle	Collier	SR29 near Collier/Hendry County line
9/19/11	UCFP164	3-4 years	female	Vehicle	Collier	SR29, Owl Hammock curve, 5.5 mi S of Immokalee
9/14/11	FP188	3.5 years	female	Unknown	Collier	Private Property
9/03/11	UCFP163	3-4 yrs	male	Unknown	Hendry	Private Property
7/29/11	FP156	6 years	male	Unknown	Collier	Picayune Strand State Forest
7/11/11	UCFP162	1-1.5 years	male	Vehicle	Collier	SR29, Owl Hammock curve, 5.5 mi S of Immokalee
7/06/11	UCFP161	7-9	male	Intraspecific Aggression	Collier	Silver Strand citrus grove, north of Immokalee
6/01/11	FP186	1 year	male	Intraspecific Aggression	Collier	Bird Rookery Swamp
5/02/11	K325	5 weeks	male	Wild fire	Collier	Big Cypress National Preserve
K's 322, 323, 324, 325 were littermates born to FP162 in April. They all succumbed to the Jarhead wildfire while in the den.						
5/02/11	K324	5 weeks	male	Wild fire	Collier	Big Cypress National Preserve
5/02/11	K323	5 weeks	male	Wild fire	Collier	Big Cypress National Preserve
5/02/11	K322	5 weeks	female	Wild fire	Collier	Big Cypress National Preserve
4/30/11	UCFP160	14 months	male	Vehicle	Collier	US41 near 50 Mile Bend
3/25/11	FP83	11 yr 10 mo	female	Vehicle	Collier	US41 (2 mi west of Port of the Islands)
3/25/11	UCFP159	Info pending	unknown	Info pending	Pending	Info pending
3/17/11	UCFP158	Info pending	unknown	Shot	Seminole	Geneva, FL. Old Mims Rd.
3/15/11	UCFP157	Adult	female	Unknown	Collier	Big Cypress National Preserve
Skeletal remains were several years old. Although the remains were collected in 2011, this panther will not be considered a 2011 death.						
3/04/11	FP170	4.5 yrs	female	Intraspecific Aggression	Collier	Picayune Strand State Forest
2/26/11	UCFP156	3-4 yrs	male	Vehicle	Collier	I-75 (Alligator Alley, MM114)
2/23/11	UCFP155	Infor pending	unknown	Poached	Collier	Golden Gate Estates area of Naples, FL
1/22/11	UCFP154	10-11 mo	male	Intraspecific Aggression	Hendry	Private property
1/22/11	UCFP153	8 mo	male	Vehicle	Collier	I-75 (Alligator Alley) mile marker 98
1/13/11	UCFP152	1.5 years	unknown	Vehicle	Collier	I-75 (Alligator Alley), mile marker 98
1/07/11	K284	1.5 years	male	Vehicle	Hendry	SR29 near Sears Rd
1/05/11	FP141	8.5 years	male	Unknown	Hendry	Private property



A female and kitten using the Corkscrew Road underpass located in Lee County. The kitten is looking at a sibling lagging behind. CREDIT: FGCU Panther Posse



This is the first photo of panthers using the City Gate underpass. Particularly satisfying is the photo of a female with kitten.

Heartfelt Appreciation

The Federation thanks the Felburn Foundation, Martin Foundation, and Zamo Charitable Trust for their generous support of the Southwest Florida Office's ongoing campaigns. These grants are allowing the Federation to pursue creative strategies to protect native wildlife and preserve their habitats.

The sad news of panther deaths is offset by the birth of 32 kittens to 11 collared female panthers. In reality, the number of new kittens is higher because only collared panthers can be tracked. Uncollared females with kittens have been photographed using the Corkscrew Road underpass in Lee County and the new underpass on CR846 east of Immokalee, Collier County.

2011 Births

Date Handled	Mother	Father	Age of Litter	# Males	# Females	Kitten IDs	Location
12/15/11	FP110	Unknown	10-14 days	0	2	K343, K344	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest
8/07/11	FP113	Unknown	~4 wks	0	1	K342	Private property
6/10/11	FP151	FP187	21 days	1	1	K340, K341	Big Cypress Nat. Preserve, Turner River Unit
6/09/11	FP145	Unknown	12 days	1	2	K337, K338, K339	BCNP, Deep Lake Unit
5/26/11	FP188	Unknown	18 days	2	1	K334, K335, K336	Private property, Lee County
4/29/11	FP182	Unknown	14 days	3	1	K330, K331, K332, K333	Big Cypress National Preserve
4/26/11	FP184	Unknown	12-14 days	3	1	K326, K327, K328, K329	BCNP, Addition Lands Unit
4/15/11	FP162	Unknown	3 weeks	4	0	K322, K323, K324, K325	Big Cypress National Preserve
3/09/11	FP113	Unknown	14-17 days	1	0	K321	Private Land
1/27/11	FP175	Unknown	21 days	1	1	K319, K320	BCNP, Bear Island Unit
1/27/11	FP178	Unknown	12-14 days	2	0	K317, K318	BCNP, Bear Island Unit
1/17/11	FP148	Unknown	12 days	2	0	K315, K316	Picayune Strand State Forest

The chart below reviews deaths as of mid-February.

2012 DEATHS

Date Discovered	Panther ID	Age	Sex	Cause of Death	County	Location
2/06/12	UCFP168	5 years	male	Vehicle	Collier	US41; 0.4 km east of Bass Rd
1/12/12	FP194	1 yr 8 mo	male	Intraspecific Aggression	Collier	Big Cypress National Preserve
Removed from wild Jan 12 when movements restricted. Died Jan 13 from injuries.						
1/07/12	UCFP167	4 yrs	female	Vehicle	Collier	US41, 1/2 mi. west of Manatee Rd
1/05/12	FP189	3-5	male	Intraspecific Aggression	Collier	Private Ranch
1/02/12	UCFP166	4-5 years	male	Vehicle	Collier	SR82, 2.4 mi west of SR29

For updated information on Florida panther births and deaths, please visit <http://www.floridapanther.net.org/index.php/pulse/>

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

by Sarah Owen Gledhill, FWF's Northeast Florida Planning Advocate



vised petition expanding the boundaries to encompass both watersheds will elevate the national significance of this treasured ecosystem.

A Supporter and Mentor will be Missed

The Northeast office has said goodbye to another dear friend. Crescent Beach resident Gordon Lohman, who passed away on Christmas Eve. Gordon was a supporter of the Northeast Florida operations since day one and was always ready to help fulfill our needs to accomplish our programs. Most importantly, I will treasure the time Gordon spent with me. He videotaped my testimony at public hearings. At first, I was not aware of this and at the time was almost embarrassed. However, what he did with the films afterwards made a lasting impression. I went to his house and we watched them together while he critiqued my public speaking. We counted the "ums," watched my hand twirl a pen, and looked for opportunities to add more reflection in my voice to underscore a point. I am forever grateful for his time and constructive comments. He is greatly missed.

Okefenokee and St. Johns Watershed Great Waters Petition

In January, the Northeast and Tallahassee offices of the Florida Wildlife Federation collaborated with our conservation partners to petition the America's Great Waters' Coalition to list the Okefenokee and St. Johns watershed as one ecosystem meriting the title of Great Waters. With the assistance of the St. Johns River Alliance, St. Johns Riverkeeper and National Wildlife Federation, the petition was submitted to add the ecosystem to a national list of Great Waters which will declare it as a valued and productive natural resource.

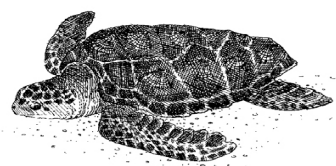
The Okefenokee and St. Johns watershed are intrinsically tied to one another. At first glance these watersheds appear to be geographically isolated from one another, but in fact they share a drainage basin just east of Jacksonville. These ecosystems provide vital resources and services for their communities, and the success and vitality of one ecosystem has a direct impact on the other.

A number of species utilize the system. The Northeast offices' keystone species, the Florida black bear, federally endangered North Atlantic Right Whales, federally endangered West Indian manatee and federally threatened Gulf Sturgeon are a few of the many species that freely traverse the marshes, creeks and rivers.

In 2011, the Great Waters Coalition denied the petition for the St. Johns River Basin. We hope the re-

FCC Efforts Growing in Northeast Florida

Enthusiasm for the newly formed Florida Conservation Coalition (FCC) is starting to grow in Northeast Florida. At a recent event hosted by the St. Johns Riverkeeper, former Department of Natural Resources Secretary Vickie Tschinkel spoke to a standing room-only crowd of approximately 150 about the Coalition. We used this opportunity to launch FCCs effort to pass a resolution by all local governments in support of the state's water use decisions being kept at the regional level rather than centralizing all decisions in Tallahassee. In Northeast Florida, we are coordinating with the community to seek successful passage of such resolutions. St. Johns County will hear the resolution in early March and we have a potential sponsor in Duval County. Other partners are working in Clay County. If you are in Northeast Florida and would like to help, please email me at northeastfwf@fwfonline.org with the local government(s) of interest to you.



FWF Board of Directors Meeting

The FWF Board and House of Delegates meets four times a year in different locations throughout the state.



On Saturday, Jan. 14, the FWF Board of Directors met at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Lou and Betsy Kellenberger arranged for an all-electric vehicle for a group tour. Lou and Betsy were instrumental in hosting FWF at St. Marks NWR and we appreciate their special efforts.



On Jan. 15, the FWF Board met at Wakulla Springs State Park and were treated to a boat tour during which they spotted many manatees near the springhead.



Don't miss the 13th Annual Black Bear Festival at Caldwell Park in Umatilla this year! The City of Umatilla will celebrate the festival on March 31st from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's free for all ages!

Umatilla is located in Lake County, just south of the Ocala National Forest. For more information, visit the festival website at <http://umatilla-chamber.org/BlackBearFest/> or call 352-669-3511.

Please remember the Florida Wildlife Federation in your will and trusts. Your generosity will help FWF continue to protect and conserve Florida's unique

fish and wildlife, and environmental resources. It's another way for you to leave a legacy that will benefit future generations. You can also choose to pay tribute to a loved one by making a memorial donation in their honor to the Florida Wildlife Federation. For more information, contact Diane Hines, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870; (850) 656-7113. E-mail: dhines@fwfonline.org.



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upon for their survival to go the way of White Springs and Gold Head. Imagine the Everglades...gone.

Now for the how. Look at the articles in this issue of FFWN and the Capitol Watch updates for the latest on the proposed bills. One proposal gives away thousands of acres of waterways owned by you. The edges of these waterways are required to maintain water quality and quantities. Giving them away is destroying water. Another bill ignores the BP disaster and puts our coasts and the economies that rely on them in danger. One bill actually attempts to reduce how much you subsidize the lifestyles of those who build on high-risk beaches (you can be for something that has been proposed!!), while another argues that Florida cannot afford water as clean as the water the rest of the nation enjoys. I agree there are things we can no longer afford given the financial challenges we are in. Educating our children, taking care of the sick and elderly and ensuring we have clean, fresh water are not among of them. Let the legislators in Tallahassee know you value water. Call them. Write to them. Tweet them. Sign on to the petitions. Do it now. Do it for the sake of the economy. Do it for the sake of the environment. Do it for the sake of our quality of life. Do it for the sake of Florida's future. Do it for the sake of our survival. JUST DO IT! We can't afford not to protect our water. Water is Florida.

Our being active in the season will benefit everyone.




FWF welcomes two new Board Members

These new directors were elected to the board in September 2011. We appreciate all of their efforts on behalf of the organization and that of all of our outstanding board members who work so hard to help FWF continue to be a leader in the conservation of Florida's fish, wildlife and natural resources.



Matt Kenyon

Our new District IV Director is Matt Kenyon, a general contractor and solar energy developer from Jacksonville. He enjoys many water and outdoor recreational sports and is also a pilot. Matt is very active in his community and wants to bring a fresh, innovative approach to support the goals and objectives of the Florida Wildlife Federation.



E. C. Vandagriff, III

A native of Ocala, E. C. Vandagriff is an At-Large Director of the FWF Board. He is a retired banker and investment advisor who enjoys boating, canoeing and kayaking as well as other outdoor activities. E. C. wants to learn as much as possible about the Federation in order to make the maximum contribution as a board member particularly in the area of donor development and fundraising.

New Eagle Club Members:

Nace Hopple, Jr., Gainesville

Alexander A. Doska, Orange City

Blythe Gilmour Patel, Highland Beach

Thomas J. Flood, Naples

David M. Foster, Jacksonville

Cynthia M. Sargent, Lake Forest

New Life Members:

Howard T. Petrie, Jupiter

J. B. Mittan, Tallahassee

Mr. & Mrs. Kelly J. Mather, Sebastian

Rose Brantley, Tallahassee

Leslie M. Roach, Gulfstream

Thank you for your support!

**Legacy Club Members are those who have donated \$5000 or more in a single gift. Eagle Club Members are \$1000 donors, and Life Members are \$500 donors.*

IN MEMORIAM

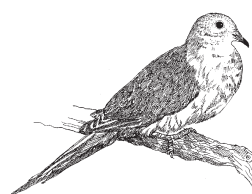
Donations have been received in memory of:

Howard Elkins

by Ms. Patricia S. Stover

Gordon R. Lohman

by Amsted Industries Incorporated



The Florida Wildlife Federation truly appreciates receiving these memorial donations.



Preston Robertson
Vice President for Conservation &
General Counsel

2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

We are now past the halfway point of the 60-day Legislative Session. Please note the following items of interest and please take action if you so desire:

Florida Forever Funding: Even with an outpouring of support from Floridians for Florida Forever, the House of Representatives and Senate have, to date, zeroed out any money for this critical program. Governor Rick Scott has proposed \$15 million in his budget and this position needs to be supported. **Please contact** the following members of the Legislature and **voice your support for \$15 million for Florida Forever:**

Senate President Mike [Haridopolos](mailto:haridopolos.mike.web@flsenate.gov), haridopolos.mike.web@flsenate.gov, 850 487-5056

House Speaker Dean Cannon, dean.cannon@myfloridahouse.gov, (850) 488-2742

Senator Don Gaetz, gaetz.don.web@flsenate.gov, (850) 487-5009

Rep. Denise Grimsley, denise.grimsley@myfloridahouse.gov, (850) 488-3457

Senator Alan Hays, hays.alan.web@flsenate.gov, (850) 487-5014

Rep. Will Weatherford, will.weatherford@myfloridahouse.gov, (850) 488-5744

Senate Bill 1362/House Bill 1033 (Sovereignty submerged lands bill) which would have drastically changed who owns the lands along

our lakes and rivers, has stalled and appears to have died this session. This bill has been the subject of massive public outcry, so thank you for voicing your opposition. While no issue is declared officially dead until the last day of the session, this one hopefully has been defeated.

SPB 7092 Water Managements Districts. This bill increases legislative authority and oversight over the water management districts, thereby further politicizing policy decisions that should be based on science and conservation so that our waters may be cleaned up and our water recharge lands protected. This bill also strips needed funds from the Districts. Please contact your **Senator** and ask that this bill be amended so that the Districts have the flexibility to adequately manage water and are sufficiently funded.

SB 1158/HB 695 Oil Drilling on State Lands. These bills open up public lands to oil and gas exploration and extraction. There is an ongoing extraction facility on Blackwater River State Forest in Northwest Florida, and we are hopeful that this bill can be changed to limit the impact of this bill to this ongoing facility. Please contact your Senator and Representative and ask them to amend this bill to only address Blackwater River State Forest.

You may contact your **Senators and Representatives** by going to the following web address and inserting your address or zip code: <http://www.flsenate.gov/senators/find>.

Thank you!

Preston T. Robertson



Florida Conservation Coalition Rally at Capitol, November 30, 2011

FWF, with Senator Bob Graham and others, urged officials, policy makers and candidates to protect and conserve Florida's natural resources essential to the well-being and quality of life of the residents of this state and its long-term economic prosperity in a rally at the State Capital on November 30, 2011. This was the first public event held by the Florida Conservation Coalition (FCC).



From left: Eric Draper, U.S. Senator Bob Graham, State Senator Paula Dockery, Samantha Ruiz of I.D.E.A.S./UCF, Manley Fuller, Nat Reed and Preston Robertson spoke to the crowd at the Capitol.



Jim Stevenson, Florida Springs Protection Task Force, and Peg McPherson, Executive Director of LINC (Legacy Institute for Nature and Culture), braved the cold windy morning to support the FCC.



Manley Fuller before the Rally.



John Finlayson of Jefferson County holds a sign in support of clean water in Florida.



Nat Reed, Samantha Ruiz and Preston Robertson after the Rally.



Jay Liles, FWF Policy Consultant

How long can Florida wait to fix the property insurance problem?

We have been offering you numerous updates during the 2012 Legislative Session on the debate taking place over efforts to reform the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (FHCF or Cat Fund) and Citizens Property Insurance. This is one of those issues where good environmental policy is backed by sound financial reason. Having readily available insurance at competitive prices means developers can sell unsuspecting customers beachfront dream homes built in low-lying coastal zones that should not be developed at all. Through these state-backed insurance programs, we are subsidizing reckless coastal development and further degrading the beneficial wildlife habitat and storm protection undeveloped coastlines provide.

Yet the fear of a voter backlash, spurred on by the specter of higher insurance premiums, keeps many otherwise good, environmental policymakers from being able to support modest changes designed to avert potentially disastrous results. If we do not end the practice of making Citizens Insurance readily available at a competitive price we set the stage for a much larger calamity than higher insurance costs. The statistics are frightening:

- Citizens Insurance writes more than 1000 new homeowner policies per day yet has so few reserves

available to pay its claims. A Category 3 hurricane, or series of lesser hurricanes, could bankrupt this state-run insurer and set the wheels in motion to cripple our economy through higher assessments on all insured's, not just Citizens policyholders. That keeps private insurance companies from coming into the state and drives existing insurers out of the state (companies like Cotton States, State Farm and others).

- The Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (FHCF or Cat Fund) is underfunded by \$2.3 billion. The FHCF serves as a state-backed reinsurer, providing the funds necessary to cover claims over and above what the regular insurers can pay. It is funded by an assessment on all insurance companies doing business in the state. They pass that cost right through to you, the customer, and we have all been paying for it on our property and auto insurance since 2004 and 2005 when we had our last very active hurricane season.

- In the event the FHCF can't meet its obligations, the state will have to go to the bond market at a time when even finding a willing seller is difficult and the price could be very high. Once again, we the public get hit for the cost.

- Business associations claim that the pass-thru nature of this assessment is nothing more than a hidden tax on all Floridians that creates a significant impediment to business growth in Florida.

One remedy to this problem is to start reducing the size of Citizens Insurance by gradually increasing the premiums and moving much of its book of business to private carriers. A gradual increase has already been approved and legislation has been introduced to expedite this process. However, those bills have yet to be heard because of the aforementioned reluctance, on the part of some legislators, to set the wheels in motion that may result in higher insurance costs for those living in storm prone regions of the state or where a limited insurance market has already diminished affordable options.

Another remedy is to reduce the size of the FHCF by limiting assessments and forcing carriers to purchase

reinsurance from the private markets. Again, that may negatively impact prices in the short run. However, it will serve to force the carriers and state regulators to appropriately price property insurance in Florida and could lead to a more robust market as insurers begin to see that the state is serious about rebalancing the market. Added competition would serve to moderate prices over the long run.

Dr. Jack E. Nicholson, the Chief Operating Officer of the FHCF, uses a helpful analogy to describe the precarious nature of Florida's state-backed insurance programs. He describes a situation in which the doctor tells you that the medicine prescribed for your two children (let's give them the nicknames "Cat" and "Cit" for short) really doesn't work and that he recommends a new medicine but it will cost a little more. Most of us would say it is worth it to pay a little more rather than to go on giving our children medicine that does not work. The Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Citizens Insurance are sick and have been getting bad medicine. It may cost less now but it does nothing to remedy the underlying cause. Thus, we are all exposed to much higher costs and potential financial calamity when the next big hurricane hits. Meanwhile, we subsidize poor development decisions by having an over-exposed insurance program that covers too many risks.

When will policymakers face the facts and end this practice? Will they do so in time and before the "Big One" hits? If reform legislation fails in the 2012 Session, constituents need to ask the candidates for office where they stand on reform of the FHCF and Citizens Insurance. They need to ask incumbents what they have been doing to encourage reform. The time for careful consideration of options may be running short. While Florida has been spared a major hurricane for six years, that lucky streak is bound to end.

A short video explaining why the Cat Fund should be reformed can be viewed by visiting: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca7gfNPnC2o&feature=player_embedded

KNIGHT from page 2

or auto collisions. In 1985, Betsy received permission to raise two cubs whose mother was killed in Wewahatchka. They were successfully returned to the wild when released by wildlife agency staff in the Ocala National Forest nine months later. From that time on, Betsy continued to receive orphaned bear cubs and raised a total of 45 that were later released into the wild. In 1988 Betsy founded the Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary in Calhoun County. She cared for many other injured or orphaned wildlife including bald eagles, bobcats, white tail deer, red shouldered and red tailed hawks, owls and many more.



Photo by Claudia Farren

Betsy Knight was born in Orlando and spent the first years of her life in that area before moving to Tallahassee and then to Calhoun County in 1962. She was a loving mother to her four children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. Environmental education was very important to Betsy and, for the last 30 years, she and her volunteers brought permanently injured eagles, owls and other small creatures from the wildlife sanctuary into the classrooms of Florida schools with presentations and discussions about proper treatment of wildlife in Florida. Betsy and her entourage could be found at the Wakulla Springs Wildlife Festival year after year as well as many other outdoor festivals around North Florida. She also loved the annual Bear Festival in Umatilla. Betsy, who was an Eagle Club member of FWF, will be missed by her many friends and colleagues. The Florida Wildlife Federation was grateful to have Betsy serve on the board of directors for thirteen years. She worked very hard for the protection and care of Florida's wildlife. She was their personal advocate and protector.

Diane Hines, V.P. of Admin.

Call For Director Nominations

If you are interested in serving as a director of the Florida Wildlife Federation during the September 2012 to September 2013 term, or if you wish to nominate someone to fill one of these positions, please write to the Florida Wildlife Federation Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870; FAX (850) 942-4431.

Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2012.

To be eligible, a candidate must be a resident of Florida and a member in good standing of the Florida Wildlife Federation. District and Regional Directors must reside in the region or district for which they would serve. Officers and At-Large Directors may reside anywhere within the state.

Federation Directors are expected to regularly attend Federation meetings, participate in Federation activities, assist in building Federation member-

ship, be actively involved in fund-raising efforts, attend public workshops, act as a liaison with other conservation organizations, and generally promote and lead state-wide conservation activities through the Florida Wildlife Federation. Being an FWF Director requires a substantial commitment of time and resources but will give the individual an opportunity to be a conservation leader in Florida.

Also, if you are interested in assisting the directors in your region, or in serving on one of the Federation's committees, please contact Diane Hines at the Federation office in Tallahassee at (850) 656-7113 or dhines@fwfonline.org.

Northwest Region

District I	District II
Escambia	Jackson
Santa Rosa	Calhoun
Walton	Gulf
Holmes	Franklin
Bay	Liberty
Okaloosa	Gadsden
Washington	Leon
	Wakulla
	Jefferson

Northeast Region

District III	District IV
Madison	Baker
Taylor	Nassau
Hamilton	Duval
Suwannee	Clay
Lafayette	St. Johns
Dixie	Putman
Columbia	Flagler
Union	Volusia
Bradford	
Gilcrest	
Alachua	

Central Region

District V	District VI
Marion	Citrus
Lake	Hernando
Seminole	Pasco
Orange	Hillsborough
Osceola	Pinellas
Polk	Levy
Brevard	
Indian River	
Sumter	

Southern Region

District VII	District VIII
Manatee	Hendry
Sarasota	Collier
Charlotte	Broward
Hardee	Dade
De Soto	Monroe
Highlands	
Glades	
Okeechobee	
St. Lucie	
Martin	
Palm Beach	
Lee	

LAKELAND RESIDENT DONATES WOOD DUCK NESTING BOXES TO TENOROC FISH MANAGEMENT AREA

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) describes its Tenoroc facility, which is located two miles northeast of Lakeland, as "a continuous linkage of lakes and marshes, open grasslands, and wooded hills between the Green Swamp and the Peace River". This makes Tenoroc an important refuge for wildlife, and serves as a top-notch destination for anglers, birdwatchers, hikers, and horseback riders. Previously (in the 1960s and 1970s), this property had been extensively mined for phosphate, leaving behind steep-sided lakes and spoil mounds, but few of the hollowed trees desired by wood ducks for nesting sites.

Bill Smith and his family have elected to address this deficiency by donating eight cypress nesting boxes hand-crafted in Dr.

Bob's Toy Box (Florida Wildlife Federation director Bob Taylor). With the guidance of Tenoroc's manager, Danon Moxley, Bill Smith and his family are placing these much-needed nesting structures at sites near the facility's lakes and marshes which will both attract nesting ducks and be reasonably accessible for his grandchildren to monitor and maintain. What a wonderful way to express one's love of nature and our envi-

ronment!

Polk County in central Florida is home to perhaps a dozen sites similar to Tenoroc. The Water Management Districts, and private conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Green Horizon Land Trust and Audubon also own land there. By extrapolation to the entire state, there must be dozens or even hundreds of places where nesting boxes are needed for cav-

ity-nesting birds such as wood ducks, screech owls, barred owls, blue birds and many others.

Individuals electing to sponsor boxes to be placed in these areas not only benefit the location and the birds, but also the Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF). The Federation buys the cypress and Dr. Bob provides the shop equipment and all the labor, pro bono. Thus, all revenue in excess of lumber cost provides a much needed donation to FWF, an organization which many consider to be to be the best and most effective of its type in the South-eastern U.S.



If you wish to sponsor one or more of these nesting boxes, they are available in four (4) sizes as follow.

1. Small, for blue birds and wrens, etc.....\$ 30.00 plus postage
2. Medium, for wood ducks and screech owls.....\$ 60.00 plus postage
3. Large, for black-bellied whistling ducks.....\$ 70.00 plus postage
4. X large, for barred owls.....\$ 150.00 plus postage

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For more information, contact Bob Taylor at 863-439-2251 or FWF at 850-656-7113. If needed, someone at FWF will help coordinate the installation of your boxes at the site of your choice, if possible.

East County Water Control District Launches Nature Festival



East County Water Control District (ECWCD) hosts its inaugural Wings Over Water Festival (WOW) at Lee County's Harn's Marsh to help the public discover the beauty of southwest Florida's water, land and wildlife.

The two-day festival helps celebrate southwest Florida's natural resources and includes an array of programs on local waterways and wildlife from Friday, March 9 to Saturday, March 10.

Harn's Marsh is located in the eastern portion of Lee County off of Sunshine Blvd. in Lehigh Acres. In the late 1980's, ECWCD transformed the 578-acre farmland into an active stormwater facility helping to filter water and reduce flooding to the Orange River. The water control structures have helped create a lush habitat for snail kites, limpkin and more than 140 species of animals.



"The abundance of wildlife at Harn's Marsh creates an exciting opportunity for individuals to explore the beauty of southwest Florida," said David E. Lindsay, ECWCD District Manager. "It is important for visitors and residents to understand the vital role water quality and conservation plays in keeping our community and environment safe."

WOW festival kicks off on Friday, March 9 from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

with field excursions at Harn's Marsh. The public is invited to partake in the guided walking tour and historical presentation about Harn's Marsh and water management practices. Those interested in participating in the free event must reserve a spot www.wingsoverwaterfestival.com.

On Saturday, March 10, the district will host the WOW Festival, a free nature festival for community members and visitors. A variety of on-site activities will be offered at Harn's Marsh from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. including lectures from experts; exhibitions by wildlife and education-related organizations and businesses from throughout Lee County; children's activities, guided walks and various species of flora and fauna.

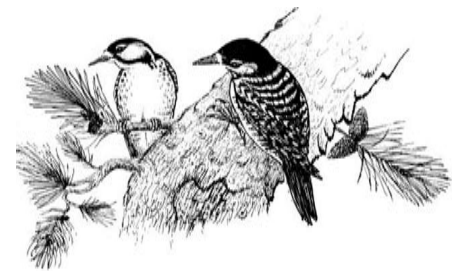


Throughout the day, community leaders, environmental experts and national personalities will share their knowledge about the wild wonders of southwest Florida and the importance of protecting our natural resources through our seminar series.

The festival seminars conclude with a keynote presentation from James Currie, host and producer of Nikon's Birding Adventures TV show and a rare bird expert. As a life-long birder and native of South Africa, Currie has many years experience in the birding and wildlife tourism arenas. He has led professional wildlife and birding tours for 15 years and his passion for birding and remote cultures has taken him to, amongst others, Central and South America, Fiji, Australia, North America, Africa, Europe, Madagascar and Iceland. He has contributed to several publications, including the acclaimed Southern African Birdfinder. He is also

an expert in the field of sustainable development and holds a Bachelor's Degree in African Languages and a Masters degree in Sustainable Environmental Management. From 2004-2007 James worked as the Managing Director of the Africa Foundation, a non-profit organization that directs its efforts towards the betterment of communities surrounding wildlife areas in Africa. The educational series is made possible by the generosity of sponsors: The News-Press Media Group, Mosaic, Lehigh Regional Medical Center and AIM Engineering and Surveying, Inc.

For more information, visit www.wingsoverwaterfestival.com or call 239-368-0044 x17.



Writing Effective Letters

Address letters to Members of the House of Representatives as follows:

The Honorable John Doe
Florida House of Representatives
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Address letters to Senators this way:

Senator Jane Doe
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Be absolutely certain you spell your legislator's name correctly and use the correct address. If you don't, you could lose your audience.

Type or print legibly. Sign your name neatly and give your address correctly so they can respond to your letter.

Keep letters, e-mails, and faxes brief. Never write more than one page. Concise written correspondence is more likely to grab and keep the reader's attention.

Identify your issue or opinion at the beginning of the letter, don't bury your main point under trivial text.

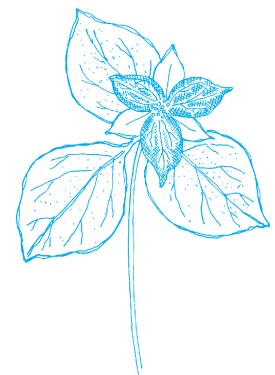
Cover only one issue per letter. If you have another issue to address, write another letter.

Back up your opinions with supporting facts. Your letter should inform the reader.

Avoid abbreviations or acronyms, and don't use technical jargon. Rather than impressing your reader, such terms will only frustrate him or her.

Don't send the same letter to more than one legislator. Personalized letters have more impact.

To contact legislators via email, visit myfloridahouse.gov and myfloridasenate.gov.



The Future of Florida's Water Management Districts

Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
The Capitol

Dear Governor Scott,

I write to introduce you to the Florida Conservation Coalition and to provide you with information that we have received from several county commissions throughout Florida.

The Florida Conservation Coalition (FCC) was created in 2011 following the legislative session that brought major changes to several decades of Florida conservation law and programs. Former Governor and U. S. Senator Bob Graham is founder and chairman, and Former Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel Reed is vice-chairman of the FCC. The Coalition decided early on that its first priority would be water resources and the water management districts. We believe the districts need more adequate funding and stability, and should be managed on a regional basis with executive oversight, rather than by the legislature.

Even before the FCC was officially announced on November 30, several counties were expressing serious concern about changes brought to the water management districts by the 2011 Legislature. The Taylor Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution addressing its concerns for water management districts on October 18, 2011. Twelve (12) other county commissions have since adopted resolutions. These counties are: Broward, Citrus, Gadsden, Jefferson, Lee, Leon, Martin, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Polk, Sarasota, and Wakulla. Additionally, representatives of the nine (9) counties of the Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, and Lake Worth

**Estus Whitfield served as the chief environmental adviser to Governor's Graham, Martinez and Chiles. He also served Governor Askew as assistant environmental advisor and assisted Governor Bush with the completion of the Talisman Sugar Land purchase prior to his retirement. In 2011, Estus, out of concern for Florida's current policies, helped establish the Florida Conservation Coalition.*

****Florida Wildlife Federation is proud to be an active member of the Florida Conservation Coalition.**

Lagoon approved a resolution. These counties are: Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Osceola, Glades, Highlands, Lee, and Hendry.

Each of these resolutions contains the following three (3) statements:

(1) The county supports the water management structure and functions as listed in Chapter 373, F.S.

(2) The county supports adequate funding for water management districts, such that they may accomplish their lawful missions of managing and protecting regional and local water resources.

(3) The county opposes the centralization - command and control of regional and local water resources within the executive and/or legislative branches of government, or by a state-wide board or authority.

Several of the resolutions contain an additional fourth statement:

(4) The county opposes any effort to move water from public ownership to ownership or total control by private interests.

Attached are three of the resolutions for your reference: Polk County, Sarasota County, and the nine (9) member County Coalition. Several other counties are currently considering adopting resolutions.

We hope you find these expressions of concern by counties throughout Florida of serious interest.

We would appreciate the opportunity to work with you in the coming days and thereafter to seek better management of Florida's water resources and districts.

Very respectfully,

Estus Whitfield*
Member, Florida Conservation
Coalition

Honorable Ilene Lieberman
County Commissioner
Broward County

Dear Commissioner Lieberman,

This letter is to let you know that the Florida Conservation Coalition has informed Governor Scott and legislative leaders of your county commission's resolution in support of water management districts. Attached to this email is the letter we delivered to Governor Scott's office. The letter was also delivered separately to Senate President Haridopolos, President-elect Gaetz, Speaker Cannon, and Speaker-designate Weatherford.

Thirteen (13) other counties have so far adopted similar resolutions and representatives of a nine member south Florida coalition have approved a resolution. Several other counties are currently considering adopting resolutions.

The Florida Conservation Coalition is a non-partisan coalition of conservation and other concerned organizations and concerned citizens devoted to protecting and conserving our state's water and natural resources that are essential for our quality of life and long-term economic prosperity. The Coalition was founded and is chaired by Former Governor and U. S. Senator Bob Graham. Former Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel Reed is vice-chair.

The 2011 Legislature passed SB 2142 which resulted in draconian cuts in the budgets and staffs of the regional water management districts. This bill also took oversight of district budgets from the Governor and placed it under the Legislature. No longer are budget and other decisions made by district governing boards composed of lay citizens who reside in the region; they are now made by the Legislature. Due to the imposed budget constraints, the districts are no longer sustainable.

The Legislature is currently considering legislation (SB 1986) that will place complete control of water management district budgets in the Legislature. This will further politicize and undermine regional water management in Florida and reduce the ability of the districts to perform their functions. This bill is a distinct move away from regional water management and could result in legislators from the opposite end of the state deciding how your water is managed.

The bill, SPB 7092, renamed SB 1986, was passed by the Senate Budget Committee on February 15. However, SB 1986 has not passed the Senate and has no companion bill in the House. The bill is expected to be voted on by the Senate this week.

SB 1986 and last year's SB 2142 fly in the face of your county resolution that calls for a water management structure as delineated in the 2010 version of Chapter 373, F.S.; adequate funding of water management districts; and no centralization - command and control of local and regional water resources by Tallahassee.

Now is the time to step up and protect regional water management.

Call or write Governor Scott, Senate President Haridopolos, House Speaker Cannon, and your legislative delegation and voice your concerns. Florida's water resources would fare much better without last year's SB 2142 and this year's SB 1986; what is needed is to return Chapter 373, F.S. to the way it existed in 2010. Oversight of district budgets and activities by the Governor and Department of Environmental Protection is the appropriate means of overseeing the water management districts. The Legislature has every right to review district budgets, audits, and annual reports and to step in if necessary, but it should not micromanage the districts, making it nearly impossible to do the job expected of them.

The Florida Conservation Coalition would like to thank you for your leadership in highlighting the importance of water management districts in protecting and managing Florida's water resources. You can stay informed of the Coalition's activities including announcements about legislation by visiting our websites, FloridaConservationCoalition.org and Facebook.com/FloridaConservationCoalition.

Sincerely,

Estus Whitfield
Member, Florida Conservation
Coalition

Judge Orders Immediate Enforcement of Limits on Sewage, Manure and Fertilizer Pollution

Says Florida regulators haven't protected citizens from contaminated water

February 17, 2012 - by Earthjustice

A decade of delays in setting limits on sewage, manure and fertilizer contamination in Florida waters ended today with a ruling today by the federal court in Tallahassee. The court ruled that enforceable new limits on this pollution cannot be delayed any longer and, in fact, must go into effect in three weeks.

"Florida political and environmental leaders have been struggling for 20 years to come up with a way to stop huge green toxic algae outbreaks that plague Florida lakes and rivers," said Earthjustice Attorney David Guest. "Today we finally turned the corner."

The ruling was issued by U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decided 14 years ago that limits on the pollutants that feed slime outbreaks on lakes and streams were necessary. Three years ago, EPA and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection agreed that specific pollution limits must be quickly implemented - but efforts to establish limits were met by a massive campaign by polluting industries to stop or delay the new rules.

Sewage, manure and fertilizer spur toxic algae outbreaks that cover waterways with green slime and cause rashes, breathing problems, stomach disorders, and worse. Health authorities have had to shut down drinking water plants, beaches and swimming areas. Toxic algae can kill fish, livestock and pets.

The judge agreed that the EPA's approach - which is like a speed limit sign that gives everyone fair warning of the law -- is a good, practical and necessary. It replaces a 35-year-old Florida rule that required studies

when algae outbreaks take place but did nothing to prevent them.

The court did find two technical defects in EPA's rule, and ordered them to be fixed by May.

"Floridians are disgusted at seeing more and more lakes and rivers turn pea green and smell like sewage," Guest said. "Today we are going to start preventing that from happening anymore."

The public wants the slime outbreaks to stop. Several environmental groups issued a grassroots call to action in recent weeks, and, so far, more than 17,000 people have written to the White House supporting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency limits to combat the green slime which breaks out on our waterways.

After years of seeing toxic algae on Florida tourist beaches like Sanibel Island and at fishing destinations like the St. Johns River, Earthjustice filed a Clean Water Act federal lawsuit in 2008 in the Northern District of Florida on behalf of **the Florida Wildlife Federation**, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida, St. John's Riverkeeper, and the Sierra Club. In 2009, the EPA set numeric limits for the phosphorus and nitrogen that comes from sewage, fertilizer and manure in the water.

Earthjustice is now challenging the ineffective standards to control this pollution proposed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Like the old rules, the proposed rules only require studies when an algae outbreak takes place. No corrective action can be required until the studies are completed, a process that takes five to ten years.

PRESIDENT from page 3

establishment of the new Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge in the Kissimmee Valley through an innovative public private conservation lands partnership which will help protect the upper Everglades watershed from development, continue working ranchlands and provide for public outdoor recreation including hunting in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Future sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities and partnerships with FWC are also being considered in the Florida Panther and Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuges. Also working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service we are strong advocates for the integrity of the Coastal Barrier Resources System authored by our Director Tom Evans, Jr. when he served in Congress. Our coastal policy initiatives include a variety of efforts to protect sea turtle habitat on Florida's sandy beaches and to reform the Federal Flood Insurance Program, Florida's Citizen's Insurance Program and the Catastrophe Fund in a manner which reduces incentives to build and rebuild in low lying, flood prone areas along our waterways. This makes sense from both a fiscal and conservation standpoint.

Florida Wildlife Federation is working closely with other conservationists in support of continued funding for our conservation lands programs at the national, state and local levels and for adequate management dollars for our public lands. We are advocates for conservation lands and coastal restoration projects at the federal level through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Gulf restoration legislation, the Farm Bill's conservation provisions and support for federal tax benefits for private landowners who value their properties through permanent conservation easements. We also support military base buffering by placing nearby private lands in conservation.

We are strong proponents of building sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities and fish and wildlife enhancements into Everglades Restoration and are currently focusing on Central Everglades restoration planning. For example, some canals will need to be plugged or partially filled; when this occurs we would like habitat enhancement made an integral part of those projects and when current recreational opportunities are lost we want to see them replaced. In suitable areas we would like to see other canals improved as freshwater fish habitats. We are going to need to move more clean water south as we restore the Ev-

erglades but we can do it while enhancing fish and wildlife habitat and resource based recreation.

FWF has supported the establishment and expansion of the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Addition lands for many years and supports management of outdoor recreation activities and access to those lands in a sustainable manner. We support in general the management plans of the National Park Service on these properties which we believe conform with the enabling legislation for both the Preserve and the Addition lands. To protect these lands from the construction of an International Jetport and associated developments, conservationists ranging from urban environmentalists to back country hunters came together and supported the establishment of one of America's first two National Preserves allowing for traditional recreational activities subject to oversight by the Park Service in cooperation and consultation with the state of Florida primarily with the FWC. That agreement led to the passage of the legislation in 1974 and 1988 which forever protects these lands while allowing managed hunting and fishing and regulated public access including permitted vehicles only which are all now required to use officially designated trails only.

Often the Federation serves as a conservation bridge between various interests working on behalf of protecting our woods and waters. It's challenging and interesting work, but I am proud to have been doing this now for 25 years with FWF. Florida Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors recently recognized that with a framed photo collage. Time flies and I have been privileged to work with great people. Looking forward to working with you all into the future. Can you imagine the challenges and conservation opportunities over the next 25 years and beyond? I am looking forward to it. Thank you all for being a critical part of FWF; we are working to build a stronger Federation with youth to seniors all of whom care about the future of conservation and special places and experiences we share in the outdoors. Please check out the 1000 Mile Trek for Florida on page 14.

Thank you,

Manley

**Editor's Note: Our opponents are claiming this was not a victory for us. It was a victory for Florida's future and an important step to cleaning our waters. We will not be appealing Judge Hinkle's decisions, they will. So, the proof is in the pudding. Hats off to our lawyers at Earthjustice. We have more to do but this is progress. -Manley*



FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ



1. Florida has alligators, but there are no crocodiles in Florida. True or False?



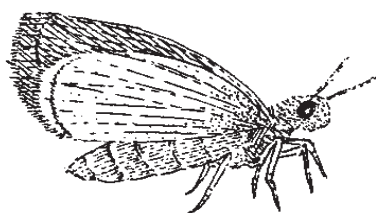
2. Are there any mountains in Florida?



3. What are mangroves, and why are they important?

See page 15 for answers, and more information.

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!



Facebook & Twitter Questions

In each publication of FFWN we will feature topics and questions submitted via social media. Thank you to all of our followers for their input!

Facebook: “The decline of the Florida panther, what can we do to save the animal from extinction?”

There are several actions individuals can take to protect the Florida panther and its habitat.

1. Urge elected officials to fund land buying and land preserving programs including local land conservation programs, Florida Forever, and the Greater Everglades Partnership Initiative. For more information on the Greater Everglades Partnership Initiative’s first project go to <http://www.fws.gov/evergladesheadwaters>. The biggest problem confronting recovery of the Florida panther is the fragmentation and the destruction of habitat.

2. Purchase a Florida panther license plate because this is the source of money that purchases equipment and pays biologists to study the Florida panther. The more scientific information we have about Florida panthers living in the wild, the more effective we are in efforts to protect them.

3. In Florida panther habitats do not exceed the speed limit and always be on alert for panthers and other wildlife crossing the road, particularly at dawn and dusk. Road deaths are a major cause of panther mortality each year.

4. Consider a donation to Florida Panther Fund <http://www.wildlife-foundationofflorida.com/panthers>. This fund rehabilitates injured panthers and raises orphaned panther kittens so they can return to the wild.

5. Donate to Florida Wildlife Federation’s Southwest Florida Office. This office is based in panther country and staff works every day to save the Florida panthers and their habitat.

Have a question of your own? Let us know on Facebook and Twitter.

Native Bees Deserve the Buzz

The following article was written by Athena Rayne Anderson, and gives us another reason to garden for wildlife. I think it is an interesting follow-up to this publication’s recent “Decline of the Pollinators” article, which mostly dealt with honeybees. Honeybees are still declining, and the cause is not known. We need to foster and protect other pollinators, as Ms. Anderson mentions in her article. “Butterfly Gardens” and many “Wildlife Habitats” are actually “Pollinator Gardens” supporting many native pollinators.

Pat Pearson, FWF Habitat Coordinator

Did you know that every third bite of food you eat is made possible by bees?

Most people know honey bees are important for pollinating fruits and vegetables, but did you know they’re not the only bees that do this? There are a variety of fascinating and beautiful native bees that pollinate our crops and wild plants, too.

Honey bees were brought to North America by early European settlers. Most of what folks know about bees as a group was learned from honey bees. However, honey bees are very different from the majority of other bees in the world. For instance, most bees live solitary lives, rather than with relatives. Most bees don’t store large quantities of food in the form of honey. Also, most bees are gentle!

More than 4,000 species are native to the U.S. A native bee is simply one that is “from” an area. You’ve probably seen some native bees, even if you haven’t thought about it. Maybe you’ve seen bumble bees visiting blueberries in spring. Or tiny sweat bees licking perspiration from your skin in summer. What about carpenter bees, whose females tunnel into soft wood to lay their eggs?

There are also mining bees, leaf-cutter bees, alkali bees, polyester bees and squash bees, just to name a few! All depend on pollen and nectar for survival as larvae and adults. Many of these native bees are more effective pollinators of crops and wild plants on a per-bee basis than honey bees!

The number of honey bee colonies and beekeepers has been declining in the U.S. for several decades. The great news is wild native bees can do all the pollinating needed if given a chance!

But they need our help. Native bees need these three things to survive:

1. Something in bloom from early spring into autumn. Native bees do best when they always have native flowers to visit.
2. Nesting habitat. Most native bees nest in the soil, so leaving bare patches in sunny spots is key. Other native bees nest in stems and twigs. Leaving forested areas intact also helps.
3. Protection from pesticides. The chemicals used to kill crop pests kill also native pollinating bees! Finding ways to apply pesticides so they won’t harm bees can boost their numbers. Eliminating pesticide use is even better.

Visit www.pollinators.info to learn more about native bees and other pollinators, and to join the Pollinator Conservation Movement!

Athena Rayne Anderson is a University of Georgia doctoral student in ecology studying native bee pollination. She is also author of www.pollinators.info, a site dedicated to pollinator information, resources and community.

This article from: DNR’s Georgia Wild (volume 4, issue 8) which is free, monthly and focused on rare, endangered and other nongame wildlife. Nongame includes wildlife not legally trapped, fished for or hunted, plus native plants and natural habitats.

100 Days, 1000 Miles

Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition

On January 17, 2012, a 1000 mile expedition over a 100 day period was kicked off to increase public awareness and generate support for the Florida Wildlife Corridor project.

Bear biologist Joe Guthrie, conservationist Mallory Lykes Dimmitt, and photojournalist Carlton Ward Jr is trekking from the Everglades National Park toward Okefenokee National Forest in southern Georgia. The trio is traversing the wildlife habitats, watersheds and participating working farms and ranches, which comprise the Florida Wildlife Corridor opportunity area.

The team is documenting the corridor through photography, video streams, radio reports, daily updates on social media and digital networks, and a host of activities for reporters, landowners, celebrities, conservationists, politicians and other guests. Award-winning cinematographer Elam Stoltzfus is documenting the expedition to produce a film about the journey and the Florida Wildlife Corridor. For more information visit <http://www.floridawildlifecorridor.org>.



The Florida Wildlife Corridor aims to protect and restore connected landscapes throughout the Florida Peninsula to create a viable corridor from the Everglades to Georgia. The corridor addresses the fragmentation of natural landscapes and watersheds from the Everglades ecosystem north. Contributing to the fragmentation problem is the disconnect between the perceptions of Floridians, and the real need to keep natural systems connected. The Florida Wildlife Corridor is positioned to mend the perception gap through an education and awareness campaign that demonstrates the connection between the landscapes and watersheds. If we show Floridians the panthers, bears, native cultures, ranchlands and rivers and how they are all connected, then they can help us make the Florida Wildlife Corridor a reality.

Stephen Harris receives The Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship From The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society

We are pleased to announce that Stephen Harris is the recipient of the 14th annual scholarship for undergraduate studies, administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. As a senior at the University of Florida, Stephen is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Stephen is a role model for other undergraduates, serving as the president of the UF Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, volunteering his time towards wildlife fieldwork, conducting outreach and balancing an undergraduate thesis project in addition to his regular coursework. After graduation, Stephen plans to gain more experience through seasonal wildlife positions before eventually pursuing a graduate degree. Stephen's professional aspirations center on promoting wildlife conservation. The Florida Wildlife Federation is a co-sponsor of this award, and the UF Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society is an affiliate of the FWF.



Stephen Harris

ANNOUNCING...

The 3rd Annual Kids' Wildlife Habitat Contest!

On Earth Day in April, 2012, the Florida Wildlife Federation will award a commemorative plaque and an age-suitable gardening book to the Florida kid or kids 12 years old or under who have helped to establish and maintain a habitat for wildlife at home or on school property. The habitat will also be featured on our website and in our newsletter. Entries close March 31, 2012.

The Florida Wildlife Federation is dedicated to encouraging young Floridians to be good environmentalists and to care for our native animals and plants. We believe that time spent outdoors working on a habitat project is of great value in encouraging learning about nature. Experts say that lack of active outdoor play and projects contributes to many childhood health problems.

It's easy to enter. Just tell us how the habitat provides the following elements: food, water, cover and a place to raise young for Florida wildlife.

Teachers, please note that it is not necessary for schoolyard habitats to be certified by National Wildlife Federation or any other organization, just that they provide the four necessary elements for a good wildlife habitat.

A description and photos of the habitat can be mailed to the FWF Office, or e-mailed to patricia@fwfonline.org.

Email patricia@fwfonline.org or call the FWF office at (850) 656-7113 for more information, if needed. See the PowerPoint in the Habitat Section of our website www.fwfonline.org for general habitat information.

Dedication Ceremony, November 16, at Crystal Springs Preserve



Crystal Springs Preserve celebrated the opening of a new Alligator Point Eco-Trail and the Wilderness Pavilion at Crystal Springs (in Pasco County) on November 16, 2011.

Cutting the ribbon for the new Alligator Point Eco Trail are Barney and Carol Jenkins Barnett, who represent Publix Super Markets Charities. Also pictured are (L-R) Karen Pate and Robert Thomas, Crystal Springs Foundation Inc.; Kim Jeffery, Nestlé Waters North America; and Tina Thomas Sievers, also Crystal Springs Foundation Inc.

Karen Pate, who received the FWF Conservation Educator of the Year Award in 2011, is the Executive Director of Crystal Springs Preserve, a 520 acre wildlife sanctuary and spring in Pasco County.

Representing FWF at the ceremony were Bob and Billye Taylor, Ann Vanek-Dasovich and E. C. Vandagriff. Bob, Ann and E. C. are members of the FWF board of directors.

Blood Mountain Wilderness - by Neal George

Florida, as beautiful as it is, is not known for its altitudinal diversity. Luckily for us in the northern reach of the state, the foothills and peaks of the Appalachian Mountains are no further than a seven hour drive. The Blue Ridge mountain range, a part of the Appalachians and enshrined in many a bluegrass lyric, starts in North Georgia. This is practically in your back yard if we are thinking on a global scale.

The journey into the highlands is a straight shot via I-75 N, and ones choices of which section of the ancient Appalachians to explore is vast. My party had chosen, or rather inherited the Blood Mountain Wilderness Area. I say inherited because a close friend's father has been making an annual pilgrimage there for several decades. After a late night stop to rest in one of the many rural towns that dot the North Georgia landscape, we made an early morning journey to the Woody Gap Recreation area. This was the starting point of the hike and offered a glimpse of the stunning views to come. After stretching and taking a last inventory of supplies my unit began the two mile trek to a camping spot on Jacob's Knob, a rocky overlook that offers an ever crucial wind barrier. Once we finished soaking up the panoramic views of the mountain peaks crashing into the multi-hued valleys of an Appalachian fall that Florida's humble red hills would certainly be envious of, we gathered firewood for the night. This was it. Getting back to nature, alleviating the stress of modern life. No screens, no sirens and no fast food chains in sight.

The next morning, we gathered our thoughts and gear and prepared for a roughly ten mile hike to the summit of Blood Mountain. The hike follows the Appalachian Trails' iconic white blazes through steep switch backs down into cool meandering valleys. In these valleys one can't help but notice a striking resemblance to Florida's steephead ravines; this is because the ravines provided a cooler habitat than the surrounding areas and shelters more northerly species typical of the Appalachians after the retreat of glaciers during the last Ice Age. But as everyone whose ever traveled hilly terrain knows, what goes down must go up. Do not be alarmed though because you will soon find the lactic acid burn in your legs is repaid excessively by the brilliant hues of the fall foliage viewed from the many rocky outcroppings along the way. The final stretch to the summit is the most strenuous but this is to be expected for the highest peak on the Georgia section of the Appalachian Trail.

As we reached the peak, I was stunned by sunlight playing off of the foliage and the 360 degree appreciation of the landscape that the

peak allows. This vista, which casts a more immediate impression than North Florida's subtle karstic beauty, is not the only thing that caught my eye. On top of Blood Mountain lies a stone cabin shelter built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1934. The CCC was established as part of the New Deal under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The CCC hired young, unemployed men for various environmental tasks such as planting trees and building infrastructure in parks and rural areas. This program not only provided much needed income to Americans but it also helped foster a strong environmental ethic and appreciation for this country's natural grandeur. This sturdy stone structure at the summit made me think about our current economic situation, the worst in this country since the CCC was formed during the Great Depression. I wondered if a program similar to the CCC could help alleviate the ever pressing unemployment problem we face today. Certainly some much needed environmental awareness could only be a positive result. President Obama has recently called for budget appropriations to set up a similar program geared towards veterans to help repair trails, remove invasive species, and other work that needs to be performed in our nations parks and wilderness areas. This news elated me and hopefully the program is available not only to veterans but any citizen who is currently unemployed.

So, as getting back outdoors always seems to do, I not only gained the calming effects of a natural setting but also came out with an unexpected idea that could benefit the country both environmentally and economically. Many programs that hire local people for conservation work are in effect in such countries as Costa Rica; these programs have brought a much needed economic boost to rural areas and I think that the United States could benefit from a similar approach. I suppose that mountains innately lend themselves to inner meditation and the archetypal wise man on the mountain had some real world basis. Now I wonder if the working man on the mountain or any ecosystem for that matter can reach a similar calm.



Maui - by Danny Gwynn-Shapiro

We stepped off the plane and out of our 20+ hours without a breath of fresh air to a warm, clean breeze and freshly made leis constructed from a home garden. Yep, this was Maui alright – no need for air-conditioning here! As my family and I drove to our relatives' house where we would be staying for the next 15 nights, I was bombarded by the bounty of nature at our fingertips. The pure air rushed through the windows with the smell of Pacific Ocean, sugar cane rustled in the night and the stars shined brighter than I had ever seen before. It was quite an introduction to what would be an amazing two weeks spent taking in the natural beauty of a state that seemed worlds away from Tallahassee. Now don't get me wrong, I love the lakes, rivers, springs, sinks-holes, forests and trails that North Florida has to offer, but Maui offered a vision of just how much more special these places could be with good stewardship.

Through our two weeks in Maui we took advantage of the multitude of activities offered by the beautiful island. Each day started by waking on a screened-in porch where I slept and sampling yet another of the 100 or so varieties of avocado the Hawaiian Islands had to offer. We then had to decide as a group which of the many beaches we wanted to visit or which part of a mountain we want to hike up. The best part about these decisions was that no matter where we went, we would be met by clean air, clear water and citizens doing everything in their power to keep their island as clean as possible.

Some of the most striking moments of our trip came on a three day visit to Hana on the eastern shores of Maui. Though we were staying out of the main towns, Hana is in an even more isolated region and faces directly out towards the Pacific for 2,100 unimpeded miles to California. We 'camped' in bare-bones cabins in a state park



with a view of the ocean and a two minute walk through the trees to cliffs it lapped against. On our final morning there, with the guidance of a friend and seasoned camper there, we jumped off the cliffs into the 30-foot deep water and snorkeled down the coastline to *Blacksand Beach* which is composed of many small, rounded black volcanic rocks. On the way, we saw a variety of fish, but as we were swimming in towards the beach I saw something distinctly different out of the corner of my eye. A giant sea turtle!! This magnificent creature is endangered but has made a recovery throughout the Hawaiian Islands thanks to protective measures. We swam with the turtle for a few minutes as it gracefully glided through the ocean before turning towards the beach to finish our swim.

All of these unforgettable moments that make this Hawaiian island what it is would not have been possible without a commitment to preserving the island's natural environment. As we see the increasing encroachment of development throughout Florida, we as conservationists must continue to stress how important our environment is to what makes Florida, Florida. Our natural treasures not only drive tourism and the economy throughout the state, but also are the true heart and soul of Florida.



Left and above: *Blacksand Beach*

Editor's Note:
Danny Gwynn-Shapiro and Neal George are both FWF employees and graduates of Florida State University.



ANSWERS TO FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. False. Florida does have *Crocodylus acutus*, the American crocodile. It lives only in the southern part of the state where temperatures stay very warm. It also lives in Cuba, Mexico, Central America, and the northern part of South America. A crocodile's snout is much longer and thinner than the alligator's rounded snout.

2. No. The highest point in Florida (at 344.5 feet above sea level) is at the top of Britton Hill in the town of Lakewood Park in Walton County. There are some smaller hills around Tallahassee, but nothing that could possibly be called a mountain.

3. Mangroves are tropical plants that grow at shorelines, and are adapted to loose, wet soils, salt water, and being periodically submerged by tides. Three species of mangroves are native to Florida: Red, Black and White. Mangroves trap and cycle various organic materials, chemical elements, and important nutrients in the coastal ecosystem and provide one of the basic food chain resources for marine organisms. Mangroves provide physical habitat and nursery grounds for a wide variety of marine organisms. They also serve as roosting and nesting sites for many of our birds, serve as storm buffers by reducing wind and wave action in shallow shoreline areas, and assist in protecting water quality and clarity by filtering runoff and trapping sediments and debris from adjacent uplands.

Florida Wildlife Federation Launches 6th Annual "Green" Car Sweepstakes

By Claudia Farren

The Federation's 2012 Sixth Annual "Green" Car Sweepstakes gets under way in March with an outstanding choice of four fuel-efficient automobiles from which the grand prize winner may choose.

This year we are offering the Fusion Hybrid (185 hp/130 lb-ft), with its brand new aerodynamic, sleek design. Ditching its 2.5-liter engine for a smaller 2.0-liter Atkinson-cycle four-cylinder, it's anticipated to deliver 47 city/44 highway mpg. Also, lighter, more powerful lithium-ion batteries replace the previous nickel-metal hydride batteries, increasing the maximum speed under electric-only power from 47 mph to 62 mph. Regenerative braking recovers more than 90 percent of kinetic energy and sends it back to the battery pack to be stored for later use.

"It is in-city driving where the Fusion Hybrid excels. At lower speeds, the Fusion Hybrid can travel in electric mode. When the gas engine does kick in, at higher speeds or when passing or merging, the transition is seamless." – Ford.com

The Grand Prize winner in the 2012 sweepstakes will also be able to choose between the Volkswagen Passat TDI

Clean Diesel, named 2012 Motor Trend Car of the Year; the Toyota Prius Hybrid, the world's most popular hybrid car; and the Honda Civic Hybrid, with its excellent five passenger space, good drivability and improved fuel economy.



FWF's Fifth Annual "Green" Car Sweepstakes drawing was held on December 8, 2011 at 3 pm at Federation Headquarters. The drawing was supervised by Carroll and Co. Inc., Certified Public Accountants. Attending the drawing were: (from the left) Officer John Beeman, Tallahassee Police Department, who provided security for the drawing; Michelle Hakemoller, FWF Administrative Assistant; Lynn Jones, FWF Membership Coordinator; Katie Hill, Carroll and Company, CPA; Tessa Kleck, FWF Administrative Assistant; and Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator.

Since not everyone who wishes to support the Federation through this program needs a new car, the 2012 winner can also choose to receive \$25,000 in cash.

The "Green" Car Sweepstakes, in conjunction with the Federation's 22nd Annual Boating Sweepstakes, which launches in April, represents one of the most important fundraising programs for the Florida Wildlife Federation. Proceeds are used exclusively in Florida in support of initiatives such as clean air and water programs, wetlands protection, public land acquisition and stewardship of our unique fish and wildlife resources.

"As Floridians, we understand how vulnerable our state's unique wildlife and habitats are to a changing climate and sea-level rise. If you believe, as we do, that people benefit from sustainable nature-based outdoor recreation, and that our state's future will be brighter with fish and wildlife habitats intact and flourishing, please support the Green Car Sweepstakes," said Manley Fuller, President of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Visit www.fwfonline.org for details

2011 Sweepstakes Winners

FWF is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 sweepstakes program.



Mrs. Sandra Flood, of Aventura, Florida, winner of the Fifth Annual "Green" Car Sweepstakes, receiving her Grand Prize certificate from Ned Stone, FWF Southern Regional Director.



Mr. Robert Konen, of St. Augustine, Florida, winner of the 21st Annual Boating Sweepstakes, being awarded his Grand Prize certificate from Sarah Owen Gledhill, FWF NE Florida Planning Advocate, at FWF's NE Florida Office.



Florida Wildlife Federation asks:

Do you want to make sure that your children and grandchildren have a healthy environment and can enjoy quality outdoor recreation in Florida?

Do you want to ensure our lands and waters are conserved and available for resource-based public recreation?



If you agree that we must protect the future of well managed outdoor recreation by acquiring public conservation lands, encouraging private-lands conservation, and restoring habitats and populations of fish and wildlife through sound management, then we would like you to become a member of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

By joining with us, you will become part of a dynamic, statewide organization with the goal of conserving Florida's fish, wildlife, water and plant life in the face of rapid loss of habitat statewide. **It is only with the financial support of our members that we may continue to pursue these goals. Please join or donate today!**

We need your support to conserve Florida's wildlife and habitat for today and the future!

The Florida Wildlife Federation Inc. is a 501 (c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit corporation, working for the protection, enjoyment and wise use of Florida's fish and wildlife and other natural resources. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. To contact FWF headquarters office, call (850) 656-7113. Visit FWF's website at www.fwfonline.org

Yes! I want to join the **Florida Wildlife Federation** to conserve, protect, and restore Florida's natural treasures such as springs and water bodies, fish & wildlife habitats, and to enhance the public's enjoyment of resource-based, outdoor recreation in Florida. With your membership you will receive the FWF publication, *Florida Fish and Wildlife News (FFWN)* by mail or email (please select your choice below).

- ☐ Student.....\$15
- ☐ Associate.....\$25
- ☐ Family.....\$35
- ☐ Sustaining.....\$50
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- ☐ Wildlife Legacy Club...\$5,000
- ☐ Benefactor.....\$25,000

*A Life, Eagle Club, Wildlife Legacy or Benefactor Membership is a one-time donation.

Please send completed form with check, money order, or credit card information to:
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Conservation Calendar

March 9, 2012
Legislative Session ends

March 23-25
FWF Board of Directors meeting in Winter Garden
Contact dhines@fwfonline.org for more information

March 31
13th Annual Black Bear Festival in Umatilla. See page 5 for further information

June 15-17
FWF 75th Annual Meeting and Conservation Awards Banquet.
Contact dhines@fwfonline.org