



# Florida Fish and Wildlife News

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## LEESBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINS 3RD KID'S HABITAT CONTEST



Left to right: Lesa Roe, Science/Math Enrichment Teacher; Julie Sligh, School Librarian; Dr. George Tanner, Director, Florida Wildlife Federation

Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce that Leesburg Elementary School in Leesburg, Florida, has been named as the winner in the third FWF statewide Kid's Habitat Contest. A certificate award presentation ceremony was held in their gardens at an April 20, 2012 Earth Day celebration where FWF's Vice-Chair, Dr. George Tanner, presented students with a framed award certificate, along with a stuffed toy barn owl and two nature-themed books for the school's library. The gardens were established under the leadership of the school's Science/Math Enrichment teacher, Lesa Roe. The books were accepted by School Librarian Julie Sligh. Students from grades 3, 4 and 5 contributed to the celebration by reading their own poems and essays about their experiences in the Gardens and love of nature.

**KID'S CONTEST** *con't page 14*

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



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to register for the 75th  
Anniversary Events, or  
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of this publication**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Manley Fuller*



Dear Florida Wildlife Federation Members and Supporters,

Recently E.C. Vandagriff, a FWF director, who had assisted us in financial management matters and north central Florida conservation issues, including protection of Silver Springs, passed away unexpectedly. He was a true friend of the Florida Wildlife Federation and we greatly regret his loss.

We continue to be actively engaged in major conservation activities that directly affect our lands and waters, which are vital fish and wildlife habitat and places for people to experience our wonderful outdoors through sustainable nature-based recreation. We are strong advocates for clean waters, protecting and managing fish and wildlife populations and habitats, restoration of wetlands and maintaining conserva-

tion landscape linkages on both public and private lands across Florida. Florida Wildlife Federation is an advocate of Everglades Restoration, Gulf of Mexico Restoration, and re-establishment of a free flowing Ocklawaha River. We support maintaining ecologically healthy flows in the Apalachicola River and the health and re-establishment of critical native habitats across Florida.

### Member of Florida Conservation Coalition

In 2011, largely in response to a series of deep cuts to Florida's environmental programs, the Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) banded with other organizations and concerned individuals to form the Florida Conservation Coalition (FCC). The goals of the FCC include prioritization of our state's water policy, focusing on our waters as a public resource and support of the critical role played by our regional Water Management Districts in protecting and managing our surface and ground water. Collectively in early 2012, we were able to reverse a number of the negative changes made to the laws related to Water Management Districts the previous year. Water supplies for our natural systems and human use requires watershed based management approaches. Lately, concerns have arisen regarding threats to both water quality and quantity at Silver Springs.

### Conservation Lands

The Federation works on behalf of our state, federal and private conservation lands by supporting the continuation of the Florida Forever program which, in these difficult financial and political times, has been much reduced from the recent past. We also support incentives for willing private landowners to establish permanent conservation easements on their properties. Along with our allies, we were able to successfully argue for continuing the program at a much reduced level

**PRESIDENT** *con't page 3*

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Jim Schuette



### How Important is it to You?

I commented to our Immediate Past Chair Linda Stanley recently "we have been meeting like this too much lately." We were attending the memorial for **Lou Gainey, a legend in South Florida, partly due to his 32 years working for the Game Commission starting as a biologist and reaching the level of Regional Director.**

Although the last time I saw Lou was at the memorial for another legend, Johnny Jones, I prefer to remember two other occasions. The first was over a decade ago at the initial "Tales of Corbett" event, which celebrated the varied history of Corbett WMA and South Florida in general. Lou convinced me to transform the event into an "open microphone,"

which gave him the opportunity to explain the public land purchasing history in Florida. This interaction, somewhere around his golden anniversary with his wife Katharine and well after his retirement, instilled in me an appreciation for the depth of his understanding and involvement in the methods and history of Florida's natural environment preservation efforts.

The last time I saw Lou, other than at the memorial for Johnny Jones, was in his "natural" environment... turkey hunting at Fisheating Creek. He was hunting the Lykes property along with a couple friends, while I was on the WMA side. Four turkeys were harvested that day, one of them was mine. Lou knew how to hunt turkeys! Maybe his masters degree in Game Management, which he obtained well before it was fashionable, helped him with that.

More recently, we lost a current member of our board, Mr. E.C. Vandagriff. He was too young to have fought alongside Lou at the Battle of the Bulge, but he certainly fit in well as an elder statesman of the FWF Board. In his short time as a board member, he made a great impression and long-lasting impact on the Federation, including spearheading the development and implementation of an investment policy. The Federation is better off for even this short duration of participation. He will surely be missed.

As we approach the 75th anni-

versary of the Florida Wildlife Federation, the loss of our forefathers becomes ever more poignant. The generation that started the environmental movement is in the process of leaving us now, and who is to take their place? We look to the next generation for our new leaders and wonder if they are going to be as motivated as the originals, whose challenges seem like mountains compared to what we face today. Will we allow our challenges to become as great again? Surely they are heading that direction. We continue to look for signs among those in the next generation indicating they will be able to fix that which we are now creating.

But then, as individuals of the next generation point out, there are a couple problems with this line of thinking. First, the idea of separate generations is a fallacy. I talk with Walt Brandon, a member of the FWF Board for over a half-century, about who our next leaders will be...and then wonder which generation I fall into. My college days are barely a memory anymore!

The second problem with this line of thinking is our holding this mythical next generation responsible for repairing the damages we have created. It must be a combined effort. Us and them. And everyone in-between. And everyone beyond, older and younger. We can't expect them to let us skate that easily; it's not their place to let us off the hook for creating a climate where value is deter-

mined only by dollars and no sense, and where the environment needs to pay its own way on an annual basis.

We are in this together. All of us. There is no separation by age, as there should be no separation by why we value our environment. It is all a continuum. The younger, or recently activated, are needed to carry the torch and provide the new energy. They need guidance, however, from those who have carried the torch so well for so long. Those who understand that there will be difficult times. Those who understand how bad things can be and once were.

The end goal is shared by all.

So, as we celebrate 75 years of fighting for what we value, let us lay down the path for the next 75 years. Each of us has something to bring to the effort. If we all show up and have some trust, we can improve the direction our environmental stewardship is heading...as a unified team...just as our founders did 75 years ago.

Happy 75!!! And I hope to see you in St. Pete in June for the celebration!



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## **PRESIDENT from page 1**

in 2012. Ultimately proper funding for our conservation lands program will likely need to be brought to and ratified by Florida voters to secure adequate resources for our conservation lands, both public and private, and for necessary management practices including prescribed fire, control of invasive exotics and funds to implement land management plans.

FWF was successful in spearheading the 2008 statewide voter initiative to amend the Florida Constitution to provide incentives to private landowners to permanently protect their properties through conservation easements. The initiative passed with over 68 percent voter approval. Since then, we have educated landowners about this incentive to increase the amount of protected private lands within our state. At the present time, approximately 580,000 private acres have conservation easements over them statewide.

The Federation has been working to extend some of our great public lands including the St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge, the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and the newly established Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge as places for wildlife and well managed outdoor recreation. We work with federal and state natural resource agencies and private land conservationists to bolster our landscape linkages. We are engaged in seeing that the Big Cypress National Preserve and Addition Lands are managed for the benefit of their waters, their wildlife, including the endangered Florida Panther, and for well-managed, traditional outdoor recreation as Congress intended.

### **Cleaning Our Impaired Waterways**

The Federation, working with conservation allies, is a strong advocate for cleaning up Florida's impaired waters. In 2011 and 2012, FWF's attorneys at EarthJustice continue the challenging but necessary work to establish measurable, enforceable nutrient standards for our waterways. Clean waterways are critical to Florida's nature-based economy and to public health. We are also exploring other strategies with attorney Tom Reese to prevent and begin to reverse further degradation of our springs and shell fish areas.

In reviewing FWF's 75 year history, a 1960 St. Pete Times editorial article was discovered which noted that the Florida Wildlife Federation was calling for the cleanup of Florida's waters for fish, wildlife and human health. There was federal legislation for this in the Eisenhower Administration. So we have been working on these same efforts for a long time, but we and our fish and wildlife benefit from clean water and we must do a better job of controlling nutrient pollution.

### **Everglades Restoration**

The Federation has been a longtime proponent of Everglades restoration and collaborates with a broad coalition on behalf of one of the world's most significant wetland ecosystems. Having been an active member of the Everglades Coalition since its inception, and as part of the Everglades Foundation's environmental advisory group, we partnered with the Everglades Founda-

tion for the first Everglades Water Supply Summit in Tallahassee in January 2012. The unique 'Glades provides water for one-third of the state's population as well as providing habitat for a myriad of species. FWF advocates robust Everglades restoration to our elected officials. Today the Federation's official representatives to the Coalition are FWF Director Martha Musgrove and myself.

The restoration of increased flows in the Central Everglades is currently a focal point in the Restoration plan. This involves modifications of lands, levees and roads, water quality treatment, water storage and bridging to more clean water south, similar to the way it flowed historically. These actions must be properly sequenced. Everglades restoration will have tremendous benefits to fish and wildlife and will also provide enhanced nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities for the public including fishing, hunting, ecotourism, boating, kayaking, etc. Everglades restoration also helps protect the fresh water supply to millions of Floridians.

### **Fish and Wildlife Management/Law Enforcement**

The Florida Wildlife Federation supports scientifically-based management of our fish and wildlife populations and the recovery of depleted native fish and wildlife. To achieve recovery of historically overfished populations of marine fish, we strongly support the implementation of the conservation goals of the Magnuson Act. The restoration of our reef fish populations requires letting more fish being able to reach larger sizes which produce many more offspring than do smaller fish and which allows for better balanced sex ratios which increase reef fish productivity. Better protection of baitfish stocks, which are near the base of the marine food chain, is critical to building populations of larger fish species and other marine wildlife. Marine fisheries management also needs to increasingly focus on more selective gear which does not adversely impact essential fish habitat, this will enhance future fishing opportunities.

FWF's heritage has always contained and we continue to champion sustainable, ethical, and scientifically-based hunting and fishing regulated by professional fish and wildlife managers. We strongly oppose poaching and other illegal activities that adversely impact our fish and wildlife and their habitats. Since its beginning, FWF has supported Florida's Wildlife Alert program which allows citizens to report wildlife violators and has successfully lobbied for stricter criminal penalties for violators as well as more adequate permit and license fees to provide needed funding for enforcement.

The FWF board of directors has recommended to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) a series of proposals to better manage white-tailed deer in Florida. Our objective is to better manage Florida's most popular game animal in part by adopting policies that allow for a greater percentage of mature bucks in deer herds across the state.

**PRESIDENT con't page 7**

# **FWF Scholarship Update**

## **FWF Scholarship Update - May 2012**



*From left to right: Back row: John Hayes - UF IFAS Interim Dean of Research; Franklin Percival - Unit Leader, USGS FL Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; Matt Burgess - WEC PhD student advised by Franklin Percival; Justin Mitchell - WEC undergraduate major; Kristen Donovan - WEC undergraduate major. Front row: Samantha Baraoidan - WEC undergraduate major and Carsyn Painter - WEC undergraduate major.*

*This photo was taken at the annual WEC Department picnic at UF's Lake Wauberg.*

The FWF Scholarship Fund provides scholarships each year in April to students in the University of Florida's Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation who have a keen interest in Florida wildlife and/or an intent to pursue a career in Florida wildlife ecology or conservation after graduation. This year there were five recipients of the FWF Scholarship: one graduate student - Matt Burgess (\$1,500), and four undergraduates - Samantha Baraoidan (\$750), Justin Mitchell (\$750), Carsyn Painter (\$500), and Kristen Donovan (\$500).

**Matt Burgess** is a first year doctoral student, advised by Dr. Franklin Percival. Matt's research interest centers on the development of new and emerging technological methods to advance knowledge of the wildlife, habitats, and ecosystems unique to Florida. After completing his PhD, Matt would like to teach at a research-oriented university in Florida, where he can conduct novel research on Florida wildlife, habitats and ecology.

**Samantha Baraoidan** is a 4th year student who plans a career in sustainable development, with a particular interest in reforming the ecotourism industry in Florida. She was just elected by her peers to serve as the president of the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society in the upcoming academic year.

**Justin Mitchell** is a 4th year student, currently working on an improved technique of measuring Greater Sirens and two-toed Amphiumas in the field. He hopes to attend graduate school and is the Historian of the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

**Carsyn Painter** is new to the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation having switched from a Zoology major. She has worked for the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa and is interested in environmental education as a future career.

**Kristen Donovan** is a 1st year student who plans on a veterinary career with an emphasis on wildlife conservation.

**Florida Wildlife Federation congratulates all of these outstanding scholarship recipients.** It is a pleasure to be able to assist students with financial support to pursue their educational and research goals related to Florida's wildlife. Keep up the good work and we look forward to hearing more about your work in conservation in the future.

Manley Fuller

**To make an online donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund, please go to:**

**[www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving](http://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving).**

**Select IFAS under "colleges," and choose the FWF Scholarship Fund (013403) from the choices given.**



## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

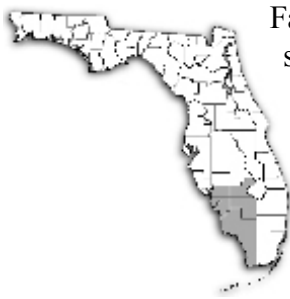
by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



### Governor Scott tours Camp Keais Strand

On April 16, Field Representative Nancy Payton joined Florida Governor Rick Scott for a tour of the Camp Keais Strand in eastern Collier County.

Camp Keais is privately owned and runs south from Lake Trafford in Immokalee to the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. The strand has been on the Florida Forever acquisition list for many years. In addition to being an important wetland system, it is also the only regional habitat link from Florida Pan-



ther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and Picayune Strand State Forest to Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) in Lee County. Florida panthers and other wildlife can forage and move through Camp Keais without encountering people and homes. Traveling Camp Keais Strand is getting safer for wildlife because two wildlife underpasses now exist at Oil Well Road near Camp Keais Strand. A third crossing under Immokalee Road is funded and construction is expected to be completed in 2013.

Using Collier County's Rural Lands Stewardship Area program, Camp Keais west of the Town of Ave Maria is permanently protected and is being restored. Governor Scott visited two restoration areas and was impressed with the success of the incentive-based natural resource protection program. At one of the restoration sites, fresh black bear prints were found.

### Professionals Visit Wildlife Underpasses

Florida Wildlife Federation gave a presentation to the Southwest Florida Association of Environmental Professionals on protecting and enhancing regional habitat links.

Nancy Payton joined the group for

a field trip to two wildlife crossings in Collier County. Both crossings were built without public fund, are much smaller in scale than the panther crossings under I-75/Alligator Alley, and cost far less than those built with taxpayer dollars.

The first stop was at the Bonita Bay/TwinEagles crossing under Immokalee Road in northwest Collier County. The crossing was built as a cooperative effort among the Federation, Collier County Audubon Society, Bonita Bay and Collier County. "Cost engineering" the Immokalee Road widening project resulted in savings that were applied to building the underpass.

The underpass was designed by biologist Jim Beever, who was then with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and is now with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council. The unique structure, not as high or as wide as most panther underpasses, is under six lanes of highway, but panthers are using it. Due to the topography on either side of the road, no fencing was installed to funnel wildlife to the underpass. On the day of the visit, panther and bobcat tracks were found in the tunnel's dirt floor. On other visits, black bear tracks were seen.

The second stop was at the crossing east of Immokalee. This crossing was privately funded, permitted, and built by City Gate in exchange for developing its property near I-75 in Naples. Although the land both north and south of the crossing is owned



Linda Elligott, US Army Corps of Engineers; Darrell Land, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Panther Team Leader; and David Bishof, Collier County Environmental Council inside the City Gate underpass.

by the Barron Collier Companies, it is forever protected through Collier County's Rural Lands Stewardship Area program. The crossing, Florida's first privately-funded wildlife underpass, could not have been built without the private landowner's cooperation and assistance.

The Federation worked closely with City Gate's consultants in determining the crossing's location and was engaged throughout the permitting process. In 2011, the Federation recognized City Gate's contributions to the recovery of the endangered Florida panther with the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year award.



Florida Governor Rick Scott and Field Representative Nancy Payton discuss restoration plans for Camp Keais Strand, pictured in background. The mined area is being reclaimed for the benefit of native wildlife including wood storks that nest in nearby Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Photo by: Blake Gable



Southwest Florida Association of Environmental Professionals discussing the TwinEagles underpass.



Kim Fikoski, Bonita Bay biologist, standing in the south entrance of the TwinEagles underpass.



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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



Johns River will have a voice in DC which will help elevate the status of the River, leverage funding and ensure restoration efforts are coordinated. It's good to know that the St. Johns River is valued as a national treasure for its economic, social and environmental contributions to our communities.

Once flooded, these lands cannot facilitate movement for Florida's wildlife. The tour was a real eye-opening experience to fully understand the impact the reservoir has on the natural system. The next drawdown will not be for another three to four years. By then we hope the dam is well on its way to being taken down, thereby allowing the Ocklawaha to flow free.

### Water Resolutions Pass in Two Counties

St. Johns and Flagler counties are leading the way in northeast Florida to help protect our water resources. The Florida Conservation Coalition drafted a resolution for local governments to express their intent to support and secure funding for the water management districts and keep water resource decisions at the regional level. FWF, along with its northeast Florida conservation partners, presented the resolutions to local commissions. St. Johns and Flagler jumped on board and passed the respective resolutions unanimously. A huge thank you to Flagler County Commissioner Milissa Holland and St. Johns County Commissioner Cindy Stevenson for sponsoring the resolution. Of course, they would not have successfully passed it without the support from their fellow county commissioners. We look forward to more northeast Florida counties supporting our water resources.

### St. Johns River Basin Great Waters Petition Approved

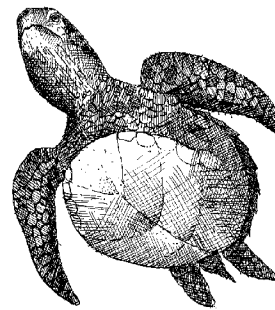
Another success in northeast Florida is the approval of the St. Johns River basin as a "Great Water" by the Great Waters Coalition. In the last publication, we informed you that FWF, along with our conservation partners, submitted the petition. It is with great pleasure to announce that we succeeded! As part of the national Great Waters Coalition, the St.

### Ocklawaha River Tour

Captain Erika Ritter and Putnam County Environmental Council's Karen Ahlers took a group of us out to see the Rodman Reservoir drawdown. The drawdown, which last occurred in 2008, allows you to see the Ocklawaha River meander as it once did and should today. The drawdown reveals a graveyard of old forest that once stood along the banks of the Ocklawaha. This graveyard goes as far as the eye can see. The drawdown began around Thanksgiving and takes approximately 60 days to reach an elevation of 11 feet by January 1. By March 1, the water is released and is back to 20 feet above sea level by April 15. As the reservoir is raised critical habitat is flooded. Amongst a host of concerns noted by FWF, the lands flooded are part of the Ocala to Okefenokee ecological corridor.



Old forest exposed during drawdown



### Gas and Oil Exploration Off the Atlantic Coast

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is conducting public hearings along the east coast to solicit comments regarding the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which would modify an existing permit to explore the Atlantic outer continental shelf for gas and oil. The existing permit allows for exploration of renewable energy and marine minerals. The modification to explore for gas and oil would require seismic testing of the sea floor which comes with impacts to marine species that inhabit the waters. One alternative for the draft Environmental Impact Statement includes prohibiting seismic testing during two time periods. One would prohibit testing during the North Atlantic right whale calving season and the other would prohibit testing off of Brevard County during sea turtle nesting season. And the "do nothing" alternative is to not explore for gas and oil off the Atlantic Coast and continue with renewable energy and marine minerals as the current permit allows. The Federation is preparing its comments regarding the impacts of seismic testing to marine species.

## Chattahoochee Basin named one of America's Great Waters



FWF President Manley Fuller  
Photo by Mike Haskey

By Mike Owen  
Published April 19, 2012  
in the Ledger-Enquirer  
[www.ledger-enquirer.com](http://www.ledger-enquirer.com)

The Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin has been designated one of America's Great Waters, joining natural resources such as the Everglades, Great Lakes and the Mississippi River in holding that distinction.

America's Great Waters Coalition, which made the designation, is an alliance of national, regional, state and local organizations devoted to protecting, preserving and restoring important water resources.

The announcement of the ACF Basin, along with the St. Johns River in Florida and the Hudson River in New York, was made Wednesday on the banks of the Chattahoochee, within earshot of the ongoing whitewater rafting river restoration project.

"We will join a host of other well-known and important ecosystems across the country, such as the Florida Everglades, the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, Coastal Louisiana, and on and on," said Manley Fuller, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, who made the announcement. "What we hope to accomplish with this is to bring greater public recognition at the national level of the ecological significance of the ACF and the great economic and societal values and some of the challenges and threats that it faces."

Chattahoochee RiverWarden Ex-

**GREAT WATERS con't page 10**

**Congratulations to those members of FWF who earned GreenStar Certification!** A year ago, the Federation began its GreenStar Certification program to acknowledge our members' personal commitments to a clean and healthy environment through the use of environmentally beneficial practices in their daily lives. The areas covered on the online Questionnaire include Outdoor Impact, Transportation and Energy, Water Conservation, and "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." In addition, there was a place to describe a person's own activities that were not covered in the Questionnaire. We truly appreciate all those who responded and requested GreenStar Certification. The program is still up and running on our website, [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org). Go to PROGRAMS on the main menu at the top, and you'll find GreenStar Certification on the drop down menu. From there you will be taken to the online GreenStar Questionnaire.



#### Members Who Received Green Star Certification

Tom & Kristi Thomas, Odessa  
 Capt. Mike Baker, Silver Springs  
 Franklin & Kathy Adams, Naples  
 Kerry Jackson, Orlando  
 Eric Gehring, Wellington  
 John B. Weber, Spring Hill  
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 Donna Rowe, Hampton  
 Richard Poole, Longwood  
 Satoriwa Conservation Area, Michael D. Adams, Elkton  
 Lynn Fischer, Miami  
 Heidi Stiller, Tallahassee  
 Eileen Kimsey, Tampa  
 William Swatkoski, Ruskin  
 Maura Poglitsch, Gainesville  
 Janet Renuart, St. Augustine  
 Carolyn H. Peet, Sarasota

Dorothy E. Pansius, Avon Park  
 Sherill Overberg, Labelle  
 Christina Brownlow, Southwest Ranches  
 Gina Burrell, St. Augustine  
 Jerry Burns, Lake Wales  
 Kathleen Krizek, Jacksonville  
 G. S. Paaso, St. Augustine  
 Mary F. Hoffeld, Okeechobee  
 Rudy J. Beres, Hernando  
 Deidre Heindl, Ft. Myers  
 Maurine B. Buckley, Apopka  
 Frances McConnell, Coral Springs  
 Nancy Payton, Naples  
 Edward Stone, Ft. Lauderdale  
 Glenn Griffith, Pensacola  
 Janice Kerber, Palm Beach Gardens  
 Robert E. Taylor, Jr., Lake Hamilton  
 Stephanie Armas, Gainesville  
 Esther Marie Prexl, Tamarac

Barbara A. Goodman, Plantation  
 Elizabeth D. Miller, Jacksonville  
 Patricia E. Williams, Pace  
 Marjorie Schaefer, Southwest Ranches  
 Sabine Odenbreit, Gainesville  
 Sarah Gledhill, St. Augustine  
 Edeltraut Taut, Archer  
 Barbara Meade, Pompano Beach  
 Jim Thomas, Winter Garden  
 Lee Moore, Melbourne  
 Pat Rose, Largo  
 Alexander B. McManus, St. Augustine  
 Raymond Feinberg, Gainesville

## FWF participates in Wakulla Wildlife Festival, April 21, 2012



*We spotted a pelican which was recovering from the BP Oil Spill and must remain in wildlife rehab due to continuing health problems.*



*FWF staff and volunteers from left to right: Michelle Hakemoller, Jake Gwynn-Shapiro, Diane Hines, Laura Daley, Beth Hakemoller and Danny Gwynn-Shapiro.*

Once again, FWF participated in the Wakulla Springs Annual Wildlife Festival. If you have been involved in similar events, or would like to volunteer to help FWF by setting up a display at your local events, please contact Diane Hines at [dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org).

## FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

**1. Why is the Gopher Tortoise so important ecologically?**



**2. Have any Florida critters been declared extinct in the last few years?**

**3. Why is it so important to try to eliminate the Burmese Python from the Everglades?**



**See page 11 for answers, and more information.**



### **Coastal Management Policy and Gulf Restoration**

The Federation is engaged in critical coastal policy issues, most notably protecting the Coastal Barrier Resources System. This system helps protect over 700,000 acres of coastal Florida by removing federal subsidies that typically stimulate development in flood prone areas. Federation director Tom Evans, Jr. co-authored the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) while in Congress. Nationally, CBRA protects over 3.5 million acres on the Atlantic, Gulf and Great Lakes coasts. During 2011, we continued to educate Congress about the need for a strong CBRA program and fought efforts to gut the protection it offers, not only to nature but to taxpayers. By promoting state policies that discourage development intensification along our beaches and shores, we seek to mitigate Florida's exposure to storms and sea level rise. Our undeveloped or lightly developed shorelines currently offer incredibly rich fish and wildlife habitat, and serve as storm protection zones by absorbing wind and high water. We are also active in the effort to reform state insurance in Tallahassee and to modify Federal Flood Insurance programs to remove public incentives for new development in flood prone areas.

In Washington, D.C., we are also supporting federal legislation known as the RESTORE Act to have eighty percent of the fines stemming from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster returned to Florida and other impacted Gulf states for ecosystem restoration. We are also concerned about the coming effects of sea level rise and other impacts on Florida's coastal areas associated with climate change.

Working with allies to promote conservation of sea turtle nesting beaches along Florida's coasts, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) agreed with us by requiring sea turtle considerations in the issuance of federal flood insurance. The Federation is collaborating with reinsurance companies to highlight the value of natural barrier islands, natural features and wetlands to buffer and protect built environments from coastal flooding.

Following successful relocation of the nests of threatened and endangered sea turtles along the Gulf Coast to habitats on Florida's Atlantic coast in 2010, the Federation continues to partner with the Sea Turtle Conservancy and National Wildlife Federation to protect marine turtle nesting beaches. In 2011, the Federation promoted implementation of the Florida Beaches Habitat Conservation Plan and a comprehensive reevaluation of the state Coastal Construction Control Line program. The Federation also works to reduce sea turtle mortalities associated with long-line fishing and trawling. FWF is also supporting measures to reduce threats to the highly endangered Atlantic Right Whale which winters off the central and northeast Florida coast.

### **Apalachicola River and Bay, Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers (ACF)**

FWF successfully nominated the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint River drainages (ACF) for selection as one of America's Great Waters. The ACF stretches from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico and contains some of America's most productive and diverse fish and wildlife habitats. The ACF is filled with tremendous challenges in terms of water management including adequate flows to maintain ecological sustainability within the ACF. Inclusion of the ACF as one of the Great Waters will provide a means to highlight the ACF before a concerned national audience.

### **St. John's River**

The Northeast office and FWF Headquarters staff working with conservation allies submitted the St. John's River as a candidate for inclusion as one of America's Great Waters acknowledging its high significance. The national Great Waters committee subsequently voted to include the St. John's as one of America's Great Waters. This program will provide a forum to bring the ecological values and conservation challenges facing the St. John's to a national conservation audience.

### **Going Forward**

For 75 years, the Florida Wildlife Federation has been and continues to be a leading advocate for the conservation of Florida's magnificent fish and wildlife, the habitats upon which they depend and sound natural resources management. The Florida Wildlife Federation believes that educating people about our environment and having people get out into nature, enjoying sustainable and ethical outdoor recreation, contributes to the long term appreciation of our natural resources and helps to create conservationists for the future. We believe that a bright future of fish and wildlife and people alike requires the wise stewardship of our natural resources.

Thank you so much for your support.

*Manley*

### **The Importance of Financial Support**

The Florida Wildlife Federation seeks financial and volunteer assistance from individuals, private foundations and businesses to support the continuation of our conservation work. If you would like to assist the Federation in a financial capacity, through donations or to make arrangements to include FWF in your planned giving or estate plans, please contact the FWF headquarters office at (850) 656-7113 or by email at: [dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org). Your assistance will be very much appreciated and put to good conservation use.

## **Federation Sponsors Eagle Scout Project**

Paul (Trey) Blackmon, a sophomore at Barron Collier High School and an aspiring Eagle Scout, selected the Nancy Payton Preserve for his Eagle project.

Christal Segura, Preserve Land Manager with Collier County's Conservation Collier, contacted Boy Scout Troop 243 for help with marking the Preserve's trail. Troop 243 is chartered to the North Naples United Methodist Church.

Trey's project consisted of building four benches, a picnic table, trail markers, and an informative wildlife sign. He and his team then placed them along the trail.

The building materials were sponsored by Florida Wildlife Federation and Collier County Florida Audubon Society.

The preserve was purchased through Conservation Collier's voter-approved tax. It is named in honor the Federation's Field Representative Nancy Payton and acknowledges her work on behalf of Florida wildlife. The preserve is noted for its red-cockaded woodpecker habitat and is part of a habitat network in North Belle Meade and Picayune Strand State Forest.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers are endangered because their upland habitats are those first sought for development.

Boy Scout Eagle projects are making significant contributions to Conservation Collier preserves and the public's enjoyment of these lands. The Federation encourages other land managers to consider Boy and Girl Scouts as conservation partners and congratulates Trey on his accomplishments.



*Installing a trail marker*



*Delivering the benches and table*



*Woodpecker Identification Sign*

## **New Life Members:**

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Corrigan, Sarasota

Diane K. Roberts, Ph.D., Tallahassee

## **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.*



# 2012 Legislative Session Wrap Up

*On behalf of the Florida Wildlife Federation and its board and members we want to thank you for taking action on conservation issues this year.*

*Your voice is critical to our ability to positively impact the legislative process.*

## Bills That Passed

**State Budget:** \$8.3 million to Florida Forever. From this appropriation, a conservation easement must be purchased on 721 acres in northern Jefferson County. In addition, the legislature directed the purchase of two lots near the Governor's Mansion, near what is known as "the Grove." The remainder of the appropriation will go to fund conservation easements or "partnerships where the state pays no more than 50% of the cost." Thus, there will be several million to spend on land protection. While not the \$15 million requested by the Governor, it is a start toward returning Florida Forever to consistent annual appropriations. **Status: Approved by Governor.**

**Reclaimed Water SB 1086/HB 639:** Prohibits water management districts from requiring a permit for the use of reclaimed water unless the use also involves surface or ground waters, and limits the ability of the districts to allocate reclaimed water without a request from a utility during a water shortage or emergency. This legislation as originally introduced was highly problematic. Thanks to the good work of our environmental allies, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Dana Young, agreed to amendments which narrowed the focus of the bill and stopped efforts to redefine state waters. A redefinition could have meant reclaimed water would have been considered a privately-held resource. **Status: Approved by Governor.**

**Numeric Nutrients HB 7051:** In order to facilitate the EPA's review of DEP's numeric nutrient criteria rules, this bill exempts DEP's proposed rules from legislative ratification and requires DEP to submit its proposed numeric nutrient criteria rules to the EPA for review under the Clean Water Act. This was done to preempt implementation of federal standards which our opponents have incorrectly labeled as "too expensive" for state implementation. We have judged the proposed DEP rules to be too weak and unenforceable as to actually protecting our state waterbodies.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decided 14 years ago that limits on the pollutants that feed algal 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.

This issue remains the subject of a state administrative hearing involving FWF. A recent National Academy of Sciences report chastised the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for confusing the difference between the incremental implementation costs that might be incurred with the EPA numeric nutrient criteria and the total long-term costs of restoring all of Florida's impaired waters. **Status: Governor Scott signed HB 7051 into law and our litigation continues.**

**Trail Signage SB 268:** Allows private entities to put up advertisement signs on greenways and trails. A carefully crafted agreement had been reached to limit signage to a relatively few trail heads, parking lots and access points. However, a floor amendment deleted these provisions thus opening our greenways and trails to the potential for commercial exploitation. **Status: Approved by Governor.**

**Water Management Districts SB 1986:** As finally adopted, this bill removes the revenue caps instituted in 2011 and gives the Legislature the authority to review and comment on Water Management District (WMD) budgets. The Legislature may set millage rates for WMD's if they are dissatisfied with the preliminary budgets (as allowed under current law).

The Legislative Budget Commission (LBC) is authorized to reject: (1) single land purchases over \$10 million; (2) accumulative land purchases of over \$50 million in one year; (3) issuance of debt; (4) expenditures for outreach or management and administration in excess of 15% of total budget; and (5) individual variances in WMD's tentative budgets in excess of 25% from the preliminary budgets.

In summary, SB 1986 will largely place WMD oversight and management back under the model that existed prior to passage of 2011 legislation which so hampered the Districts' ability to carry out their mission. **Status: Approved by Governor.**

**Landowner Liability HB 313:** Attempts to reduce liability and duty of care to private landowners who make their land available for the purpose of hunting, fishing or wildlife viewing. To benefit from this limitation of liability, the landowner must provide notice of the liability limits to the person or persons using the land in addition to the current requirement that the landowner make no profit from nor charge a fee for using the land. **Status: Approved by Governor.**

**Renewable Energy HB 7117:** As proposed by Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, this bill restores millions in expired renewable energy tax credits, and puts Florida "somewhere between a baby step and a modest step" toward energy independence, according to Committee Chair Rep. Scott Plakon. The bill would direct the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in consultation with the Public Service Commission, to conduct a statewide forest inventory to determine the appropriate level of plantings to sustain biomass energy in Florida. This has been a high priority of the forestry industry in Florida and a recommendation of the Biomass Energy Taskforce in 2010. **Status: Allowed to become law without Governor's signature.**

**Septic Tank Pre-Emption HB 1263:** Adopted as an amendment to the omnibus Department of Health (DOH) reorganization bill, this measure eliminates the statewide septic tank inspection program

and would restrict all local governments, except Jacksonville-Duval, from having septic tank programs that exceed state standards. Counties with first magnitude springs and others may opt out of the prescribed 5-year inspection standards for septic tanks. The bill retains a prohibition on land disposal of septage, beginning January of 2016; prohibits any local government from requiring high performance systems until completion of a DOH study in 2015; and prohibits any point of sale inspection program (except for Jacksonville-Duval). **Status: Approved by Governor**

**HB 1117:** Allows zoo animals to be placed on state lands. **Status: The Governor vetoed this bill. FWF and others had asked for a veto.**

-Preston Robertson and Jay Liles

## Friends remember former DEP veteran Mark Glisson

by Bruce Ritchie, The Florida Current, [www.thefloridacurrent.com](http://www.thefloridacurrent.com)

The Florida Current is an online news service which covers Florida politics and policy. Subscribe to its free Morning Edition by visiting [www.thefloridacurrent.com](http://www.thefloridacurrent.com).

Former Florida Department of Environmental Protection veteran Mark Glisson of Wacissa was remembered this week as a humorous but stalwart defender of natural resources.

Glisson, who retired from DEP in 2007, died on Saturday at Capital Regional Medical Center in Tallahassee after being rushed there with complaints about abdominal pain, said his wife, Kristi Glisson. He was 60.

A graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in biology, Glisson spent his entire 30-year career with DEP. He grew up in Keystone Heights and went to work for the Florida State Park Service as a park ranger at Gold Head Branch State Park in 1977.

He served as chief of the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources at the Florida Park Service, and scientific and technical services director for the Office of Greenways and Trails. He was staff director for the Acquisition and Restoration Council overseeing the ranking of state lands purchases when he retired.

Glisson was "a 'green rock star' for conservation as far back as the early to mid-'80s," George Willson, a conservation advisor to landowners, said in an email.

He was "a good character with tons of confidence about ecological issues and values," Willson said.

The Florida Wildlife Federation gave Glisson its "Conservationist of the Year" award in 2004 for his work making the Florida Forever land acquisition program a national model.

Glisson had "a little devil in him" so that while he butted heads with people while protecting state lands and natural resources, he did so in such a way that was disarming to his opponents, federation President Manley Fuller said.

"He was a good problem solver," Fuller said. "He was extremely enthusiastic. And he would call a spade a spade.

"Sometimes I think his supervisors would get a little concerned," Fuller said. "He would say things in a way that would probably make some more bureaucratic people (at DEP) nervous. He wanted to get things done and cut through the red tape and BS. And he could be just funny as hell in doing it."



Photo by James William Muller





Preston Robertson  
Vice President for Conservation &  
General Counsel

## Of Big Snakes and South Florida

You have likely been made aware that South Florida, already replete with exotic plants and animals, is now home to perhaps thousands of Burmese pythons and other non-native constrictors. This problem is especially severe in Everglades National Park and elsewhere south of Lake Okeechobee, as these very large predators have now taken their place at the top of the ecological food chain. These snakes grow to 12 feet in length or more and are native to Southeast Asia. The python, one of the six largest snakes on the planet, is now found in Puerto Rico and Florida. It is likely that the first snakes were released pets or escapees following severe weather events such as Hurricane Andrew. Whatever the reason, these carnivores are here and in great numbers.

The major problem with the pythons and other exotic reptiles is that they eat what we are trying to conserve and thereby disrupt the balance of nature. The prey of the pythons includes mice, raccoons, foxes, rabbits, birds, eggs, opossums and white-tailed deer. It eats alligators,

unless the gator is big enough to eat the snake. With the drop in the population of small mammals, our native and endangered Florida panther has less to feed upon. Sightings of native animal species in the Park have noticeably dropped with the coming of the pythons.

The snakes are well-suited to South Florida and are excellent swimmers. They are exceedingly hard to see, as they are well camouflaged and blend into the background of a typical Everglades setting. Breeding in the early spring, pythons lay 12-36 eggs in March or April. One can see how exponential growth of this snake's population is a very real concern.

Cold weather will make the snake go dormant, and may even kill some individuals if temperatures drop sufficiently and with enough duration. With our annual temperatures rising, the spread of this snake northward is a possibility.

Combating this ecological disaster has proven very difficult. Hunting them with airboats and on foot has generally proven unproductive as the snakes are very hard to detect, even if the snake is only a few feet away. At present, bomb-sniffing dogs are being trained to detect the reptiles by odor. These "Ecodogs" are part of an Auburn University project. Training them to find these big snakes takes up to 10 weeks, but they are much more successful than humans as they do not have to actually see the snake to know it is there. Ivy and Jake, two black Labrador retrievers, have an over 75% success rate and have helped in the destruction of 19 snakes, including a gravid female with 19 eggs.

As with the other exotic, harmful species we as Floridians have to deal with, including plant species such as Brazilian pepper and melaleuca, the suppression, and hopefully eradication, of this scourge will likely take a long time and only happen with great effort.

### Emory "E.C." Vandagriff (from [www.Tribute.com](http://www.Tribute.com))

Born Oct. 4, 1928 in Winter Haven, Florida. Graduated from Ocala High School in 1957 and from Illinois Wesleyan in 1962. Served as Vice President of Continental Illinois Bank, Chicago, IL, Established and managed its Houston Office. Served as Chairman of the American Heart Association and was the Chair-Elect for its Texas affiliate. Was Executive Director of Stages Repertory Theater, Director of Houston Clearinghouse Association and Main Street Theater. President and Director of Houston Symphony Society, Managing Director of Houston Symphony. Served as Vice President and Division Manager of First National Bank of Denver. Held other bank management positions in Colorado and Texas. An investment advisor with A. G. Edwards & Son, Inc., At-Large Director of the Florida Wildlife Federation, and member of Silver Springs Alliance. Memorials to Florida Wildlife Federation, P. O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314.



### John Ogden

A bold and conservation-minded scientist, John Ogden, who was one of the world's most respected experts on wading birds and helped to create, mold and push Everglades' restoration plans, died at age 73 on March 31, 2012. Born on November 18, 1938, Ogden dedicated nearly 40 years of his life to Everglades' restoration and conservation. He also spent five years in the West with the Audubon Society to help rescue and restore the endangered California condor.

Ogden worked as an ornithologist throughout the 1960s and '70s for the National Audubon Society and Everglades National Park where he became a leading expert on wading birds. In 1994, John co-

edited a detailed and instructive volume on restoring the River of Grass. He also authored more than 85 other academic papers. Later in his career, he became the lead scientist for the South Florida Water Management District and played a key role in driving the restoration effort.



Photo via Audubon of Florida

## IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in  
memory of:

### Betsy Knight

by Helen E. Clark

by Robert E. Reid

by Dr. & Mrs. John A. Rushing



### Larry Harris

by Mr. & Mrs. James L. Schortemeyer

### Dave Maehr

by Mr. & Mrs. James L. Schortemeyer

## THE FATHER of Carolyn Bailey

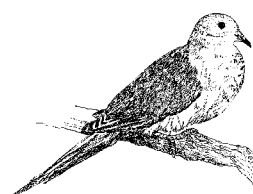
by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schwartzman

### E. C. Vandagriff, III

by Claudia Farren

by Diane Hines

by Mrs. Barbara Johnson



*The Florida Wildlife Federation truly  
appreciated receiving these memorial donations.*



## Play our Boat and Car Sweepstakes Online!!

The Florida Wildlife Federation's Boat and Green Car Sweepstakes are now online. You may enter anytime you like by going to FWF's website and clicking on the Sweepstakes button at the top of any page. Ticket contributions are \$5.00 each, or five tickets for a \$20.00 contribution that will give you an extra chance to win. Other ticket combinations are available online. Proceeds from these two sweepstakes will be used right here in Florida to pursue vital programs including support for conservation of sensitive wildlife habitat, private land conservation, wetlands protection, clean air and water initiatives, responsible outdoor recreation, Everglades restoration, and stewardship of our fish and wildlife resources.

The 22nd Annual Boating Sweepstakes is in full swing. We are giving away a brand new boat with either a fuel-efficient, clean-running engine or a quiet, nonpolluting electric motor. To check out this year's boat models go to <http://www.fwfonline.org/Sweeps-Archive/Boat/2012-Boating-Sweepstakes.aspx>. This year we are offering the Angler 204 FXLE offshore boat, the Angler 2000 Grande Bay nearshore and inshore bay boat, the Hewes Redfisher flats boat, the Ray E-Boat Explorer 21 with the Ray electric outboard motor, or \$25,000 in cash.

Watch for your Sweepstakes tickets in the mail or play online. If you would like a set of tickets mailed to you, send an email to FWF at [boatsweeps@fwfonline.org](mailto:boatsweeps@fwfonline.org) / [hybridsweeps@fwfonline.org](mailto:hybridsweeps@fwfonline.org) or call our toll-free number (800) 656-3014. Please provide your full name and complete mailing address to receive a packet of tickets. Specify "Boat Sweeps" or "Hybrid Sweeps: in the Subject line.

Proceeds from this sweepstakes will be used right here in Florida to pursue vital programs from Pensacola to Key West including support for land acquisition through the Florida Forever Program, private land conservation, wetlands protection, clean air and water initiatives, responsible outdoor recreation, Everglades restoration and stewardship of our fish and wildlife resources. Payment not required to win. The Federation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit citizens' organization.

*New for this year is the Ray E-Boat Explorer 21, one of four boats to choose from in FWF's 2012 fund-raising sweepstakes.*



*The Ray E-Boat Explorer 21 electric boat (21-feet) brings exploring tributaries, creeks and secluded water to a new level of accessibility. Easy to trailer and launch with the family car, the boat features a shallow draft of 8 inches—motor up, and 18 inches—motor down. The Explorer will cruise continuously at 6.2 mph for 8 hours on only 8 golf cart batteries—guaranteed. With its shallow water drive, the propeller manually tilts up leaving only 10 inches of draft. The propeller is guaranteed not to bend or break for two years. Comes complete with 12V house battery, 48V bank of batteries and chargers, and a Bimini top. The Explorer 21 and the Ray electric motor are built right here in Florida at Cape Coral. The company can be reached at (239) 574-1948; [www.rayeo.com](http://www.rayeo.com).*

## GREAT WATERS from page 5

ecutive Director Roger Martin, who joined Fuller for the announcement, said restoration efforts like the white-water project and the Mill Creek restoration project on the Alabama side helped the basin gain the designation.

Martin said the Mill Creek project discovered an illegal dump in the creek, which flows into the river next to the Phenix City Amphitheater. A cleanup effort removed 100,000 pounds of refuse from the creek in that one spot, he said.

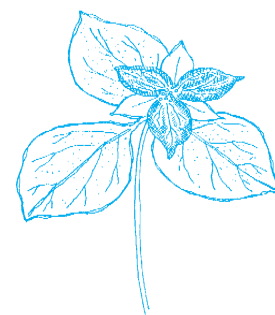
"It's a national recognition, and this is a national resource here," Martin said. "It means it's a resource of significant regional importance and is very important to our economic development in the region."

Fuller said he did not expect the designation to have any impact on the long-running water dispute between Georgia, Alabama and Florida over the Chattahoochee's water supply.

"We're not a party to the litigation," Fuller said. "No matter what happens in that litigation -- and that's going to have to play itself out -- we need to practice water conservation throughout the basin."

The ACF river system spans more than 19,600 square miles and flows from the Blue Ridge Mountains, through Atlanta, and south through rural Georgia, Alabama and Florida before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico.

"While the Great Waters vary in geographic location and physical characteristics, they are plagued by similar problems such as pollution, altered water flows, habitat loss and destruction, invasive species, climate change, and more," said Adam Kolton, co-chairman for the America's Great Waters Coalition and a senior director at the National Wildlife Federation. "Federal support for restoration work is essential for protecting these important waterways."







Jay Liles,  
FWF Policy Consultant

## Is Time Running Out for Property Insurance Reform?

As Florida enters another hurricane season, the state-backed insurance companies, Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (CPIC) and the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (FHCF), continue to pose a financial risk to all Floridians. At the heart of the matter is a lack of political will to address this threat to the state's economy by making the CPIC actuarially sound. Seemingly, some members of our Florida Legislature would rather put political expediency ahead of the economic risk to the state. I know that comes as a bit of a surprise to less jaundiced readers, but that is the unfortunate reality.

By continuing to ignore the threat posed by both CPIC and FHCF's over-exposure we are flirting with both a hurricane-induced calamity and a financial calamity. And what makes this worse is the fact that Citizens Insurance serves as a perverse incentive to further coastal development in areas where people should not be building. Our message to policymakers has been consistent – if you insist on allowing people to build on coastal, low-lying areas at least don't let them pass the financial risk on to the rest of us! Unfortunately, as a result of further inaction by our state legislature to reform CPIC and the FHCF, that is exactly what is happening.

At the risk of inducing sleep, allow me to offer this bit of background:

Citizens Insurance is the largest property insurer in Florida, holding 25% of the entire market. As of November 30, 2011, Citizens' total exposure was over \$515 billion, with over 1.4 million policies, growing at a rate of more than 1000 new policies a day. Citizens estimates the 1-in-100 year hurricane would cost over \$23.2 billion. The \$10.4 billion difference between Citizens' resources to pay claims (\$12.775

billion) and its 1-in-100 year exposure (\$23.2 billion) would be covered by assessments levied by Citizens on its own policyholders and on policyholders of most property and casualty insurance.

That's where it hits all of us in the pocketbook. Next time you look at your homeowners, auto or business insurance policy, note the charge for the "Hurricane Assessment". That is your donation to those who want to live in paradise and have a front row view of your favorite beach but not have to pay the full cost of such luxury. We have all been paying this assessment since 2004-05 series of storms that hit this state.

In all fairness, some residents have no choice but to go with Citizens. This is due primarily to the fact that competitors for your insurance dollar have been driven out by the premium cap placed on Citizens by our policymakers. Recently, Citizens tried to remove that cap for new business being written in 2012-13 only to be told by regulators that they could not!

On April 12-13, 2012 the Florida Wildlife Federation joined the National Wildlife Federation and Renaissance Reinsurance in briefing members of the Florida environmental community on the threat posed to Florida's economy by the continued over-exposure of CPIC and FHCF. Recognizing that this is an issue that requires more than an obvious glance to see its environmental implications, we wanted to share the rationale for working on this issue and some of the unique coalition building benefits we have derived from the campaign.

The impact of coastal development is fairly clear. We have lost much of the regulatory framework to push smart development away from coastal flood plains. Amendments to restrict further abuse of the Federal Flood Insurance Program remain mired in the U.S. Senate. We continue to fight congressional efforts to create a national catastrophe fund

which would further encourage coastal development. Meanwhile, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act is being chipped away, one unit at a time, by Members of Congress who fail to understand the true value it brings to most Americans.

By illustrating the market forces in play here we are able to show that there is more at stake than wildlife habitat and coastal protection. By allowing the risk associated with coastal living to be properly reflected in insurance cost (and not shifted to the public) we can impact the buyer's decision. Perhaps they will consider the wiser investment that living just a little further inland presents and save one more stretch of barrier island from development.

We came away from that April meeting with a clear signal from others in the conservation community that they see the value in what we are doing and they are inclined to join our efforts. After hearing about the success of a national insurance reform coalition called SmarterSafer, it was recommended that we form a similar state coalition around the issue of insurance reform. Participating groups discussed education efforts to encourage lawmakers to adopt legislation that would limit the sale of CPIC coverage seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line or in the Coastal Barrier Resources System. Additionally, we discussed ways to align state law to remove incentives for building within units of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA).

It was the consensus of opinion that CBRA is little known or understood outside of the groups already working on these issues. An education effort to help raise awareness about how well it has worked (especially at saving taxpayer dollars) and how it could be a model for other legislation would be well worth the effort, especially since traditional conservation approaches are being thwarted.

We anticipate that a call for participation in the Florida coalition will be positively received by many who attended the meeting. We look forward to going into the 2013 Legislative Session with a stronger grassroots effort and a more receptive audience. Let's hope Florida is spared from any serious storms until the political will to reform is sufficient to win the day. Those who predict such things would tell you our time is running out.



This real estate sign on waterfront property in coastal Gulf County says it all. Note the fact that Federal Flood Insurance (offered by FEMA) is advertised as a benefit to buying this lot.

## ANSWERS TO FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. The gopher tortoise is a very important part of the local ecology. As in any food web, if you start taking certain flora or fauna out of the equation, then you can adversely affect the survival of that ecosystem. The gopher tortoise is especially important because the burrows, which are dug by the tortoises also provide a home for other animals, such as indigo snakes, gopher frogs, mice, foxes, skunks, opossums, rabbits, quail, burrowing owls, snakes, lizards, frogs, toads and other invertebrates. Gopher tortoise burrows are home to about 250 species of animals at one time or another. Some species share the burrows with the tortoises and others utilize abandoned burrows. Since the burrows are used by so many species, it does not take a rocket scientist to see that removing the tortoises from the local habitat would leave many animals without homes. True, some of these animals will be able to relocate, but there are a few species that are found only in these burrows.

2. Yes. In 2011 the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that they believe two species in Florida have vanished: the South Florida rainbow snake (*Farancia erythrogramma seminola*) and the Florida fairy shrimp (*Dexteria floridana*). The species were under review for possibly being added to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but it's likely the review came decades too late, as they have not been seen in 50 years.

3. The story of the Burmese Python is like the story of the Gopher Tortoise in reverse. The python is an exotic (non-native) species in the Everglades. It is not part of the natural food chain there, and will prey even on alligators, which were top dog in the food chain before the pythons came. Pythons are eating many of the mammals that live in the Everglades, and recent reports say that they are also consuming birds' eggs. This is damaging to the established balance of nature. No offence to snakes, but these are certainly in the wrong place!

How did you do,  
Florida Kid??!!



# FLORIDA NATURE STORE

www.fwfonline.org

## Atlas of Florida's Natural Heritage

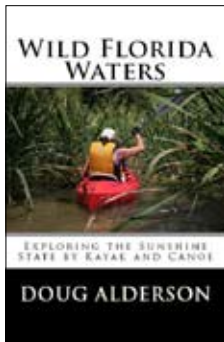
"The Florida Natural Areas Inventory is pleased to announce the publication of the *Atlas of Florida's Natural Heritage: Biodiversity, Landscapes, Stewardship and Opportunities*. This high-quality, full-color Atlas is sure to become a standard reference for anyone involved in the conservation, management, study, or enjoyment of Florida's rich natural resources. We hope the Atlas will inspire, educate, and raise awareness of and interest in biodiversity and conservation issues." *Paperback, 196 pages, 10" x 12" format* **FP-501, Price \$49.99, Member Price, \$47.99**



## Wild Florida Waters

by Doug Alderson

*Wild Florida Waters* places Florida's unsurpassed beauty and abundant wild-life in the forefront, from the mangrove labyrinth of the Ten Thousand Islands to the springfed Ichetucknee River. It also includes an exciting dose of paddling adventures, whether it's tipping over in the Suwannee River's Big Shoals rapids, surfing wind-generated waves while paddling the remote Apalachee Bay, or meeting up with a different form of "wild life" on a scenic waterway. Through all of the adrenalin, a strong conservation message permeates the volume, and useful how-to information is included at the end of each chapter. "It is past time somebody wrote a book of this caliber. A treasure trove of information for nature enthusiasts." --Bill Richards, Executive Director, Paddle Florida *Paperback, 266 pages. FP-499* **Price \$14.95, Member Price \$14.62**



## Florida's Fishing Legends and Pioneers

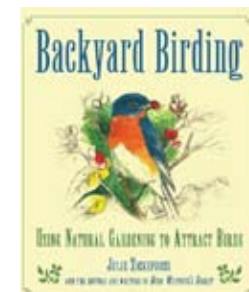
by Doug Kelly

"If you are a serious fisherman, Doug Kelly's book will be of interest to you. It is an essential history of Florida fishing, its many colorful characters, guides and promoters. The easily read chapters range from the early days up to the present. Anyone who has been fortunate enough to fish Florida's waters both fresh and salt for an extended period of years will recall the former abundance of the fishery and the changes in fishing technology." Book review by Franklin Adams, FWF District VIII Director. *Hardback, 288 pages. FP-496* **Price \$26.95, Member Price, \$24.45.**



## Backyard Birding: Using Natural Gardening to Attract Birds

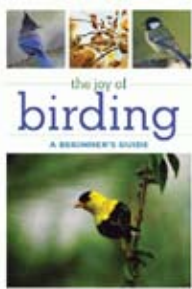
by Julie Zickefoose



Bird watchers everywhere dream of a landscape filled with berry-laden branches, nesting spots among twining vines, and birds crowding their feeding stations. Let *Backyard Birding* show you how to lay out the welcome mat for your feathered friends by considering all of their needs, including year-round water, food, and shelter. Whether you're looking to create a hummingbird garden, install a water feature, create perches for birds, or simply let a corner of your property run wild, you'll find all of the inspiration and information you need here in *Backyard Birding*. *Paperback, 244 pages, 83 full-color photographs. FP-498, Price \$14.95* **Member Price, \$14.62**

## The Joy of Birding

by Kate Rowinski

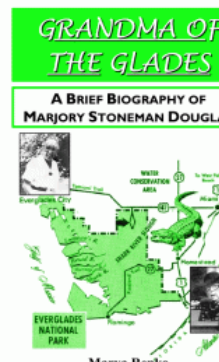


*The Joy of Birding* by Kate Rowinski is a great book for anyone who loves birds and wants to learn more about their behavior, their markings, wing shape, beak shape, how to photograph them, and more. The book is a colorful and unique guide which combines the best of all birding books. There are tips for attracting birds to your yard as well as a key for identifying birds. The narrative is very enjoyable, too! (Review by Diane Hines, VP of Admin, FWF) *Paperback, 240 pages. FP-511* **Price \$14.95, Member Price \$13.62**

## Grandma of the Glades: A Brief Biography of Marjory Stoneman Douglas

by Marya Repko

This concise biography summarizes the achievements of Marjory Stoneman Douglas as a conservationist and writer – she is author of the popular, well-received book about the Everglades, "River of Grass" – and chronicles the changes she experienced through her 108 years of life (1890-1998). Included in the book are old photographs, commentary from friends and recommended reading. *Paperback, 80 pages. FP-494* **Price \$10.00, Member Price, \$8.75.**



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## Living Sanibel

### A Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands

by Charles Sobczak

*Living Sanibel*

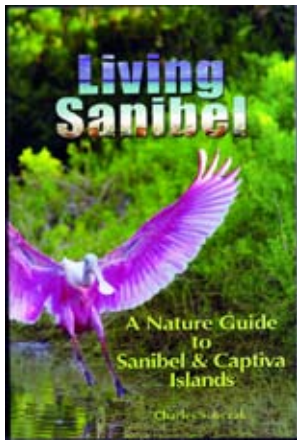
is the most complete nature guide to Sanibel and Captiva Island ever compiled. With more than 650 full color photographs and illustrations by award-winning nature photographers and artists, this

single volume is the only book you will ever need while visiting Florida's fabled barrier islands. The guide contains a total of 291 species of birds, with 105 species having color plates and detailed information making it easy to identify the various resident and migratory species that inhabit J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge and the many other preserves located on Sanibel and Captiva.

"Living Sanibel" also includes a extensive shell guide, complete with color photographs of more than 70 of the most commonly found shells on the pristine beaches of Sanibel and Captiva. The photos include a ruler beside each shell, making it simple to find even the smallest of shells. LIVING SANIBEL starts with a detailed and concise Environmental History of Sanibel and Captiva. This brief natural history puts the amazing accomplishment of preserving these barrier islands into its true historical perspective. The book also contains a complete section on the mammals and sea mammals found on Sanibel and Captiva. These include manatees, bottle-nose dolphin and Atlantic spotted dolphin. For those interested in reptiles and amphibians, there are more than fifty pages of snakes, lizards, alligators and crocodiles. Also included are the various fresh water turtles, as well as five species of sea turtles that nest on Sanibel and Captiva's beaches.

Paperback, 498 pages. **FP- 448**

Price \$26.95, **Member Price \$24.45**



## Living Gulf Coast

### A Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands

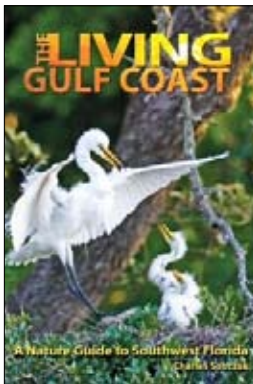
by Charles Sobczak

*The Living Gulf Coast* is the first comprehensive nature guide to Florida's Southwest region. It is divided into two sections with the first half being a detailed field guide and the later being divided by counties and

arranged in a north-to-south plan. The book covers six counties: Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry. There are more than 160 parks, preserves and eco-destinations covered in this work, with sixty-one of them described in great detail. Not only does the book describe these outstanding destinations, it also covers all the major birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians found throughout the region. The bird section includes 291 species with 120 of the most commonly encountered birds covered in exacting detail. It also includes all the major mammals and eighty-eight snakes, lizards, turtles and crocodilians found in the unique ecosystems of Southwest Florida. With more than 600 full-color photographs of wildlife, campgrounds, rivers and parks this is an essential tool for exploring everywhere from the Florida Everglades to the aquarium at Mote Marine. This book is an absolute must have for any nature lover, birder, biker, hiker, kayaker, canoeist or naturalist planning to visit Southwest Florida.

Paperback, 512 pages. **FP- 500**

Price \$26.95, **Member Price \$24.45**



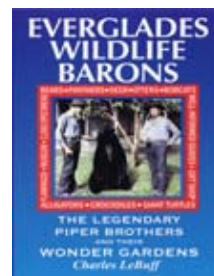
### A Field Guide to the Southeast Coast & Gulf of Mexico

by Noble S. Proctor & Patrick J. Lynch

environmental issues, including such catastrophic events as Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon blowout. Paperback, 386 pages. **FP-510** Price \$22.95, **Member Price \$21.00**

## Everglades Wildlife Barons

by Charles LeBuff



"This book written by a former guide at the Everglades Wonder Gardens in Bonita Springs is certainly interesting to anyone who ever visited the Piper Brothers wildlife gardens. It is the story of two remarkably tough bothers, Bill and Lester Piper, who came to Florida because of their love of wildlife and to have a new beginning. Seventy-four years later their Wonder Gardens still survives. It is a story of a time when roadside attractions flourished for the tourist trade in Florida, most of which are long gone. The Piper brothers were incredible field naturalists in the earlier days of South Florida. The snake hunting accounts serve to document the decline of snake populations that we have witnessed today through loss of habitat. The Florida panther breeding and particularly the ancestry/gene pool question of the Piper panthers will be very interesting to anyone who has followed the attempts to recover the endangered panther.

For those who have an interest in Florida wildlife and those individuals most closely connected to an earlier time in Florida, this is an enjoyable read, both the good times and the tragic times of a unique family."

-Book review by Franklin Adams, FWF Southern Regional Director

Paperback, 272 Pages. **FP - 492**

Price \$24.95, **Member Price \$22.62**

### A Brief History of the Fakahatchee

by Marya Repko

The author gives an overview of Southwest Florida's past, the drainage and development, and then delves in detail into the history of this area. The book includes old photographs, a large list of references, a timeline, stories from local residents, and first-hand accounts of the formation of the Park from some of the people involved.

Paperback, 58 pages. **FP-486**,

Price \$10.00, **Member Price \$9.00.**



### A Land Remembered

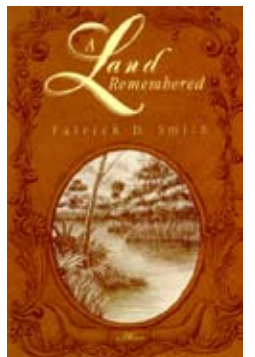
by Patrick D. Smith

Here are three generations of the MacIvey family, from dirt-poor Crackers to wealthy real estate tycoons, in an epic portrayal of the American pioneer's will to survive against all odds.

Here is the sweeping story of the land, how at first bare survival is scratched from it and then how it is exploited far beyond human need. Here is a rich, rugged history of Florida's pioneer spirit and natural world. Winner of the Florida Historical Society's Tebeau Prize as the Most Outstanding Florida Historical Novel. Recently awarded the best outdoor book of 2009 by the Florida Outdoor Writers Association.

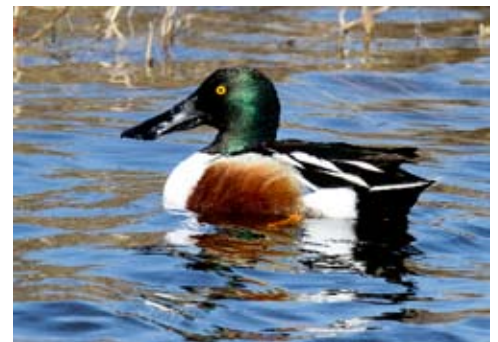
Paperback, 403 pages. **FP-413**

Price \$12.95, **Member Price \$11.65.**



## 2012 Spring Note Cards

Karen Willes, an avid nature photographer, has photographed plants, animals, natural features, landscapes, and seascapes from coast to coast, including Alaska. From home in Tallahassee, Florida, she travels several times each year to enjoy and photograph scenes to share with others. Her work may be found at [www.karenwillesphoto.com](http://www.karenwillesphoto.com). She may be contacted via e-mail at [karenwillesphoto@aol.com](mailto:karenwillesphoto@aol.com). To order cards please see order form on pg. 12 or purchase them in the FWF nature Store at: [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org). Price \$10, **FP-470.**





# Kid's Contest from page 1

The award was made to Leesburg Elementary in acknowledgement of the excellent educational and conservation value of the gardens which include a Butterfly Garden, a Bog Garden, a Pond Habitat, a Wildflower Garden, a Florida Woodland Native Habitat Garden, a Florida Native Wildlife Habitat and a Hydroponic Vegetable Garden. The diversity of these gardens provides habitat suitable for many native species of Florida wildlife. Interest in the establishment of wildlife habitats and knowledge of how to establish and care for one is being carried home and back into the community by students.

After the presentation ceremony, Dr. George Tanner said "The Florida Wildlife Federation is very proud and appreciative of Leesburg Elementary School teacher Lesa Roe for her dedication to the conservation of Florida's natural resources and her guidance in developing this avocation in the minds and actions of the school's students. These young students have learned that conservation requires both planning and hard work to meet their goals. Their wildlife gardens will continue to provide perpetual educational stimuli for natural resource conservation."

The contest was open to all backyard, schoolyard, business, or community habitats in Florida established by and tended by children 11 years old and younger. FWF promotes building places for Florida wildlife to find food and water, and to breed and raise their young as a way to lessen the harmful effects of development and diminishing natural habitat. FWF believes that education of young Floridians in ways to aid our wildlife is an effective method to help preserve our heritage of ordinary and unique-to-Florida species for future generations, and supports and promotes NWF's Wildlife Habitat Certification program. This program guides and informs citizens in establishing habitats, and information about the program and a Florida-specific guide to achieving certification of habitats is available on FWF's website, [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org).



*Dr. Tanner addresses Leesburg Elementary School students and their teachers.*



*Dr. Tanner, FWF Vice Chair, prepares to present students with their award.*



*Left and above: Students working in the gardens.*



*Students walk through some of the gardens they have planted.*

## Conservation Calendar

May 28 - Memorial Day

June 15-17, 2012  
FWF 75th Anniversary and Conservation Awards Banquet, see page 16.

June 27-28, 2012  
FWF Commission meeting,  
West Palm Beach,  
[www.myFWC.com/about/commission](http://www.myFWC.com/about/commission)

August 4, 2012  
Hands Across the Sand  
Annual Event  
<http://www.handsacrossthesand.com/>

September 5-6, 2012  
FWC Commission meeting, Tampa,  
[www.myFWC.com/about/commission](http://www.myFWC.com/about/commission)

September 21-23, 2012  
FWF Annual Business meeting,  
Palm Beach Gardens



# Florida Wildlife Expedition Looks to the Future

By Steve Newborn/WUSF  
Published April 28, 2012

It's one day before the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition is set to end. The members have pushed themselves to the limit for three months, and it's time to relax with a dip on a remote stretch of the Suwannee River.

"Nice to have a little down time before we enter the Okefenokee," says expedition leader Carlton Ward Jr.

Just then the skies opened on us on the banks of the Suwannee. These guys took it in stride - after all, they've been exposed to the elements for ever day since January 16th. That's when they began their 1,000-mile, 100-day trek, leaving from the tip of the Everglades.

The day after the deluge was Earth Day -- when the four members of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition paddled into Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp and ended their journey

Their mission - to create a wildlife corridor stretching the length of the state - is far from complete. But on the day I caught up with them, they were in a reflective mood,

looking back on the trip.

When asked to recall an indelible scene etched on his memory, Ward drew a word picture of sunrise at a barn on the Creek Ranch in Osceola County, halfway through the mission.

"Kind of one by one, pickup trucks with horse trailers started to pull in, and we had 20 friends who had assembled from around the state who believed in what we were doing, and ride with us, and lead on on a 17-mile journey up to the Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve," he says.

"And to realize that on fairly short order, these people believed enough in what we were doing to give that much of their time to come share it with us was really humbling, and one of the things I'll never forget."

It was also time Ward to reflect on what they have yet to accomplish.

"It's very important to carry forward the conversation with all the different interest groups - the people who depend on public lands for their hunting," he says.

"The people who do motor sports and fishing and all different activities. There's kind of a common ground and importance

to protecting these public places. But unless you get the buy-in and support from lots of different people, you're going to have trouble getting the consensus to go forward."

They're waiting at this remote spot on the upper Suwannee to meet Michael Fay, who's done this kind of grand adventure before.

"I'm Elam Stoltzfus, glad to meet you. Thank you so much for coming and welcome to the expedition. This is great. This is like wow, I'm back in the woods already. I'm Mallory. Hi."

Fay is an explorer-in-residence at National Geographic - one of the sponsors of the expedition. In 1997, he walked a 2,000-mile corridor through the African jungle, in Congo and Gabon. The "Megatransect" project helped create 13 national parks in Gabon. He hopes for a similar outcome here in Florida.

"If you look at the history of protected areas in general, they're always islands of the best of the best or places that humans hadn't colonized yet," Fay says. "But I think as time goes on, and people's notion of ecology and ecosystems evolve - even at a political level - I think the notion of corridors starts to make more sense."

The next day, they're greeted by family and friends at the remote Stephen Foster State Park, tucked inside the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

One of the speakers at the Earth Day event was Tom Hctor. He's a professor at the University of Florida and was instrumental in starting the expedition. Hctor has been working with state officials on establishing wildlife corridors for two decades.

"One of the things we're planning to do is to make clear is that there is a set of Florida Forever projects that go all the way from Everglades National Park, all the way to Okefenokee," says Hctor. "That if we had the money in Florida Forever - and those projects were funded - the corridor would be essentially complete."

But Hctor expects land development pressures to pick up once the economy kick starts, so the clock is ticking.

"Because Florida is - much of it is a peninsula," he says, "it lends it to the concept that all it takes is a little bit of too much development to fragment these unique ecological systems that Florida has."

And as a band played "Old Folks at Home," (Way Down upon the Suwannee River...)

Ward reminisced on the people he's counted on since leaving the Everglades in the dead of winter.

"I couldn't pick a better group

of friends and experts to spend time with and to help be the ambassadors for this story. And in a way it just came together," he says. "Each of us brings certain strengths and connections, and we help make each other better and help keep this thing alive, I hope."

Here's what the future holds in the store for the expedition members:

Carlton Ward plans to join Joe Guthrie and work on tracking bear movements in southern Florida. He'll then try to find ways to help expand the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and the creation of a similar effort along Fisheating Creek, just north of the Everglades.

Joe Guthrie plans to continue his research on black bears for the University of Kentucky.

And in a way, the work of Elam Stoltzfus is just beginning. He'll be indoors for a change, starting work on producing a two-hour documentary on the trip that will air on public television stations early next year.

Mallory Lykes Dimmitt will go to quite a different scene - Telluride, deep in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado, to continue her work on the Nature Conservancy's Colorado Plateau initiative.



## Florida Wildlife Federation "FWF"



### We welcome you!

To join FWF, a conservation organization dedicated for 75+ years to the health of Florida's fish and wildlife, its waters, native habitats, and sustainable outdoor recreation. We support scientifically based, professional management of natural resources and nature based recreation including hunting and fishing. Ecosystem restoration and recovery of depleted species are also primary objectives. We appreciate your support! Please join today!

**Yes I want to join Florida Wildlife Federation in promoting conservation of Florida's natural treasures and the enjoyment of our Great Outdoors! You will receive our publication *Florida Fish and Wildlife News* and periodic conservation updates by mail or email. Thank you.**

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En rout in the Big Cypress Preserve. Left to right: Bob De-Gross: Chief of Interpretation for Big Cypress National Preserve, Elam Stoltzfus: FWCE team, Franklin Adams: FWF Director.



Photo of the expedition team, taken at Etoniah Creek State Forest. In the photo, the team is joined by two representatives from the Florida Forest Service. Left to Right: Carlton Ward Jr: photographer and member of FWCE team, Mallory Lykes Dimmitt: conservationist and member of FWCE team, Charlie Pedersen: Biologist from the Waccasassa Forestry Center, Elam Stoltzfus: filmmaker and member of FWCE team, Scott Crosby: Forestry Supervisor from the Florida Forest Service, Joe Guthrie: bear biologist and member of FWCE team.

Photo by Carlton Ward Jr/[www.CarltonWard.com](http://www.CarltonWard.com)  
For more info visit [www.FloridaWildlifeCorridor.org](http://www.FloridaWildlifeCorridor.org)



# Florida Wildlife Federation's 75th Anniversary Weekend and Conservation Awards Banquet

June 15-17, 2012, Headquarters Hotel: St. Petersburg Bayfront Hilton (register online at [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org))

## St. Petersburg Bayfront Hilton

*A downtown hotel with resort-style amenities*

The hotel is located in the waterfront district of downtown St. Petersburg, across from Progress Energy Park and The Mahaffey Theater, and is within walking distance of downtown St. Petersburg businesses and nightlife as well as The Pier and the Salvador Dali Museum.

Directions to Bayfront Hilton (333 1st St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701): From Interstate 275,



take Exit 22 (next to Tropicana Field): Interstate 175, which is the same exit as that for the Bayfront Center. At fourth traffic light turn left onto 1st Street S. Hotel two blocks on left.



**Please make overnight reservations  
ASAP directly with the hotel**

The 75th Anniversary weekend activities will be headquartered at the St. Petersburg Hilton Bayfront Hotel. Please use the link provided below to make your reservations online. Room rates are \$89 per night (\$119 for Alcove Suite); this room rate will automatically appear if you follow the link. <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SPTSHHF-FWF-20120615/index.jhtml>

It is also possible to make room reservations by calling the hotel directly at: 1-727-894-5000. Be sure to mention group code FWF to receive the rate of \$89 per night, \$119 for Alcove Suite. Parking fees will be waived for hotel guests with our group. Breakfast is not included in the room rate.



To register online, please visit [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org) and click the 75th anniversary emblem to register.

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve your tickets no later than June 1st!  
Attn. Diane Hines, Florida Wildlife Federation,  
P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870.  
Questions? Email: [dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org)

## Friday, June 15th

7:00 pm  
to  
9:00 pm

**Weedon Island Preserve – Cocktail Party, Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar**  
Celebrating 75 years of conservation leadership in Florida with a special program. Tickets & registration below (\$40 per person, children under 12 free)

*All Saturday & Sunday events will be held at St. Petersburg Bayfront Hilton*

## Saturday, June 16th

8:30 am  
to  
4:00 pm

**FWF Board of Directors/House of Delegates Meeting**  
Williams-Demens Room

1:00 pm  
to  
4:30 pm

**FWF Youth Congress – Conservation Advocacy for the Future.**  
Forum topics include Water, Energy, Waste, Food & Ecology  
St. Petersburg I Room

*This event is for college and post grad students only – Please register for this and all youth events through the link provided here:*  
<http://fwfyouth2012.eventbrite.com/>

6:00 pm

**Reception & Conservation Awards Banquet** – Grand Bay Ballroom  
Tickets & Registration below (\$75 per person, \$18 for children under 12)

6:00-7:00 Reception, Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar  
**Artists Exhibits & Silent Auction featuring wildlife artists Peter R. Gerbert and Paul Schulz, and guest exhibitors Bob and Tammy Derwick, Fine Line Glass**  
Door Prizes, Displays & Merchandise exhibits



7:00-9:30 **FWF's 75th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet:**  
"Faces of the Future – Conservation in the 21st Century"  
Dinner and Awards Presentation  
**Keynote Address: Senator Bob Graham**

## Sunday, June 17th

7:30 am to  
8:30 am

**Life Members Breakfast** - Tangerine South Room  
Tickets and registration below (\$25 per person)

9:00 am to  
12:00 pm

**FWF Board of Directors Meeting/House of Delegates Meeting**  
Williams-Demens Room

9:30 am to  
12:30 pm

**I.D.E.A.S. Working Group** – (This is one of the Youth Events)  
St. Petersburg I

### Registration Form – June 15-17 FWF Events

**Friday, June 15** — 75th Anniversary Reception, Weedon Island Preserve. \$40 per person, children under 12 free. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people. Hors d'oeuvres, Cocktails, Cash Bar, Special Program

**Saturday, June 16** — FWF Youth Congress: Conservation Advocacy for the Future – for college students and recent graduates only – please register for all youth events at this website provided: <http://fwfyouth2012.eventbrite.com/>

**Saturday, June 16** — FWF 75th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet – St. Pete Hilton Bayfront — \$75 per person, (\$18 for children under 12, kids menu)  
Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ adults, and \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ children under 12  
Table of 10 may be reserved for \$750.00. \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to reserve a table for 10.  
Event Includes Reception, Cash Bar, Awards Banquet, Art Exhibits, and Door Prizes .  
Please enter the names of all persons attending with you here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, June 17** — FWF Life Members' Breakfast – Hilton Tangerine South  
\$25.00 per person. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ persons.