



Florida Fish and Wildlife News

Keeping
the Wild
in Florida
since 1936

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October 2013



Florida Wildlife Federation Board
Members and Staff at Tradewinds
Resorts, St. Pete Beach, for
FWF's September board meeting.
Photo by Lou Kellenberger.

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**Inside you will find a
petition for Florida's
Water and Land
Legacy Campaign.
If you have not
already signed this
petition, please do
so! It must be
returned to the
FWLL office by No-
vember 30. Address
for return is on the
petition. Thank you
for helping in this
important effort!**

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P.O. Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870
www.fwfonline.org

FWF September Board Meeting

On the weekend of September 27-29, 2013, the FWF Board of Directors and staff held the annual business meeting at the Tradewinds Resort Guy Harvey Outpost Hotel. It's hard to beat walking out of a meeting and being greeted by the white sands of St. Pete Beach. One of the Federation's newest board member, Keith Overton, is President of the Tradewinds Resort Hotels. The hospitality shown to our group by Keith and his staff was outstanding! We enjoyed stunning sunsets over the Gulf of Mexico, fine dining and a great deal of relaxation during the weekend. For those interested in visiting St. Pete Beach and the Tradewinds Hotels, please visit www.tradewindsresort.com. We welcome Alex Sink, Dr. Ray Carthy and Keith Overton as the newest members of the Federation's Board of Directors. A list of all board members and staff is available on page 2.



"Local Branches -Plate II" © 2013

Peter R. Gerbert, Acrylics on
Gessobord. Original painting sold,
commissioned by a private collector
as a set of two, small paintings.

Visit www.PeterRGerbert.com for
more information.

See page 9 for more art by
Peter R. Gerbert.

If you would prefer to receive this
publication via email instead of print, contact
dannygs@fwfonline.org. Please include your
name and address with your request.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Jenny Brock



Keeping the wild in Florida since 1936

A few weeks ago our Board of Directors met for our annual meeting at one of Florida's beautiful beaches. We are always re-energized when we get together at the end of our fiscal year to report what we've accomplished and what is yet to be done. You will no doubt read some of the reports of our successes so I will cover some of the reasons we work so hard to "KEEP THE WILD IN FLORIDA." We are so blessed to have access to beautiful beaches,

springs and streams of extraordinary wonder, swamplands and upland forest teeming with wildlife and so many other natural systems, it's no wonder that we have our job well defined.

I hope you have or will take the time to read all the great accomplishments of our conservation champions. Many were featured in the last *Florida Fish and Wildlife News*. People like you and I love the beauty of natural Florida and when we see something we can do to help keep those systems healthy, we go to work. If you do nothing more than be a member, that is a great help. If you convince someone else to be a member, that's even better. We thank you for your support!

As for me, I love nothing better than an excuse to go outdoors for work or play. In August, when it was almost too hot to go outside in Florida, it was time to take it to Alaska, another place of extraordinary beauty, also fighting successful battles for the great outdoors. As you can see by the photo, the fishing was great.

No matter how majestic and beautiful other states are, "There's no place like home." Three days ago I spied three wild turkeys strolling across my front yard and as I sit in my deer stand today writing, a flock of eight wild turkey are causing such commotion, the deer are reluctant to get near them. Hunting season is now open. In fact, it's always open if you hunt with a camera which

many of my friends do. This is the reason you see so many great photos in this publication. No matter how you hunt, I'd like to encourage you to get out there and enjoy all those beautiful places that we work so hard to protect and please take a young person!

Jenny Brock



Jenny with a 40 pound King Salmon in Alaska.

Installation of 2013-2014 FWF Officers and Directors



On September 29, FWF held its annual Election of Officers and Directors. New Officers and Directors were sworn in by Jenny Brock, who is the NWF Region 4 Director, and the Chair of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear Friends of FWF,

The Florida Wildlife Federation works on behalf of the conservation of Florida's natural environment and the public's enjoyment of the outdoors. Why? Because we all share a passion for Florida's environment and our fish and wildlife.

Our success depends on your generosity and that of other conservation-minded people. As you decide where best to contribute your time and funds for conservation, I wanted to share with you a listing of FWF's current accomplishments and priorities.



FLORIDA WILDLIFE
FEDERATION:
"KEEPING THE WILD IN
FLORIDA SINCE 1936"

FWF Recent Accomplishments and Activities

- The Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) is a leader in the campaign for Florida's Water and Land Legacy Amendment. This State Constitutional Amendment, if adopted by Florida voters in 2014, will be the largest and most comprehensive state-based conservation initiative in American history. The Amendment's language was recently approved by the Florida Supreme Court. FWF and our allies are making rapid progress in the signature-gathering phase of the campaign needed to place the amendment be-

fore Florida voters. We need all the help we can get to make Legacy a reality!

- FWF promotes the conservation, sound professional management, recovery and health of native fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

- We were instrumental in changing state law in 2013 to remove subsidies for new development of low-lying, flood-prone coastal areas within the Coastal Barrier Resources System and seaward of the Coastal Construction Control line reducing fiscal risk to the public and protecting habitat at the same time. FWF actively promotes the integrity of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) as an example of common sense conservation and opposes efforts to weaken it. In Florida CBRS helps protect approximately 750,000 acres of coastal habitat.

- FWF promotes the public's enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoors. We believe that our conservation lands and waters are critical to the future of our fish and wildlife, sustainable outdoor recreation, our nature-based economy, and provide for groundwater recharge and watershed protections across Florida.

- FWF is promoting the enhancement and conservation of marine forage fish which provide critical linkages in the marine and estuarine food web and which provide the base for Florida fishing.

- We continue to support the Florida Forever state conservation lands program, even as some wish to abolish it. We know that economic vitality must go hand-in-hand with environmental integrity, especially in Florida which relies so much on nature-based tourism. FWF has, on many occasions, stopped misguided projects on Florida's sensitive conservation lands.

- Working in unison with our partners and members, the Federation successfully guided the St. Johns River Water Management District's surplus lands assessment. With only one public meeting within the FWF Northeast office's area, we packed the house in opposition to the idea. In the end the District retained 92% of the lands. Less than 1% of the "surplus lands" were found to not serve a purpose for its original conservation purchase.

- FWF is heavily involved in cooperative efforts to protect our springsheds, such as Wakulla, Wekiva and Silver Springs. Our springs suffer when we withdraw too much underground water and allow excessive nutrients within springsheds to spoil their purity.

- FWF has prevailed in a number of legal challenges to harmful environmental practices, including recently preventing the misuse of wetland mitigation credits in a controversial project.

- We have successfully continued our legal support for protecting Florida pan-

PRESIDENT con't page 8

FWF Scholarship Update

October 2013

Dear FWF Members,

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

Because of generous contributions, the FWF Scholarship Fund has reached \$81,925, bringing us much closer to the goal of \$100,000. Once our FWF Scholarship Fund reaches \$100,000, it becomes eligible for a match of \$50,000 from the state.

Please consider making a donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund! It is important to help students who wish to study for careers in wildlife research and management!

Thank you!

To make an online donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund, please go to:
<https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=013403>

Remembering the Federation

If you wish to name Florida Wildlife Federation in your will or estate plan, we should be named as:

The Florida Wildlife Federation, a nonprofit cooperation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, with principal business address of PO Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870.

Our tax identification number is 59-1398265.

Help Us Plan

If your plans already include a gift for Florida Wildlife Federation, please let us know. We will honor all requests for anonymity, and you can always modify your gift if your circumstances change.

For more information please contact **Tim Bachmeyer**, FWF Development Consultant, at **561-801-5752** or **Diane Hines** at **850-656-7113**.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



Picayune Strand Restoration Begins Final Phase

The \$75 million contract for the third and final restoration pump station for the Picayune Strand Everglades Restoration Project (Collier County) was recently awarded and construction will begin soon.

The Picayune Strand Restoration Project broke ground in January 2010 and is the first Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project to move beyond the planning stages. The entire restoration effort is on schedule for completion in 2018.

The full project includes constructing three massive pump stations, three spreader basins, a mitigation project south of the site to maintain an existing manatee sanctuary, plugging 48 miles of canals, and removing and degrading 260 miles of crumbling roads.

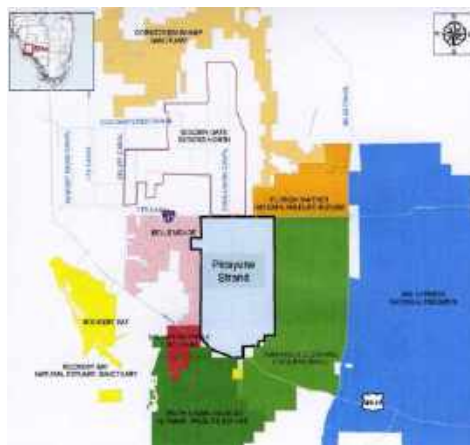
Both the FakaUnion and Merritt pump stations are under construction. **The Merritt Pump Station is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year, the FakaUnion Pump Station is scheduled to be completed in 2014, and the Miller Pump Station in 2018.** When these pump stations are built, restoration can begin in earnest using the natural elements of water and fire.

When done, the Picayune Strand project will restore natural water flow across 55,000 acres, rehydrate drained wetlands, provide aquifer recharge, improve estuarine waters in the Ten Thousand Islands, and return habitat to imperiled native wildlife including the endangered Florida panther. It also is the last piece in a network of conser-

vation lands across South Florida that connects the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

Since its opening in 1994, the Southwest Florida Office has been actively involved in promoting and monitoring the acquisition and restoration of what is now called Picayune Strand State Forest. The reclaimed forest was part of the massive Golden Gate Estates platted subdivision which epitomized the selling of Florida swampland to unsuspecting buyers across the world.

For additional information and detailed maps on the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, visit <http://bit.ly/PicayuneStrand>.



A map depicting the Picayune Strand Restoration Project boundaries (see center of map) and showing its strategic location in the South Florida conservation lands network.

Landmark Victory for Public Interest

A recent ruling by Collier County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia A. Pivacek stated that a Bert Harris Property Rights Act settlement agreement cannot circumvent existing growth management laws and must protect the public interest.

Judge Pivacek's important ruling came in response to a challenge by Florida Wildlife Federation and Collier County Audubon Society of the settlement agreement between Collier County and HHH Ranch owned by the Hussey family. The Husseys brought an unsuccessful Bert Harris Property Rights Act claim against the county seeking a \$92 million payment in lieu of

not being approved for mining. In a somewhat strange and unexplained action, Collier County decided, after repeatedly winning in court, to negotiate a settlement agreement with the Husseys.

The Federation and Collier Audubon, ably represented by attorney Tom Reese, were intervenors in the Bert Harris litigation and refused to sign the settlement agreement.

The 1,000 acre ranch is located in the heart of North Belle Meade and is occupied Florida panther and red-cockaded woodpecker habitat. The Husseys want to rock mine the ranch which is identified as having high environmental value and therefore mining is prohibited in Collier County's growth management plan. North Belle Meade is immediately northwest of the Picayune Strand Everglades Restoration Project.

Financial Exposure not a Public Interest Standard

Collier County asserted that settling the Husseys' Bert Harris Property Rights Act claim exempts the county and landowner from adhering to local and state growth management procedures including public hearings. The court ruled that the public interest standard does not include potential County financial exposure due to litigation claims. The public interest standard is that served by the regulations the settlement agreement seeks to disregard.

In her ruling, Judge Pivacek wrote that "...it does not appear that the Legislature intended for community planning to be supplemented by negotiated settlement agreements pursuant to the Bert Harris Act."

Judge Pivacek ruled that the settlement agreement did not protect the public interest served by the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The settlement agreement was also found to be improper contract planning.

Judge Pivacek's important ruling and attorney Reese's proposed order can be found on the Southwest Florida web page <http://www.fwfonline.org/Regions/Southwest-Office.aspx>. Look for links at the bottom of the page.



Florida panther photographed on conservation land west of HHH Ranch in North Belle Meade, Collier County. Photo courtesy of Mark Lotz, FWC.

Panthers and RCWs Sue Collier County

Endangered Florida panthers and red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW's) along with Florida Wildlife Federation and Collier County Audubon Society, represented by attorney Tom Reese, have filed a complaint in federal court against Collier County and four commissioners for not adhering to the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala was not included in the complaint because she voted against the approvals that ignored the long-standing federal wildlife protection law.

The action contests county approvals for land clearing, land uses, and road extensions in occupied and essential habitat of Florida panthers and red-cockaded woodpeckers in North Belle Meade without authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

To read *The Panthers v. Collier County*, go to <http://www.fwfonline.org/Regions/Southwest-Office.aspx>. Look for the link at the bottom of the page.

In August 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent a letter to Collier County alerting them that their actions approving destruction of listed species habitat are of the "nature that could result in the take of federally protected species... and the County could be liable for violating Federal law."

This letter is posted at the bottom of <http://www.fwfonline.org/Regions/Southwest-Office.aspx>.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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



Congress Should Look To Florida For Flood Insurance Lessons

The Florida Wildlife Federation's involvement in the topic of subsidies for development in low lying areas stems from the immense habitat and storm protection values of these lands. One of our campaigns is to protect valuable coastal wetlands as storm barriers and as wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, state and federal insurance subsidies have encouraged development in these areas and we must act now to reform them.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill debating whether to delay flood insurance reforms could take a lesson from Florida, where legislators recently approved depopulating its state-backed insurance company, Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens), which in turn reduces the state's exposure and shores up its ability to pay out claims in the event of future catastrophic storms.

Currently, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is nearly \$30 billion in debt due to a series of devastating storms across the United States over the past few years. It is desperately in need of the same reform efforts to reduce exposure in order to remain financially stable.

Last year, federal lawmakers appeared to recognize this growing crisis by overwhelmingly passing the Biggert-Waters Insurance Reform Act, which included higher flood insurance rates in high-risk areas,



among other reforms.

Now, with many of these flood insurance rate changes taking effect on October 1, some members of Congress appear to be buckling under pressure from reform opponents, with some calling for delaying these much-needed rate increases by as much as five years.

Current flood insurance premiums under NFIP are outdated and highly subsidized. Some homeowners pay as little as 40 percent of the true market rate despite living in flood-prone areas. The result of these artificially low rates is predictable: overdevelopment of dangerous coastal and flood prone areas and an increasingly insolvent flood insurance program that can't keep up with claims.

These problems are not unique to NFIP. Citizens, the Florida insurer, also has long subsidized highly vulnerable areas at rates far below market rates. Thanks to some good luck – seven straight years without a major hurricane – the program has been able to avoid the types of financial problems plaguing NFIP. In fact, Citizens has actually accumulated a \$6.3 billion surplus.

But even with this funding buffer, Citizens' officials and state lawmakers have feared the financial toll of the next inevitable massive storm and have taken steps to protect the program by allowing rates to rise closer to true market levels – essentially the same remedy included in the federal Biggert-Waters legislation.

According to FEMA's estimates, 87% of FEMA's customers in Florida will not be affected by Biggert-Waters. For those who will be affected, such as fixed and low income policy holders, affordability measures should be assessed such as adopting targeted, means-tested, and temporary assistance outside of the rate structure and paid for within the program. In addition, mitigation assistance could be provided and should

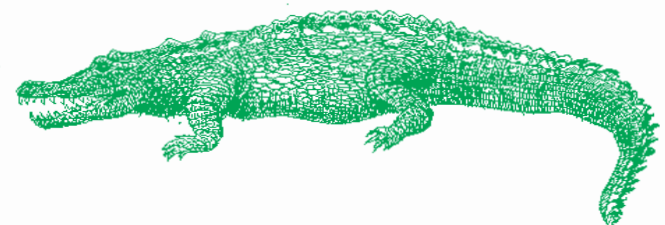
be prioritized for low-income policy holders affected by rate increases.

Congress can do more to give these families peace of mind by providing targeted assistance paid for within the flood program and using part of FEMA's mitigation funding to reinforce properties affected by higher rates. Congress should look at supporting mitigation as a way to not only address rising flood insurance premiums, but as a way to better development strategies.

The worst possible solution would be to delay or roll back the new rates prescribed by Biggert-Waters. Such a move would only result in even higher premiums and a greater financial toll in the future.

This is a difficult pill to swallow, but the reality is that we need to take steps now to prevent financial ruin in the future. Citizens' Insurance and state legislators in Florida have realized this reality. Congress should follow their lead and do the same.

Reform of both Citizens and NFIP will encourage development away from vulnerable areas. This will help us move forward in protecting valuable coastal wetlands and low lying flood prone areas as storm barriers and as wildlife habitat.



Special Events in Northeast Florida Celebrate the Right Whale

The University of Florida Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant and the Florida Wildlife Federation, invite you to meet celebrated author, educator and illustrator Peter C. Stone, and journey with him as he explores the evolutionary wisdom and interconnectedness of endangered creatures, cultures and ecosystems. Guests will also have the opportunity to meet the author during a book signing of *Waltzes with Giants: The Twilight Journey of the North Atlantic Right Whale* prior to his presentation. Although the book will captivate all ages, *Waltzes with Giants* was recently selected for the Children's Book-of-the-Month club. Stone will be with the Federation and its partners for three events:

November 21, 2013

The Whitney Lab, St. Augustine, FL
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
northeastfwf@fwfonline.org

November 23, 2013

North Atlantic Right Whale Festival
Jacksonville Beach, Florida
<https://www.facebook.com/Right-WhaleFestival>

November 24, 2013

Florida Museum of Natural History,
Gainesville
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
northeastfwf@fwfonline.org



Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation &
General Counsel

Goodbye Coal

In 2007, Florida Power and Light (FPL) sought to build the nation's largest coal-fired power plant in the Everglades region. The announcement inspired grave concern on the part of those who care about water and air pollution in South Florida. It has been known for many years that coal plants emit a myriad of toxic substances and greenhouse gases. With the years of problems the Everglades have faced, this proposal seemed like the icing on the cake as to destruction of the River of Grass. Thankfully, the plant proposal, opposed by FWF and other groups, was denied. In 2009, Seminole Electric cancelled plans to build a similar plant near Palatka. This plant was also opposed by FWF for environmental and health reasons.

Just what do coal-fired power plants emit into the air we breathe and deposit into the water we drink? Here is a partial list: carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, fly ash and mercury. Arsenic, lead, cadmium and carbon monoxide are also poured from the stacks. Carbon dioxide is the primary cause of global warming. In 2011, utility coal plants poured out a total of 1.7 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the nation's atmosphere. Sulfur dioxide promotes "acid rain;" a typical coal plant with no emission controls produces over 14,000 tons per year. Nitrogen oxide causes smog, and over 10,000 tons per year are produced at an uncontrolled plant and approximately 3,300 tons per year with advanced pollution technology. Fly ash, the solid by-product of coal firing, can contain arsenic and chromium. Last, but certainly not least, is mercury. Coal plants are estimated to be responsible for more than one-half of the mercury in our air and in our water. Just 1/70th

of a teaspoon of mercury in a 25-acre lake makes the fish unsafe to eat. A plant with no controls can produce up to 170 pounds of mercury each year. Mercury is the number one reason we have consumption advisories for certain fish in Florida, especially for pregnant women.

Florida at present has 15 coal fired plants still operating, and they are scattered all across the state. As we have few coal deposits, the coal is shipped from out of state. The number of coal plants has diminished over the years as the transition to cheaper natural gas has accelerated. Natural gas produces significantly less greenhouse gases (about 1/2 the amount of carbon dioxide, 1/3 the nitrogen oxide, and very minimal sulphur dioxide). Natural gas also emits mercury, but this emission has been described as "minimal." While converting to natural gas is certainly an improvement, as a carbon-based fuel, natural gas still has its problems.

The President recently set the first national limits on greenhouse pollution for all future power plants. Regulations for existing plants are due to be released next year. The released regulations for new plants require carbon dioxide capture, and it is very expensive for coal plants to accomplish this. More than likely, these regulations will make new coal plants financially unfeasible. Natural gas plants, however, will apparently need no additional pollution controls due to their lower emissions.

Back to FPL, this company in the last few years has moved towards natural gas and also to renewable sources of energy. The Next Generation Solar Energy Center in Martin County, completed in 2010, is a hybrid facility in that it is connected to an existing power plant. Producing 75 megawatts, it is the largest solar thermal plant in the United States outside of California. The plant has the capacity to provide electricity to 11,000 homes, and will prevent the production of 3.5 million tons of greenhouse gases over its lifetime.

The Federation fully supports our quickly moving to home-grown and renewable energy. As we step away from coal, we can begin to rely on wind, solar and even tidal sources of energy. This transition will make for a cleaner, safer Florida for us, our children, and for our natural world.

Preston T. Robertson

DeSilvestro Wins State Wildlife Management Proficiency Award

Florida FFA was pleased to announce that Danielle DeSilvestro of the Lennard FFA Capter was named the winner of this year's Wildlife Management Proficiency award. DeSilvestro and the other finalists of this award were recognized at the 85th annual Florida FFA State Convention and Leadership Conference this past June.

DeSilvestro and the top four finalists received awards sponsored by Florida Wildlife Federation, as a special project of the Florida FFA Foundation.



Danielle DeSilvestro second from right holding her award.

IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in
memory of:

Aaron Lowe

by Kyla Christie
by Karen and Lon Kane

Emma Gerbert

by Anne Marie Christensen

James L. Quinn

by W. Wilson Baker

Donald Mount

by Carla Gaut
by Lorraine Gabler and Marvin Collop



The Federation thanks you for your thoughtful contributions. We express our sympathy to family and friends of those who have passed away.

HEADS UP! HERE COMES THE BEST SEASON!

By Pat Pearson
FWF Habitat Coordinator

In Florida, winter is the best season for gardening. Summer's heat is gone for a while, and we'll have several months of weather that's ideal for getting outdoors.

Now is the time to take a good, analytical look at your yard, and plan out the changes and improvements you can make during the cooler time to come. In addition to cleaning up and planting bulbs to bloom in the spring, think about what you might do to help wildlife in our beautiful Florida.

Animals and birds that live in your area year-round still need food and water from us to supplement what can be found in the ever-shrinking wild. Foraging in the natural areas isn't as productive in winter as it is during bountiful summer, and there is usually less rain during the winter months so that puddles and bogs dry up. The critters will have to look for those basics in new places. If you have some plants that have berries in the winter, and a couple of birdbaths, your garden will be one of those new places.

In addition, Florida is on the flyway for many kinds of migrating birds and the Monarch Butterfly from up north. Some will winter in Florida, some will keep on flying to South America, and the Monarchs are going to Mexico. You can make sure they have food and water available to them when they stop to rest. Your bird feeders and birdbaths may need filling more often to accommodate the extra guests.

Two excellent shrubs that bear berries for birds are pyracantha (firethorn) and callicarpa (Beautyberry bush, also called American Beauty Berry), both of which have berries that persist into the winter. Both also have spring clusters of small flowers that provide nectar for bees. You can check with your County extension agent to find which varieties will grow best in your area.

If you are adventuresome, it is said that both berries will make nice jelly. There are recipes on the internet. The pyracantha is a relative of the apple and the rose and the jelly is described as being like apple jelly. Here's one caveat...the purple colored berries of the Beautyberry bush are proven edible, but there are also white-berried

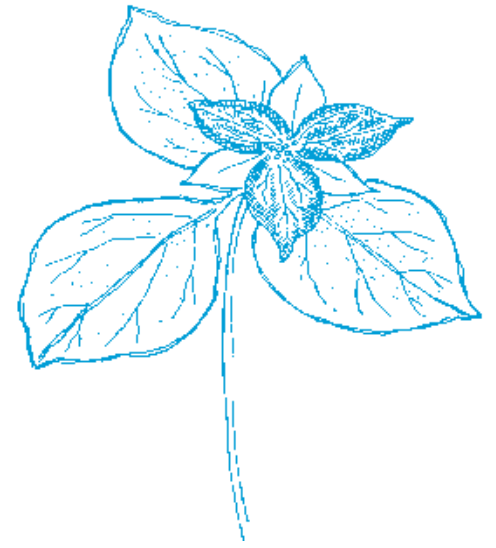
plants, and their edibility is unknown.

A short piece follows, picked up from the internet at www.eattheweeds.com/beautyberry-jelly-on-a-roll/ about making a mosquito repellent from Beautyberry leaves. After last summer's heavy infestation of mosquitoes, and rumors about new diseases being carried by mosquitoes in Florida, you may want to try it.

"One of my students, Fred, does a lot of foraging and has lived his life in mosquito-laden Florida. He reports: [Beautyberry's] 'jelly is awesome but I really love the beautyberry for its insect repellent properties. After learning about this from a Green Deane class and being an avid forager myself I decided to use the beautyberry as a

bug repellent so it wouldn't slow down my summer foraging (Florida summer mosquitoes can be horrible). I pretty much chopped up a plant (leaves and stems) and boiled it in a pot and let it cool and strained the brown liquid into my blender, about 1 1/2 cups. In a separate pot I warmed some organic neem oil (1 cup) with 1 ounce of beeswax until melted. Then you turn the blender on and pour in the oil mixture very slowly and it becomes a cream. I have to say hands down the best insect repellent ever! Because it's a cream on july/august days one application is all you need for the entire day even when you are sweating."

Happy Gardening to you all!



New Eagle Club Members:

Keith Overton, St. Pete Beach

Bobbie Lindsay, Palm Beach

Erika Seshadri, Sarasota

Constance Thomas, Palm Coast

New Life Members:

Rhys Asplundh, Orlando

Larry Bostick, Land O'Lakes

Lee M. Peterson, Sarasota

Martha Puente, Coral Gables

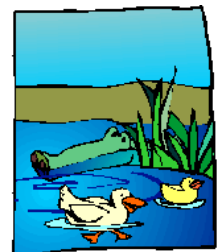
Furney Hemingway, Palm Coast

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.*



FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ



1. What is the name of the largest freshwater lake in Florida?



2. What is the name of the traditional house of the Seminole Indians?



3. What was the name of the first Governor of Florida?

See page 14 for answers, and more information.

ther habitat in Southwest Florida from illegal development.

- During the past two decades, FWF has been instrumental in the construction of 42 wildlife underpasses or crossings which are used by a range of wildlife primarily in Florida panther habitat. Private ranches, farms and public conservation lands are what ultimately weave together an integrated conservation network across Southwest Florida leading into Central Florida. Recently, cooperation by land-owners has resulted in four new underpasses and several more are in the planning stages.

- FWF is working with a wide range of interests on longstanding Everglades issues to reduce the wet season discharge of vast quantities of polluted water from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers. We are working to get flows of clean water moving south from the Water Conservation Areas to Everglades National Park rather than impounding deep water behind levees and negatively impacting wildlife.

- FWF successfully promoted the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) unanimous vote ending the importation of live captive deer into Florida, as these animals can transmit Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a fatal disease that could decimate our native herd. White-tailed deer are a popular game animal for Florida hunters, as well as providing key prey for Florida panthers. The endangered Key Deer would also be vulnerable to the disease. CWD poses a long term threat to the health of Florida deer and the FWC's actions to close the borders reduce that risk.

- We continue to work in favor of proper allocations of RESTORE Act funding, which come from fines to be paid by BP as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, making sure that the funds will be used for environmental protection and appropriate restoration projects. These funds are meant to provide long-lasting protection to Gulf coastal areas and aid in the restoration of special watersheds such as Pensacola, Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, West Bay, St. Vincent's and St. Mark's watersheds south along the Big Bend coast all the way to the Everglades, Caloosahatchee, C43 project, Tamiami Trail bridges and the Keys.

- FWF actively promotes private lands conservation such as providing for perpetual conservation easements helping us retain habitat connectivity across working landscapes. FWF has actively supported the successful designation of thousands of acres as forest and ranchlands as permanent conservation easements across Florida.

- FWF supports conservation and out-

door experiences and education for young people often partnering with local institutions. We promote sustainable public access for resource-based outdoor recreation to public lands and waterways.

- FWF also supports the use of scientifically-based human demographic analysis and trends in developing the best strategies for long term conservation and outdoor recreation planning. How and where Florida grows in the future will have dramatic effects on Florida's environment and conservation of our natural resources must be factored into the decision making process.

- FWF strongly supports key elements of Everglades restoration such as the Central Everglades Planning Project, Tamiami Trail bridging, cleaning and moving water south, opening up the water conservation areas as flowing systems rather than impounded areas, enhancing Everglades tree island, ridge and slough habitats and reducing damaging excessive flows from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee ecosystems. FWF believes providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities, including fishing, hunting and nature observation, is a critical component of Everglades and other important restoration projects across Florida.

- In Northeast Florida, FWF is partnering with local and state government stakeholders to analyze the wildlife utilization of the Pellicer Creek Conservation Area. We look forward to sharing the wildlife sightings and engaging the public on future enhancement projects.

- The Federation's Northeast Office is partnering with the local schools to educate the youth about conservation of marine environments.

Florida Wildlife Federation, like you, is committed to the beauty, natural diversity and enjoyment of Florida's outdoors. Together we all strive for a bright future for our environment. This is a challenge, but with your support of FWF and with innovative conservation measures, such as the Water and Land Legacy Amendment, we will succeed.

Thank you,

Manley



ANNOUNCING...

The 5th Annual Kids' Wildlife Habitat Contest!

On Earth Day in April, 2014, the Florida Wildlife Federation will award a commemorative plaque and an age-suitable gardening book to the Florida kid or kids 12 years old or under who have helped to establish and maintain a habitat for wildlife at home or on school property. The habitat will also be featured on our website and in our newsletter. Entries close March 31, 2014.



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

It's easy to enter. Just tell us how the habitat provides the following four elements: food, water, cover and a place to raise young. Send some photos of your habitat, preferably with children working there.

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

A description and photos of the habitat can be e-mailed to Patricia at patricia@fwfonline.org or mailed to the FWF headquarters, 2545 Blainstone Pines Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.

Email patricia@fwfonline.org or call the FWF office at (850) 656-7113 for more information, if needed. See our website at www.fwfonline.org for photos and information about previous winners, and the PowerPoint and videos there for general habitat information.

*"Sandhills in Design -Plate II" © 2013 Peter R. Gerbert
Acrylics with 3-D Texture on Gessobord*

Original Painting has been sold. Now available as a Limited Edition Print endorsed by the Florida Wildlife Federation. Numbered only to 250 total prints signed by the artist. Fine Art Print with Archival Inks on Matte Paper, Image size approximately 11 by 17 inches \$75.00. Fine Art Canvas Reproduction, Archival Inks & UV Coating, image size approximately 17 by 26 inches \$175.00 (canvas can be framed without glass).

Please visit www.PeterRGerbert.com and follow the links to order. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the FWF.

*Sandhill Cranes with newborn chicks, Gulf Fritillary and the wildflowers include Coreopsis, the Florida state wildflower.
See on following page (9).*





Jay Liles
FWF Policy Consultant

Flood Insurance Debate Illustrates the Tough Choices that Lie Ahead

Elsewhere in this issue of *Florida Fish and Wildlife News* my colleague, Sarah Owen Gledhill, comments on the thorny issue of how this nation should address the rising cost of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). With enactment of federal reforms, the debate has swung from the halls of Congress to the State House and, at least in Florida, to the local barber shop and diner. Almost everybody who lives on or near a body of water is talking about flood insurance and the enactment of a package of federal reforms called Biggert-Waters, or “BW12” (short hand for the two primary sponsors of the legislation and for the fact that it passed in 2012).

First, a quick primer in Insurance 101 – if you own a home that you insure, or buy renters’ insurance, your policy does not cover flood other than damage due to burst water pipes or the like. So if you have a flood due to a storm you will not be covered for losses due to that hazard unless you buy a separate rider (*if offered*) or, as most do, a flood insurance policy underwritten by the National Flood Insurance Program. Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to live in a flood zone to buy such insurance. Many (me included) do so for the peace of mind it can provide.

Prior to the last decade, or so, flood insurance was primarily the concern of farmers and those who lived right on the water. Most of us paid little heed to the rising cost of Midwestern floods and the occasional localized disaster that a tropical storm might bring. That began to change with Hurricane Katrina and then Super-storm Sandy. Now, with NFIP deeply in debt and a “New Normal” which predicts more severe storms and more frequent flooding, policymakers and the general public are learning

more about the true cost of natural disasters and about the choices we make in where and how we live.

The Florida Wildlife Federation has entered this debate with eyes wide open. On the one hand, we appreciate the economic engine that is coastal living and all the abundance that this has brought to our state. On the other, we have consistently fought for wise growth management policies that recognize the value of undeveloped coastal zones and how they provide storm protection by diminishing wind and wave action. These same low-lying areas serve as critical wildlife habitat and offer us high-value recreational opportunities (many of our public beaches make the annual list as “World’s Best”).

So when our policymakers debate the relative value of coastal zones as places for further development and associated public infrastructure, like roads and utilities, we ask the questions: What do we, the public, gain or lose? At what costs? And who should pay for it? Central to this debate is the question of whether or not it is in the public interest for taxpayers to subsidize coastal development, especially in a world being remapped by rising sea levels.

As Sarah’s commentary points out, that debate is playing out once again in Tallahassee and in Washington where lawmakers are reconsidering the implications of legislation that would begin to raise the cost of premiums for those who live in flood prone areas. As FEMA re-maps the new flood zones, homeowners and businesses are being warned of possible premium increases. Some anticipate those increases may make housing costs unaffordable or impact their ability to sell certain properties. It should be pointed out that early analysis of the impacts of BW12 indicate that 87% of current insured’s in Florida will see no increase in premiums. Of the remaining 13% of all policyholders, 2% are scheduled for rate increases of 25% annually because their properties are in areas identified as experiencing significant and repetitive flood losses.

Unfortunately, for Florida policyholders, this hits pockets in coastal Pinellas County disproportionately and impacts some middle income residents who can’t afford the significant increases that are projected. As Congress considers a way forward, groups like ours and others, who are members of the Smarter Safer Coalition for insurance reform, have supported a means tested proposal which we hope receives consideration.

What would be an unfortunate response is to do as Mississippi and Louisiana have done, which is to call for a

long term delay in implementing BW12. While there may be reason to tweak the bill to offer premium supports for those truly in need, this should only be a short term remedy designed to get us through the initial implementation. To simply delay the larger and more impactful elements of the legislation would only serve to dig the financial hole deeper. It may do further harm by encouraging additional development in low lying wetlands and coastal zones, thus increasing the risk to life and property. People, by their very nature, will buy on the water. By providing the full faith and credit of the Federal Government, we send exactly the wrong message to unsuspecting buyers – it’s OK to live in these flood prone areas; your fellow taxpayers will subsidize your ill-conceived actions!

That is why it was good to see an unbiased, open and honest debate of the pros and cons of BW12 before the Florida Legislature’s Banking and Insurance Committees during recent hearings on the issue. Chairman David Simmons in the Senate, and Bryan Nelson in the House, led their respective committees through a day of education and information provided by effected parties and agency administrators. While committee members listened intently, it was encouraging to see that there was no immediate call for action. While this is a federal issue it was appropriate that our state leaders got a chance to hear from constituents about the concerns they have. After all, to many voters, there really is no distinction between state and federal issues, and they have every right to expect that the government that is closest to them is capable of handling complex issues.

Based on the thoughtful approach our legislators chose to take, it was unfortunate to see Governor Scott and Cabinet Officers Pam Bondi and Jeff Atwater offer support for law suits filed by Mississippi and Louisiana to block implementation of the Act. As our state’s Chief Financial Officer, Atwater knows what a financial burden Citizens Insurance has become and what a potential economic calamity it presents. Governor Scott embraced passage of reforms to Citizens that mirror those of BW12. This development along Cape San Blas in Gulf County illustrates

the dangers of building in the wrong places. He has spoken favorably of doing away with government subsidized premiums and the need to move to actuarially sound rates. That is why it is hard to understand why Florida would join other states in attempting to block enactment of measures that finally recognize the economic reality – 87% of us should not be subsidizing the lifestyle of 2%.

We encourage Congress to give consideration to a panel of recommendations offered by the Smarter-Safer Coalition, including:

- Helping families with affordability problems which should be targeted, means-tested, and temporary.
- Funding a study on how to address affordability more broadly, including how to prioritize mitigation, and how on a longer-term basis, households with true affordability issues can be helped.
- FEMA should immediately incorporate into its maps and its rate structure the level of protection provided by any flood control systems. Currently, for example, if a levee structure does not provide protection from a 100 year flood, FEMA’s maps and rates do not take into consideration the actual level of protection provided. This will ensure more accurate mapping and result in more accurate premium adjustments.
- FEMA should use 25% of its pre-disaster mitigation funding to mitigate properties impacted by flood insurance rate increases. While these funds should continue to be used for mitigation, some mitigation funds should be targeted to those most at risk of flooding.

**Editor’s note: FWF opposes subsidies which promote new development in low lying, flood prone areas and supports buyouts rather than multiple loss payments to create green space and waterfront access. Our shorelines are some of our best habitats. The more natural our shorelines are the fewer loss claims we will face. -Manley*



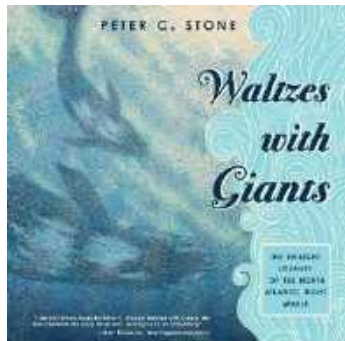
This development along Cape San Blas in Gulf County illustrates the dangers of building in the wrong places.

Florida Nature Store

Go to www.fwfonline.org for more great merchandise!

Waltzes with Giants*

by Peter C. Stone



Waltzes with Giants, The Twilight Journey of the North Atlantic Right Whale (Skyhorse, Fall 2012), is a moving portrait of one of the earth's largest endangered mammals. Mystical and provocative, the book is inspired by a real North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) and her threatened migrations from Atlantic Canada to her calving grounds off the coasts of Georgia and Florida. Blending sound science and art with a literary voice, Peter C. Stone takes the reader beneath the waves to reveal how we have historically decimated many species of whales and other species of fish and aquatic mammals for material gain, even though they are an integral part of the ecosystems upon which we depend.

Supported by a glossary of scientific and book-specific words, as well as a list of resource links for the North Atlantic right whale and other marine mammals, *Waltzes with Giants* is built upon questions. It will captivate readers of all ages by making science and the marvels of the oceans engaging and comprehensible.

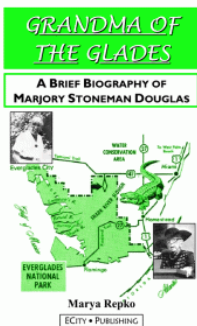
Hardback, 112 pages. 50 color paintings and 9 b/w drawings. **FP - 516**

Price \$17.95 **Member Price \$15.95**

*Please see page 5 for details about a book signing event on November 15 in Northeast Florida.

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.**

Florida's Fishing Legends and Pioneers

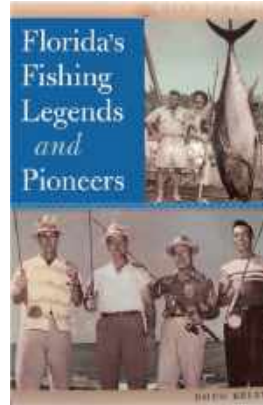
by Doug Kelly

“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.**



Everglades Patrol

by Tom Shirley



“Tom Shirley retired after 30 years as a game warden with the old G&FWFC. For me it was an enjoyable read since it was about the Glades and his many potentially dangerous enforcement

situations. There is no question that he loved the Glades and took his oath seriously to preserve and protect. He also talks about high water damage and does not hesitate to tell it like he saw and experienced it.” Book Review by Franklin Adams, District VIII Director.

Hardback, 275 pages. **FP - 517**

Price \$28.95 **Member Price \$23.95**

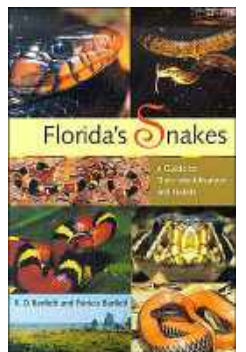
Florida's Snakes

A Guide to Their Identification and Habits

by R.D. Bartlett and Patricia Bartlett

Florida’s human population is on the increase, and residents are more likely than ever to encounter a snake or a legless lizard. This book provides a comprehensive illustrated guide to the 86 species and subspecies of snakes and legless lizards living within the state as well as in adjacent areas of neighboring states. It is the only field guide for Florida snakes that includes native, introduced, and established species plus commonly seen but not yet established species. Each reptile is illustrated with a color photo accompanied by a range map detailing where it can be found. Descriptions provide specific details on appearance, size, behavior, and venomous qualities.

Softback, 182 pages. **FP-422, Price \$24.95, Member Price \$23.00**



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2014 Fishing Planner

from Florida Sportsman

Florida Sportsman 2014 Fishing Planner Inshore and offshore hot fish of the month for each Florida region plus exclusive tips on the tackle, bait, and techniques you'll need to catch them.

Paperback. **FP-316**

Price \$8.95, **Member Price \$8.05**

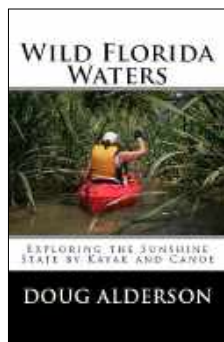
Wild Florida Waters

by Doug Alderson

Wild Florida Waters places Florida's unsurpassed beauty and abundant wildlife 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**



Sportsman's Best: Kayak Fishing

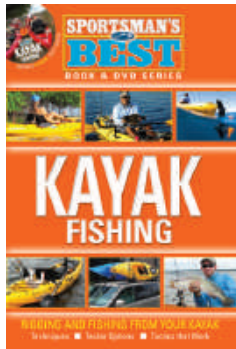
by Jeff Weakley, **Book and DVD**

Kayak fishing is among the hottest trends in fishing today. It's affordable and enjoyable for anglers of all ages, on all waters: the saltwater coast, inland lakes, and freshwater rivers.

In this new book from the publishers of Florida Sportsman magazine, award-winning photojournalist Jeff Weakley covers this fast-growing sport with expert reporting and rich, full-color photography on every page. The book offers advice on selecting, outfitting and transporting fishing kayaks, technique-specific instruction for catching all kinds of fish and is a fascinating window into the evolution of kayak fishing. Dozens of leading kayak anglers from around the U.S. are featured in this book. Included DVD features instruction by author and interviews with anglers profiled in the book, with fishing action from Florida Sportsman and Shallow Water Angler TV.

Paperback, 243 pages. DVD Length, 43 minutes. **FP-519**

Price \$19.95, **Member Price \$17.95**



Living Sanibel

A Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands

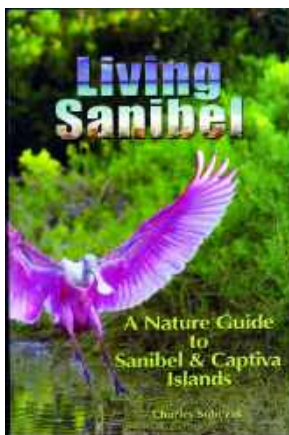
by Charles Sobczak

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.

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. This guide contains a total of 291 species of birds, an extensive shell guide, a complete section on the mammals and sea mammals found on Sanibel and Captiva well as reptiles and amphibians. 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**



FWF's 2013 Fall Greeting Cards

This year FWF is featuring an "Endangered Species" theme with our photographs by Lou and Betsy Kellenberger in the Fall Card packets, which include 12 cards and 12 envelopes. These cards do not contain a holiday inscription. The outstanding photographs and descriptions on the back of the cards written by the Kellenbergers are educational in nature and certainly help to promote the Federation's mission to preserve fish and wildlife habitat for not only endangered species but also for every native species in Florida.

The cards are available online at www.fwfonline.org in the Nature Store. You may also order by phone toll free by calling 800-656-3014.

FP-407, Price \$8.95, Member Price \$8.05



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**



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**

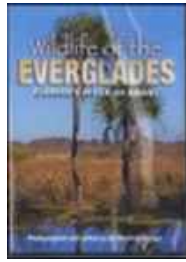
Price \$12.95, **Member Price \$11.65.**



Wildlife of the Everglades: Florida's River of Grass

Dr. Manfred Dangel invites you to a paradise known as the EVERGLADES. This video is the final contribution of the world renowned naturalist, Dr. Manfred Dangel. This amazing video is narrated by Manfred during his last few weeks. It identifies 144 plants and animals. It is a compilation of 15 years of safaris in the Everglades as a guide for Everglades Day Safari. This is Manfred's legacy. Please enjoy this DVD and appreciate the vast knowledge contained within.

Length: 64 minutes. **FP - 518**, Price \$19.95

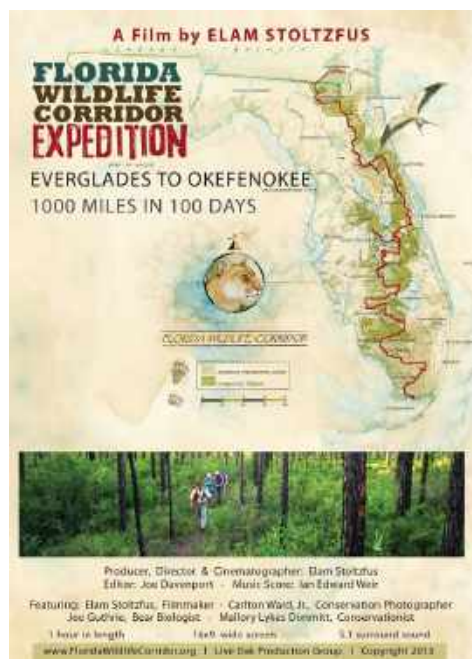


Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition DVD

A collection of stories and experiences woven together in a **NEW!** documentary format. Includes extra video stories and a music video. Produced by Elam Stoltzfus, featured on PBS TV.

1 hour **FP-523**

Price \$20.00, **Member Price, \$18.00**

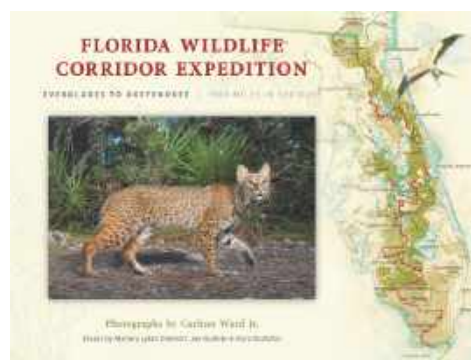


Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition Book

The Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition shows the world that beyond beaches and theme parks, the heart of Florida is still wild--and can still be saved. In 2012, four explorers enter the Everglades and, 100 days later, reach the Okefenokee Swamp in southern Georgia. They paddle, peddle and hike more than 1,000 miles up the spine of Florida to call attention to this remaining natural corridor so essential to the survival of wildlife and to the well-being of Florida's ever-growing population. Stunning photographs by Carlton Ward Jr and essays by fellow explorers bring the story to life in vivid detail.

Paperback, 140 pages. **FP-527**

Price \$24.95, **Member Price, \$22.45**



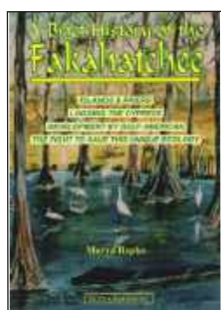
A Brief History of the Fakahatchee

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 time-line, 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.**



The Everglades River of Grass

by Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Before 1947, when Marjory Stoneman Douglas named the Everglades a "river of grass" in this treasured classic of nature writing, most people considered the area a vast and worthless swamp. She brought the world's attention to the need to preserve the Everglades as the unique and magnificent place that it is.

447 pages, **FP - 412**

Price \$18.95, **Member Price \$17.05**



OUTSTANDING FILMS:

Kissimmee Basin: the Northern Everglades

Produced and Directed by Elam Stoltzfus

The Florida Wildlife Federation is proud to announce this outstanding film which is being aired on PBS across the country; check your local listings! FWF was pleased to support Live Oak Productions in the making of this film.



Travel with filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus along the Kissimmee River and surrounding regions. Meet the "Keepers of the Land" and experience a sense of place in the vast open spaces in the cattle country of Florida's private and public lands. Throughout the centuries, the Everglades have inspired strong emotion and debate among

soldiers and poets, politicians and citizens. Its history is as broad and sprawling as the River of Grass itself. Although many stories have been told about the Everglades – from drainage to restoration – few have been told about where it all begins: the Kissimmee River Basin. Restoration and protection of the natural values of this vast, watery landscape may well hold the key to restoration of the Greater Everglades ecosystem.

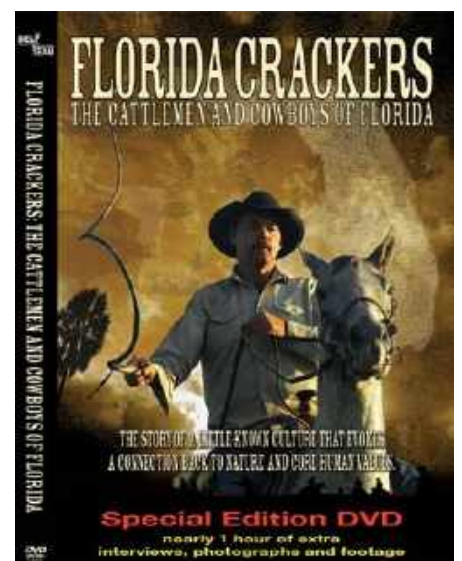
Length: 60 minutes. **FP - 515**. Price \$19.95

Florida Crackers: Cattlemen and Cowboys of Florida

The movie, "Florida Crackers: the Cattlemen and Cowboys of Florida," captures the story of Florida's real-life cowboys; their history, their culture, and the uncertain future they face as they strive to preserve their way of life in a fast-paced modern world. Covering a wide range of topics related to cattle ranching in Florida, the story includes how the landowners strive to preserve the wildlife, land and water. Captured in hi-definition, this one-of-a-kind documentary is a long overdue tribute to Florida's great pioneer culture and lifestyle as well as the Sunshine State's beautiful natural resources and wildlife.

Length: 87 minutes. **FP - 497**

Price \$19.95

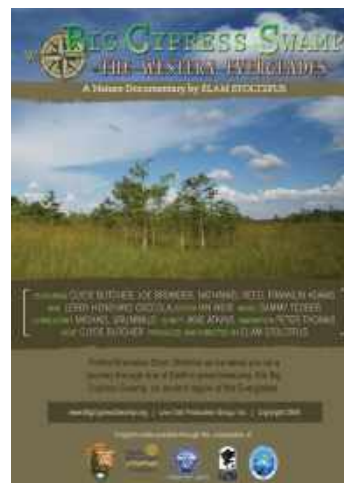


Big Cypress Swamp - The Western Everglades

Follow filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus as he takes you on a journey through one of Earth's great treasures; the Big Cypress Swamp, an ancient region of the Everglades. Big Cypress Swamp: the Western Everglades a visual masterpiece that tells the story of Florida's river of grass, highlighting people who share their passion for this wild place, seasons of scenery that pull you into the rhythm of the swamp, and a chorus of nature sounds scored into a symphony. From grand landscapes to the smallest insect or drop of dew, Stoltzfus brings us into the Big Cypress Swamp its like being there.

Length: One hour. **FP - 479**

Price \$19.95



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*At no charge
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you today!*

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Authorized Signature _____

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**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.

- ☐ Student.....\$15
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- ☐ Family.....\$35
- ☐ Sustaining\$50
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- ☐ Eagle Club Member \$1000
- ☐ Wildlife Legacy Club ... \$5000+

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Tallahassee, FL 32314

or

Join or Donate online at:
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Please send me my FFWN by ☐ Mail ☐ Email

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Answers to Florida Kids' Quiz

1. *Lake Okeechobee. The name means "big water" in the Seminole Indian language. The lake has a surface of 730 square miles, and it is so large that its opposite shore can't be seen from the water's edge. Though it has such a large surface, it is relatively shallow, with an average depth of only 9 feet.*

2. *Though now most of them live in modern houses, the early Seminoles of Florida constructed buildings called "chickees" to live in and for community buildings as well. They were constructed of cypress logs, with a wooden platform or floor 3 or 4 feet above the ground level, to keep the living area above the marshes and swamps of the Everglades.*

Because the climate was so warm, walls were not needed, though in rainy weather, canvas or deer hides could be lashed onto the cypress logs to keep out the rain.

The large, thick conical roof was made of palmetto branches, woven together with vines or thin ropes.

3. *The first Governor of Florida, after Florida became a state on March 3, 1845, was William Dunn Moseley, Governor from 1845 to 1849.*

He was born in North Carolina in 1795, and after his term as governor was over, he moved to Central Florida and became a citrus grower.

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!

Nesting Boxes Available for A Donation

With the holiday season approaching rapidly, now is the time to select gifts that will please your recipients, benefit wildlife and financially support FWF. Bird nesting boxes, hand crafted pro bono for FWF by director Bob Taylor, fit each of these requirements. Bob has now constructed more than 1,000 of these boxes and several have been shipped as far away as New England and to Washington State (and one to Sweden) where they were readily accepted and used by local birds. The small box is designed for blue birds and other birds of similar size. The most popular size



(medium) attracts wood ducks, screech owls and kestrels. An extra large nesting box meant for barred owls can also be made but only by special order and requires a month advance notice.

To make a donation to the Federation and to order your gift nesting boxes, please download

and fill out the order form online at <http://www.fwfonline.org>, or call the Federation office at 850-656-7113. The donation amounts per box are \$30, \$60 and \$150 respectively for the three sizes plus the cost of shipping. Bob can direct the shipments either to you or directly to your recipients. For



Volunteers installing donated nest boxes.

those who want to contribute but do not have adequate space on your property, if you would like to donate a nest box to be placed in an appropriate location on public land in Central Florida by Bob Taylor, this is also an option.

Drawing for the 23rd Annual Boating Sweepstakes is December 19

The drawing for the Federation's 23rd Annual Boating Sweepstakes is fast approaching. Be sure to get your tickets now! The Grand Prize is your choice of an Angler 204 FXLE offshore boat, the Sundance SV211 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. In addition to the Grand Prize, you can also win a \$75 Gift Certificate to Guy Harvey Sportswear which features Guy Harvey pocket t-shirts, dry-release performance shirts, hats, footwear, backpacks, and offshore fishing jackets.

Ticket contributions are \$5.00 each, six tickets for \$25.00, 15 tickets for \$50, or 35 tickets for \$100. You may enter anytime you like by going to <http://www.fwfonline.org> and clicking on the Sweepstakes navigation button at the top of every page. Then click on 23rd Annual Boating Sweepstakes.

The Boating Sweepstakes drawing will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at Florida Wildlife Federation headquarters, 2545

Blairstone Pines Drive, Tallahassee, Florida. It will be supervised by Carroll and Co. Inc., Certified Public Accountants.

In addition, the Florida Wildlife Federation's 2013 Seventh Annual "Green" Car Sweepstakes is giving away an outstanding choice of one of four fuel-efficient automobiles or \$25,000 in cash on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at Federation headquarters in Tallahassee. To check out this year's models click on <http://www.fwfonline.org/Sweeps-Archive/Car/2013-Green-Car-Sweepstakes.aspx>. The "Green" Car Sweepstakes, in conjunction with the Federation's 23rd Annual Boating Sweepstakes represents one of the most important fundraising programs for FWF. The proceeds help us maintain our efforts in promoting fish and wildlife habitat conservation on both public and private lands, clean air and water initiatives, wetland protection, sound coastal conservation policy, Everglades restoration and conservation land protection.

If you would like a set of tickets mailed to you, send an email



to boatsweeps@fwfonline.org or hybridcarsweeps@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.

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***The Sundance SV211 Bay** (20-feet 5-inches)—ideal for nearshore and inshore bay, river and shallow-water fishing—can handle a tournament or a family outing. The wide beam and high freeboard make for a completely dry and self-bailing deck. Standard equipment includes a 48-quart, foam-insulated fish box; large casting deck; insulated well under console front seat; 10 stainless steel rod holders; and comfortable flip-up, adult-sized jumpseats housed under the rear casting deck. The package includes a fuel-efficient, 135 HP Evinrude E-TEC low-emission outboard engine and Magic Tilt aluminum trailer.*

Where There's a Will, There's a Way...

For Wildlife



Rick and Laurie Abbott with their two children.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Rick Abbott. I am a hunter, fisherman, explorer, kayaker, financial advisor, FWF board member, boater, but most importantly, I am a husband and a father. In these difficult and changing times it is very challenging to raise a family with proper values. This task is made easier by enjoying the Florida outdoors together as a family. Whether it is boating and exploring the Chattahoochee River, fishing off the beach at St. George Island State Park or spending a cold December morning in a deer stand, these are activities that are crucial to teaching my children about life.

Preserving Florida's natural habitats are crucial for current and future generations. I know that while I am working my 8-5 job, FWF is constantly pursuing ways to keep the environment healthy and natural for all of Florida's citizens.

I have included FWF in my will. I want to make sure that my children and their children can enjoy the same Florida that their parents and grandparents experienced. **Please consider FWF in your financial planning.**

Please join with Rick and help make sure we and future residents can enjoy a healthy, clean and abundant Florida, which helps not only our environment, but also our economy.

A charitable trust benefitting the Florida Wildlife Federation or a bequest like Rick's is easy to arrange, makes creative use of assets and can benefit your family as well as help the Federation.

For more information on how your estate plan can benefit both you and wildlife, please contact **Tim Bachmeyer**, FWF Development Consultant, at **561-801-5752** or Manley Fuller, Diane Hines or Preston Robertson at **850-656-7113**.

Conservation Calendar

November 7-8, 2013
5th Annual Southeast Florida
Regional Climate Leadership Summit
Fort Lauderdale

November 16, 2013
Florida Panther Festival
Naples, Florida
<http://www.floridapantherfestival.com/festival-info.html>

November 20-21, 2013
FWC Commission meeting
Ft. Lauderdale
www.myfwc.com/about/commission/

November 21, 2013
FWF and Partners Host Peter C Stone
The Whitney Lab, St. Augustine, FL
northeastfwf@fwfonline.org

November 23, 2013
North Atlantic Right Whale Festival
Jacksonville Beach, Florida
<https://www.facebook.com/RightWhaleFestival>

November 24, 2013
FWF and Partners Host Peter C Stone
Florida Museum of Natural History,
Gainesville
northeastfwf@fwfonline.org

December 12, 2013 FWF Car Sweepstakes
Drawing at 3:00 p.m. at
FWF Headquarters in Tallahassee

December 19, 2013 FWF Boating Sweepstakes
Drawing at 3:00 p.m. at
FWF Headquarters in Tallahassee

January 9-11, 2014
Everglades Coalition Annual Conference
Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club
<http://www.evergladescoalition.org/conference.html>

January 31-February 2, 2014
FWF Board of Directors Meeting
Gainesville Hilton & Prairie Creek
Lodge
dhines@fwfonline.org

February 12-13, 2014
FWC Commission Meeting
Tampa area
www.myfwc.com/about/commission

April 11-13, 2014
FWF Board of Directors Meeting
Tallahassee

June 20-22, 2014
SWFL Office 20th Anniversary Gala
FWF Board Meeting & Banquet
Naples Hilton
dhines@fwfonline.org