

Florida Fish and Wildlife News



Florida Wildlife Federation

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936!

FFWN is printed on recycled paper, ISSN 1520-8214

We're on Facebook and Twitter @FIWildFed
To follow us, just go to
www.fwfonline.org
and look for:



Volume 29, Issue 4

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

November 2015

Alligator Alley Still Deadly For Panthers

by Nancy Anne Payton
Southwest Florida Field Representative

In the nine mile stretch of Alligator Alley/I-75 from the Faka-Union Canal bridge west to the Naples toll booth, there have been an alarming 14 Florida panther deaths from vehicle collisions since May 2004.

The 10ft high wildlife exclusionary fencing terminates at the east side of the Faka-Union Canal bridge, thus present fencing does not help the panthers.



Florida Panther using an underpass despite the temporary inconvenience of high water. Photo courtesy of FGCU Wings of Hope Panther Posse.

Picayune Strand State Forest is on the south side and the North Belle Meade Natural Resource Protection Area/Sending Land is on the north side of this exposed nine mile stretch of Alligator Alley/I-75.

Florida Wildlife Federation commissioned a report from Dr. Daniel Smith to evaluate extending the 10ft fencing. Objectives of Dr. Smith's *The Cost Estimate to Extend the I-75 (Alligator Alley) Wildlife Fencing* report were to:

1. Identify minimum and maximum lengths to fencing needed to effectively reduce panther mortality on Alligator Alley/I-75 from the Faka-Union Canal to the Naples toll booth, approximately nine miles (the above-cited location);
2. Develop cost estimates for fencing; and
3. Provide recommendations on improving habitat connectivity.

Dr. Smith's report is available by sending an email to nancypayton@fwfonline.org.

PAYTON con't page 4

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.

The People's Will, Rising Tides and Oysters

by Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation & General Counsel

The Federation continues its effort to make the Legislature do the will of the voters stemming from last November's election and the passage of Amendment 1. In June, we and our allies filed suit against the Legislature for misappropriating millions of dollars set aside by 75% of us when we voted for Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Amendment. Amendment 1 was passed so that the very popular Florida Forever program would be adequately funded. This program was previously supported by both Republican and Democratic Administrations as it preserved wildlife habitats and precious water resources, and benefitted our quality of life. As you may recall, our present elected officials used the money to pay salaries and fund other efforts we believe to be in violation of the now amended state constitution. The Legislature recently moved to dismiss our Complaint and we have responded that the case should move forward. We have requested that the Circuit Court order the Legisla-

ture to do as the voters directed and establish side-boards for how Amendment 1 money is to be expended in the future. The case is *Florida Wildlife Federation, et al. v. The Florida Legislature*, 2015 CA 1423 (Leon County Circuit Court).

Arguably related to the Amendment 1 issue are the findings of a recent Harvard Law School Center for Ethics survey that found that Florida's government is perceived as one of the most corrupt in the nation.¹ Illegal corruption was thought to be "very common" in the Legislative branch (Florida House and Senate) and "moderately common" in the Executive branch (the Governor's Office). But maybe it is not just the sitting legislators who need to change their ways. Consider this - in the 2014 General Election, 11.9 million Florid-

ROBERTSON con't page 6



Attorney David Guest, Manley Fuller and Lisa Rinaman (St. Johns Riverkeeper) speak to the League of Women Voters on October 21st.

INSIDE:	
MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR AND PRESIDENT.....	2-3
NEWS AROUND THE STATE.....	4-10
7TH ANNUAL KIDS' WILDLIFE HABITAT CONTEST.....	8
HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS.....	11-14
CONSERVATION CALENDAR.....	16

official publication of the
Florida Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870
www.fwfonline.org

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Steve O'Hara



Fall is in the air.

You can smell it in the wood smoke from the campfire. You can see it in the color of the leaves on the trees. You can hear it in the whistle of the wood duck in the predawn stillness. You can feel it in the crispness of the morning air. You can taste it in the jerky dissolving in your mouth as you wait in your tree stand.

Fall is in the aroma of bacon cooking on the camp stove. Fall is in the mist lifting from the surface of the water. Fall is in the flutter of wings or in the rustling of leaves. Fall is in the feel of your gun stock. Fall is in the taste of cane syrup on corn cakes.

Fall titillates our five senses. Fall triggers anticipation. Fall lets us enjoy the wonders of natural Florida.

With Fall comes Thanksgiving, followed by Advent, followed by a season of giving. Throughout the seasons, we savor outdoors Florida.

This is the time of year to give thanks. This is the time of year to anticipate a birth. This is the time of year to plan a giving of gifts.

Fall is a good time for you to express your thankfulness for the gifts of the wild. Fall is a good time for you to repay those gifts FROM the wild with gifts TO the wild.

Consider giving thanks by giving gifts. Give your boss or your employee or your best friend the gift of a membership in the Florida Wildlife Federation. Give your child or your grandchild the gift of a LIFE membership in the Florida Wildlife Federation. Give yourself, and future generations, and the Florida Wildlife Federation your participation in the FWF Partners Program by pledging an annual gift or by increasing the pledge you made last year.

On behalf of the Florida panther, thank you. On behalf of the Florida black bear, thank you. On behalf of the manatee, thank you. On behalf of the gopher tortoise, thank you. On behalf of my children, thank you. On behalf of my grandchildren, thank you. On behalf of all Floridians, now and forever, thank you.

THINK BIG Get Wild Challenge

FWF is proud to be a leading partner of the THINK BIG Get Wild Challenge. In collaboration with zoologist Jim Fowler, the Challenge seeks to restore, protect and preserve our natural world TOGETHER! Stay tuned for more details.



Photo of Jim Fowler.

2015-2016 FWF Officers and Directors Meeting

The Florida Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors and Staff held the annual business meeting of FWF at the Tradewinds Guy Harvey Resort at St. Pete Beach, September 25-27, 2015. The group enjoyed having dinner with Keith Overton at the new Rumfish Grill. Rumfish Grill is a great new feature at the Guy Harvey Resort where visitors can eat, drink, shop and view the big attraction, a 33,500 gallon aquarium that encompasses an entire wall of the dining room. Keith, who is the CEO and General Manager of the Tradewinds Hotel complex, is a member of the FWF Board of Directors. Another high point of the weekend was the Shell Key Sunset Cruise. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the lovely scenery.



FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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

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

Affiliated With National Wildlife Federation

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

CHAIR

Steve O'Hara
4107 San Servera Dr. N.
Jacksonville, FL 32217
904-803-4965

VICE-CHAIR

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

VICE-CHAIR

Tim Bachmeyer
14804 Ave of the Groves #11303
Winter Garden, FL 34787
561-801-5752

VICE-CHAIR

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

2016 DELEGATES TO NWF
Delegate: Jim Schuette
Alternate: Rick Abbott

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Jenny Brock

PAST CHAIR'S COUNCIL

Jenny Brock
Jim Schuette
Linda Stanley
Steve O'Hara
Bob Reid
David J. White
Lynn Alan Thompson
Franklin Adams
Jim Scanland
Tommy Needham
Walt Brandon
Timothy Keyser
Richard Tillis

PRESIDING OFFICER OF LIFE MEMBERS' COUNCIL

David Theriaque

Youth Conservation Director
Samantha Baraoidan
Marilu Morgan

NORTHWEST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Lou Kellenberger
3523 Westford Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309
850-570-2421

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR

Steve Theberge
3616 Oakbrook La
Panama City, FL 32408
503-338-0420

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR

Curt Kiser
5385 WPA Rd
Lamont, FL 32336
850-591-5416

NORTHEAST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Richard Hamann
2020 SE 32nd Place, Gainesville, FL 32641
352-273-0842

DISTRICT III DIRECTOR

John Jopling
5323 NW 92nd Way
Gainesville, FL 32653
352-538-4154

DISTRICT IV DIRECTOR

Mark Middlebrook
212 Sailfish Dr
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
904-509-0918

CENTRAL REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Appointment Pending

DISTRICT V DIRECTOR

Jay H. Exum
2253 Peachleaf Ct
Longwood, FL 32779
321-229-5653

DISTRICT VI DIRECTOR

Adelaide (Alex) Sink
PO Box 219
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

SOUTHERN REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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

DISTRICT VII DIRECTOR

Linda Stanley
5665 Summit Blvd
West Palm Bch, FL 33415
561-312-3918

DISTRICT VIII DIRECTOR

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

EIGHT AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Joseph Atterbury
5393 Penneck Point Rd
Jupiter, FL 33458
561-371-0532

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

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

Ray Carthy
U.F. Coop Unit
PO Box 110485
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-213-5851

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

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

Bobbie Lindsay
212 Caribbean Rd
Palm Beach, FL 33489
561-797-9405

Keith Overton
5600 Gulf Blvd.
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
727-432-3428

STAFF

TALLAHASSEE OFFICE

PRESIDENT

Manley K. Fuller, III

Vice President for Conservation & General Counsel
Preston T. Robertson

Vice President of Administration
Diane Hines

**Membership & Database
Coordinator**
Lynn Jones

Policy Consultant
Jay Liles

**Executive
Administrative Assistant**
Michelle Forman

Communications Specialist
Cole Sousa

Administrative Assistant
Tessa Kleck

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

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

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

The Florida Fish and Wildlife News is published quarterly by the
Florida Wildlife Federation
2545 Blainstone Pines Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301.
ISSN: 1520-8214

EDITOR in CHIEF
Manley K. Fuller, III

CONTACT US AT
dhines@fwfonline.org

No original material may be reproduced without written consent
from the publisher.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller

Dear Florida Wildlife Federation members,

Thank you for your generous support of FWF!

Our legal action seeking proper use of Amendment 1 funds continues; see Preston's article on the first page. We have our next hearing on this matter on December 3rd. We contend that the Legislature misspent over 237 million dollars that should have gone to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. We are seeking to have those funds replaced from the state's budget surplus. Our case will proceed while the Legislature is working on next year's budget and even as we again call for proper use of these funds to further critical conservation land acquisition as intended by the voters. We appreciate and welcome your support of FWF's work on behalf of the correct use of conservation dollars. I recently enjoyed participating in a League of Women Voters forum in Melbourne along with our lead attorney on the Amendment 1 challenge, David Guest of Earthjustice, co-plaintiff representative Lisa Rinaman (St. John's Riverkeeper) and Linda Bremer (Sierra Club).

In a "Win for Wildlife," as we are going to press, we learned that the Florida Department of Transportation plans to add additional wildlife fencing along Interstate 75 east of Naples, where there have been a number of recent Florida panther deaths. Getting this fencing in is a critical element of Florida Wildlife Federation's ongoing panther protection work in southwest Florida (please see Nancy Payton's article on pages 1 and 4 for more details). We will also be sending out a detailed description of DOT's

plan to extend the fencing as soon as possible.

I wanted to note that the Federation has assisted in a new film, "Battle for the Barriers," with FWF Director Tom Evans, produced by Sharon Baker and Pascal Dieckmann of Teleduction Studios. We will be premiering this film at the Fort Lauderdale Film Festival at the Cinema Paradiso at 5:30 p.m. on November 19. We are also proud to have been involved in another film, "Coastal Dune Lakes" by Elam Stoltzfus of Live Oak Productions. Florida Wildlife Federation and 1,000 Friends of Florida have challenged recent actions by Walton County regarding their dune lake regulations. We are advocating rules which better protect the water quality of the rare dune lakes. Elam Stoltzfus describes and displays the dune lakes in his beautiful film.

In addition to those films, Rhett Turner recently premiered his new film "Secrets of Longleaf" in Thomasville, Georgia. I had the pleasure of seeing that presentation and encourage everyone to see this film when it appears on public television in the near future. It is an excellent work and includes regional projects relating to the red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snake, gopher tortoise and pineland ant communities focusing on Dr. Walter Tschinkel's research and the vital role which private and public lands play in longleaf pine recovery. Dr. Matt Aresco and Stella Davis' Nokuse Plantation are featured in the film highlighting groundbreaking gopher tortoise restoration. "Secrets of Longleaf" also portrays the critical support of private landowners such as Nokuse and private quail plantations in longleaf restoration.

I had a rare treat recently in Washington, D. C. at the Water Protection Network Meeting. At the last minute, I received a ticket to view, from the Capitol grounds, Pope Francis' address to a joint session of Congress. In his delivery to Congress, the Pope covered many topics. Pope Francis noted the critical role and responsibility that people have as stewards of this marvelous planet. He challenged us to protect habitat for our fellow creatures, reduce pollution and to address climate change through human ingenuity. He believes that our economic activity and creativity should benefit both people and nature. I found this message uplifting and inspirational as I suspect many of you did.

At the upcoming Everglades Coalition Annual Conference in January, we will be emphasizing the critical role Everglades Restoration plays in protect-

NEW FWF Photo Contest

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the launching of its new FWF Photo Contest. The Contest celebrates the enjoyment of taking photos in Florida's great outdoors and promotes FWF's mission encouraging citizens to participate in sustainable outdoor recreation.

Members, supporters and friends of Florida's fish, wildlife and their habitats are encouraged to enter. Anyone over the age of 12 may enter the contest (with the exception of FWF staff members). Entrants have an opportunity to win \$250 in cash, a tablet (Kindle Fire) and more! It has never been easier to capture images in Florida's outdoors – use your camera, smartphone, or tablet to document the wild world around you. Enter your most compelling nature images and photos of Florida today at www.snappiephoto.com.

Entries will be accepted until December 31, 2015. There are eight categories: Birds, Flowers, Portrait, Macro, Sunrise/Sunset, Landscape, Waterscape and Wildlife. Entry fees are \$5 for one photo, \$10 for 3 photos, and \$25 for 7 photos. One Overall Contest Winner will be selected for the First Prize of \$250, a Second Prize winner will receive a Kindle Fire tablet or \$100; there will be six Third Prize winners. Only digitally uploaded images may be entered. Judging will follow the closing date of December 31st.

Visit www.snappiephoto.com to get started. Contact FWF at (850) 656-7113 for questions.



Photo by Al Hoffacker.



Photo by Patricia Ann Wright.

BATTLE FOR THE BARRIERS (Festival Premiere Screening)

Compounded by sea level rise and stronger and more frequent storms, lives and infrastructure in coastal communities are increasingly at risk for flooding and wind driven destruction from events like super storm Sandy.

Battle for the Barriers explores adaptation strategies and projects in coastal states along the Eastern US seaboard designed to help safeguard the people, wildlife and properties in these storm and flood prone areas.

Speakers scheduled to appear are Sharon Baker, director of the film, Manley K. Fuller, President of the Florida Wildlife Federation, and former U.S. Congressman Tom Evans.

View a preview clip at www.fwfonline.org.

Info and tickets:

<http://www.fliff.com/movies/battle-for-the-barriers/#tickets>

05:30 pm - Thursday November 19th, 2015
Cinema Paradiso - Lauderdale - Lauderdale
503 SE 6th St, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301



PRESIDENT *con't* page 5

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



PAYTON from page 1

Immediate Actions and Long Term Solutions

To reduce the very high Florida panther mortality due to vehicle collisions on this nine mile segment of Alligator Alley/I-75, the Federation suggested immediate actions and long-term solutions to the Florida Department of Transportation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. All are based on Dr. Smith's report and developed with Dr. Smith's input.

Immediate actions involve extending the 10ft fencing 3.5 miles on the north and south sides of Alligator Alley/I-75 from the Faka-Union Canal to 1.5 miles west of the Miller Canal; and modifying two existing bridges to provide safe, comfortable wildlife passage under Alligator Alley/I-75.

This \$1 million fencing quick fix can be funded using tolls to improve driver safety along this 3.5 mile stretch of Alligator Alley I-75. Florida panthers, Florida black bears, and other wildlife wandering on to the interstate highway pose a hazard to drivers and passengers.

Long-term solutions include extending the 10ft fencing the entire nine miles on both the north and south sides from the Faka-Union Canal to the Naples toll booth and adding two new terrestrial wildlife crossings.

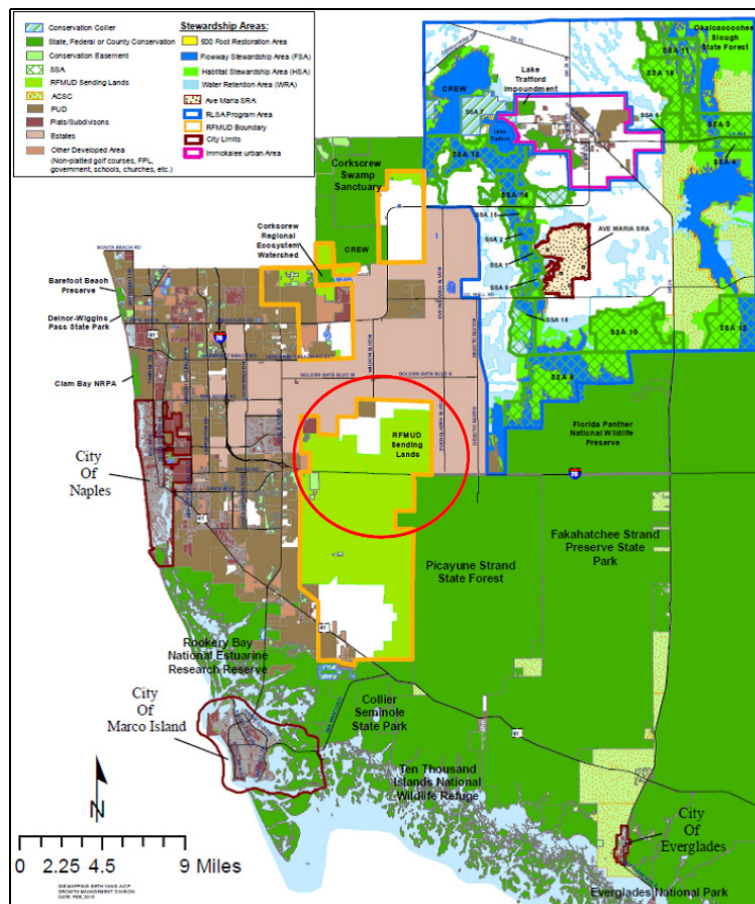
Collier County is embarking on watershed improvement projects that include rehydrating North Belle Meade and conveying water south under Alligator Alley/I-75 into Picayune Strand State Forest. The North Belle Meade rehydration project requires eastern North Belle Meade to be in public ownership resulting in protected land north and

south of Alligator Alley.

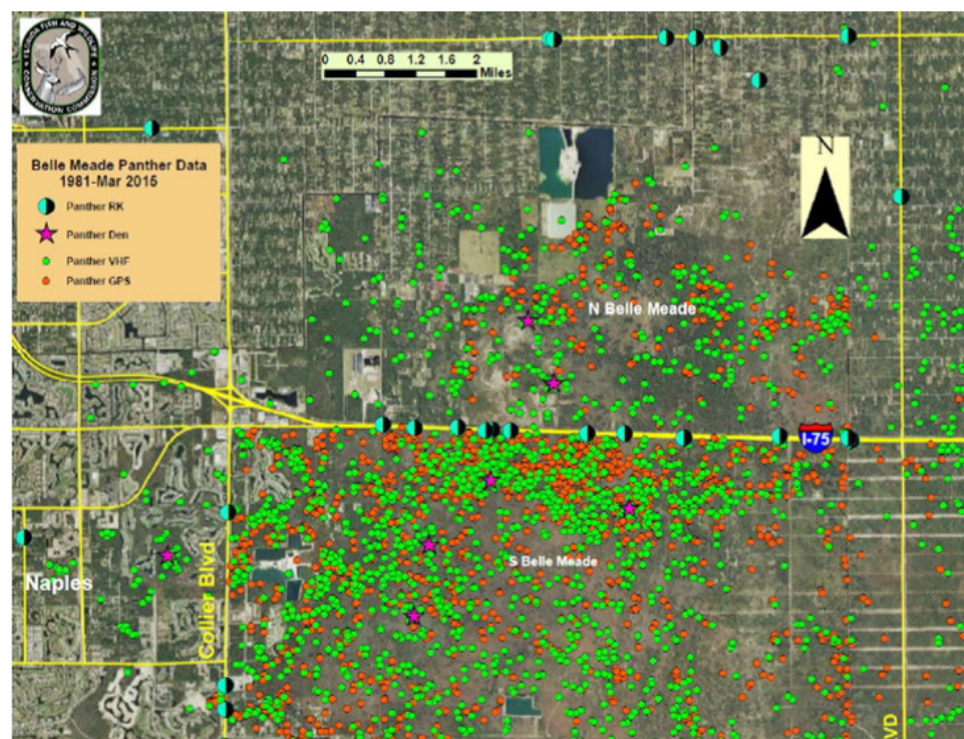
When evaluating water conveyance structures, there is the opportunity to build short bridges with ledges for habitat connectivity; multifunctional water flow/terrestrial wildlife crossings; or water culverts and stand-alone terrestrial wildlife underpasses.

Again, toll monies are recommended to help fund the fencing and underpasses.

The Florida Department of Transportation is actively exploring different options to address this deadly stretch of highway. The Federation will continue to lobby for effective solutions.



Map of Collier County with the deadly section of Alligator Alley/I-75 circled in red.



Close-up map of deadly section of Alligator Alley I-75. Note panther roadkills, telemetry, and dens. Map courtesy of Dr. Dave Onorato, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Mega Landfill on Hold

The proposal by A. Duda & Sons to site a huge landfill in Southwest Hendry County and within the boundaries of its Rodina Sector Plan has been put on hold until 2016.

The delay will allow Duda to meet with stakeholders in an effort to address the many issues that have been raised by the agricultural community, Lee County, Collier County, Immokalee residents, Florida Wildlife Federation, and others.

The proposed landfill and related facilities will cover 1200 acres or almost two square miles. The trash heap will reach a height of 315 feet. This equals a 30 story high rise building, the height of the Statue of Liberty. In addition, the landfill requires a three mile access road from SR29 which impacts another 256 acres.

Over 500 trucks hauling 20-25 tons of garbage would be travelling daily on SR 29 between Alligator Alley and the Duda landfill. SR29 between Immokalee and the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge is already a deadly highway for panthers and the trash trucks will be travelling at hours when panthers and other wildlife are most active.

The Duda landfill is proposed to operate from 6am to 8pm generating significant noise and light pollution. The landfill's major service area will be Southeast Florida. However, no Southeast Florida county has expressed an interest in hauling across the state to the proposed landfill.

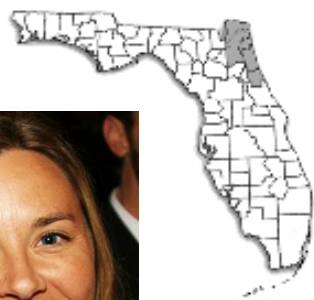
The Federation is on record opposing the Duda landfill and access road because they effectively block regional wildlife movement between Lee and Hendry counties via Collier County.

Hendry County's Comprehensive Growth Plan identifies the landfill location as "long term agriculture." This designation is the result of the 2011 Rodina Sector Plan Stipulated Settlement Agreement with the State of Florida. A reason to designate these lands for agriculture is to accommodate Florida panther movement and contribute to the reconstruction of the regional habitat link.

No 2016 hearing dates have been announced on this issue. The Federation will continue to monitor and oppose this intrusive land use.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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



Flagler County Listened to the Public

If you have ever visited Flagler County's Princess Place Preserve and its companion Pellicer Creek Conservation Area, you know this conservation corridor is a true gem. Princess Place Preserve occupies the central portion of more than 4,000 acres of contiguous public lands. The Preserve's historical, environmental and recreational attributes are outstanding. The Preserve and the Conservation Area provide an eight mile buffer along Pellicer Creek's shoreline, which helps to improve the water quality and the stormwater filtering function of the creek. Camping, biking, hiking, fishing and horseback riding activities are permitted.

Recently, an international endurance race organizer, called Spartan

Races, announced it was selling registrations for a race to occur in Princess Place in Spring 2016. A review of what Spartan races look like and where they generally take place gave many cause for concern. Previous Spartan races have included large mud pits, fire obstacles, barbed wire and large wooden walls. Is an intense high impact race with upwards of 8,000 people compatible with protecting and managing public lands? The lack of public vetting for the site location and the "ready to go" attitude of Spartan organizers vexed the regional community. Like a wildfire, word spread and the community organized and spoke out against the plan to the County Commission via emails, phone calls and Facebook.

During this time, FWF requested a meeting with the county to get a better understanding as to what the race would look like, as at that time, no one knew. The course had yet to be determined nor had a contract been executed between the parties. Although Spartan was selling registrations, it was still preliminary.

In response to the public outcry over the potential damage such a high impact race could result in, the County Administration and Commission pulled the plug immediately. In a state where it feels like we are always trying to protect the integrity of our public lands from incompatible uses, Flagler County should be commended for nipping this one in the bud.

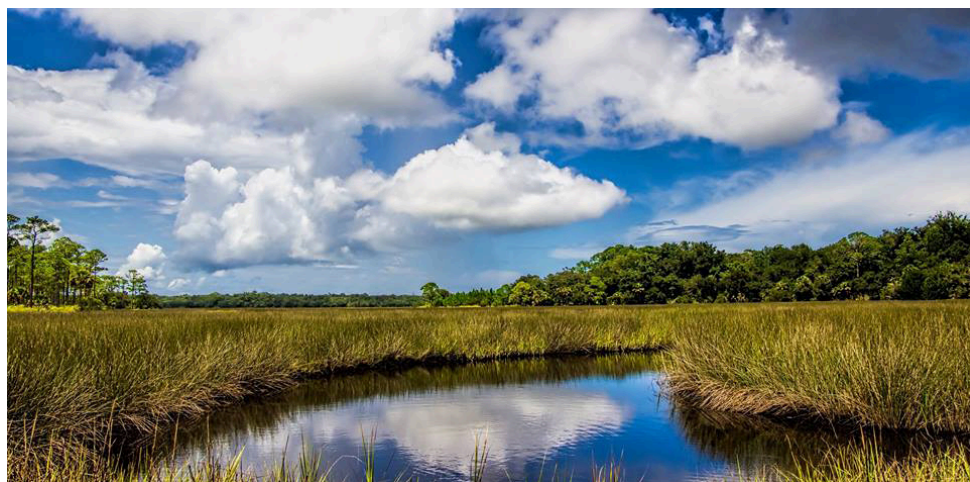


Photo Courtesy of George Berner.

PRESIDENT from page 3

ing and restoring habitats which support both recreational and commercial fishing, both of which are very important to Florida's economy.

In closing, I want to note that clear and increasing scientific evidence indicates that Florida is experiencing sea level rise, and that the risk of coastal flooding has increased. Florida's economic future depends on implementing a comprehensive adaptation strategy for higher seas. There have been some concerted efforts to address sea level rise in Florida at the local and regional levels. The state needs to also prioritize this as failure to do so will ultimately disrupt many lives, cost many billions of dollars and threaten property values. The state should not subsidize new development in low-lying, predictably flood-prone areas nor should they place new public infrastructure in such areas. Obviously, such policy change cannot occur overnight but the evidence is clear that using public funds for placing additional infrastructure in harm's way is not a good long-term investment. As scientifically-based sea level rise projections take place, Florida will face daunting challenges in the next several generations. As an appropriate policy direction, we should plan and act now by adopting policies to address the situation. For example, areas subject to flooding and storm surges could be purchased from willing sellers and used as public beach or water access sites and as fish and wildlife habitat. There are many other policy options that can be explored such as strengthening the area subject to the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, which, at its essence, removes subsidies from vulnerable areas.

The highly controversial resumption of black bear hunting in Florida, following a 21 year hiatus, just finished and we will be reviewing the data from the hunt as soon as it is available. We will also be making recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regarding future plans. The Commission and many observers were surprised that in just 2 days of the 7 day planned hunt, 298 bears were officially reported at the check stations. A number of people have expressed concerns that there was no cap set on the number of permits that could be sold and that it was not a good idea to issue 3,800 permits for a total take objective of 320 animals. We have also received unofficial reports

that many of the bears taken were in the vicinity of deer feeders. Hunters and bears are supposed to be at least 100 yards from feeders. The rapid kill rate suggests bear habituation to human food sources was a significant factor. The Commission had determined that in a number of the state's bear management units they wanted to stabilize the bear population and to include hunting as part of bear management as do many other states where black bears occur.

We had previously recommended that FWC complete statewide data collection and analysis prior to opening a season even as it is understand that the bear population across much of the state is trending upwards. We also continue to believe that the focus should remain on reducing human-bear conflicts by taking actions that reduce human food habituation by bears.

In the future, the Federation may recommend that Florida establish a bear sanctuary system within appropriate state and federal lands or with willing landowners who own appropriate habitat. That is what North Carolina has done as part of their bear management program since 1970.

Bear hunting in Florida is highly contentious. It was in the 1990's that bear hunting was closed by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The very best data on the status of bears in Florida needs to be made public by the Commission on a regular basis and unceasing efforts need to be made to reduce human-bear conflicts resulting from intentional or unintentional feeding. The Commission has indicated it will likely continue the hunts next year and beyond and the public will no doubt continue to debate this issue.

Florida Wildlife Federation's goal regarding bears is that we 1) should maintain healthy bear populations across the state wherever suitable habitat exists, 2) reduce human-bear conflicts and continue to support the creation of habitat corridors on public and private lands and 3) that we have a comprehensive series of wildlife crossings in place at suitable locations statewide. The good news is Florida's bear population has increased over the last couple of decades. The challenge is to maintain a healthy population in the face of increasing human development and not allow bear mortality from all sources, including hunting, road kills, euthanasia and poaching to begin to reverse that progress.

Manley



Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation &
General Counsel

ROBERTSON from page 1

ians were registered to vote, but only a fraction actually took advantage of their rights. A mere 2.8 million of us voted in the state Senate races and 2.2 million voted in the House races. Moreover, of the 40 Florida State Senators, 12 had no opposition of any kind in the election and of the 120 House members, 38 had no opposition (so 50 out of 160 of our elected politicians – nearly 1/3 - got into office with no votes needed). If you look at all of the registered voters in each of the Senate and House Districts, only 3 out of the total of 160 actually got over 50% of their registered voters to vote for them.² Is this a representative democracy or republic? I dare say it is not what was imagined by our founding fathers. The least any of us can do as a citizen is vote.

On another topic, even as some politicians continue to ignore the science of climate change and the resulting catastrophic weather, South Carolina has just experienced what has been called a “one in 1,000 year” deluge with up to 24 inches of rain falling in just three days. Billions of dollars in damage and over 10 deaths have been reported. Here in Florida, Miami continues to be ranked as the number one city in the United States to be impacted by the rising seas as our oceans heat up. Street flooding even on sunny days is now occurring, and a new report indicates the financial threat from taking no action. Examining risk assessment and the claims to be made by private property owners against insurance companies, property damages in Miami could well reach \$69 billion in the next 15 years, especially as more construction continues to take place at the shoreline.³

Another water-related issue came to the fore recently pertaining to the Apalachicola River and Bay in the Panhandle. Historic Apalachicola Bay was once world-renown for its production of oysters, deemed by many as the “best in the world.” Indeed, even as recently as 2007, it was estimated that approximately 180,000 oysters per acre existed on the two main oyster reefs in the bay. By 2012, this number was down to 20,000 per acre and has not risen since. The drastic fall in the oyster population is in large part due to mismanagement of the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint (ACF) River system, and resultant disruption of the required flow of freshwater into the bay. Altered flow makes for altered salinity levels and far fewer oysters. There was hope that the US Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the dams which controls water flow in the ACF system from north of Atlanta to the Gulf, would attempt to correct this problem in its mandatory re-write of the Water Control Manual. Sadly, the Corps has just issued its newest iteration of the Manual and it not only ignores the Bay and the needs of the oystermen, but actually proposes to increase the water Georgia could retain, thereby further limiting the amount of water going to Alabama, Florida and the bay. The Corps plans to withhold this water even after the federal Commerce Department declared the Apalachicola fishery a disaster in 2013 due to low water flow. While a lawsuit amongst Florida, Alabama and Georgia continues at the US Supreme Court level, it seems little relief is in sight for the beloved Apalachicola and its ecology.

Even with the myriad challenges we face, the Federation continues to advance the cause of sustainable natural resources and ensuring that Florida retains the special qualities that make it a unique place to live. We thank you for your support.

Preston T. Robertson

¹ Harvard Law School Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics, *Measuring Illegal and Legal Corruption in American States, Some Corruption in America Survey* (December 2014).

² *How Many Votes Does it Take to Elect a Florida Legislator?*, Miami Herald, Oct. 2, 2015, Clark, Kristen M. and Klas, Mary Ellen.

³ *Come Heat and High Water: Climate Risk in the Southeastern United States and Texas*, Risky Business Project, July 2015.

5th Annual FWF Kids' Fishing Day!

The Federation held its 5th Annual Kids' Fishing Event on October 3 on the banks of the Ochlockonee River at the FWF River Preserve in Leon County. With beautiful cool weather and about 50 kids, adults and FWF volunteers, the day was memorable. After a short lesson in how to catch a fish, many children succeeded in doing just that, some for the first time. Some just got muddy and ran around climbing trees. Either way, all enjoyed being out in “the real Florida” and away from the video screens, at least for a short time.

Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers and parents who took the time out of their weekend to come and help our youth get a little more in contact with the real world! It is hoped these kids will get a sense of stewardship over our precious natural resources, and become advocates for a clean and healthy environment.
-Preston Robertson



Cole Sousa and his children.



FWF staff and volunteers.



Caught one!

Marjorie Harris Carr: Defender of Florida's Environment

by Peggy Macdonald

Review by Linda Stanley
Wildlife Legacy Club
District VII Director

Marjorie Harris Carr called herself a housewife from Micanopy for a very good, calculated reason. In Macdonald's totally engrossing account of the life of this dynamic, personable individual, you'll learn why. A highly regarded scientist in her own hard-earned right, for six decades, she was married to world renowned sea turtle expert, Dr. Archie Carr, and mother to their five children, often living in remote places for extended periods, due to her husband's work.

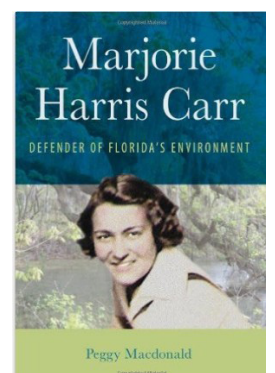
But for those of us, who remember the freely meandering, clear, spring-fed, mesmerizing waters of the Ocklawaha River before the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers dammed it, she is revered for her passionate leadership in saving it and her tireless pursuit of its restoration. Because of her prominent role in the formation of Florida Defenders of

the Environment (FDE), she, along with her associates, forever changed the environmental movement as we know it today. The unprecedented grassroots battle FDE waged on behalf of this small, but priceless, river and its many drowned springs made conservation history. I consider it an honor to have met Marjorie Harris Carr.

To Peggy Macdonald, thank you for a treasure of a book, and to Mimi Carr, your sharing of so many family photo gems truly served to enhance its luster. This one already has its own special niche on my “keeper” bookshelf.

Hardcover,
272 pages.
FP - 543
Price \$26.95

Order on
Page 12!





Jay Liles
FWF Policy Consultant

Insurance Summit Opens Door to Real Reforms

On October 26 and 27 Manley Fuller, Sarah Gledhill and I will be attending our fourth Insurance Summit sponsored by the Florida Chamber of Commerce. What you say? FWF, insurance and the Florida Chamber? Yes, it may seem like odd bedfellows but, as we have reported over the past few years, it is really not such a leap.

The Annual Insurance Summit brings together business, social and environmental leaders who are working to see that state, local and federal governments address the unintended subsidies that promote building in low-lying, flood-prone areas. Low cost flood insurance, public roads and bridges built to shorelines that are regularly flooded, beach renourishment that washes out with every major storm - all at taxpayer expense. These are just a few of the examples of government subsidies that result in new development where it should not be happening because the cost of living there is not appropriately reflected.

We see it all the time - a new development built right by the water, be it on the coast or inland by a body of water. Oftentimes, the builder seems to show little regard for the long-term consequences. In rare instances, you see a conscious effort to build with safeguards in place (and I don't mean sea walls!). This is in part driven by the human desire to live in such scenic beauty. But, living in paradise has a price and not often reflected in the insurance cost or in the social cost (i.e., taxes) associated with providing infrastructure to get there.

The Chamber's Insurance Summit is an attempt to bring a business mindset to the dilemma of how we continue to grow Florida and at the same time keep from shifting the burden to both busi-

ness and families in the form of assessments on your homeowner's insurance policy or in the use of tax dollars to rebuild infrastructure in the wrong places. A balance between economic growth and smart growth and not destroying the environment that brought us here in the first place - that is the goal of these summits.

This year we will participate in a panel discussion on coastal development and the need to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise. As an introduction to this topic we will show the condensed version of our coastal barriers video in which Manley and FWF Board Member and former U.S. Congressman, Tom Evans play a starring role. https://youtu.be/NZ_pKuz5Y4I

Among the major sponsors of the Chamber Insurance Summit are Renaissance Reinsurance, the Bermuda Association of Reinsurers and the American Association of Reinsurers. Each of these entities has taken a lead in promoting wise government policy that helps draw the connection between costs associated with living in flood prone areas and government subsidies that encourage just such unwise decisions. While some politicians attempt to make points by arguing over the cause of sea level rise (SLR), these industry giants have used their resources to apply science and technology to the impacts of SLR. They conclude that business as usual is not an option and that governments need to take steps to mitigate against these impacts and to educate citizens about steps they can take to adapt to climate change. And the first step is to stop digging the hole deeper!

Florida policymakers have dismantled growth management policy over a number of years. In its place is a hodgepodge of local ordinances and "local control" of growth decisions. The Insurance summit provides a place where growth decisions are exposed to the harsh light of economic consequences. Politics is not irrelevant but it is certainly not the driver here. What is at stake is the future of growth in Florida and how we use our seat at the table to help guide better decision-making as seen through the lense this powerful business group provides.

It does not always play out our way but it has resulted in better policy decisions concerning the depopulation of Citizens Insurance and how we address flood insurance. Will it save our coast-

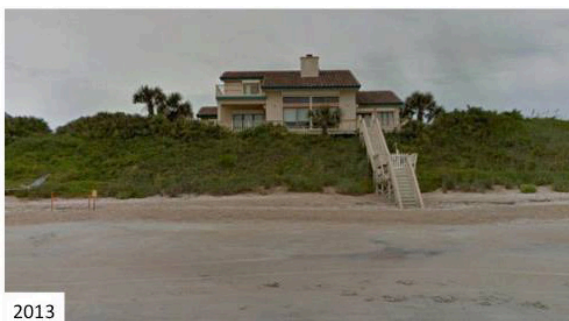
Shelbi McCall Wins FFA State Wildlife Management Award sponsored by Florida Wildlife Federation

Florida Future Farmers of America (FFA) was pleased to announce Shelbi McCall of the Dixie SR FFA Chapter as the winner of this year's Wildlife Management Proficiency Award. McCall and the other finalists of this award were recognized at the 87th Florida FFA State Convention and Expo in July.

McCall and the remaining top finalists received awards sponsored by Florida Wildlife Federation as a special project of the Florida FFA Foundation. Shelbi McCall lives with her parents on a 1,200 acre farm with approximately 320 acres of planted pines and approximately 800 acres of hardwood timber, with the re-



Jana Caricciola, FFA Area 3 VP, Mark Rains; Superintendent, Dixie County Schools; Shelbi McCall, winner of FFA Wildlife Management Award; Mylie Feaster, FFA Area 5 VP.



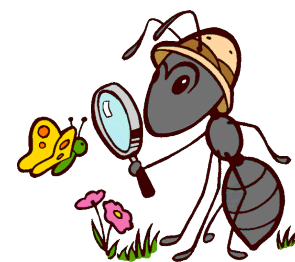
line? While the answer is uncertain we can shift much of the cost to those who should pay for it and it offers a great opportunity to educate our citizens about the true costs of their decisions.

maintaining balance of 80 acres in 60 acres of pasture and approximately 20 acres in lakes. In exchange for her labor with the timberland, she earns 10% of all the harvested products (pine straw, timber, etc.). Since 2008, she has invested her earnings back into the operation to own a percentage of the farm.

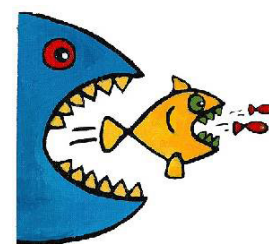
The sectors of the company in which she concentrates most in her efforts are: mowing, fertilizing, plowing fire lines, and wildlife habitat improvement in the pine plantation. She is motivated by improving her management of the wildlife in her timber production operation. McCall plans to attend college and earn a degree in political science. She hopes to one day be elected as the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture.



FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ



1. Are fire ants native to Florida?



2. What are "forage fishes", and why are they important?



3. What kind of milkweed should we avoid planting in Florida?

See page 14 for answers, and more information.

IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in
memory of:

Mrs. Emma E. Gerbert

by Anne Marie Christensen



David Lairson

by Kenna Taylor



Dr. Robert E. Taylor, Jr.

by Diane Van Dusen

by David & France Williams

by Rachell, Ben & River Selser

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

New Eagle Club Members:

Jeanette W. Hyde, Sarasota

Bud Kirk, Orlando

New Life Members:

Irmengard Bettendorf, Miami

Ralph Helms, Baton Rouge, LA

Mark Martindale, St. Augustine

Dr. & Mrs. Carl Dann, III, Orlando

Mary Lynn Sarda, Saint James City

Mr. & Mrs. William Ross, Dunnellon

Thank you for your generous support!

**Legacy Club Members are those who have donated \$5,000 or more in a single gift.
Eagle Club Members are \$1,000 donors and Life Members are \$500 donors.*

7TH ANNUAL KIDS WILDLIFE HABITAT CONTEST COMING UP!

On Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2016, the Florida Wildlife Federation will again award a commemorative plaque and an age-suitable gardening book to the Florida kid or group of 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. A representative from Florida Wildlife Federation will travel to the contest winner to present their award. Entries close March 31, 2016.



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 young 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 for critters you want to attract: food, water, cover and a place to raise young. Send us 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. IF YOU HAVE ENTERED BEFORE, AND DIDN'T WIN, PLEASE ENTER AGAIN!

A description and photos of your habitat can be e-mailed to patricia@fwfonline.org or mailed to Florida Wildlife Federation, 2545 Blairstone Pines Drive, Tallahassee FL 32301.

Email to 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. We look forward to hearing from you.

Congratulations to those members of FWF who earned GreenStar Certification!

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. We truly appreciate all those who responded and requested GreenStar Certification. The program is still up and running on our website, 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.



New Green Star Members

Laurie Channell, Weirsdale

Carolyn Kiel, Port Orange

Carol Brockhaus, Ft. Pierce

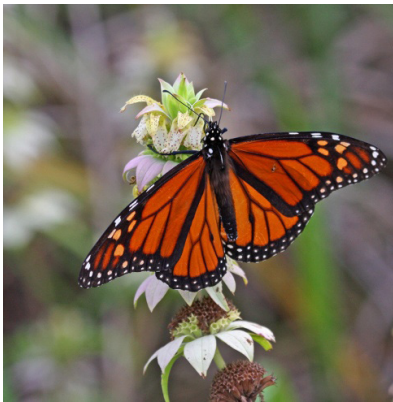
Debbie Newell, Pembroke Pines



Claudia Farren
Communications Consultant

Monarch Life Cycle and Migration

I recently attended the Florida Wildflower Foundation's annual Wildflower Symposium at the Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando. It was two full days of educational seminars focusing on Florida's native wildflowers, their landscape uses for home gardeners, and their natural habitats. On Saturday morning I attended a seminar by Dr. Jaret Daniels, a University of Florida, IFAS Professor of Entomology and Assistant Director for Research for the Florida Museum of Natural History's McGuire Center for Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) and Biodiversity. He discussed the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly and where they migrate every fall.



A male Monarch butterfly drinking nectar from bee balm, also known as horsemint, a native Florida wildflower. Photo by Lou Kellenberger

Monarch butterflies lay their ivory-white eggs on the undersides of milkweed plants. The eggs are very tiny and last only from three to five days before molting into caterpillars (larvae). First thing a caterpillar will do is eat the egg shell which is rich in protein.

As a gardener you might see some of the milkweed leaves in your yard begin to sag. That's when you should look on the undersides for caterpillars. They take a little bite of the milkweed stem to ebb the flow of their "milky" sap. When scientists and researchers searching for mi-

gratory Monarch butterflies see sagging milkweed leaves in a field they know the plants are being utilized by Monarch caterpillars.

When the caterpillars consume milkweed they absorb plant toxins in their wings and exoskeletons. These toxins, called cardiac glycoside compounds, make both the larvae and adult butterflies toxic to birds, lizards, frogs, and other predators with hard skeletons. These predators usually avoid Monarch caterpillars and butterflies because they have learned they taste bad and may make them vomit.

Monarch caterpillars go through five growth stages called instars that last from nine to 14 days, changing colors and growing larger with each stage.



At the end of the last instar the caterpillars find a place to attach themselves to a leaf, a branch, the side of a home, or a fence—and spin a chrysalis around themselves. The chrysalis is green in color and lasts anywhere from 8 to 14 days.



After a week has gone by start watching the chrysalis every day. It will become translucent and you will begin to see the colors of the wings through the shell. After the shell breaks and the butterfly emerges it is in a very dangerous part of its life. It takes a number of hours for it to unfold and dry. Predators often get an easy meal.

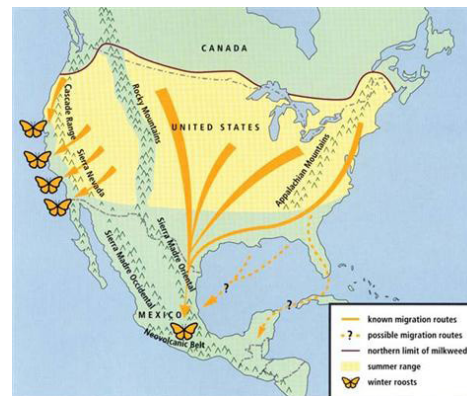


Life Cycle Photo by Becky Robbins.

Egg: 3 to 5 days
Larvae/Caterpillar: 9 to 14 days
Chrysalis: 8-13 days
Non-migratory Adult: 20 to 32 days
Migratory Adult: Average of nine months

For more information see the Monarch Life Cycle webpage from Monarch Watch at <http://www.monarchwatch.org/biology/cycle1.htm>

Adult Monarchs in the spring and summer live from 20 to 32 days, mating several times. The late summer, early fall generation becomes the migratory Monarchs and can live an average of nine months. The Monarch butterflies west of the Rocky Mountains migrate to California and the ones east of the mountains go to Oyamel, a fir forest deep in the mountains of central Mexico. New research suggests that some Monarchs along the East coast over-winter in southern Florida, Cuba, and the Yucatan Peninsula. (See the dotted lines on the map below). Research on their migration routes is ongoing.



Below is a link to an amazing video from February 5, 2015 of one Monarch wintering site in Mexico. After watching the video be sure to scroll down and watch the site maps showing the dates of butterfly migration as the Monarchs flew north this past spring. <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/spring2015/update020515.html>.

According to Dr. Daniels, *Asclepias humistrata* (pinewoods, sandhill milkweed) is the most important plant for the survival of Monarch butterflies in the spring. Its nourishment helps them get back north to their summer destinations. Many travel as far north as southern Canada in June. The butterflies returning to Mexico or California each fall are the third generation of the butterflies that left the previous spring.

Mexico population threats:

1. Small rodents including mice; avian predators such as the grosbeak
2. Commercial and subsistence logging
3. The removal of select trees that opens the tree canopy. This allows freezing temperatures to penetrate the forest, killing the vulnerable butterflies. Originally the fir trees were so close together you could not see the sky.

North American population threats:

1. Modern agricultural practices that kill all weeds in farm fields, particularly milkweed, thus leaving no nectar plants for migratory populations.

2. Growing vegetables and other farm products to the edge of the fields rather than leaving a buffer zone of native wildflowers.

3. Mowing roadside wildflowers and grasses at the wrong intervals.

4. The presence of Neonicotinoids within the leaves, pollen, and nectar of milkweed and other pollinator-friendly plants sold at nurseries. (See Pat Pearson's article on page 10)

5. Protozoan parasites in exotic Tropical Milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) that are able to proliferate mainly along the Gulf Coast of Florida.



Tropical Milkweed.
Photo by Claudia Farren.

Note: There are not enough freezes in winter to kill the parasites. If you have Tropical Milkweed and live above Lake Okeechobee, cut the Tropical Milkweed back now (late October) to keep the protozoan parasites from killing this year's migratory butterflies. It is highly recommended that those living in North Florida should switch to other native milkweeds soon to be more widely available at nursery stores. Tropical Milkweed is native to South Florida and does not pose a problem to Monarchs below the lake.

The Florida Milkweed Project is working to increase the supply and use of native ecotype milkweed to home gardeners and landscape professionals. The top priority is to identify sites where native milkweed (*Asclepias*) naturally occurs and seed can be collected. Next is distributing those seeds to nurseries and providing information related to growing healthy, safe, and sustainable milkweed crops. <http://www.floridanativenurseries.org/info/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/The-Florida-Milkweed-Project-BRIEFv2.pdf>

Resources:

Find a native nursery near you: <http://www.magazinevolume.com/15811CD/#/44/>

Ten Easy Wildflowers to Grow in Florida: <http://www.magazinevolume.com/15811CD/#/12/>

To order the *Guide for Real Florida Gardeners* from the Florida Association of Native Nurseries: <http://plantrealflorida.org>

How to fix a broken butterfly wing: <https://youtu.be/ah0SBALc0o>

Caterpillar photos by Ba Rea.

Neonicotinoids... What they are and why we should be aware of them

by Pat Pearson
FWF Habitat Coordinator

Research increasingly suggests that widespread use of neonicotinoids is an important cause of the decline of bees and pollinators worldwide. What does that have to do with us, and where is our sphere of influence?

Neonicotinoids (often shortened to “neonics”) are a commonly used ingredient in pesticides. Imidacloprid is the most widely used insecticide in the world, and is a neonicotinoid. Bayer, the German chemical giant, is one of the largest producers of Imidacloprid in the world. And yes, they also manufacture aspirin, but let’s focus on Imidacloprid.

The EPA (the United States Environmental Protection Agency) has classified imidacloprid as “highly toxic” to bees. There are a growing number of informed American farmer organizations whose members are refusing to use products containing imidacloprid out of concern for our bees and other pollinators. This is certainly in their own interest, as they need pollinators for their own crops. In Florida, roughly 100 valuable food crops depend on pollinators. Blueberry producers in Maine have agreed not to use this product. French beekeepers and beekeepers in several other European countries have long restricted uses of imidacloprid based on evidence that the product harms bees. German beekeepers are calling for a ban on its use. Almost half of bee colonies have died in both France and Germany. Several other European countries have banned use of neonics.

In the U.S., Lowes and Home Depot have taken actions such as labeling plants that have been treated with neonics and working to stock only plants NOT treated with them. It is possible that Ace and True Value hardware stores will follow in their footsteps. If you have occasion to visit any of these chains, congratulate those who have made an effort, and encourage those who are contemplating taking good steps. ASK ANY PLANT NURSERY THAT YOU DEAL WITH TO STOP STOCKING AND SELLING PLANTS, BULBS AND POTTING SOILS TREATED WITH NEONICOTINOIDS.

LABELING ON PESTICIDES

Pesticide packaging is required by law to list the ingredients on the label for packaging of pesticides. It is worth learning which products contain neonics including some pet flea powders and many household bug killers. Though this article is primarily about bees, the monarch butterfly is also a victim of neonicotinoids. We need to be aware of the dangers to humans and our pets by uninformed and overuse of any pesticide. Poisons are often persistent, which means they can remain and build up in our environments for extended periods of time. This is of particular interest to Floridians, as we must always be fighting to keep bugs out of our residences. We should pointedly question any commercial pest control company before we hire them as to the safety of the products they will be using. We should READ LABELS religiously, and learn as much as we can about the toxicity of what’s in those pesticides.

Here is a list (by no means complete) of some of the neonicotinoids that may show up on labels.

- IMIDACLOPRID
- ACETAMIPRID
- CLOTHIANDIN
- DINOTELURAN
- NITENPYRAM
- THIACLOPRID
- THIAMETHOXAM
- SULFOXAFLOX

There are federal government plans to establish programs to help with the decline in bee colonies. Even so, it will take the self-education of the public and the help of ordinary people to make a difference in this widespread problem. Pollinators are dying now. They can’t wait for government.

Are you in or out in this neonic battle?



Photo by Chiswick Chap.

FWF PARTNERS PROGRAM

Wildlife Advocate

Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus Spurlino
Marilu & Chatham Morgan

Friend of Wildlife

L. M. Day
Madelyn S. Harmon
Arthur Muller
Mr. & Mrs. John Williams
Gail Harper
Dr. Kishore J. Thampy

FWF PARTNERS is an annual donor recognition program designed to provide a continuing stream of unrestricted support to FWF year in and year out. PARTNERS gifts will support FWF’s most critical priorities.

A PARTNER pledges to make a gift each year to join one of the PARTNERS gift clubs. PARTNERS names will also be acknowledged regularly in FWF communications including the *Florida Fish and Wildlife News*, the FWF website and our annual report. Of course, any PARTNER may choose to remain anonymous.

As an FWF donor, member, or friend you **are now invited to join one of the PARTNERS clubs** according to your capacity and to what FWF’s conservation action means to you. The giving clubs are:

FWF PARTNERS Levels

Conservation Visionary - \$25,000; Conservation Hero - \$10,000; Conservation Champion - \$5,000; Wildlife Sustainer - \$2,500; Wildlife Advocate - \$1,000; Wildlife Steward - \$500; Friend of Wildlife - \$100.

To become an FWF PARTNER, to receive a pledge form, or for more information, contact **Diane Hines** at dhines@fwfonline.org or **850-656-7113**.

“Where Bobcats Prowl” © Peter R. Gerbert

***There are a total of ten living creatures included in this painting.
Can you find them all? (see below for answer)***

“Where Bobcats Prowl” a **Special Edition**. Limited Edition Print now available, **signed & numbered by the artist only to 50**.

All prints come with a Certificate of Endorsement by the FWF. Visit www.PeterRGerbert.com and follow the links to order. Framed & unframed prints are available.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this very special, limited print will directly benefit conservation efforts in Florida.
See following page (9).

Bobcat, 2nd Bobcat, Anhinga, Green Anole, Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly, Bluegill, Parula Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, Ladybug, Katydid

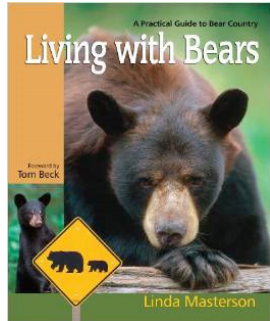


Florida Nature Store

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

Living With Bears: A Practical Guide to Bear Country

by Linda Masterson



With over 900,000 black bears roaming North America today, people from Florida to British Columbia are encountering bears more often,

and as a result, human-bear conflicts are on the rise. This guidebook of life in bear country is packed with a wealth of useful and often surprising information, and down-to-earth advice from bear experts all over the continent, along with real-life stories from wildlife managers, organizations and communities who've discovered creative, workable ways for people and bears to share space. - Understanding Black Bears and Their Behavior - Bear-Proofing Your Home - Safe Trash Stashing - Hiking, Camping & Playing in Bear Country - Birdfeeding, Bee-Keeping

in Bear Country - Gardening, Orchards & Farming in Bear Country - Bear Behavior Modification - Avoiding Encounters & Attacks - Appendix: bear organizations, volunteer groups, state agencies, resources and index Case Studies from National Parks, wildlife sanctuaries and communities in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Florida, Tennessee, Washington, Nevada, California, Minnesota and Canada.

Paperback, 256 pages. **FP - 539.**

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

eGreen 20-pack Zippered Cooler Tote

FWF has a great new cooler for a day trip getting out into the wild or relaxing on the beach! This soft shell cooler can hold 20 cans and is lined to keep items cool.

FP - 546

Price \$10.00



Coastal Dune Lakes: Jewels of Florida's Emerald Coast Book and DVD

Coastal Dune Lakes: Jewels of Florida's Emerald Coast is a 1-Hour High-Definition Documentary featuring the coastal dune lakes of northwest Florida. Journey with film-maker Elam Stoltzfus as he shows you why these lakes are unique and what can be done to protect them.

In order to get a wider understanding of the lakes in Florida, Elam traveled to New South Wales, Australia, to do a comparison study with the coastal dune lakes found there. This will be an important part of the story as two geologists in Australia and the United States compare and contrast the lakes and how they were formed.

The dune lakes are home to a diverse of species—many of them endangered such as the Choctawhatchee beach mouse, loggerhead sea turtle, and snowy plover. In addition, these lakes are important to the region's economy as many visitors come to the area to experience the dune lakes' natural beauty.

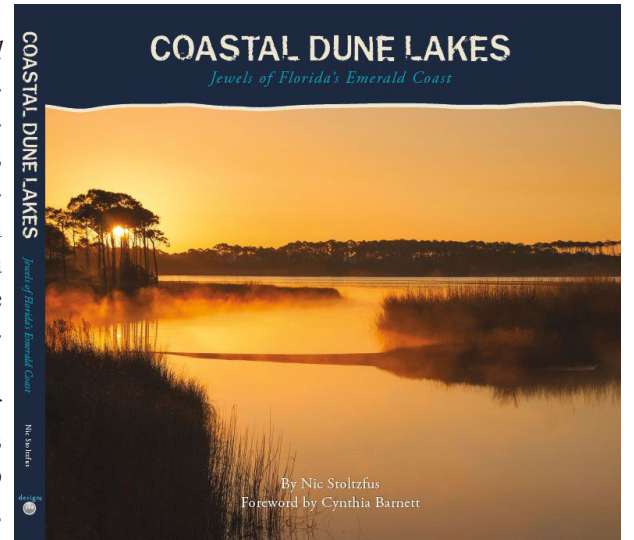
There are many threats to the coastal dune lakes, but the most significant one is human activity. Part of the film discusses impacts to the lakes—and what local organizations are doing to preserve the lakes and surrounding natural communities.

Produced by Elam Stoltzfus - Live Oak Production Group; Presenting Station - WUSF Public Media; Sponsored by: St. Joe Community Foundation

DVD - 1 Hour. **FP - 542.** Price \$20.00, **Member Price, \$17.95.**

Book by Nic Stoltzfus - Hardcover, 120 Pages. **FP - 545**

Price \$44.95, **Member Price, \$40.00**



ORDER FORM for merchandise

For faster service - Fax this form to (850) 942-4431 or visit www.fwfonline.org

FP#	Item	Qty.	Price	Total

Postage & Handling Charges:

Less than \$10.00	Add \$3.50
\$10.01 to \$15.00	Add \$5.50
\$15.01 to \$25.00	Add \$6.50
\$25.01 to \$50.00	Add \$8.50
\$50.01 to \$75.00	Add \$9.50
\$75.01 to \$100	Add \$11.95
\$100.01 to \$125	Add \$12.95
\$125.01 to \$150	Add \$14.95
\$150.01 to \$175	Add \$15.95
\$175.01 to \$200	Add \$17.95
\$200.01 and up	Add \$19.95

Merchandise total	
FL Residents add 7.5% sales tax	
Postage/Handling (see chart)	
ORDER TOTAL	

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

Method of Payment

My check is enclosed (Please make check payable to Florida Wildlife Federation.)

Please bill my _____ Visa _____ MC _____ AmEx _____ Discover

Card No. _____ Security Code _____

My card expires: (month/year) _____ / _____

Name as it appears on card (Please print below)

Authorized Signature _____

**Please return this form to: Florida Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 6870 • Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870**

Your satisfaction is guaranteed! If the product you receive is unsatisfactory, kindly return to us postpaid and we'll cheerfully exchange it or send you a refund.



2016 Fishing Planner

from Florida Sportsman

Region by region, month by month, you'll find daily moon phases, tide charts, and sunrise/sunset times to help you zero in on the best times to fish. And to make things better, the experts at Florida Sportsman magazine give you their picks for inshore and offshore species you should be chasing each month and where to find them. In your planner you'll also find a fish weight estimating table, major season openings and closings and much more.

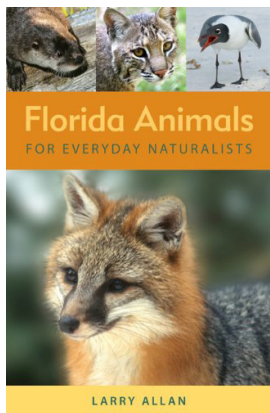
Paperback. **FP - 316**. Price \$8.30, **Member Price \$7.95**.

Florida Animals For Everyday Naturalists

by Larry Allan

Florida Animals for Everyday Naturalists contains everything you want to know about Florida's furry, feathered, scaled, and shelled friends. With lively personal essays and stunning photographs, Larry Allan introduces you to the array of wildlife you might encounter in your backyard, at the park, or on a jaunt at one of the state's many wildlife refuges. Each chapter is dedicated to a specific animal, like the bobcat, the river otter, and the caracara, and paired with vivid photos to help you identify these creatures in the wild.

Paperback, 188 pages. **FP - 531**
Price \$19.95, **Member Price, \$18.45**.

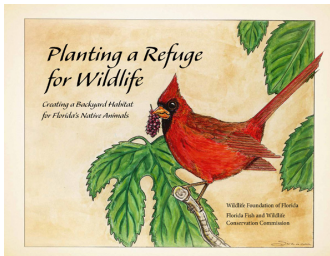


Planting a Refuge for Wildlife

Produced by Wildlife Foundation of Florida

Newly revised and updated, the 40-page Planting a Refuge for Wildlife booklet is designed to help you attract, enjoy and conserve wildlife at home. The booklet provides homeowners with the tools necessary to create pleasing landscapes where wildlife find the food, water and shelter they need to survive. Planting a Refuge for Wildlife includes tables of native plants and lists of common bird species and their food preferences, all designed to help you discover the variety of animals that you can entice to your property.

Paperback, 36 pages. **FP - 532**
Price \$4.99.



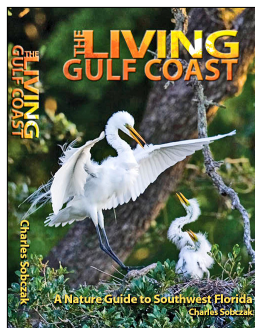
The Living Gulf Coast

A Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands

by Charles Sobczak

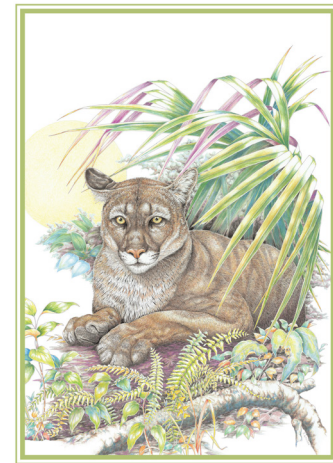
The Living Gulf Coast is the first comprehensive nature guide to Florida's Southwest region. It is divided into two sections with the first half being a detailed field guide and the later being divided by counties and arranged in a north-to-south plan. The book covers six counties: Sarasota, Charlotte, 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**.



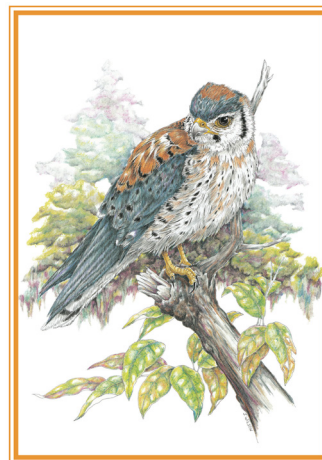
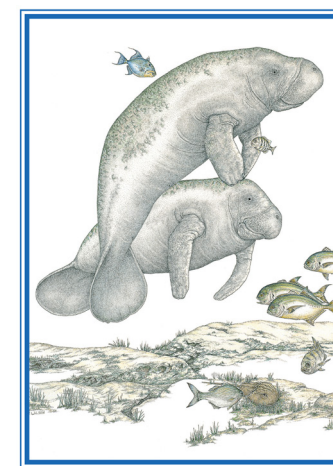
FWF's 2015 Fall Greeting Cards

We are pleased to feature these fall greeting cards with art work by Jim Wilson. Jim's pen and ink drawings capture the beauty of Florida's fish and wildlife. His images are not illustrations or photographs; they are very exacting in detail and color. Jim has made a lifelong career of studying and depicting natural scenes of Florida. Includes 12 cards and 12 envelopes.



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 - 544 Price \$10.00
Member Price \$8.67



FWF POLAR WATER BOTTLES!!



"MADE IN THE USA"

BPA-Free & Phthalate-Free

"Polar Bottle" has never used BPA in any water bottles. Even their first water bottles in 1993 were BPA-free.

Insulated Technology

The double-wall construction of the insulated water bottles creates a thermal barrier of air to keep heat out and cold in. Foil layers reflect solar rays for additional thermal protection.

Special Price

FP- 495
Price \$4.00

Sign up! It's free.

ECO-VOICE.ORG

Early every morning a selection of news items, nature photos, and announcements of environmental events relevant to South Florida is emailed to Eco-Voice subscribers. The daily digest includes links to sources and additional information.

Eco-Voice is a non-partisan, independent, volunteer-run organization that responsibly communicates multiple positions on important environmental issues facing south Florida.



To receive Eco-Voice's daily email digest, go to ECO-VOICE.org and subscribe. It's easy and free. Addresses provided Eco-Voice are not shared, rented or sold.

Florida Wildlife Federation is a Founding and Ongoing Sponsor of this important resource and recommends it to our members.

Answers to Florida Kids' Quiz

1. No, fire ants are not native to Florida. They were brought here on cargo ships from Brazil, between 1933 and 1945, and spread from the port of Pensacola all down the length and breadth of Florida. They spread in the other direction, too. Fire ants now exist all over the South. They are sometimes referred to as the red imported fire ant, or RIFA. Governments of the states that have them now are looking for ways to eradicate them.

2. Forage fishes are the small fishes that make up the food supply of larger fishes in the food chain. They make up about 1/3 of the world's marine catches. Humans eat sardines and anchovies, and much of that marine catch is used to make pet food and fertilizer. So, they feed both bigger fish and people. That's why they are important.

3. We should avoid planting a milkweed called Tropical milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, which is not a Florida native milkweed, and will harm the Monarch butterfly.

Tropical milkweed carries a protozoan parasite called *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) which will infect and weaken monarchs, and is likely to cause the death of the butterfly.

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!

Holiday Book Sale - Please use the order form on page 12

- Encounters with Florida's Native Wildlife**, By Doug Alderson
FP-490, Sale Price: \$15.00 (Was \$24.95)
- Florida Wildflowers in Natural Communities**, By Walter Kingsley Taylor
FP-130A, Sale Price: \$15.00 (Was \$24.95)
- Paving Paradise- Florida's Vanishing Wetlands**, By Craig Pittman & Matthew Waite
FP-477, Sale Price: \$15.00 (Was \$27.00)
- Florida's Snakes: Identification & Habits**, By R. D. Bartlett and Patricia Bartlett
FP-422, Sale Price: \$15.00 (Was \$24.95)
- Paddler's Guide to Everglades Natl. Park**, By Johnny Molloy
FP-378, Sale Price: \$12.00 (Was 19.95)
- Global Climate Change: A Primer**, By Orrin & Keith Pilkey
FP-524, Sale Price: \$12.00 (Was \$23.95)
- A Land Remembered**, By Patrick D. Smith
FP-413, Sale Price: \$10.00 (Was \$14.95)
- Unspoiled: Writers Speak for FL's Coast**, With artwork by David Moynahan
FP-491, Sale Price: \$3.00 (Was \$9.99)
- Kayak Fishing: Book & DVD**, By Jeff Weakley & Florida Sportsman
FP-519, Sale Price: \$12.00 (Was \$19.95)
- Florida's Fishing Legends & Pioneers**, By Doug Kelly
FP-496, Sale Price: \$13.00 (Was \$26.95)
- Backyard Birding Using Natural Gardening**, By Julie Zickefoose
FP-498, Sale Price: \$10.00 (Was \$14.95)
- Kissimmee River: Orlando to Okeechobee**, By Doug Alderson
FP-478, Sale Price: \$12.00 (Was \$24.95)
- Your Florida Landscape: Guide to Planting**, By Robert J. Black and Kathleen C. Ruppert
FP-341, Sale Price: \$12.00 (Was \$19.95)

Florida Wildlife Federation asks:

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

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

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



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

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

Don't forget about a gift membership!

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

- ☐ Student.....\$15
- ☐ Associate.....\$25
- ☐ Family.....\$35
- ☐ Sustaining.....\$50
- ☐ Sponsor.....\$100
- ☐ Life Member.....\$500
- ☐ Eagle Club Member.....\$1,000
- ☐ Wildlife Legacy Club...\$5,000
- ☐ Benefactor.....\$25,000

Please send completed form with check, money order, or credit card information to:
Florida Wildlife Federation

PO Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314
or

Join or Donate Online at:
www.fwfonline.org

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

Enclosed is my payment for \$ _____
Please charge my payment to:
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover
Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____ Sec. Code _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Please send me my *FFWN* by _____ Mail _____ E-mail _____
_____ Please add me to your list to receive occasional e-mail updates.

☐ This is a gift membership from: _____

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA. THE REGISTRATION NUMBER ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION IS: CH-499.

Drawing for the 25th Annual Boating Sweepstakes is December 17

by Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

The drawing for the Federation's 25th Annual Boating Sweepstakes is almost here. Be sure to get your tickets now at <http://www.fwfonline.org/Sweeps-Archive/Boat/2015-Boating-Sweepstakes.aspx>! Instead of four boats, the Grand Prize winner will choose ONE of five fabulous prizes: One of two top-selling, family-friendly fishing boats with low emission engines, or a hybrid car, or an A-frame RV that's easy to tow with many of today's fuel-efficient SUVs, **OR \$25,000 in cash!** The prizes are: the Sea Hunt Triton 188 nearshore boat, the Blue Wave 2000 Pure Bay boat, the Prius Three hatchback, or the Aliner Expedition camper. Get outside with your family and friends and enjoy all the marvelous outdoor opportunities that only Florida can offer.



Rule the Bay in this high performance, custom fishing boat. **The Blue Wave 2000 Pure Bay** (20-feet) is ideal for a family outing or the serious angler. With its 8-foot beam, this boat can float in 11-inches of water. Standard equipment includes a leaning post with fold down footrest plus ice chest underneath, multiple live wells, 100% hand-laid hulls, rod lockers, two rear flip seats with storage, stainless steel hardware, unsinkable foam flotation, dry floor drain system and a 10-inch manual jackplate. Package includes a fuel-efficient Suzuki 115 HP fuel injected four stroke outboard engine and a Magic Tilt aluminum trailer.

Get out on the water in a **Sea Hunt Triton 188** (18-feet 8-inches) center-console nearshore boat, ideally configured for serious salt-water fishing. The package includes a stainless steel grab rail, windshield, 40-quart built-in console cooler, 105-quart insulated bow storage, 20-gallon aerated livewell, rear boarding ladder, rod holders, hydraulic steering, helm chairs, rear jump seats, recessed cleats (4), and the smooth performance of the Vortex deep-V hull design. Powered with a quiet, reliable Yamaha 115 HP four-stroke engine with stainless steel prop, the prize package includes a Magic Tilt aluminum trailer.

Introduced in 2010, the **Prius Three Hybrid Hatchback** continues to offer superior fuel economy with estimated 51 city/48 highway mpg. Due to the unique shape of the hatchback it has a very low drag coefficient of only 0.25, making it one of the most aerodynamic cars in the world. Available high-tech options in the Prius Three model are display audio with navigation; smart key system; subscription-free Entune Apps Suite that includes real-time traffic, weather, Pandora, and Open Table. The 2015 hybrid won a 4-star safety rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Safety features include antilock brakes, seven airbags, and a backup camera.

The Aliner Expedition—Aliner's largest model camper—is an easy-to-tow, pop-up RV trailer ready to handle any outdoor adventure. It weighs less than 2,000 pounds and is towable by many fuel-efficient vehicles. The package includes off-road capability, A/C-heat, oven, stove, refrigerator, microwave, euro-style sink, toilet, inside or outside shower, dinette booth, plus your choice of a rear sofa to foldout queen bed, twin beds, or queen mattress. All water tanks and lines are inside the camper so it can be used in winter. Sleeping capacity is four. Expedition is for the whole family or the couple that just wants more room. Smaller Aliner models are also available.

Outstanding Grand Prizes

SECOND PRIZE: Ten winners will receive a \$75 Gift Certificate to Guy Harvey Sportswear which features Guy Harvey t-shirts, Limited Edition shirts, jackets and fleece, Ladies t-dresses and dry-release performance shirts, youth t-shirts and sandals, hats, footwear, towels and backpacks. Guy Harvey merges his stunning art with high-performance and high-quality fabrics, fits and designs.



How to Enter

Ticket contributions are \$5 each, 6 tickets for \$25, 15 tickets for \$50, or 35 tickets for \$100. Watch for your Sweepstakes tickets in the mail or play online anytime. For more information, including the official rules, visit www.fwfonline.org and click on the Sweepstakes navigation bar at the top of every page. Then click on 25th Annual Boating Sweepstakes to enter. If you would like a set of tickets mailed to you, send an email to FWF at boatsweeps@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" in the Subject line.

2016 "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes Coming Up!

In January, the Florida Wildlife Federation is excited to kick off its Fourth Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes offering some fantastic trips, or the option for a cash prize. Check our website, www.fwfonline.org, for upcoming details.

Steve Giamberdine of Aurora, CO, winner of the Third Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes.



A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA. THE REGISTRATION NUMBER ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION IS: CH-499.

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



Steve O'Hara and his wife, Jeri.

For Wildlife

Steve O'Hara spent his childhood family vacations camping in Florida's state parks and national forests and paddling on Florida waters. He hunted and fished his way through high school and college on Florida lands and waters which were open to public access. These experiences were the foundation for his lifelong devotion to conserving Florida wildlife habitat and keeping it open for public recreation.

In the early 1980s, Steve O'Hara joined the Florida Wildlife Federation and campaigned with other conservationists for public acquisition of the Guana area, a 12,000 acre tract wildlife habitat with 10 miles of undeveloped waterfront in Northeast Florida. This successful endeavor convinced Steve O'Hara that the Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) was Florida's most effective grassroots conservation organization in large part because it so willingly engages with others in achieving common goals.

Since then, Steve O'Hara has served almost three decades on the Florida Wildlife Federation's volunteer Board of Directors. He has also included the FWF as a beneficiary in his will.

"Guana is still my favorite fishing destination. I am a grandfather, and I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to have places like Guana for hiking, hunting, paddling, and other outdoor recreational pursuits. I will leave them that legacy by helping the Florida Wildlife Federation continue its good work for generations to come."

Please join with Steve 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 Steve'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 18-19, 2015

FWC Commission Meeting
Panama City

www.myfwc.com/commission

December 17, 2015

25th Annual Boating Sweepstakes
DRAWING at FWF Headquarters
Tallahassee

January 7-10, 2016

Everglades Coalition Annual Conference
The Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables
www.evergladescoalition.org

January 12, 2016

Opening of the 2016 Florida
Legislative Session, Tallahassee

January 22-24, 2016

FWF Board of Directors Meeting
The Plantations at Crystal River
dhines@fwfonline.org

January 23, 2016

Festival in the Woods
Picayune Strand State Forest
Melinda.Avni@FreshFromFlorida.com
239-690-8031

February 20, 2016

Orlando Wetlands Festival
Fort Christmas Historical Park
Contact 407-568-1706 or
www.CityofOrlando.net/wetlands

April 2-3, 2016

FWF Board of Directors Meeting
Prairie Creek Lodge, Gainesville
dhines@fwfonline.org

June 24-26, 2016

FWF Annual Conservation Awards Banquet
FWF Summer Meeting
Courtyard by Marriott Bradenton Riverwalk