

# Florida Fish and Wildlife News



## Florida Wildlife Federation

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936!

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Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

November 2016

## Another Great Day at the River!



*Roy, Violet and Jasper Carr catch a fish!*

by Preston T. Robertson

Florida Wildlife Federation held its 6th Annual Kids' Fishing Day at our River Preserve on the

Ochlockonee River on Saturday, October 1. While it was a bad day for FSU football, it was a great day for the kids and their parents who enjoyed the cooler weather and just being out in nature. Oh, and some fish were caught as well. Thanks to all the FWF volunteers and parents who took the time to let kids be kids in a beautiful setting away from the computer. See more photos on page 6.

***Announcing the 80th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet, Friday, April 21, 2017 at the Wyndham Grand Jupiter at Harbourside Place.***

***Please mark your calendars! Details to follow in our next issue.***

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

## Please Vote No on Amendment 1

On September 24, the Florida Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors voted unanimously to **Oppose Amendment 1 which will appear on the November 8th General Election Ballot**. The Federation believes Amendment 1 will undermine the growth of solar power in the State of Florida even as the state experiences climate change impacts brought on by the use of fossil fuels which cause global warming. As the state at the most risk from sea level rise, we must promote, not inhibit, the use of clean sources of energy.

**For the many reasons listed below, the FWF Board of Directors adopted a resolution in Opposing Amendment 1.**

- Florida is blessed with an inexhaustible and clean natural resource source of energy in the form of solar power.
- In August 2016, 73% of Florida voters approved Amendment 4 to make solar energy more financially attractive to private users, and the Federation supported the aforementioned Amendment 4.
- The Federation seeks to broaden

the solar market to include independent and dispersed solar electricity production and solar power production by investor owned utilities.

- The proposed Amendment 1, entitled Rights of Electricity Consumers Regarding Solar Energy Choice, to be voted on in November, would likely serve to limit the growth of solar power and thereby maintain our present reliance on greenhouse gas emitting sources of energy.

- The proposed Amendment 1 would likely increase the cost for private customers to use solar power and thereby lessen the usage of clean energy. It would also hinder the use of "net metering," thereby lessening the ability to sell excess power generated by private solar users.

- Passage of Amendment 1 would likely hinder the growth of solar power in Florida by creating barriers to customer-owned solar production.

- The proposed Amendment 1 does not convey any rights to Floridians they do not presently enjoy.

**VOTE "NO" ON AMENDMENT 1 on NOVEMBER 8th.**



Watch our "No on Amendment 1" video on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/StxZAlv7-R0> or by visiting our Facebook page and clicking on the "[videos](#)" tab.

### INSIDE:

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

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Rick Abbott



Hello to all, let me introduce myself. My name is Rick Abbott and on September 24, I was elected Board Chair of the Florida Wildlife Federation. I am a Senior Financial Advisor/VP with Merrill Lynch and have been in the business for over 25 years. I have been married for 20 years to a wonderful woman, who if not for her, I would probably not be here as the FWF Chair. Together we have encouraged each other to follow and pursue the things that are most important to us. Her name is Laurie, and she has her PHD in Nursing and teaches at FSU. I could not be more proud of her. I have four beautiful children, two that live at home and two that live away and have their own families. Although I have been on the FWF Board as an At Large

Director for six years, this powerful entity has been an integral part of my family since the start. Twenty years... you have only been on the board for six you say.... yes, but 20 years ago when I started my family what brought us together and forged bonds that kept us together was the love of the outdoors. Fishing, boating, hiking, photography, hunting and plain old exploring were the glue that kept our family together.

Twenty years ago, FWF was fighting for my rights as a Florida citizen so that the Abbotts would have memorable experiences that would last a lifetime. Clean water to fish in, estuaries for exploring and snorkeling, woods to see and learn about the diverse creatures that make up Florida's unique environment. This is my reason for getting involved. I now owe it to the State of Florida, and to future generations, that they may be able to have and experience what I did. If Mom and Dad could see me now. According to my Dad, he spent tens of thousands of dollars paying for my college classes just to take them over again, because I was busy tickling lobster in the Keys, catching the next big wave at Ponte Vedra Crossroads, fishing for sea trout or red fish off of St. Marks, or chasing rutting bucks in Apalachicola National Forest. This is why I serve. For future generations.

On the subject of serving, for the last four years, I have been elected by the FWF Board to attend the National Wildlife Federation's Annual

Meetings, serving on Resolutions Committees. At these meetings, I have learned that this state organization, FWF, is the most respected and powerful NWF Affiliate in the U.S., bar none. It makes me proud to serve with this organization. It should make our members and partners proud to know that they are part of the best. Having said that, we want to stay the best; time to wash our hands and get back to work. God

only knows, our members have had their sleeves rolled up over the last couple of decades. Now we must continue the hard work.

We need to be united as a front to battle suburban sprawl. If we lose the battle in one part of the state, the attackers will just move to the next available untouched areas. There is an election coming up in November,

*CHAIR con't page 6*

## 2016-2017 FWF Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting of FWF was held September 24, 2016 at Manatee Lagoon in West Palm Beach. The group received a tour of this special facility during the afternoon. A highlight that weekend was a certified guided tour on the beach of our hotel, the Singer Island Hilton, by Debbie Sobel, President of the Sea Turtle Conservation League of Singer Island. She took a group of early risers at 6:30 a.m. to a marked sea turtle nest on the beach, which held one live hatchling, which was released, 50 eggs that had already hatched and 50 unhatched eggs. (Due to extreme summer temperatures some eggs do not hatch, she indicated.) Thank you, Debbie, for this wonderful experience! She is doing excellent work for preservation of sea turtles in the region. Another enjoyable event during the meeting was meeting William Wallace Gibson, son of Terry and Teresa Gibson. Congratulations to the Gibsons on this happy addition to their family. The election of FWF Officers and Directors for 2016-2017 was held during the meeting and the Installation of Officers was conducted by Jenny Brock, Region 4 Director for the National Wildlife Federation, at the conclusion of the day's business.



*FWF board member Terry Gibson and new arrival William Wallace Gibson.*

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To be appointed

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To be appointed

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller

Dear Florida Wildlife Federation members,

As always your support is much appreciated and needed as we address major conservation issues in Florida and those affecting fish and wildlife resources across the country. We want to highlight some positive matters and ongoing challenges. Recently, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) passed Congress and will provide funding for a number of critical elements in Everglades restoration. Passage of WRDA allows progress to continue with the Central Everglades Planning Project. In this highly divisive political climate, it is heartening to find bi-partisan support for federal funding. Most of you are aware that in southern Florida we are currently experiencing high levels of freshwater discharges to the Caloosahatchee River and southern Indian River Lagoon to reduce pressure on the Lake Okeechobee dike. We believe new additional water storage capacity is needed north, west and east of Lake Okeechobee, but particularly south of Lake Okeechobee. We are very supportive of Senator Joe Negron's legislative initiative to acquire an additional 60,000 acres south of the lake to facilitate storage, treatment and conveyance of water south, ultimately to Florida Bay. Florida Bay has experienced insufficient flows to maintain healthy salinity levels.

We recently attended the 16 county coalition meeting in Okeechobee and expressed our support for moving forward on acquisition of lands allowing us to create a functioning third outlet south from Lake Okeechobee thereby (1) reducing damaging east and west coast estuarine discharges, (2) helping maintain water levels in the Lake conducive to a healthy

lake marsh, (3) reducing threats to the integrity of the Lake Okeechobee levee which also reduces threats to lakeside communities, (4) moving water south which can be fed from the reservoir into STA's and flow equalization basins where it is cleaned before moving into the Everglades. Acquisition of the land south of the lake is a politically challenging situation but ultimately it is needed as it is the linchpin for Everglades restoration.

On related matters, we continue to pursue a legal remedy to what we believe has been an improper allocation of a significant portion of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment funds. FWF and our co-plaintiffs are well represented in this case by David Guest, a member of our Conservation Hall of Fame, and Earthjustice attorney's Alisa Coe, Bradley Marshall and outside counsel Ken Wright, as well as other legal allies. Dr. Joe Little has brought a parallel case for Florida Defenders of the Environment. Our attorneys are working together to secure what we consider to be the proper allocation of the amendment's funds. There are a number of legal matters being addressed this fall but it may well be another year before this case is finalized. Note our Motion of Summary Judgment is scheduled to be heard December 5, 2016.

Florida Wildlife Federation is now a part to an amicus action filed in the United States Supreme Court on behalf of ecologically sustainable flows for the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers. The Apalachicola River and floodplain, the Bay and nearby Eastern Gulf require proper flows to sustain the tremendous fish and wildlife resources and ecosystem-based economy of the region. The case is described as Florida versus Georgia and will be heard by a special master appointed by the U.S. Supreme Court to address this dispute starting at the end of October.

Another issue is the proliferation of invasive exotic plants and animals. The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge has a serious problem with old world climbing fern, which can engulf tree islands for which the refuge is famous. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has not had adequate funding from Congress to bring this situation under control. Most of the land in this Refuge is state owned under a long-term lease to the FWS from the South Florida Water Management District. The lease has a number of performance requirements that the Service is required to meet by certain dates. The Service has met approximately 12.5 of 13 requirements but

**PRESIDENT** *con't page 8*

## FWF's 2016 Photo Contest

### New Categories for Kids and Bigger Prizes!

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the second year of its FWF Photo Contest. The Contest celebrates the enjoyment of taking photos in Florida's great outdoors which promotes FWF's mission to encourage citizens to participate in sustainable outdoor recreation. New categories this year include **"Recreation"**, **"Shots on a Mobile Phone"** and a **"Kids' Contest"** for those 14 and under.

Members, supporters and friends of FWF are encouraged to enter, noting anyone may enter the contest with the exception of FWF staff members. Entrants have an opportunity to win \$300 in cash, a tablet (Kindle Fire), \$50 Visa gift cards and more! Ten total winners will be selected. 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](http://www.snappiephoto.com).

Entries will be taken from now until December 31, 2016. Entry donations 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 \$300, a Second Prize winner will receive a Kindle Fire tablet, six category winners will receive a \$50 Visa gift card and the kids contest winner will receive an outdoor backpack. Only digitally uploaded images may be entered. Judging will follow the closing date of December 31st.

Visit [www.snappiephoto.com](http://www.snappiephoto.com) to get started. Contact FWF at (850) 656-7113 for more information.



*Photo by Anthony Goldman.*



*Sunrise at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.  
Photo by Phoenix Marks/Friends of Loxahatchee Refuge.*



## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



### "Into the Woods..."

This school year Florida Wildlife Federation will provide 51 buses for Collier County elementary students to experience a hiking adventure through the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW). This outdoors experience is the culmination of the year long Florida Panther Posse program.

This environmental education project is run through the "Wings of Hope" program at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). College students work one-on-one with Florida Panther Posse

*Every student has the opportunity to participate in the CREW hiking adventure, thanks to this panther themed all-terrain vehicle.*

fourth and fifth grade junior biologists throughout the school year. Florida Wildlife Federation is a longtime partner in this unique and effective wildlife education program.

These experiences build confidence in the outdoors and help participants to better understand the local natural world. The learning process involves hands-on activities, note-taking in a science journal, and use of scientific instruments.

This school year, 3,315 Collier County elementary students will hike CREW with their FGCU student mentors thanks to the support of Florida Wildlife Federation.

The Panther Posse program and its partner program the Bear Brigade were developed and are directed by "Mrs. Ricky" Pires.



*Florida Panther Posse junior biologists prowl through Florida panther habitat. Photo courtesy of FGCU Florida Panther Posse Program.*

### Collier County Takes Action

In 2013, Florida Wildlife Federation commissioned Dr. Daniel Smith to evaluate various types of wildlife crossings to determine wildlife use and to identify the lowest cost, most effective structures for various native species including Florida panther and Florida black bear.

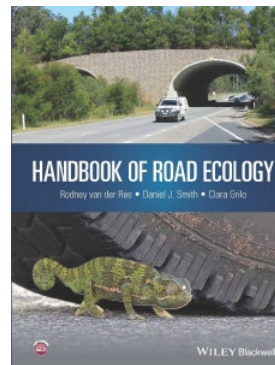
A crossing on CR846 east of Immokalee, Collier County, is included in this multi-year study. Dr. Smith reported to Florida Wildlife Federation that the swale always has standing water in it when he monitors the crossing. At times the water is 15-20 feet across, four feet deep, and easily accommodates alligators. Florida panthers, black bears, and other terrestrial animals using the crossing have to swim the swale to get to the

### The Handbook of Road Ecology

Linear infrastructure such as roads, railways, powerlines, pipelines, tracks, and trails, and the vehicles that travel them, can have massive and usually negative ecological impacts.

Collision with vehicles, weed and pest animal invasion, changes to microclimates, elevated rates of poaching and wildfires, are to name but a few. Fortunately, the Handbook of Road Ecology, published by Wiley in July 2015 and funded in part by Florida Wildlife Federation, provides solutions to each of these issues, plus more, ensuring that if adopted, the future transportation networks can achieve economic growth while avoiding or minimizing the negative ecological and environmental outcomes.

The Handbook of Road Ecology is an authoritative volume with 62 chapters from more than 100 of the world's lead-



ing researchers, academics, practitioners, and transportation agency personnel from 25 countries. The book spans the project continuum, from planning, approval, funding, design, construction and maintenance, with the need for research and monitoring emphasized throughout.

Each chapter summarizes important take-home lessons and principles of relevance to all types of linear infrastructure, and all stages in the life of a project, including retrofitting of existing infrastructure. Chapters are stand-alone, but the extensive cross-referencing ensures that the information and best-practice case studies complement each other without repetition.

With over 550 pages and richly illustrated with color photos and drawings, the Handbook of Road Ecology is an essential reference with practical and innovative advice and solutions. The Handbook of Road Ecology is an accessible resource for government transportation agencies, government environmental and conservation agencies, and wildlife advocates.

Dr. Daniel Smith, Florida Wildlife Federation consultant, is co-editor of this invaluable resource.

Buy on [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-of-Road-Ecology/dp/1118888888) and benefit Florida Wildlife Federation.

other side.

The north side swale connects to the OK Slough to the east and functions more like a canal than a roadside drainage feature. When water is high, it backs up into this swale and across the entrance to the crossing discouraging wildlife use.

This summer, Florida Wildlife Federation sent a letter to Collier County requesting that they install pipe culverts on the north side and create a land bridge for wildlife to increase use of the crossing and keep wildlife off the road. The County was referred to the Handbook of Roadside Ecology for examples of suitable culverts and land bridges.

Collier County quickly responded that they will construct a "driveway with a culvert" from the wildlife underpass to the far side of the swale as illustrated in the Handbook of Roadside Ecology. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Keeping Florida panthers and other wildlife off the highway

as well as increasing driver safety was and is the purpose of a wildlife crossing. Two female panthers (UCFP192 on 04/28/2013 and UCFP210 on 04/08/2014) were killed on CR846 just east of where this crossing's fencing ends. It is possible these panthers and other wildlife preferred to cross at grade instead of using this crossing due to the flooded swale. Where land bridges or "driveways" and culverts are installed to complement crossings, studies confirm that wildlife use increases.

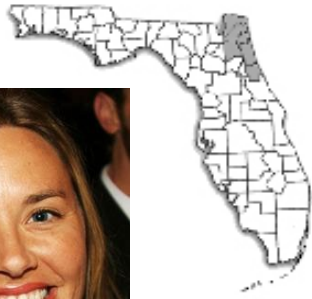


*CR846 crossing at upper right and flooded swale on left.*



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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

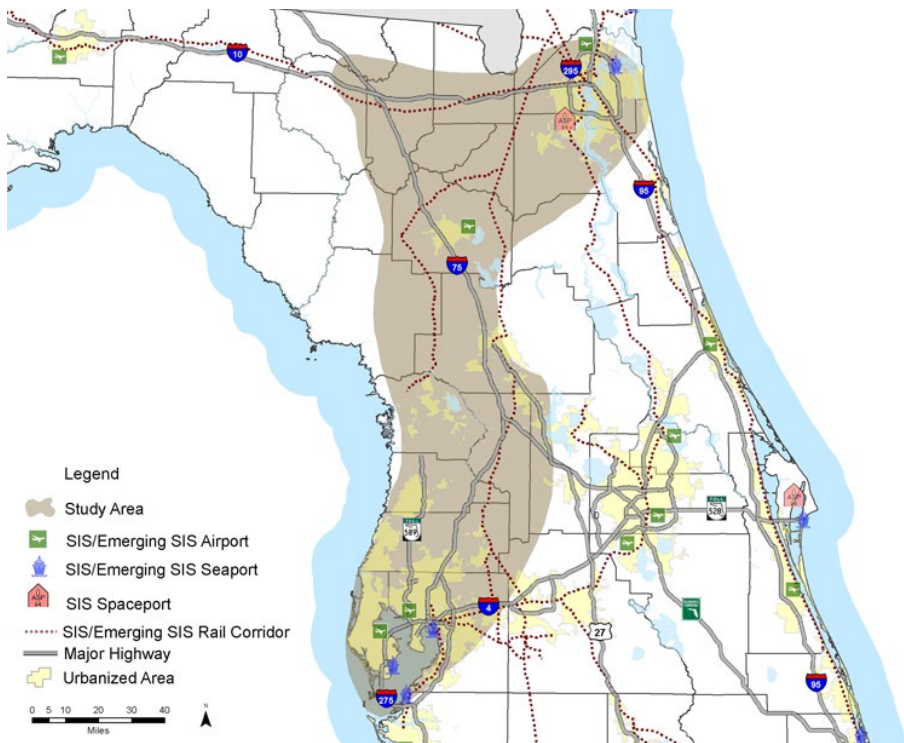


### Future Corridors Planned for Northeast Florida

The Florida Wildlife Federation serves on the Northeast Florida Regional Community Institute's Trans-

portation Committee as it focuses on the Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Future Corridor. The Florida Department of Transportation split the large corridor into two segments. The northeast segment is currently being evaluated in a similar manner as the FDOT Task Force did with the central segment. The committee is looking at enhanced corridors and new corridors and ensuring those corridors reflect the developed guidelines.

FWF continues to serve on the committee and advocate for avoidance of public lands and critical linkages, wildlife crossings and mitigation packages to offset potential impacts. A high priority for FWF is the Ocala to Okefenokee Wildlife Corridor.



### Hallowes Cove Marina, St. Johns River

Rivertown, a large Development of Regional Impact, now undergoing the construction phase, has requested changes to the development order to accommodate a 250 dry stack facility, additional dockage and a boat repair facility with fuel sales and pump-out facilities. The Florida Wildlife Federation is concerned the marina will impact the St. Johns River, a regionally significant resource. Additionally, we believe the proposed land use is not consistent with the St. Johns County comprehensive plan.

Under previous ownership, a marina had been proposed. However, the state and federal agencies overwhelmingly opposed this land use due to impacts on the St. Johns River ecosystem and surrounding wildlife. Moreover, previously adopted resolutions stated that no such facilities shall be located west of State Road 13.

FWF, in collaboration with other regional conservation and community groups, will focus our efforts on avoiding any impacts to the river, its tributaries and the abundant wildlife in the area.

### New Eagle Club Member:

The Mark E. Bryant Charitable Trust,  
Palm Beach

### New Life Members:

Craig Scott, Orlando

Margaret Althouse, Ormond Beach

Judith Depew, Tallahassee

**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 \$2,500 donors and Life Members are \$1000 donors.*

## IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in  
memory of:

**Don Ashley**

by Richard & Anita Cervi and Family



**John Norman Kendrick**

by Roy & Carol Nolting



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







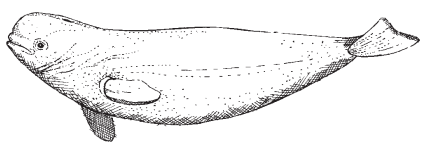
Preston Robertson  
Vice-President for Conservation &  
General Counsel

## Down by the Bay

During a recent holiday trip with my wife, I made the acquaintance of a musical legend, Raffi Cavoukian. He is a legend, at least in my world as a parent, as the singer/songwriter “Raffi” who penned such classics as “Down by the Bay (Where the Watermelons Grow)”, “Baby Beluga” and “Banana Phone.” His songs were for small children, and he filled concert halls all over the world with delighted pre-schoolers and their parents. I knew who Raffi was because my kids drove me completely nuts with that first song. The lyrics are etched into my memory.

Raffi now runs an organization called the *Centre for Child Honouring* based in Canada ([info@childhonouring.org](mailto:info@childhonouring.org)). He told me that after years of dealing with youngsters, he came to the realization that without environmental awareness on the part of our youth, the calamitous path we are on as far as deforestation, climate change and the extinction of species would continue unabated. By imbuing an ecological awareness into children, they better realize that the Earth is the only place we can live and we must protect it.

My meeting Raffi made me consider why we at FWF work so hard to protect what is left of this state’s ecological bounty even in the face



of rapid urbanization, suburbanization and pollution. While Raffi asks “have you ever seen a whale with a polka dot tail?”, FWF is concerned with saving Apalachicola Bay from destructive water allocation and a Tampa area phosphate plants’ release of approximately 215 million gallons of polluted water into the Floridan aquifer, just to name two. The environmental challenges seem endless in our state. But that said, and like Raffi teaches, if we don’t save what we have, there is no spare planet to relocate to. This is it, folks.

Many thanks to all who care about sustaining our natural resources, especially those who support FWF. If we are to maintain our state, let alone our planet, for ourselves and our children, we all need to take part regardless of political affiliation.

**Note:** As of today, FWF and its allies will be in court on December 5, 2016, for our Motion for Summary Judgment in our litigation against the Florida Legislature as to the mispending of the Water and Land Legacy funds. Water and Land Legacy was the Constitutional Amendment that was passed by 75% of votes in 2014 to provide money for land and water protection.

*Preston T. Robertson*



Raffi and Preston Robertson

## 6th Annual FWF Kids’ Fishing Day!



### CHAIR from page 2

and it appears to be dividing family, friends and co-workers. All I can say is, talk things through with your family and vote the issues that are most important to you. I pray that environmental issues get serious consideration as a top concern.

In Florida we are still fighting as to last year’s amendment to Florida’s Constitution to enhance funding for purchase of environmentally sensitive lands and lands that benefit our state’s waterways, rivers, lakes, and springs. I was in my attic this weekend taking an inventory of my cold weather clothes for an upcoming trip to Montana. Ten minutes into it, I was cooked like a shrimp at a political fundraising dinner! After retreating from that inferno, all I could think of was this year’s Amendment 1, which, if approved, will have a negative impact. Remember in Au-

gust of 2016, 73% of Florida’s voters approved Amendment 4 to make solar energy more financially attractive to private users. The Federation supported Amendment 4, and our House of Delegates has voted to approve a resolution to oppose upcoming Amendment 1. Oh and by the way.... after I brought up the topic of solar panels, my wife called a few companies about installation of panels on my garage roof. Stay tuned.... Florida has an abundance of sunshine, and now a select few want to regulate it in their favor.

I could go on and on and on, but I won’t. Help us put back and keep the wild in Florida. United we can win, not all, but a majority. I look forward to serving you and your families in the years to come. If you have an interest in serving this wonderful state through this wonderful organization, please call me direct. The Board’s contact information is on page two.





Jay Liles  
FWF Policy Consultant

## Hurricane Matthew Delivers Another Reminder of Life on Florida's Coastline

Recently, Manley Fuller was asked by the John Marshall Foundation to provide an overview on sea level rise (SLR) for a symposium being sponsored by the Foundation. A central theme of his message was to be the direct correlation between Everglades Restoration and efforts to delay the most severe impacts of SLR on Miami. The evidence is fairly compelling to support the notion that a restored River of Grass may be the best possible means of reducing SLR's slow, but deadly, creep into South Florida's water supply through salt water intrusion.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Matthew had other plans, and the Marshall Foundation was forced to cancel the symposium and, thus, Manley's talk. Had he been given the chance to speak on this topic he would have informed his audience of the work currently underway to reduce coastal development in high hazard zones where repeated flood losses have become a major issue. He would have pointed to the work FWF and others have done with the reinsurance industry to stem the tide of governmental subsidies that ultimately lead to under priced homeowners policies backed by state and federal subsidies. In Florida, subsidized insurance pools are run by Citizens Insurance and the National Flood Insurance Program and they give water-front homebuyers the false sense that homeownership in such flood prone areas is not as risky as it most certainly is.

Besides the unfortunate loss of lives from Hurricane Matthew, early estimates place Florida's total economic damages in the range of 25 - 70 billion dollars. Real estate analytics firm Core-

Logic estimates that more than 954,000 homes in Florida are at risk of surge damage from a Category 4 storm. (As of this writing it is too early to offer more specific estimates than those offered here by Moody Analytics and Enkie Research, however, this is on par with the losses experienced following Hurricane Sandy.)

Thankfully, managers of Florida's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (or "Cat Fund" as it is commonly called) convinced Governor Scott and the State Cabinet sitting as the Board of Administration to up the state's purchase of reinsurance to \$1 billion dollars. That is on top of a record \$17 billion in reserves due to a series of 10 years without a significant storm event. So Florida residents are less likely to see an assessment on our insurance bills, or as we call it a "hurricane tax."

Unlikely that is, unless Florida gets hit by another storm. It is the scenario that keeps state insurance regulators up at night. A second storm on the heels of a Hurricane Matthew would leave no other choice than to go to the bond markets, a costly step that once again, relies on taxpayers to repay the state's borrowings.

FWF has spent a number of years working with reinsurers and our allies in the Stronger Safer Florida Coalition to convince policymakers that private insurance is the best means to cover risks in our coastal communities. We believe it should not fall on the backs of taxpayers to cover repeated flood loss. Congress has been heeding these warnings as they prepare to re-enact the National Flood Insurance Program. Measures by Florida Congressmen Patrick Murphy and Dennis Ross would establish private flood insurance markets. Similar measures have been enacted by the Florida Legislature, thanks to the hard work of

State Senator Jeff Brandes, who annually leads efforts to reform Florida's insurance codes. Federal legislation, by Representatives Ed Royce (R-Calif.) and Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), addressing repetitive flood loss is expected to eventually be wrapped into the reauthorization of the flood insurance program next year.

"Repetitive flood loss continues to place communities and families at risk, while shortchanging the federal taxpayer and all those who pay flood insurance premiums," Blumenauer said.

One NFIP-insured home valued at \$69,000 flooded 34 times in 32 years and racked up \$663,000 in claims, said Royce, the California congressman.

"It's said that insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results," Royce said in a statement. "It's time to stop the madness for policyholders and taxpayers who subsidize this cycle."

We could not have said it better. Florida policymakers will no doubt be asked to replace tons of beach sand lost to Hurricane Matthew. Homeowners will light up their elected representative's phones when premium notices are mailed. Citizens Insurance will, once again, be the target of renewed calls to take on new business and cap premiums. In an age of sea level rise and extreme weather events Florida cannot retreat from efforts to reform insurance and to educate residents on the dangers inherent in coastal living. We have to remain steadfast in mitigating against the worst impacts and resolute in seeing that people learn to live with a constantly reshaping coastline.



Image Thanks To RE Aerial Partners



## FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ



1. Why is it important to know which plants in our gardens are native, well-behaved, or invasive?



2. What happens to pesticides and fertilizers that we use in our houses and on our property?



3. Who takes care of Florida's wild critters?

**See page 14 for answers, and more information.**

*This picture of the St. Marks Lighthouse was shot using a drone flown by Brennan Reyes and Thomas Einarson. Both are avid outdoorsmen and their company, RE Aerial Partners, uses drone technology to capture nature at its finest. You can reach them at [inquiries@reaerialtally.com](mailto:inquiries@reaerialtally.com).*





*Lygodium, which is also called Old World-climbing fern, grows rapidly, blocks sunlight and smothers its host and adjacent vegetation threatening the Refuge's many "tree islands." Photo by USFWS/NWRF.*

#### **PRESIDENT from page 3**

doesn't have sufficient resources to meet its requirements for bringing old world climbing fern under control. Congress has reduced the Service's Refuge budget across the country, so the agency has had to utilize resources from other Refuges to address this issue with critical assistance from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Significant additional multi-year funds are required to control this problem and we are encouraging Congress and the Service to obtain needed dollars. The South Florida Water Management District has indicated that the status quo regarding invasive species is unacceptable and if the Service cannot meet its contractual obligations that they will proceed with the lease revocation process. Right now, the Service and District are in negotiations. There is very strong support from FWF, our allies and most of the public to keep this property as a National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Some suggest that the role the Refuge plays in terms of water quality standards as part of a federal consent decree could be part of the back story in this matter. That is speculative now but we are interested in that issue as well. We believe it is important to keep this property as a NWR for many reasons, but that we have a serious invasive issue there.

For those who don't know, Art Marshall was a true leader in advancing the blueprint known as the Marshall Plan for Everglades restoration in the 70's and 80's. He also served as a volunteer director of the Florida Wildlife Federation during those years.

In a staffing shift, Sarah Gledhill has

just relocated to our Tallahassee office after over a decade of excellent work in Northeast Florida. Sarah will be assisting us with our lobbying work, serving as our statewide expert on planning matters, coordinating coastal and climate sea level rise policy and promoting our wildlife crossings in Central and North Florida. She will remain active in key matters relating to Northeast Florida

and directly with me seeing that through volunteers and additional personnel our critical work in Northeast Florida continues. If you would like to contribute to or volunteer to assist us in that regard please feel free to contact me directly [wildfed@gmail.com](mailto:wildfed@gmail.com) or Sarah at [northeastfwf@fwfonline.org](mailto:northeastfwf@fwfonline.org).

As you can see FWF is hard at work for conservation in Florida and you all

are vital to our mission. FWF also believes it is vital for all of us to get outdoors regularly and appreciate our state's outstanding natural resources. Enjoy fall 2016 and Florida's woods and water.

*Manley*

## **A Bipartisan Approach to Funding Wildlife Conservation in Florida – and Elsewhere**

The challenges facing Florida's wildlife seem to be increasing in recent years – from the green slime fouling South Florida's beaches and estuaries, to the extreme drought in the Apalachicola, to the fish kills and manatee deaths in the Indian River Lagoon. Statewide, native wildlife in Florida are subject to increasing pressure from a wide variety of invasive species as well as loss of habitat from land development.

All of these different stressors are sort of a perfect storm impacting our wildlife—and our way of life. In Florida, there are currently 146 species listed as threatened or endangered or as "species of special concern." But the true number of species in trouble is likely much higher.

Florida, like every state in the nation, has developed a state wildlife action plan that identifies all the species and habitats in jeopardy. But lack of funding means the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation has to focus on the places and wildlife at greatest risk. Florida's fish and wildlife and their habitats also face a number of challenges from invasive exotics like red lion fish, black and white tegu lizards, pythons and invasive plants like old world climbing fern, chinese tallow tree, melaleuca and a host of others. It's like the story of the boy trying to plug holes in the dike using only his fingers and toes – sooner or later the effort will be for naught.

Florida needs a dependable funding source that will allow us to get on top of these pressing wildlife and habitat challenges. The federal bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 5650) would do just that by sending \$1.3 billion annually to all fifty states to help wildlife at risk. The money would come from existing revenues from energy leases on federal lands and waters. This approach would not require new taxes and has broad support from diverse interests – environmental groups, the energy industry, outdoor recreation interests and others.

These money will go back to the states and will allow state fish and wildlife agencies – like the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – to implement their wildlife action plans. This combination of fiscal prudence and local control means this bill is gaining strong bipartisan support in the House. Republican Jeff Miller in the 1st district was the first Floridian to sign on as a co-sponsor – we encourage additional representatives from both parties to follow his lead.

However, with the current dysfunction in Congress, it will likely be up to our next president to push for a real solution to this problem. Whoever is elected – Trump or Clinton – needs to recognize that just as we need to invest in our nation's man-made infrastructure we also need a similar investment in our natural infrastructure. Taking care of our wildlife, our air, our water, and our natural systems will be good for wildlife, good for taxpayers and good for business.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is a logical solution to this looming problem. We hope our next president will embrace dedicated funding for conservation, and will urge Congress to allow the states to get ahead of these issues before the push of the challenge is so great that it forces its way through our thumbs in the dike.

Manley Fuller, President and CEO, Florida Wildlife Federation  
Collin O'Mara, President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation



**Florida  
Wildlife  
Federation**

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936!







Claudia Farren  
Education Consultant

## Today's Garden for Wildlife Program Creating Habitat Where People Live, Work, Play, Learn and Worship

In 1973, the National Wildlife Federation launched the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program to "create a movement that personally connects people to wildlife conservation and to sustain that movement through a national recognition of individual commitment." The program evolved over the years growing into the Certified Wildlife Habitat program that ran from 2005 to 2009. At that time, NWF wanted to expand to a larger group of gardeners who did not have a backyard. The current program became Garden for Wildlife in 2010 and includes people who have created wildlife-friendly gardens but have not yet certified them. It's for those who wish to restore habitat for wildlife by planting native plants and installing other habitat features like birdbaths, ponds and nesting boxes. However, increasing the number of wildlife-friendly gardens recognized as Certified Wildlife Habitats continues to remain a key goal.

The Florida Wildlife Federation has been working closely with NWF for de-



Four-spotted pennant male, Leon County.



Every habitat garden is a step toward restoring resources for wildlife.

cadetes to promote certification and this past April the two wildlife conservation groups signed a new contract. Both organizations have committed to growing the number of habitats in Florida and around the nation. New emphasis will be targeted toward education and certification of businesses, rights of ways, and places of worship to achieve 36,000 new Certified Wildlife Habitats by 2019. Another goal is to restore 100,000 to 300,000 acres of rural, urban, and suburban habitat that will include farms, schools and roadside rights of ways.

Using sustainable gardening practices is a new requirement to certify. How we all take care of our landscapes is crucial and far reaching and has an impact on the neighboring soil, air, and water supplies. You will need to accomplish two of these things to help manage your habitat in a sustainable way: follow organic practices, control exotic species and conserve soil and water.

### It's easy to get certified



The Certified Wildlife Habitat application has been updated and it is much easier to achieve certification. The five habitat requirements are food sources, water sources, places for cover, places to raise young, and sustainable gardening practices.

Examples of each requirement are:

- Plant foods: berries, fruits, and nectar;
- Water sources: birdbath, rain garden, shallow dish, or lake;
- Hiding places and shelter from

harsh weather: ground cover, a roosting box, rock wall, or an evergreen tree;

- Places to raise young: mature trees, host plants for caterpillars, or dense shrubbery;
- Sustainable gardening practices: Some questions in this section of the certification form ask if you collect rain water, have a compost

pile, practice Xeriscape landscaping, use mulch and ground cover to retain soil moisture, control exotic species, use native plants, and eliminate chemicals from your garden.

These are just a few examples of the basic requirements to achieve certification. Many of you may remember that years ago it was required to draw a map of your home and garden with all your trees, plants, and water features included but that is no longer necessary. After completing the application, you pay a \$20 fee to National Wildlife Federation who uses the money to increase the number and diversity of Americans that are active in gardening for wildlife. Florida Wildlife Federation receives \$5 to be used for the benefit of our own Florida wildlife.

### Certification is not just for home gardeners anymore

Home gardens are not just the only places being certified. Others include schools and colleges, businesses, government buildings, farms, roadside right of ways, communities, places of worship, museums and other educational environments, and parks.

As of August 15, there were a total of 202,791 certified habitats in the U.S. with 13,641 in Florida. There are

also 11 certified communities, 15 registered communities, and 483 schoolyard habitats. [Click here](#) to see if your community is certified in Florida. One of those communities is Broward County in southeastern Florida. The county is committed to restoring the ecological integrity of the urban corridor. In September 2005, Broward County tied with Arlington County, Virginia to be the first two counties in the nation certified as Community Wildlife Habitats. Other certified Florida communities are Melbourne Beach, Plantation, Ft. Lauderdale and Davie.

There are also 19 communities that are currently [registered](#) with NWF and are working toward certification. It usually takes two years to achieve. The newest communities to register are Sunrise, Amelia Island Plantation, Audubon Park Garden District (Orlando area) and Southwest Ranches.

Certify your [special place](#) through the Florida Wildlife Federation Habitat page.



Roosting box with skirt for protection from snakes.



Homemade birdbath.



## Help Migratory Birds

by Pat Pearson  
FWF Habitat Coordinator

This is the season in Florida for helping migratory birds, both those which migrate to Florida for the winter, and those just flying through our state to more southerly places for the season. Unfortunately, many of them never reach their destinations, and too many of our native birds are on the decline.

Loss to development of old landing places along their migration routes, outdoor cats and pesticides,

among other things, contribute to this decline. Many birds die every year when they collide with glass windows in high-rise buildings or large windows in residences. That's very sad, but we can do something to lessen the carnage a little, as about half of bird/glass collisions occur at private homes.

1. Window screens that are on the exterior side of windows will help. Screens that are on the interior sides of the glass (such as those for casement windows) probably will not.

2. Paint designs on the exterior of the glass with tempera paint, leaving only 4 inches between designs (vertically), and only 2 inches (horizontally), preferably on the outside of the

glass surface. Tempera is long lasting, even in rain, but can be washed off easily with detergent and water.

3. Apply a patterned window film on the exterior side of windows and glass doors. See #2 for spacing of designs in the film. Don't bother with just a few decals scattered artistically over your glass. Birds will think they can fly through them.

4. Build a Zen Window Curtain; my favorite effective, inexpensive and easy to do. Cut a length of bamboo or a 1" x 1/4" slat of wood to the width of your window or door. Drill holes every four inches along the bamboo or slat. Thread a length of cord through the hole, and tie it or staple it securely to the slat. Raffia or twine is nice, don't use a thin string which might not be visible to the birds. Remember that you are creating a surface or a curtain of cords that a bird thinks he can't fly

through. Each cord needs to be longer than the distance from the slat to the bottom of your windows or door (to allow for tying it to the bamboo or slat at the top, and to a weight at the bottom). Give each string an extra foot or so, cord is cheap. A nut would make a convenient weight as it has a hole to tie the cord through. Hang the curtain securely on the top of your exterior window or door frame. I would do the assembly at the top of the curtain and hang the curtain first before tying the weights on. Make sure to leave enough cord to let them hang outside and below the sill of your window or door. This would be usable even for openings on odd-shaped windows, just follow the shape of the top of your windows and cut the cords to whatever lengths you need to reach past the sill at the bottom of the window. That's it!

Happy Birding!

## 8TH ANNUAL KIDS' WILDLIFE HABITAT CONTEST... COMING UP!

On Earth Day, April 22, 2017, the Florida Wildlife Federation will again award a commemorative certificate 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, 2017.



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 five elements for critters you want to attract: **food, water, cover, a place to raise young, and an element that improves and sustains the site.** 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 five 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!

This year, we will pick two Honorable Mentions in addition to our one main winner. Honorable Mentions will receive a framed award, and their Teacher will receive a "Thank You" letter from Florida Wildlife Federation President, Manley Fuller, for work in helping students to preserve Florida's wonderful wildlife.

A description and photos of your habitat can be e-mailed to [patricia@fwfonline.org](mailto:patricia@fwfonline.org) or mailed to Florida Wildlife Federation, 2545 Blair Stone Pines Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Email to [patricia@fwfonline.org](mailto:patricia@fwfonline.org) or call the FWF office at (850) 656-7113 for more information, if needed. See our website at [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org) under programs on the drop-down menu at the top of the opening page for photos and information about previous winners, and the PowerPoint and videos there for general habitat information. We look forward to hearing from you.

## FWF PARTNERS PROGRAM

### Friend of Wildlife

Mary Megalli

MaryLou Pope

Nancy Saxe

Arnold S. Rosenberg

Doreen J. Howard

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](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org) or **850-656-7113**.





“The Panther’s Quest” © Peter R. Gerbert

*“Based on an actual encounter with a wild Florida Panther and the pictures I got of the animal as it ran right past us!” -Peter R. Gerbert*

**SPECIAL EDITION PRINT** signed & numbered by the artist, only to **100**, endorsed by the **Florida Wildlife Federation**. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the FWF’s conservation work and Florida Panther protection efforts. Printed with archival inks on canvas and coated with UV varnish. Image size approximately 14 by 23 ½ inches, \$165.00 (unframed). Please go to <http://www.PeterRGerbert.com> to order.

FWF has numerous programs underway to assist with panther protection. Last year, with member support, the Federation donated field cameras to enable biologists to better study and understand wildlife. The Federation’s panther advocacy work, which has been underway in Southwest Florida for the last 25 years, was instrumental in the building of 46 panther underpasses with five more in the planning stages. Along with connectivity of panther habitat as a major focus for the Southwest Florida office of FWF, the Federation also works closely with FGCU’s Wings of Hope Panther Posse, an education program that has reached thousands of students in Collier, Lee and Hendry counties over the past several years. FWF provides school buses for fourth graders to take field trips into panther habitat each year, escorted by the school teachers and FGCU college students. FWF also provides funds to print the Panther Posse hiking adventure workbook for the students.



Searching for wildlife in the Big Cypress National Preserve and surrounding areas, Peter Gerbert, Captain Franklin Adams (FWF Board of Directors) and Dr. Forest Redding, Jr. (a former Fulbright Senior Research Scholar) encountered a wild Florida Panther on the morning of March 23rd, 2016. Pictures of the encounter inspired the painting above.

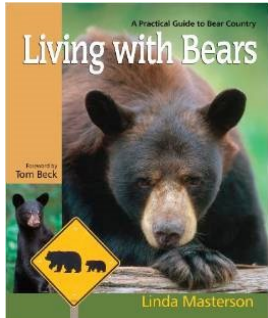


# Florida Nature Store

Go to [www.fwfonline.org](http://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. As a result, human-bear conflicts are on the rise. This guidebook to 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.

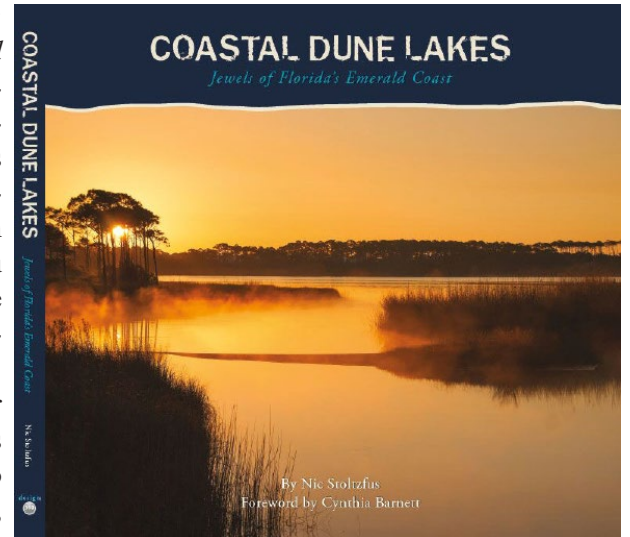
There are many threats to the coastal dune lakes, but the most significant one is human activity. Part of the film discusses impacts to the lakes—and what local organizations are doing to preserve the lakes and surrounding natural communities.

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](http://www.fwfonline.org)

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**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.



## 2017 Fishing Planner

from Florida Sportsman

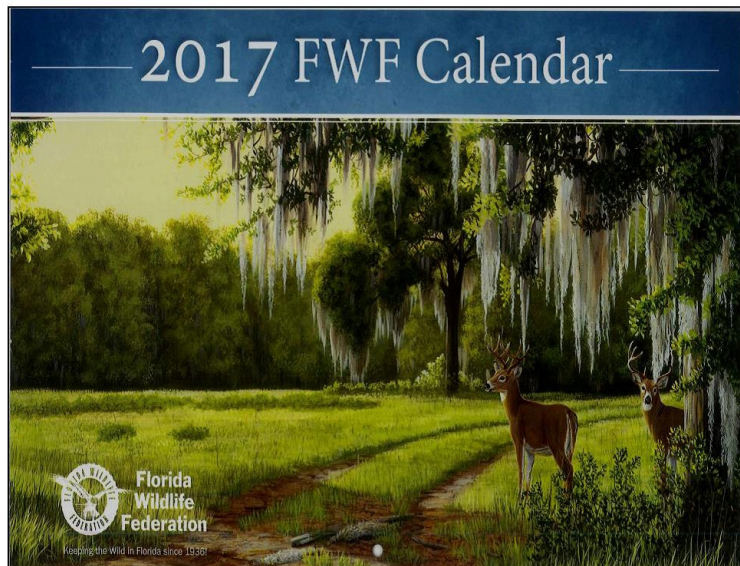


Region by region, month by month, you'll find daily moon phases, tide charts, and sunrise/sunset times to help you zero in on the best times to fish. And to make things better, the experts at Florida Sportsman magazine give you their picks for inshore and offshore species you should be chasing each month 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.**

## FWF 2017 Calendar



FWF features wildlife art work by Stephen Koury in its 2017 Calendar. Stephen's fine art works chosen for each month in 2017 are representative of a variety of habitats, landscapes and waterscapes in Florida. The last four months of 2016 are displayed at the beginning of the calendar.

**FP - 182** Price \$10.00

## 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

## FWF Holiday Cards Available

This year FWF is offering the **2012 Holiday card series for a second time.** The cards highlight outstanding photographs by Charles "Chuck" Littlewood from Silver Springs, Florida. Chuck was a well-known wildlife photographer who concentrated on North Central Florida wildlife and bird photography. To view more of his photos please visit: [www.CharlesLittlewood.com](http://www.CharlesLittlewood.com). The **Holiday Card** packets include **12 cards and 12 envelopes** and include a holiday inscription inside each card.



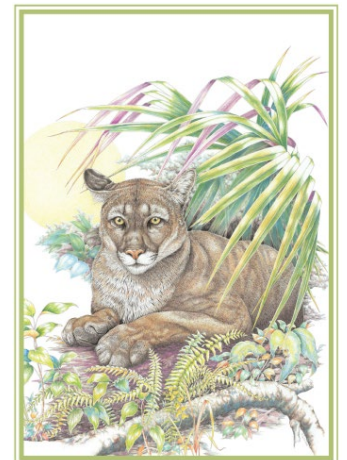
**FP-470, Price \$10.00, Member Price \$8.67**

We are pleased to be able to bring this set of greeting cards to our members and friends. Please order on page 12 or by phone, toll free, by calling 800-656-3014.

## **More Cards!**

### 2015 Fall Greeting Cards

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. These cards do not contain a holiday inscription.



**FP - 544 Price \$10.00 Member Price \$8.67**

### 2014 Fall Greeting Cards

Photographs by Lou and Betsy Kellenberger. 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 every native species in Florida. Includes 12 cards and 12 envelopes. These cards do not contain a holiday inscription.

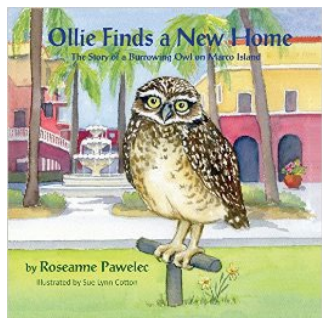


**FP-530 Price \$10.00 Member Price \$8.67**



## Ollie Finds a New Home

by Roseanne Pawelec



Whether you're a child about to move for the first time or an adult who moved as a kid, you'll love Ollie Finds a New Home. Author Roseanne Pawelec has written a touching story about family, friends and the fear of moving. You'll want to read this to your children over and over whether you're moving or not. Bringing the burrowing owls of Marco

Island to life is such a great way to help kids through the moving process. The reader's exercise at the end of the story really makes it a fun interactive experience. This is beautifully illustrated, well written and will make a great gift. We highly recommend Ollie Finds a New Home!

Paperback, 20 pages. **FP - 547.**

Price \$12.95, **Member Price, \$10.95**



### Answers to Florida Kids' Quiz

1. It is important because we should plant our gardens to help Florida's environment, and avoid planting anything that might cause problems.

Native plants are usually easier to grow, usually require less water, and provide natural food (fruit and berries, for instance) for our native critters.

Well behaved plants are neutral, they don't do either a lot of good, or a lot of harm, but sometimes are very pretty and can add color to our gardens.

Invasive plants are nothing but bad, and can crowd out our native plants that we need to keep a balance in our ecosystems.

2. Pesticides and fertilizers can leach (dissolve and travel) into our waterways and harm fish and frogs and other things that live in the water. So be careful with these substances!

3. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are the governmental agencies that are the caretakers of Florida's native wildlife.

**How did you do, Florida Kid??!!**

## 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!**

## 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)
- Your Florida Landscape: Guide to Planting**, By Robert J. Black and Kathleen C. Ruppert  
FP-341, Sale Price: \$12.00 (Was \$19.95)

**Y**es! 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..... \$35
- ☐ Family..... \$50
- ☐ Sustaining..... \$100
- ☐ Sponsor..... \$250
- ☐ Wildlife Steward..... \$500
- ☐ Life Member..... \$1,000
- ☐ Eagle Club Member..... \$2,500
- ☐ Wildlife Legacy Club... \$5,000

**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](http://www.fwfonline.org)**

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.



# WIN One of These Great Prizes or \$25,000 in Cash

## Drawing for the 26th Annual Boating Sweepstakes is December 15

by Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

The drawing for the Federation's 26th Annual Boating Sweepstakes is fast approaching. Be sure to get your tickets now at <http://www.fwfonline.org/Sweeps-Archive/Boat/2016-Boating-Sweepstakes.aspx>. We are no longer limiting the prizes to 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 Beavertail Micro 16 technical poling skiff, the Blue Wave 2000 Pure Bay boat, the Prius v Three hybrid family wagon, or the Aliner Expedition camper. Get outside with your family and friends and enjoy Florida's unique outdoor experiences in style with a brand new boat, car or camper. Play today.



Fish the shallowest backcountry flats in the **BEAVERTAIL MICRO 16** (16-feet 8-inches), a side console technical poling skiff. With a true 5-inch draft fully loaded and a soft, dry ride, the Micro will take you places only kayaks could previously reach. The package includes a removable bow casting platform, insulated baitwell, twin rod holders, Ocean-Grip padding, Moonlighter carbon fiber push pole, Tibor pole caddy, trim tabs, Garmin ECHOMAP 54DV with transducer, and dual storage compartments. Powered with an Evinrude E-TEC 30 HP engine with a stainless steel propeller, this prize package also includes a Peterson custom aluminum trailer with swing away tongue and transom tie downs.

Rule the Bay in this high performance, custom fishing boat with center console. 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, spacious bow casting deck, 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.

The **TOYOTA PRIUS v THREE HYBRID** is the perfect road-trip vehicle and family wagon offering outstanding fuel economy with its proven Hybrid Synergy Drive for an EPA-estimated 42 mpg combined rating. Inside you'll find a roomy interior with 34.3 cubic feet of cargo space. Plus, the back seats fold flat to 67.3 cubic feet rivaling most small SUVs for total cargo capacity. Some of the high tech features in the Prius v Three model are a multi-information display with energy monitor, navigation system, smartphone app integration, and a smart key system. Entune Apps Suite provides real time traffic, weather, Open Table, and Pandora. Safety features include seven air bags, roadside assistance and a backup camera.

Aliner's largest model camper—the **ALINER EXPEDITION**—is ready to handle any outdoor adventure. It is easy to tow by many fuel-efficient vehicles and sets up in 30 seconds upon arrival. The 2016 pop-up RV trailer includes off-road capability, soft-side and hard-side dormers, A/C-heat, 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 a queen mattress. Weighing just 2,000 pounds, its sleeping capacity is four. Expedition is perfect for the whole family or the couple that just wants more room. Other models are also available. It's time to hit the road!

### 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](http://www.fwfonline.org) and click on the Sweepstakes navigation bar at the top of every page. Then click on 26th 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](mailto: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.

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



*April and Claude Ward.*

## For Wildlife

FWF members April and Claude Ward own a very special tract of land north of the Gilchrist County community of Bell, just south of the Santa Fe River. Having bought the original acreage some years ago, they have steadily expanded their holdings and fenced it for security. Eventually, they built a cabin, guest quarters and a stable for their horses. As equestrians, the Wards needed a place to ride away from the bustle of the growing suburbs north of Tampa, and found this jewel in still rural North Florida.

It is very rare to find a place anywhere in this state that has retained virtually all the characteristics of what the land looked like 200 years ago, before development and agriculture changed the face of Florida. The Ward property is one of those special areas. With wiregrass, longleaf pine, turkey oak, sand live oak, Florida rosemary and saw palmetto, it is a very fine example of the habitat known as Florida scrub. The land also boasts one of the largest, and no doubt oldest, flowering dogwoods I have

ever seen. Due to the diversity of this land, it harbors many native animal and bird species, and it is most evident that the gopher tortoises love it. Their burrows are everywhere! In addition, white-tailed deer, barred owls, many subspecies of woodpecker (including the large pileated - inspiration for the old Woody Woodpecker cartoons) call this land home.

The Wards manage the property with the assistance of "Godzilla", a Japanese mini-truck that serves as their all-terrain vehicle. While the land is very much intact, invasive species such as Chinese popcorn tree do appear at times. These are dealt with rapidly.

Thankfully for us, the Wards have very kindly put the Florida Wildlife Federation into their wills as a beneficiary to receive and protect this special place forever. The Federation is very grateful. By acts such as these, Florida will retain the natural beauty that makes it a special place to call home. --by Preston Robertson

*Please join with April and Claude 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 or bequest benefitting the Florida Wildlife Federation, or gift in a will like the Ward'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**.



*The Wards' land in Gilchrist County.*

## Conservation Calendar

November 5, 2016

Florida Panther Festival  
Naples Zoo

[www.floridapantherfestival.com](http://www.floridapantherfestival.com)

November 8, 2016

ELECTION DAY – vote!

November 16-17, 2016

FWC Commission meeting  
St. Petersburg

[www.MyFWC.com/Commission](http://www.MyFWC.com/Commission)

January 5-8, 2017

Everglades Coalition Annual Conference  
Sanibel Harbor Marriott

[www.evergladescoalition.org](http://www.evergladescoalition.org)

January 27-28, 2017

FWF Board of Directors meeting  
Gainesville Hilton UF Center

[dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org)

February 8-9, 2017

FWC Commission meeting  
Crystal River

[www.MyFWC.com/Commission](http://www.MyFWC.com/Commission)

March 7, 2017

Florida Legislative Session begins

April 19-20, 2017

FWC Commission Meeting  
Tallahassee

[www.MyFWC.com/Commission](http://www.MyFWC.com/Commission)

April 21-22, 2017

FWF Awards Banquet & Meeting Weekend  
Wyndham Grand Jupiter  
at Harbourside Place

Friday, April 21

Conservation Awards Banquet

Saturday, April 22

Board/House of Delegates Meeting  
[www.wyndhamgrandjupiter.com](http://www.wyndhamgrandjupiter.com)