

# Florida Fish and Wildlife News



## Florida Wildlife Federation

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936!

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Left to right – Sarah Owen Gledhill (FWF Planning Director), Senator Curt Kiser (FWF Board Member), Preston Robertson (FWF VP and General Counsel), Senate President Joe Negron, Manley Fuller (FWF President) and Anna Upton (Everglades Foundation).

**Senate President Negron receives Florida Wildlife Federation Legislator of the Year award for leadership on the Everglades reservoir legislation during the 2017 Session, on October 11, 2017.**

### 2017-2018 FWF Annual Business Meeting

The Florida Wildlife Federation held its annual business meeting Sept. 23, 2017 at St. Pete Beach Tradewinds Guy Harvey Resort. Three new board members were elected to serve for 2017-2018 on the 27 volunteer member FWF Board of Directors. They are: Anna Hamilton (Gainesville), Pepper Uchino (Tallahassee) and David Preston (Miami). We welcome these new members to the board as well as George Jones (Ft. Pierce), whose appointment to the board during the summer was ratified at the meeting. FWF typically holds three to four meetings per year. Some of them are one day meetings on a Saturday; some are two days meetings. A field trip is usually a component of each meeting, held on Friday afternoon or Sunday of the meeting weekend. The members of the board serve one year terms and travel to meetings at their own expense, and are united in their love for natural Florida and conserving our woods and waters for future Floridians. If board membership interests you, and you are a member in good standing of the Federation, please contact Diane Hines at [dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org). Your interest will be conveyed to the board and you may be asked to provide some background information. Information about our new Directors is included in this issue.



**Announcing the 81st  
Annual Conservation  
Awards Banquet,  
Saturday, April 28, 2018  
at the Safety Harbor Inn  
& Resort on Tampa Bay.  
[www.safetyharborspa.com](http://www.safetyharborspa.com)**



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

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Rick Abbott



I wanted to say to all our Florida members, friends and fellow residents my thoughts and prayers go out to each and every one that was directly or indirectly effected by Irma or Nate. Although the Abbott family was not directly impacted, it was very stressful looking at the Weather Channel and following the projected paths of both storms barreling right at us. Wow!

This time of year for a lot of Floridians is very special and what we wait for. College and pro football seasons. Baseball playoffs and the World Series. The start of basketball season.

Then we have the Holidays six weeks away. I can't wait. Fishing, hunting and exploring with family members and friends I don't see on a regular basis. My family is excited about the cooling temps and being able to be outdoors and not worrying about being eaten alive by insects.

This weekend with the nightly forecast in the low 40's high 30's the Abbotts are headed to the woods. I just told my business partners and staff I will not be in on Monday!

We all have a lot to be thankful for. Don't let any negativity spoil your holiday season. We have all of next year for that. Be safe, be careful and have fun in the great outdoors!

**Love Florida,  
Don't Litter**



*Diane Hines, Beth Hakemoller and Claudia Farren represented FWF on October 28, 2017 at the St. Marks NWR Monarch Festival. It was a great day with gorgeous weather!*

## \*Tom Evans' conservation legacy forged through consensus

*Delaware Business Times  
October 19, 2017*

National Wildlife Federation President Collin O'Mara called the Delaware Republican "one of the most nonpartisan politicians I've ever met."

Conservationists say Evans' friendships were pivotal in the passage of a law that protected almost 2,700 miles of shoreline and probably saved lives and homes this hurricane season. The New York Times called it a "magic formula" and "the most important environmental law nobody has even heard of."

Manley Fuller, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, put it this way:

"Tom has the ability to posit an issue in a manner that people can relate to. He says to one person that it will save the taxpayers money. Then other people might be commercial fishermen or people who are interested in eco-tourism. He's able to relate it to all those folks. He's good at it. He's really good at it. People who have natural political ability can do that kind of thing."

Continue Reading: <http://www.delawarebusinesstimes.com/tom-evans-conservation-legacy-forged-consensus/>

\*Tom is a proud member of the Florida Wildlife Federation Board of Directors.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller

Dear Florida Wildlife Federation members,

This year's stormy weather has challenged many of us and I hope you all are safe and sound. Some areas of Florida have been hit worse than others. The storms have once again made clear that it is critical to support policies which green our coasts and floodplains and steer new infrastructure away from flood-prone areas. Programs which buy out willing landowners in flood prone areas and convert those properties to wildlife areas or public access sites to the beach or waterways make more sense than paying for repeat flood claims. Programs like the Coastal Barrier Resources System help protect coastal habitat by removing subsidies which promote development of low-lying, flood-prone areas. A green or living shoreline provides fish and wildlife habitat and, at a relatively low cost, helps protect the built environment by reducing the impacts of storm surge and flooding.

I want to thank all those who contributed to our recent appeal to further our conservation lands initiatives and note that we received a \$10,000 match from a donor. As you know, a top priority of Florida Wildlife Federation is to further conservation lands linkages across the state using all of the tools in the conservation tool kit to further that objective.

It is critical for our legislators to

hear how important conservation lands are to you. Key decision-makers this year include **Senate President Joe Negron, Sen. Jack Latvala, Sen. Rob Bradley, Sen. Wilton Simpson, Sen. Lauren Book, Sen. Anitere Flores, Sen. Wilton Simpson, House Speaker Richard Corcoran, Rep. Matt Caldwell, Rep. Ben Albritton and Rep. Clay Ingram.** Florida's conservation lands protect watersheds and allow for groundwater recharge across the entire state. Wetlands help buffer storm surge and sea level rise effects on the built environment which is especially important in Florida. Our conservation lands and waters provide high quality fish and wildlife habitat across the state. We need to dramatically increase funding for conservation land acquisition, management and restoration as the voters intended. FWF and allies are making the case that the constitutional amendment passed by 75 percent of the voters in 2014 is intended for: 1.) Conservation lands acquisition, both fee and less than fee, from willing landowners, 2.) Conservation lands management, and 3.) Restoration. We dispute how the legislature has chosen to spend a significant portion of those funds and our case will be argued in court the summer of 2018.

While the legal dispute will ultimately be resolved through the courts, it is critical that our legislators and the Governor hear that we need significant increases for our conservation lands funding through the Acquisition and Restoration Council process. I wish everyone concerned with Florida's conservation lands acquisition prioritization and land management planning processes could understand how thorough the reviews are. Florida has acquired some real gems over the years and they are of great value as wildlife habitat and places for people to enjoy the out-of-doors. Ultimately, they make Florida a better place to live and contribute greatly to our natural resource-based economy.

We were glad to hear the Governor's budget for the coming year as to the Everglades restoration program is strong and forward looking. We wish that it included more funds

## Conference of Young Conservation Leaders (CYCL) for NWF Affiliates

The Florida Wildlife Federation will have three representatives attending the Conference of Young Conservation Leaders (CYCL) in Kansas City, Missouri on November 2-5, 2017. NWF affiliate organizations are coming together to put on this event. The Conservation Federation of Missouri is the main host. Attendees will meet with conservation leaders from other organizations and develop strategies to deal with pressing conservation issues. They will also obtain ideas on how to develop a youth conservation leadership program.

Our three representatives are: Samantha Baraoidan, a University of Florida graduate student and FWF Youth Conservation Director, Marcella Mullholand, and Dr. Rena Borkhataria, Director of the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program (DDCSP: <http://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/doris-duke-conservation-scholars>) which is based at the University of Florida.

The goals of the CYCL Conference are to exchange ideas to improve the critical elements of existing programs; develop communication and support strategies for new and existing programs; help form new youth conservation leadership programs in additional states; and leave Kansas City with a clear set of goals and steps to achieve them. FWF will have a follow up article in the February 2018 issue of this publication.

\*\*\*

for the Florida Forever program, but we will continue to work on that.

As many of you know, our fish and wildlife habitats face a wide variety of invaders both plants and animals. We need to have sufficient funding to tackle invasive species and have programs that keep these problem species from entering Florida. We will discuss what we are doing to address this problem in future issues.

We recently recognized Senate President Joe Negron for his leadership on the passage of Senate Bill 10 last year and his work in support of implementing it. As of today, Lake Okeechobee waters are very high, threatening the lake marsh health and associated coastal estuaries. If Florida gets additional significant rainfall, the integrity of the levee is threatened. This all illustrates why we need to move forward with storage, especially south of Lake Okeechobee where the water needs to be treated and moved south.

I want to conclude this column with my expression of gratitude for our members whose support is key to FWF's success in conservation.

I also wanted to let you know about pending legislation at the Federal level which would provide major benefits to state level wildlife conservation.

**Our state is blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, and 6.4 million people spend \$9 billion\* a year enjoying wildlife-related recreation here.** However, while many of Florida's wildlife species are thriving, others are declining in numbers.

State fish and wildlife agencies have identified 12,000 species nationwide in need of conservation action. In Florida, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has identified a number of species requiring additional conservation measures in the Florida Wildlife Action Plan.

Nearly two decades ago, Congress created a program that would help prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. However, this program has remained woefully underfunded. **On average, Florida receives a little over two million dollars each**

Thank you,

*Manley*

*PRESIDENT con't page 10*



## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



### Florida Wildlife Federation Statement on Five-Year Review of the Florida Panther

The following Florida Wildlife Federation statement was submitted and signed by both Nancy Payton and Manley Fuller on August 29, 2017, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in response to its review of the protective status of the Florida panther under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

The endangered Florida panther's status does not meet the current criteria for reclassification established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and contained in the 2008 Florida Panther Recovery Plan.

<https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Panther%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf>

#### Interim Recovery Goal Not Met

Due to the challenging nature of attaining the recovery criteria, an interim recovery goal was established to gauge progress towards the goals of reclassification and delisting.

The Florida Panther Recovery Plan states that the interim recovery goal will be achieved when the following three tasks are met.

Task 1. The south and south-central Florida panther subpopulation is maintained, restored, and expanded beyond 80 to 100 individuals (adults and subadults).

Task 2. Two subpopulations with a minimum of 80 individuals each are established and maintained within the historic range.

Task 3. Sufficient habitat quality,



quantity, and spatial configuration to support these three subpopulations is retained, protected, or secured for the long-term.

The first task is achieved. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission estimates the current population is 120 to 230 adults and subadults living in primary habitat south of the Caloosahatchee River.

<http://myfwc.com/news/news-releases/2017/february/22/panther-population/>

The other tasks have not been achieved. Two subpopulations with a minimum of 80 individuals do not exist. Although there are significant tracts of public and private conservation lands in Florida, the current conservation network is not contiguous and therefore may not be sufficient to support three subpopulations long-term.

#### Reclassification Criteria Not Met

The Florida Panther Recovery Plan mandates that both of the following criteria must be met before reclassification is considered. Neither criterion has been achieved to warrant considering reclassification.

Criterion 1. Two viable populations of at least 240 individuals (adults and subadults) each have been established and subsequently maintained for a minimum of twelve years (two panther generations; one panther generation is six years).

Criterion 2. Sufficient habitat quality, quantity, and spatial configuration to support these populations is retained, protected or secured for the long-term.

Two viable populations do not exist. There is not yet one viable population according to the current population estimate of 120 to 230 individuals announced by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in February 2017.

Although there are significant tracts of public and private conservation lands in Florida, the current conservation network is not contiguous and not sufficient to support long-term two viable populations of at least 240 adults and subadults.

#### Delisting Criteria Not Met

The Florida Panther Recovery Plan

mandates that the following criteria must be met before considering delisting.

Criterion 1. Three viable, self-sustaining populations of at least 240 individuals (adults and subadults) each have been established and subsequently maintained for a minimum of twelve years.

Criterion 2. Sufficient habitat quality, quantity, and spatial configuration to support these populations is retained, protected or secured for the long-term.

It is also important to note that for delisting to be considered, the exchange of individuals and gene flow among subpopulations must be natural (i.e., not manipulated or managed).

#### Conclusion

The Interim Recovery Goals, the Reclassification Criteria, and the Delisting Criteria have not been met. Therefore, there is no trigger to reconsider the endangered status of the Florida panther.

Florida Wildlife Federation urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to aggressively preserve and restore Florida panther habitat; prioritize necessary habitat linkages for permanent protection; and secure additional life-saving terrestrial wildlife crossings in regions currently and potentially occupied by Florida panthers.

### This is Why

This is why Florida Wildlife Federation continues to support a place-based, full-time Wildlife Advocate in the heart of Florida panther breeding habitat. For kittens and adults to survive and contribute to the recovery of the endangered Florida panther, there must be contiguous conservation networks across Southwest Florida, into Central Florida, and beyond.

Please donate today to Florida Wildlife Federation's Florida panther efforts!

1. Go to [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org), look for Donate Now button in upper right
2. Scroll down to enter your amount
3. Scroll down to "I want my donation to be designated to"
4. Select "Florida Panther – Southwest Office" and
5. Click on Donate Now

Thank you!



Very young panther kittens born this spring in rural Collier County.

They will remain in this den for about two months before following their mother.

Photo Courtesy of Florida Panther Biologist Mark Lotz, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologist holds the three kittens during a health evaluation.

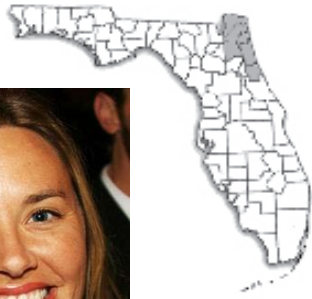
Photo Courtesy of Florida Panther Biologist Mark Lotz, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.





# NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

by Sarah Owen Gledhill, FWF's Planning Director



## Timing is Everything

FWF has been engaged in protecting and restoring Florida's coasts, wetlands and floodplains. These systems, when healthy and natural, provide some of our most critical wildlife habitat. Moreover, they help protect people and communities by providing buffers against storm surge and wave action and maintaining areas for water collect instead of flooding surrounding areas. However, federal programs such as the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) have led to increased development and alteration of coasts and floodplains which now no longer serve important environmental and public safety functions. In essence, the current NFIP is hurting our wildlife and human safety.

The 2017 hurricane season has served as a wake-up call for many communities and state decision makers. Floridians watched Hurricane Harvey devastate the Houston area with rising flood waters due to heavy rainfall. On the same day Hurricane Harvey made US landfall on Port Aransas, meteorologists were monitoring a tropical wave which later formed into Hurricane Irma and made US landfall on Cudjoe Key on September 10th. Hurricane Irma came with just as big a punch, bringing high storm surge levels during high tide cycles and a nor'easter simultaneously impacting the East coast. The Jacksonville region saw epic flooding with the St. Johns River hitting levels not seen since 1846. A month later, many neighbors across the state still cannot get a break from the flooding because of the October full moon cycle bringing "sunny day" flooding.

Unfortunately, the flood risk for homeowners in the US is almost entire-

ly assumed by the NFIP. Figures from the NFIP indicate that most homes in counties affected by Harvey, Irma and these "sunny day" flooding episodes do not have private flood insurance. This lack of coverage can be the result of a number of reasons from a lender not monitoring a lapse in coverage to outdated mapping which does not indicate the need for flood insurance.

The original intent of NFIP was to slow or prevent new flood-prone coastal and riverine development. Its goal was to guide development away from locations which are threatened by flood hazards. Unfortunately, NFIP has incentivized and exacerbated development. Even though the coastal region makes up 18 percent of the nation's land area, it is home to half our population. This has resulted in a loss and alteration of floodplains and a loss of their ecological benefits.

One adaption measure which promotes natural and nature-based mitigation is floodplain mapping. FWF is urging local governments to update their respective floodplain maps and include 50, 100, 200 and 500-year floodplain areas. Floodplain maps are developed community by community. Moreover, the standard for each community is different and thus lack consistency across jurisdictional boundaries. Importantly, most maps do not take into account sea level rise. FWF believes accounting for sea level rise in our floodplain maps, we can help keep properties out of the floodplain. At this time, Broward County is the only known county to be undertaking this critical adaptation step.

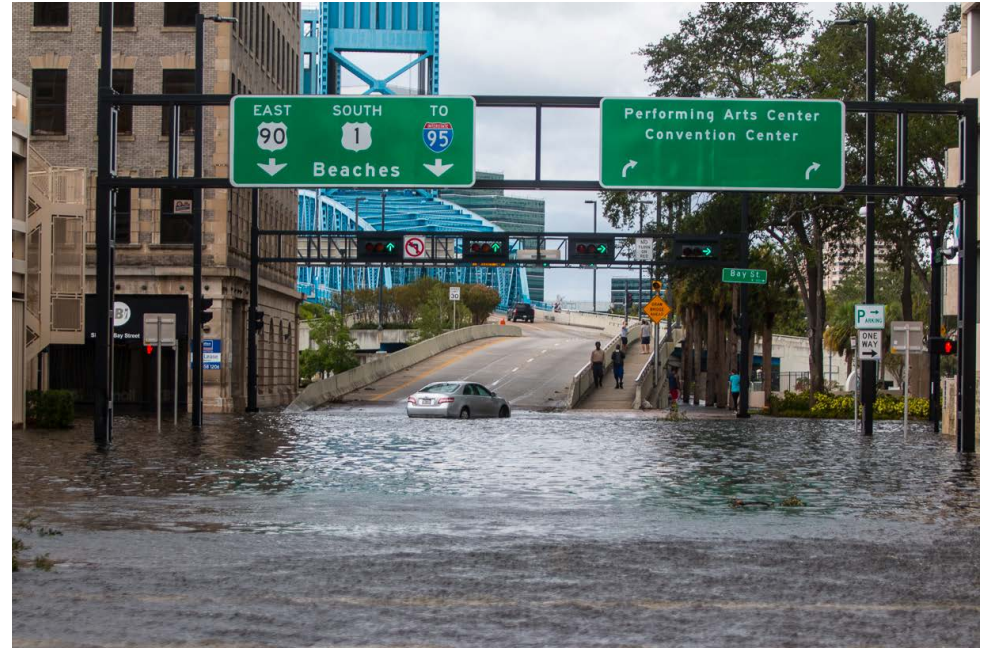
Another adaption measure is to start looking at our wildlife corridors as resiliency hubs. If we examine a regions community exposure index, which takes into accounts critical infrastructure and its assets, and overlay wildlife habitat and protected lands (both existing and potential), we can create these critical resiliency hubs. These hubs can promote human community resilience and protect fish and wildlife habitat at the same time.

If communities do not start taking into account sea level rise, serious economic impacts can occur. We will see increases in mortgage defaults, business interruption from flooding, reduction in tourism, changes in flood insurance premiums and migration of residents. All these factors will result in a loss of tax revenue for a local government.

Our outdoor economy is dependent upon its own infrastructure. A natural infrastructure is comprised of restored wildlife habitat, clean waterways, healthy forests and wetlands and grasslands. Most importantly these ecosystems provide accessible lands for recreating, fishing and supporting sustainable wildlife populations. Preserving floodplains invests in our community resiliency and outdoor economy.



Flooding in Jacksonville during Irma.



Downtown Jacksonville during Hurricane Irma. Credit: Doug Freeman/ShotbyDoug.com

## Gopher Tortoise Upland Signs are Almost Complete

Thank you to our members and supporters for donating to the campaign to help people learn how to co-exist with gopher tortoises. When we educate ourselves to better understand Florida's wildlife and their habitat, we learn how to live and recreate alongside them without negatively impacting them.

We have requests for the signs in Northeast Florida and two locations in the Panhandle. If you know of a park with an active gopher tortoise burrow, let us know and we will try to have an educational sign installed.

SAVING FLORIDA'S

# GOPHER TORTOISES

### WHY IS MY BURROW IMPORTANT?

I am a keystone species. My burrow is home to 365+ species like:

- Indigo snakes
- Florida mice
- Gopher frogs
- Burrowing owls

### WATCH YOUR STEP

We dig burrows on land 8-12" deep and up to 40' long! Using our powerful front forelegs, we dig our burrows deep to escape the Florida heat! Our eggs are usually laid in a sandy area outside the burrow entrance.

### I DON'T SWIM!

DON'T PUT ME IN THE WATER

### I'M PROTECTED

DON'T TOUCH ME OR MY BURROW

It is a violation to intentionally take, harass, wound or kill any species designated as endangered, threatened, or "of special concern."

S. 379.411, Florida Statutes - Violators may be guilty of a third-degree felony.

### ABOUT US

Gopher tortoises are one of the oldest living animals on Earth, with many of us living to be 80 years or older! As adults, we have no natural native enemies, except humans. On average, we're 10 inches long and weigh up to 10-12 lbs. We are reproductively mature at 10 years or older and lay 3-5 eggs in a clutch.

We have an internal GPS unit that allows us to always find our way back home to our burrow.

CALL FWC TO REPORT A VIOLATION

888-404-3922

Florida Wildlife Federation

Keeping the Wild in Florida Since 1936





Preston Robertson  
Vice-President for Conservation &  
General Counsel

## Legislative Preview 2018

Seems like the last Legislative Session in Tallahassee just ended, doesn't it? Well, the next one is right around the corner because next year is an election year, so Session starts early. The 2018 Session will commence January 9 and run for the next 60 days. Committee meetings are already underway.

Our efforts in coming months will be centered on:

- **Funding for conservation land protection**
- **Banning fracking**
- **Supporting solar power**
- **Minimizing pollution**

At present, there are several filed bills which address each of the above issues.

**Senator Rob Bradley has filed**

**SB 370**, which would put \$100 million into the Florida Forever Trust Fund. The Federation is thankful the Senator has recognized the need to act on what Floridians voted for in 2014 by approving Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Amendment. Last year, the Florida Forever program was appropriated zero dollars. We still believe Floridians support, and deserve, full funding for **Florida Forever land conservation**, which was \$300 million per year under previous Republican and Democratic administrations. Our litigation against the misspending of Amendment 1 monies continues, and will likely go to trial next summer. This case has dragged on and on because every time the Legislature goes into Session, the clock stops on the case per state law.

A bill to **ban fracking**, which failed last year, has been refiled. **SB 462, by Senator Dana Young**, with its House of Representatives companion bill, **H 237 by Representative Kathleen Peters**, would ban this practice. Fracking is a danger to our water supply, especially as Florida's groundwaters are contained in Swiss cheese-like karst formations. We should not be playing Russian roulette with our water supply. FWF supports these good bills.

**SB 292, filed by Senator Jose Rodriguez**, is entitled the Private Property Rights bill, but its underlying goal is to support homeowners in using **solar energy**. If passed, this bill would allow solar power to be generated and used on site. FWF supports this bill. Florida is the Sun-

shine State and we should be using the sun's power, a freely obtained and non-polluting source, whenever we can.

Plastic bag pollution has been an issue for many years, especially in coastal environments. The bags take literally thousands of years to deteriorate, and are often pushed by the wind into aquatic environments where they disrupt natural systems

and are fatally ingested by birds, wildlife and fish. **Senator Jose Rodriguez has filed SB 348**, beginning the process of allowing coastal communities to examine how best to deal with this issue.

We will keep you informed on these and other issues.

*Preston T. Robertson*

### What you can do:

**Please take a few minutes and contact the following.**

**Sen. Rob Bradley (Orange Park)**

[bradley.rob.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:bradley.rob.web@flsenate.gov)

904-278-2085/toll free 888-347-3483

*Thanks for your efforts on the Florida Forever program. The voters want land conservation fully funded.*

**Sen. Dana Young (St. Petersburg)**

[young.dana.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:young.dana.web@flsenate.gov)

813-281-5507

*Thanks for supporting a ban on fracking.*

**Rep. Kathleen Peters (St. Petersburg)**

[kathleen.peters@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:kathleen.peters@myfloridahouse.gov)

727-341-7385

*Thanks for supporting a ban on fracking.*

**Sen. Jose Rodriguez (Miami)**

[rodriguez.jose.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:rodriguez.jose.web@flsenate.gov)

305-854-0365

*Thanks for acting to stop plastic bag pollution.*

**Thank you for taking the time to make contact. Even a short message means a lot.**



Misty Penton, Director of Education, Fred George Nature Center, Preston Robertson, FWF and Michael Kelly, Director of Wildwood Preservation Society at Tallahassee's Fred George Park for Robertson's talk on Land Conservation in Florida.

Florida's landscape has changed drastically since Spanish admiral Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founded St. Augustine in 1565. We need to ensure we keep "La Florida" sustainable.

### New Legacy Club Member:

Jim & Ginger Visconti, Monticello

### New Life Member:

Gail Carmody, Panama City

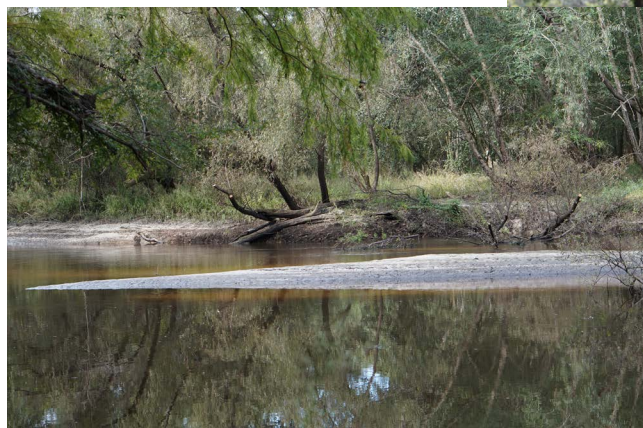
**Thank you for your generous support!**

*\*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 \$1,000 donors.*



## 7th Annual FWF Kids' Fishing Day!

On September 30, 2017, kids and parents again gathered at FWF's River Preserve on the beautiful Ochlockonee River to enjoy a few hours in the natural world and also hopefully catch a fish! All had a fun day experiencing the river and the woods, which FWF owns to protect water quality on this one of the most pristine rivers left in the state. Many thanks to all the volunteers and participants who made this event a success!



## FWF's 2017 Photo Contest

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the third year of its FWF Photo Contest, which we renamed **The Lou Kellenberger FWF Photo Contest** in memory of this board member and friend. Lou was an outstanding nature photographer who passed away in June 2016. 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.



*Photo by Barbara Blaisdell*

Members, supporters and friends of FWF are encouraged to enter, noting anyone may enter the contest with the exception of FWF staff. 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, 2017. 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 \$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 31, 2017.

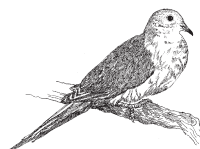
Visit [www.snappiephoto.com](http://www.snappiephoto.com) to get started. Contact FWF at (850) 656-7113 for questions.

## IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in  
memory of:

**In loving memory of her mother,  
Selma Sheinman, and sister, Beatrice  
Sheinman**

by Susan S. Levine



**Rupert "Pete" Iaukea**

by Camille Brown



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





Claudia Farren  
Education Consultant

## Certified Wildlife Habitat Gardens of Broward County

On July 6th I spent a very enjoyable morning visiting wildlife habitat gardens at four homes in Broward County with Rose Bechard-Butman. Rose is a natural resource specialist with the county and the Out Reach Coordinator of Nature-Scape Broward. I was visiting family for a week during the July 4th holiday and took the opportunity to explore some of the county's best parks and wildlife habitat gardens.

I met Rose at her home and she started her tour by showing me her own garden. It sits on a corner lot with two thick hedges of trees, bushes, and flowers separating the road and the neighbor's property from the house, patio and pool area. The back of the property has been designed for the uptake and filtration of nutrients before they enter the local canal system. Some of the native plants in her yard are Bahama strongbark tree, thatch palm, sabal palm, dahoon holly, blanket flower and coontie. The coontie plants are an excellent example of vital wildlife habitat because they are the host plant of the very rare atala butterfly, and on my visit there she pointed out red and yellow-spotted caterpillars hidden on one of the coontie bushes.

Rose's property is a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. It's also a NatureScape Broward Certified Property. Broward County's [NatureScape program](#) is about creating a Florida-friendly landscape that conserves and protects water resources and provides vital wildlife habitat.

The second wildlife habitat garden we visited was the home of Marilyn and Wain Barber. It is certified as a Florida

Friendly Yard (FYN), a NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat and as a NatureScape property. The Barbers have been working to establish their wildlife habitat for 20 years and they say it is a work in progress. Immediately upon entering the tree canopy at the side entrance to their habitat the air temperature decreases a few degrees even on a hot July morning. They have a very old hibiscus hedge, a butterfly garden with salvia and various milkweeds, thatch palms, plus buccaneer palms and lignum vitae—both endangered in Florida. Recent wildlife visitors are possums, raccoons, snakes, legless lizards, burrowing and screech owls, spot-breasted orioles, cooper's and red-shouldered hawks plus various butterflies—monarch, Polydamas, giant swallowtail, cloudless sulphur, zebra longwing and the atala.

The next home we visited was a cleared lot when Maggie and Jim Dunn moved in. They have since planted 98 percent native plants and use no chemicals in their wildlife habitat. There is no grass to mow. Some of the plants that have survived well in their sunny landscape are: tickseed/coreopsis—the Florida state flower, several silver buttonwood trees, clusters of dune sunflowers, coonties and firebushes. The sunshine mimosa, also called powderpuff due to their puffy-pink flowers, is used as a ground cover. A secluded section of their backyard has been home to a family of foxes off and on for several years. One morning this spring, the Dunns woke to see the fox parents and their pups devouring a potted plant on top of their breakfast table on the patio!

Before we visited the home of M.E. DePalma, we stopped at a park dedicated in her name located at NE 20th Drive and NE 7th Avenue in Wilton Manors. In January 2010, [M.E. DePalma Park](#) was just another empty lot (.10 acres) in the middle of a neighborhood, but Ms. DePalma worked to register it as a certified wildlife habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. This butterfly garden contains over 100 varieties of native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs such as: tropical sage, American beautyberry, Florida muhly grass, cocoplum, orange geiger tree, gumbo limbo tree and the endangered cinnecord tree. **Click here to see the [park's website](#) that includes a list with photos and descriptions of the plants in the park. The list is an excellent resource for choosing plants and trees for your own yard if you live in southern or central Florida. [Click here](#) for native plants and trees for North Florida.**

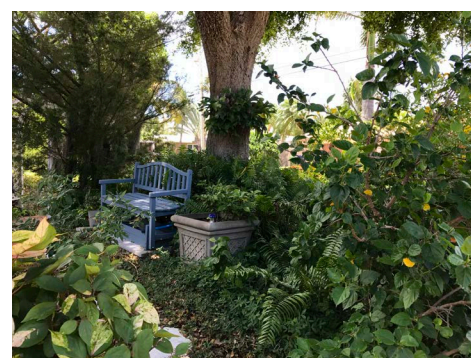
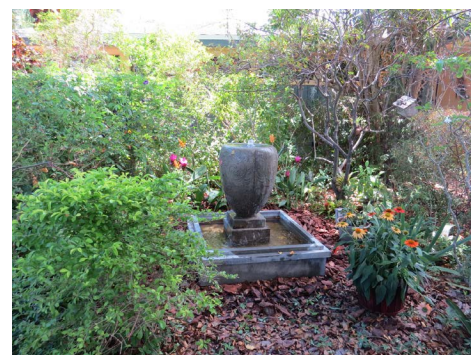
In 2006, Ms. DePalma and many

other Wilton Manors' residents played an important role in getting the town certified as a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat. Over 200 properties in Wilton Manors have registered. The goal of the certification program is to encourage people to landscape in an environmentally-friendly way that provides shelter, places to raise young, and has a source of water and food for birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

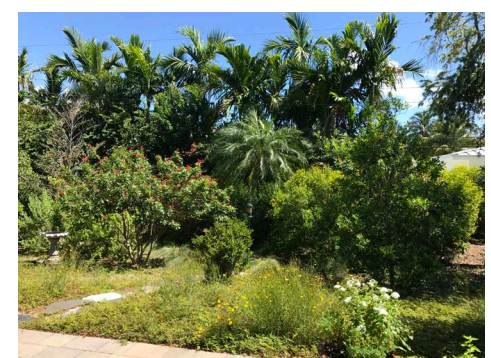
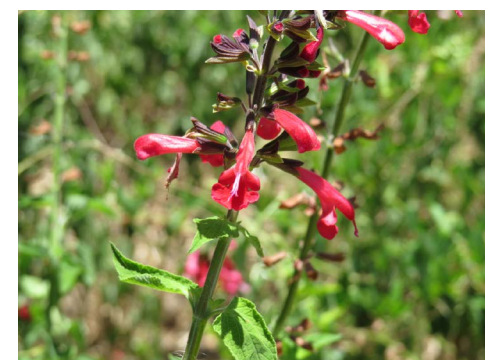
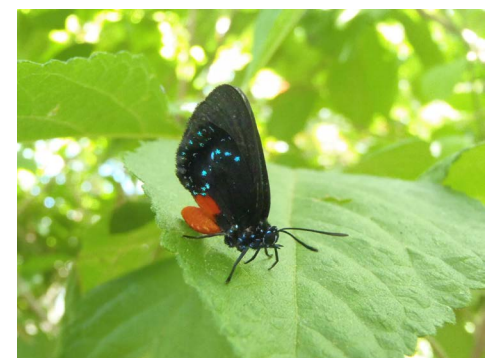
M.E. DePalma's home also sits on a lot that borders one of the many canals in Broward County. The front yard is full of large shade trees, flowering bushes and wildflowers that hide the house from the street. There is a lovely sitting area with a bright blue bench and a fountain that attracts local birds and wildlife. At the top of the shade tree above the bench is a wood duck box. Behind the home is a secluded pool area and a back porch for enjoying the view along the canal. On the porch on the day I visited there was a planter with a wild lime tree full of fruit.

Many more photos can be seen on my [Flicker page](#).

**Please consider making your yard wildlife friendly!**



There are more than 80 parks in Broward County. Many have butterfly gardens and have undergone native wildlife habitat restoration. Some excellent parks to visit are Synder Park in Ft. Lauderdale, Oak Hammock Park and Cypress Preserve Park in Sunrise, Plantation Preserve and Golf Course in Plantation, Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve in Oakland Park and Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood. Here is a link to my [Facebook page](#) with photos of these parks.





# 9TH ANNUAL KIDS' WILDLIFE HABITAT CONTEST... COMING UP!

Though Earth Day, April 22, 2018, falls on a Sunday. Florida Wildlife Federation will celebrate Earth Day 2018 on the previous Friday, April 20. We will again be **awarding 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 web-site and in our newsletter. A representative from Florida Wildlife Federation will travel to the contest winner to present the award. Entries close March 31, 2018.

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. Establishing and maintaining a habitat benefits both children and wild creatures.

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!

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 Blairstone 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 a PowerPoint and videos for general information about wildlife habitats. We look forward to hearing from you.



## FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ



1. Gardeners who live in Florida are lucky because they can garden all year round. What are some veggies and flowers that you can plant in the fall?



2. Why should your family be careful about how you dispose of left-over prescription medicines that you no longer need? ("Dispose of" means to throw away.)



3. How much trash does the average person in Florida throw away in a day?

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

## Meet the New FWF Board Members!



**Dave Preston**



**Anna Hamilton**



**Pepper Uchino**

David was born and raised in Miami and is a University of Florida graduate. Through his love for fly fishing in the Everglades and Keys, he became involved in environmental advocacy after seeing the need to protect South Florida's remaining wild lands and waters from pollution and mismanagement.

Anna is a radio producer and oral historian based in Gainesville. She reports on the environment, climate change, and resource management, and documents the changing traditions of coastal communities in the American South. She is Project Director of Matanzas Voices, a multimedia initiative documenting life and work along northeast Florida's Matanzas River.

Stephen "Pepper" Uchino has 10 years of experience in the natural resource field and has a keen interest in the health of Florida's environment. Currently at Anfield Consulting Group, he represents public and private entities as an environmental policy expert. He holds a master's degree in Marine Affairs and Policy and a law degree from the University of Miami.



## Juanita Greene, FWF Hall of Fame honoree, dies at age 93

Compiled by Martha Musgrove and Diane Hines.

Juanita Greene was The Miami Herald's first environmental writer, having pushed the newspaper's publisher into creating the environmental beat in 1969. She also pioneered coverage of "growth management." Many of the reporters who followed her still regard her as "the best." It is said she churned out stories on everything from backdoor political deals to disappearing wood rats.

Born on a rice plantation in Louisiana, Juanita became interested in journalism in high school. While attending Louisiana State University during World War II, she took advantage of the absence of male students to rise to editor of the student newspaper; it was quite an accomplishment for a female student at that time. After graduation, she worked at The Tampa Times and The Daytona Beach News-Journal before getting what she would later call "the most exciting phone call of my lifetime" from editors at The Miami Herald inviting her to join their staff as a reporter.

Juanita's ferocious approach to the beat at The Miami Herald sometimes bordered on activism. Because of her expertise, she was also asked to write for The Herald's editorial pages. When she retired from the paper in 1987, she was ready to stage a frontal assault on the forces she felt were destroying the Everglades and its wildlife. She wrote numerous articles on this topic for encyclopedias, journals and magazines.

Taking inspiration from pioneering Florida environmentalist and author Marjory Stoneman Douglas, she headed Friends of the Everglades, an organization founded by Douglas. She was instrumental in convincing the Friends to file a lawsuit after the state tried unilaterally to alter terms of a restoration plan. The suit eventually led to the current \$880 million expansion of water-treatment (filtration) systems and increases in the flow of clean water through the Everglades ecosystem. She was also the driving force behind creation of the Biscayne National Park.

In 2012, Juanita Greene was inducted into FWF's Conservation Hall of Fame. She spent her final years in Tallahassee, where she could be closer to her two daughters, Helena Sims and Monica Mathis. She is also survived by a granddaughter, Catherine Johnson. A memorial celebration in Miami will be held 2-4 p.m., Saturday Nov. 11 at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, 6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne, FL 33149.



*Juanita Greene holding her Florida Wildlife Federation Conservation Hall of Fame Award.*

*PRESIDENT from page 3*

year—a fraction of what is needed. This means hundreds of species—birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, etc—continue to slip through the cracks.

But it doesn't make sense to wait until a species is on the brink of extinction before stepping in. The Endangered Species Act is an American success story that has benefitted thousands of species of wildlife including the bald eagle, green sea turtles and Florida manatees. But it would be better—and generally cheaper—if we could prevent at-risk wildlife from needing the Endangered Species Act's expensive and occasionally restrictive "emergency room" measures in the first place.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regularly assesses the health of wildlife in Florida and what it would take to stop the decline of species in trouble. This document, required by federal law, is known as a State Wildlife Action Plan and it is created collaboratively with input from scientists, landowners, conservation groups, the outdoor recreation community, and a variety of businesses. But FWC lacks the money to implement this plan the way it would like to.

There is a solution on the horizon. The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act, introduced by Representatives Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska) and Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) would direct existing revenue from oil and gas activities on federal lands and waters towards state-led efforts to help wildlife species in decline. **If it passes, Florida will receive \$49.3 million annually—without any tax increases or new fees.**

The legislation builds upon the successes of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson) and the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson) that have allowed America to lead the world in the conservation of game species, such as deer, elk, bighorn sheep, wild turkeys, and many species of waterfowl and sportfish. State agencies have a proven track record of using those

funds wisely and effectively. This approach has support from diverse interests including outdoor enthusiasts, the recreation and energy industries, and much more.

Without dedicated funding, hundreds of species will face increasing risks. Taking action before at-risk wildlife requires listing under the Endangered Species Act makes sense fiscally and morally. National Wildlife Federation and its affiliates across the United States are supporting this legislation as a pragmatic solution that will allow us to help protect our natural heritage without burdening taxpayers.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is the solution we need to help address America's wildlife crisis. This type of proactive conservation is good for wildlife, good for taxpayers and good for business. We hope Florida's Congressional Delegation on both sides of the aisle will champion this groundbreaking bill.

\* <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-fl.pdf>





# Call For 2018 Conservation Awards Nominations

The Florida Wildlife Federation is again calling for nominations for the Annual Conservation Awards Program, the oldest conservation awards program in the state. The recipients of this year's awards will be honored at the Annual Conservation Award Banquet which will be held in April 28th 2018. A list of the achievements of nominees should include organizational memberships and affiliations, published papers, news clippings and other references, along with a narrative describing the accomplishments of the nominee. You may also include letters of support from others.

**You must be an FWF member to make a nomination.** Nominations will be accepted through January 15, 2018, and should be submitted to: Diane Hines, Florida Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870, fax to 850-942-4431 or e-mail [dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org).

## CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Nominees should have made a contribution which has a statewide impact, or be an example of selfless dedication towards the advancement of a conservation issue.

## YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Nominees can be anyone under the age of 21, or a Youth Organization that has made a significant contribution toward improving the environment or the cause of conservation.

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

This category includes nominees who haven't made significant contributions in protecting or improving Florida's fish or wildlife habitat, or who have made an important contribution towards the conservation of native wildlife.

## FOREST CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Nominees should have made contributions in sound forest management practices, including those protecting and managing for the perpetuation of Florida's native ecosystems.

## LAND CONSERVATION AND PLANNING AWARD

This category includes efforts of citizens, government entities or employees in developing sound land use planning. Also eligible are individual land owners who participate in land conservation practices.

## CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

This category is open to citizens or educators who have made a significant contribution toward educating the public on Florida's conservation issues.

## CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Nominees can include clubs, societies or councils which have had a significant conservation achievement during the past year.

## WATER CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Nominees should have made a contribution in protecting the water resources of Florida through pollution abatement, water management or through efforts leading to laws or regulations which protect or enhance Florida's water resources.

## CONSERVATION LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Nominees should be legislators who have made an important contribution towards the passage of conservation legislation, or for efforts against legislation which would have an adverse effect on

wildlife or the environment. This category is also open to legislative committee staff members and members of the public who provide the impetus towards the passage of conservation legislation.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Nominees should be employed as law enforcement officers for a state or federal resource agency who have demonstrated dedication to protecting Florida's fish and wildlife resources through either law enforcement or community involvement.

## BURK "BIFF" LAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

All radio, television, newspapers, magazines or other communications media are included in this category which is open to individual reporters who have given an extra measure of time and effort in research and in-depth reporting in order to bring the conservation message before the public.

## FRANCIS S. TAYLOR OUTDOORSMAN OF THE YEAR

This award honors a person who has exemplified the highest principles of good sportsmanship and whose leadership abilities have made a significant impact for conservation. The award is named for Francis S. Taylor who passed away in 1982, was an avid outdoorsman and the first builder of all aluminum riveted custom built airboats.

## "LIVING GREEN" AWARD

The "Living Green" award is to be presented to an individual, organization, municipality, institution of learning or corporation that, during the past year, has demonstrated extraordinary vision and action in implementing a program, product and/or positive behavioral change that utilizes environmentally responsible initiatives.

## CONSERVATION NOMINATION FORM

FWF member making nomination \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator's address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

### AWARD CATEGORY

_____ Land Conservationist	_____ Fish & Wildlife Law	_____ Conservation Legislator
_____ Youth Conservationist	_____ Enforcement Officer	_____ Conservation Organization
_____ Wildlife Conservationist	_____ Conservation Communicator	_____ "Living Green" Award
_____ Forest Conservationist	_____ Water Conservationist	_____ Conservationist of the Year
_____ Outdoorsman of the Year	_____ Conservation Educator	

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form and written narrative to: Diane Hines, Florida Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870, fax to 850-942-4431 or e-mail [dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org).

**Deadline for receiving nominations is January 15, 2018.**



# Florida Nature Store

Go to [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org) for more great merchandise!

## 2017 Fall Cards By David Moynahan

David is a native Floridian who grew up in Miami and now resides near Tallahassee. As an award-winning conservation photographer, he has spent the last fifteen years as a professional nature photographer. David has merged his life-long study and respect for the natural world with his great eye for composition to create diverse and striking photographic images of Florida's wild beauty. You may already be familiar with David Moynahan's outstanding nature photography, since his photographs have graced the covers and illustrated numerous books and publications. We recommend that you visit his website, [www.davidmoynahan.com](http://www.davidmoynahan.com), and also view and enjoy his blog posts at [www.davidmoynahan.com/blog](http://www.davidmoynahan.com/blog). Please order cards on page 12 or by phone, toll free, by calling 800-656-3014. **FP - 551, Price \$8.95**



### 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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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)

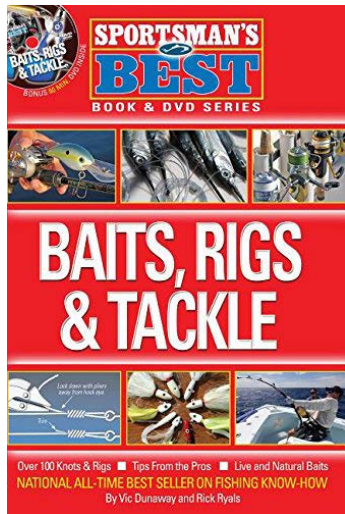
Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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.



## Sportsman's Best: Baits, Rigs & Tackle Book & DVD



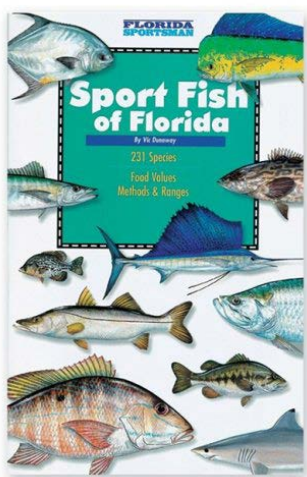
by Vic Dunaway

The latest in rods, reels, lines and terminal tackle. The hottest in rigged baits, live baits and lures. The strongest and easiest knots, leaders and rigs and much, much more. The book and DVD provide all the important angling know-how you'll ever need to fish freshwater or saltwater, bream or bass, spinning or baitcasting, flyrod or canepole, boat or shore.

Paperback, 285 pages. *FP - 309*  
Price \$9.95 (Retail Price \$21.95)

**Special Price**

## Florida Sportsman Sport Fish of Florida



by Vic Dunaway

This excellent book not only has detailed art of just about any species of fish that an angler might catch or use for bait in Florida, but also includes specific tips, hints and biological information compiled by Vic Dunaway in over 50 years of Florida fishing.

Paperback, 253 pages. *FP - 343*  
Price \$9.95 (Retail Price \$16.95)

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## 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.

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## FWF Shopper-Tote



Shopper Tote with a stylish rope handle. Conveniently laminated, this eco-friendly produce is made from 100% natural jute fiber. You'll conserve resources while you're shopping and show your support for FWF!

*FP - 553*  
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

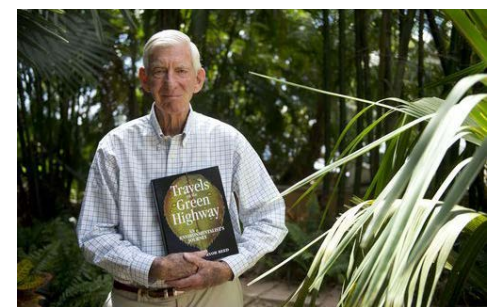
DVD - 1 Hour. *FP - 542*. Price \$20.00, *Member Price, \$17.95*.

Book by Nic Stoltzfus - Hardcover, 120 Pages. *FP - 545*  
Price \$44.95, *Member Price, \$40.00*

## Travels on the Green Highway: An Environmentalist's Journey

It is impossible to overstate the contribution Nathaniel Reed has made to transforming the culture of Florida. When he arrived more than six decades ago, Florida was continuing a long-held belief that Florida, its land, water, wildlife, other natural resources with few exceptions, were commodities to be used and disposed of at the

will of the current generation of state residents. Nathaniel and a small band of his disciples, in less than a decade, evolved Florida into a new definition – a treasure for which each generation has a responsibility to protect for future Floridians. In culture and politics, no victory is assured. Now into his eighth decade, Nathaniel still battles frequent relapses into commoditization; his vigor and vision personifying the essential grandeur of natural Florida. This is a book of essays of Nathaniel Reed's memories of behind the scenes events that helped shape this nation's environmental laws during a period of environmental renaissance. Order on Amazon: <https://goo.gl/e5G4k2>





## George Jones of ORCA on FWF Board of Directors



George has been involved in Florida's environmental issues since his family first started visiting Florida when he was young. His early exposure to the Keys and diving led him to his adult positions working to preserve and protect Florida's fragile natural ecosystems. George spent his early career with the State Department of Natural Resources, now the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), as a Park Ranger at Cape Florida State Recreation area, and then moved on to several management positions, two of which were Assistant Manager, and Manager at John Pennekamp State Park. He finished the last 10 years of a 34 year DEP career in 2007 as the Southeast Florida Region Bureau Chief in charge of all State Parks from Ft. Pierce to Key West and over to Lake Okeechobee. Since his retirement from DEP, George spent five years time as the Indian Riverkeeper with the National and International Waterkeeper Alliance Organization. He then worked for Broward County to assist with the transition of Everglades Holiday Park from FWC to a Broward County Regional Park. George currently is working with Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA) where he was a board member from 2008 till he resigned in 2013 to become an employee with ORCA working as a Representative/ Advisor for NGO's, government relations, and Special Projects. ORCA is an Affiliate organization of the Florida Wildlife Federation, but George has worked with this group and FWF throughout his career in the Florida Park Service, as well as his other positions since his retirement from DEP.

## Answers to Florida Kids' Quiz

1. *Gardeners who live in Florida are lucky, because they can garden all year round. What are some veggies and flowers that you can plant in the fall?* Some cool-weather flowers are pansies, violas, Sweet Williams, begonias and Primroses. Some vegetables that do well in cool weather are lettuces, kale, cabbages, Swiss chard, spinach, broccoli, leeks, onions, turnips and spinach. It might be fun to plant some ornamental cabbages in your flower beds. They are colorful and very pretty.

2. *Why should your family be careful about how you dispose of left-over prescription medicines that you no longer need? ("Dispose of" means to throw away.)* Do not put unwanted medications in the trash that will go to landfills, or flush them down the toilet to get rid of them. Using either of these methods risks having unfiltered medications ending up in our groundwater, which is the source of much of our drinking water. Call your local Health Department for advice on how to properly dispose of medications.

3. *How much trash does the average person in Florida throw away in a day?* The average person in the United States generates a little more than 4 1/2 pounds of trash every day! Less than 1/4 of that is recycled. What is not recycled is incinerated (burned) or is buried in landfills. Almost 3/4 of the waste that goes into landfills could be recycled.

What does this mean? It means that we must do better in our recycling efforts, and keep from polluting our groundwater with trash and wastes and causing more landfills to be needed. Burning causes air pollution. Discarded plastic bags and old fishing lines get into our lakes, rivers and oceans and are eaten by and kill aquatic creatures. We need to be more careful with our trash! PLEASE RECYCLE!

*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!***

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please send me my *FFWN* by \_\_\_\_\_ Mail \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail  
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# WIN One of These Great Prizes or \$25,000 in Cash

## Drawing for the 27th Annual Boating Sweepstakes is December 14

by Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

The Florida Wildlife Federation has launched the 27th Annual Boating Sweepstakes. 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 family wagon, 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 flats boat, the Blue Wave 2000 Pure Bay boat, the Prius v Three hybrid wagon, or the Aliner Expedition camper. Help the Federation achieve its conservation goals by sending in your tickets today or going online to enter. When you play, Florida wins! The Drawing will be held on December 14.



Fish the shallowest backcountry flats in the **BEAVER-TAIL MICRO 16** (16-foot 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-foot) 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 41 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, hands-free phone, and a smart key system. Entune Apps Suite provides real time traffic, weather, Open Table, and Pandora. Safety features include seven air bags, vehicle proximity notification system and a backup camera.

Aliner's largest model camper—**The ALINER EXPE-DITION**—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. This pop-up RV trailer includes off-road capability, soft-side and hard-side dormers, A/C-heat, stove, refrigerator, microwave, euro-style sink, toilet, 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 27th 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.

## 2017 "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes Winner

In January, the Florida Wildlife Federation concluded its 5th Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes offering three fantastic Grand Prize choices - Costco Travel Cruise in the Carribean, a Fishing Trip at Sitka Point Lodge in south-eastern Alaska, OR a \$10,000 cash prize! The Sweepstakes drawing was held on June 22, 2017 at 3 pm at FWF Headquarters in Tallahassee, and supervised by Carroll and Co., Inc., Certified Public Accountants.

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Tim Keyser (right), a former FWF Board Member and Past Chair, presenting a check to the Grand Prize winner, Mr. Jim Jordan.



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

## For Wildlife



*April and Claude Ward.*

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 4, 2017

Florida Panther Festival  
Naples, Florida

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

December 6-7, 2017

FWC Commission Meeting  
Okeechobee, Florida

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

December 14, 2017

Boating Sweepstakes Drawing  
FWF Headquarters  
Tallahassee, Florida

January 8-11, 2018

33rd Annual Everglades  
Coalition Conference  
Hutchinson Island, Florida  
[www.evergladescoalition.org/  
conference](http://www.evergladescoalition.org/conference)

January 9 - March 9, 2018  
Florida's Legislative Session

February 3-4, 2018

FWF Board of Directors Meeting  
Oakland Nature Preserve &  
Hampton Inn & Suites, Clermont  
[dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org)

April 27-29, 2018

FWF Annual Awards Banquet  
And Board of Directors meeting  
Safety Harbor Inn & Spa  
[dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org)