



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

Volume 32, Issue 4
Fall 2018

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

Our Land, Our Water, Our Future

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Chair's Message

Rick Abbott

Thank You

Two years ago, September 2016, I was elected to chair the Board of Directors of the Florida Wildlife Federation. At the time, in my mind, it was one of the greatest environmental groups in the State of Florida. After my tenure, my opinion has changed. I now know FWF is the greatest environmental group in Florida and in the top five of all such organizations in the United States! After working closely with the staff during my tenure, I now know why we get so much accomplished with so few resources. Each individual is so dedicated and motivated. Indeed, it has been a pleasure learning from these people. Thank you Manley, Preston, Michelle, Lynn and Danny. You're the best!

As in all organizations, FWF is only as good as the members and boy do we shine. Our members are dedicated, hardworking, generous individuals who will not waiver on

doing what's best for Florida's natural resources. Many of our members have never met our Board of Directors and I want to tell you this is a very special group. The Board is so diverse and from so many walks of life, I wonder how anything ever gets done. But it does. Our three to four meetings per year are more like family reunions than board meetings.

I would like to close by saying thank you to everyone involved in helping keep me on track in serving the natural wonders of the great State of Florida! I also wish incoming Board Chair Dr. Jay Exum all the best in his guidance of FWF.

Please remember . . . "We must live together as brothers or perish as fools." – Martin Luther King, Jr.



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

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Cover Photo by: Tim Barker

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The Florida Fish & Wildlife News

is published quarterly by the Florida Wildlife Federation
2545 Blairstone Pines Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

ISSN: 1520-8214

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Members of the 2018-2019 Florida Wildlife Federation Board of Directors, along with affiliate members, at FWF's most recent board meeting.

LEFT TO RIGHT: (standing) Jim Schuette, Franklin Adams, Anna Hamilton, Ray Carthy, Martha Musgrove, Jay Bushnell, Curt Kiser, Linda Stanley, John Jopling, Terry Gibson, George Jones, Pepper Uchino, Billy Causey, Joe Atterbury, Rick Abbott; (seated) Tim Bachmeyer, Steve Theberge – Photo by Valerie Anderson.

Cover Photo

Photographer: Tim Barker Location: Green Cay Wetlands

Green Cay Wetlands is a nature preserve located in Boynton Beach, Florida. The 100-acre property was purchased in 1999 from Ted and Trudy Winsberg, who used the property for farming. The Winsbergs sold the property for 1/3 of its appraised value with the condition that it would be made into a wetland.



Conservation is a Sound Policy

Preston Robertson, General Counsel/Chief Operating Officer

Florida was once rightly proud of its world-renown Florida Forever program, which has permanently conserved many special places throughout the state for the public to recreate and to protect our remaining fish and wildlife habitats. Just as importantly, this program has saved land to protect our fragile water resources.

The defunding of Florida Forever several years ago prompted the passage of Amendment 1 in 2014 by the voters. Following passage, the Legislature ignored the electorate's mandate, which led to the Federation and our allies' present lawsuit against the Legislature. Following our win at trial, the case is now on appeal.

We are back to 900 people moving into Florida daily. This type of growth takes a toll on our remaining natural resources, and makes land conservation even more critical. If successful in our litigation against the Legislature, which would require the expenditure of adequate funds for the Florida Forever program, here are some of the places that could

be saved for us and future Floridians:

1. Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie – This approximately 2,300 acre project near Pensacola would conserve a remnant wet prairie that is filled with carnivorous pitcher plants.

2. Apalachicola River project – This project in the Panhandle would protect both



sides of this fabled river, and is approximately 48,000 acres in size.

3. Wacissa/Aucilla River project – In the Big Bend region, this project protects two mainly wild river systems that feed the Gulf of Mexico.

4. Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway – Encompassing

approximately 60,000 acres in many parcels, this project would serve to complete a ribbon of wild lands across the north central part of the peninsula.

5. Lake Wales Ridge – At approximately 22,000 acres, this project would conserve an ancient sand hill region.

6. Osceola Pine Savannahs – In rapidly developing Osceola County near Orlando, this approximately 27,500 project would conserve water and shrinking habitat.

Importantly, all of these projects are only on the Florida Forever list due to willing sellers, and may be either a fee purchase, in which the land becomes state property, or a conservation easement, wherein the land is protected forever, but remains in private ownership.

A recent University of Florida study on growth indicates that **in 50 years, fully 1/3 of our state will be either paved over or have roof tops**. We must act now to preserve what is best for our water, our wildlife, our health and our quality of life.

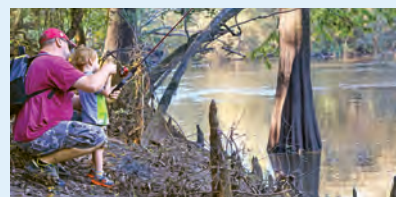
Call For 2019 Conservation Awards Nomination

The Florida Wildlife Federation is again calling for nominations for the 2019 Annual Conservation Awards Program, the oldest conservation awards program in the state. 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 14, 2019, and should be submitted to: Michelle Forman, Florida Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870, or e-mail michelle@fwfonline.org.

River Property For Sale



FOR SALE: Approximately 65 acres of natural Florida on the Ochlockonee River north of Tallahassee. This beautiful tract features karsts, woodlands, abundant wildlife and approximately one mile of river frontage on one of the most pristine rivers in the state. For more information, please contact Brian Proctor 850 224-2300, or Manley Fuller/Preston Robertson at 850 656-7113.



Dear Florida Wildlife Federation Members and Supporters,

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support and commitment to the Federation and are hard at work on behalf of conservation in this state. Unfortunately, we have been experiencing horrendous red tide and toxic algal blooms in many of our coastal waters along with a high mortality of a wide variety of marine and estuarine life. What can we do about this? For starters, we need to reduce nutrient loading into Florida's waters.

You all will recall FWF and our allies, represented by EarthJustice, battled for years in the courts for enforceable numerical nutrient standards for our waters. Sadly, a lack of political leadership on this topic has made the ongoing disaster worse.

Our state needs knowledgeable and committed conservationists in elected and appointed positions. They need to understand that we need to protect our waterways across the entire state. Florida Wildlife Federation, as a 501(c)(3) organization, cannot endorse candidates. That said, we all can ask candidates what they will do to meaningfully address the crises affecting our precious waters.

In the Everglades region, we need more treatment, storage and conveyance capacity. Congress needs to pass the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) with critical Everglades funding included as soon as possible. The

President needs to increase funding for the Everglades projects in next year's proposed budget and then Congress needs to continue to support that expansion in 2019 and in future years.

At the state level, we believe it is necessary to move forward



Photographer: Ruth V. Pannunzio Location: Wakodahatchee Wetlands Animal: Great Egret

expeditiously to secure critical lands to buffer waterways across the state so as to protect watersheds and springsheds. A paramount goal of our ongoing constitutional lawsuit is that funds in the Florida Land Acquisition Trust Fund be used to acquire conservation lands, in fee and less than fee, from the Everglades to the Panhandle. We must protect our lagoons, estuaries, river, springs, natural areas and wildlife corridors. These lands will provide the public with additional places for sustainable outdoor recreation and help protect our natural diversity.

We also believe it is necessary to fund the construction and

operation of critical Everglades restoration projects from other revenue sources, including increased millage rates, general revenue and other sources, as was the case prior to 2015, from a renewed Everglades Restoration Trust Fund.

FWF and other National Wildlife Federation affiliates across the nation are urging Congress to **fund and make permanent the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund** which has directly added to Americans' enjoyment of the outdoors. Many of the boat ramps and piers the public in Florida uses to fish and boat came from LWCF funds. This program needs to continue.

There has been some progress in building support for the **proposed**

Recovering America's Wildlife Act which will, if enacted, redirect \$1.3 billion annually to state fish and wildlife agencies and provide major assistance with state wildlife action plan implementation. Florida would receive approximately \$49 million annually. To date, over 100 members of Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, have signed onto this vital legislation. A lot more work needs to happen before this bill becomes law, but it is moving forward.

FWF recently worked with the American Forest Foundation and National Wildlife Federation holding two forest stewardship meetings in the Panhandle region with landowners. We hope to

expand this program in the coming months.

We recently held our board meeting in West Palm Beach and elected a new slate of officers and board members. Our new Chair, Dr.

Jay Exum, brings a great depth of knowledge of fish and wildlife policy and a vision for FWF going forward. Welcome to Jay and the Board of Directors!

Lastly, with Hurricane Michael

devastating the Panhandle, we wish those impacted a quick recovery.

Yours in conservation,

Manley Fuller

Hunters and Anglers Keep Their Eyes on the Senate as Land and Water Conservation Fund Expire

Sportsmen and women delivered a letter urging reauthorization of successful program.

TALLAHASSEE (10/1/18)

– 371 Florida sportsmen and women delivered a letter to members of Florida’s congressional delegation today calling on them to support full-funding and reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The letter highlighted LWCF’s support for projects like land acquisition

providing public access

for hunting and fishing, and preserving essential wildlife habitat and migration corridors in Florida. The 54-year-old conservation program expired yesterday.

“Congress has made a huge mistake by allowing this successful conservation program to expire,” said Manley Fuller, President of the Florida Wildlife Federation. “Hunters and anglers throughout Florida



Photographer: **Mike Shields** Location: **Mosquito Lagoon**

have benefitted from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Our state has received over \$1 billion in support from this and Congress needs to fix this blunder.”

Legislation is moving through the Senate that Senator Rubio and Senator Nelson may have a chance to vote on.

“Sportsmen and women in Florida will be watching closely to

see which way our Senators vote when given the chance,” added Franklin Adams, board member of the Florida Wildlife Federation. “I hope our Senators make the choice to stand with Floridians and support the full-funding and reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

Conserve Our Forage Fish!

For the millions of resident and tourist anglers who fish off our coasts and from the beach, the game fish they seek rely on a healthy population of forage fish. Forage fish, such as menhaden, make up a critical link in the marine food chain, connecting microorganisms to redfish, sea trout and snook. Forage fish also feed pelicans and many species of shore birds. We need to ensure that our forage fish populations are managed for long-term viability.

Please go to floridaforagefish.org and sign the forage fish pledge. Thanks!



Photographer: **Martina Henderson** Location: **Bahia Honda State Park**



Habitat, Water and Energy

Land

Our lawsuit against the Florida Legislature as to the Water and Land Legacy Constitutional Amendment continues. On June 28, the trial judge provided us with a victory, stating that monies stemming from the November 2014 passage of Amendment 1 were to be used for land acquisition and management, a tack that the Legislature has yet to follow. The Legislature then filed an appeal, which put an automatic stay on the trial judge's ruling. We have now asked that this stay be lifted during the appellate process, as **it has now been almost four years since the voters approved Amendment 1 and the Legislature still has not done what the voters asked – conserve our land to clean our waters.** For many years in Florida, land conservation was a policy supported by both political parties. We must act now to save our environment and quality of life. Amendment 1 was designed to help do just that.

Water

Red tides, and other harmful algae blooms, also known as HAB's, have drastically impacted South Florida to the detriment of our economy, our natural

resources and our health. Red tide is caused by an explosion in the population of a naturally occurring organism called *Karenia brevis*. In Southwest Florida, red tide has persisted for many months, killing literally tons of sea life, from fish to mollusks and sea turtles. The

algae and release the toxins. This is even more of a problem for those of us with existing respiratory conditions.

While there is some debate as to how to deal with red tides, it would seem to be common sense that stopping the nutrification of all

our waterbodies, which feed into the Gulf and Atlantic, from fertilizers, would be of great benefit. These fertilizers are feeding the algae.

Search “NOAA tides and currents” on the web for more information.

Clean Energy

For many years, Europe has advanced the use of renewable and clean energy sources such as wind and solar. These efforts are paying

off. Today, 30% of Great Britain's energy comes from renewables, and Scotland's wind turbines provided enough power for five million homes in the first part of 2018. Indeed, Scotland has a goal of 100% renewable power by 2020, and they are well on the way to realizing that goal.

Unfortunately, the United States lags behind in the use of renewables. **As the Sunshine State, we should be concentrating on solar power wherever we can.** Solar is both clean and free – the Sun comes up every day.

So far in 2018, Florida has only used renewables for approximately 3% of its power. What this means is



Photographer: Linda Steele Location: Felts Preserve Animal: Bobcat

duration of a nearshore red tide event depends on water conditions, and entails sunlight, nutrients and salinity, as well as the wind and water current directions. Although red tides in Florida are part of the state's history, the real story is the almost unprecedented nature of its persistence today. **The Southwest Coast has essentially been plagued by red tide since October 2017.** Indeed, some shellfish harvesting areas have been closed since November 2017.

As to human health, exposure to red tide is dangerous. Red tides contain neurotoxins that negatively impact the nervous systems of mammals. Wave action on the beach can break open the cells of

we have pumped over 213 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into our atmosphere. CO₂ is the driver behind climate change as it traps heat. Tons of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide are also emitted. All this pollution in the air cannot be good for humans and the environment.



Photographer: Prem Subrahmanyam
Location: Levy County Animal:
Palomedes Swallowtail Butterfly
visiting an Orange Fringed Orchid

There has been some good news. In 2001, fully 1/3 of Floridians relied on coal-fueled power; it is now 1/6, largely due to the increased use of natural gas. Moreover, a new solar power farm is being constructed just west of I-75 on the north side of I-10. You can see it from the highway.

“It has now been almost four years since the voters approved Amendment 1 and the Legislature still has not done what the voters asked – conserve our land to clean our waters.”

Florida's lack of a renewable portfolio standard has meant that we are only haphazardly making steps towards a much cleaner and healthier future. There are a few solar facilities being built, but the

potential for increasing the use of renewables is great and should be taken advantage of. We should be the leader in this effort, not the follower.

Please let your elected representatives know how you feel about renewable energy.

Coexisting with Wildlife

A boat ramp in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge recently had to be closed to recreational fishing because a multitude of alligators had started to congregate around the area. The reason? Folks were feeding the gators, and these ancient creatures now knew where to get a very easy meal. This is a reminder that nature can take care of itself if left to its own devices, as long as provided with clean water and suitable habitat. They can get along without a handout. We can enjoy them and also be safe.

Dustin T. Robertson



Featured Natural Area



Natural Area Highlight – Loblolly Woods Nature Park

Gainesville boasts a wide range of protected areas. One such location is the 156-acre Loblolly Woods Nature Park. Part of the Hogtown Creek Greenway Park system, this land protects the watersheds of Hogtown and Possum Creeks, and provides habitat in a fairly densely populated area. It runs between two major roads, NW 34th Street and NW 8th Avenue and I can attest to the wildlife values of this tract, having witnessed wild turkeys fly over 8th Avenue in my much younger days. Pedestrian, bicyclist and birder friendly, Loblolly Park offers a chance to observe sinkholes and bluffs, and a myriad of native plants such as loblolly pines, dogwoods, Southern magnolia, Spanish moss and resurrection fern. Limestone outcroppings indicate the porous nature of the ground and remind us of the need to protect our fragile water resources. Location: 3315 NW 5th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607, phone 352 334-5067.



Photographer: Lindsey Mann



Federation Joins the Panther Posse Crew for a Day

The Southwest Florida Office continues to support the Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) Wings of Hope Florida Panther Posse program through the printing of educational materials and by providing buses so that Panther Posse junior biologists can explore the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) public conservation lands. This allows the students to experience panther habitat first-hand with knowledgeable trail guides.

The Panther Posse program educates over 5,000 children annually and involves hundreds of FGCU students as mentors and guides. The program begins in the fall with a visit to FGCU and its interactive Florida Panther classroom. The program culminates with the CREW field trip in the winter. <https://www2.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope>

As the new Southwest Florida Field Representative, I had the unique opportunity to shadow the classroom portion of this program early this semester at FGCU. Ms. Ricky Pires founded this education program at the University in 2000 and has educated thousands of



Southwest Florida Field Representative, Meredith Barnard, spending the day with RCMA 4th graders at the FGCU Panther Posse classroom.

elementary and college-age students about conservation. The Southwest Florida office looks forward to shadowing the on-site portion of this program when Ms. Pires brings her student ambassadors to CREW. This is a very well-executed program; it engages students from across the region instilling the values of conservation in all participating students. The Federation is honored to support and be a part of this wonderful effort.



Collier County's Landscape Scale Conservation Initiative

The Federation's involvement in landscape scale conservation efforts in Southwest Florida dates back to the late 1990's. In 1997, the Federation, conservation partners and the State of Florida, recognized that Collier County was not doing enough to prevent sprawl and protect critical wildlife habitat

throughout wetlands, ranches and farm fields in the eastern, rural portion of the County. The groups sued the county, and this lawsuit led to the creation of landmark growth plans. One of these growth plans is known as the Rural Lands Stewardship Area (RLSA) program. The RLSA is an incentive-based

land-use overlay system that seeks to balance water flow-ways and wildlife habitat with future development throughout nearly 195,000 acres north of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and immediately east of an area known as Golden Gate Estates. This program was adopted in 2002

and a compulsory five-year review, led by a citizen committee, was completed in 2009. The review resulted in several policy change recommendations that would increase the acreage of protected lands from 92,000 to 134,000 acres.

The endangered Florida panther, now restricted to Southwest Florida, is the guiding species for the Federation's conservation work in our regional office.

Historically, the Florida panther roamed across the entire southeastern United States, but the core breeding population is now limited to the southern tip of Florida. Considering that the panther is a wide-ranging species, and that existing public lands (i.e., state and/or federally owned properties) alone are insufficient to support a growing panther population, the Federation has long recognized the importance of engaging private landowners to better support panther recovery.

The RLSA incentivizes private landowners to preserve and/or restore thousands of acres of land in exchange for increased development rights in areas of lower conservation value (e.g., old farm fields). These incentives present opportunities to conserve

large swaths of private lands and will certainly better enable the recovery of the Florida panther and other endangered species across our landscape.



Photographer: Denise Shreve Location: Bonita Springs Animal: Panther

The RLSA is a strong county program, and with implementation of the five-year review recommendations, this program has the capability to better protect wildlife habitat and water flowways. In fact, implementation of the RLSA has protected over 50,000 acres to date. Private lands are required for many species to thrive and without incentive-based tools to conserve private lands, like the RLSA, many species may not survive in the county.

Collier County is presently undergoing a re-study of the program to not only reconsider the five-year review recommendations, but also procure new data and

analysis where appropriate, and determine if further changes are necessary. The County has hosted a number of public workshops this year and continues to host them monthly. Implementation of the five-year review recommendations is the mechanism needed to increase the preservation acreage in the area.

In order to leverage preservation on private lands, the County is offering incentives through the RLSA program. The structure of these incentives allows the County to better protect agricultural land and prevent premature conversion to non-agricultural uses. Incentives also direct incompatible uses away from wetlands and upland habitat, direct conversion and intensification of rural lands to lower quality habitat, and discourage urban sprawl. The Federation looks forward to continuing its participation in the re-study workshops and engagement with County staff to ensure the RLSA program achieves the goals intended from our initial involvement from over a decade ago.

We seek to preserve not only our iconic panther, but our quality of life.



Featured Animal

Florida Native – North American River Otter (*Lutra canadensis*)

River otters seem to embody playfulness, as they roll and chase and even wrestle each other in their aquatic habitats. Weighing between 11 and 30 pounds, otters have been in North America for almost two million years per fossil records. Once widely hunted for its waterproof pelt, the otter now faces habitat destruction and water pollution as its main sources of mortality. Being web-footed mammals, otters prefer a diet of fish and crustaceans and live up to nine years in the wild. Females give birth to one to three "kits" in a den near water and young otters are ready to swim in about two months, taught solely by their mother. Just as the otters, we need clean and plentiful water to thrive.



Photographer: Ruth V. Pannunzio



Safeguarding our Natural Wonders

I recently attended one of many fundraisers for a candidate for office. Since our IRS designation forbids endorsing candidates I'll simply say this senator is one of the good guys who I hope prevails in 2019. The gathered audience was composed of environmental, social welfare and business lobbyists, so it was interesting to hear the response when our host asked us to say what we liked most about Florida. Responses ranged from "Her parks" to "Her beaches" to "Her outdoor recreational opportunities" to "Her amazing sunsets." No one said I like the transportation network, amusement parks or business climate, even though many of these benefit directly from a beautiful natural environment. No, it was all about the natural wonders many of us have within minutes of our back doors.

The senator listened intently, nodding his agreement. It was the kind of response you would expect from a native Floridian who has a demonstrated record of support for our environment. Yet, it was reassuring to see and hear his reaction. Considering the gathered audience, I was pleased but not totally surprised, that the **participants' list of**



Photographer: Patricia Ann Wright Location: Gasparilla Island
Animal: Osprey

favorite things about Florida was so focused on her natural attributes. What was interesting was that many of these lobbyists don't get paid to advocate for the environment. This appreciation for nature is in their DNA. How do we harness that love? How do we make these people environmental advocates, whether they lobby for industry or social welfare issues? That is a question we should all ponder in this election cycle. How

“Positive change can only happen if traditional advocates for a healthy environment are joined by nontraditional advocates.”

can we make environmental advocates of people who influence policymakers, be they a professional lobbyist, or our family members and friends?

To say that state politics is in flux is no overstatement. This may be the most contentious governor's race since modern Florida was born. **Will Florida's water, lands and beaches be just a nice slogan?** Will

the rhetoric in anyway match the agenda once the politicians become policymakers? I suspect that positive change can only happen if traditional advocates for a healthy environment are joined by non-traditional advocates: voters who, angered and dismayed by scenes of environmental disaster and poor environmental management, demand real change. This summer we have seen it all, from algae blooms to spoiled beaches. Are voters going to demand action or simply fall for negative advertising that tells us nothing? I remain hopeful that gatherings like the one I attended will move more politicians to safeguard our environment and keep our natural wonders sustainable and safe for all Floridians to enjoy.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay".

2018 Fall Cards by Prem Subrahmanyam

Prem Subrahmanyam is an award-winning nature photographer and naturalist with a particular passion for Florida's native orchids. His goal is to photograph all of the species of orchids still found in our state, as well as to educate the public at large about these rare and beautiful plants. He can often be found, along with his children as

photography assistants, trekking through deep woods, wading through waist-deep swamps, or stopping alongside a flower-laden roadside to document these plants, and whatever other wildlife they may encounter. His website www.flnativeorchids.com chronicles his adventures in the wilds of Florida seeking these rare plants.



Last Sunset of the Big Cigar Orchid

Deep in the Everglades, one of the largest and most magnificent Cigar Orchids (*Cyrtopodium punctatum*) made its home on a dead tree in the middle of an open salt marsh. Prem, along with several of his older children, visited this orchid on a nearly annual basis when it came into flower. In March of 2017, his small troop made a trip to photograph this orchid at night with the Milky Way galaxy behind it. They arrived shortly before sunset to a spectacular view. Later that night, a superb deep night sky provided a wonderful backdrop for further photography work. Sadly, Hurricane Irma felled this plant in late 2017, where it plunged into the water below and was largely lost.



Silly Woodpecker

After visiting Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Naples, Florida, to observe the Super Ghost Orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*), our family group was alerted to some commotion in a shrub on the way to the parking lot. This Pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) was fluttering through the Simpson's Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) shrub downing as many berries as it could. As I photographed this bird, it struck a particularly comical upside-down pose with a berry in its mouth.



(continued on page 12)

2018 Fall Cards (continued from page 11)

Ghost Orchid

Deep in the most forbidding of Florida's swamps, where the water often comes up waist high, blooms one of Florida's most spectacular individual orchid flowers, the Ghost Orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*). Their common name stems from the growth habit of this plant – merely an untidy bundle of photosynthesizing roots with no leaves radiating out from a very reduced central stem. The slender flower stems arise from this central stem, bearing a large, ghostly, white flower suspended, so it seems, in mid-air with no physical support. While the most prolific blooming period is in June, some stragglers will bloom into August and September. This particular haunting beauty was found in mid-August.



Zebra Longwing Butterfly

This lovely Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charithonia*), Florida's state butterfly, was photographed in the fall along Flagler Trail in eastern Seminole County, Florida, where there were many species of butterfly in abundance. It had just alighted on a Climbing Aster flower (*Aster carolinianus*), making for a lovely shot.



Your Order Helps FWF Preserve and Protect Florida's Fish, Wildlife, and Natural Resources.

Please order cards by phone, toll free, by calling 800-656-3014. FP 555 **Price: \$20.00**

Outdoor Recreation

Marney Richards, FWF Staff

My parents were city people. Sure, our family took an occasional trip to the beach during the summer, but hiking or sleeping outdoors was unheard of. But when our outdoorsy neighbors took me camping with their family in the wilds of a near-by state park, I was hooked!

How does outdoor recreation benefit our health? There's lots of research on the topic. **Studies show walking**

in nature can improve memory and reduce mental fatigue, much more than walking in the city. Spending time in the woods, or near water, can help reduce anxiety and depression, and lower blood pressure. Even our creativity gets a boost from time in nature.

We're happier, healthier and more creative spending time outdoors – a few reasons why we love and work to preserve natural Florida.





FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S

Boating Sweepstakes

Choose One-of-Four All New Grand Prizes
OR \$30,000 In Cash

Play the 2018 Boating Sweepstakes Today!

This Year's Grand Prize Choices are:

- Sea Born FX22 Bay Sport
- Beavertail Mosquito 18 Flats Boat
- Honda Accord Hybrid Sedan
- Small Boat Alaskan Cruise plus Fishing Adventure
- or \$30,000 in Cash

Ten Second Prize winners receive a \$75 Gift Certificate to Guy Harvey Sportswear.

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.

For more information, read the Sweepstakes Flyer and the Official Rules at our website, www.fwfonline.org. To enter, click the Programs icon at the top of our webpage. If you would like a set of tickets mailed to you, send an email to FWF at boatsweeps@fwfonline.org or call our toll-free number (800) 656-3014. Please provide your full name and complete mailing address to receive a packet of tickets. Specify "Boat Sweeps" in the Subject line.

Help the Federation achieve its conservation goals by **PLAYING** the 28th Annual Boating Sweepstakes today. The Drawing will be held on December 13, 2018.

When you play, conservation wins!

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

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

by Marney Richards

1.

What do Florida manatees eat?



2.

When is bald eagle nesting season in Florida?



3.

What are some good vegetables to plant in a fall and winter veggie garden in Florida?



See page 14 for answers and more information.

Sarah Bailey

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

Sarah Bailey grew up on a farm in Western Kentucky. Tree climbing and seining the creeks for crayfish and salamanders, she spent most days outdoors, and delighted in bringing home various animals, including a box of baby snakes that escaped (inside!). That young love for the natural world matured into a fervent desire to protect land, not only to benefit her beloved wildlife, but to ensure a sustainable future for her children and grandchildren.

After a stint as an art director in New York City, Sarah met her late husband, John Matthews Bailey, of the family who pioneered Sanibel Island in the 1890s. John graduated from the University of Florida in Animal Husbandry, and he and Sarah went on to establish an award-winning cattle operation in Arkansas. Raising livestock and Quarter Horses has remained a lifelong passion, and today the Bailey herd is registered Florida Cracker Cattle. To help preserve their ranch in St. Johns County, the Baileys created a special trust with the University of Florida



Sarah Bailey with FWF president, Manley Fuller (right).

Foundation, which will benefit several conservation charities including the Florida Wildlife Federation—a gesture that will continue her special relationship with the land and the outdoors after she is gone.

During years of trail riding all over Florida, “I came to see how important it is to save land. We saw the devastation of South Florida wetlands, and what it was doing to our native plants and wildlife.” Her sentiments reflect not just her personal feelings, but her lifelong commitment to conservation. Working with statewide land trust programs such as Endangered Lands, C.A.R.L., and Florida Forever; the

St. Johns County Board of Commissioners; and the FWF Board of Directors, Sarah contributed to the preservation of many Florida properties including Big and Little Talbot Islands, Guana State Preserve and the Julington-Durbin Creeks Peninsula. Among her most cherished awards for her long-term activism is the eagle sculpture she received as the ninth inductee into the Florida Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame.

Please join with Sarah 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 bequest to the Florida Wildlife Federation or a charitable trust like Sarah'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 estate planning can benefit both you and wildlife, please contact Manley Fuller or Preston Robertson at (850) 656-7113.

Answers to FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

1. Manatees are “herbivores” or plant eaters. Their diet consists mainly of sea grasses and freshwater vegetation. Manatees are very slow moving and usually stay in waters 68 degrees Fahrenheit or warmer. You can help to protect Florida manatees by never approaching or trying to feed them. Also, remind your family to always slow way down when boating in areas where manatees might be present.

2. Nesting season is now! Bald eagle nesting season runs from October to mid-May. Florida has one of the highest concentrations of nesting bald eagles in the lower 48 states. Eagles often return to use the same nest each year. Their nests are usually built in live trees that can support very large nests. Nests are located near water, since fish are the primary diet of bald eagles.

3. October and November are good times to plant broccoli, carrots, collards, kale, Swiss chard, cabbage and even lettuce when the temperature cools down in November. Winter is a good time to garden in Florida since there are fewer garden pests when the weather is cooler.

How Did You Do, Florida Kid?



Thank You to Our Donors

New Life Member:

Joseph Hixon, Ponte Vedra Beach

**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.*

Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Photographer: Georgia Wilson Location: Orlando Wetlands Park
Animals: Roseate Spoonbill



Photographer: Christy Draper Location: Garcon Point
Plant: Pitcher plant



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2018 PHOTO CONTEST

Photo contest ends December 31, 2018.

Visit www.snappiephoto.com to enter now!



Photographer: **Raymond Kent Douglas** *Location:* **Pensacola Beach**

"This ghost crab was spooked out of his hole on the beach when some boys were digging in the sand. He made a bee-line to the shallow surf, and hung out there for a while,

waiting for the danger to pass. I spent quite a bit of time watching this little crab duck in and out of the waves checking to see if the coast was clear."



**Florida Fish &
Wildlife News**

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

Volume 32, Issue 4

Fall 2018