



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

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Chair's Message

Jay Exum

Greetings Florida Wildlife Federation Members and Supporters!



In the last edition of *Fish and Wildlife News*, I wrote about the successes wildlife managers have had restoring species previously listed as threatened or endangered. This was accomplished through concentrated efforts at habitat restoration, removal of toxic chemicals from the environment and proper land management. This month, I feel compelled to cite some alarmingly bad news in the hopes that you will all become active in conservation efforts to alter an ominous trend.

It has already been highly reported, but a recent article in *Science* documents the incredible decline of North American birds since 1970. Ken Rosenberg, a renowned ornithologist from Cornell, and a team of researchers documented a **net loss of almost 3 billion birds**, or 29% of population levels from 1970. This study was conducted by looking at various sources of information such as breeding bird surveys, Audubon Christmas Bird Counts, aerial surveys and weather radar data to document the steep decline across most families of birds and most habitat types.

There was a small bit of good news: wetland birds in general, waterfowl, and raptors in particular, showed an overall net gain. But most of the other bird families have seen precipitous declines. The loss of American sparrows, wood warblers and blackbirds represent a substantial portion of the total population declines. Birds that use grassland habitats and overwinter in coastal areas were disproportionately impacted. Rosenberg and his co-authors found that even the most common species have declined considerably over the last 50 years.

Because birds have been well studied throughout the period assessed by Rosenberg et al., they are likely good indicators of what is probably occurring in other groups

of animals that aren't as easily monitored. The authors suggest that we comprehensively address habitat loss, agricultural intensification, pesticide use, coastal disturbance and direct mortality, as well as the likely consequences of climate change, to avert a crisis across all groups of animals.



The bobwhite quail is a grassland species that has suffered steep declines since 1970. Photo by Jay Exum

There is a good two-page summary of the technical report in the September 20th issue of *Science*, and it is worth the read. After you read the article, or perhaps just through the information I present here, I hope you will seek ways to engage with the Florida Wildlife Federation or a national environmental organization that provides policy recommendations, insight to land management agencies and recommendations for individuals. Now more than ever, FWF's focus on funding for land acquisition should resonate with all of you – and hopefully with the state legislature as it budgets and allocates money for conservation.

Feel free to contact me with advice or suggestions as to how FWF can leverage your passion for the natural environment.

Jay H. Exum

Cover photo information on page 5



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

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Animal: White Grey Squirrel Photographer: Kristin Bass-Petersen
Location: Lake Jackson, Tallahassee

Contact Information

Tallahassee Mailing Address
PO Box 6870
Tallahassee, Florida 32314
news@fwfonline.org

Naples Office
2590 Golden Gate Parkway,
Ste 105
Naples, Florida 34105
239-643-4111
meredithb@fwfonline.org

Tallahassee Street Address
2545 Blairstone Pines Dr
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850-656-7113

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Danny Shapiro & Preston T. Robertson

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Franklin's Farewell and Parting Thoughts

On September 28th I retired from the Florida Wildlife Federation board having served as a past chairman and board member for 31 years. It has been an honor to do so.

What attracted me to FWF many years ago was its common-sense approach to protection of natural areas.

FWF listens to both sides, follows the science, and advocates strongly once a position is arrived at on a specific issue. When all efforts are exhausted, FWF will not hesitate to take legal action on behalf of the environment and wildlife. FWF's belief is that the public should be able to have access and enjoy acquired protected areas in a responsible and ethical manner: birding, fishing, hunting, canoeing, hiking or just relaxing in a quiet secluded area. When the public can enjoy these natural areas, we have a strong constituency for protecting them from those who would try to remove them from protection.

During my time with FWF I am most proud of my role in helping to establish the FWF Southwest Florida Office in Naples in 1994. The SWFO has focused on growth management, land use planning and especially protection of the endangered Florida panther. FWF's small dedicated staff has worked tirelessly to get wildlife crossings and corridors established where documentation proves the need. These crossings work and roadkill has been



Franklin Adams

greatly reduced. FWF is funding studies and research to further support wildlife crossings where needed.

Looking back, FWF's volunteer board and hard-working staff have accomplished many conservation victories over the past 83 years. Too many to list here. Working together with the support of our loyal membership the Federation will continue its mission of "Keeping the Wild in Florida." Those of us who treasure Florida's remaining natural habitat areas must continue to work every day to meet the many

environmental challenges that we continue to face.

During my time with FWF I have had the privilege of meeting and working with so many individuals who love the real Florida. Especially meaningful are those who became dear friends and conservation family members. FWF's many years of conservation work has built a lasting conservation legacy. We must continue to do so.

Especially important to our work is your financial support.

Please, each of you, do what you can to help FWF in its daily work to preserve and protect our beloved Florida's many threatened wild places.

In June, at the FWF Annual Awards banquet, my wife Kathy and I were totally caught off-guard when I was elected to the Florida Wildlife Federation "Hall of Fame." What a wonderful honor to be

included within this group of Florida conservation leaders. Thank You Friends! Kathy and I will continue to support FWF and hope that you will do so too.

– *Franklin Adams*



Elam Stoltzfus (center) and Franklin in the Everglades



Nancy and Franklin at the Nancy Payton Preserve



Dear Federation Members and Supporters:

As swelteringly hot summer temperatures ease, we hope you are finally enjoying some cooler weather. With decreasing temperatures, Floridians and visitors can more fully enjoy going out into Nature and living the real Florida lifestyle.

The Federation continues to act to secure the conservation funding voters overwhelmingly approved in 2014 via the **Water and Land Legacy Constitutional Amendment**. Following our trial court victory, the appellate court recently ruled that the money from this Amendment could be spent on previously acquired lands as well as future ones. FWF had not argued otherwise. The appellate ruling means we are now back at the trial level to argue that the Legislature has misspent millions of dollars on administrative functions it should have spent as the voters directed: towards the conservation of land and the protection of water.

While we continue to push the Water and Land Legacy Amendment litigation, there is some potential good news from our elected officials. The likely next Speaker of the House, Representative Chris Sprowls, who would take the helm after the 2020 election, has declared that **we must stop ignoring climate change and the threats to our state**. It is hoped his leadership will move Florida in a direction that preserves the fragile ecology which supports our economy. **Environmental sustainability should not be a partisan issue.**

The upcoming Legislative Session commences on January 14, 2020 and committee meetings are already underway. We will be advocating for full funding for the **Florida Forever and the Rural and Family Lands programs**.



Photographer: Robert Wershoven
Location: Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Permanently protecting lands by purchase by the state or via the use of perpetual conservation easements is the most cost-effective way to ensure wildlife habitat and recharge areas for freshwater and also open space. We will be supporting **Everglades restoration** and actions to dissuade polluters from contaminating our lands and waters. Please get involved with your local State Senators and Representatives and let them know how you feel.

FWF is pursuing the conservation of our marine habitats with our allies by advancing the cause of holistic marine fish management. Moreover, we support the creation of new Aquatic Preserves, especially where they

protect our remaining seagrass beds, as in the Gulf of Mexico. Designated Aquatic Preserves allow

“Environmental sustainability should not be a partisan issue.”

past human activities but place an emphasis on management to preserve ecological functions. **Sea grass beds** are the nurseries of the ocean where many fish species grow from tiny babies to adults. The grasses provide habitat and cover to decrease predation. They are also important to the forage fish species that are a critical link in the marine food chain, and upon which gamefish such as redfish and sea trout rely.

As our climate changes, it is even more important to think about using native plant species. FWF is promoting the planting of longleaf pine, and many other plants that are acclimated to Florida's environment should be considered. **Check out a native nursery near you** for suggestions. These plants not only survive better, many provide food and shelter for our wildlife.

Our environmental education program is growing as we strive to make children aware of the need for stewardship. It is remarkable how a little bit of knowledge can engender a passion to protect Florida habitats and wildlife, even the bugs!

Lastly, us old-timers should take heed of the activism of young students getting engaged worldwide in the climate debate. Organizations such as School Strike for Climate are making their voices heard in the public square and telling their elders that they want a livable and sustainable planet. They are not satisfied with the status quo and the slow steps presently being taken to stem the climate crisis. Our elected leaders should listen. **Planet Earth does not have a spare.**

As we continue our efforts, many thanks to all who support the Federation. We could not do it without you.

Quinn T. Robertson

Call for 2020 Conservation Awards Nomination

The Florida Wildlife Federation is again calling for nominations for the 2020 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.

You must be an FWF member to make a nomination. Nominations will be accepted through January 14, 2020, and should be submitted to: Michelle Forman, Florida Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870, or via e-mail michelle@fwfonline.org.

Cover Image



*Animal: White Grey Squirrel Photographer: Kristin Bass-Petersen
Location: Lake Jackson, Tallahassee*

The white squirrel is actually a genetic anomaly due to a mutated gene in the common Eastern gray squirrel. It is called leucism, which is a condition characterized by reduced pigmentation in animals caused by a recessive allele. Unlike albinism, it is a reduction in all types of skin pigment, not just melanin. White squirrels lack red eyes and also tend to have a gray patch on their heads and what is referred to as a "dorsal stripe" down their backs.

– FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory

NO TOLL ROADS!

The 2020 Legislative Session Starts in January. Now is the Time to Get Involved.

Tell our elected leaders not to waste money on three unneeded massive toll roads proposed to be built through the last remaining rural parts of the Florida Peninsula. These toll roads will bring sprawl and further degrade water quality and habitats.



*Animal: Panther
Photographer: Denise Shreve
Location: Bonita Springs*

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE FOLLOWING:

Senate President Bill Galvano, 850 487-5021, galvano.bill@flsenate.gov

Senate President-Elect Wilton Simpson, 850 487-5010, simpson.wilton@flsenate.gov

House Speaker Jose Oliva, 850 717-5110, oliva.jose@myfloridahouse.gov

House Speaker-Elect Chris Sprowls, 850 717-5065, chris.sprows@myfloridahouse.gov

Minority Leader Audrey Gibson, 850 487-5833, gibson.audrey@flsenate.gov



Kids Outdoors

Recently I heard a story from an FWF member that gave me pause. Driving with his grandson, this outdoorsman saw a large snake in the road. Naturally, he pulled over, got out and encouraged his grandson to come with him to look at the snake. A big rattler, how exciting for a kid to see! Sadly his grandson stayed in the truck, absorbed in a game on his device. Our outdoorsman/granddad pretty much had to pry the boy out to see this fine North Florida specimen.

The desire to preserve natural lands and wildlife for our children and grandchildren is such a common wish. We want young people to experience some of the same joy and beauty in the natural world that many of us grew up with and continue to enjoy. **But are our Florida kids getting outside?**

Studies show children often spend six hours or more a day looking at screens, many parents fear letting kids play outdoors, and many families don't have time or access to places to be out in the natural world. This is not a good situation.

At the same time, we know how important being outside is for health. Sunlight is essential for healthy bones and immune systems, good sleep and good mood. Exercise, especially the kind of active play kids can get outdoors,



Animal: **Two-toed amphiuma** Photographer: **Ian Easterling**
Location: **Fakahatchee Strand State Park**

can help avoid childhood obesity and resulting health problems.

Time spent in nature can have a strong, positive impact on a child's intellectual and personal development. According to the Child Mind Institute, it builds confidence and promotes creativity

“Studies show children often spend six hours or more a day looking at screens, many parents fear letting kids play outdoors, and many families don't have time or access to places to be out in the natural world.”

and imagination. Time outdoors can also teach responsibility, especially when children take care of some part of their environment. **Importantly, nature can evoke a sense of wonder.** Having the chance to observe the natural phenomena going on around us all the time – in backyards, parks, school grounds – can lead kids to be curious about habitats and the

environment. In other words, the real world.

Many schools now have programs to help kids learn about Nature. Working with students in the garden club at my neighborhood elementary school, I see the reactions of different kids to the “wildlife” in the veggie gardens. Many of them react with some fear, or at least dislike, to bugs in the garden. Worms do seem more popular, as is the occasional toad. They ask lots of questions about the bugs and seem to adapt to them over time as we work outside. Teachers tell me many kids tend to think everything is poisonous – and want to squish each caterpillar or bug they find! Luckily, the wise teachers have started a program called Earth Manners, teaching kids about the critters they find outside their classrooms. Lately some students have been seen carefully

picking up caterpillars with leaves from walkways and moving them to “safety” in the grass.

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, describes asking a committed environmentalist about how he first interacted with the outdoors. The individual responded that he just built backyard forts and tree houses. His response underscores the importance of kids being able to spend time in the



Animal: Eastern diamondback rattlesnake Photographer: **Tasman Rosenfeld** Location: Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest

natural world close to home. We must continue sharing our love of the outdoors with children in backyards, neighborhood projects, parks, community centers and school gardens. We can encourage kids to look at wildlife when they come across it and keep working with our children to **help them become future stewards of nature and wildlife.**

Marney



Featured Animal

Florida Native – Hawksbill Turtle

(Eretmochelys imbricata)

The beautiful hawksbill sea turtle is a critically endangered species and exists worldwide. Smaller than most other sea turtles, it nests on beaches in Florida’s Southeast coast and in the Keys. After a female lays its eggs, it takes about 60 days before the baby turtles emerge to crawl to the sea. As an omnivorous species, this turtle eats just about anything. Its narrow beak allows it to reach into crevices to consume sponges and other invertebrates. It also eats jellyfish and sea anemones. Hawksbills have been on the planet for about 100 million years, but the population is presently under great pressure. Sadly, some people illegally take these turtles to make jewelry from their shells. If we are to keep this wonderful marine species, we need to protect their nesting grounds and stop illegal poaching.



Animal: Hawksbill Turtle Photographer: **Antonio Canero**
Location: **Key Largo**



Florida Wildlife Federation Kicks Off New Wildlife Crossing Study

The Federation's Southwest office continues its ongoing campaign to enhance habitat connectivity among Florida's public and private conservation lands. This includes connecting landscapes across Florida's extensive road networks. We are coordinating with our long-time transportation ecologist, Dr. Daniel Smith, on wildlife crossing needs and structure design; this will enhance land use planning and protect threatened wildlife as development continues to spread and intensify throughout Florida.

Roadways are significant barriers for wildlife and wildlife movement. Roads significantly contribute to habitat loss and fragmentation which are the greatest threat to establishing and maintaining sustainable populations of the endangered Florida panther and many other species of native wildlife. Additionally, **vehicle strikes on roads are the leading cause of mortality for panthers.** In 2019 alone, there have been 16 panther deaths due to vehicle collisions, including a 4-month old female that was hit just a few miles west of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. It is thereby important to note that despite the Federation's strong opposition, the Florida Legislature approved a bill to build **three new massive toll roads in the remaining rural parts of the peninsula. These roads will go through environmentally sensitive areas, fragment panther habitat and isolate existing public lands. FWF will continue to oppose this plan.**

Wildlife crossing structures like



Florida Panther

culverts, underpasses and ledges serve as connections between landscapes divided by highways and play a critical role in increasing the ability of wildlife to safely cross. Increased use of such structures will help prevent wildlife vehicle strikes and allow wildlife populations to reconnect. There are over 70 dedicated terrestrial wildlife crossings throughout South and Central Florida. In addition to these structures, there are also hundreds of existing bridges and culverts, not originally constructed for wildlife passage, that currently provide various levels of connectivity for wildlife.

With the support of generous donors and a partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Federation kicked off a two year wildlife crossing study this summer. This project will develop a statewide-applicable wildlife crossing needs and priority model, create an updated inventory of all existing wildlife crossing infrastructure, and ultimately produce a **Florida wildlife crossing structure planning and design manual.** The manual will be developed in cooperation with a technical advisory

group (TAG) composed of representatives from FDOT, FWC, and non-profit groups, including the Florida Wildlife Federation. The resulting product is envisioned to be a one-stop guidance manual for transportation planners, engineers and designers. All three components of this study will serve as resources for planning, design, construction and maintenance of wildlife crossing structures across the state.

Disorder Impacting Panthers and Bobcats

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is investigating a disorder detected in some Florida panthers and bobcats. As of August 2019, the FWC confirmed neurological damage in one panther and one bobcat. Additionally, FWC notes that trail camera footage has captured eight panthers and one bobcat displaying varying degrees of distressed behavior. Videos of affected cats were collected from multiple locations in Collier, Lee and Sarasota counties, and at least one panther photographed in Charlotte County could also have been affected.

The FWC is taking this situation very seriously; they have increased monitoring efforts and are also working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other experts to determine the cause of this condition. The Federation has sorted through our wildlife trail camera footage and has not observed any impacted individuals. We will continue to monitor our cameras and inform FWC if affected individuals are spotted.

The public can help with this investigation by submitting trail camera footage or other videos that happen to capture animals that appear to have a problem with their rear legs. Files less than 10MB can be uploaded to the FWC panther sighting webpage at [MyFWC.com/Panther Sightings](http://MyFWC.com/PantherSightings). If you have larger files, please contact the FWC at Panther.Sightings@MyFWC.com.

Florida Wildlife Federation Supports Florida Forever and Rural and Family Lands

The Florida Wildlife Federation recently attended an inspirational meeting focused on land preservation hosted by the Florida Conservation Group at Blackbeard's Ranch in Myakka, Florida (see photo). The meeting brought together both the ranching and conservation communities to start the dialogue on how to best gain support to fully fund both the Florida Forever and Rural and Family Lands (RFL) Programs.



FWF and conservationists at Blackbeard's Ranch.

Currently, there are hundreds of thousands of acres to be protected on the Florida Forever and RFL lists, all with willing sellers who want to save their natural land for the future. With increased development and expanded road projects, it is clear that these programs are critical for preserving Florida's rural and environmental landscapes.

Understanding that ranch lands play a significant role for important

habitat, wildlife movement, and water storage, easements are essential to help conserve ranch lands so they can continue to provide these ecosystem services. **The Federation stands with the Florida Conservation Group in strong support for full funding for both the Florida Forever and Rural and Family Lands programs.**



Featured Natural Area



Picayune Strand State Forest

At 78,000 acres, Picayune Strand State Forest is a myriad of cypress domes, wet pine flatwoods and prairies. Once a potential site for a massive development, the forest has been undergoing restoration for many years, especially as to improving hydrology by eliminating roads and filling canals. FWF has been part of this effort since inception. Situated in Collier County east of Naples, the forest is critical to the ecological health of the Everglades as wetlands provide freshwater recharge and regulate flow. The wildlife that live here include the Florida panther, red-cockaded woodpecker, wood stork and Big Cypress fox squirrel. Recreational activities include horseback riding, hiking, camping and birdwatching. Location: 2121 52nd Ave., SE, Naples, FL 34117, phone (239) 348-7557.



Photographer: @scottfl/Flickr Location: Picayune Strand State Forest



Lightning and Nitrogen Fixation

As we begin having more and more lightning storms in the afternoon, I thought it would be interesting to write about the positive side of lightning. Yes, lightning strikes can be quite dangerous and possibly fatal. Additionally, for better or worse, they can start wildfires. On the positive side, it is estimated that lightning fixes 2% of the nitrogen available to plants including our forests. As an electric strike goes through our atmosphere, it fuels a chemical reaction that converts some of the nitrogen in the atmosphere so that rainwater can pick it up and bring it to the ground. At that point, trees can absorb the nitrogen through their leaves, or as the water leaches into our soil, roots can absorb the nitrogen.

Another important point when estimating how much lightning-fixed nitrogen is available to plants, it is important to realize that lightning doesn't strike evenly throughout the world. **In the United States, Florida has one of the greatest number of lightning-days per year.** The center of the state has about 100 lightning-days per year. The Rocky Mountain Front Range of New Mexico and Colorado is another high area; it has about 60 lightning-days per year. The lower parts of Texas,



Photographer: Edward Staples Location: Lake Santa Fe, Florida



Photographer: Rachel Gray Location: Orlando

Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina also have 60 or more days per year. Anyhow, you get the picture. The region we live in has more lightning than is typical.

You can see this effect after a good summer thunderstorm, the grass looks a little greener than it did before. This is because the rain came with an extra boost of nitrogen. This effect won't last long as nitrogen leaches through

our soil quickly, so it has to be frequently replenished. This process of taking nutrients out of the atmosphere is called **nitrogen fixation**. If you ever heard the saying, "no one ever fertilized an old growth forest" it is good to remember that an old growth forest will lose some nutrients, but through nitrogen fixation, the forest gets part of its nutrients replenished. Natural plant communities rely on these nutrient cycles to help replenish lost nutrients. Thus, at some point, an old growth forest reached an equilibrium with nitrogen fixation and other outside nutrient entry points such as nitrogen captured from the atmosphere by legumes.

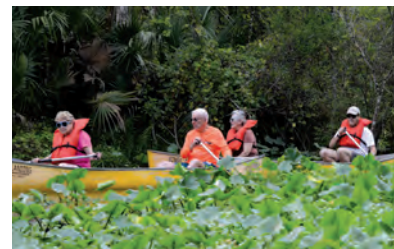
In my own yard I try to reach this equilibrium as best as I can by recycling everything I can on site. This includes grass clipping, leaves and pine straw, so that I can keep as much of the things that nature gives to my yard.

So, the next time you hear and see (from a safe place) a good thunderstorm, you can also know that nature is helping fertilize your yard and the forest.

Stan Rosenthal

FWF Board Meeting

The FWF Board of Directors and affiliates held the September 2019 meeting at the beautiful Wekiwa Springs State Park near Orlando. After a day of policy discussion and comradery, members took a fun trip down the Wekiva River.



“FWF’s mission is to conserve Florida’s wildlife, habitat and natural resources through education, advocacy and science-based stewardship.”

My Wild Friends *Senator Bill Nelson*

Growing up on a Florida ranch, I was always outdoors enjoying mother nature and all her creatures. As I attended to my 4-H club beef cattle project, invariably I would see foxes, possums, armadillos, rattlesnakes, fish hawks and eagles. Such was my childhood.

My wildlife experiences expanded dramatically over the

years. Wolves and bighorn sheep in northern Canada and scary African animals in Zimbabwe were part of extensive and exhilarating adventures. On the latter trips, we found a fresh killed carcass of the endangered African black rhino, mutilated by his rival bull in a fight to the death. The challenger had deposed the chief by hooking him several times after he fell on his side.

In Florida, I have had the privilege of calling turkeys, crows and alligators. Needless to say, some people were surprised that their Senator could make noises that would actually cause these critters to come towards him.

While jogging in the woods of North Florida, I abruptly froze as an explosion of black fur crossed my path and crashed through the woods. I carefully backed out, hoping that a mama black bear did not have her cub nearby.

The ones that I have hunted, and do not like, are the invading Burmese pythons who are taking over the Everglades and eliminating our native wildlife. All the efforts of time and money to restore the “river of grass” as Marjory Stoneman Douglas described much of South Florida, will not be completed unless we are successful in stopping these predators from ravishing and altering the natural ecological balance.

So what am I doing now to continue my lifelong adventure with our wild friends?

I live in a community near Orlando that is like a



Native bobcat hunts through backyard of Senator Bill Nelson! Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/GOkFcd2nHIU>.

wildlife preserve. The deer are almost like pets, save for two bucks locking horns in my back yard to gain the favor of the does.

There are three nesting pairs of eagles on two lakes at our place. Gobblers strut, ospreys cry, and sandhill cranes wake up the neighborhood. At least one huge bobcat has easy pickings for any meal, which is why he is so large as to look

almost panther size.

I've been privileged to see a lot of Florida wild lands and wildlife. But I have never seen the wild creatures in abundance so close and part of an urban setting.

Just like when I was a kid growing up in Florida, I now continue to be blessed daily with My Wild Friends.

Ed. Note: If anyone can appreciate Florida's unique and beautiful natural resources, it is Bill Nelson. As Florida's senior US Senator from 2001 to 2019, Nelson held oil drilling at bay off our eastern Gulf Coast and negotiated the passage of the RESTORE Act following the BP oil spill disaster. Sen. Nelson was instrumental in seeing that Florida's Everglades continued to be restored and thereby protect South Florida's water supply. And, as one of two members of Congress to have flown in space, Nelson saw our vulnerable planet from a perspective few have experienced.

It is an honor that Senator Nelson would share his own wildlife experiences with our readers. I hope that his firsthand experiences with nature encourages others to become better stewards of Florida's wild wonders and that you will consider supporting organizations like FWF so we can continue to protect and preserve our Florida.



FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S *Wild Florida Sweepstakes*

Play the Wild Florida Sweepstakes Today and Win \$20,000 in Cash!

*Five second prize winners will receive a
\$50 Bass Pro Shop Gift Card.*

How to Enter: Ticket contributions are \$5 each. Six tickets for \$25, 15 for \$50, 35 for \$100, and 50 for \$125 (the best value). Watch for your sweepstakes tickets in the mail.



Photographer: Christy Draper Location: Wakulla Springs

For more information, read the Wild Florida 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 sweeps@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.

By playing the sweepstakes you help FWF advocate in critical areas such as **Clean Water**, the preservation of the **Florida panther** and the sustainability of species like the **Florida black bear**.

Thanks for supporting the Florida Wildlife Federation!



Animal: Black bear
Photographer: Jonah Parker Hanson

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Florida Wildlife Federation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.



When you Start With a Smile, we can facilitate wildlife crossings statewide which protect wildlife and humans.

Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1398265> to sign up!

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Kids' Quiz

by Marney Richards

1. What big bird can run up to 25 mph over short distances and fly up to 55 mph?



2. Have you ever seen a kohlrabi?



3. Can you name a yellow butterfly seen statewide in large numbers in the fall?



See page 14 for answers and more information.

Steve O'Hara

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

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

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



Steve O'Hara and his wife, Jeri.

part because it so willingly engages with others in achieving common goals.

Since then, Steve O'Hara has served almost three decades on the Florida Wildlife Federation's volunteer Board of Directors. He has also included the FWF as a beneficiary in his will. "Guana is still my favorite fishing destination. I am a grandfather, and I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to have places

like Guana for hiking, hunting, paddling, and other outdoor recreational pursuits. I will leave them that legacy by helping the Florida Wildlife Federation continue its good work for generations to come."

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

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

For more information on how estate planning can benefit both you and wildlife, please contact Preston Robertson at (850) 656-7113.

Answers to FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

1. The Osceola turkey, called the Florida wild turkey, is a subspecies of wild turkey found in the Florida peninsula. They're much different from the large bird on a Thanksgiving table. There is no white meat breast on these wild turkeys. An active life in the woods keeps them lean and mean with all dark meat.

2. This unusual vegetable, also called a **German turnip**, is in the Brassica family. It's related to cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. It can be grown in cooler weather in much of Florida, and is often found at local farmers' markets. Its leaves, stems and bulb are edible and some people say it tastes like broccoli, but sweeter.

3. The Cloudless Sulphur is one of our most common Florida butterflies. In fall, they are usually migrating to spend winter in warmer areas in the middle of the state, from Gainesville to Lake Okeechobee. These butterflies use a variety of native plants as hosts, including sensitive pea and partridge pea.

How Did You Do, Florida Kid?



Thank You to Our Donors



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*The Federation thanks you for
your thoughtful contributions.*

*We express our sympathy to
family and friends of those who
have passed away.*

FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S LOU KELLENBERGER

2019 PHOTO CONTEST

Categories for Kids and Big Prizes!

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the fifth year of the **Lou Kellenberger FWF Photo Contest**. The Contest celebrates the enjoyment of taking photos in Florida's great outdoors, and promotes FWF's mission to encourage citizens to participate in sustainable outdoor recreation. Note that there are several categories which may be entered.

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 or a Kindle Fire tablet! It has never been easier to capture images in Florida's outdoors – use your camera, smartphone, or tablet to document the wild world around you. Enter your most compelling nature images and photos of Florida today at www.snappiephoto.com.

Entries will be taken from now until December 31, 2019. Entry donations are \$5 for one photo, \$10 for 3 photos, and \$25 for 7 photos. One Overall Contest winner will be



*2015 Wildlife Winner - Feeding Time -
by Kay Wells*

selected for the First Prize of \$300, a Second Prize winner will receive a Kindle Fire tablet, 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, 2019.

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

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Photographer: **Alex Kaufman** Location: **Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge**



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