



# Florida Fish and Wildlife News

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## PATRIOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN CAPE CORAL WINS 4TH KIDS' HABITAT CONTEST

Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF), headquartered in Tallahassee, is pleased to announce that Patriot Elementary School in Cape Coral has been named as the winner in the 4th Annual FWF statewide "Kids' Habitat Contest." Patriot Elementary is being recognized as the best wildlife habitat established and maintained by children 12 years old and under for their series of gardens on school property. The gardens were established under the leadership of the school's teaching staff. Each of the five different gardens has its own

theme, and was planned, planted and maintained by a different grade.

A certificate award presentation ceremony was held at the gardens at the school's Earth Day celebration on Friday, April 26, 2013 at 9:30 am. In attendance was Nancy Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative from FWF's office in Naples. Ms. Payton

also presented the award.

The award was made to Patriot in recognition of the excellent educational value of the gardens which include a Native Lowland Garden, a Native Highland Garden, a Butterfly Garden, a Beach Garden and an Urban Development Garden. The diversity of these gardens provides habitat suitable for

many native species of Florida wildlife. The knowledge gained by students will be carried home and back into the community, helping to spread interest in future conditions for Florida's wildlife.

The contest was open to all back-

**KIDS' CONTEST** *con't page 11*



Nancy Payton presents the 2013 Kids' Habitat Award flanked by Patriot Elementary School teachers. Rebecca Wolff, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge Education Coordinator, holds the butterfly house to the left of Ms. Payton.



Patriot Elementary School students and teachers proudly pose with their NWF "Urban Landscape" Wildlife Habitat sign. This habitat is not only welcoming native wildlife, it also serves as a retreat for students, teachers, staff and visitors.

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**Announcing the  
76th Annual  
Conservation  
Awards Banquet,  
June 8, 2013.**

*Please see the back page  
of this issue for details re-  
garding the events at the  
FFA Leadership Training  
Center in Haines City.*

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name and address with your request.**

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Jenny Brock



## Colors and Songs of Spring

In the past I have asked you to join me in working toward some serious accomplishments like getting petitions signed for Florida's Land and Water Legacy Campaign. The need for us to monitor the committee work on selection of projects for the RESTORE dollars continues. The success of both issues over the next two to five years will deliver for the state of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico the greatest conservation accomplishments in our history! We can do it together!

There's more we can all do. Don't

lose sight of what got us going down this road all those years ago. Get out there, take your kids, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, sisters, brothers or any one you can drag out the door and enjoy all those colors and songs of this beautiful state that we all work so hard to protect!

Did you ever hear the thundering gobble of that magnificent wild turkey in the spring? Or see the glistening array of colors of his feathers as he struts his stuff just to impress the hens? On a smaller scale but just as beautiful, take the time to count the colors on your feeders just outside your door. Don't forget to listen to the songs, all so different.

The Florida Wildlife Federation board members spent the better part of the day Saturday, April 6 meeting and planning more ways to keep our state healthy and beautiful. Finally it was 5 pm and the meeting adjourned. After some pleading, arm twisting and whining, I convinced everyone to join me on my deck at home on the beautiful St. Marks River for some venison chili. As luck would have it, many of my feathered friends decided to join us. The goldfinches, in their bright gold summer plumage, cardinals, so red they glowed, and indigo buntings, as blue as turquoise all sharing the same feeder made a colorful, beautiful sight while the tiny green hummers displayed their acrobatics in flight. Of course the woodpeckers, titmice, and chickadees added their special touch. I shouldn't

forget to mention the background for all of this entertainment was an assortment of native azaleas in several shades of pinks, yellows and orange. I was sorry not to be able to share the other colors and acrobatics with my fellow board members a few days later as I traveled to a friend's home. I spotted my first swallowtail kite of the spring as well as the denim colored blue grosbeak, and the bright yellow and orange of the female and male orchard orioles.

If you take the time to enjoy the beautiful outdoors with your friends and loved ones you can gather your strength to go forth and fight another day! Be ready. I'll have more challenges outlined for you.

*Jenny Brock*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear Florida Wildlife Federation Members and Supporters,

Thank you very much for your steadfast support. Please see the story at the end of Fish and Wildlife News regarding the lasting legacies that dedicated FWF members like Steve Ohara, Rick Abbott and Sarah Bailey and their families have made to FWF'S future. Hats off to you all and to other wonderful folks who make up FWF!

Thanks also to our Directors, friends and allies who worked with Preston, Jay and Sarah to provided critical assistance in a very challenging Legislative Session. We worked well with colleagues in opposition to a number of terrible bills and amendments which collectively we were able to fend off. We appreciate the hard work of former Governor and Senator Graham, Estus Whitfield, Lisa Rinaman and Vicky Tschinkel who helped us in legislative ef-

*PRESIDENT con't next page*

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## *PRESIDENT from last page*

forts. We suffered a loss with legislative language which mooted our legal challenge to the Governor and Cabinet actions regarding agricultural leases of state land in the Everglades Agricultural Area. We believe they should have been rewritten to be more favorable to the public interest but the sugar industry opposed what we tried to do with the challenge and their influence with the legislature is obviously strong and our challenge was defeated. We hope that eventually those lands are put to work to benefit the Everglades directly but with the agreement now locked in, it will be a long time before that happens. We had successes as well, please see Preston and Jay's commentary regarding the session that just ended. Working closely with a number of partners we were able to get language removing Citizen's Insurance Coverage from some of our most vulnerable coastal areas seaward of the coastal construction control line. This begins the process of removing public state insurance subsidies from extremely vulnerable coastal areas and hopefully we will be able to further align state and federal policies such as the Coastal Barrier Resources Act and Federal Flood Control policies.

In other matters, FWF prevailed in an administrative challenge to DEP'S approval of a problematic and controversial mitigation bank near Jacksonville. We are awaiting DEP'S official response to the Judge's order. We will do a feature story on this issue when the matter is finally resolved but it is an important matter regarding how we mitigate wetland losses. We prefer avoiding wetland losses when possible to mitigating them later.

**The Florida Water and Lands Legacy Amendment Campaign is proceeding with its volunteer efforts and we have surpassed the required number of signatures for Florida Supreme Court review which will be this summer.** We are seeking the earliest possible review. We have had a top notch group of legal advisors on our language and expect a favorable court review. After that our biggest hurdle to getting this before Florida voters in 2014 is obtaining the required 700,000 validated signatures of registered Florida voters. We have an excellent group of volunteers collecting every day across Florida. **If you would like to help in this area please go to the campaign website <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/>. We also are in need of financial assistance to guarantee success in signature collection beyond our volunteer efforts.** If you would like to make a financial contribution to the amendment campaign please contact me at [wildfed@gmail.com](mailto:wildfed@gmail.com), phone or text me at 850-567-7129. FWF is a key partner and advocate of the amendment. This amendment will provide the needed finances for the long term security of Florida's public and private

conservation and recreation lands including Everglades restoration, fish and wildlife habitat, landscape linkages, watershed protection and management funds. We believe that adoption of this amendment by Florida voters would be the most significant action we can take now for Florida's conservation future. Please help and if you can contribute to this please contact me.

Everglades Restoration projects are proceeding especially with the Central Everglades plan on which we are working with numerous partners to get increased flows of clean water and fewer impoundments across the landscape below the Everglades Agricultural Area into water conservation areas 3A and 3B and on into Everglades National Park and beyond into the Gulf of Mexico. Tree island, the ridge and slough and sawgrass flats habitats, are all part of the mosaic of habitats which will be aided by better flows. Lengthy impounding of water results in loss of tree islands which are critically important for mammals and birds in the Everglades and which have long been popular areas for Everglades hunters, anglers, nature lovers and visitors to Florida. We are working with a variety of partners to see that this process proceeds in a manner that improves the quality of the Everglades habitats top to bottom of the system. Central Everglades is a critical piece of the Everglades restoration. Another piece is facilitating water movement south of Tamiami Trail. A key element of that is increased bridging of portions of the Tamiami Trail and other actions to facilitate water flows south. We are also supporting Trail bridging and the C43 project as priority projects for the South Florida components of Restore Act funding as the Everglades, and the adjacent waters are ecologically very important to the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem providing innumerable benefits to our fish and wildlife.

FWF is actively engaged in promoting Gulf of Mexico watershed protection efforts and headwater buffers to bays as a priority for Gulf Restoration in the Panhandle, Big Bend and West Coast of Florida as restoration priorities.

FWF's staff and volunteers are hard at work for a bright future for Florida's fish and wildlife and their habitats. We support long term conservation of the state's natural resources and support policies and programs which are complimentary to that. We also support sustainable outdoor recreation and, as you can see from this issue, environmental education. We think its critical for kids and older folks alike to be educated and get out to enjoy and appreciate nature. We appreciate and need your support for Florida Wildlife Federation.

Thank you,

*Manley*

## FWF Scholarship Update May 2013

The FWF Scholarship Fund provides scholarships in April each year to students in the University of Florida's Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (WEC) who have a keen interest in Florida wildlife and/or intend to pursue a career in Florida wildlife ecology or conservation after graduation. On April 26, 2013, the annual WEC end-of-semester picnic was held at Lake Wauberg. FWF board member and UF professor, Dr. Richard Hamann, was on hand to present the scholarships to this year's recipients. Those receiving the awards were:



*Left to right: Krystan Wilkinson, Cheyanne Quigley, Richard Hamann, Lauren Watine*

**Daniel Greene** (\$1,000) is a doctoral student in the UF WEC Department under the advisement of Dr. Bob McCleery. For the past nine years, Dan has worked with many species of Florida wildlife, both native and exotic. Prior to the start of his doctoral program, while working for FWC, Dan was the state's lead biologist for the research and monitoring of six subspecies of beach mice, four of which are endangered. Daniel is currently based in Ocala with FWC work commitments and was not able to attend the spring picnic.

**Krystan Wilkinson** (\$500) is an M.S. student in the UF Department of WEC. Krystan's master's level research details interactions between shark predators and coastal bottlenose dolphin populations in southwestern Florida as an assessment of behavioral responses in prey species to non-lethal predator interactions. Krystan's interest in Florida's marine mammals began with her internship at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota.

**Cheyenne Quigley** (\$1,000) is a fourth year WEC undergraduate who will earn her B.S. degree this summer after returning from Dr. Bob McCleery's "UF in Swaziland" study abroad program. Following graduation, she returns to the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) based at the Ordway Swisher Biological Station where she will take on the leadership role as a field technician in a project to assess the overall health, diversity, and disease rate in Florida's small mammal populations.

**Lauren Watine** (\$400) is also a fourth year WEC undergraduate who plans to attend graduate school after she receives her B.S. degree next December. Lauren is currently pursuing an undergraduate thesis project examining the dietary habits of coyotes and bobcats in Florida, two predators implicated in the decline of some wildlife species. She was recently elected to the position of president of the UF Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

**Our congratulations to all of the outstanding scholarship recipients.** It is a pleasure to be able to assist these fine students with financial support to pursue their educational goals related to Florida's wildlife. Keep up the good work!



*Left to right: Krystan Wilkinson, Cheyanne Quigley, Richard Hamann, Lauren Watine, Dr. Bob McCleery accepting the award for Daniel Greene who could not attend.*

**To make an online donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund, please go to:**  
<https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=013403>



## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



### Thank you from the Panther Posse!

Florida Wildlife Federation has long supported Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) Wings of Hope Panther Posse program that educates young people about Florida panthers and Southwest Florida's natural world.

This year with generous support from foundations and members, the Federation was able to provide every Collier County Panther Posse member – 20 bus loads - with the opportunity to hike the CREW (Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed) conservation trails. This 60,000-acre wetland spanning Lee and Col-



lier counties provides an excellent learning place for students to expand their awareness of the Florida Panther and its habitat. The CREW trails are free and open every day, so the hope is that these students will bring their families and friends back to CREW for hiking and nature viewing.

Lead by FGCU Wings of Hope Panther Posse Director "Mrs. Ricky" Pires and mentored by FGCU college students, the junior biologists explored pine flatwoods, marsh vistas, oak hammocks, and pop ash communities. Every student used scientific instruments including a compass, wind meter and GPS. The art of listening for bird calls and other nature sounds was learned and all their experiences were recorded in individual journals.

The Federation, FGCU and the Panther Posse members thank all who made this experience possible.



### Panther or Bobcat?

The Federation periodically receives inquiries on how to tell panthers and bobcats apart.

Looking at these two photos, one can see the difference in size using the concrete slats in the background for reference.

According to the University of Florida's Extension Service brochure titled "Did I see a panther?" (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FILES/UW/UW14400.pdf>), the most important visual characteristics that distinguish Florida panthers from other animals are their tawny color, long tail, and typically large size which may range from 60 pounds for juveniles to over 150 pounds for adult males. From nose to the tip of their tail, adults can be almost seven feet long.

Bobcats, Florida's other native wild cat, rarely exceed 35 lbs. They (*Felis rufus*) generally have a spotted coat and typically have a short ("bobbed") tail up to 8 inches long. However, some bobcats can have a tail a foot or longer in length. Although young panthers have a spotted coat like bobcats, these spots disappear after their first year of age. The

tails of juvenile panthers are much longer than tails of bobcats.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Panther Biologist Mark Lotz offers another way to identify panthers beyond size, silhouette and coloration. Florida panthers, like other wildlife, can be identified by the unique characteristics of their tracks and scat. Mr. Lotz welcomes photos for Florida panther confirmation. Please email to [Mark.Lotz@myfwc.com](mailto:Mark.Lotz@myfwc.com).

Track photos cannot be blurry and must have something next to them for scale. For example, a dollar bill, sunglasses or a pen works well. Track photos should be recent and details should not be obscured. He also suggests remote cameras be set up in an area that receives repeated visits or sightings.

Another option for individuals with physical evidence (photos or videos) of Florida panthers is Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's new web site for Florida panther sightings. Go to <https://public.myfwc.com/hsc/PantherSightings/getlatlong.aspx> and enter the information.

The panther and bobcat photos are courtesy of Florida Gulf Coast University's Wings of Hope Panther Posse program. Last year Federation supporters provided funding for three more Reconyx cameras which are now in use and part of a two-year scientific study of 17 underpasses in Southwest Florida.

This is a bobcat.



This is a Florida panther.





## NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

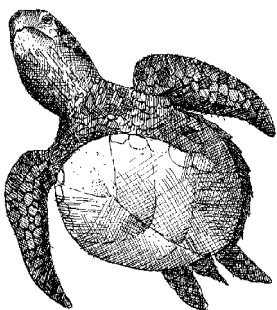
by Sarah Owen-Gledhill, FWF's Northeast Florida Planning Advocate



### Get to Know Your Legislator

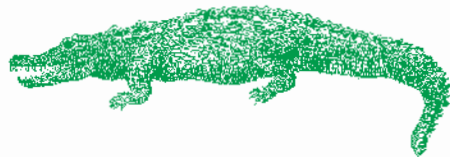
During this recent Legislative Session I had the opportunity to work the halls of the Capital along side our Policy Consultant, Jay Liles. You see how politics and the legislative process are portrayed by Hollywood or if you watch Netflix's House of Cards, but to really be IN the process everyday is a real eye opener. Unfortunately, the portrayals on television are not too far off. Yes, money does sway votes but so do personal relationships. Getting to know your legislator is critical for Floridians to be heard. The halls of Tallahassee are very busy with lobbyists and coalitions working the system. A great place to meet your legislator is in their local office. I encourage all Floridians across the state to find out who their senators and representatives are. Schedule a "get to know you" meeting with them in their local office and have a cup of coffee with them. Find out where they went to school, what sports they enjoy, where they like to travel. Find the chords of similarity and build a relationship upon it. Put a voice and a face on those votes.

Go to <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov> or <http://www.flsenate.gov> and enter your address to find both your state and congressional legislators.



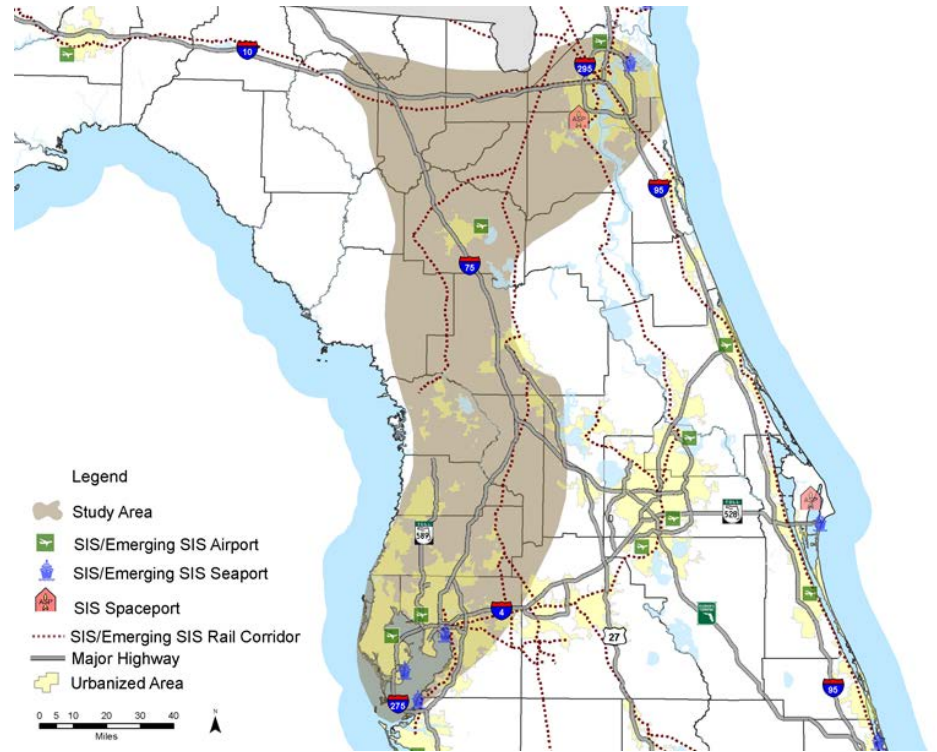
### FDOT Future Corridors Study

The Future Corridors initiative is a statewide effort led by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to plan for the future of the major transportation corridors necessary for the state's economic competitiveness and quality of life over the next 50 years. A critical component to the planning process is the collaborative work with partners which includes environmental partners. FWF along with 1,000 Friends of Florida, Audubon and other groups are working with FDOT to develop guiding principles that seek to protect conservation areas and high quality natural habitat, as well as Florida's rural landscape. Significant ecosystems located in the Tampa Bay to Northeast Study area (see map to right) include the Green Swamp area and the Ocala to Okefenokee Wildlife Corridor. FWF will work with its conservation partners to ensure protection of our natural systems and bring education to the community as plans evolve.



### FOURTH HANDS ACROSS THE SAND

May 18th is the fourth annual **Hands Across the Sand** event. This year the event has added Hands Across the Lands. What started out as a peaceful demonstration to oppose off shore oil drilling, deepwater drilling and promote clean energy has expanded its efforts to oppose hydraulic fracturing, the XL oil pipeline, tar sands mining, coal fired power plants and mountain top removal. All this in an effort to embrace clean domestic energy. Check out the HANDS website <http://www.handsacrossthesand.org/> to find an event near you.



### Justin Mitchell 1988-2013

The Florida Wildlife Federation was deeply saddened to learn of the unfortunate accidental death of Justin Mitchell, a recent graduate from the UF Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Justin was a winner of a FWF Scholarship in 2012. He was an outstanding young man and FWF was grateful that he attended our 75th Annual Meeting and Youth Congress last summer in St. Petersburg. The Federation expresses our deepest sympathy to his family. The photos of Justin show just how much he loved wildlife and the outdoors. Our thanks to students in the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation for allowing us to use these photos of Justin as a way to honor his memory.





## Congratulations to those members of FWF who earned GreenStar Certification!

Two years ago, the Federation began its GreenStar Certification program to acknowledge our members' personal commitments to a clean and healthy environment through the use of environmentally beneficial practices in their daily lives. The areas covered on the online Questionnaire include Outdoor Impact, Transportation and Energy, Water Conservation and "Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle." In addition, there was a place to describe a person's own activities that were not covered in the Questionnaire. We truly appreciate all those who responded and requested GreenStar Certification. The program is still up and running on our website, [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org). Go to PROGRAMS on the main menu at the top, and you'll find GreenStar Certification on the drop down menu. From there you will be taken to the online GreenStar Questionnaire.

### Members Who Received Green Star Certification since May 2012

Zelda Ladan, Oviedo  
Lorri Lilja, Casselberry  
Terry Barone, Bowling Green  
Marilyn & Wain Barber, Plantation  
Lillian Giordano, Spring Hill  
Carla Baker, Miami  
Ken Ricklick, Clermont  
Jamie Cohen, Ocala  
Timothy Glover, Micco  
Ryan Vogel, Miami  
Janet Biehl, Orlando  
Ragon Rhode, St. Petersburg  
Pamela Anne Mara, Monticello  
Beucher & Sons Termite and Pest Control, St. Petersburg



## FWF participates in Wakulla Wildlife Festival, April 20, 2013



*FWF staff and volunteers from left to right: Diane Hines, Staff; Jenny Brock, Board Chair; Connie Gaede, FWF member and volunteer.*

Once again, FWF participated in the Wakulla Springs Annual Wildlife Festival. If you have been involved in similar events, or would like to volunteer to help FWF by setting up a display at your local events, please contact Diane Hines at [dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org).

### FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. What is a good safe way to get rid of fire ant mounds in your yard?



2. When we are talking about plants, what do we call plants that are not native, in other words, plants that haven't been growing wild and re-seeding themselves naturally and living in balance with other plants in an area for many, many hundreds of years?



3. What do we call birds that fly seasonally, sometimes for thousands of miles, from one area to another and later fly back again?

See page 11 for answers, and more information.

### New Eagle Club Member:

Bailey B. Sory, III, Palm Beach

### New Life Members:

Sue E. Lojinger, North Ft. Myers

Mrs. Patrick J. Mackey, Niceville

Dr. James T. Pascia, Gulfport

Nancy Alderman, Sebastian

Thank you for your support!

*\*Legacy Club Members are those who have donated \$5000 or more in a single gift. Eagle Club Members are \$1000 donors, and Life Members are \$500 donors.*



## FWF April Board Meeting

*Photos by Lou Kellenberger*



*FWF Board Members and Staff enjoyed a tour of the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center (BTYCC).*



*Chair Jenny Brock led the meeting at BTYCC.*



*Will Abberger, with the Trust for Public Land, and Manley Fuller discussed details of the Florida Water and Land Legacy Campaign.*



*Jay Liles, FWF Policy Consultant, provided details of what was happening in the legislative session.*



*Linda Stanley caught a cat fish in the stocked lake.*



## FWF Remembers Dennis Auth

*By Richard Hamann, FWF District III Director*

The recent passing of Brice Dennis Auth on April 4, 2013 is an occasion to reflect on the legacy he bestowed upon us. After working as a field biologist with the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Dennis accepted a position in 1974 as the first executive director of the newly-created St. Johns River Water Management District. The fledgling St. Johns District was due to inherit the role of local sponsor with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the upper St. Johns River portion of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project (C&SF)—a massive ditch and dam drainage scheme—which severely altered and damaged much of Florida's Everglades.

Nature crafted the headwaters of the St. Johns River into a mini-Glades—a broad expanse of marshes, swamps and cypress domes—releasing a steady sheet flow of water that slowly coalesced to form a series of lakes and winding river channels. But unchecked agricultural drainage practices, with help from the Federal government's C&SF project, had damaged much of this area. The Corps of Engineers' partially-implemented plan of the 1960s was to drain the freshwater marshes by funneling water into the Indian River Lagoon—America's most biologically diverse coastal estuary. Then, the plan called for storing what water was left in huge upland impoundments so remaining wetlands could be diked off and drained for cattle pastures, row crops and citrus groves. Completing the 1960s plan would have been a monumental environmental disaster causing serious adverse impacts to coastal waters, fish and wildlife habitat, and the St. Johns River itself.

As a Commission biologist, Dennis Auth had been a tireless opponent of that scheme. Dennis and GFC fisheries biologist Dave Cox were the voices that generated the awareness and political steam that led to the withdrawal of state support for the 1960s plan. At the water management district, Auth and his Governing Board chairman Art Marshall, advocated for a more innovative approach. Negotiations with the Corps eventually yielded a more environmentally-friendly plan based on a "non-structural" approach that restored and enhanced over 160,000 thousand acres of marshlands and re-diverted water from the Indian River Lagoon into water treatment areas for discharge to the St. Johns River, while maintaining flood control benefits to farms and citizens.

That revised federal-state project is almost complete and—thanks largely to Dennis' vision and foresight—thousands of acres of additional water storage and treatment, and many square miles of marshlands, have been added to the modern Upper Basin Project. Today, a vast corridor of public lands now stretches for 120-miles along the St. Johns River, from near Vero Beach to the outskirts of Orlando. In 2008, the Upper Basin Project was awarded the International Thiess RiverPrize by an Australian river advocacy foundation, bringing world-wide recognition along with a AUD \$350,000 cash prize in private funding that was literally ploughed back into restoring more riverine wetlands. The contributions of Dennis Auth to river conservation were recognized in 1987 when the Florida Wildlife Federation named him "Water Conservationist of the Year."

Many dedicated people have carried on the work that Dennis started, but his recent passing marks an appropriate time to recognize and applaud the vision, courage and tenacity that made it possible to rescue and restore the headwaters of Florida's longest and most storied river. And for that, we should all be grateful to Dennis Auth.

Information about the history and current status of the Upper Basin Project is at <http://sjrwmd.com/upperstjohnsriver/>.

## 75 Club

Thank you to those who joined the 75 Club!

**Howard Kessler and Anne Van Meter, Panacea**

In August 2012, David Theriaque, Presiding Officer of the FWF Life Members' Council, asked other Life Members to join him in a new "75 Club" by contributing \$500.00 or more to the Florida Wildlife Federation – "essentially doubling down on your initial investment" to the Florida Wildlife Federation. We truly appreciate the response from our Life, Eagle Club and Wildlife Legacy Club Members! Thank you, David, for assisting the Federation with fundraising efforts!



## 2013 Legislative Session Round-Up

*On behalf of the Florida Wildlife Federation and its board and members we want to thank you for taking action on conservation issues this year. Your voice is critical to our ability to positively impact the legislative process.*

**By Jay Liles and Preston Robertson**

The 2013 Legislative Session ended on Friday, March 3, and our 120 State Representatives and 40 State Senators departed for home. Overall, the level of dedication to environmental protection amongst those who lead the state continues to remain low, as sustainability and the quality of life seem to take a back seat to most other issues. While there was funding for Florida Forever and other established environmental programs, it is certainly a far cry from the days of substantial investment in our economic future and the natural resources that maintain it. We were able to beat back some very bad ideas and to win a few important policy debates this Session. However, our environment continues to be under assault and underappreciated. The solution - we simply must elect more people, regardless of party, who care about conservation and who act on those principles in office.

### ***Environmental funding sees modest but welcome increases:***

**Florida Forever program:** \$10 million from General Revenue; \$10 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, with a proviso that funding be spent mainly for military base buffering; and up to \$50 million from the sale of existing public land with a proviso that the funding be spent mainly for military base buffering. Thus, the majority of Florida Forever funding comes from selling lands we already own and placing them back into private hands. Additionally, \$10 million was appropriated for freshwater springs' protection/restoration, which was welcomed. Note that these allocations are out of a \$74 billion budget.

Other environment-related program funding included:

- \$11.1 million for the Rural and Family Lands program, which secures perpetual conservation easements on working ranches and farms,

- \$70 million for Everglades' restoration, which is important in that funding for clean-up of the Everglades is a joint state/federal effort and both parties need to keep contributing to eventually have success.

- \$50 million for a multi-use trail system to connect existing trails (from Transportation Trust Fund).

- \$3 million for implementation of agricultural nonpoint source controls in Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River watersheds.

- \$3 million to build a 680 acre floating aquatic vegetative tilling system in the Hilliard Drainage District to treat water flowing into the Caloosahatchee River.

- \$2 million to build a 30 cfs floating aquatic vegetative tilling treatment system to treat water flowing from Fisheating Creek into Lake Okeechobee

### ***County funding from RESTORE Act retains autonomy***

Late in the session an amendment to **HB 7007**, dealing with business development incentives provided by the Department of Economic Opportunity, was filed. The amendment creates a non-profit, private corporation called Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. that will receive funds coming to Florida as a result of a recently filed law suit by the State of Florida against British Petroleum Corporation (BP). The suit was filed on the 3rd anniversary of the Gulf disaster for which BP is also being sued under Clean Water Act (CWA) provisions per the federal RESTORE Act.

After negative testimony from the impacted counties, additional clarifying language was introduced to specify that Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. would not be a depository for RESTORE Act monies recovered from the ongoing CWA federal trial. The bill does call for audits for the expenditure of RESTORE funds, an effort to address earlier, unrelated expenditures by the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council.

HB 7007 passed both chambers as amended and was sent to the Governor.

### ***Insurance Reform Approved by Legislature***

By a 39-1 vote, the Florida Senate gave final approval to landmark legislation reforming the state run Citizens' Insurance Program. Senate Banking and Insurance Chair David Simmons characterized **CS/SB 1770** as a significant first step in controlling the expansion of Citizens' Insurance. Of critical importance to FWF and our allies was the inclusion of strong language barring coverage for newly constructed properties in environmentally sensitive coastal areas. Passage of this legislation sends a clear signal that Florida will no longer subsidize dangerous development that threatens our most important coastal storm barriers and wildlife habitats.

The legislation further reinforces the message that policymakers are serious about returning Citizens' Insurance to the insurer of last resort rather than one of the largest insurance companies in the country. Like the original measure passed by the Senate, the House-passed bill would create a clearinghouse to verify the eligibility of policies coming in to Citizens. The company currently has 1.3 million policies. Among other provisions, the House bill would bar Citizens, starting in 2014, from insuring structures valued at more than \$1 million. That cap would be lowered gradually until it reached \$700,000 in 2017.

Many leaders in the Florida Legislature took a hand in crafting this important first step toward property insurance reform. Florida Wildlife Federation thanks Senator David Simmons for his balanced handling of the bill and Senator Gwen Margolis for her statesman-like efforts to protect policyholders while stopping the further expansion of this taxpayer-supported insurance program. In the House, Representatives

Bryan Nelson, John Wood and Doug Holder contributed largely to the success of this bill and the strong coastal preservation language. Finally, State Senator Bill Montford deserves a pat on the back for consistently pointing out the impact these subsidies have on the vast majority of Floridians who get no benefit of subsidized insurance. We thank all of these policymakers for the important role each played in seeing to the approval of these reforms.

### ***Our springs remain endangered***

While a relatively small appropriation was provided for springs protection, little else in the way of help came from the 2013 Legislature as to our springs. This was despite strong support for a petition drive demanding action. According to legislative leaders, DEP needs time to implement minimum flows and levels (MFL's) before determining what further assistance might be needed. That falls short of the need according to Jim Stevenson, who headed the Florida Springs Task Force under former Gov. Jeb Bush. Faced with toxic algae blooms and declines in water flow that geologists identify as a leading cause of saltwater intrusion, it all signals problems for a large portion of our state's primary source of drinking water.

Prior initiatives aimed at improving septic tank inspections, were passed then repealed by the Legislature. MFL's were approved years ago, but the pace of implementation has been glacial. For example, Wakulla Springs, the state's largest category one spring, has never had an MFL set by the Northwest Florida Water Management District. The District had been scheduled to set one in 2012 but failed, and earlier this year the agency requested permission to put off setting the limits for another 11 years.

Bills were introduced this ses-

**2013 SESSION con't next page**



## 2013 SESSION from last page

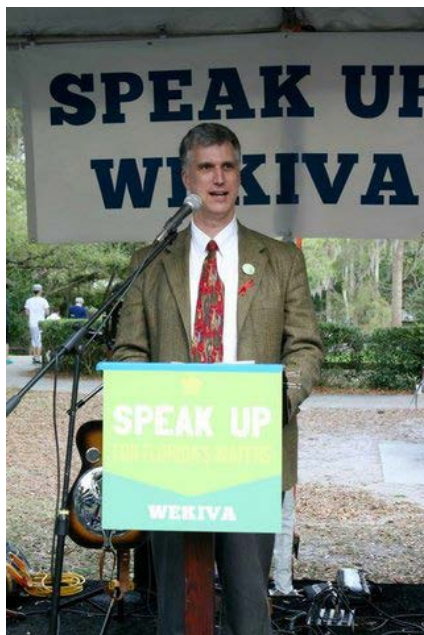
sion calling for the water districts to draw up plans for saving the springs, but they never got out of committee. White Springs Mayor Helen Miller, who has spearheaded efforts by local government officials to get the state to better protect springs, rallied supporters in Tallahassee only to see the legislation go unheard. "The will of the people should count for something," Miller said. The failure to act shows that "on the state level we have a dearth of leadership on water issues."\*

\*(Our thanks to Craig Pittman of the Tampa Bay Times for his contributions to this article).

*All during this session we asked for your help in contacting members of the Florida Legislature and you responded. While we did not win on every issue, we do believe the environment and your advocacy efforts played an important role. We want to thank those who called, wrote and emailed your state legislators. Without your participation our impact on the process is greatly diminished. Thanks for being there when we needed you!*



*Celebrating passage of CS/SB 1770 containing strong language on coastal development are members of the Stronger Safer Florida Coalition ([www.strongersaferflorida.org](http://www.strongersaferflorida.org)). Left to right: Jay Liles, Florida Wildlife Federation, Janet Bowman, The Nature Conservancy, Christian Camara, R Street Group (a free market think tank) and Gary Appelton, Sea Turtle Conservancy.*



*Preston Robertson  
Vice President for Conservation &  
General Counsel*

## Rally at Wekiva Springs

A springtime 2013 rally at Wekiva Springs, near Orlando, centered on the public call to finally clean up our fabled freshwater springs. Once a jewel that drew a host of tourists and locals to swim and otherwise recreate in crystal clear water flowing from a pristine aquifer, Wekiva is now a shadow of its former self. Water flows are low and pollution levels are high. This is the plight of just about every freshwater spring in the state. The Wekiva event drew hundreds of participants and many non-profit organizations dedicated to making the future brighter for the Wekiva and other springs and for our children. Speakers, including US Senator Bob Graham, County Commissioner Lee Constantine, State Senator Darren Soto, State Representative Linda Stewart and FWF's Preston Robertson, spoke about the need for citizens to become engaged in the process whereby decisions on water quality and quantity are made.



*Clay Henderson, Preston Robertson  
and Estus Whitfield.*



*The IDEAS-UCF  
group at Wekiva.*

*Hundreds attended  
the clean-up our  
springs event.*



## IN MEMORIAM

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**Barry Mittan**

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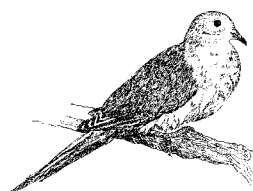
**John E. Mercer, Jr.**

by the NASA Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

**Jonathan Weintraub**

by Mr. & Mrs. Baker Madison

by Mr. & Mrs. Harry Allen



**Harry R. Crouch**

by Alan F. Crouch

*The Florida Wildlife Federation truly  
appreciated receiving these memorial donations.*



# Seventh Annual Green Car Sweepstakes Launches in May

By Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

The Federation's Seventh Annual Green Car Sweepstakes gets underway with an outstanding choice of four high-tech, fuel-efficient hybrid cars. This year we are offering Ford's new C-Max 5-passenger hatchback (188 combined gas/electric hp), rated to achieve 47/city/highway mpg. Ford says it will run up to 62 mph in pure EV mode. Electrical energy, captured through regenerative braking or from the 2.0-liter, four-cylinder Atkinson cycle engine, is stored in lithium-ion batteries placed directly over the rear axle. The C-Max shuts off when stopped and automatically restarts to save fuel and emissions. Ford has even added a Brake Coach to help maximize driver efficiency. For the economy-minded owner, this multi-activity hybrid's comfortable, spacious interior and versatile cargo space makes it a practical car for the average family. What's more, "Your grandmother, still tooling around in a 2002 Mercury Topaz, could drive the C-Max Hybrid without instruction." Autoblog, August 27, 2012.

The Grand Prize winner in the 2013 Green Car sweepstakes will also be able to choose between the Toyota Prius c Four Hybrid, which offers 53 city/46 highway mpg and in 2012 was the third best-selling hybrid in America; the Volkswagen Jetta Turbo Hybrid, the world's first turbocharged hybrid with top speed of 130 mph; and the Honda Civic Hybrid, with its excellent five passenger space and two new features – Forward Collision Warning and Lane Departure Warning systems. The 2013 winner may also choose to receive \$25,000 in cash.



*Ford's C-Max Hybrid runs on a combination of gas and electric power to deliver a range of 570 miles on a tank of gas and can reduce tailpipe emissions to zero while sitting stationary at a stoplight or in a traffic jam.*

## Fish or Cruise Sweepstakes Drawing to be Held on June 20

The First Annual Fish or Cruise Sweepstakes is still going strong. The Grand Prize is your choice of five days of fishing for you and a companion at the Waterfall Resort on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, a 10-day cruise for two with Lindblad-National Geographic Expeditions to the Galapagos Islands on the National Geographic Endeavour, or \$10,000 in cash. The drawing is Thursday, June 20 at Federation Headquarters, 2545 Blairstone Pines Drive in Tallahassee. It will be supervised by Carroll and Co. Inc., Certified Public Accountants.



*Observe rare giant tortoises, sea turtles, penguins and playful sea lions on the Lindblad-National Geographic Expedition Cruise to the Galapagos Islands.*



*You will marvel at the number of trophy-sized salmon and halibut you will catch on your five-day fishing vacation at Waterfall Resort on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska.*

## Your Support is Vital

For more information or to enter online visit [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org) and click on any of the icons for the Sweepstakes located throughout the site, including the Sweepstakes navigation bar at the top of every page. Then click on Green Car Sweepstakes or Fish or Cruise Sweepstakes.

Watch for your Sweepstakes tickets in the mail or play online. If you would like a set of tickets mailed to you, send an email to FWF at [hybridsweeps@fwfonline.org](mailto:hybridsweeps@fwfonline.org) or [fishcruisesweeps@fwfonline.org](mailto:fishcruisesweeps@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 "Hybrid Sweeps" or "Fish or Cruise" Sweeps in the Subject line.

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## Proposed rule would affect importation of deer

By Tony Young, FWC

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) wants to hear from deer enthusiasts and those who have deer farms or hunting preserves about a proposed rule change that would prohibit the importation of live captive deer into Florida from out-of-state sources.

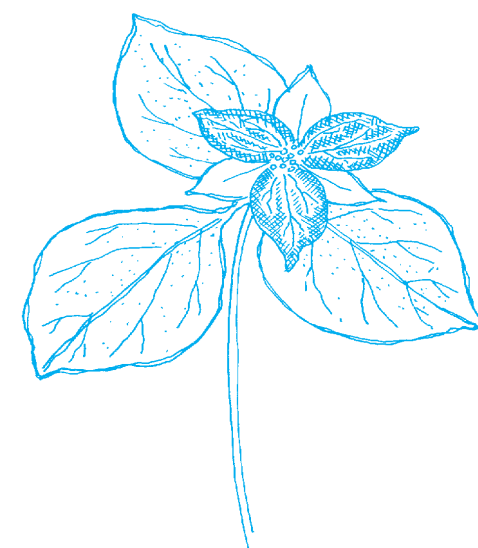
The change is being proposed in an effort to reduce the chances of chronic wasting disease (CWD) being introduced into the state. CWD is not known to affect people.

The disease, which has been discovered in 22 states, two Canadian provinces and in South Korea, is a contagious neurological disease affecting deer, elk and moose. It is similar to mad cow disease, always fatal, and there is no known cure or vaccine for the animals.

The rule-change proposal will go before the Commission at its June 13 meeting in Lakeland, and the FWC encourages all those who have an interest to go to [MyFWC.com/Deer](http://MyFWC.com/Deer) and select "Captive Cervids" to read about what is being proposed and offer any comments, questions or concerns they may have.

If the proposal is passed at the June meeting, it would go into effect soon after.

For more information on CWD, go to [www.CWD-info.org](http://www.CWD-info.org).





## KIDS' CONTEST from page 1

yard, schoolyard, business or community habitats in Florida established and tended by children. FWF promotes building places for Florida wildlife to find food, water, breed and raise their young as a way to lessen the effects of development and diminishing natural habitat on our native creatures. FWF is dedicated to education of young Floridians in ways to aid our wildlife as an effective method to help preserve our heritage of ordinary and unique-to-Florida species for future generations. FWF is the Florida affiliate of National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and supports and promotes NWF's Wildlife Habitat Certification program. This program guides and informs citizens in establishing habitats. Information about the program and a Florida-specific guide to achieving certification of habitats is available on FWF's website, [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org).



Nancy Payton and Rebecca Wolff, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, admire the National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat sign at the entrance to Patriot Elementary School.

Patriot Elementary School students unveil one of the five Wildlife Habitat signs. Patriot Elementary School designed and planted five distinct habitats – beach, butterfly, native lowlands, native highlands, and urban landscape. A bald eagle fishes in the pond which is going to be incorporated into a planned wetlands habitat. Three burrowing owls live on the school grounds.



Nancy Payton assisted by Rebecca Wolff, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, presents the butterfly house to Second Grade Teacher Annette Connolly, far right. Ms. Connolly's students designed, planted, and are maintaining the very impressive butterfly garden.



All five habitats have Conservation Area signs.



## ANSWERS TO FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. You can kill fire ants (as well as other kinds of ants) by sprinkling yellow corn meal in a ring around the edges of the mound. The ants will eat the corn meal, and it will swell up in their stomachs and kill them. They will also carry the meal back to their queen and kill her, too, so she won't just go off and start a new mound nearby. This is a better method than using poisons.

You might need to treat certain mounds several times, but eventually those ants will be sleeping in ant heaven.

2. Sometimes we just call them "non-native" plants, but the proper name for them is "exotic" plants. Historically, when people settle a new place, they bring plants or seeds with them so that they can try to grow the things they know they will need. Even the early American settlers brought seeds with them across the Atlantic Ocean to Plymouth Rock! Some of the beautiful plants and flowers that are grown in Florida are exotic plants, grown just because they are so lovely and Florida has a good climate for growing things. Most vegetables grown in our state are exotic. Some exotics are good.

However, many exotics are described as "invasive exotics". This means that when they are brought in from another place they grow so well that they take up all the available room there and native plants are crowded out. When there are no native plants that feed our native critters, we lose our critters, too.

3. We call these birds "migratory". Robins are one kind of migratory bird. However, not all birds are migratory, and they live in one area all their lives. They are called "Homebody Birdies". No, that last part about the Homebody Birdies isn't true, I'm just joking! Have a nice Spring, and get outdoors into your wonderful Florida!

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!



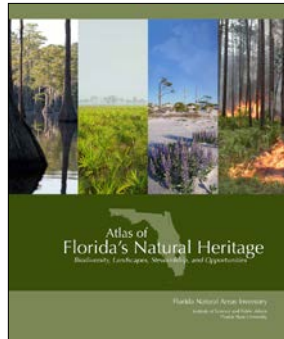


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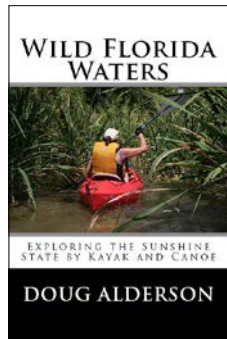


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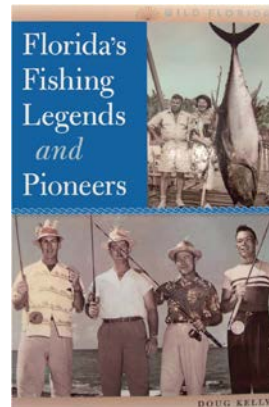


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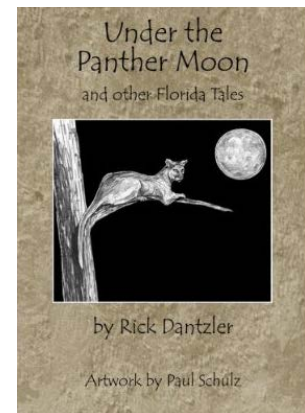
## Florida's Fishing Legends and Pioneers

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## Under the Panther Moon

by Rick Dantzler,

artwork by Paul Schulz

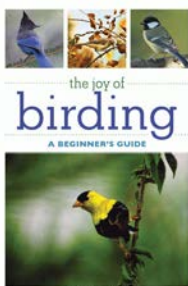
Anyone reading this book will develop a working understanding of

nearly every major Florida environmental issue from the last twenty-five years. The author, a former Florida state senator, uses twenty-two fictional short stories, each constructed around an actual environmental issue, to illustrate the challenges facing Florida as it tries to preserve a rural way of life that is threatened by population growth. Magnificent artwork by the great artist Paul Schulz complements the copy perfectly, making the book as enjoyable to look at as it is to read.

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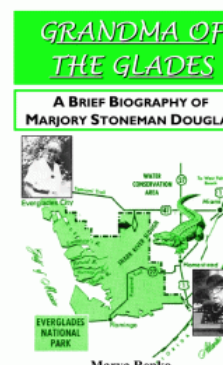
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*The Joy of Birding* by Kate Rowinski is a great book for anyone who loves birds and wants to learn more about their behavior, their markings, wing shape, beak shape, how to photograph them, and more. The book is a colorful and unique guide which combines the best of all birding books. There are tips for attracting birds to your yard as well as a key for identifying birds. The narrative is very enjoyable, too! (Review by Diane Hines, VP of Admin, FWF)

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## Grandma of the Glades: A Brief Biography of Marjory Stoneman Douglas

by Marya Repko

This concise biography summarizes the achievements of Marjory Stoneman Douglas as a conservationist and writer – she is author of the popular, well-received book about the Everglades, "River of Grass" – and chronicles the changes she experienced through her 108 years of life (1890-1998). Included in the book are old photographs, commentary from friends and recommended reading.

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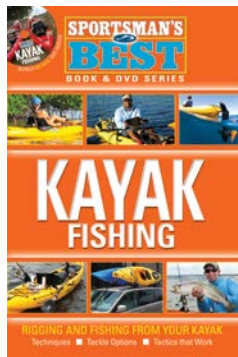
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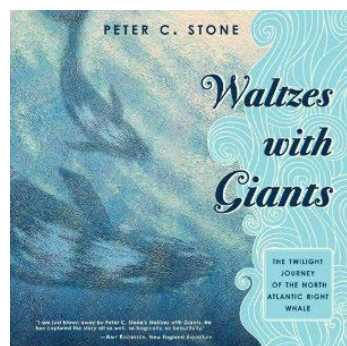
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## Waltzes with Giants

by Peter C. Stone



Waltzes with Giants, The Twilight Journey of the North Atlantic Right Whale (Skyhorse, Fall 2012), is a moving portrait of one of the earth's largest endangered mammals. Mystical and provocative, the book is inspired by a real North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) and her threatened migrations from Atlantic Canada to her calving grounds off the coasts of Georgia and Florida. Blending sound science and art with a literary voice, Peter C. Stone takes the reader beneath the waves to reveal how we have historically decimated many species of whales and other species of fish and aquatic mammals for material gain, even though they are an integral part of the ecosystems upon which we depend. Supported by a glossary of scientific and book-specific words, as well as a list of resource links for the North Atlantic right whale and other marine mammals, Waltzes with Giants is built upon questions. It will captivate readers of all ages by making science and the marvels of the oceans engaging and comprehensible.

Hardback, 112 pages. 50 color paintings and 9 b/w drawings.

**FP - 516** Price \$17.95 **Member Price \$15.95**



## Longleaf, Far as the Eye Can See: A New Vision of North America's Richest Forest

by Bill Finch, Beth Maynor Young, Rhett Johnson, John C Hall

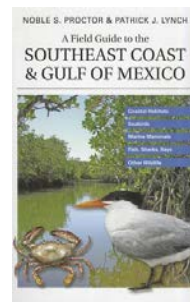
Longleaf forests once covered 92 million acres from Texas to Maryland to Florida. These grand old-growth pines were the "alpha tree" of the largest forest ecosystem in North America and have come to define the southern forest. But

logging, suppression of fire, destruction by landowners, and a complex web of other factors reduced those forests so that longleaf is now found only on 3 million acres. Fortunately, the stately tree is enjoying a resurgence of interest, and longleaf forests are once again spreading across the South. Blending a compelling narrative by writers Bill Finch, Rhett Johnson, and John C. Hall with Beth Maynor Young's breathtaking photography, Longleaf, Far as the Eye Can See invites readers to experience the astounding beauty and significance of the majestic longleaf ecosystem.

The authors explore the interactions of longleaf with other species, the development of longleaf forests prior to human contact, and the influence of the longleaf on southern culture, as well as ongoing efforts to restore these forests. Part natural history, part conservation advocacy, and part cultural exploration, this book highlights the special nature of longleaf forests and proposes ways to conserve and expand them.

Hardback, 176 pages. **FP-522**

Price \$25.00, **Member Price \$23.95**



## A Field Guide to the Southeast Coast & Gulf of Mexico

by Noble S. Proctor & Patrick J. Lynch

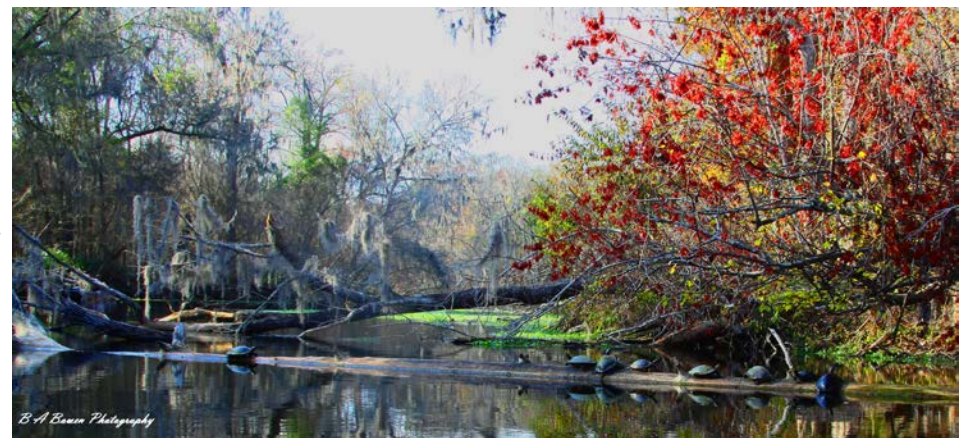
This superb book, with its unique focus on the entire marine coastal environment, is the most comprehensive and up-to-date field guide available on the southeastern Atlantic Coast and the Gulf Coast. Not just for beachgoers, the book is essential for birders, whale watchers, fishers, boaters, scuba divers and snorkelers, and shore-

line visitors. Features of the guide: Entries on 619 coastal and ocean species; More than 1,100 color illustrations; 450 up-to-date range maps; Overviews of key ecological communities, including mangroves, salt marshes, beaches, sand dunes, and coral reefs; Special attention to threatened and endangered species; Discussions of environmental issues, including such catastrophic events as Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon blowout.

Paperback, 386 pages. **FP-510** Price \$22.95, **Member Price \$21.00**

## 2013 Spring Note Cards

Four great photo images were selected for the 2013 Spring Card program. Each of these photos was a "winner" in the 2012 FWF Photo Contest. We thank the photographers, Miguel Leyva, Barbara Bowen, Alex Kaufman and Lynette Spence, for allowing the Federation to use these images in the card package, which consists of 12 greeting cards and 12 envelopes. To order cards please see order form on pg. 12 or purchase them in the FWF nature Store at: [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org). Price \$10, **FP-470**.



Photos by:  
(top) Barbara Bowen;  
(left to right)  
Lynette Spence;  
Miguel Leyva;  
Alex Kaufman





# Love Florida - Don't Litter!



## Florida Wildlife Federation "FWF"



### We welcome you!

To join FWF, a conservation organization dedicated for 75+ years to the health of Florida's fish and wildlife, its waters, native habitats, and sustainable outdoor recreation. We support scientifically based, professional management of natural resources and nature based recreation including hunting and fishing. Ecosystem restoration and recovery of depleted species are also primary objectives. We appreciate your support! Please join today!

**Yes** I want to join Florida Wildlife Federation in promoting conservation of Florida's natural treasures and the enjoyment of our Great Outdoors! You will receive our publication *Florida Fish and Wildlife News* and periodic conservation updates by mail or email. Thank you.

- ☐ Student.....\$15
- ☐ Associate .....\$25
- ☐ Family.....\$35
- ☐ Sustaining .....\$50
- ☐ Sponsor.....\$100
- ☐ Life Member.....\$500
- ☐ Eagle Club Member ....\$1000
- ☐ Wildlife Legacy Club ...\$5000+

**Please send completed form with  
check, money order, or credit card  
information to:**

**Florida Wildlife Federation**  
PO Box 6870  
Tallahassee, FL 32314

or

**Join or Donate online at:**  
[www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org)

Enclosed is my payment for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my payment to:

- ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Cards # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me my *FFWN* by ☐ Mail ☐ Email

☐ Please add me to your list to receive occasional e-mail updates.

FLORIDA RESIDENTS: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION #SC-CH499

## Bob Taylor's Nest Boxes



*They Work!*

Photo by Cindy Lou Farley

Order Nest Boxes online at <http://www.fwfonline.org/>

## Conservation Calendar

**June 19-20, 2013**

FWC Commission Meeting  
Lakeland, FL

**Sept 5-6, 2013**

FWC Commission Meeting  
Pensacola, FL  
[www.myFWC.com](http://www.myFWC.com)

**Sept. 27-29, 2013**

FWF Annual Business Meeting  
Tradewinds Guy Harvey  
Outpost Resort  
St. Pete Beach, FL  
[dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org)

**November 16, 2013**

Florida Panther Festival  
North Collier Regional Park  
Naples, Florida  
[www.floridapantherfestival.com](http://www.floridapantherfestival.com)

**November 23, 2013**

North Atlantic Right Whale  
Festival  
Jacksonville Beach, FL

**May 17-18, 2013**

Florida Native Plant Society  
2013 Conference  
Sheraton Jacksonville Hotel  
<http://fnps.org/conference/2013>  
May 18 – Manley Fuller, Guest  
Speaker

**May 18, 2013**

Hands Across the Sands  
11 AM Statewide  
<http://www.handsacrossthesand.com/>

**June 7 – 9, 2013**

FWF Summer meeting and  
76th Annual Conservation  
Awards Banquet  
Haines City, Florida  
*See back page for details.*



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

## For Wildlife



*Steve O'Hara and his wife, Jeri.*

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

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

Since then, Steve O'Hara has served almost three decades on the Florida Wildlife Federation's volunteer Board of Directors. He has also included the FWF as a beneficiary in his will. "Guana is still my favorite fishing destination. I will soon be 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."

Let me introduce myself. My name is Rick Abbott. I am a hunter, fisherman, explorer, kayaker, financial advisor, FWF board member, boater, but most importantly, I am a husband and a father. In these difficult and changing times it is very challenging to raise a family with proper values. This task is made easier by enjoying the Florida outdoors together as a family. Whether it is boating and exploring the Chattahoochee River, fishing off the beach at St. George Island State Park or spending a cold December morning in a deer stand, these are activities that are crucial to teaching my children about life.

Preserving Florida's natural habitats are crucial for current and future generations. I know that while I am working my 8-5 job, FWF is constantly pursuing ways to keep the environment healthy and natural for all of Florida's citizens.

I have included FWF in my will. I want to make sure that my children and their children can enjoy the same Florida that their parents and grandparents experienced. **Please consider FWF in your financial planning.**



*Rick and Laurie Abbott with their two children.*

*Please join with Steve and Rick 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 Steve's and Rick'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**.



# Florida Wildlife Federation's 76th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet

June 8-9, 2013. Headquarters: FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City, Florida.  
Make reservations for tickets and overnight accommodations through the Florida Wildlife Federation.



## FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City

The Federation's summer meeting and Awards Banquet will be held in a "natural" environment at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center. The FFA Center, nestled among trees and adjacent to the Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park, is just a short drive from Orlando or Tampa, but miles away from the city congestion! Watch a brilliant orange sunset on Lake Pierce, or explore a quiet nature path. There are many outdoor recreational activities at the FFA Center. Visit their website to learn more:

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



5000 Firetower Road,  
Haines City, Florida 33844

**PLEASE MAKE OVERNIGHT RESERVATIONS through FWF using the form below.** Rooms have two double beds and a private bath. Room rates are \$80 one person/\$85 two persons. To reserve, use the order form below to pay for your room and your event tickets! Contact Diane Hines by email with questions at: [dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org). Make checks payable to Florida Wildlife Federation. Make reservations **no later than May 28th!**

**8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

**FWF Board of Directors/House of Delegates Meeting**  
FFA Educational Complex – President's Hall

**5:30 pm**

**Cocktail Reception/Hors d'oeuvres – Publix Hall**  
**Art Exhibits & Silent Auction featuring wildlife artists**  
**Peter R. Gerbert and Paul Schulz**  
Tickets and Registration below (\$40 per person)

**7:00 pm**

**FWF's 76th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet – Publix Hall**  
Dinner and Awards Presentation

## Sunday, June 9th

**7:30 am to 8:30 am**

**Life Members Breakfast – Publix Hall**  
Tickets and registration below (\$15 per person)

**9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**FWF Board of Directors/House of Delegates Meeting**  
President's Hall

### Peter R. Gerbert

*Peter R. Gerbert has been a featured artist of the Florida Wildlife Federation for over a decade. A native Floridian who loves the remarkable diversity of the landscapes and wildlife habitats in our state, Peter hopes "to provide others with a colorful and insightful look at the relationships, struggles, dreams and adventures that all wild creatures must experience." An exhibit of his most recent designs as well as many of his well-known works will be featured at the FWF Cocktail Reception and Awards Banquet.*



*"3 Birds and a Star" by Peter Gerbert*

### Registration Form For Events & Lodging

**Saturday, June 8th — 76th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet** – Florida FFA Training Center, Haines City - \$40.00 per person.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the Banquet. A table for eight may be reserved for \$320. \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to reserve a table for eight.

Event Includes Cocktail Reception, Awards Banquet, Art Exhibits, and Door Prizes.  
Please enter the names of all persons attending with you: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, June 9th — FWF Life Members' Breakfast** – Publix Dining Hall  
\$15.00 per person. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ persons.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like a **ROOM RESERVATION at the FFA Center** for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for the night of June 8th. (\$80 one person/\$85 two persons). **Please send my**

**confirmation to:** \_\_\_\_\_ (your email address)

**Total amount to be charged: \$**\_\_\_\_\_  
Checks payable to Florida Wildlife Federation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill my Discover, AMEX, VISA, MC #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total charged:** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve your tickets and lodging no later than May 28!  
Attn. Diane Hines, Florida Wildlife Federation,  
P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870.  
Questions? Email: [dhines@fwfonline.org](mailto:dhines@fwfonline.org)