

Florida Fish and Wildlife News



Florida Wildlife Federation

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936!

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May 2016

Kenwood K-8 Center in Miami is Winner of FWF's 7th Annual Kids' Wildlife Habitat Contest

by Pat Pearson
FWF Habitats Coordinator

Kenwood K-8 Center School in Miami was the winner in the Florida Wildlife Federation's 7th Annual Kids' Wildlife Habitat Contest. FWF representative Phillip Rau presented the award on Earth Day, April 22, to second grade teacher Ms. Fridel Pedrique, the school principal Mr. Rudy Rodriguez and to the students of the second grade. Phillip Rau is a media intern for Ms. Julia Yarbough, FWF Board of Directors.

Kenwood K-8 students, under the

direction of teacher Fridel Pedrique, established a butterfly garden with all the necessary components for attracting and sustaining Florida's native and migratory butterflies. Ms. Pedrique was

KENWOOD can't page 10



Left-to-Right: Principal Rudy Rodriguez, Teacher Fridel Pedrique, and Phillip Rau, who presented FWF Kids' Habitat Contest Award. Phillip is a media intern for Ms. Julia Yarbough, FWF Board of Directors.



A Kenwood student with a caterpillar.

Sharing Wildlife Sightings

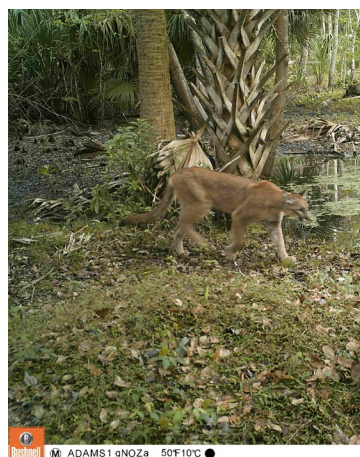
by Franklin Adams
FWF District VIII Director

About 15 years ago early one morning, my wife, Kathy, went outside with her cup of coffee prior to going to work. She wanted to check her native milkweeds for Monarch caterpillars. I was in the house doing laundry when my wife burst into the room and very excitedly

exclaimed that she had just seen a panther. The panther was sitting in the yard. At first my wife thought it was a large tan dog, but then the cat saw her and quickly leapt into the woods and she saw its long tail and rounded ears: no dog. Since seeing a panther was a rare event back then, I replied, "Honey, I believe you, but no one else will."

I had heard about these remote game or trail cameras and decided I would purchase one and put it out on the property. Sure enough, I began to get photos of all kinds of critters, espe-

FRANKLIN can't page 7



Pictures by Franklin Adams from his property in Collier County.

See the back page for details on the 79th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet, June 25, 2016, and other weekend events in Bradenton.

Please mark your calenders! More information regarding June 24-26, 2016 on Page 16.

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

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Steve O'Hara



This is a political season, but the Florida Wildlife Federation is apolitical. Although we interact with politicians every day, we are without politics. As a 501(c)(3) organization (not-for-profit), we may attempt to influence policy, but not politics.

Like Florida's other major conservation organizations, we participated in Florida's legislative process this year. Many of you contributed financially to our efforts in that regard, and we thank you.

Politically, these are tough times for natural Florida. But we did make some progress. We could not have done so without your support.

Unfortunately, we also encountered disappointments.

Florida's major conservation organizations report on their progress with Florida's Legislature each year. The Florida Wildlife Federation is a member of the Florida Conservation Coal-

ition. In the Coalition's final report to its members on the Florida Legislative session, the Coalition commented on the disappointing water bill passed by the Legislature: "[I]t has been a tough year for Florida's waters. . . . The quick passage of this [water] bill into law was predetermined by powerful political players and the public will need to stand together next legislative session to fight for real solutions. . . ."

The Florida Wildlife Federation reports to you with our Capital Watch. You may find the final report on our website at www.fwfonline.org. The lead item was the budget, and we reported: "The budget once again drastically short-changes the Florida Forever program, which was to be fully funded from revenue stemming from the passage of Amendment 1 by the voters in 2014."

For the second consecutive year, the Florida Legislature thumbed its collective noses at the constituents who elected its members to office. To make matters worse, consider these parting thoughts from our lobbyists, Preston Robertson and Jay Liles, at the end of their final Capital Watch report for 2016: "There has been a very disturbing trend among some Senators and Representatives as to their lack of willingness to hear from the public, in other words you, their constituents. We have even been told if we keep having citizens call or email on an issue, they will take the other side. This is not a good sign for a democracy, especially with the many critical issues facing our state."

Because we are without politics, we have not identified those Senators and Representatives. Likewise, we do not generally report how particular Senators and Representatives vote on particular

legislative items.

However, we can tell you where to get that information. There is another organization whose leaders were the lead proponents for Amendment 1. It is the Florida Conservation Voters (FCV), www.fcvoters.org. It's "goal is to elect the best public officials who will enact sound policies that ensure our cherished, yet vulnerable, natural lands and water are protected." The FCV has published its 2016 Legislative Report, which you may find at <http://www.fcvoters.org/2016-legislative-report>. The report begins with the following: "Before we can elect conservation champions, we have to take a look at how legislators

voted on this year's most important environmental issues. From land conservation to water quality, to energy and Everglades restoration, our 2016 Legislative Report provides you with an assessment of key bills that passed or failed, and also shows how legislators voted on those bills."

I encourage you readers to take advantage of this resource. How did **your** legislators vote?

IN MEMORIAM



Donations have been received in
memory of:

Charles G. Backus, Jr.

by Cynthia Backus

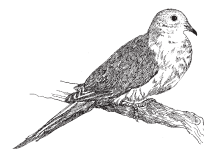
Ben Litchfield

by Andy Litchfield

Thomas P. Baer

by Joanne Schuh

by Steven King



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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear FWF members and supporters,

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased that the Legislature and Governor Scott have passed legislation dedicating needed increased funding for the Everglades over a number of years. However, the Florida Forever program is significantly underfunded and we continue to believe that the 2015 and 2016 budgets did not comply with the requirements of Amendment One, passed by the voters in 2014. We continue to press forward with our legal actions opposing the Legislature's misuse of significant portions of the amendment's funds. Your support for this effort is much appreciated. We anticipate an initial court decision this summer with the ultimate decision by the Florida Supreme Court in the late fall. This case is critical because it will determine Florida's ability to buy conservation lands or acquire easements crucial to significant wildlife corridors, watershed protections and ecological restorations that protect our waterways.

Two of Florida's most iconic wildlife species, the Florida manatee and black bear, have increased significantly in numbers in the last 20 years but their conservation remains challenging. The increases are positive occurrences and are due in large measure to protective management policies over the last couple of decades.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed downlisting the Florida manatee subspecies from endangered to threatened status. While manatee numbers have dramatically increased, manatee's habitat has declined in many areas. Red tides, toxic algal blooms, loss of sea grass habitats, cold snaps, losses of natural and artificial warm water refugias, boat strikes and other conditions can result in significant manatee mortality. While both federal

and state agencies indicate manatee slow speed zones will remain if the manatee is downlisted, undoubtedly political pressures will increase to reduce speed zones. Manatee numbers suggest downlisting is merited but listing decisions under the Endangered Species Act are not supposed to be made based on population increase alone when an animal's habitat is not secure. Problems such as declining spring flows, loss of warm water refugias and large scale sea grass losses from massive fresh water discharge and nutrient driven algal blooms are serious concerns. Many of the threats to manatees in terms of habitat and water quality degradation can also result in serious fish kills (see Matt Burton's article on page 12).

On land we are glad that several of Florida's black bear management units have shown significant population increases and this has been documented by the research of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Challenges remain in three of Florida's black bear management units that are small and somewhat isolated from larger bear populations. These three sub populations are in the western panhandle, the Chassahowitzka area, and south central area. The best way to prevent these populations from fading towards extirpation is through permanent landscape-scale conservation linkages from these three areas to the state's larger bear populations. A major reason we filed our Amendment 1 legal challenge was the Legislature's refusal to fully fund Florida Forever, which is a major source for funding conservation lands purchases and permanent conservation easements from willing landowners.

Complaints regarding problem bears have risen, the destruction of these animals have increased and bear road kills are dramatically higher than two decades ago. Most complaints regarding negative interactions between humans and bears are closely tied to bears feeding on garbage, visiting deer or bird feeders, or other human food sources. Effectively dealing with the bear garbage issue requires local governments, homeowners associations, restaurants, FWC and the waste management companies working closely together. Bear resistant trash containers is a cost effective method and increasing the use of wildlife resistant containers will lower the prices of the trash cans through economy of scale. We understand that the vast majority of bear trash complaints come from 14 counties. Please also go to the FWC's website, www.myfwc.com to view living with bears and graphs showing road kills and the number bear complaints received by the FWC. The Seminole County Commission recently passed a policy mandat-

PRESIDENT con't page 12

FWF Scholarship Update

Dear FWF Members,

The spring 2016 UF Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (WEC) Scholarship Awards ceremony took place on Friday, April 22nd at the annual WEC Picnic at Lake Wauberg in Gainesville. Three students received scholarship awards from the FWF Scholarship Fund for 2016.

Wes Anderson (\$1,500) is a doctoral student in UF's WEC Department. Wes earned his MS in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Wildlands Science and Management from Texas Tech University, and began his doctoral program in the fall of 2014. Wes' doctoral research will examine the effects of feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) on wetland amphibians of the South Florida rangelands.

John Hargrove (\$1,500) is also a doctoral candidate in UF's WEC Department. John earned his MS in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from UF and is currently completing his dissertation research on the population genetic implications of bed-fishing impacts on experimental populations of Florida Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus*).

Allan Gonzalez (\$1,000) is a senior in UF's WEC undergraduate program. Following his graduation this summer, Allan plans to pursue graduate studies in the functional diversity of wildlife and habitats, followed by an academic career balancing research and teaching. He is currently researching functional diversity in the pine rockland habitat of South Florida, where he was raised, and is a research assistant on a project which examines the feeding preferences of Eastern Newts for Cuban Tree frog tadpoles over native tree frog tadpoles.

The UF WEC Department has provided a great deal of information about these three deserving students. We will share more with you in future FWF Scholarship Updates in FFWN. Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to the FWF Scholarship Fund at UF. We are proud to be able to assist those who will be the future conservation managers and researchers for Florida's fish and wildlife.

Manley



Left to right: Dr. Bob McCleery (Associate Professor, UF Wildlife Ecology and Conservation), with graduate students Wes Anderson and John Hargrove, and undergraduate Allan Gonzalez at this year's Wildlife Student Awards and BBQ, held 4/22 at UF's Lake Wauberg, Gainesville, FL.

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

You may also send your donation to the FWF office, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, Florida 32314. Attn D. Hines.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

In 2008, Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) joined with eight major landholders in rural Collier County and three conservation organizations to form a partnership called the Florida Panther Protection Program (FPPP). The conservation partners are FWF, Defenders of Wildlife, Audubon of the Western Everglades, and Audubon of Florida. The landholders are Alico, Barron Collier Partnership, Collier Enterprises, Consolidated Citrus/King Ranch, English Brothers, Half Circle L Ranch, Pacific Tomato Growers and Sunniland Family Limited Partnership.

FPPP's singular mission is to aid the endangered Florida panther on the path to recovery. This collaborative approach suggests the protection of a significant, contiguous range of panther habitat - potentially as much as 2,500,000 acres in public and private lands across South Florida. In addition, the FPPP is establishing the Paul J. Marinelli Panther Protection Fund, a source of private funds from well planned, sustainable real estate development in eastern Collier County. This fund will make significant and perpetual monies available for conservation projects focused on Florida panthers and wildlife habitats. For more information on the FPPP, please click on www.floridapantherprotection.com.

The Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is proposed by FPPP landholder partners under provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act. The duration of the HCP will be 50 years. It is conceptually supported by FWF and the other FPPP

conservation partners.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is now reviewing and evaluating the draft HCP. Dr. Ken McDonald is assigned by FWS to work exclusively on the HCP and the accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). For details, click on FWS' web site <http://easterncollierhpcpeis.com>.

Covering 152,000 acres of private lands, the HCP is immediately north of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding Immokalee. **This will be, if approved, the largest HCP east of the Mississippi River and one of the largest private HCPs in the country.** The goal of this HCP is to advance the recovery of listed species rather than the usual FWS standard of "no jeopardy."

Clustered sustainable residential development, commercial development, and mining will be confined to 45,000 acres of environmentally marginal land. The balance, 107,000 acres, will be forever in conservation and agriculture preservation compatible with native wildlife. See maps on the right of this page.

Field Representative Nancy Payton and FWF's consultant Dr. Dan Smith met on April 20 with Dr. McDonald to discuss improvements to the draft HCP. The recommendations include consideration of Dr. Smith's conclusions in the 2006 FWF-sponsored "Eastern Collier Wildlife Movement Study." Areas of concern are comfortable and functioning regional habitat linkages; significant buffers to the habitat linkages and the 45,000 developed acres to address wildlife conflicts; addition of strategic habitat parcels to the preservation category; road corridors and road impacts; early easements across identified for preservation; ongoing monitoring of the 107,000 acres of preservation lands; and long-term viability of the Paul J. Marinelli Panther Protection Fund.

Sixteen Protected Species

Protected species covered under the HCP are the Florida panther, Florida bonneted bat, Florida scrub jay, Audubon's crested caracara, wood stork, red-cockaded woodpecker, Everglade snail kite, Eastern indigo snake, gopher

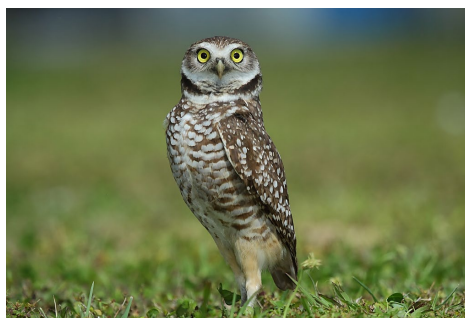
tortoise, Eastern diamond-back rattlesnake, burrowing owl, sandhill crane, little blue heron, American kestrel, tricolored heron, and Big Cypress fox squirrel.

The HCP is based on Collier County's Rural Lands Stewardship Area program. The program was developed in response to FWF's successful 1998 legal action that challenged Collier County's failure to protect listed species and their habitats.

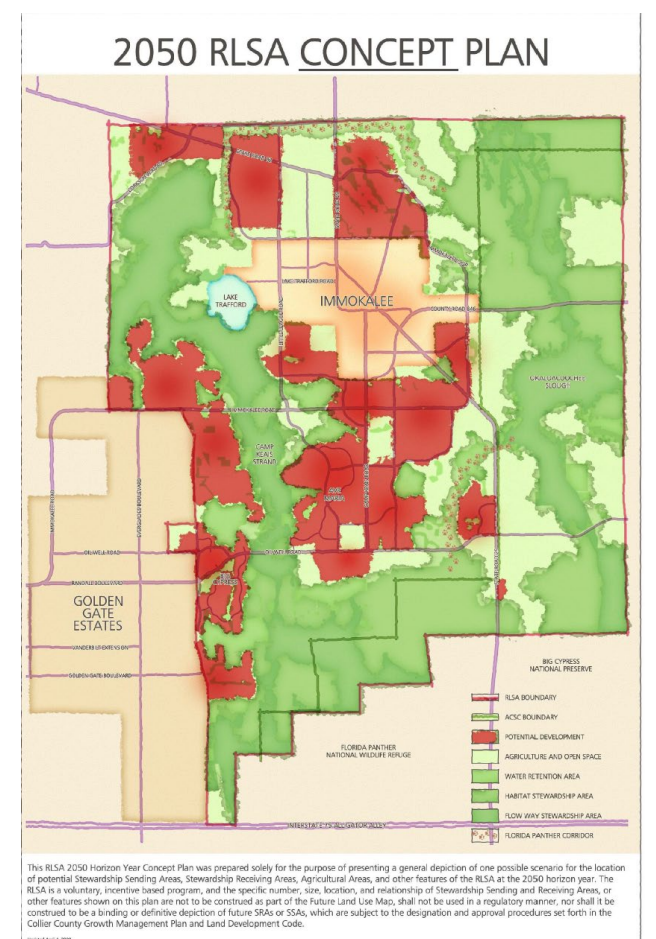
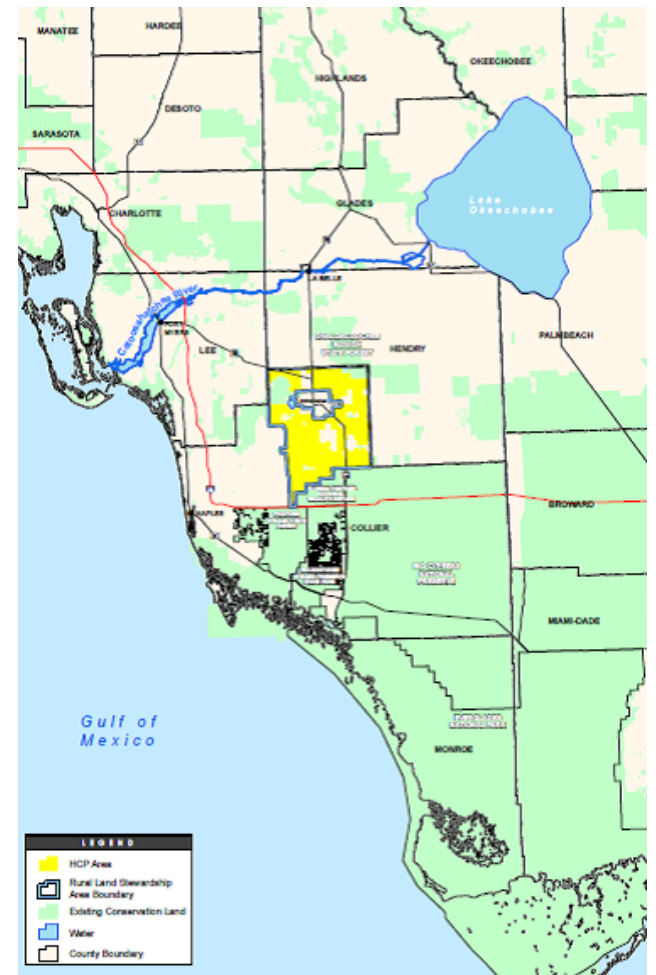
Because this HCP has regional and national significance, FWF will be **devoting significant time and resources** to ensure this HCP provides the best protections possible for imperiled wildlife and their habitats. The long term, landscape level conservation gains possible under this proposal and in combination with Collier County's Rural Lands Stewardship Program have the potential to set a new national standard for habitat preservation and listed species recovery.

Help Needed

Please make a donation earmarked "Panthers" to support FWF's work critiquing the Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Go to www.fwfonline.org and hit the Donate Now button in the upper right corner. Thank you.

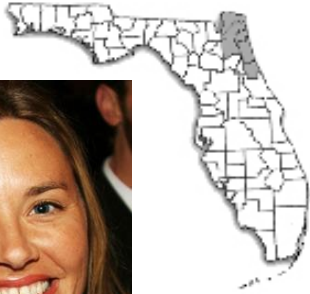


Burrowing Owl, photo by Miguel Leyva.



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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



The Hidden Springs of the Ocklawaha

In March, I had the honor of exploring the Ocklawaha River during the 2015-2016 Rodman Reservoir drawdown with Putnam County Environmental Coalition. This drawdown lowered the reservoir level to eleven feet - seven feet below its normal elevation of 18 feet. The last drawdown occurred in 2012, with the intent to help kill aquatic weeds and allow sediment to dry out to improve habitat for fish, particularly bass. We toured the reservoir in 2012 and witnessed the graveyard of tree stumps that stood as a memorial to the vast forested floodplain that once existed.

During this year's drawdown we traveled from Eureka and headed four miles north along the river to Cannon Springs. Cannon Springs was still visible when we visited. But, when the reservoir rises back to eighteen feet, Cannon Springs will be hidden by tannic water and algae, not to be seen again for another three years.



Pictures above and right are from the Rodman Reservoir during the 2012 drawdown.

North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJR-WMD) is developing a North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan. Akin to the Central Florida Water Supply Plan, the District is partnering with the Suwannee River Water Management District to develop the plan, which will determine how much water is needed and whether or not the traditional sources of water supply will meet this demand, while protecting water resources and natural systems.

To develop the plan, a groundwater flow model will be produced. This model will assess the impacts of withdrawals and environmental constraints. This model is expected to be finalized at the end of April 2016. Of particular interest is that the model looks at not only North Florida but also Georgia and South Carolina. It also goes as far west as Tallahassee and as far east as the continental shelf.

The SJRWMD knows the water supply DEMAND numbers but the DEFICIT numbers are yet to come in. By the year 2035, there will be a 24% (130.81 million gallons per day) increase in water use within this plan's focus area. It is projected that water demand projections will exceed the groundwater availability and alternative sources will be required. Such sources may include stormwater, reclaimed water and seawater, all very costly to taxpayers. Conservation should be a priority technique for us as Floridians. **Conservation should not be passed off as having minimal effect as to our ability to meet demand.**

Stay informed as the St. Johns River and Suwannee River Water Management Districts move forward on this plan by accessing the following link http://www.sjrwmd.com/water_supply/NFWIinitiative.html.

Unless we remove the Rodman Dam, the structure built across the Ocklawaha and what created the Rodman Reservoir, this scenario will continue. The dam was constructed in 1968 to facilitate the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. In 1971, President Richard Nixon stopped the construction of the canal. However, the dam was never removed, resulting in the destruction of 7,500 acres of floodplain forest and disruption of normal hydrology for about 8,000 acres



downstream that were never restored.

Cannon Springs is not the only hidden spring. In fact, there are twenty-six springs with the possibility of another ten unnamed spring runs of the Ocklawaha River that are covered up. Until the Rodman Dam is removed, the Ocklawaha and her many springs and wetlands will be degraded. The Federation continues to work with its conservation partners to bring an end to this situation.



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Pictures above and left are of Cannon Spring during the Rodman Reservoir drawdown.



Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation &
General Counsel

Prescribed Fire – the Way of the South

The history of our pinelands in the Southern United States is somewhat of a sad one. The once dominant and very biologically diverse longleaf pine-wiregrass ecosystem, which used to cover most of the Coastal Plain, has been diminished to a mere remnant. Thankfully, efforts are underway to increase this pine species and its associated flora and fauna, but it will take many years to reestablish longleaf to its proper place on the landscape.

One success story in our region is the expanded use of prescribed fire. Prior to human habitation, a significant portion of the southern part of our nation, and a majority of lightning-prone Florida, burned every year. Both animal and plant species, including longleaf pine, evolved to take these fires into account, and now there are many that require fire. Native Americans used woods' fires to clear land for agriculture, to lessen

ticks and encourage new shoots for their grazing animals. Burning intensified as European settlers started homesteads in the pines. The end of this burn culture began with the termination of the War Between the States in 1865. Northern timber barons looked to the South to purchase vast forest tracts at very low prices. With steam-powered locomotives and railroads, the clear cutting of the Southern forest commenced in earnest. Fire was excluded as it was thought to be a danger to standing timber and to quick profits.

In 1905, Gifford Pinchot became the first head of the newly created U.S. Forest Service at the behest of President Teddy Roosevelt. Pinchot had been educated in Europe, where fire was anathema, and he strongly advocated fire suppression. During the Great Depression (approximately 1929-1941), the Civilian Conservation Corps planted millions of trees in the South for erosion control and for timber production. Their job was also to suppress fires. Commencing in 1944, Smokey the Bear, as the new mascot of the Service, told everyone "Only you can prevent forest fires."

While Smokey admonished us to not use matches in the woods, a new perspective was gaining traction. In 1945, Lyle Watts became Chief of the Forest Service, and started to open the door to the idea that burning may indeed be beneficial. He cited the work of previous foresters and wildlife biologists, particularly Herbert Stoddard. When Tall Timbers Research Station north of Tallahassee opened in 1958, it began collaboration with the Service as to how to not only bring back the woods, but species which depended on them, including the once ubiquitous bobwhite quail. In 1974, the Service, while at a

meeting at Tall Timbers, publically proclaimed that fire management, not fire suppression, would now be kept as a tool to engender healthy forests. These intentional fires would be "prescribed," just like medicine for a patient.

Not only was

Florida at the epicenter of creating prescribed burning, but we also had the first Prescribed Fire Councils, which helped lessen the legal liability for burners. Today, agencies and private landowners burn millions of acres of pinelands, thereby aiding greatly in wildlife and plant abundance and timber growth. Prescribed fire also suppresses invasive species and lessens the chance of wildfires.

Thanks to Kevin Robertson, Tall Timbers Research Station, for background material.

Preston T. Robertson

Preston Robertson in burned pinelands that will be lush green within a month.



Ryan Smart, President of 1000 Friends of Florida,
burns in South Georgia.

New Wildlife Legacy Club Members:

Claude and April Ward, Hudson

New Eagle Club Members:

Joan Barco, Melbourne

New Life Members:

Scott W. Allison, North Ft. Myers

Thank you for your generous 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.*

Congratulations to those members of FWF who earned GreenStar Certification!

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. We truly

appreciate all those who responded and requested GreenStar Certification. The program is still up and running on our website, 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.



New Green Star Member

Susan Vartanian, Bushnell

2016 Legislative Session Wrap Up

The Session ended on March 11, 2016. Here is where we stand.

by Preston Robertson

The Budget

The approved 2016-2017 budget once again drastically short-changes the Florida Forever program, which was to be fully funded from revenue stemming from the passage of Amendment 1 by the voters in 2014. The total budget was approximately \$82 billion, with Governor Scott vetoing approximately \$256 million in budget items. This is the breakdown as to pertinent budget line items, noting funding available for Amendment 1 (the Water and Land Legacy Amendment) was \$902 million.

- Florida Forever program: **\$15 million** for approved conservation land projects, although this money may also be used by the Water Management Districts for “water resource development projects.”
- Rural and Family Lands: \$35 million to purchase conservation easements on agricultural lands
- Everglades: \$32 million for restoration strategies; \$100 million for implementing the Comprehensive Environmental Restoration Plan (CERP)
- Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program: \$56 million (to aid in the ongoing polluted water disaster in South Florida/Lake Okeechobee)
- Florida Communities Trust: \$10 million for parks
- Springs: \$50 million for springs (land acquisition and capital projects)

Florida Forever was historically funded at **\$300 million** per year under both Republican and Democratic administrations. A whopping 75% of voters supported Amendment 1 at the polls in November 2014 to dedicate, for twenty years, a funding stream to fully fund this program. As in the 2015 Legis-

lative Session, this did not happen in the Session that has just ended. **Both chambers again proposed to spend millions of Amendment 1 funds on what used to be paid for by General Revenue (e.g., existing agency operating expenses). This is not what the voters intended, and that is why we are in a lawsuit against the Legislature.**

If you wish to help DEFEND AMENDMENT 1, your vote, and aid our lawsuit, PLEASE JOIN THE FEDERATION OR DONATE to FWF. Thanks!

Please go to www.fwfonline.org for more information.

Fracking

Earlier this Session, the Florida House passed a bill which purported to “regulate” the petroleum extraction practice known as “fracking” in Florida. The Senate version of this legislation, SB 318, failed in a tight vote. Therefore, no fracking bill passed this Session, though it will likely be back next year. Many municipalities and counties have passed resolutions opposing this practice.

State Lands

CS/CS/CS HB 1075 passed both chambers and was sent to the Governor. This massive bill is the result of several years of concerns expressed by some legislators about how the people’s lands are managed and if that management could be improved. Conservation advocates were able to get changes to the bill that will hopefully benefit habitats and wildlife. The passed bill contains language that would allow landowners contiguous to state owned lands to acquire title to state lands in exchange for placing a permanent conservation easement on their own lands. This mechanism could enlarge the footprint of protected property, but each such transaction must be carefully vetted.

FRANKLIN from page 1

cially occasional panthers. Also, bears, bobcats, deer, skunks, barred owls, coyotes and other critters. It was exciting and quickly became an enjoyable fascination with the added benefit that I could provide documentation on panther sightings to the FFWCC “Panther Sightings” website. Also more recently we have provided black bear photos and videos to the FGCU “Bear Brigade” which teaches 4th grade students about living with wildlife and the importance of doing so. (You just never know what wildlife is roaming out there when you are not around.)

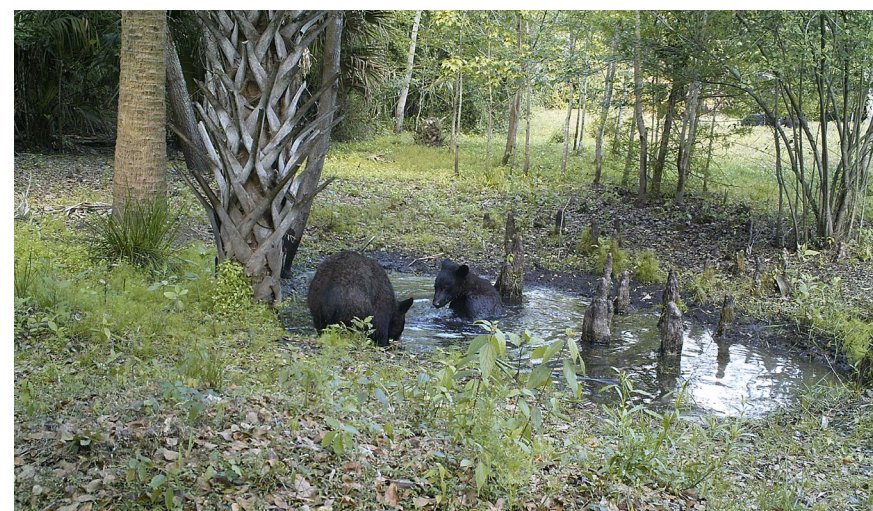
I should mention that the reason we have and enjoy so much wildlife coming through our place is that we left our property as close as possible to the way Mother Nature designed it. It is only five acres but it has a lot of wildlife food, acorns, wild grapes, saw palmetto berries, dead trees for cavity nesting birds, rotten logs and stumps, larval butterfly host plants and a remnant gator hole where wildlife can drink and cool off during the dry spring months or heat of summer. We know this because we get photos and videos of wildlife drinking and bears soaking in the cool water. Our property is also a NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat providing food, water, cover and resting places for wildlife. We are also fortunate to have a wildlife conservation preserve just north of us which provides a corridor for wildlife to travel down through to our place. We are concerned, though, that massive new developments are planned

to the north of us and so any remaining natural habitat becomes even more important to wildlife.

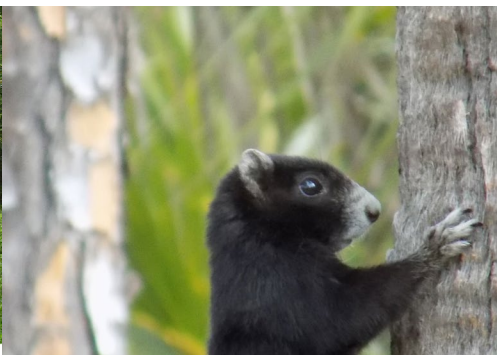
The saw palmetto are flowering now and the honey bees are busy visiting and pollinating the aromatic flowers. (Saw palmetto honey is delightful.) Next comes the saw palmetto berries or drupes which are a critically important wildlife food for over 75 species of wildlife in Florida, especially black bears and white-tailed deer. Fortunately, the State of Florida last year took a vitally important step when it closed all publicly owned state lands to the picking and selling of saw palmetto berries. This action wisely insures that this important public resource remains available for wildlife as it should rightfully be on state lands. If you are fortunate enough to have saw palmetto on your property, please consider leaving it as an important part of your landscape. The wildlife will thank you.

So we appreciate the opportunity to share a few of our photos and encourage you to help and enjoy your local wildlife wherever you may live. Please join with us at the FWF in “Keeping the Wild in Florida.”

Editor’s Note: Franklin Adams and his wife, Kathy, both native Floridians, reside in Collier County. Franklin has served on the FWF board of directors for three decades. His portrait was painted as one of the “Guardians of the Everglades” by Nicholas Petrucci in 2012. His efforts as an outstanding conservationist and naturalist are well known to those in the conservation community statewide.



Photos taken by game cameras on the property of Franklin and Kathy Adams in Collier County.





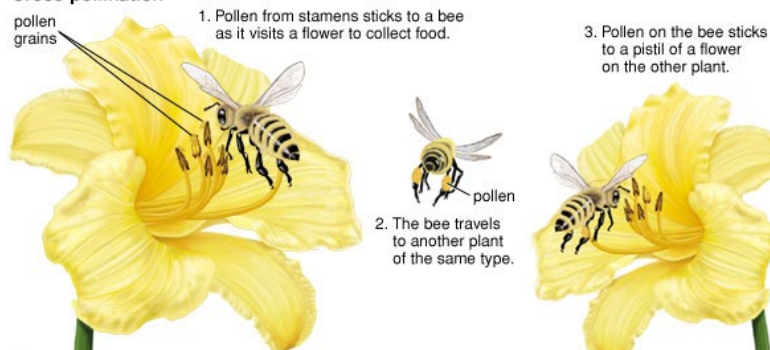
Claudia Farren
Education Consultant

We Can All Protect and Nurture Florida's Bees

Concern for the decline of the honey bee, native bees and other major pollinators prompted the White House in June of 2015 to launch the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge to help revive the health and numbers of pollinators by expanding their habitat through the creation of new gardens and landscapes around the country. The European honey bee has been having a tough time the last few years due to disease, parasites, pesticides, poor nutrition and habitat loss. The honey bee pollinates over 90 different kinds of fruit, vegetable and nut crops in the U.S. These crops are also pollinated by native bees on small or diversified farms and in home gardens. According to the USDA, together "their pollination services are an \$18 billion annual asset to U.S. agriculture."

As a result of declining honey bee populations, [Project Integrated Crop Pollination \(ICP\)](#) is helping growers find sustainable solutions by developing recommendations on how to harness the potential of native bees for crop pollination. ICP is led by Michigan State University and funded by the USDA. The five-year project is promoting the benefits of joint honey bee-native bee pollination for crops, thereby avoiding dependence on the honey bee alone.

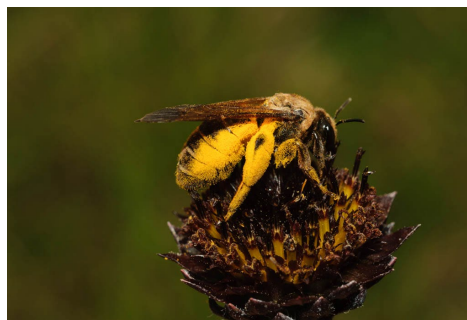
Cross-pollination



Domesticated honey bees live in hives managed by humans. In the wild, honey bees like to nest in cavities of trees 15 feet above the ground or in buildings or caves that are clean and protected from the weather. They make combs for their eggs and larvae, and for storing honey during the winter. The colony is made up of three castes: one female egg producer (the queen), females that do not reproduce (workers), and males whose main goal is to mate with a fertile queen (drones). It is the female worker bees that are important for pollination. Female honey bees collect pollen from the stamens of flowers that is gathered into pollen baskets on their hind legs (see illustration below). As the bees travel from plant to plant some of the pollen sticks to the pistils of other flowers resulting in cross pollination. When the bees return to the hive, the pollen is used to feed developing larvae.

There is one species of honey bee and 316 native bees in Florida. Seventy percent of native bees are ground nesting (Dr. Joshua Campbell, University of Florida's Dept. of Entomology). They prefer land that is sunny, well-drained and either partly vegetated or bare.

Leafcutter bees, mason bees, and yellow-faced bees nest in dry, hollow stems of many common plants. Sweat bees build their nests in rotting wood in forests and in suburban wood piles. Carpenter bees excavate narrow tunnels within dead wood. Some of the many other native bee species are bumble bees, mining bees, plasterer bees, digger bees, and the coastal bee often seen on barrier islands. Three billion dollars (of \$20 billion) worth of U.S. pollination services were provided by native bees in 2006 (Losey and Vaughn, 2006).



Digger bee covered with pollen on sunflower.
Photo by Bill Boothe.

Actions Home Gardeners Can Take to Protect Florida Bees

1) Provide Food

Plant a wildflower garden with native Florida flowering plants rich in nectar and pollen. Nine wildflowers recommended by Dr. Joshua Campbell are: Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), Blanketflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*), Dyeflower (*Coreopsis basilis*), Leavenworth's Coreopsis (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Dotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), Lanceleaf Tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*), and Narrowleaf Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*). Make sure to overlap flowering periods for year-round bloom times. There are always plenty of blooming trees and plants in the spring. To overlap bloom times, watch your yard and garden and when flowering has diminished visit your neighboring native plant nursery and buy blooming flowers to keep pollinators fed.



Honey bee inside a butterfly pea. The butterfly pea blooms in the spring.
Photo by Bill Boothe.

Gardeners can also set aside part of their grassy lawns for swaths of clover or violets. Low-growing herbs such as oregano, thyme and marjoram are a favorite of bees when they flower. Add them to your flower garden.

[10 Easy Wildflowers – Guide to Florida native wildflowers](#) from FANN, the Florida Association of Native Nurseries.

2) Provide Shelter and Nesting Sites for Native Bees

Avoid cutting up hollow-stemmed plants for compost after September as native bees may already be in hibernation inside the stalks.

Avoid using buried landscape fabric or plastic in your garden so as not to cover up winter-nesting bees that are underground.

Florida's native bees need places to nest. Most are solitary, unlike honey bees that live in a colony in wax structures. Leafcutter bees, mason bees, yellow-faced bees and others nest in dry hollow stems of many common plants. During the summer collect hollow stems

with natural nodes. Use shears to cut the stems into 6- to 8-inch lengths. Use a variety of stem diameters from 1/8 inch to 1/2 inch – 1/8 inch for yellow-faced bees, 1/2 inch for carpenter bees. Lastly, bundle the stem tubes together with string and hang horizontally in a sheltered area of the garden.

Artificial nests can be constructed from bamboo or reed and placed in an open-faced birdhouse, pitcher, bucket, can, or a short section of PVC pipe.

-[Instructions](#) for making nests for bees.

-Other ideas for [artificial nest homes](#) for native bees.



Photo by Claudia Farren



3) Use Smart Gardening Practices

To protect honey bees, water your yard, flowers, and vegetable garden in the early morning before bees are out foraging and pollinating flowers. Using sprinkler-irrigation systems during daytime can disrupt a female bee's orientation to familiar landmarks.

Do not till your garden or yard in an area of ground that is perforated with little holes to protect ground-nesting bees. They are very gentle and they don't sting unless handled or stepped on. Leave them alone. They will not be around long. It might seem as though they are



Margarita Lopez-Urbe, Cornell University

concentrated in one large hive but they all have small individual burrows underground. They come out of their nest for just a few days in the spring. During this time they're excellent pollinators.

If you must remove a ground nest do not use pesticides, use water. The bees will leave. They like dry, well-drained soil. Later plant something to discourage them from returning the next year. Click [here](#) for more information on ground nesting bees.

4) Protect From Pesticides

Minimize use of pesticides near pollination sites and if necessary try to find an organic product. But be advised, just because it's organic doesn't mean it is not harmful. Pick the least toxic product and follow the directions precisely. More does not mean better effectiveness. Bees are poisoned from insecticides by consuming contaminated nectar or water, by absorption through their exoskeletons, or by dust being collected on their hairs. Broods are affected when adult bees carry contaminated pollen or nectar back to the nest. When applying, keep the product on target; do not let it drift into surrounding areas. Do not spray or dust when plants are in bloom. Apply in the late evening when bees and insects are not foraging. Also, avoid wet and dewy conditions as pesticides and fungicides will linger longer on the plants. For more information download this [factsheet](#) to commonly available organic insecticides and their impact on bees and other pollinators.

Do not buy neonicotinoid-based pesticides for home garden use. In a [Harvard study](#) in 2014, the use of two neonicotinoid-based products was linked to honey bee deaths and Colony Collapse Disorder. Last year, Home Depot and Lowes announced they would stop selling neonicotinoid products in their garden centers in the next few years. On April 12, Scotts Miracle-Gro ([Ortho](#)) announced they will phase out neonicotinoids by 2021. Here is a [list](#) from The Xerces Society of home garden products that contain neonicotinoid chemicals. When purchasing plants at your local nursery, ask garden staff if the plants have been treated with neonicotinoids.

5) Buy Honey From a Local Beekeeper

Enjoy honey produced by flowers from your area.

Part Two of this article will appear in the next issue of *FFWN*.

Experiences and Thoughts of a Young Turkey Hunter

by Kimberly Rogers



It is typical for me to write a piece for the newsletter focusing on one of the many policy issues we address during the year. For the June 2016 FFWN I have decided to turn my space over to a young, outdoorswoman who epitomizes why we fight so hard to protect Florida's natural heritage and wild places. Kimberly Rogers is the twenty-something daughter of a fellow consultant and friend of many years. Her dad, Mike, is also an avid outdoorsman, who has passed his love of Florida's environment on to his daughter. A shared passion for hunting that transcends age and gender is revealed in this beautiful story of Kimberly's turkey hunt.

Jay Liles
FFW Policy Consultant

If there's one thing in this world that is the most rewarding, yet most frustrating thing that I have ever done, it would be trying to call in a gobbler during Spring season. After having a not so productive deer season this past fall, unless you want to count the one I hit with my car on the way to the stand, I was itching to get back in the woods and try my luck at a turkey. I spent my spring break waking up at the crack of dawn to sit in the woods and learn as much as I could about the turkeys. By the time opening weekend finally came around, I was convinced I knew exactly what I was doing and

I was going to get that bird first thing opening morning.

Well, three days passed, I saw him every time I went out, and despite thinking I knew everything there was to know about this one bird, thinking I had him figured out, I was still coming home empty handed. I was starting to think that I wasn't cut out for turkey hunting. I had one more morning hunt before I had to go back to school and my hunting would be cut back to Saturdays and Sundays. I had asked every hunter I knew for advice and nothing seemed to work on this bird despite my best efforts. On the last morning before school started back up, I had him coming in straight for me, this time without the two hens he had been running with all weekend. He got about sixty yards from me and I just knew this was going to be my day, all I had to do was wait. Not even two minutes after that thought crossed my mind, he decided he wasn't quite ready to give in and walked right off my property not even stopping to think about turning back around.

The next week was torture sitting in class, trying to focus on lecture when all I could do was read what seemed like hundreds of turkey hunting blogs and articles hoping I would find out what I was doing so wrong. I must have become unbearable to be around because my dad started calling around trying to find anyone that could help try to call in this bird and help me out a little bit. Late Friday afternoon a friend of his called and said he had a guy that knew exactly what to do and was willing to meet me out there Saturday morning, rain or shine, and of course the forecast was predicting rain, and a lot of it.

We set up on the edge of the field 15 minutes before shooting time and waiting for that first gobble of the morning. Luckily, the rain was holding out and despite my continuous doubts, Shaun kept saying, "This is the morning." Just as it started to get light out and we could see out into the field, two gobblers started up and Shaun started calling right away. There was, what we guessed to be, a two year old bird fired up and gobbling back every time he heard Shaun call and another older bird calling every now and then. About 20 minutes into our hunt I saw a turkey, out of the corner of my eye, fly across the field and land about 100

yards from where we were sitting at the edge of the field. Thinking it was a hen, I was still listening to the younger bird across the field talking. Ten minutes passed and I finally saw what I was waiting to see, my gobbler fanned out, strutting in the field, maybe 75 yards to the right of us and he wasn't wasting any time coming to Shaun's call. I was amazed at how easy he was making it look and I couldn't get over that moment of listening to Shaun call and watching that bird fan out and gobble back without any hesitation. He was sixteen yards away, I heard Shaun say "shoot him," and I finally pulled the trigger. That moment is one that I'll never forget.

I couldn't get up fast enough to get my bird and I still couldn't believe that it had even happened, I thought I would only be dreaming about this bird for the rest of the season. A four year old bird, a final (NWTF) score of 63.14, nine inch beard, and over one inch spurs. This was definitely the bird I had been after and one that I was more than lucky enough to get as my first bird. I learned two lessons that day, one being that nothing worth having comes easy, and I take pride in the fact that even though some days I wanted to give up so bad, I still went out every chance I had and took every opportunity I could to learn as much as I could. With that being said, the second lesson I learned from watching Shaun that morning was that the turkey woods are one of nature's classrooms and there's always going to be something new to learn no matter how much time you spend out there and how much you think you know and I love that. The day I don't feel the thrill of the hunt and I don't enjoy learning as much as I can about these animals is the day I'll stop hunting.



KENWOOD from page 1

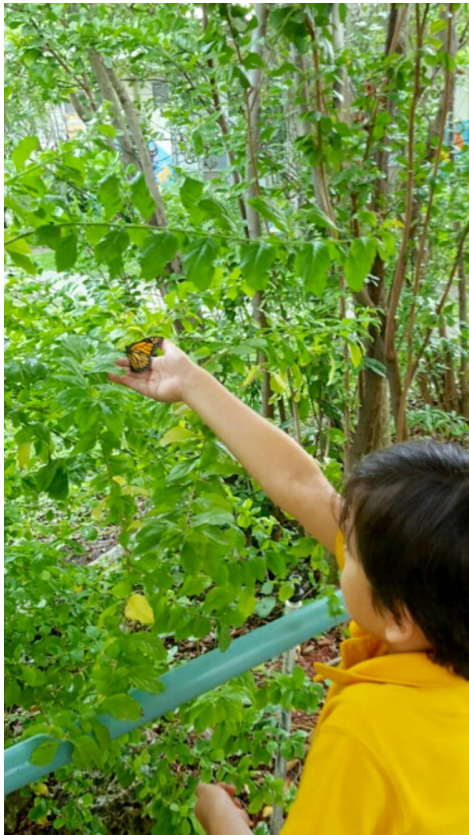
especially pleased that their garden was able to attract and keep proper conditions for the rare Atala butterfly. This butterfly requires a specific host plant, the native “coontie,” which grows well in the garden.

Breeding and thriving in Kenwood’s garden are also monarch butterflies, which have been the subject of much national attention because their populations nationally have declined about 90% in recent years, causing great efforts among different environmental groups as well as the federal government to plant milkweeds for this butterfly to use along its migration routes from Canada and the U.S. to Mexico. The monarch is the only butterfly to migrate long distances, as some birds do, and the monarch’s only host plant is milkweed.

Kenwood’s Butterfly Garden is also home to many other kinds of butterflies, such as the Polydamas Swallowtail, the Giant Swallowtail, the Gulf Fritillary and the Zebra Longwing, which is Florida’s State Butterfly.

The statewide FWF Kids’ Habitat Contest is open to all children in Florida 12 years old or younger who have helped to establish and maintain an area where food, water, cover, and a place to raise young is available for Florida’s wildlife. The nature lessons that students acquire while working in the garden and observing the life cycles and habits of the garden’s butterflies help them to appreciate all the kinds of wildlife that Floridians are privileged to have in such abundance.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to Palm Harbor Middle School in Palm Harbor and to Sleepy Hill Elementary School in Lakeland for their entries in the contest.



Below: Second Grade Class at Kenwood K-8 Center School in Miami won the 7th Annual Kids’ Habitat Contest. Pictured with the children are teacher Fridel Pedrique and the school principal, Mr. Rudy Rodriguez. Photo by Francie Diaz-Escoto.



FLORIDA KIDS’ QUIZ



1. Why is it a good thing if your school has a Wildlife Habitat Garden?



2. What’s the news on the monarch butterfly?



3. What can kids do to be good conservationists?

See page 14 for answers, and more information.

From Curious Photographer to Citizen Scientist

by Karen Willes

The electronic version of this story, available at www.fwfonline.org, contains more info by clicking the “*” at the end of a given paragraph.

Beginning in the winter of 2011-2012 I have had the privilege of watching one of the rarest birds in the world, the Whooping Crane, in an unlikely area very close to home. What began as an effort to photograph this magnificent bird has evolved into a personal effort to document Whooping Crane behavior during the winter.

Known as the “Cow Pond Cranes,” a pair of Whooping Cranes from the Operation Migration Class of 2009 have overwintered in Tallahassee for four years. They were taught the initial migration route to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge by following Operation Migration’s ultralight aircraft. (The young cranes are ultralight-led only one time, after which they return to Wisconsin on their own.) For some reason, a male brought his mate to overwinter in a small pond in a pasture that borders a large residential area. Their behavior has been documented twice daily for the last three winters – the time they leave in the morning, the time they return to the pond in the evening, if they return or don’t return, if they dance, or if there is unusual behavior. If I was not available, I asked one of our regular visitors to be on “crane watch,” to document the crane behavior and greet visitors who came to see them.

This year was unusual because after losing their chick last summer, the female (15-09) left the male (11-09) while in Wisconsin before migration began. She overwintered with a new mate (11-02) in north Alabama. However, 11-09 returned to Tallahassee for the fifth year – migrating 1,200 miles from Necedah NWR in Wisconsin to Cow Pond. He arrived on December 25, 2015 and left on migration on February 19, 2016. During those two months “craniacs” from near and far came to see him. Many friendships that began as the direct result of watching these cranes were renewed and new friends were made. This year, because he was alone, I referred to him as Big Bird. What else might one call a bird that stands five

feet tall with a wingspan of seven feet?

As I learned more about the plight of the Whooping Crane, having been reduced to only 15 birds in 1941, I joined the efforts to support their reintroduction, particularly through Operation Migration and the International Crane Foundation. During the winter, signs are posted with information about Whooping Cranes as well as a request to “Protect and Respect” their space to keep them wild. Rack cards with information about the cranes as well as that of look-alikes -- birds that are often misidentified as cranes -- are shared with visitors. Each morning and evening I photographed Big Bird and posted photos on social media so that others could follow his winter activities and confirm his safety. In March, I was thrilled to post that Big Bird had safely returned to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin. Though still alone, he was seen in a wetland area in the refuge where he was taught to fly. Big Bird has become an important ambassador for crane conservation and we look forward to his return in December with the hope that he brings a new mate with him.

Though my interest in Whooping Crane conservation began simply as a curious photographer, it evolved into becoming a citizen scientist to document, photograph, and protect the cranes, as well as educate visitors about these magnificent birds. Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, and authors, Susan Cerulean and Kathlin Sickel, have written articles about the crane education efforts at Cow Pond.

The Whooping Crane Recovery Project includes a complex group of agencies known as the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership. Organizations in Maryland, Wisconsin, Florida, and in states along the migration route between Wisconsin and Florida are all involved. *

Whooping Crane eggs from captive flocks are incubated at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Some young cranes are chosen to join the Operation Migration cohort for that year and some are raised as Direct Autumn Release (DAR) birds, raised by costumed handlers but after fledging, they are placed near adult cranes to migrate with them. * & *

The most recent introduction technique includes parent-raised birds that are hatched in captivity and raised by their parents; when they are about six-months old, they are taken to Wisconsin to join

other cranes in the Eastern Migratory Flock and migrate with them. *

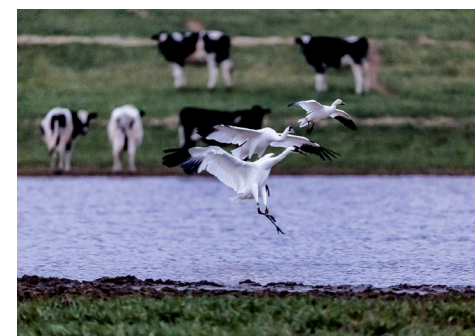
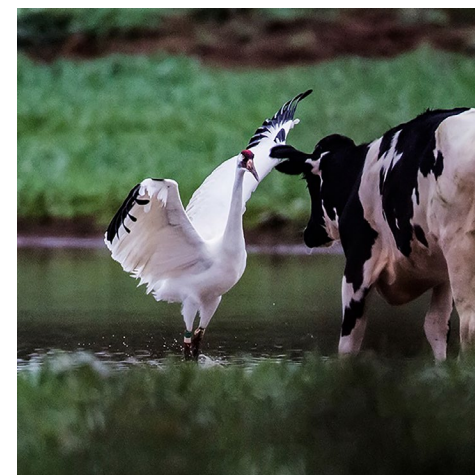
In Operation Migration’s 15-year reintroduction project, 186 Whooping Cranes were taught to migrate by following ultralight aircraft. Over 100 cranes have survived and are now migrating between Wisconsin and Florida as the Eastern Migratory Population. The ultralight-led migrations have been discontinued by a January 2016 decision of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service citing the low number of fledged birds – only 10. Operation Migration will continue to work in the Whooping Crane Recovery effort by tracking and monitoring cranes in Wisconsin and during migration as well as assisting in replacing non-functioning tracking devices. *

Emphasis will now be placed on ways to make Whooping Cranes better parents. Though the success rate for fledged cranes in the Eastern Population is very low, the wild Western Population that migrates between Canada and Texas is growing. In addition, a new non-migrating flock that numbers approximately 45 cranes has been introduced in Louisiana. In a news release on April 12, 2016, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

announced the historic news of the first wild-hatched Whooping Crane chick in Louisiana since 1939. * & *

The present total population of Whooping Cranes, wild & captive, is approximately 600 birds. *

Many different types of conservation efforts are already in place. As individuals, we can’t do everything, but we can do something. Whether it is protecting habitat through land acquisition and conservation easements, shorebird stewardship, EagleWatch, nesting turtle protection, panther protection, Everglades & Gulf restoration, clean water initiatives, artificial wetlands creation, or joining the Wildlife Habitat Program to make your own space “wildlife friendly,” we need to join in and become citizen scientists right where we live.



Photos by Karen Willes. All images were taken with a 600 mm lens or digiscoped through my spotting scope. The distance to the pond is about 500 feet.

These images are taken from a safe distance by using long lenses.

Wake Up Call For Our Waters

by Glenn "Matt" Burton
Communications Consultant



As Floridians, we depend on clean water to ensure a healthy economy as well as healthy fish and wildlife for our state. We want visitors and residents to be able to enjoy our waters for recreational purposes. But in reality, Florida's waters face many threats. Along the Atlantic, the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is being polluted with excess nutrients leading to massive fish kills. When there is excessive nitrogen and phosphorous in the waters, toxic algal blooms thrive, contaminate the water and kill off the marine life. The result is the pictures you see here, which have gone viral online. Dead fish, and other marine life, coat our waters and negatively affect job-creating tourism and the quality of life for residents. No one wins.

Unfortunately, the IRL is not an isolated incident, as the Caloosahatchee estuary on the southwest coast is facing similar issues due to excess runoff and polluted discharge increasing the nutrient count within the water. Both east and west Florida coasts are dealing with algal blooms and contaminated water.

In addition to the problems facing the IRL and the Caloosahatchee estuaries, Florida Bay is not receiving the

freshwater it needs to thrive. Without fresh clean waters flowing south through the Everglades, Florida Bay's salt levels rose and killed off massive amounts of sea grass, which marine life depend upon. Buying land south of Lake Okeechobee would allow for freshwater to be stored, treated and flow south through the Everglades and into the Florida Bay. This would help recover vital sea grass habitats.

Our waters need help, but it's important to understand why these issues are occurring, as well as where the extra nitrogen and phosphorous, which stimulate algal growths, are coming from. The excess nutrients present in the IRL are influenced from several sources, such as agricultural runoff, septic tanks and high density populations without proper water treatment. The Southern IRL is additionally exposed to man-made freshwater discharge from Lake Okeechobee that also increases nutrients in downstream waters. Providing a third outlet south of Lake Okeechobee is needed to reduce pressures on the southern IRL and the Caloosahatchee and to get water south into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

Buying lands south of Lake Okeechobee can help clean and move the water south, but it is not enough. We need to realize the cause of these algal blooms is not entirely from the lake's discharges, but rather a multitude of nutrient sources throughout the IRL. In particular, we need less agricultural runoff as well as better treatment of water from suburban and urban sources, storm water, lawn fertilizer and septic or municipal sewers to protect our waters and tourism. It is of paramount importance that we put a stop to the human factors causing this disaster, and help restore Florida's waters all across the state.



PRESIDENT from page 3

ing bear resistant trash containers. **Thanks Seminole County!** We encourage other jurisdictions with bear garbage issues to do the same.

Florida Wildlife Federation through the dedicated support of our members and foundations is promoting wildlife cross-

ings in areas known to be road kill problem areas. To date, we have concentrated our crossings work with our Northeast and Southwest offices. We are expanding our crossings work in Southwest Florida and our Northeast Office is increasing our efforts along Highway 40 in Ocala National Forest. We are also promoting wildlife crossings in the central panhandle and in

FWF PARTNERS PROGRAM

Friend of Wildlife

Stephen F. Theberge, Jr. & Lisa A. Rahn

FWF PARTNERS is an annual donor recognition program designed to provide a continuing stream of unrestricted support to FWF year in and year out. PARTNERS gifts will support FWF's most critical priorities.

A PARTNER pledges to make a gift each year to join one of the PARTNERS gift clubs. PARTNERS names will also be acknowledged regularly in FWF communications including the *Florida Fish and Wildlife News*, the FWF website and our annual report. Of course, any PARTNER may choose to remain anonymous.

As an FWF donor, member, or friend you **are now invited to join one of the PARTNERS clubs** according to your capacity and to what FWF's conservation action means to you. The giving clubs are:

FWF PARTNERS Levels

Conservation Visionary - \$25,000; Conservation Hero - \$10,000; Conservation Champion - \$5,000; Wildlife Sustainer - \$2,500; Wildlife Advocate - \$1,000; Wildlife Steward - \$500; Friend of Wildlife - \$100.

To become an FWF PARTNER, to receive a pledge form, or for more information, contact **Diane Hines** at dhines@fwfonline.org or **850-656-7113**.

the vicinity of Babcock Ranch in Lee and Charlotte counties. We are also looking for other crossing opportunities with Florida Department of Transportation, FWC and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

It is uncertain what the FWC will propose in 2016 regarding future hunting, however it is clear that FWC believes population management in the larger bear subpopulations is necessary to keep those populations in check. The Commission points out that most of the other eastern states have bear hunting and bear populations in those states are generally increasing. We have recommended that the FWC utilize biological sustainability analysis in determining future allowable harvests. Florida is a high growth state. We advocate for maintaining healthy bear populations interconnected across the state and are concerned that inadequately planned development can fragment those connections. We encourage the FWC in determining potential bear hunting rules to consider all sources of bear mortality. We also believe that the rapid bear kill in the 2015 hunt reflected bear habituation to human food sources, deer feeders and garbage, etc. Bears that become habituated to human food are now being euthanized, as well as hunted. We believe that biological sustainability analysis would be a rigorous, data driven and useful tool in making sure bear mortality is not excessive.

Just as human growth pressures manatees and black bears, it also contributes to excessive nutrients in our waterways from

fertilizers and septic tanks. We have seen the dramatic effects of excessive nutrients in the Indian River Lagoon and other waterways. An excessively wet dry season resulted in heavy discharges from Lake Okeechobee into our estuaries. We need to acquire more lands to treat and move water south from Lake Okeechobee. The FWC, South Florida Water Management District, Corps of Engineers and DEP have worked to move this year's high water through the water conservation areas south into Everglades National Park. At the same time, Florida Bay has suffered from insufficient flows of freshwater.

Apalachicola Bay and River continue to suffer insufficient flows from upstream. These flows are needed to maintain ecological sustainability throughout the river, bay and near Gulf of Mexico waters. Florida battles on in court to address these issues. Recently, American Rivers rated the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers as the most endangered in America. FWF is pleased to work with river advocates in seeking solutions to the serious problems associated with the Apalachicola, which after the Mississippi River, is the largest tributary to the northern Gulf of Mexico.

FWF is proud to have your support and works hard to successfully address significant conservation challenges facing Florida.

Manley

Spectacular Scenery and Exciting Fishing Adventures Await the Winner of Florida Wildlife Federation's 4th Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes

by Claudia Farren
FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

Drawing on June 16th!

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the 4th Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes which started in January. Here's your chance to win one of three amazing trips – five days for you and a companion at the legendary Waterfall Resort on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, an ocean to ocean cruise through the Panama Canal with Holland America Cruise Lines, or a National Geographic tour on the Endeavour to the Galapagos Islands.

If you'd like to stay closer to home or craft your own vacation, but wish to support the Federation through this program, the 2016 winner can also choose to receive \$10,000.00 in cash in lieu of a trip.

The drawing will be held at the FWF offices on Thursday, June 16, 2016.

To enter the "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes or for more information visit www.fwfonline.org and click on any of the icons for the Sweepstakes

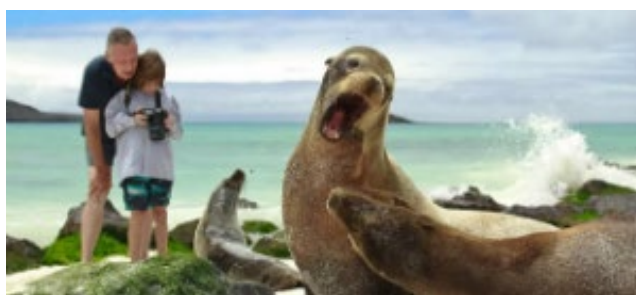
located throughout the site, including the Sweepstakes navigation at the top of every page. Then click on "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes.

Ticket contributions are \$5 each, or 6 tickets for \$25. You can also order 15 tickets for \$50 or 35 tickets for \$100.

As the state's population continues to grow, paying critical attention to our remaining natural resources is more important than ever. Since our founding in 1936, the Florida Wildlife Federation has grown in membership and

resources, enduring ups and downs, victories and losses. Like many other non-profit organizations, we rely upon the good will of our supporters and donors to keep the doors open.

If you believe, as we do, that all citizens and visitors benefit from a clean, healthy and productive environment, and that our state's future will be brighter with natural habitats intact and flourishing, please support the Florida Wildlife Federation by participating in the "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes!



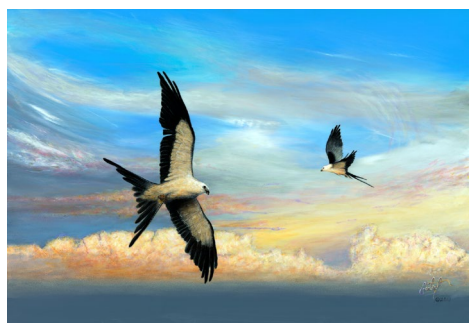
Florida Wildlife Federation's sweepstakes helped raise funds to pursue vital wildlife and fish programs that ensure that we all continue to enjoy Florida's wondrous outdoors.

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

FWF's 2016 Spring Greeting Cards

FWF is very pleased to feature four images by wildlife artist, Peter R. Gerbert, for the 2016 FWF Spring Cards. The bobcat painting is a favorite because it depicts ten living creatures; it is fun for family and friends to locate and identify them all. The colors in these images are vibrant! Each packet contains 12 cards and 12 envelopes. To order, you may call the office toll free: (800) 656-3014. They are also available online at www.fwfonline.org in the Nature Store.

FP-548, Price \$10.00, Member price \$8.95.



FWF member Earl Jones with a Black Drum. Nice catch!

Just what is a “puddler” for butterflies?

by Pat Pearson, Habitat Coordinator

The truth is, I didn’t know the answer to the above question until recently. I was visiting a website about a butterfly garden, and noticed what had been done to help visiting butterflies. I’ll tell you about it in case you want to do it, or something like it.

I did know that butterflies need a source of water to sip with their long proboscis, and that they also need salts and minerals as well. Nectar is supplied from the flowers they visit. If and when a butterfly lands on you, it seems like a magic thing to have happen, but it is probably just looking

to have a little sip of salt from your perspiration.

The butterfly puddler I saw on the net was very cute and decorative. The puddler is a shallow round dish, with medium sized rocks piled in it, with some colorful plastic butterflies on sticks embedded in and supported by the rocks. There was a potted plant nestled among the rocks, which was in bloom and supplying nectar. There were also some pieces of sliced, very ripe fruits, a banana and some oranges, all in about a half inch of water. What I wasn’t seeing was any butterflies using this puddler. Thinking that perhaps I was being too picky, I launched an internet search for other puddlers, and there were more of them than I ever imagined. I’ll give you the best of the information I picked up, so you can create a

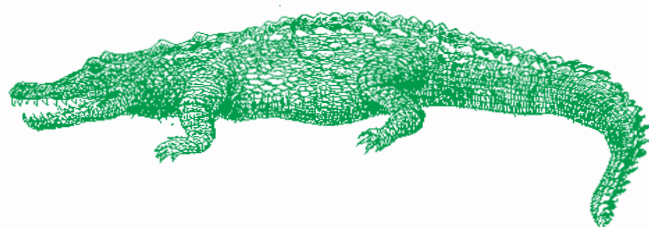
better puddler, and if you do, I think they will come.

The round dish, either a pot saucer or a plastic dish, about 18 inches in diameter is ideal, either on the ground or elevated on top of an upside-down pot. A layer of sand on the bottom, perhaps an inch and covered with a layer of organic fertilizer or composted manure will supply the salts and minerals needed. The male butterflies particularly need the minerals for breeding. A layer of pebbles on top of all that will give the butterflies a dry place to stand and warm up in the air. Then, water should be added slowly, up to the level of the bottom of the pebble layer, and checked every few days to keep it from evaporating away. Don’t let the water be too high, as butterflies can actually drown, and if the level is kept lower than the

pebbles, mosquitoes won’t be able to breed in just the sand and mud.

That’s all there is to do. Of course, if you want, you can add some colorful butterflies on sticks, and a potted nectar plant, and some fruit that’s a little past human consumption. I’m going to make a little sign to plant on a stick, that says “Welcome, All Macho Butterflies,” and wait to see what happens.

Happy Gardening!



Answers to Florida Kids’ Quiz

1. It’s a good thing because it gives students a chance to get outdoors in the fresh air instead of just sitting in a classroom. Also, it gives them information about how to grow plants, and what critters need to survive. If you don’t have a wildlife habitat at your school, you might ask your science teacher about starting one. Your teacher can get plenty of information about how to do this from the internet, starting at www.fwfonline.org.

2. Well, though there was good news early in the last winter season, and the lovely monarch seemed to be doing very well, there was a bad winter storm with ice and very cold temperatures in March 2016 in Mexico. This is where the monarchs migrate to for the winter. Scientists are still studying the data collected about the damage that storm did to the butterflies. At this time, they believe that more than half the butterfly population was destroyed. So that means we have to do all we can to help these butterflies recover.

3. It’s very important that kids learn as much as they can about how to preserve and take care of the planet, because we all are the ones who are living on it! Wouldn’t it be sad if your children never got to see a manatee or a Florida panther because they had become extinct? Good conservationists do all they can to preserve our environment so we can continue to share it with wildlife.

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!



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

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.

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See More Wildflowers in Your County by Implementing the Florida Roadside Wildflower Program

Claudia Farren, Education Consultant

If you would like to see more roadside wildflowers in your county, the Florida Wildflower Foundation has a web page dedicated to the Roadside Wildflower Program. It includes information on how Floridians can pass resolutions to protect and plant native flowers along state and county roadways and preserve them through management programs such as reduced mowing. Twenty-eight counties have passed wildflower resolutions and implemented roadside management programs. If you live in one of the counties that has not (there are 39) you can use the information from the web page to get a wildflower program started in your county or municipality.

[County Resolutions](#) can “commit to the conservation of roadside native wildflowers on state and county roadways . . . [and] plan and implement roadside management practices that will increase the visibility and enjoyment

of Florida native wildflowers.” – quote from the Model County Resolution that seeks to preserve wildflowers through management practices such as reduced frequency and extent of roadside mowing and through the spread of naturally-occurring stands of native wildflowers and grasses.

Wakulla County’s Wildflower Management Program

Wakulla County was the first county to establish a policy to preserve roadside wildflowers through less frequent mowing. The county worked with the Florida Department of Transportation in a pilot program to test a mowing regime along nine miles of State Road 98, a coastal section of the Big Bend Scenic Byway. FDOT continued to mow 6 feet along the highway every 1-2 months for safety reasons but left the rest of the roadside unmowed except during winter. At the end of the pilot program, adjustments were made to FDOT’s mowing regime. The regularly-mowed safety strip was expanded to 12-15 feet and a midsummer mow (June-July) of the entire right-of-way was added to the winter mow (December-January). Then FDOT’s modified mowing plan was applied to all state-maintained roads in Wakulla County. The County’s public works office adopted a similar mowing scheme (with an 8-9 foot safety strip) on county-maintained roads. Now all of Wakulla’s state and county roads— except within

the small towns of Crawfordville, Sopchoppy, St. Marks, Panacea and Wakulla Station/Woodville—are managed to preserve roadside wildflowers. Many other counties have since followed their lead. Wakulla County found it can save money by mowing the full roadside less frequently. In addition, with time to mow the safety strip closest to the road more often, public works also saw a decrease in mowing complaints and requests from county residents. To protect roadside wildflowers in your county or municipality see this web page dedicated to [Roadside Wildflower Programs](#).

U. S. Highway Bee Act

In December 2015, the U.S. Highway Bee Act was adopted. United States Rep. Alcee Hastings (FL-20) co-sponsored the bill that calls for reduced mowing and preservation and planting of native habitat along U.S. highways to benefit honey bees, wild bees, and butterflies, including the increasingly-threatened monarch butterfly.

FDOT Right of Way Mowing Changes May Soon Be Coming to State Highways

The University of Florida recently released a report providing mowing recommendations to the Florida Department of Transportation stating that reduced mowing frequency along state roadways can reduce FDOT right-of-way management costs by 30 percent while still maintaining a clear area directly along the highways for safety and enhancing wildflower abundance. The study also states that mowing less frequently during peak seasonal butterfly activity can increase butterfly numbers.

“In Florida, runoff prevention, carbon sequestration, pollination and other insect services, air quality, invasive species resistance, and aesthetics . . . all provide value that can be monetized. The sum total value of these benefits was conservatively estimated at about a

half billion dollars. Utilizing sustainable vegetation management practices more than doubles the total value. Incorporating Wildflower Management nearly triples the total value of these benefits. The cost of vegetation management, at least \$33.5 million in 2011-12, is more than offset just by the value of carbon sequestration, a benefit that potentially could generate income for FDOT via the sale of carbon credits.” – *Economic Impact of Ecosystem Services Provided by Ecologically Sustainable Roadside Right of Way Vegetation Management Practices*

Help Scout for Roadside Milkweed

If you know of a milkweed stand along a state or federal highway in Central or North Central Florida, please share your information via this [form](#). The Florida Wildflower Foundation will pass it on to the Florida Department of Transportation and Florida Museum of Natural History. This project will help migrating monarch butterflies by preserving their critical habitat.

Safety note: Stopping along road-sides is discouraged. If you do stop, pull off at the cross road nearest the site and park safely there.

Thank you to Lynn Artz, Wakulla County Wildflower Program Coordinator, who contributed to this article.

[Photos of roadside mowing sites.](#)



Roadside wildflowers in Franklin County. Photos by Claudia Farren.



Photo by Jeff Norcini

Conservation Calendar

June 16-19, 2016
National Wildlife Federation
Annual Meeting
Estes Park, Colorado
www.NWF.org

June 21-23, 2016
FWC Commission Meeting
Apalachicola, FL
www.myFWC.com

June 24-26, 2016
FWF Board of Directors Meeting
& Annual Awards Banquet weekend
Bradenton Courtyard
Marriott/Riverwalk
dhines@fwfonline.org

September 8-9, 2016
FWC Commission Meeting
Amelia Island/St. Augustine
www.myFWC.com

September 23-25, 2016
FWF Board of Directors
Annual Business Meeting
Singer Island Hilton
Riviera Beach
dhines@fwfonline.org

October 1, 2016
FWF Kids Fishing Day
FWF River Preserve
preston@fwfonline.org

Florida Wildlife Federation's 79th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet

June 24-26, 2016. Headquarters: Bradenton Marriott Courtyard Riverfront.

Make reservations for events through FWF and overnight accommodations through Courtyard Marriott by calling (941) 747-3727.

\$117.00 for Standard King or Queen Room; \$127.00 for Executive King or Queen room with Sofa Sleeper. Mention "Florida Wildlife Federation" for group rates.

Friday, June 24th

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm **South Florida Museum, Bishop Planetarium**
Hors d'oeuvres, Beer & Wine Bar
Presentation by Daniel Smith, Ph.D.
"The Ecology of Bears: Impacts of Urbanization and other Human Influences"
(\$50 per person)

Saturday, June 25th

(All Saturday events at Bradenton Marriott Riverwalk)

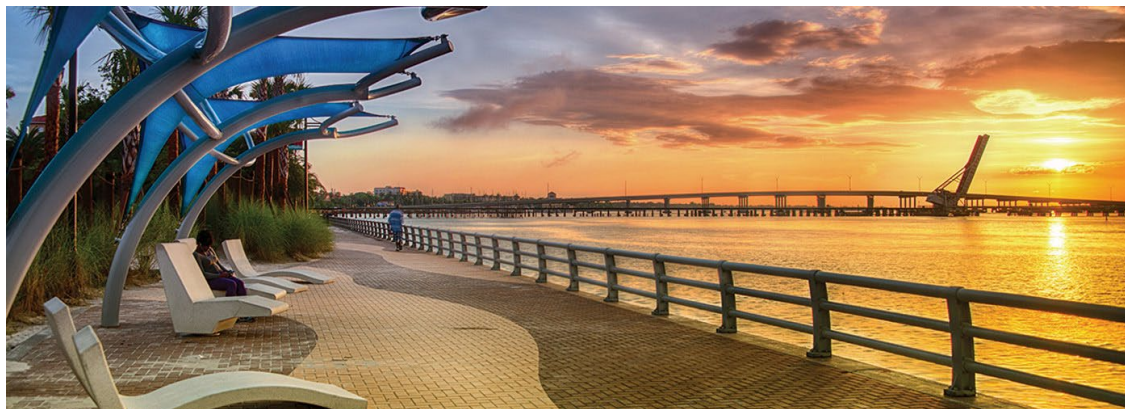
8:30 am to 4:00 pm **FWF Board of Directors/
House of Delegates Meeting**
River Palm Room

5:30 pm **Cocktail Reception + Silent Auction**
Courtyard of the Hotel
Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar
Silent Auction and Art Exhibits
Featuring: Peter R. Gerbert

7:00 pm **FWF's 79th Annual Conservation
Awards Banquet**
Rio Vista Ballroom
Dinner & Presentation of Awards
(\$65 per person)

Sunday, June 26th

10:00 am **FWF Brunch at Sandbar Restaurant**
Anna Maria Island
Brunch Buffet in the Pavilion
(\$35 per person)

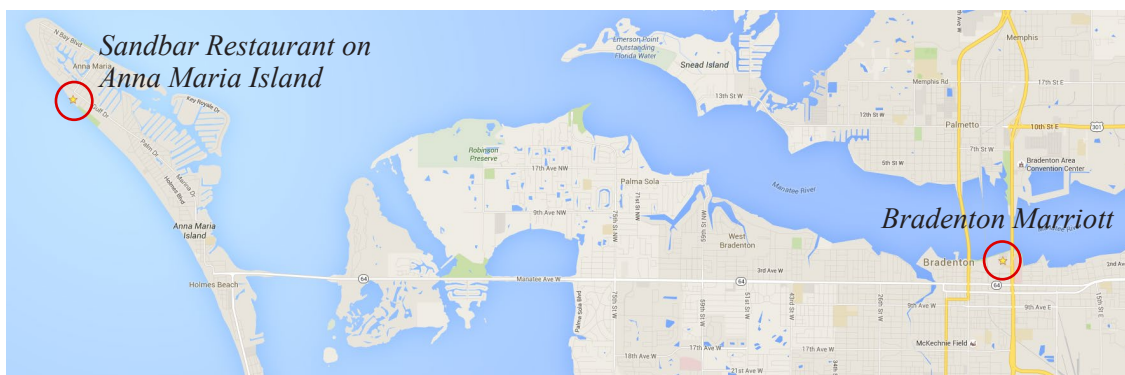


June 24th, Friday, 6:30 PM

"The Ecology of Bears: Impacts of Urbanization and other Human Influences"

Presentation by Dr. Daniel Smith, Ph.D., A.I.C.P.
South Florida Museum, Bishop Planetarium

Dr. Daniel Smith, UCF Research & Wildlife Biologist, will update members and guests on his FWF-funded research project pertaining to the population, habitat use and movements of bears in the Wekiva River Basin. Dr. Smith's presentation will include rare photographs and videos as well as insights from his years of studying Florida's wildlife and their movement patterns across the state. The topic is very relevant to what is happening with bears, particularly in rapidly urbanizing areas. There will be ample time for the audience to interact with Dr. Smith and FWF staff to learn more about FWF's wildlife protection programs.



IDEAS For Us: IDEAS For Us will hold their annual board/staff retreat on June 24-26 at the Marriott in Bradenton in conjunction with FWF's meeting. They plan to engage in team-building activities, discuss important updates and milestones across the IDEAS movement and develop action plans for the next academic year. If you are interested in further information about IDEAS or their meeting, contact Chris Castro at chris.castro@ideasforus.org. IDEAS Meetings will be held in the Manatee Boardroom.

Registration Form For Events - You may also register online at www.FWFawards2016.eventbrite.com.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Discover, AMEX, VISA, MC #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Total charged: _____

Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Friday, June 24th — South Florida Museum, Bishop Planetarium

\$50.00 per person. Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ persons.

Hors d'oeuvres, Beer & Wine Bar, Planetarium Presentation.

Saturday, June 25th — 79th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet – Bradenton

Marriott Riverwalk, \$65.00 per person. Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ people for the Banquet. Event Includes Cocktail Reception, Awards Banquet and Silent Auction.

Special Dietary Requests: _____

Please enter the names of all persons attending with you: _____

Sunday, June 26th — FWF Brunch at Sandbar Restaurant – Anna Maria Island

\$35.00 per person. Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ persons.

Total amount: \$ _____

Checks payable to Florida Wildlife Federation

Please reserve your event tickets no later than **June 10th!**

Attn. Diane Hines, Florida Wildlife Federation,
P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870.

Questions? Email: dhines@fwfonline.org.