



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

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Chair's Message

Rick Abbott



Living in Florida

More often than not, it seems like days are now an hour long and weeks are turning into days. Life is not fair, especially when one gets older.

The FWF family and friends just finished our 2018 annual awards weekend and what a charming event! Everything was perfect. We all got to revisit and mingle with old friends and make new acquaintances.

For me, I got to meet, for the first time, Clyde and April Ward from Hudson, Florida. Everyone at FWF considers the Wards as family. Good people! I also spoke with Dr. Hilary Swain, who runs the Archbold Biological Station in Central Florida. Just a lovely

person who is so knowledgeable on environmental issues and listening to her Scottish lilt was a treat.

Reading and meeting the award winners in person confirmed my feeling that the State of Florida's ongoing conservation struggles can get solved. Too many people are in our corner trying to save our state, one of the most ecologically diverse in the nation. To our members and supporters, I say thank you from FWF for your continued support as we strive to keep Florida an ecological jewel for ourselves and future Floridians.



Photo by Zachary Randall

Our New Look

The Florida Wildlife Federation was founded in 1936 to ensure that our wildlife and wildlands had a future. For many years, we have educated members and the public with a newspaper-style *Fish and Wildlife News*. Commencing with this issue, we have moved on to a more focused periodical. We hope you enjoy it, and please go to www.fwfonline.org for more information. Thanks!



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

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Florida Wildlife Federation's Celebration of the Wild and 81st Annual Conservation Awards Banquet

FWF held its 81st Annual Conservation Awards Banquet on April 28 at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa in Safety Harbor, Florida. Eight outstanding Florida conservationists were recognized for their conservation achievements. The Federation's annual selection of conservation award winners is one of the oldest in the state. Award winners are chosen from nominations made to the Federation's Board of Directors based on a nominee's accomplishments on

behalf of Florida's fish, wildlife and natural resources. The special evening began with a Cocktail Reception, Silent Auction and Art Exhibit by Peter R. Gerbert. Preston Robertson, General Counsel and COO, was the Award Presenter at the Banquet. Brief remarks were made by Manley Fuller, FWF President, and Rick Abbott, Chair of the FWF Board of Directors. Closing remarks were made by Jay Exum, FWF Vice Chair.
Photos by Elam and Nic Stoltzfus



Award Winners – Left to right – Paul Arthur, John Horan, James Erskine, Nancy Prine and Tasman Rosenfeld.



Seminole County Board of County Commissioners, Living with Wildlife Award. Commissioner John Horan accepting the award.



Nancy Payton, retiring FWF Southwest Florida Representative, receives a much-deserved standing ovation for her many years of environmental advocacy to protect the Florida panther and critical habitats.

(continued on page 5)



Dear Florida Wildlife Federation Members,

We greatly appreciate your support; it is critically important. Please consider reaching out to your friends, neighbors and colleagues and asking them to contribute to further the Federation's conservation work. We hope you enjoy the new format of the *Florida Fish and Wildlife News* and view our updated website. Our leading-edge conservation work continues, including being a leader in clean water and wetlands protection.

FWF submitted the "No Oil and Gas Drilling in Florida's Territorial Seas" language to the Florida Constitution Revision Commission (CRC). FWF Life Member Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch was responsible for getting this on the November ballot for voter approval. Thank you, Jacqui!

The Florida Wildlife Federation's legal challenge to the Florida Legislature's expenditures of significant portions of the funds set aside by the passage of Amendment 1 in 2014 soon goes to trial. The Constitutional Amendment reads:

Title: *Water and Land Conservation – Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands*

Summary: *Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water*

quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years.

“The Florida Wildlife Federation’s lawsuit against the Legislature as to the misspending of hundreds of millions of dollars goes to trial in July 2018.”

This amendment was overwhelmingly passed with 75% voter approval and the strong support of the Florida Wildlife Federation and many allies. FWF has challenged the failure to restore and continue land acquisition funding as provided for in the Amendment.

We hope to secure a bright future for our state's wildlife by providing for acquisition and protection of conservation lands.

The Florida Wildlife Federation's lawsuit against the Legislature as to the misspending of hundreds of millions of dollars goes to trial in July 2018.

As the trial approaches, the Legislature has spent untold public money for private attorneys to fight us. Our attorneys are representing the Federation at a very minimal cost, but we still have legal

expenses and costs.

Please help us keep this case going! Florida's voters have spoken – we must make the Florida Legislature listen!

FWF Board Member and former Florida Legislator Curt Kiser joined me recently in Washington, D.C., for the America's Everglades Summit. We met with members of our Florida delegation and their staffs to make the following requests.

Request 1: For Congress to authorize the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoir in the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). This will improve upon an important component of the Central Everglades Project (CEP) in the current two year WRDA cycle, and allow its funding and implementation to begin.

Request 2: For Congress to prioritize and appropriate federal funding for construction of critical projects in the CERP needed to complete Everglades restoration. For FY 2019, we request \$132 million for construction and \$10 million for operations and maintenance to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program. For the next ten years, roughly \$200 million per year is needed to adequately fund the completion of these Congressionally authorized programs. This amount represents the federal match portion of the cost already appropriated by the State of Florida.

Our Florida delegation and members of Congress in leadership

positions from other states indicated support for our requests.

FWF was honored once again to recognize exemplary leaders in conservation at our “*Celebration of the Wild*” and present them with well-deserved awards. The Celebration marks the 81st anniversary of Florida Wildlife Federation and our work on behalf of fish and wildlife conservation, their habitats and people engaging in a variety of sustainable, nature-based recreation. Securing and conserving fish and wildlife habitat in this rapidly growing state is very challenging, but is key to “*Keeping the Wild in Florida*.”

I want to convey how important donor support is to FWF. Volunteer FWF Director and former Congressman Tom Evans recently helped secure a major gift that will help us build for the future. Volunteer FWF Director and past chair Franklin Adams has led some high quality field trips out to Big Cypress Swamp for donors. Martha Musgrove continues her high quality advocacy on Everglades and South Florida conservation matters. They and other FWF volunteers and staff work hard to promote wildlife conservation here in Florida. If you, too, want to make a contribution to the Federation, just let us know.

In closing, I am pleased to announce that Meredith Barnard, a professional biologist and excellent advocate, has just joined FWF’s Southwest Florida office where she will be working closely with our exemplary advocate and consummate professional Nancy Payton, prior to Nancy’s official retirement in August. We welcome Meredith and wish Nancy our absolute best; she has done wonders for conservation in Southwest Florida.

Sincerely,

Manley Fuller

Celebration of the Wild (continued from page 3)



James Erskine, Water Conservationist of the Year



Paul Arthur, Environmental Educator of the Year



Nancy Prine, Conservation Advocate of the Year



Tasman Rosenfeld, Youth Educator of the Year



Josh and Michelle Forman



Lynn and Earl Jones



Key Florida Issues for 2018

Florida Legislature

The 2018 Legislative Session was once again mainly a defensive struggle to stop bad bills from becoming law. We were generally successful, although we are concerned about the transferring from the federal government to the state as to **dredge and fill permitting** of wetlands and waterbodies (Section 404, Clean Water Act). Water is the life blood

Please support
Amendment 9 this
November.

Ban oil
drilling
on our
coasts.



of Florida, and it needs to be clean and abundant for residents and natural systems. The **customary use bill**, which may severely hinder the public's traditional **access to the beach**, is another one that was passed and causes consternation.

We did have one "success," although, as noted below, it was far from a total victory. The Florida Forever program was appropriated \$100 million thanks in large part to Sen. Rob Bradley. \$77 million will go towards conservation land projects on the existing **Florida Forever** list, which protects

environmentally significant lands in cooperation with willing private landowners.

If you care about a sustainable Florida, please support those politicians who seek to conserve our state's natural abundance.

Our Conservation Lands

In November 2014, **75% of Florida voters approved Amendment 1**, the Water and Land Legacy Constitutional Amendment. Unfortunately, the Florida Legislature did not spend the money stemming from this amendment on water and land protection, such as the re-funding of the **Florida Forever program**. Instead they used it to fund ongoing state operations. Due to this **misapplication of millions of dollars**, the **Florida Wildlife Federation sued the Legislature** and state agencies for not following the language of the State Constitution and the will of the voters.

After many months of legal maneuvering our **case is finally going to trial**. It is scheduled to commence in **July 2018** in Tallahassee.

When voters overwhelmingly supported Amendment 1 in 2014, they wanted to conserve more land in the face of rampant development and ensure a clean water supply for ourselves and future generations.

Florida's land conservation programs had received strong support from Republican and Democratic Administrations until the past few years, when Florida Forever was essentially zeroed out by the Legislature. Historically,

\$300 million went towards conservation efforts that created parks, public forests and protected natural areas all over the state.

Keeping our Beaches Clean

Clean beaches are a main driver of our tourism-based economy and that is why we must prohibit oil and gas drilling in our state waters (approximately three miles seaward in the Atlantic and nine miles in the Gulf). Moreover, the Deepwater Horizon disaster off of Louisiana pumped millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf, killing seabirds, dolphins and countless aquatic species. We must not let this happen again, and banning near-shore drilling is a good first step.

“If you care about a sustainable Florida, please support those politicians who seek to conserve our state's natural abundance.”

I am proud to report that FWF was the originator of the idea to put this critical issue on the ballot for 2018 through the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) and our ally CRC Commissioner Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch. The proposal to **ban oil drilling** will be listed as **Amendment 9** on the ballot, and we are hopeful Florida voters will **support** this very good measure, which will protect our beaches, sea turtles and marine life, as well as our economy.

Our Fisheries

Saltwater forage fish, commonly known as bait fish, are the base of the marine food chain and need to be sustainably managed. Without forage fish such as menhaden, there are no red fish, sea trout or other sought-after game species. FWF has been working with our allies in the **Forage Fish Campaign** to ensure federal and state regulators focus their energies on rules and enforcement in a more ecosystem-based manner, and not just rely on species-specific rules. As a critical part of the food chain, forage species are an essential link from the ocean's invertebrates to much larger sea life, such as whales.

Our Forests

Florida's forests are vital to the ecological well-being of the state, providing habitat, recreation and water storage and cleansing. We have over one million acres of state forest land stretching from Blackwater River near Pensacola to Picayune Strand in South

Florida. Moreover, our three National Forests encompass some 1.2 million acres. These are in addition to still extensive private forest lands, especially in North Florida.

“Without forage fish such as menhaden, there are no red fish, sea trout or other sought-after game species.”

North and Central Florida were once covered by a habitat type that has been largely diminished due to urbanization and agricultural conversion: the **longleaf pine/wire grass ecosystem**. The longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) evolved over the millennia as lightning-induced fires burned hundreds of thousands of acres, only being stopped by rivers or

wetlands. Plant species which adapted to frequent fire, like the longleaf, and groundcovers like wiregrass, are true Florida natives.

Prior to European colonization, over 90 million acres in the Coastal Plain of the South were covered by immense pine stands. This forest extended from Southeastern Virginia to East Texas. Today, our once vast longleaf forest is now a shadow of its former glory and exists only on approximately 5% of its historic range.

Thankfully, FWF, along with our allies, are pushing for the planting of longleaf wherever it is suitable. These stately and beautiful pines live up to 500 years and are much more disease resistant than other pine species. Animals that love longleaf habitats include fox squirrels, bobwhite quail and an array of song birds.

Please do your part to conserve Florida: **go plant a longleaf pine!**

Dustin T. Robertson



Featured Animal

Florida Native – Florida Black Bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*)

The Florida black bear is a unique sub-species that once numbered over 11,000 prior to European settlement. Today we have approximately 4,000 bears. They are generally vegetarian, particularly liking palmetto berries, but they also consume animal matter. The main threats to our bears are habitat destruction and automobiles. Adult males weigh 250-450 pounds and females weigh 125-250 pounds. Bears need large areas to roam, especially the males, and require corridors between forested areas so they can move safely. Human interactions with bears have been a cause for concern, with bears living near populated areas searching for food in the garbage. We can help the bears and ourselves by using bear-proof garbage cans and keeping pet food inside. If the bears cannot get an easy meal, they will go elsewhere to feed.



Photo by Jay Exum



Introducing New Southwest Florida Field Representative

In May, Meredith Barnard joined the Florida Wildlife Federation as the new Southwest Florida Field Representative.

Ms. Barnard holds an undergraduate degree in Marine Science from the University of Miami and a graduate degree in Marine and Environmental Affairs from the University of Washington. She is a graduate of Leadership Collier Foundation's Growing Associates in Naples™ (GAIN™) and an active board member of the University of Miami's Southwest Florida Canes Alumni Association.

She has a variety of environmental talents and advocacy experiences including serving for the past two years as a policy advocate at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

After 24 years of service to the Federation and Southwest Florida's wildlife, Nancy Anne Payton will



Meredith Barnard and Nancy Anne Payton

retire this August. Because Ms. Barnard and Ms. Payton have worked together on several local campaigns, there will be a seamless transition as Ms. Barnard assumes responsibilities for the Federation's ongoing wildlife protection, habitat connectivity, and crossings

campaigns across Southwest Florida.

Thank You and So Long!

My heartfelt thank you to all the members, foundations, and friends who have faithfully supported the Southwest Florida Office's wildlife programs over the past twenty-four years.

You are who made this Field Office a success.

It is time now for me to move on and make way for the next generation of wildlife advocates. I have full confidence that Ms. Barnard – my recommendation for this position - will ably carry on the Southwest Florida Office's thought-leading wildlife campaigns.

With appreciation,

Nancy Anne Payton

Rebuilding Momentum for Conservation Collier

Collier County is not composed of red or blue voters; Collier County residents are green voters.

This was evident back in 2002 when the voters approved a ballot referendum to tax themselves .25 mil in ad valorem collections to fund acquisition and management of environmentally sensitive lands in the county. In 2006, 82 percent of Collier voters once again chose to continue to tax themselves to keep this program funded until its expiration in 2013. Clearly, Collier residents understand the importance of balancing the

county's rapid development with the need to preserve wildlife habitats and public greenspace.

Since its inception, the Conservation Collier program has acquired over 4,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land, but the program has been in a management phase since 2013. Early last year, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to begin an acquisition cycle using \$17 million borrowed from the program management fund. This amount was to be repaid to the management fund through a .25

mil allocation in the 2017-18 budget. Despite the Federation's advocacy to the Board, this repayment option was not included in the 2017-18 budget. Thus, the repayment of these funds is not guaranteed. That said, the Federation is confident Collier's green voters will re-authorize a tax to fully fund the program and repay the management fund when a referendum is placed on the ballot.

In the meantime, the Conservation Collier program accepted applications for the newly activated acquisition cycle. The

Conservation Collier Lands Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) ranked the applications and recommended their A-list ranked properties for acquisition to the Board of County Commissioners in late April 2018. The Federation participated in these public meetings.

The A-list is nine separate properties totaling over 3,500 acres and will nearly double the amount of conservation land the program currently protects. Citing concerns with the county's potential cash flow in the upcoming hurricane season, county staff recommended the purchase of a single property -

the CCLAAC's top ranked parcel. However, with the Federation's advocacy efforts, the Collier County Commissioners also authorized the purchase of two of the A-ranked parcels with a pledge to review the remaining A-list parcels in July 2018. One of the approved acquisitions is known as the "Gore Property." Dr. Bob Gore was a noted Collier County conservationist and his 180 acre preserve is near the Federation's conservation parcels in North Golden Gate Estates. The Half Circle L Ranch, a Federation Conservation Land Manager award winner, remains on the A-list for

review this July.

The Federation is advocating for active acquisition of the remaining A-list parcels and continues to engage with the Collier County Board of County Commissioners to ensure the Conservation Collier management fund is repaid and the program gets fully re-authorized for future acquisition cycles.

With appreciation,

Meredith Barnard



Wildlife Crossings Move Ahead

Florida Wildlife Federation Board member Jay Exum (right) presents a check supporting Dr. Dan Smith's Keri Road wildlife movement study through the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest. Thirteen endangered Florida panthers have died or been injured while crossing this rural Hendry County road. Dr. Smith's yearlong field work, funded by Federation members and supporters, will result in recommendations on where wildlife crossing should be located.



Photo by Defenders of Wildlife



Featured Natural Area

Natural Area Highlight – Boyd Hill Nature Preserve

Heavily urbanized Pinellas County, a peninsula on the Gulf of Mexico west of Tampa, is home to an outstanding environmental area: Boyd Hill Nature Preserve. This 245-acre tract on Lake Maggiore in south St. Petersburg is a tiny natural jewel. With three miles of walking trails, one can see a variety of habitat types, from pine flatwoods to sand scrub and marshes. If you have never seen a gopher tortoise, this is the place to go; they are abundant. Wading birds, fox squirrels, alligators and a wide variety of native flora are present, as well as star-bellied spiders. There is also a Pioneer Settlement and a gigantic armadillo sculpture to enjoy. Cost: Free. Location: 1101 Country Club Way, St. Petersburg, FL, phone: 727 893-7326.



Photo by Matt Aresco



Denying Public Access to Florida Beaches

During the 2018 Legislative Session, the Federation opposed legislation that would limit public access to Florida beaches. Unfortunately, that bill passed into law and was signed by Governor Scott (Chapter 2018-94, Florida Statutes).

The new law revolves around the “customary use” of Florida beachfront and what remedy private landowners have to forbid public access. Prior to passage of the bill, local governments could pass a local ordinance establishing customary use, thus permitting beachgoers to traverse, sit upon or in any other law-abiding way, use the dry sand area of a beach. Only three coastal counties found it necessary to enact such an ordinance. Unfortunately under the new law, a controversial, confusing and seemingly impractical process was enacted to establish areas that would qualify for customary use. The law requires local governments to establish customary use on a parcel-by-parcel basis, provide detailed evidence of the customary use and specify each source of evidence relied upon to prove “a recreational customary use has been ancient, reasonable, without interruption, and free from dispute.” Once adopted, the ordinance must go before a court for approval before final adoption. This high bar replaces the normal processes of local governments holding public hearings and taking a majority vote for final passage of an ordinance.



Sunset Seashell Hunters by Tahnee Eaton

In our opinion, the law takes away local control of land use decisions by cities and counties. **It places an undue burden on local governments to establish the customary use of beaches** and it seems unlikely local governments

“FWF supports private property rights, but this law is a step too far . . . ”

will burden taxpayers with the added cost. So what will be the result? That’s anyone’s guess, but from initial reaction many local governments are looking at this new law with trepidation. “No trespass” signs may become a common eyesore on your beach.

Unsuspecting violators may face charges. All of that cannot be good for Florida’s tourism and may well change the beach-going experience for all of us.

Did we need to usurp the power of local governments to regulate beach access? No! Customary use is exactly the kind of issue intended for local elected governments who are closest to the voters. They are the best interpreters of local customs and traditions, especially when it comes to beach town traditions.

FWF supports private property rights. But this law is a step too far and has the potential to upset the long held Florida tradition of being one of the nation’s best loved play grounds.

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

Florida Wildlife Federation Celebrates Earth Day With Northside Elementary School In Panama City

The Northside Elementary School in Panama City was recently visited by Steve Theberge, Northwest Regional Director of the Florida Wildlife Federation, to help celebrate Northside's recently winning FWF's statewide Kids' Wildlife Habitat Contest.

FWF is dedicated to encouraging the efforts of young people to be active outdoors and to be aware of our natural environment. The contest is open to all children in Florida 12 years old or younger who have helped to establish and maintain a place where food, water, cover, and a place to raise young are available to wildlife.

Northside was given two

awards, as they entered two separate gardens, one belonging to 2nd graders and one belonging to



Steve Theberge presents awards to Northside Elementary teachers

kindergarteners. The 2nd grade garden is meant to attract toads, birds, squirrels and ladybugs. The kindergarten garden is designed for toads and butterflies. Both habitats

provide all things necessary to attract and sustain Florida's native wildlife. Shrubs and flowers that provide nectar and berries for animal residents and visitors are easily available.

Students worked not only to dig and plant the garden, but have done research on which plants to use to attract wildlife. The nature lessons that students acquire while working in the garden and observing the life cycles and habits of the garden's wild creatures will help them to appreciate all the kinds of wildlife that Floridians are privileged to have in such abundance.

Well done, kids!

FWF Scholarship Update

The Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department at the University of Florida has awarded \$4,400 from FWF Scholarship Funds at the UF Foundation to the following graduates and undergraduates.

- **Alexis Cardas**, a first-year M.S. student in the lab of WEC's Dr. Abby Powell. Ms. Cardas studies the impacts of translocation on Florida scrub-jay donor populations.
- **Simona Picardi**, a third-year Ph.D. student advised by WEC's Drs. Mathieu Basille and Peter Frederick, is working to understand the relationships among human-driven environmental factors and stork migration and nesting success.
- **Sarah Teman**, an undergraduate student, is embarking on a paid fellowship with the McCleery lab in Swaziland this summer, studying rodent seed predation and dispersal.
- **Keara Clancy**, an undergraduate student, will begin assisting in research on American kestrels in the Ocala National Forest this summer.



In the photo, from left to right, are Keara Clancy (WEC undergraduate), Sarah Teman (WEC undergraduate), Dr. Eric Hellgren (Chair, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation), Alexis Cardas (WEC M.S. student) and Simona Picardi (WEC Ph.D. student).



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. Michelle

Gopher Tortoise Signage

Martha Musgrove, FWF Director

Signs urging people not to disturb Florida's native gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) or put them in water are now posted in Palm Beach County's coastal and scrub lands adjacent to the Interstate 95 corridor. The signs, provided by the Florida Wildlife Federation, are installed at the entrance to trails and picture the tortoise and messages such as "Don't pick me up, I'm not lost" and "Don't put me in water – I don't swim." They were installed by staff of the county's Department of Environmental Resources Management.

Left alone, our slow-moving tortoise will live 40 to 60 years. It's an "ancient" species with ancestors' dating back 60 million years. Nationally, there are five species of tortoise, but Florida's gopher tortoise is the only one east of the Mississippi River. It is illegal



John Hughes, Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, installs a gopher tortoise sign at Frenchmen's Forest Natural Area.

to molest a gopher tortoise and permits are required to own one. The FWC maintains a website, (<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/gopher-tortoise>) with more information.

Throughout the state, Florida gopher tortoises are found in well-drained, sandy areas with abundant

low-to-the-ground vegetation to feed on. The average adult ranges from 9 to 11 inches and weighs 7 to 9 pounds. Its shell may be brown, gray or green. Its head is flat, back legs stubby, and front legs shovel-shaped. Gopher tortoises are prodigious diggers, establishing burrows 7-feet deep with tunnels stretching 12 feet or more. The burrows maintain a constant temperature and are "commensal," meaning they are shared with other wild animals, including opossums, snakes, mice and insects.



FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S LOU KELLENBERGER

2018 PHOTO CONTEST

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

Members, supporters and friends of FWF are encouraged to enter, noting anyone may enter the contest with the exception of FWF staff. Entrants have an opportunity to win \$300 in cash, a

tablet (Kindle Fire), \$50 Visa gift cards and more! Ten total winners will be selected. It has never been easier to capture images in Florida's outdoors – use your camera, smartphone, or tablet to document the wild world around you. Enter your most compelling nature images and photos of Florida today at www.snappiephoto.com.

Entries will be taken from now until December 31, 2018. Entry donations are \$5 for one photo, \$10 for 3 photos, and \$25 for 7 photos. One Overall Contest winner will be selected for the First Prize of \$300, a Second Prize



2017 Overall Winner– **Environmental Egret** by Meg Puente

winner will receive a Kindle Fire tablet, six category winners will receive a \$50 Visa gift card and the kids' contest winner will receive an outdoor backpack. Only digitally uploaded images may be entered. Judging will follow the closing date of December 31, 2018.

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



FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S

Boating Sweepstakes

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

Play the 2018 Boating Sweepstakes Today!

This Year's Grand Prize Choices are:

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

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

How to Enter

Ticket contributions are \$5 each, 6 tickets for \$25, 15 tickets for \$50, or 35 tickets for \$100. Watch for your Sweepstakes tickets in the mail or **play online anytime**.

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

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

When you play, conservation wins!

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Sea Born FX22 Bay Sport – perfect layout for a family cruiser or the serious angler



Beavertail Mosquito 18 Flats Boat – designed for silently stalking inshore game fish



Honda Accord Hybrid Sedan – entire Accord line named the North American Car of the Year



Small Boat Alaskan Cruise plus Fishing Adventure – intimate wilderness experiences

FLORIDA
WILDLIFE

Kids' Quiz

1. What is the Florida State Butterfly?



2. How dangerous is Zika virus in Florida?



3. What could you do to help the monarch butterfly?



See page 14 for answers and more information.

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

FWF members April and Claude Ward own a very special tract of land in Gilchrist County, just south of the Santa Fe River. Having bought the original acreage some years ago, they have steadily expanded their holdings and fenced it for security. Eventually, they built a cabin, guest quarters and a stable for their horses. As equestrians, the Wards needed a place to ride away from the bustle of the growing suburbs north of Tampa, and found this jewel in still rural North Florida.

It is very rare to find a place anywhere in this state that has retained virtually all the characteristics of what the land looked like 200 years ago, before development and agriculture changed the face of Florida. The Ward property is one of those special areas. With wiregrass, longleaf pine, turkey oak, sand live oak, Florida rosemary and saw palmetto, it is a very fine example of the habitat known as Florida scrub. Due to the diversity of this land, it harbors many native animal and bird



April and Claude Ward on their property in Gilchrist County

species, including the gopher tortoises. In addition, white-tailed deer, barred owls, and other native species call this land home.

The Wards have very generously put the Florida Wildlife

Federation into their wills as a beneficiary to receive and protect this special place forever. The Federation is very grateful. By acts such as these, Florida will retain the natural beauty that makes it a special place to call home.

Please join with April and Claude and help make sure we and future residents can enjoy a healthy, clean and environmentally sustainable Florida.

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

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

Answers to FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

1. The Florida State Butterfly is the Zebra Longwing, which is a nice little black and white striped critter. Doesn't that make you wonder why such a plain-colored butterfly was chosen to be the state butterfly when Florida has so many brilliantly colored and more exotically shaped butterflies?
2. Well, it's sad to say, but the Infectious Diseases Society of America is asking the government to provide more funds for "surveillance and prevention" of such diseases because the danger is increasing, especially in Florida. You should be careful to wear long sleeves and long pants when you go outside, and to always use an Environmental Protection Agency registered insect repellent. This will help with ticks as well.
3. You could **plant and take care of a milkweed plant**, because milkweeds are the only plant that monarchs use for laying their eggs. The leaves of the milkweed also provide food for the caterpillars that hatch from the eggs.

How Did You Do, Florida Kid?! Get Outdoors and Stay Healthy! Summer is Here.



Thank You to Our Donors

Special Recognition

Florida Wildlife Federation appreciates recent major charitable gifts from:

- Fred and Alice Stanback
- Lloyd Schiller

New Wildlife Legacy Club Members:

Fred and Alice Stanback, Salisbury, NC

New Life Members:

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Stuart
Mr. Winfred Boyer, Valparaiso

**Legacy Club Members are those who have donated \$5,000 or more in a single gift. Eagle Club Members are \$2,500 donors and Life Members are \$1,000 donors.*



IN MEMORIAM

*Donations have been received
in memory of:*

Earnest W. Truby

by Sally Truby

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

Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Photo by Vicki Santello

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