



# Florida Fish & Wildlife News

Volume 33, Issue 2  
**Spring 2019**

*Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation*

## *Annual Conservation Awards Banquet June 22*

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## Chair's Message

Jay Exum

## Hello Florida Wildlife Federation Members and Supporters!



Earlier this week, three friends of mine and I paddled the "red trail" of the Okefenokee Wilderness Area in southeast Georgia. The last day and a half of our canoe trip was spent at the extreme headwaters of the Suwannee River as it transitions from an expansive swamp to a defined flow-way. In part because of limited permits for access to the trail, the trip was, as billed, a great wilderness experience.



*Suwannee River by Jay Exum*

Two weeks earlier, I paddled much of Black Water Creek in the Seminole State Forest in Lake County, Florida. This creek is a part of the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River system in the St. Johns River basin, and the experience was just as compelling. Both canoe trips provided me with a glorious spring-time paddle through relatively pristine, well-protected watersheds.

The Osceola National Forest in Florida lies adjacent to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Seminole State Forest lies adjacent to the Ocala National Forest in North Central Florida. These large national forests protect ground and

surface waters for the Suwannee River and Black Water Creek and provide habitat for stable populations of black bears. I am proud to say that the Federation has taken part in the expansion of all these outstanding properties.

The Florida Forever program and other land conservation initiatives strongly supported by the Florida Wildlife Federation have consistently sought to assure protection of natural lands between the Ocala and Osceola National Forests. Protection of these lands, through various mechanisms, would assure that black bears may roam across Central Florida to Central Georgia, and promote the protection of watersheds and recreational benefits of waterways like the Suwannee River and Black Water Creek.

FWF's 2019 Strategic Plan prioritizes actions to protect diverse linkages of natural habitats for water and wildlife. We would love to have you be involved! **Join or renew your membership in the Florida Wildlife Federation today and help us achieve these conservation objectives.**

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

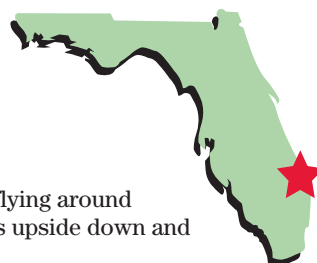
*Jay H. Exum*

## Cover Photo

**Photographer: Ruth Pannunzio**

**Location: Riverbend Park, Jupiter**

These Swallow-tailed kites (*Elanoides forficatus*) were flying around shortly before they left the area. The one on the bottom is upside down and has prey in its talons. They are truly grace in motion.



## Florida Fish & Wildlife News

### FWF Board

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Vice Chair: Marilu Morgan

Vice Chair: Dave Preston

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To Be Appointed  
District I Director:  
To Be Appointed  
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Pepper Uchino

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Cover Photo by: Ruth Pannunzio

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# Annual Conservation Awards Banquet June 22



COME JOIN US! Florida Wildlife Federation is holding its annual **Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, June 22** in Howey-in-the-Hills northeast of Orlando! **Keynote speaker is internationally-renowned nature photographer Mac Stone!** Go to [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org) for tickets to this exciting event.



**Just 35 minutes from Orlando, Mission Inn offers you an escape to a spectacular Central Florida golf vacation, a dream wedding, a romantic couples getaway, or your next corporate event.**

There are countless ways to enjoy a memorable stay with us. Conveniently central to Central Florida's world-famous theme parks, wineries, shopping and local attractions, Mission Inn Resort &

Club also provides a refined home base for guests wishing to explore the Lake County area. Renowned for its picturesque rolling hills, orange groves, and shimmering

lakes, the area draws golf enthusiasts, fishermen and eco-tourists who enjoy being surrounded by the region's expansive natural beauty.

## Special Guest Speaker – Mac Stone

Mac Stone is an internationally acclaimed conservation photographer. His images help tell the complex stories of wetlands and wilderness through the wildlife and people who rely upon them. Photographing on assignment for magazines and organizations around the world, Stone's roots come from the swamps, estuaries, springs and Everglades of his home state. His images have been widely published and awarded and his TED talk has been viewed over a million times. An award-winning author, speaker, and fellow with the International League of Conservation Photographers and Sea Legacy, he strives to expose the dynamic relationship between mankind and the natural world to drive conservation initiatives.





# Dear Federation Members and Supporters:

In years past, the conservation of our remaining natural resources was a bi-partisan issue, one that crossed party lines and was not used to divide us. Our most environmentally ambitious President, Teddy Roosevelt, permanently protected 230 million acres of land across the nation. Another president, Richard Nixon, was in office when the Clean Air and Clean Water acts were passed and became law, and when the Cross Florida Barge Canal tragedy was finally stopped. John F. Kennedy (inspired by Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*) acted to stop chemical pollution, and Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps to replant thousands of acres. These elected leaders may have been registered in different political parties, but they acted as Americans to save our united heritage. We need that sense of bipartisanship on the environment now more than ever, and especially in Florida. I am hopeful that the tide is now finally turning in Tallahassee amongst all elected officials towards awareness that unless we act now to protect our waters and our lands, we will lose the Florida that many of us have enjoyed; we will leave our children and grandchildren a much poorer place to live, one without the springs, wildlife and natural treasures that make our state so special.

The Florida Wildlife Federation, as a non-profit organization, does not involve itself in political races.



Photographer: Mark Emery Location: Ocala Animal: American alligator

We represent people from all walks of life and political affiliation who care about keeping our home a wonderful place to live. That said, we do advocate in the Florida Legislature for policies that benefit natural resources. We are again concentrating on fully funding the Florida Forever program which historically provided \$300 million towards land, and thereby water, protection and was the largest such effort not only in the nation, but the world. As of this writing, the Legislature has not yet provided full funding in the budget, but we are hopeful.

Speaking of Florida Forever, adequate funding for that program was to have come from

Constitutional Amendment 1 which was passed by 75% of voters in November 2014. Unfortunately, the Legislature has not provided that money to date, and that is why the Federation has been in litigation over this important issue. We prevailed at trial, but the case is now before the appellate court, and we will likely have oral argument this summer. We intend to fight for the will of the people all the way.

We continue to help in the restoration of native habitats, especially our native longleaf pine forests. The longleaf ecosystem used to cover almost the entirety of the Southern United States but is now down to 3% of its original range. In order to help spread the



species, we are working with private landowners, especially those impacted by the devastating Hurricane Michael, which destroyed approximately 300,000 acres of pine forest in the Panhandle.

A big thank you to the Florida Panthers Hockey Team for having a Panther Conservation Night at a recent game against the Boston Bruins!

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*“I am hopeful that the tide is now finally turning in Tallahassee amongst all elected officials towards (environmental) awareness . . . ”*

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We are delighted to partner with these good folks and their fans to support our long-standing effort to secure a sustainable future for our state animal. Our Southwest office continues its work to make sure sufficient habitat is available for this rare species, and that wildlife crossings are created to



Photographer: **Kay Wells** Location: **Washington Oaks Gardens State Park** Insect: **Honey bee**

provide safe passage for the panthers and all native wildlife. Our Southwest Florida Representative, Meredith Budd, coordinated this successful event. Well done, Meredith!

FWF is augmenting its education work with the assistance of Marney Richards, our “Everyday Environmentalist.” Marney is concentrating on educating school children on the real world outside of their cell phones and tablets. We must make sure that we pass on the passion and commitment to our

life-sustaining state and planet to future citizens.

Lastly, our new Sweepstakes, *Wild Florida*, has commenced. Please consider donating to this effort online or if you receive tickets in the mail. The success of the Sweepstakes is very important to the Federation.

Go to [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org) to participate.

*Quinn T. Robertson*

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## Conserve Our Forage Fish!

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

Please go to [floridaforagefish.org](http://floridaforagefish.org) and sign the forage fish pledge.





## 2019 Legislative Session and Florida Cabinet

By the time you receive this *Fish and Wildlife News*, the 2019 Florida Legislative Session will likely be over. We have steadfastly supported full funding for the Florida Forever land protection program, which conserves vital habitat and water recharge areas across the state. Full funding for land conservation was the goal of Amendment 1 which passed in 2014 with 75% voter support. The Legislature has yet to abide by the will of the voters, and that is why we continue to push for full funding with our elected officials and in court. As of this writing, both House and Senate budget proposals fall far short of full funding.

FWF has opposed the expansion of major roadways in

what remain of rural parts of Florida, and supported a ban on all fracking (hydraulic fracturing), including acid matrixing. More major roads simply mean more sprawl, more long commutes and more degradation of natural areas and water supply. We must grow smarter. Fracking has no place in Florida as it uses chemicals that can leach into our groundwater due to the karstic nature of our geology.

FWF has also participated in bills that deal with sewage treatment and disposal, environmental permitting and biosolids management.

The Session ends on May 7, 2019, and thanks to all who took the time to voice opinions to our Senators and Representatives.

Some good news: The Governor and the Cabinet recently approved the acquisition of 5,534 acres in Hendry County as part of the Devil's Garden Florida Forever project. This land is critical as panther habitat and has long been advocated for by FWF, especially our Southwest Florida office. The Cabinet also approved acquisition of 160 acres in Columbia County to help protect the springshed of fabled Ichetucknee Springs. While these actions are definitely a step forward, there are a multitude of wonderful places on the Florida Forever list, all with willing sellers and all having been heavily vetted for environmental quality, that should be preserved for future generations.



### Featured Animal

#### Florida Native – Marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*)

One of our most beautiful amphibians, marbled salamanders live in North Florida and only grow to about 4 inches as adults. Preferred habitats include damp woods and areas with soft, wet soil. Living mostly in their burrows under downed trees and leaf litter, these salamanders mature in only two months from the larval stage and can live as long as 10 years. As an adult, these black and white secretive creatures feed on many invertebrates, including centipedes, and will also eat worms, snails and slugs. Next time you flip over a log, take a look for these colorful little predators. Then carefully cover them back up.







## One Simple Thing

**E**arth Day 2019 will be celebrated on April 22. It's a good time to look at some of the simple things we can do every day to help make our environment a little cleaner. Recycling is one such thing. **With the huge problem of trash accumulation world-wide, recycling every day makes sense.** After all, we've been doing it forever, and had lots of education on it, many cities have curbside pickup and single stream recycling – it should be second nature. Still the question, “can this be recycled?” continues to pop up.

According to Marpan Recycling of Tallahassee, everything can be recycled. But there are only markets for certain recycled materials; markets differ around the state, and what they pay for material fluctuates. Marpan works with regional businesses, shipping recyclable materials to business within a 250-mile radius. Those businesses will turn the material into usable products. Unfortunately, in some areas the cost of recycling glass is prohibitive, so facilities are not accepting it. Marpan is able to accept all our recycled glass bottles and sell them to a business that turns them into sandblasting materials.

Most single or dual-family residences in Tallahassee have single stream recycling, with all the recyclables going into one bin. The recovered material includes about 8-9% non-recyclable items (called contamination). That sounds pretty good – but the contamination rate may significantly affect the price

received for the material.

A look at a couple other medium-sized cities around the state shows similarities and some differences. The City of Gainesville transports residential recyclables to a facility owned by Alachua County. Gainesville has about a 40% residential recycling rate, with a contamination rate of only 3-5%. This low rate is possible because Gainesville residents use separate



*Baled recycled materials ready for shipping to businesses that will turn them into products.*

bins for paper and all other recyclables. Indeed, bins with too many contaminants might be left at the curb with a notice for the resident. The City's recycling website has a cool chart – “What Happens To Recycle Material After It Leaves the Curb” – showing the steps from how recovered material is processed into useful products to how much energy is saved by recycling.

The City of Hollywood contracts with a private company to

pick up recycling from single and dual-family residential customers. Residents put all recyclable items in a single cart, picked up weekly. Hollywood provides an incentive for people to recycle by partnering with a company called Recycling Perks. Residents receive points each week their bins are placed at the curb for pickup and the points can be redeemed for goods and services from local businesses.

Is there one important thing we can do as individuals to make recycling work better? The answers from recycling managers in all three locations were very similar – **please put only the materials accepted by your city into the recycling containers!** The right materials are much easier to sell, and much less likely to clog up the processing machinery at the recycling facility. Read your city's website and call with any questions. And please, **no plastic bags of any kind in the bins** – ever!

Why is recycling important? It makes us more energy-efficient and helps reduce global warming. It reduces the need for more landfills and helps improve the quality of our groundwater. It reduces air pollution and helps conserve our natural resources. Remember the phrase: **Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.** Buying just what we need, finding ways to reuse items and recycling efficiently will go a long way toward making the earth a little cleaner.

*Marney*



## Florida Wildlife Federation Honored at NHL Panther Hockey Game

The Florida Panthers hockey team recently teamed up with FWF for its 2019 Panther Conservation Night. We were also honored to accept a gracious donation to support our panther conservation work.

The Florida panther is the state's official animal and has been listed as a federally endangered species since 1967. Historically, the Florida panther roamed across the southeastern portion of the United States, from Florida through the



Meredith Budd accepting a \$25,000 donation through the Florida Panthers' Foundation's Community Champions Grant Program.

the greatest threats to establishing and maintaining sustainable populations of the panther and other native species, but vehicle strikes on roads are actually the leading cause of death for this big cat. **In the few short months of 2019, there have been eight panther road deaths.**

FWF's Southwest Florida office



FWF at the Panthers' fourth-annual Panther Conservation Night.

Gulf states and Arkansas. Today, **the only place wild Florida panthers exist is the southwestern tip of Florida.**

While panthers utilize Florida's wide variety of warm climate habitats, they are also wide-ranging, solitary, and territorial animals; one male can require up to 240 square miles just for its own territory. Roadways, which bisect habitat, are lethal barriers to wildlife and wildlife movement. Roads not only significantly contribute to habitat loss and fragmentation, which are



Photographer: Robert H. Schaefer Animal: Florida panther

has an ongoing campaign to secure wildlife crossings to ensure safe passage for wildlife across roadways. The grant from the Florida Panthers will help to fund a comprehensive initiative to develop a wildlife crossings guidance

manual. The Federation is coordinating with our long-time transportation ecologist, Dr. Daniel Smith, University of Central Florida, for this project. The manual will enhance land use planning and protect threatened wildlife as development continues to spread and intensify throughout South and Central Florida.

As the state's population and tourism industry continue to grow, the demand for more and larger highways may well increase. This is especially troubling for South Florida, since it is identified as existing panther habitat. In that regard, the Federation is pleased to have been selected as the Panthers Hockey team's 2019 Community Champion and to have been given the opportunity to take on this project to further protect wildlife.

## Supporting Florida Gulf Coast University's Wings of Hope/Panther Posse Program

FWF continues to support bringing wildlife education to thousands of elementary school children in Collier and Lee counties. The Florida Gulf Coast University's



Meredith Budd joins in on the fun as the group crouches like a panther in front of the Panther Posse CREW wildlife camera.





*Meredith follows along with the Panther Posse CREW journal.*

(FGCU) Wings of Hope/Panther Posse program brings children to the 60,000-acre Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW), which provides a very fitting learning place for students and increases their awareness of the Florida panther, Florida black bear, other native wildlife and their habitats. Students hike trails through pine flat woods, marshes and oak hammocks all while learning about the life history of the Florida panther.

Funding school bus transportation has always presented a challenge for the Wings of Hope program and the Federation is proud to fund this



*Helping students with their compass challenge.*

crucial aspect of the program. To follow up on my in-classroom visit during the fall semester in 2018, I joined Ricky Pires and a group of junior biologists out in CREW for the field component of the training. This is an essential part of the educational experience as it helps the children make a tangible connection from their in-classroom work at FGCU to the natural world. As we hiked the trails, the children were engaged in nature-based critical thinking activities. This program teaches the skills necessary to address complex environmental issues and empowers the children to become future conservationists and leaders.

## You Can Help Save the Panther, too!

The Federation's mission depends on generous membership and foundation support. Please donate today to our panther conservation efforts!

1. Go to [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org), look for the red "Donate" button in upper right
2. Select a donation amount or enter your own
3. Scroll down to "If you have a special purpose for your donation, please let us know."
4. Select "Florida Panther – Southwest Office" and
5. Fill out payment details and click "Process Payment"

Thank you very much for your support!



*The 'Rattlesnake' group from Poinciana Elementary School.*



## Featured Natural Area



### Wekiwa Springs State Park

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the Orlando area lies the green oasis of Wekiwa Springs State Park. At 7,000 acres, this protected freshwater spring and forested buffer provides a welcome relief for city dwellers. Forty-two million gallons of water flow each day from the spring, helping to create the Wekiva River. Wekiwa is Creek Indian for "spring of water" and Wekiva means "flowing water." Once promoted as having medicinal properties, the springs actually provides visitors with a pleasant 68-72 degree bathing and swimming experience. Deer, turkeys, alligators and a wide range of native animals abound. Camping, canoeing, kayaking and hiking are also available. Wekiwa Springs is northeast of Apopka and serves as the training center for State Park Rangers. Location: 1800 Wekiwa Cir., Apopka, FL 32712, phone (407) 533-4383.



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## Florida Wildlife Federation Commends Commitment to Solar Power

As the sun rose on a cool, North Florida morning this past February, FWF President Preston Robertson and I found ourselves standing in what was previously a peanut field. Now it is home to a vast solar array, one of several being constructed by Florida Power and Light (FPL). Located in Columbia County and visible from the I-10/I-75 interchange, this “solar farm” is a sight many will see as they arrive in Florida from Georgia or travel toward the Panhandle. It serves as a great introduction to visitors, especially if one embraces the fact that Florida, as the Sunshine State, should be fully supporting solar power!

Dubbed the Sunshine Gateway Solar Energy Center, this is one of six such farms already in the works. In fact, another solar farm is planned for a site only a few miles from the one where we were standing. At more than 330,000 individual solar panels, Sunshine

Gateway produces enough power to light 15,000 homes. It is part of what FPL envisions as the “30-by-30 Plan” - 30 **million** solar panels by 2030.

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*“... Florida, as the Sunshine State, should be fully supporting solar power!”*

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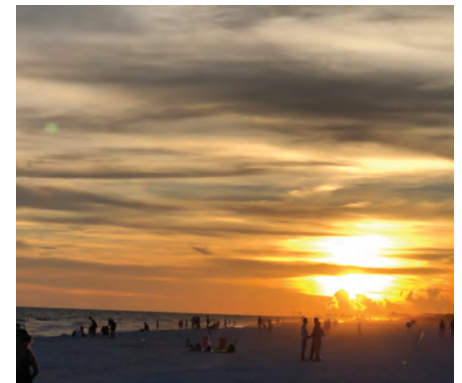
The Florida Wildlife Federation has long been a leading advocate for solar power, both at the commercial level and for individual homeowners. **Solar power is free energy that does not produce greenhouse gases that are warming our planet.** Recognizing the need to balance solar installations with wildlife habitat, FWF continues to work to ensure that solar plants are compatible with wildlife needs.

FWF has provided design



*Press at the grand opening of the Sunshine Gateway.*

recommendations at other locations, including fencing that allows wildlife, ranging from the majestic Florida panther to rabbits and opossums, to move freely through their natural range. We hope to combine clean power with habitat and areas that serve as water recharge to our aquifer.



*A beautiful day and sun-fueled power.*



*Sunshine Gateway Solar Energy Center*

The Federation looks forward to continuing to advocate for the expansion of the use of solar power and the construction of future solar facilities. By engaging with stakeholders early on we can ensure that power production does not come at the expense of wildlife.

A handwritten signature in blue ink.



# Call for 2019 Board Director Nominations

Interested in joining the Board of Directors of the Florida Wildlife Federation or nominating someone else? If interested, please write to the Florida Wildlife Federation Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870 or email Michelle Forman at [michelle@fwfonline.org](mailto:michelle@fwfonline.org). **Nominations must be submitted by May 11, 2019.**

To be eligible, a candidate must be a resident of Florida and a member in good standing of the Florida Wildlife Federation. District and Regional Directors must reside in the region or district for which they would serve. Officers and At-Large Directors may reside anywhere within the state.

FWF Directors are expected to regularly attend Federation meetings, participate in Federation activities, assist in building Federation membership, be actively involved in fund-raising efforts, attend public workshops, act as a liaison with other conservation organizations, and generally promote and lead state-wide conservation activities through the Florida Wildlife Federation. Being an FWF Director requires a substantial commitment of time and resources but will give the individual an opportunity to be a conservation leader in Florida.

## FWF Meeting in Naples



*FWF Board members and staff participate in a tour of the land proposed for perpetual conservation in eastern Collier County – photo by Meredith Budd*

Florida Wildlife Federation held its Board meeting in Naples April 26 - 28, 2019. Naples is a growing urban center and home to many snow birds (folks who winter in South Florida). That said, Collier County, where Naples is located, still possesses many outstanding natural areas, and FWF has long been involved in trying to protect them for critical wildlife habitat and water recharge. Eastern Collier County contains hundreds of thousands of acres of ranchland and working landscapes, as well as wetlands and prairies. These are the lands that are used by our endangered Florida panther and other native animals. The vast majority of this property is privately owned, and we have been working with these entities to conserve as much of this habitat as possible, even in the face of a growing population. We concentrate on ensuring wetlands and upland wildlife corridors are sufficiently protected and that linkages are created with existing conservation properties.



*Two juvenile alligators cuddle up at the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) – photo by Christina Robertson*

# 2019 PHOTO CONTEST

## Categories for Kids and Big Prizes!

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

Members, supporters and friends of FWF are encouraged to enter, noting anyone may enter the contest with the exception of FWF staff. Entrants have an opportunity

to win \$300 in cash or a Kindle Fire tablet! It has never been easier to capture images in Florida's outdoors – use your camera, smartphone, or tablet to document the wild world around you. Enter your most compelling nature images and photos of Florida today at [www.snappiephoto.com](http://www.snappiephoto.com).

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



2018 Overall Winner– **Yawner** by Michael Johnson

First Prize of \$300, a Second Prize winner will receive a Kindle Fire tablet, and the kids' contest winner will receive an outdoor backpack. Only digitally uploaded images may be entered. Judging will follow the closing date of December 31, 2019.

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



Photographer: **Lindsay Abraben** Location: **Lake City** Animal: **Dragonfly**





FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S

## Wild Florida Sweepstakes

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

*Five second prize winners will receive a  
\$50 Bass Pro Shop gift card.*

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



Photographer: Christy Draper Location: Wakulla Springs

For more information, read the Wild Florida Flyer and the Official Rules at our website, [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org). To enter, click the Programs icon at the top of our webpage. If you would like a set of tickets mailed to you, send an email to FWF at [sweeps@fwfonline.org](mailto:sweeps@fwfonline.org) or call our toll-free number (800) 656-3014.

Please provide your full name and complete mailing address to receive a packet of tickets.

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

Thanks for supporting the Florida Wildlife Federation!



Photographer: Jonah Parker Hanson  
Animal: Black bear

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



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

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

FLORIDA  
WILDLIFE

## Kids' Quiz

by Marney Richards

1.

What bird can hover in mid-air and fly backward, upward and even upside down?



2.

When do tomatoes grow in Florida?



3.

Can some rabbits swim?



*See page 14 for answers  
and more information.*

# Rick Abbott

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

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

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

I have included FWF in my will. I want to make sure that my



Past President, Rick Abbott

children and their children can enjoy the same Florida that their parents and grandparents experienced. **Please consider FWF in your financial planning.**

***Please join with Rick and help make sure we and future residents can enjoy a healthy, clean and abundant Florida,***

***which helps not only our environment, but also our economy.***

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

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



Rick Abbott with his family

## Answers to FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

**1.** The hummingbird! It has wings with a unique design that allows free movement in many directions. Hummingbirds visit North and Central Florida from early spring to fall, and South Florida mostly in winter. These tiny birds have big appetites and eat every 10-15 minutes from dawn to dusk. Ruby-throated are our most common hummingbirds.

**2.** Delicious tomatoes grow year-round in Florida, in different parts of the state. In North Florida, you can plant tomatoes in early March, and they'll be ready to eat by early summer. In South Florida, plant in November-February for spring and August-September for fall tomatoes. You can grow cherry tomatoes in large containers and eat them right off the plant! Check with your local county extension office (UF/IFAS Extension) for growing tips.

**3.** Yes, the marsh rabbit is a strong swimmer. This small, native rabbit is found throughout Florida in marshes, wet prairies and flooded agricultural fields. They eat a variety of plants around wetlands, and feed mostly from dusk to dawn. They need to be quick and stealthy because owls, foxes, bobcats and alligators are active then, too.

*How Did You Do, Florida Kid?*





## Thank You to Our Donors

### New Life Member:

Ann Forster, *Pensacola*

### New Legacy Member:

Marsha Carson, *St. Petersburg*

*\*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.*

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Generous Support!***



### IN MEMORIAM

*Donations have been received  
in memory of:*

**Ross Barnard**

*by Nancy Anne Payton*

**Daniel Shawn Flanagan**

*by Tops Market*

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



Photographer: Doug Alderson Location: Ochlockonee River

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Photographer: **Travis Marques** Location: **Crystal River** Animal: **Scallop**

*A blue-eyed scallop in a pile of fellow scallops in Crystal River is almost too pretty to eat! Notice the rarer specimen with the orange shell.*



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