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the Wild
in Florida
since 1936

Florida Fish and Wildlife News

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August 2013

Everglades Restoration: Not yet ready for summer's rain

By Martha Musgrove
Southern Regional Director

While 2013 is a wet year all across Florida, after two months of heavy rain South Florida is downright soggy. High water levels have closed Water Conservation Area 3, west of Miami and Fort Lauderdale even though flood gates along the Tamiami Trail are wide open, sending water into Everglades National Park.

The park wants water and we could send more, but we don't yet have a "flow through" Everglades

system. We haven't had one since the water-conservation areas (impoundments) were built. The Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) would go a long way to re-establishing a flow-through system to mimic the original Everglades.

Ample evidence exists that water was substantially deeper in places before construction of the Tamiami Trail, the water-conservation area impoundments, and Alligator Alley, but the issues today are how much water can actually flow through the impoundments, at what depth, and will a wetter confined Everglades still be a "healthy" Everglades supporting a variety of wildlife and birds?

During the 1960s and 1970s, WCA 3 dried out and sustained a large number of deer. When water rose suddenly, hundreds of deer drowned or starved to death while huddled on the levees. It was a sad and stomach turning era, which many Gladesmen remember and fear will return. Today the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages the deer herd at lower levels.

Re-creating an Everglades mosaic of ridges, sloughs and marshes amid the structures of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project that will remain in place is difficult. It also requires re-establishing

MUSGROVE con't page 14

**BALLOT to return to
FWF on page 2.**
**Members: Please
vote for FWF District
Directors. Learn about
the nominees on page 13.**

The Federation's 76th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet

The Florida Wildlife Federation held its 76th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet and summer meeting at the FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City, June 7-9, 2013. The natural forested habitat beside beautiful Lake Pierce and Catfish Creek Preserve State Park provided attendees with a fine setting to discuss important conservation issues and to present conservation awards to those who have been leaders on the front lines for our environment. Prior to the Saturday night Awards Banquet, a cocktail reception and Silent Auction were held including an art exhibit by Peter R. Gerbert and donated art by Paul Schulz. Sixteen of the weekend attendees were young adults with IDEAS for US, an FWF affiliate that is at the forefront on energy and sustainability issues.

Mr. M. C. Davis was inducted into the FWF Conservation Hall of Fame. Eleven others were honored with conservation awards. Please see the article below and on pages 8 through 10 to learn more about the 2013 Conservation Award Winners. Additional photos can be seen on page 7.



**FWF HALL OF FAME
TWENTY-FIFTH INDUCTEE
M.C. Davis**

M.C. Davis is a highly successful entrepreneur with the heart of a true conservationist who seeks to leave a better world for his grandchildren. Indeed, he believes in what he terms "deep conservation," that is putting the land back to where it was before modern man began to alter the landscape. M.C. Davis is also a "get it done" conservation visionary who focuses on significant, lasting actions to protect key habitat linkages across regional landscapes.

DAVIS con't page 10

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Jenny Brock



The Next Generation

I first met Jefre Dasovich in the spring of 2004 in Washington, DC. We were both there for "a fly in" sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, to lobby Congress for conservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and on other conservation issues involving individual states. Jefre was 5 months old at the time. He brought his mom Ann along since she was the keeper of the food.

Jefre, Ann and I, along with representatives from most other state wildlife federations, walked the halls of Congress for the next two days. As I'm sure you can imagine, Jefre was a big hit on Capitol Hill those two days and we actually made some progress in our efforts. You might have heard the statement "the only conservation battles that are permanent are the ones that

you lose." This is the reason we must stay vigilant and that is exactly what you and I can count on the Florida Wildlife Federation to do. Jefre and another young man pictured elsewhere in this edition (Fisher Gledhill) are the two youngest "Florida Wildlife Federation LIFE MEMBERS" and we are very happy that they too can depend on FWF to work for the health and protection of our natural resources in the great and beautiful state of Florida.

In keeping with the National Wildlife Federation program to get ten million kids outdoors on a regular basis, FWF sponsors a kids' fishing day each year (report and pictures featured in other issues). We also partner with other organizations and schools to get children outdoors for healthy and informative activities. As you can see, Jefre, now nearing the big 10, has learned well. That's a really big snook that he caught a few days ago. "Jefre, trust me, if I catch a snook that size, I'm gonna

hug him too!"

Once again, I encourage you to get outdoors and take a child. Take your children, nieces, nephews, grand kids, or borrow a kid. Just get out there and have some fun!

Jenny Brock



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FWF Members:

Please mark the box to vote for each district. We are including this ballot to comply with provisions of the FWF Bylaws. Cut out form and mail to:

Director Ballots
Florida Wildlife Federation
PO Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Your printed name and address on the reverse side will be used to verify your membership.

CUT OUT AND RETURN THIS BALLOT

CANDIDATES

Check (1) selection per district*

DISTRICT I
Glenn Griffith _____

DISTRICT III
Richard Hamann _____

DISTRICT V
Jay Exum _____

DISTRICT VII
Linda Stanley _____

DISTRICT II
Diane Roberts _____

DISTRICT IV
Currently open

DISTRICT VI
Currently open

DISTRICT VIII
Franklin Adams _____

*For more information about each candidate see pages 13.

You may also vote online at www.fwfonline.org/ballot/ballot.aspx.
Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by September 12, 2013 to be eligible.

THANK YOU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear Florida Wildlife Federation Members,

First, I want to let you know we had an excellent Conservation Achievement Awards program in June at the FFA Center in Haines City. We were privileged, as we are every year, to be able to recognize great Floridians who in their own way are committed to Florida's conservation future. We are glad to recognize their achievements, which help all of us conserve natural Florida. Second, please see the commentary that Governor Bob Graham provided on page 11 on behalf of the Florida Water and Land Legacy Campaign. One of the key strategies for protecting and enhancing our fish and wildlife, our waters and our rich natural heritage is to support and volunteer for the Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment Campaign (www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org, citizen's amendment contributions are not tax deductible). This amendment when enacted will be our most effective land conservation mechanism. The Legacy amendment will also facilitate the protection of private conservation lands with willing landowners across Florida. The Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment is literally the LARGEST STATE-BASED LANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE IN AMERICAN HISTORY. Spread the word, we need it to secure the future of Florida's environment. Let's make it a reality! In addition, to support FWF's land conservation efforts our website is www.fwfonline.org. Our current efforts are focused on promoting the Legacy campaign and protecting public conservation lands from inappropriate surplus.

FWF strongly supports maintaining the integrity of our public conservation lands which are great places for people to enjoy a variety of sustainable outdoor recreational activities and which provide key habitat

for fish and wildlife. From time to time, public conservation lands are proposed for surplus and FWF normally does not support this course of action. In cases where there are small parcels with little conservation or outdoor recreational value and the property is isolated from other conservation parcels or when highways are widened, we may not oppose if the parcel's loss is mitigated by acquiring better habitat or inholdings. We also are supportive of willing landowner conservation easements or other forms of permanent private lands stewardship. Cooperative public and private lands management agreements to deal with exotics, conduct fire management and to manage wildlife are value-added.

As you already know there are lots of significant challenges facing us today all across the state. We have serious water pollution problems in our beloved springs, rivers and lakes. The news is covered with stories that include the degradation of the Indian River lagoon and the massive discharges of Lake Okeechobee waters into the east and west coast estuaries which are devastating to estuarine habitats and our natural resources. There are health advisories telling people to stay out of the water for their own safety and to keep their pets out also. The public is aroused and citizens are rallying to stop the massive discharges from Lake Okeechobee, and once again, there are upcoming official legislative reviews of what to do. Water levels in the Water Conservation Areas are also high threatening wildlife there. We must do a better job of reducing excessive nutrient loads from multiple sources and that is why we continue to pursue legal remedies through the courts. Cleaning up our waters requires a top to bottom reduction in excessive discharges of nutrients. We must establish increased water storage and treatment capacity in the greater Everglades region to deal with Lake Okeechobee discharges. This is a wet year which magnifies long lasting problems and all feasible options need to be explored. Looking past the immediate crisis, we need to proceed with the Central Everglades Planning Process, construct the next Tamiami Trail Bridge, get planned water storage and treatment projects on line and establish additional water storage and treatment areas above and below the Lake. We need to move more water south but in a manner where it flows through rather than impounds within the Conservation and Wildlife Management Areas. Please read FWF Director Martha Musgrove's perspectives on the state of the Everglades on page 1. To facilitate fish and wildlife and nature-based outdoor recreation, we have to do a much better job of protecting our natural resources.

I would be remiss if I did not mention FWF's ongoing support to restoring river flows in the Ocklawaha which would ben-

PRESIDENT con't page 11

FWF Scholarship Update

August 2013

Dear FWF Members and Friends,

In the last issue, we told you about the four FWF Scholarship winners for 2013 at the University of Florida's Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. I received thank you letters from each of this year's winners and want to share one of their letters with you below.

Dear Mr. Fuller:

I want to sincerely thank you for selecting me as one of the recipients for this year's Florida Wildlife Federation Scholarship. I am honored to have your support to continue my education in wildlife research and for providing me this award for my time spent working with Florida's wildlife and their habitats.

After approximately 9 years of working and volunteering in Florida, including conducting research in the Florida Keys for my Master's Degree, I decided to return to school to pursue a Ph. D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. I believe Florida has some of the most unique wildlife in the country, and yet, so much remains to be learned about their natural history, habitat needs, and how they are responding to a changing environment. After completing my Ph. D., I plan to remain in Florida and continue my career in working with Florida's wildlife, particularly with the conservation and management of the threatened and endangered species.

By awarding me the Florida Wildlife Federation Scholarship, you have allowed me to come closer to my goal of becoming a wildlife professional and have greatly reduced my financial stress as a student. This scholarship will assist me with purchasing textbooks, paying tuition and fees, and supporting my research as a student. Again, thank you so very much for your support.

Sincerely, Daniel U. Greene

I hope you will feel, as I do, how rewarding it is to know that your donations to this scholarship are providing funds to individuals like Daniel U. Greene, a Ph.D. candidate at U.F. who plans to continue to protect and conserve Florida's fish, wildlife and unique natural resources after graduation. (Note: Daniel received an award of \$1,000 from the FWF Scholarship Fund; he was not pictured in the May FFWN photo of winners due to his work out of town for FWC.)

I hope you will make a generous donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund, either using the online link shown below which goes directly to the University of Florida Foundation's website, or by mailing a check to FWF earmarked for the FWF Scholarship Fund. Donations received here for the fund are immediately transferred to the U. F. Foundation and our Fund #013403.

Thank you,

Manley

To make an online donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund, please go to:

<https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=013403>

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



West Coast Land Assessment

The South Florida Water Management District is conducting an assessment of its properties within its 16-county county region which includes Southwest Florida.

The Federation participated in both workshops held in Ft. Myers and provided comments. Generally, the Water Management District staff recommendations reflect the input of the Federation and other conservation advocates.

Recommendations presented to the Water Management District Governing Board fall into three general categories: retain or evaluate for sale, exchange, or lease.

In the "continue as is" recommendation for the Okaloacoochee Slough, Water Management District staff wrote "the area supports natural systems restoration and protection, provides natural storage of water, helps mitigate flood damage through its storage capacity, and supplies clean water to downstream areas. Staff recognizes...the value as a popular public use area." The Federation recommended retaining the property and expanding exotic removal and fire management programs.

There are significant holdings along and near the Caloosahatchee River that may be important to water quality, water storage, and habitat connectivity. The Federation is advocating that the fate of these proper-

ties be determined during the upcoming Caloosahatchee River Visioning effort.

Also serious consideration should be given to exchanging or selling isolated parcels outside the Corkscrew Region Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) boundaries for parcels within the acquisition boundaries.

The Southwest Florida Office will continue to monitor this assessment and coordinate with Federation representatives who are working in other regions of the Water Management District.

Wildlife WRAC Appointment

Southwest Florida Field Representative Nancy Payton was recently appointed to the South Florida Water Management District's Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC). Ms. Payton was appointed by Governing Board member Mitch Hutchcraft, Vice President of Real Estate for the King Ranch/Consolidated Citrus.

WRAC is an important forum for public input regarding water resource policy issues in South and Central Florida. Members of the committee reflect a broad range of business, agricultural, environmental, tribal, governmental and public interests. Ms. Payton's attention is focused on the impacts of water policy decisions on Florida panthers and other native wildlife of the Greater Everglades.

The committee meets monthly and holds workshops as needed. Its mission is to:

- Build consensus regarding water resource activities including the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Regional Water Supply Plans, and Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery.

- Examine the effects of continued population growth, development, mining, and agriculture on South Florida's natural resources.

- Assist in developing actions needed to restore, preserve, and protect the Greater Everglades ecosystem.

- Promote and monitor implementation of its recommendations.

WRAC also functions as an advisory body to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. For more information about WRAC including minutes and meeting videos go to:

<http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xweb%20about%20us/wrac>.

Twenty Years in 2014

2014 will mark the Southwest Florida Office's twentieth year in operation.

In celebration of two decades of effective wildlife advocacy, the Federation will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, June 21, at the Naples Hilton Hotel.

Please save the date. Details will be forthcoming in early 2014. The Federation will be honoring all who have contributed to the regional office's success.



Two deer and a reflection on Collier County's Cara Cara Preserve. Photo courtesy of FGCU Panther Posse.

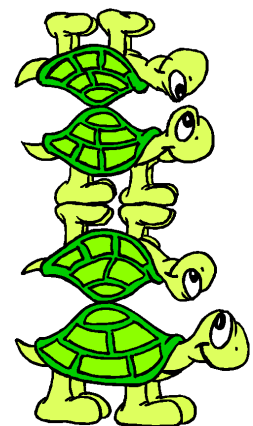


FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. Why should we limit use of fertilizers in our yards?



2. What can kids do at school to help Florida's native critters and why should they do it?



3. Why does it seem like mosquitoes are worse than usual this summer in Florida, and what can you do about it?



See page 11 for answers, and more information.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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



Responding to Sea Level Rise

In October 2012, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties released their Regional Climate Action Plan. Is Northeast Florida next? With a region of high coastal exposure, the Federation is supporting efforts for Northeast Florida to move in the same direction as the Southeast Florida partnership. An independent report looks at sea level rise and, most importantly, recommendations for policy makers to adopt and implement in September 2013. The report, guided by a year-long committee, looks at the following:

- 1) the vulnerability of the region to sea level rise
- 2) developing sea level rise assumptions
- 3) performing a Community Re-

siliency Assessment for local governments

- 4) providing policy recommendations

There is a new saying—today's flood is tomorrow's high tide—and that certainly applies to many areas of Northeast Florida. The Federation is calling for short and long range goals for adaptation planning. Every future decision to invest in coastal infrastructure needs to take into account a risk reduction plan to help encourage development in low risk areas. This strategy will in effect encourage the conservation of our ecosystems by leaving our undeveloped natural habitats as buffers to storms in the short term. As these infrastructure dollars are shifted inland to lower risk areas, the conflict between wildlife corridors and future development will play out unless we begin to identify migration corridors for future acquisition programs.

Our St. Johns River and its tribu-



taries are vulnerable too. As sea level rises, the shifting salinities will impact the river's vegetation and varying species. This will have a negative impact on the resources and the commercial and recreational fisheries that rely upon them.

The Federation is eager to stay engaged and help move these policy recommendations forward through the adoption and implementation stages. This will strengthen our communities to make them more resilient while protecting our natural habitats and wildlife corridors.

North Atlantic Right Whale Calving Season is Around the Corner

It is almost that time of year again when the Northeast office kicks into high gear to celebrate the return of the North Atlantic right whale to our coastal waters to calve the next generation. Author, illustrator and educator Peter Stone will be back in the area conducting presentations and workshops for the public. He will also be at our table signing

copies of his *Waltzes with Giants* at the Right Whale Festival on November 23, 2013 at the Beach Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach.

We have spent the last year raising funds to purchase 100 copies of Stone's *Waltzes with Giants*. We have almost reached our goal and are still cultivating a relationship with the schools as to how best to deliver these books to the students for conservation education.

In the meantime, FWC has set up an amazing Flickr website (<http://flic.kr/s/aHsjD5PQHj>) to allow the public to see the current season's (2012-2013) sightings of these amazing creatures. Check out the photos like this one of three juveniles taken eight miles off shore from Ponte Vedra Beach on January 28, 2013.



Credit: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, NOAA Research Permit #15488

2013 Fish or Cruise Sweepstakes Winner

By Claudia Farren
FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

In January, the Florida Wildlife Federation kicked off its First Annual Fish or Cruise Sweepstakes offering three Grand Prize choices – five days of fishing for the winner and a companion at the Waterfall Resort on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, a 10-day cruise for two with Lindblad-National Geographic Expeditions to the Galapagos Islands on the National

Geographic *Endeavour*, or \$10,000 in cash. The Sweepstakes drawing was held on June 20, 2013 at 3 pm at FWF Headquarters in Tallahassee, and supervised by Carroll and Co., Inc., Certified Public Accountants.

The winning ticket, won by Beth Ficquette, was drawn by Michael Dupree of Carroll and Company, CPAs. On the right is Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator, with the winning ticket.



Beth Ficquette of St. Petersburg, Florida, (middle) winner of the First Annual Fish or Cruise Sweepstakes, receiving her Grand Prize certificate from Brianna Jones, FWF Youth Conservation Director (left) and Keith Overton, FWF At-Large Director (right).



*Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation &
General Counsel*

The Apalachicola – A Threatened Treasure

The Apalachicola River in Florida's Panhandle starts as a trickle in the mountains of northeast Georgia, more than 500 miles from its mouth at the City of Apalachicola on the Gulf of Mexico. The Apalachicola is actually the result of the merging of two rivers: the Chattahoochee and the Flint, both in Georgia. From its start north of sprawling Atlanta, the Chattahoochee flows 430 miles south to the Florida/Georgia border. The Flint, starting south of Atlanta, joins the Chattahoochee at the Florida state line, forming the Apalachicola, which runs for approximately 107 miles within our state. In total, 19,500 square miles (12.5 million acres) are within the watersheds of these three rivers.

The Apalachicola has a much storied past. Serving as the boundary between East and West Florida under British rule, it was used as a highway by Americans after territorial designation in 1821 and statehood in 1845. Andrew Jackson marched here and Confederate forces built forts along its banks to stop upriver threats by the Union navy. The river, fed by many springs, and augmented by water from the Chipola River, boasted an enormous flood plain in these earlier times. Annual flooding spread rich soils over its banks, creating the conditions necessary for what for many years was an unsurpassed fishery in the river and in Apalachicola Bay. The river still possesses the greatest number of freshwater fish

species in the state, with 86 species found to date.

In 1957, the Jim Woodruff Dam was completed at the confluence of the Flint and Chattahoochee, creating 37,000 acre Lake Seminole, which altered the flow of the Apalachicola and created areas of scouring in the river bottom due to pulses of water released from the dam. In addition, when commercial barge traffic used the river, taxpayer-funded dredging projects dug out the river bottom. This voluminous sediment was deposited onto the river banks, creating artificial "mountains" in what had been highly productive wetlands.

Even with this alteration, in 1969, Apalachicola Bay was designated a state aquatic preserve and in 1984, the United Nations recognized the lower Apalachicola watershed as a being of significant scientific and educational importance. Contiguous to Tate's Hell State Forest, the Apalachicola National Forest, and other protected lands, the river still retains great biological value. Historically, over 90% of Florida's oysters and 13% of the entire oyster production in the United States came from Apalachicola Bay.

Threats to the river come from upstream water storage and withdrawal activities and man-made manipulation. Although commercial barge traffic has ceased, for now, the impact of the dam and the discharge of water from Lake Seminole is always a concern. Moreover, the many years of contention amongst Florida, Georgia and Alabama as to water withdrawals affecting the Apalachicola continue.

At present, the Federation and the Apalachicola Riverkeeper are in negotiations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as to the Corps' proposed work on the river. We hope to be able to come to a compromise so that while safety is maintained for people, the ecological values of this internationally-recognized treasure are not harmed.

Preston T. Robertson



New Eagle Club Member:

Beth Ficquette, St. Petersburg

Howard Petrie, Jupiter

New Life Members:

Rita Taylor, Cleburne, TX

Lynne Glatter, Palm Beach

Susan Marie Williams, Ormond Beach

Thank you for your support!

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



The Apalachicola



*Preston Robertson and the Corps on
the River*



*FWF, Apalachicola Riverkeeper and
Corps personnel*



*Touring the Apalachicola
(above and below)*



*"Sand Mountain" - a massive spoil
deposit on the Apalachicola*



*Photography by
Lou Kellenberger*



Samantha Ruiz, Christopher Stampar, Chris Castro, Clayton Ferrara, and William Chorvat of IDEAS for Us

June 8, 2013 Awards Banquet in Haines City



from the left, Stella Davis, M. C. Davis, Christina Robertson, Linda Stanley, Preston Robertson



Members of the Lightsey Family accepting their award for Land Conservationist of the Year

*Photography by
Steve Johnson*



Manley Fuller addresses the banquet attendees



from the left, Nancy Payton, Preston Robertson and attorney Tom Reese



Cary Lightsey making acceptance speech for Lightsey Cattle Company



Martha Musgrove discussed the history of the Johnny and Mariana Jones era in preparation for the dedication ceremony of the Jones Memorial at Hungryland



Dr. Ray Carthy talks with FWF Director Rick Abbott



Vice Chair Ned Stone made remarks to conclude the evening's events



Lou Kellenberger, Northwest Regional Director



from the left, Sarah Gledhill, Nancy Payton and Linda Stanley



Jefre Vanek-Dasovich and Fisher Gledhill were the two youngest FWF Life members present



Life Member and volunteer, Carol Vanek, visited with Michelle Hakemoller, FWF staff, while they greeted the banquet attendees

IN MEMORIAM

**A Donation has been received in
memory of:**

John H. Rouse, Jr.

by John Lowen and Jeffery Knight

Scott Kimble

by Bruce Kimble

Scottie Tagatz

by Liz, Joe and Travis West

by Kirk and Virginia Pristas

Aaron Lowe

by Heather Lowe

by Wendy Lowe

by Terry and Penny Maskell,

Aunt Shirly and Tracie

by Fred and Joanne Molesworth

by Damon and Traci Kroetsch

Bob Walker

by Patricia Walker

John A. Mateo

by Jan Brown

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



THE FEDERATION'S 76th ANNUAL CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

The Federation's annual selection of conservationists is one of the oldest and most prestigious conservation awards programs in the state. Honorees are selected from nominations made to the Federation's board of directors and are chosen for their dedicated efforts on behalf of Florida's fish and wildlife and native habitats. The 76th Annual FWF Conservation Awards Banquet was held on June 8th at the FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City, Florida.

*Photography by
Steve Johnson*

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Hilary Swain



Dr. Hilary Swain has been the Executive Director of Archbold Expeditions since 1995, overseeing activities at the Archbold Biological Station (ABS) and the MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center (MAERC). Totalling approximately 20,000 acres, these two sites, with a staff of 50, conserve a very special area of Florida – the ancient scrublands that existed when adjacent seas were much higher. Not only are these lands important ecologically, but they also provide drinking water for much of Central Florida.

Situated near Lake Placid on the Lake Wales Ridge, ABS conducts long-term research management of natural areas and working lands, environmental monitoring and scientific education for kindergartners up to graduate students. Conservation biology, land planning and endangered species recovery are all part of the mission of ABS. MAERC synthesizes cattle ranching, local economies and the sustainability of the Northern Everglades region. By acting as a liaison between public agencies and private landowners, Dr. Swain is helping build important connections that will benefit conservation for years to come.

For her long-term commitment to Florida's environment and wildlife and her passionate and tireless efforts on the behalf of all our natural treasures, the Federation was very pleased to name Dr. Hilary Swain as its Conservationist of the Year for 2013.

WILDLIFE CONSERVA- TIONIST OF THE YEAR

Don Fox, FWC



Mr. Don Fox, a biological administrator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), has served the citizens and environment of our state for 30 years. His knowledge of fisheries management and aquatic systems is without peer and his dedication to the restoration of the Kissimmee River / Lake Okeechobee / Everglades ecosystem is without question.

Mr. Fox's intense focus on internationally-recognized Lake Okeechobee has proven a boon for the lake. His efforts in improving the littoral zone of this massive waterbody have aided in game fish populations and water clarity. The lake provides a multitude of recreational opportunities and generates significant revenue to the state and local economy.

By successfully coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, Don has served Floridians well. He has advocated for lowering water levels in Lake Okeechobee to a more natural state and for the removal of nutrient rich sediments. He has consistently worked to restore this long-suffering lake back to environmental sustainability.

For his outstanding efforts on behalf of conserving the natural resources of the Everglades region, the Federation was pleased to name Don Fox as the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year for 2013.



LAND CONSERVATION- IST OF THE YEAR

The Lightsey Cattle Company



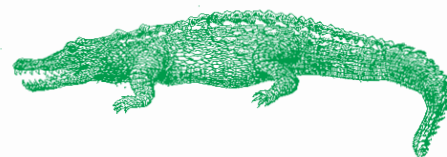
Lightsey Family

Sixth-generation Floridians Cary and Layne Lightsey come from a long line of cattlemen and have the Cracker culture in their veins. The Lightseys own four ranches in Central Florida: Tiger Lake and West Lake Wales Ranches in Polk County, the XL Ranch in Highlands County and Brahma Island in Osceola County. The Lightsey Cattle Company is a family affair, with extended family sharing the duties of running the operations.

Unlike some other ranchers who have heard the siren song of development, the Lightseys have stayed true to their roots and the love of the land. They have actively sought to find ways to protect their ranchlands forever, yet still make a living. By utilizing perpetual conservation easements, Cary and Layne have protected nearly 70% of their holdings to the betterment of our ecology, our water supply, our wildlife habitat and our quality of life.

Brahma Island, situated in Lake Kissimmee, is a 3,300 acre natural treasure. The island consists of several habitat types, from sand dunes to oak hammock and scrub. Many eagles nest on the island, and 28 other listed species have homes there. Moreover, Native Americans utilized the land 10,000 years ago.

The Lightsey Cattle Company was honored for its outstanding efforts on behalf of Florida land stewardship as FWF's Land Conservationist of the year.



WATER CONSERVATION- IST OF THE YEAR

Cynthia Barnett



As a journalist and author for 25 years, Cynthia Barnett has long sought to impart a "water ethic" to Floridians and our elected officials. Earning Bachelor and Master's Degrees from the University of Florida, she has spent her career educating others about the critical need to conserve this precious and life-sustaining resource. She has truly been a passionate and positive voice for conservation, particularly water as a public resource.

As the author of Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis and Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S., she has attempted to explain to the American public the crisis we are facing in Florida's water supplies. Not only does she address the ongoing problems of our management of water, but she provides possible solutions. Indeed, Cynthia imparts that we are suffering from an illusion of water abundance, and her works have been compared to those of fabled environmentalists Rachel Carson and Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

For her deep commitment to educating Floridians and others as to the importance of clean and abundant water, for ourselves, the public and our environment, the Federation was proud to name Cynthia Barnett as the Water Conservationist of the Year for 2013.

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LAND CONSERVATION & PLANNING AWARD

Paul Ebersbach



While preservation of natural lands means a great deal, it is the management of those lands which can take a piece of property and make it special and bountiful. Paul Ebersbach, as Chief of the Environmental Flight at Avon Park Air Force Range, has spent his career turning this 106,000 acre tract in Central Florida into a premier conservation and recreational area.

The base is situated within a complex of protected lands in the heart of Florida and provides a natural buffer for the Kissimmee River. By the adoption of an "avoidance and minimization" policy, training operations, which include bomb testing, have little negative impact on the ecological functions of the land.

For his outstanding commitment to the betterment of our natural resources, the Federation was proud to award Paul Ebersbach with the Land Conservation and Planning Award for 2013.

BIFF LAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

Rae W. Waddell



Rae Waddell has long worked in the field of environmental protection. In 1991, she commenced working for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), first with freshwater fisheries, and since 1995, with outdoor education. As Director of the Joe Budd Aquatic Education Center near Tallahassee, Rae oversaw the education of thousands of students who spent time fishing

and learning about natural Florida through daily field trips and summer excursions.

In 2010, Rae became Director of the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network. This network is an outgrowth of the realization that our children are becoming disconnected from the natural world, insofar as computer and video games take up the vast majority of their free time. The Network now encompasses not only the flagship Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center in Jefferson County, but several Wild Outdoors Centers and Near Outdoors Centers in more suburban settings. As Director, Rae spearheads this statewide initiative, from program design to actual construction of the facilities.

For her consistent commitment to environmental education of Floridians, especially our youth, the Federation was pleased to name Rae Waddell as the Conservation Communicator of the Year for 2013.

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

H. Franklin Percival



Dr. Ray Carthy, also of the University of Florida Coop Unit, attended and received the award for Franklin Percival.

Dr. Franklin Percival has dedicated his life to the education of students who wished to make a positive difference in our world. He is the Program Leader for the Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. The Coop Unit seeks to provide research, graduate education and technical assistance, with an emphasis on Florida's remaining wetlands and wetland species.

Working in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Franklin has advanced the cause of wetlands education and thereby protection by his many years of work.

Franklin's career has taken him from digging for alligator eggs at Lake Apopka to airboating over marshland and lakes across the state. His extensive field work has aided his ability to mentor his students with a "real world" education that complements his academic credentials.

For the last several years, Franklin has led an interdisciplinary, interagency team of engineers, scientists and managers in the development of unmanned aerial systems to assess wildlife habitats and populations.

For his lifetime spent in bettering our understanding of Florida's natural world, and for sharing that knowledge and his wisdom with others, the Federation was honored to name Dr. H. Franklin Percival as the Conservation Educator of the Year for 2013.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Bryan Fugate, FWC



Raised in DeSoto County in a law enforcement family, Bryan Fugate enjoyed life in the outdoors growing up. He hunted, fished and helped run his family's cattle ranch. As a youth, Officer Fugate began to appreciate natural Florida by recreating in the Florida Keys and on the Gulf Coast. He became an FWC Officer in 2009. He has since served in the Florida Keys.

Officer Fugate has established strong working relationships with other law enforcement entities in South Florida, including the Florida Division of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and federal authorities and with the greater community. He is also active with the Boy Scouts and at Florida Keys Community College.

Officer Fugate's duties center on human safety and resource protection. He is the lead investigator for DUI and BUIs in his patrol area and is intimately familiar with the regulations governing the charter boat industry, balancing this economic driver with conservation of our marine fisheries. He handles issues ranging from narcotic smuggling to illegal aliens and sea turtle poaching.

In appreciation for his diligence and dedication to human safety and resource protection, the Federation's Board of Directors selected Bryan Fugate as its Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2013.



FRANCIS S. TAYLOR OUTDOORMAN OF THE YEAR

Daniel T. Alvarez



Daniel Alvarez could not attend due to his ongoing journey. His award was accepted by his parents, Carlos Alvarez and Anna Lee.

After growing up in Tallahassee, Daniel Alvarez received a degree in Finance and Economics from the University of Florida before attending Yale Law School. Prior to going to Yale, Daniel decided to hike the Appalachian Trail and during law school he completed the Pacific Crest Trail. Hired as a corporate attorney in California, Daniel practiced law until the economic downturn left him with time to fill. He took the opportunity to hike the Continental Divide Trail, thus accomplishing what is known as the Triple Crown of Hiking (a total of over 7,900 miles!). These experiences prepared him for even more arduous tasks.

Daniel next looked into traversing Middle America by water. *Outside Magazine* was offering a national prize for the most interesting outdoor adventure and Daniel won by popular vote. His trip, in a donated Necky sea kayak, commenced at Angle Inlet, Minnesota, the northernmost point in the continental United States, and ended in Key West, a total of over 4,000 paddled miles. Along the way, he videotaped his daily routine and wrote highly informational blog pieces on what it was like to actually see the country from the water. This included scenes of tremendous natural beauty as well as

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heartbreaking images of the pollution that has spoiled our heritage.

Daniel has a strong appreciation for nature and all its gifts. He is a true conservationist and has a great ability to communicate the importance of land stewardship and appreciation of natural resources, here in Florida, as well as across the United States.

For his contributions to the appreciation of natural systems, and his adventurous spirit and accomplishments as an outdoorsman, the Federation was proud to name Daniel Alvarez as the Francis S. Taylor Outdoorsman of the Year for 2013. Since Daniel was unable to attend the awards ceremony, his parents, Carlos Alvarez and Anna Lee, accepted the award on his behalf.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center



Christy Scally & Lauren Bray of the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center accepted the award.

The E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center, near the Panhandle town of Bruce, is a world-class environmental education facility. As the brain-child of conservationist M.C. Davis, the Center is named for living legend, Alabama-born, biologist, researcher, naturalist, conservationist and noted author, Dr. Edward O. Wilson, whose efforts on behalf of global conservation and biological research are unsurpassed. Indeed, "biophilia," a term Dr. Wilson promotes, means the connection humans have with the rest of the natural world. These connections are strengthened every day at the Center.

Situated within the 50,000 acre Nokuse Plantation, thousands of students each year are able to learn about the state's natural environment through interpretive exhibits and by a curriculum that coincides with Florida state educational standards. The success of the Center has made it a veritable adjunct of Walton and other county school systems. All students are provided with opportunities for inquiry, investigation and hands-on experimentation. Moreover, they can take advantage

of the miles of trails that connect the E. O. Wilson Center to the swamps and vast longleaf pine flatwoods that are being restored by Mr. Davis. Active wildlife research occurs near the Center, emphasizing gopher tortoise restoration and other native species conservation.

Attending the Awards Ceremony in Haines City, Florida, on June 8th were Christy Scally, the President of the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center, Lauren Bray, an instructor from the Center, and Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Davis.



Lauren Bray, Stella Davis and Christy Scally

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

ELIZABETH ORDWAY DUNN
FOUNDATION



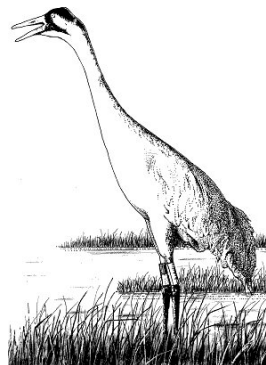
Bob Jensen, a Managing Director of the Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation, accepted the award. Donna Lummus and Rodman Titcomb, the other two Directors, were unable to attend the awards ceremony.

Elizabeth Ordway Dunn truly loved nature and Florida. Prior to her death in 1983, she established a foundation in her name, with the mission of funding efforts in our state which advanced environmental protection and restoration through planning, environmental health, biological diversity, pollution abatement and sustainable development. The Foundation's financial underwriting of many of Florida's conservation non-profit organizations has greatly helped to keep conservation advocates in the field and the office doors open. The Dunn Foundation has been a catalyst for sound environmental policy across Florida for three decades.

The Dunn Foundation, through its

board, has endowed upwards of \$18 million over the last 30 years to a variety of entities. Included in these grants have been funding for protection of the Apalachicola River and Estuary, local land trust administration, the Florida Forever program, ocean management and cleanup, oyster reefs in the St. Lucie Estuary, public trail systems, protection of the Peace River watershed, the Everglades and Biscayne Bay. The Foundation's positive aid has been felt all over the state and has benefited not only recipient organizations, but the public at large. Better development planning, cleaner water, protecting additional wildlife habitat and pollution cleanup have been the result of the Foundation's funding. While it is difficult to pinpoint any one grant that is better than any other, one particular grant of interest is that which funded environmental reporting on public radio in Tallahassee. Not only was information about our fragile ecology disseminated to area residents, but state legislators in town for the Legislative Session were also educated.

For its long-standing and dedicated commitment to environmental integrity in Florida, the Federation was pleased to name the Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation as the recipient of the President's Award for 2013.



The FWF was happy to have 16 individuals from IDEAS For Us present at our June 7-9 meeting weekend in Haines City. The IDEAS group held their own Staff and Board meeting simultaneously to review their national and international chapter plans for 2013.

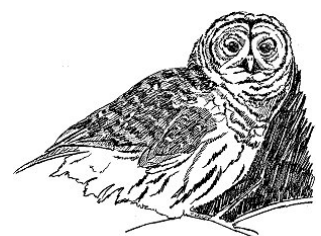
DAVIS from page 1

The 50,000 acre Nokuse Plantation in Walton County, M.C. Davis' beautiful property, is being preserved forever to benefit of wildlife and our citizens. Nokuse (pronounced no-goo-see) is Creek Indian for "black bear." The Florida black bear has a great haven at the plantation. In addition, Nokuse Plantation serves as a key research and recipient site for gopher tortoises and the over 100 other species that rely upon gopher tortoise burrows. Longleaf pines and wiregrass, which once covered most of Florida and the South and now exist only as a remnant, have been planted in the millions all over M. C. Davis' plantation. The re-establishment of this natural community and the use of prescribed burning have allowed a myriad of native plant and animal species to flourish. Nokuse also serves as a critical wildlife corridor eastward from Eglin Air Force Base to the Choctawhatchee River.

Other outstanding conservation projects initiated by M.C. Davis include the 30,000 acre Mallory Swamp conservation area in Lafayette County, 3,200 acre Glass Mountain in Georgia and the 210 acre Alexander Bat Cave site in Tennessee.

As the founder and funder of the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, Mr. Davis ardently seeks to instill an environmental ethic into the minds of young Floridians. The Center has educated thousands of school children to date, and these youngsters will one day be those charged with stewardship of our state. They will be much better prepared to meet these challenges, thanks to Mr. M. C. Davis.

For his undaunted commitment to the "real Florida," and selfless devotion to long-term conservation, the Federation was proud to name M.C. Davis as its twenty-fifth inductee into the FWF Hall of Fame.





Florida Wildlife Supporter,

One of the values that help define what it means to be a Floridian is our desire to protect and preserve our land, water, and open spaces. Today, Florida as we know it is under threat, and that's why I need your help right now.

If you haven't already, please join me and sign the Florida Water and Land Legacy petition and help get this critical amendment on the ballot, www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org.

Be sure to read FWF's message below about this important amendment and what it means for our great state. Thanks for all you're doing to make Florida a better place now and for future generations.

For Florida,
Sen. Bob Graham

PS: Many thanks to all of you who have already signed the petition. Please be sure to share this, post the petition to Facebook, or tweet the petition and encourage your friends and family to sign too.

Dear FWF supporter,

Protecting our waters, cherished natural areas and wildlife are fundamental to a healthy and vibrant Florida. That's why the Florida Wildlife Federation is working with Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign to place a critical conservation amendment on the November 2014 ballot. Download your petition at www.fwfonline.org/Petition/Water-Land-Conservation.aspx.

We need to gather 550,000 more signatures from Florida voters in the next 5 months. Will you help us reach that goal by signing a petition today?

The amendment allocates less than one percent of our state budget to fund conservation—which is the least we can do to protect Florida's natural treasures.

Add your voice to the more than 150,000 Florida voters who've already signed the petition. Please take a moment to sign the petition for Florida's Water and Land Conservation Amendment today. Each petition is a message from a Florida voter who cares deeply about protecting what's best about living here: miles of beaches, beautiful parks, crystal clear springs, endless opportunities to swim, bike and fish, and an amazing diversity of plants and animals. We must take a stand to protect Florida's natural heritage!

You can also help by spreading the word! Share this with at least five friends and invite them to sign the petition.

We know how much you care about protecting clean water, restoring vital natural areas, and safeguarding our springs and other magnificent treasures for future generations. That's why we know we can count on you not only to sign the petition, but to spread the word and urge more Floridians to take action for Florida's future.

You can also visit the campaign's website to learn more about the campaign and sign up to volunteer today, www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org. Florida needs your help, and together we will create an environmental legacy we can all be proud of!

For Florida's future,
Florida Wildlife Federation

If you would like to contribute to the Florida Water and Legacy Campaign visit www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org. If you would like to contribute to FWF's land conservation efforts visit www.fwfonline.org.



PRESIDENT from page 3

efit the area's fish and wildlife including migratory fish like striped bass, sturgeon, American shad, as well as manatees. A restored floodplains would return to bottomland habitat which when flooded is great duck habitat. The U.S. Forest Service is working to get water off of archaeological sites and restore the historic springs and channel. FWF believes a restored river will once again provide great fishing opportunities as it did historically.

I am impressed at how fast citizens can mobilize now to raise public awareness and urge proactive action to address conservation concerns. Recent examples are people coming out in opposition to surplus of historic public lands like Ward's Creek—see www.savewardscreek.com—and to mount petition campaigns concerning the huge Lake Okeechobee flows. We are once again writing members of Congress urging the protection of the units of the costal barrier resource system in the Florida Panhandle and working together with allies including NWF to promote Gulf restoration dollars being dedicated to the long term benefit of the Gulf and its watersheds through significant conservation projects like expanding St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and other conservation projects around the Gulf. Thank you. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

Manley

Please see our recent letter (below) to the FWC commissioners calling for a deer importation ban due to chronic wasting disease threat. Please let the FWC know your thoughts at www.myfwc.com.

The Florida Wildlife Federation on behalf of our Board of Directors and thousands of members across the state reiterate our call to closing the state borders to the importation of deer and other members of the deer family Cervidae at the earliest possible date. We are concerned about our native white tailed deer population which our members enjoy whether through hunting or viewing. White tailed deer are arguably our most popular game animal, provide the major prey for the endangered Florida panther and in the middle Keys are represented by the endangered Key Deer. The reason we want to close the borders is we want to do everything possible to keep the devastating disease chronic wasting disease out of our state and importation of deer is a known vector of CWD. We should close our borders as have other southeastern states to help prevent this scourge. We believe that it is critical for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to take this action now. We have always supported the constitutional status of the FWC so that you can uphold your public trust responsibility for Florida's Fish and Wildlife. We believe now is a time and this is a circumstance where you all need to take the decisive action of banning the importation of deer from other state's. Unfortunately chronic wasting disease is on the rise and spreading. Note that we called for the border closure in October 2012, and nothing has occurred since to give us comfort that anything short of total closure should occur.

Respectfully Yours,
Manley Fuller, FWF President

ANSWERS TO FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. We should limit our use of fertilizers and use natural fertilizers like compost because nitrogen and phosphorous will leach out of fertilizers when it rains and pollute our waterways. We don't want pollution in the place that our fish and aquatic animals live. Too much nitrogen in the water causes algae growth, and then critters like manatees can't find their usual sea grass to eat and feed on the algae instead, get sick and die. Some pollutants are responsible for fish kills, as well.

2. Kids can establish a wildlife habitat on school grounds, which is a place set aside on school property for native wildlife to live, find food and water and have their young. There are 418 certified habitats at schools in Florida and more that have not been certified by National Wildlife Federation. There are 4,925 certified habitats at schools in the whole country, and that is something we should be proud of. Florida has more than 1/10 of all habitats in 50 states. You do the math. That's pretty good, isn't it? Go on our website at www.fwfonline.com and read about habitats there, tell your science teachers about what you learn, and ask if he or she will lead the students in establishing one at your school.

3. Well, this is a trick question, it SEEMS like mosquitoes are worse this year because they ARE! Experts agree that it's because we have had more rain in Florida than usual, and mosquitoes need rain to reproduce. This is what you can do about it. Look around your yard and neighborhood streets and see if you can find anywhere where there is standing water where mosquitoes can breed, dump the water out and turn the container upside down so that it doesn't collect any more. Old tires are one of the worst places for breeding mosquitoes, so if you have a tire swing, ask an adult to drill holes in the bottom of it to let the water drain out. Sometimes you can see little mosquito larvae in standing water, they look like tiny black threads about 1/4 of an inch long. They only need less than an inch of standing water to multiply. They are called "wigglers". Dump them out and they will die, and it's goodbye mosquitoes.

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!



Jay Liles,
FWF Policy
Consultant

Yosemite, another jewel in our National Park System, exemplifies why we do the work we do.

It's been a "bucket list" challenge my wife and I share – to visit as many of the nation's national parks as possible. So far we are at 23 and counting. Six of those are among the many located right here in Florida. I am excluding the many parks with this designation in Washington, D.C. because, well, it is the nation's capital so what else would you expect? I focus on the more nature-based parks for my list of must see's.

This July it was Yosemite, Sequoia and King's Canyon (all in close proximity to one another and located in the Sierra Nevada Range). We chose San Francisco as the port of arrival but I am

sure there are nearer points from which one can embark. We just wanted to see some "Big City" sites and have the option to run up the California coast if the July 4th tourist crush was going to be too much. As it turned out, this was certainly not the optimal time to visit Yosemite, but not the mob scene we had feared. It's all a matter of where one decides to spend their time, as we soon learned.

Just so the record is clear, in my book Florida's state parks and our own Everglades National Park (among others) don't have to take a back seat when compared to their western sisters. Viewing a rain storm across the vast 'Glades can bring you to your knees. Taking in the wildlife that seems to gather for your camera lens along just about any path within Everglades National Park is breathtaking. I guess it's like most things in life – proximity breeds a certain sense of complacency. I know the Everglades is a special place but I am awestruck by the grand scale that is our western parks – from the Grand Canyon to Rainer to Rocky Mountain National it is clear why we have to preserve these sacred landscapes and why we fight for such far-away places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to remain unspoiled by gas and oil exploration. Ask anyone who has been there – when you exit the tunnel leading to Yosemite Valley and see Half Dome and El Capitan spread before you can't help but be thunderstruck. There is a reason the tunnel sports large, flashing signs as you prepare to emerge from the dark, warning you to "PREPARE TO STOP!" You

would either crash into the other gawkers or simply drive off the road! It is that spectacular.

As advocates for preservation, we follow in the footsteps of giants like John Muir. When you visit Yosemite you are literally walking in his footsteps (paved over as they may be in many places within the most traveled paths around the park). For those so inclined, you can escape the appropriately armored and accessible portions of the park and see it much as Muir did. It really takes little effort and is worth the extra drive time to get to the quiet spots that abound in a place this expansive.

A couple of wonky thoughts cluttered my otherwise blissful encounter with this national park:

1. We have neglected maintenance far too long in these special places. From the constant need to conduct controlled burns to the upkeep and maintenance of park facilities there is a great deal that could and should be done.

2. The fees charged to visit these wonderful places are ridiculously low (\$20 bought us a week of access by car, free shuttle services anywhere once we were inside and numerous other accommodations). Congress should revisit the fee schedules and devote any increases exclusively to the maintenance of the parks themselves.

3. We should explore the benefits to be derived from temporarily closing certain sections of the parks to allow nature to heal and for wildlife to return and become more wary of the humans in their midst. I never saw anything

more exciting than a small buck sporting spiked antlers but it is clear wildlife in and around the park has lost its fear of human interactions. That is a dangerous formula that rangers remind you of constantly in the park.

4. Park Service employees work under constant pressure to accomplish all of this without inconveniencing the throngs of visitors who arrive each day. I have no idea how they manage it so well and they all deserve a raise in my book.

I look forward to our next National Park Adventure (no idea which one) but I have yet to be disappointed by what We the People have set aside as our national playgrounds and I am so thankful we have gotten to see so much of it. I hope you all get a chance to experience these wonderlands first hand. It is what we fight to protect and preserve and a visit to any of them will only make you more aware of why that is so important.



Jay hugging a giant Sequoia in Mariposa Grove, Yosemite National Park.

The Florida Wildlife Federation's 2013 Seventh Annual "Green" Car Sweepstakes is giving away an outstanding choice of one of four fuel-efficient automobiles or \$25,000 in cash on December 12 at Federation headquarters in Tallahassee. To check out this year's models click on <http://www.fwfonline.org/Sweepstakes-Archive/Car/2013-Green-Car-Sweepstakes.aspx>. The "Green" Car Sweepstakes, in conjunction with the Federation's 23rd Annual Boating Sweepstakes represents one of the most important fundraising programs for FWF. The proceeds are used to support vital programs and conservation initiatives in Florida.

Watch for your tickets in the mail or play online anytime by going to FWF's website and clicking on the Sweepstakes button at the top of every page. Then click on Green Car Sweepstakes or Boating Sweepstakes. If you would like a set of tickets mailed to you, send an email to FWF at hybridcarsweeps@fwfonline.org or 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 "Hybrid Sweeps" or "Boat Sweeps" in the Subject line.



Pictured is the Volkswagen Jetta Turbo Hybrid, one of four cars to choose from in this year's fund-raising sweepstakes.

The Volkswagen Jetta Turbo Hybrid is the world's first turbocharged hybrid (42 city/48 highway mpg). With 170 hp available from a 1.4-liter direct-injection engine and a 27-hp electric motor, VW's new hybrid can spring to 60 mph in under 9 seconds. With a top speed of 130 mph, it's the first hybrid to utilize a 7-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. Even more impressive, at speeds of 84 mph and under, when the driver decides to coast, the engine can decouple and turn off completely, improving gas mileage and making it emissions-free. This hybrid has a luxurious interior with tons of legroom and trunk space. Standard features include: Bluetooth with audio streaming, Touchscreen sound system with hybrid system display, Tiptronic Transmission, Sport mode and carefree maintenance.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE (CH-499).

Nominee Profiles for District Directors

"Eight District Directors (one for each district) shall be elected by the Individual Associate and Corporate or Business members. Nominations for those eight District Directors shall be published to the Individual Associate and Corporate or Business members in the form of a ballot at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Such ballots shall be received by the Federation's principal place of business no later than fifteen days prior to the annual meeting; otherwise, the votes on such ballots shall not be counted. The ballots shall be tabulated by the Federation's employees, verified by the Organizational Affairs Committee, and announced at the conclusion of the other elections. The eight District Directors so elected shall be the nominees who received the most votes and neither declined their nomination nor were elected to another office or directorship." – FWF Bylaws, article XI, section B – as amended September, 2005.

PLEASE USE BALLOT ON PAGE 2 OR VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.FWFONLINE.ORG/BALLOT

Only current members may vote. Please vote on the ballot on page 2, cut out and mail to: Director Ballots, Florida Wildlife Federation, PO Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314. The printed name and address on the reverse of the ballot will verify you are a member. If you wish to fax to (850) 942-4431, or scan and email to dhines@fwfonline.org, make sure to include your name and address for verification. You may also vote online at www.fwfonline.org/ballot/ballot.aspx. Ballots must be postmarked by September 12, 2013. For assistance call us at 1-800-656-3014.

NORTHWEST REGION

DISTRICT I



Name: Glenn Griffith
Residence: Pensacola
Years of Florida Residence: 54
Occupation: Escambia County Brownfields Coordinator
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, SCUBA diving/snorkeling, freshwater & saltwater fishing, hunting, conservation education, birdwatching/nature photography, cycling/hiking, gardening/habitat restoration
Other club/organization affiliations: Board Member Northern Gulf Coast Chapter of USGBC, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), founding member of Escambia/Santa Rosa Environmental Education Coordination Team EECT and Resource Rangers Club, Creator and host of the multi award winning environmental education TV series "The Resource Ranger"
Goals: My goals for serving on the FWF Board will be to create a greater public awareness and education for Florida's natural environment, to instill an ownership mentality of the populace as a whole. I believe that if people understand that they have a stake in the welfare of our state, and a voice that can have an effect, then more people will become engaged in the fight to protect our beautiful state. I also hope to contribute to the protection, preservation and/or conservation of the state's natural resources and I would like to affect some positive change for the economic models and policies that I believe have created the problems we face today.

DISTRICT II



Name: Diane Roberts
Residence: Tallahassee
Years of Florida Residence: Entire Life
Occupation: Professor of Creative Writing

and Literature, Florida State University; writer, journalist with various newspapers and magazines (St. Petersburg Times, Washington Post); National Public Radio commentator and BBC contributor.

Hobbies and Conservation Interests: Environmental Activism & Lobbying/Conservation Education/Fundraising & Donor Development/ Gardening/Habitat Restoration
Other Club/Organization Affiliations: Tiger Bay Club (Tallahassee), Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Sorority, Red Hills Writers group, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honorary
Goals: As an 8th generation Floridian, I find that if I can tell the story of a place—the swamps near Smith Creek where my father was born, the green banks of the Chipola where my mother comes from, or the northern Gulf coast where I spent summers as a child—it becomes that much harder for people to ignore the potential destruction of that place. That's what I've tried to do in *DreamState*, my book on Florida, and in my journalism, and it's what I would do as a director of FWF. I want to get the word out about FWF in a positive way that demonstrates to everyone that we all have a stake in preserving our waters and wild places.

DISTRICT III



Name: Richard Hamann
Residence: Gainesville
Years of Florida Residence: All
Occupation: Attorney/faculty at UF
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, scuba diving/snorkeling, freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing, hunting, environmental activism/lobbying, bird watching/nature photography, gardening/habitat restoration
Other Club/Organization Affiliations: Florida Defenders of the Environment; Alachua Conservation Trust; University of Florida, Levin College of Law; St. Johns River Water Management District
Goals: With my background in environmental law and policy, I can help FWF focus its limited resources on those issues likely to yield the greatest conservation benefit.

DISTRICT IV

Currently open



CENTRAL REGION

DISTRICT V



Name: Jay Exum
Residence: Longwood
Years of Florida Residence: 28
Occupation: Consulting ecologist
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, scuba diving/snorkeling, hunting, environmental activism/lobbying, conservation education, bird watching/nature photography, cycling/hiking, gardening/habitat restoration
Other Club/Organization Affiliations: Past president; Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Past president, current Board member; Friends of the Wekiva River (FOWR).
Goals: Working on local environmental issues with the FOWR, and representing professional biologists at the state and national level has given me great personal satisfaction. I believe that FWF provides a forum for me to help influence resource conservation across Florida. My technical expertise and experience with environmental issues from the panhandle to the Everglades provides me with a context that could be of benefit to the Board of Directors. My goals for future conservation activities would be to seek ways to enhance appreciation of the state's biological diversity, and to ensure protection of a network of conservation and agricultural lands across the state.

DISTRICT VI

Currently Open



SOUTHERN REGION



DISTRICT VII

Name: Linda Stanley
Residence: West Palm Beach
Years of Florida Residence: 69
Occupation: Conservation Volunteer
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing, environmental activism/lobbying, conservation education, bird watching/nature photography, flying
Other Club/Organization Affiliations: Defenders of the Environment (Ocklawaha River Restoration), Friends of Corbett and the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp, et al.
Goals: As a longstanding member of the FWF and a steward of our natural resources, I have pledged to support the sound management of these resources, the restoration of resources that have been despoiled and the safe-keeping of significant resources for posterity. I believe that conservation education is key to accomplishing these goals and plan to continue my support of the FWF's efforts along these lines, as well as others.

DISTRICT VIII



Name: Franklin Adams
Residence: Naples
Years of Florida Residence: 70+
Occupation: Fishing and Eco-tour Guide
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing, hunting, environmental activism/lobbying, conservation education, bird watching/nature photography, cycling/hiking, fundraising/donor development
Other Club/Organization Affiliations: National Wildlife Federation, Audubon of Florida, Collier Audubon, Collier Sportsmen's & Conservation Club, Earthjustice, NRDC, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League, Putnam County Environmental Council
Goals: FWF has always been well represented by strong grassroots advocates state wide. I want to continue in that traditional conservation work while supporting our very professional and dedicated staff in our three offices. In order to do so we must all do what we can individually to generate financial support in order to accomplish our mission and conservation goals. I strongly support the public's right to access and enjoy Florida's public lands in a responsible and respectful manner. When the public can recreate in a special place you have a constituency that will fight to preserve and protect these places into the future.

the level of public trust that led to adoption of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) in 2000. That plan not only laid out a vision of restoration, it also included assurances that existing levels of flood protection and water supply would be maintained. The key to the plan was to *capture* and *store* much of the water still draining and discharged to the sea.

“Everglades Restoration” began with the Kissimmee River, which collects water south of Orlando and flows into Lake Okeechobee. Systemwide restoration would “follow the water south.” Restoration of 44 miles of winding river will be complete next year. South of the lake, restoration lags.

The volumes of water are enormous. The legacy nutrient-pollution issues are also enormous. Beyond planning, we've not yet dealt effectively with either.

On good days everyone involved recognizes the interconnections of the Kissimmee-Lake Okeechobee-Everglades system. On bad days (30 days of 5-10 inches of rain, or 30 days of no rain at all) we are often at cross purposes, seek-

ing relief for damage being done to the parts. Currently, the parts in greatest distress are the St. Lucie River, Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River estuary, which are receiving gluts of severely damaging freshwater discharged from Lake Okeechobee.

Living on the east coast, I get daily reports of the toxic blue-green and mysterious brown algal blooms, along with Health Department warnings to stay out of the water. The Indian River Lagoon will not recover for three or four years; and businesses dependent on the lagoon will shut down soon. Reports from the west coast are also dire -- the fresh water plume of the Caloosahatchee now extends into the Gulf, and the river has lost grasses, oysters and other shellfish.

Discharges from Lake Okeechobee are being made to alleviate concern that the Herbert Hoover Dike, which encircles the lake, may fail. The dike does not meet national dam-safety standards. Water flows into the lake faster than it flows out, and the risk of failure increases as the lake rises to 17 feet and above. Lake Okeechobee is also shallow (about 10 feet on average), so the wind-driven “slosh” factor compounds concerns.

The base of the dike is 15.5 feet. Whenever the lake water level is higher, there is no filtering littoral zone to support fish and bird life. The popular idea that, after the dike is repaired, Lake Okeechobee can be allowed to rise and “store water” would likely kill the lake. During drought, the lake has fallen to 10 feet, which is also disastrous for fish and bird life. At that level, “forward pumping” has been used to pull water from the lake to irrigate farm fields and move it south to protect Miami-Dade well-fields. It has not been used to send water to the Caloosahatchee to halt the intrusion of salt water upstream that shuts down a Lee County water-treatment plant. Wrestling a few inches of water from the lake in May near the end of the dry season requires a bare-knuckle political fray.

Officially (legally) EAA runoff cannot be discharged to conservation areas without first going through a filtering STA. The STAs have dramatically reduced phosphorus in the runoff of farm fields to 12-25 ppb. Still, the STAs do not consistently meet the 10 ppb standard established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, fed-

eral Environmental Protection Agency, and a Consent Decree that “settled” a federal lawsuit filed in 1988. Increase the volume of water that runs through the STAs, as CEEP proposes, and the efficacy of those STAs is reduced.

A dispute between the state and the feds over sharing the blame for violations of water-quality standards and over “who” (state or federal taxpayers) will pay what share of costs to treat the additional water stalled completion and release of the Project Implementation Report and the start of agency reviews required by the National Environmental Policy Act. If those delays, in turn, mean the Army Corps of Engineers’ “Chief’s Report” doesn’t get to Congress by Dec. 31, CEPP will be booted from the list of projects to be authorized this year.

The December deadline was set in the Senate-passed Water Resources Development Act; the House began drafting its WRDA bill just before recessing for vacation. Only if authorized, will CEPP have a chance of a “get-started” congressional appropriation.

In a nutshell, that's where I think we are, heading into September's storms.

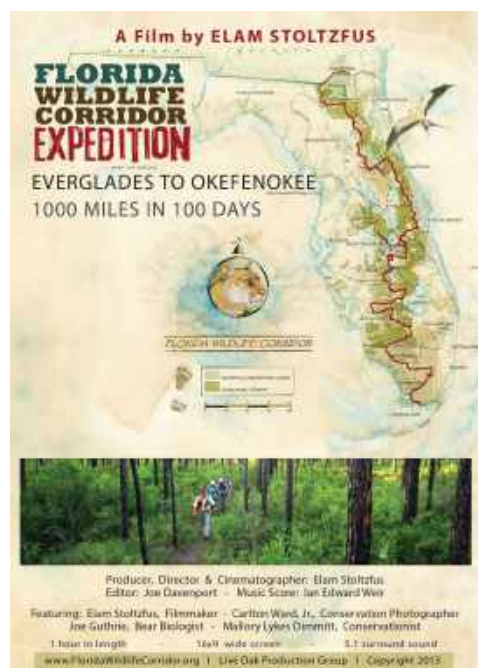
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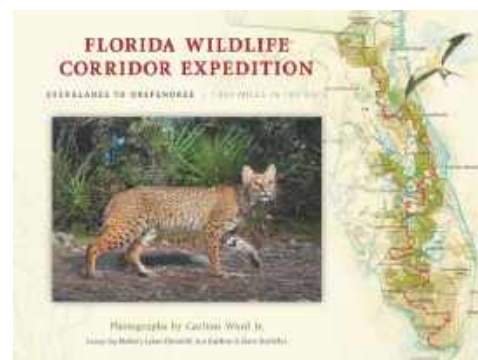


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Yes I want to join Florida Wildlife Federation in promoting conservation of Florida's natural treasures and the enjoyment of our Great Outdoors! You will receive our publication *Florida Fish and Wildlife News* and periodic conservation updates by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

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"All These Days Gone By" © Peter R. Gerbert Ibis on the Hog Island Tributary
Acrylics on Gessobond with Molding-Paste & UVLS Varnish Image size 18 by 24 inches
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"My goal with this painting was to capture the feeling I get when I'm exploring a river, and I'm always wondering what might be up around the next corner... That behavior usually gets me back to the boat ramp in the dark! This is the Hog Island Tributary, off of the Withlacoochee River: it's not always easy to get to. When the river's up high enough to get my boat down it, the entrances are usually hidden by low lying branches and fallen trees. I suppose that makes it more of an unspoiled and secret place."

-Peter G



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Peter R. Gerbert, painting exclusively native Florida wildlife

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

For Wildlife



Steve O'Hara and his wife, Jeri.

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

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

Since then, Steve O'Hara has served almost three decades on the Florida Wildlife Federation's volunteer Board of Directors. He has also included the FWF as a beneficiary in his will. "Guana is still my favorite fishing destination. I will soon be a grandfather, and I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to have places like Guana for hiking, hunting, paddling, and other outdoor recreational pursuits. I will leave them that legacy by helping the Florida Wildlife Federation continue its good work for generations to come."



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

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

For more information on how your estate plan can benefit both you and wildlife, please contact **Tim Bachmeyer**, FWF Development Consultant, at **561-801-5752** or Manley Fuller, Diane Hines or Preston Robertson at **850-656-7113**.

Conservation Calendar

August 21-25, 2013

Florida Outdoors Writers Assn. Conference

3200 River Ranch Blvd, River Ranch, FL 33867

www.wgriverranch.com

Florida's Gulf Counties Consortium

Meetings:

- Aug. 22, 9:00 am – Noon - Clearwater Beach,
- Sept. 18, 10:00 am – Noon - West Palm Beach,
- Nov. 13, 9:00 -11:00 am - Daytona

All meetings of the Gulf Counties Consortium are held in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties regular quarterly meetings; Consortium will recommend projects for funding under RESTORE Act. Exact location, dates, times, agenda are available as posted on the FAC website:

<http://www.fl-counties.com/advocacy/gulf-consortium>

September 5-7, 2013

FWC Commission Meeting, Pensacola

www.MyFWC.com

September 27-29, 2013

FWF Board of Directors/House of Delegates Annual Business Meeting

Tradewinds Guy Harvey Resort, St. Pete Beach

dhines@fwfonline.org

October 5, 2013

Sunflower Festival, Pepper Ranch Preserve, Immokalee,

AlexandraSulecki@colliergov.net,
<http://www.colliergov.net/index.aspx?page=528>

October 16-17, 2013

Sea Level Rise Summit 2013:
Resilience in the Face of Change
Boca Raton, Florida

October 26, 2013

FWF 3rd Annual Kids Fishing Day
FWF River Preserve, Ochlockonee River

preston@fwfonline.org

October 26, 2013

Lubee Bat Festival, Gainesville

Batfest@lubee.org

November 7-8, 2013

5th Annual Southeast Florida
Regional Climate Leadership Summit
Fort Lauderdale

November 16th, 2013

Florida Panther Festival
Naples, Florida

<http://www.floridapantherfestival.com/festival-information.html>