



Gala Night for the Southwest Office 20th Anniversary & 77th Annual Conservation Awards Presentation



Manley Fuller, Tom Reese, 26th inductee into the FWF Conservation Hall of Fame, and Jenny Brock.

The night of June 21, 2014, was very special for the Florida Wildlife Federation. The Annual Conservation Awards Banquet, held at the Naples Hilton, honored twelve individuals and groups. Award recipients were nominated by Federation members for outstanding achievements in protecting Florida's natural resources and ultimately selected by the Federation's Board of Directors.

The banquet was very well attended with individuals coming from all across Florida to join in the evening's activities which included video presentations, art exhibits, and a silent auction.

Conservation education partner and past award winner Ricky Pires set up an information display about Florida Gulf Coast University's Panther Posse Pro-

gram. The exhibit included a big "thank you" poster for the Federation's ongoing funding support. Mrs. Pires is founder and director of the program.

Nancy Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative, and Franklin Adams, FWF District VIII Director, were the emcees for this year's awards presentation. They also received recognition for being instrumental in the opening of the Federation's Southwest Florida office twenty years ago in Naples.

Since its opening in 1994 with support from the Harder Foundation, the Southwest Florida Office has been focused on

three major goals:

- to protect wildlife habitat using the endangered Florida panther as the guiding species,
- to promote habitat conservation through public acquisition and landowner incentives, and
- to defend the Western Everglades from sprawling growth. Efforts have been concentrated on protecting the region's rural lands.

There have been significant achievements over the twenty years in preserving wildlife habitat and securing wildlife underpasses.

During the evening, Nancy Payton acknowledged past award winners in attendance and thanked the local dignitaries, organizations, companies, and individuals who work collaboratively with the Federation on conservation issues.



Nancy Payton, Manley Fuller, Ananta Nath, Mike Duever, Janet Starnes and Jenny Brock. Ananta, Mike and Janet were honored as Water Conservationists of the Year.

**VOTE
YES
ON 1**
November 4, 2014

**BALLOT to return to
FWF on page 2.**
**Members: Please
vote for FWF District
Directors. Learn about
the nominees on page 14.**

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

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Jenny Brock



Volunteers “start your engines!”

Saturday, July 12, I had the pleasure of attending the orientation for volunteers at the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center (BTYCC). The meeting room was filled to capacity with young and old. Many youth volunteers/mentors were in attendance. We were treated to wonderful wildlife videos as we listened to the success stories of Boy Scout and Girl Scout camp-outs, complete with Halloween horror tales and many other exciting activities the volunteers had participated in.

The BTYCC website has the following Mission Statement: “Getting Youth Outdoors simply means involving kids in outdoor activities to strengthen their connection to nature and wildlife.” In my opinion, that’s a tall order for today’s youth with all the distractions offered by electronic games, computers and television, since all those activities are indoors. The website goes on to state: “At the BTYCC kids learn, play and explore outside through a variety of activities including birding, hiking, fishing, archery, sport shooting, hunting, kayaking and boating.” This facility is privately owned, leased and operated by FWCC, and powered by solar energy. All volunteers have background checks, so you know your



Photo by Betsy Kellenberger

children are in a safe environment.

While the BTYCC was the first of its kind, now there are more than 100 youth conservation centers in Florida. These facilities show what

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CUT OUT AND RETURN THIS BALLOT

FWF Members:

Please mark the box to vote
for each district. We are in-
cluding 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.

CANDIDATES

Check (1) selection per district*

DISTRICT I

Steve Theberge _____

DISTRICT III

John Jopling _____

DISTRICT V

Jay Exum _____

DISTRICT VII

Linda Stanley _____

DISTRICT II

Currently Open _____

DISTRICT IV

Mark Middlebrook _____

DISTRICT VI

Alex Sink _____

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, 2014 to be eligible.

THANK YOU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear Friends of FWF,

We are continuing to work hard to secure the passage of Amendment 1 in November. Amendment 1 will help secure the conservation of water and land and vital fish and wildlife habitat across Florida for many years, and will be a boon to sustainable outdoor recreation like fishing, hunting and enjoying the wonderful natural environment of Florida. Your support of this and the Federation's other conservation priorities is critical. Thank You!!!

We had a wonderful Annual Conservation Awards program in Naples in June. Please see the photos and articles about the great Floridians we were privileged to honor at our annual awards banquet. These people are great role models for conservation of Florida's critical natural resources!

My mother, Catherine Fuller, recently passed away. My family and I greatly appreciate the kind words and memorials sent in her name to Florida Wildlife Federation. My mother was a strong supporter and contributor to Florida Wildlife Federation.

I wanted to highlight the excellent remarks made by FWF director and former Congressman Tom Evans at a recent meeting of the House Natural Resources Committee in Washington, DC concerning the need to protect and, in the future, expand the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA). He very ably pointed out that we oppose efforts to cut out Florida units in the Panhandle from the Coastal Barrier Resources System as proposed by Congressman Steve Southerland of Panama City. I submitted written testimony on this from FWF to the committee to augment what Tom

had to say.

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act was bipartisan common sense conservation and fiscal responsibility championed by Republicans including President Reagan and Democrats including Tip O'Neal. When it passed in 1982, it was a monumental triumph of sound coastal policy led by none other than our very own Tom Evans, the same gentleman defending it today. The Federation is working to educate the public regarding the many benefits of CBRA and to expand its concepts to other areas of federal government policy where we can save taxpayer dollars, reduce risk and at the same time conserve natural resources. This fits in perfectly with the recent coastal policy resolution FWF submitted and other state affiliates adopted at the May National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting.

Currently, a proposal is under consideration by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to decide whether or not to downlist the Florida manatee from "federally endangered" to "federally threatened" status. Manatee survey counts have increased significantly from earlier counts but at the same time we also have had record manatee losses from the interplay of water quality and diseases as well as boat collisions, cold snaps and other sources of mortality. To learn more about this issue please go to the USFWS website where their evaluation process is explained and where they are seeking biological and technical information on manatee status. Visit www.usfws.gov. I have also included a recent paper on manatee status review prepared by Nova University Graduate students Danielle Sattelberger and Aarin-Conrad Allen. (Please see article attached.) From what we can tell, the speed zones around the state designed to reduce threats to manatees will remain in place for the foreseeable future whether manatees are classified as federally threatened or endangered. The Marine Mammal Protection Act regulations also apply.

FWF is allied closely with the National Wildlife Federation in seeking proper use of Gulf RESTORE Act funding to promote ecological restoration and integrity along the Gulf Coast. This will also benefit fishing, hunting and enjoying the natural resources of the Gulf Coast. We are also working in favor of conservation policies and rules which benefit marine forage fish populations and those species that depend on them. We continue to work on behalf of Everglades restoration which will benefit fish and wildlife and outdoor recreation

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FWF Scholarship Update

August 2014

Generous Gift from Dr. David LaHart puts FWF Scholarship Fund over the top!

Dear FWF Members,

In May, FWF was delighted to learn that Dr. David LaHart of Panacea made a donation of \$15,000 to the FWF Scholarship Fund at the University of Florida Foundation. This outstanding gift from David put the FWF Scholarship Fund over its goal of \$100,000. "I am now retired and as I look over my career and experiences, I am very grateful for the timely fellowships I received when I needed it. I hope this donation enables other students to successfully complete their studies and contribute to the greater understanding of Florida's environment," said Dr. LaHart in his letter to the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (WEC).



Dr. David LaHart

Dr. LaHart was the Director of the Florida State University Energy and Environmental Alliance from 1992 until his retirement in 2006. He was named Florida's Outstanding Science Educator in 1989 and the Florida Marine Science Educator of the year in 1999. He donated his photographic collection of 2500 color slides to the State Archives of Florida in Tallahassee. The collection consists of color slides of Florida wildlife, vegetation, ecology and environmental issues, covering more than three decades documenting Florida's natural beauty and wildlife.

FWF's Scholarship Fund was established in 2005 by Tim and Dianne O'Brien, who recognized the importance of assisting students who are studying for careers involving fish and wildlife. The UF Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department is the only department of its kind in the state university system solely dedicated to fish and wildlife biology and the study of best management practices for Florida's fish and wildlife resources.

Reaching the \$100,000 mark means that the FWF Scholarship Fund is now eligible for matching funds from the state, should such funds become available. Over the past decade, many people provided gifts for the FWF Scholarship Fund. Some of the donations were received at FWF headquarters and forwarded to the UF Foundation. Others sent donations directly to the UF Foundation for the Fund. We are grateful to everyone who helped the FWF Scholarship Fund reach this goal. To assure its continuation for the long term, donations are still being requested for this Fund. Once a year, FWF Fund scholarships continue to be awarded based upon merit to students in the UF WEC who apply and are selected by a special committee.

Thanks to all who helped with this effort!

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



Hendry County Adopts King Ranch Sector Plan

In June, the Hendry County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the King Ranch Southwest Hendry County Sector Plan. The Sector Plan covers 23,500 acres and includes two strategic regional wildlife habitat connections.

The Sector Plan's Western Planning Area will restore and permanently protect a significant portion of a habitat link between the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) conservation lands in Collier County and the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest in central Hendry County. The Western Planning Area will use a combination of wildlife-compatible land uses including conservation to restore and enhance the

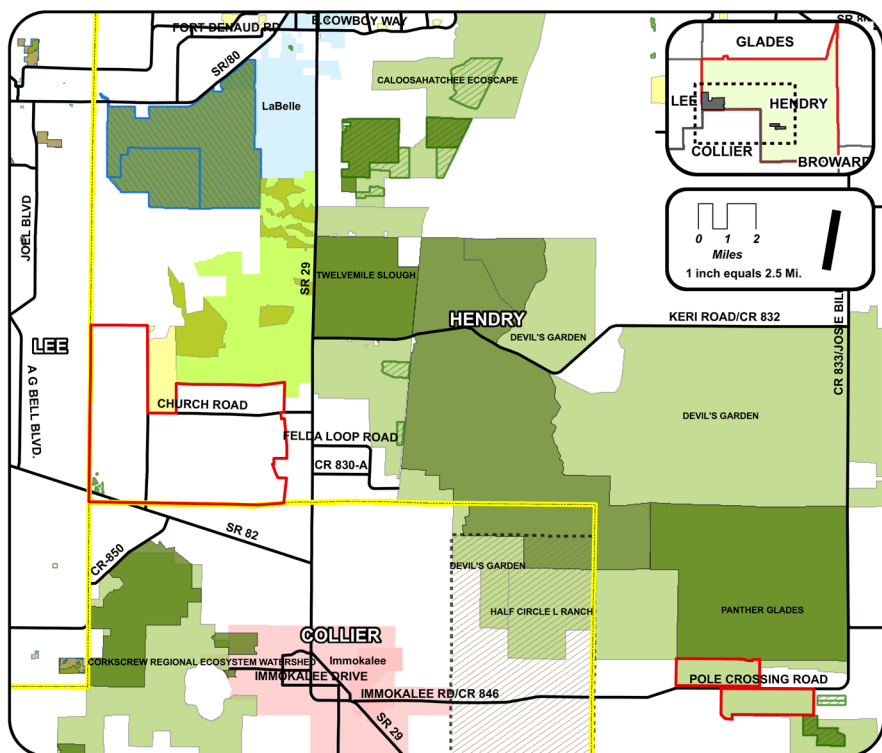
habitat link.

King Ranch is cooperating with the Federation, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assure a wildlife crossing will be built under SR 82. SR 82 crosses the King Ranch property.

The Eastern Planning Area is within the Panther Glades Florida Forever land acquisition project and straddles CR 846. This segment of CR 846 has been identified by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as the third deadliest stretch of highway for Florida panthers. Through the Sector Plan, the land on either side of the road and within the Panther Glades project will forever be in wildlife compatible land uses. This land use designation will also help secure a wildlife underpass.

The below map shows the Sector Plan in the regional context of conservation and agricultural preserve lands. The lands covered by the Sector Plan are outlined in red.

The Federation worked with Mitch Hutchcraft, Vice President of King Ranch, to optimize the protection of wildlife habitat and to secure the habitat links. Speaking before the Hendry County Board of Commissioners in support of the Sector Plan, the Federation outlined the plan's many benefits to Florida panthers and other native wildlife.



Map E4 Regional Context Public Land, Acquisition Areas and ACSC

August 6, 2013

- Legend**
- Sector Plan Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - C-43 Basin (SFWMD)
 - Hendry County Public Lands
 - Hendry Conservation Easements
 - Area of Critical State Concern (DEO)
 - Publicly Owned Land (06)
 - Florida Forever Projects (11)
 - Lee Public Lands
 - Conservation Lands Upland
 - Conservation Lands Wetland
 - Public Facilities
 - Rodina (Proposed Long Term Ag.)
 - Rodina (Proposed Conservation Areas)
 - Immokalee, Florida
 - LaBelle

Supporting Information:

Data on Publicly Owned Land and the Florida Forever Acquisition Program can be obtained from the Florida DEP website. Details about the Critical State Concern Program can be obtained from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Website. Data on Hendry County Conservation Areas was provided by Hendry County.

The Eastern Planning Area of the SWHSP is wholly contained within the Florida Forever "Panther Glades Project", which has been identified for potential acquisition, subject to State funding.

SW Hendry Sector Plan

3602 Colonial Court, Fort Myers, Florida 33913

Note: This exhibit was prepared utilizing numerous data sources, including public and private Geographic Data Libraries, and is the property of King Ranch/CCLP. This exhibit is intended for general information only, and is subject to change resulting from stakeholder input prior to adoption by Hendry County and DEO. Any use or distribution of this exhibit without prior, written authorization of King Ranch/CCLP is prohibited.

Panther Posse Honors Franklin Adams

"Mrs. Ricky" Pires presented Federation Board member Franklin Adams with a photo of Florida panther kitten Yuma. The gift was in recognition of Mr. Adam's ongoing support and contributions to Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) Wings of Hope Panther Posse program.

Yuma, apparently abandoned by his mother, was near death when rescued in January 2014 by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologists. He was estimated to be a week-old and his eyes were still closed.

After receiving excellent care at Animal Specialty Hospital of Naples and Lowry Park Zoo, Yuma found a permanent home at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park. Due to human intervention to save his life, Yuma is human-imprinted and cannot be returned to the wild. To see photos and learn more about Yuma, go to http://www.friendshswp.org/baby_panther.html.

The Florida Panther Posse program, developed and overseen by "Mrs. Ricky," is an integral part of the environmental humanities curriculum at FGCU. Through the Florida Panther Posse, elementary students in Collier and Lee counties develop reading, writing, science, geography,

math, and research skills while working through "challenges" focused on Florida panther life history information and water conservation issues. The program reaches over 450 university students and 4,000 elementary students yearly. Additionally, elementary students are encouraged to educate at least two other people about Florida panthers and their habitat, thus spreading awareness to an additional 8,000 people per year.

Through member donations and foundation grants, the Federation has purchased field cameras, educational materials, and scientific equipment for the Florida Panther Posse. For many years, the Federation has provided funding for buses to allow Florida Panther Posse members to hike the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed conservation lands and experience nature firsthand along with their FGCU mentors.



Federation Board member Franklin Adams accepts a photo of panther kitten Yuma from "Mrs. Ricky," director of FGCU's Florida Panther Posse Program.

Ooops!

A bear using the SR 29 underpass stops and quickly turns around....why? See third photo. Another bear is approaching from the other direction!



Photos are courtesy of FGCU Panther Posse Program. Camera donated by Florida Wildlife Federation.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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



ter to listed species such as the Florida black bear and the gopher tortoise. The mature hardwood swamp is still old Florida with very large water oaks, hickory, cypress, swamp chestnut oak and ash trees.

In parts of the conservation area, the public can hunt turkey, wild hog and deer (with a permit), take a nature hike or ride a bike. In 2025, when Rayonier's timber lease is up, more recreational opportunities will be available.

In March 2000, when the property was acquired under the Bush administration, the following was stated as a critical reason to conserve the property: "This project is also very important from a growth management standpoint. At least five existing Developments of Regional Impact are located nearby. All of this development has placed a tremendous amount of pressure on Duval and St. Johns counties to plan for the needed infrastructure. Preservation of lands within the 12 Mile Swamp CARL project will create a large greenspace of public ownership that will assist in growth management goals and provide public recreation..."

Fortunately, with leadership from the St. Johns County Commission, the road was removed permanently from the plan and will not be analyzed any further. The community and our elected officials worked together to protect our conservation lands from this unnecessary and damaging project.

Another Threat to Conservation Lands

The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is currently conducting its five year update to the regions' long-range transportation plan. The plan incorporates a "wish list" of all the projects from the local governments and partner agencies.

Unfortunately, an alarming project made it into the plan – a new road cutting through the 21,000 acre twelve Mile Swamp Conservation Area in St. Johns County. This road would run west from US 1, near the airport, cross 9 Mile Road (International Golf Parkway) and go north till it connects to I95 near the future Outerbeltway. FWF, along with its conservation partners and community leaders, rallied together to stop this misguided project.

Twelve Mile Swamp is a critical tract of land in public ownership. It is the headwaters to four creeks that drain into the St. Johns River and two creeks that drain into the Matanzas River helping to prevent further water quality degradation. The swamp land also provides valuable flood protection for those living in the area and downstream. It is also an outstanding native landscape with quality wildlife habitat giving shel-



Zoomed in image of road proposed through the 12 Mile Swamp Conservation Area.

PRESIDENT from page 3

across southern and south central Florida.

Thank you for your continued support of FWF. Please visit us at www.fwfonline.org and encourage your friends and family to support Amendment 1. It is good for the Florida we all love and enjoy.

Manley

Manatees: Endangered or not being endangered?

By Danielle Sattelberger -1 & Aarin Conrad Allen -1,2

Manatees are now facing a new threat: lawsuits. Recently, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that it would review the endangered status of the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and its subspecies, the Florida and Antillean manatee, and consider recommendations to reclassify their federally "endangered" status to "threatened". On December 14, 2012, the USFWS received a petition requesting that the West Indian manatee and its subspecies be reclassified from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The petition was submitted by the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), on behalf of Save Crystal River, Inc., following an analysis of the USFWS's 2007 West Indian Manatee Five-Year Review which recommended reclassification. As part of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, endangered species statuses are reviewed every five years by the USFWS through deliberation of subsequent research, population trends, and mortalities. The last review, completed in 2007, suggested reclassification of manatees if certain goals were met on their road to recovery. In order to investigate the possibility of reclassifying manatees more entirely, USFWS is completing the next five year review in addition to the request from the petition. To ensure a review based on the best scientific and commercial information available is completed, several parameters will be taken into consideration, including but not limited to, species biology, habitat conditions, past and ongoing conservation measures, and future threats to the manatee population. The debate over reclassifying the manatee as threatened from its current endangered status has generated conflicting opinions among residents of Florida. Those in favor of the downlisting argue that manatee population numbers exceed those that require the federally stipulated criteria for endangered status. In 2010, synoptic surveys estimated a minimum population of 5,067 animals, a number which may suggest that this species is no longer truly in danger of extinction. Furthermore, a peak

number of 654 manatees was recorded in Citrus County during a 2012 winter survey. However, manatee advocates dispute that though population numbers appear to be increasing in some areas, our technique to count them has also improved. Population trends in the 1990's were in the 1,000's and are now just shy of 5,000. This does not signify that there has been an increase of 4,000 animals in the population in this short period of time. Our knowledge of this species has greatly expanded within the last few decades, allowing biologists to improve on the methods used to study manatees and their habitat. Unfortunately, manatees face the same threats today as they did when initially placed on the endangered species list (e.g., vessel strikes and habitat loss). Naturally occurring phenomena have had a tremendous impact on manatees recently as well, including the 2013 red tide event which contributed to 830 mortalities, and the cold weather events during the 2010 winter months causing 766 manatee deaths. Natural impacts are beyond human control, thus, managing human-related deaths is critical to sustain current population numbers. With increasing and ongoing concerns over threats from red tide, global warming, poor water quality, loss of foraging grounds, increased boating activity and a growing economy, manatees are faced with an uncertain future. What this implies in conjunction with the possible change in federal listing is unclear.

Regardless of the decision to reclassify the manatee's status on a federal level, the West Indian manatee remains protected through the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as well as through Florida state laws. Over the years, the enforcement of slow speed zones has seen positive results in regards to averting manatee mortality from collisions with watercraft. Further protections from the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act establish sanctuaries and refuges for manatees and makes it unlawful for any person to disturb or attempt to molest, harass, injure or anyway harm a manatee in State waters. While the downlisting may not have an immediate large-scale impact, it may mislead people to believe that manatee recovery is obsolete or that manatees no longer require protection. This may entice debate over other current laws in place and may hinder the progress of the recovery of this vulnerable species.

Editors Note: For further information on USFWS's manatee status review go to <http://www.fws.gov/northflorida/Manatee/manatees.htm>.

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Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation
& General Counsel

TAKE ACTION - Critical Conser- vation Incentive – Support HR 4719

A bill to make permanent an income tax incentive for conserving environmentally sensitive areas, H.R. 2807, the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, has been passed by the United States House of Representatives as part of **HR 4719, the America Gives More Act**. HR 2807 has 222 co-sponsors from both parties, and the provisions of this simple yet critically important legislation has support from all sides of the political debate.

The incentive program allows private landowners who voluntarily and permanently protect their lands to receive a significant deduction on their federal income taxes. As the market value for non-buildable property is diminished, it

is only fair that the landowner receive a benefit for helping the community by providing open space, water protection and wildlife habitat. To date, the incentive has enabled private landowners to conserve a million acres per year across the nation since 2006. Unfortunately, the incentive expired at the beginning of 2014.

Introduced last year by Congressmen Jim Gerlach (R-Pennsylvania) and Mike Thompson (D-California), HR 2807 makes permanent the enhanced tax incentives to help preserve farms, ranches and forests via perpetual easements. Many landowners work in partnership with nonprofit conservation land trusts. Land trusts have now conserved more than 47 million acres in the United States, and over 500,000 acres in Florida are protected by perpetual conservation easements.

Conservation easements set aside land at a fraction of what it would cost for the government to purchase and manage the land, and the land remains on the tax rolls. Moreover, the cost of working with private landowners to maintain these easements is generally born by nonprofit land trusts rather than the government.

As Rand Wentworth, President of the Land Trust Alliance, stated, "Conservation easements are a voluntary, market-based solution to ensure healthy food, clean waters and sustainable communities for all Americans. If conservation is going to be permanent, then the law that provides this important tax incentive should be as well."

Florida Wildlife Federation, as well as sixty-five national organizations from across the political spectrum, including The Nature Conservancy, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National

Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited, American Farm Bureau Federation, Environmental Defense Fund and National Audubon Society, all support HR 2807. We now support HR 4719.

HR 2807 was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee on May 29, 2014 and, following

amendment into HR 4719, was passed by the full House by a vote of 277-130 on July 24, 2014. Our goal now is to have the United States Senate vote to approve HR 4719.

Please contact your US Senator and ask them to support HR 4719!
Thank you!

Florida US Senators:

Bill Nelson, 716 Hart SOB, Washington, DC 20510, ph. 202 224-5274

Marco Rubio, 284 Russell SOB, Washington, DC, 20510, ph. 202 224-3041

For future reference, please note the following contacts for the Florida delegation of the United States House of Representatives:

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3	Yoho, Ted	511 CHOB	202-225-5744
4	Crenshaw, Ander	440 CHOB	202-225-2501
5	Brown, Corrine	2111 RHOB	202-225-0123
6	DeSantis, Ron	427 CHOB	202-225-2706
7	Mica, John	2187 RHOB	202-225-4035
8	Posey, Bill	120 CHOB	202-225-3671
9	Grayson, Alan	430 CHOB	202-225-9889
10	Webster, Daniel	1039 LHOB	202-225-2176
11	Nugent, Richard	1727 LHOB	202-225-1002
12	Bilirakis, Gus M.	2313 RHOB	202-225-5755
13	Jolly, David	2407 RHOB	202-225-5961
14	Castor, Kathy	205 CHOB	202-225-3376
15	Ross, Dennis	229 CHOB	202-225-1252
16	Buchanan, Vern	2104 RHOB	202-225-5015
17	Rooney, Tom	221 CHOB	202-225-5792
18	Murphy, Patrick	1517 LHOB	202-225-3026
19	Vacant		
20	Hastings, Alcee L.	2353 RHOB	202-225-1313
21	Deutch, Ted	1024 LHOB	202-225-3001
22	Frankel, Lois	1037 LHOB	202-225-9890
23	Wasserman Schultz, Debbie	118 CHOB	202-225-7931
24	Wilson, Frederica	208 CHOB	202-225-4506
25	Diaz-Balart, Mario	436 CHOB	202-225-4211
26	Garcia, Joe	1440 LHOB	202-225-2778
27	Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana	2206 RHOB	202-225-3931

*Note: to mail letters, use the room number and add US House, Washington DC 20515

CHAIR from page 2

can be done for today's youth who will be in charge of our world tomorrow. With private/public partnerships, a few employees and a lot of VOLUNTEERS like you and me, we can provide opportunities for children to learn responsibility, ethical use of our natural resources and have a lot of fun in the process. Wholesome, healthy outdoor activities could also be one of the answers to childhood obesity.

I hope you will take advantage of the more than 100 opportunities in Florida to work with the youth of our state and really make a difference (www.fycen.org). Many thanks

to Beau Turner for making a dream a reality.

Jenny Bach



Photos by Lou and Betsy
Kellenberger

IDEAS For Us at FWF Annual Awards

Leaders and members of IDEAS For Us, a group advancing sustainability and environmental awareness through campus and community action, joined FWF at our Annual Awards Banquet and activities. IDEAS members joined in meetings with the FWF board, as well as conducted their own business.



FWF PARTNERS PROGRAM

The Florida Wildlife Federation announces a new and exciting dimension to its fundraising program — FWF PARTNERS!

Wildlife Steward

Keith Overton
Jim Thomas
Matt Kenyon

Friend of Wildlife

Samantha Baraoidan

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

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

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

FWF PARTNERS

<i>Conservation Visionary</i>	\$25,000
<i>Conservation Hero</i>	\$10,000
<i>Conservation Champion</i>	\$5,000
<i>Wildlife Sustainer</i>	\$2,500
<i>Wildlife Advocate</i>	\$1,000
<i>Wildlife Steward</i>	\$500
<i>Friend of Wildlife</i>	\$100

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

New Eagle Club Members:

Jim Thomas, Winter Garden

Richard Abbott, Tallahassee

New Life Members:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul F. Ebersbach, Avon Park

Robert G. Pozger, Naples

Dr. Robert Jackson, Lakeland

Diane Hines, Tallahassee

Thank you for your generous support!

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



**Florida Wildlife
Federation "FWF"**



We welcome you!

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

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

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

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

Florida Wildlife Federation
PO Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314
or

Join or Donate online at:
www.fwfonline.org

Enclosed is my payment for \$_____

Please charge my payment to:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

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Email _____ Phone _____

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

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

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David White
Director, Gulf
of Mexico
Restoration
Campaign.
National
Wildlife
Federation.

Legacy of the Gulf Oil Spill

It is said that behind every crisis is an opportunity. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill was a tragedy that took the lives of eleven men, significantly disrupted the economy of the Gulf States, and enormously damaged fish, wildlife, and natural ecosystems of the Gulf Coast.

Various legal processes are underway to hold BP responsible for the economic and ecological damages it caused. The Natural Resource Damage Assessment process is currently evaluating ecological impacts from the spill, and will require the company to pay full restitution for all environmental damages. This is just the cost of business for these multinational energy corporations who reap huge profits from drilling in ever-deeper and more dangerous waters.

The RESTORE Act, passed by Congress and signed into law with the support of sportsmen, anglers and conservationists around the country, sends 80% of all civil fines for illegal discharge of oil under the Clean Water Act back to the Gulf Coast region for ecological and economic restoration. Without the RESTORE Act, these funds – which could be as much as \$17 billion – would otherwise go into the US Treasury. Consequently, RESTORE Act funds constitute somewhat of a windfall to the Gulf States, since they are not necessarily intended to compensate for damages caused by the oil disaster.

It is now time for Florida's anglers, sportsmen and conservationists to rally and engage in the various processes going on in Gulf Coastal Counties to determine how the RESTORE funds will be spent. We believe it is fitting, fair and just to use the majority of BP's civil fines and penalties to fund ecosystem-scale solutions necessary to address ecological damage to the Gulf Coast caused by decades of degradation, neglect, and abuse. As you might imagine, however, there is tremendous pressure at the state and local level to divert those funds away from ecological restoration projects into primarily economic devel-

opment activities. It will take a concerted effort from all of us that care about healthy fish and wildlife populations to ensure that there is an appropriate balance between ecosystem restoration and economic development, and to advocate for restoration projects that will benefit the ecology and resiliency of coastal communities while also creating jobs and stimulating the regional economy.

The RESTORE Act passed with strong bipartisan support because Congress recognized the Gulf of Mexico is an American treasure worth saving. The crisis that was the oil spill became an opportunity to address a half-century's worth of ecological degradation. Our coastal ecosystems are disappearing at an alarming rate, many of our fisheries are reduced to a mere vestige of what they once were, and our coastal communities are increasingly vulnerable to rising sea levels and coastal flooding from more frequent and powerful storms.

The RESTORE Act is an historic opportunity to address, in a truly meaningful way, the long-term degradation of the Gulf by rebuilding marshes, restoring water quality and the ecological integrity of our estuaries, reversing erosion of barrier islands and coastal habitats, and protecting our investments in our coastal way of life. It's also our best chance to restore our fishing and seafood tradition by protecting and improving essential fish habitats to produce more fish for the future. Our challenge now is to find the most effective way to direct funds to correct major environmental problems in the Gulf, in a way that promotes economic and environmental resiliency for coastal communities.

Tourism plays a vital role in our state, and Florida's 23 Gulf coastal counties support more than 16,000 tourism businesses, providing more than 281,000 jobs. Florida's tourism industry is largely driven by clean waters and beautiful beaches, making productive coastal ecosystems and habitats economic engines that help drive our economy. Fishing, hunting and wildlife watching are important economic drivers in Florida, drawing over 7 million participants annually, and generating over \$8 billion in revenue. This industry consists not only of guides who directly serve visitors, but also lodging and dining establishments where visitors eat and sleep. Wildlife tourism depends on healthy ecosystems, Florida's "natural capital."

We should insist that our government leaders implement a robust, transparent and broad-based public participation process where projects and activities that will both stimulate the coastal econ-

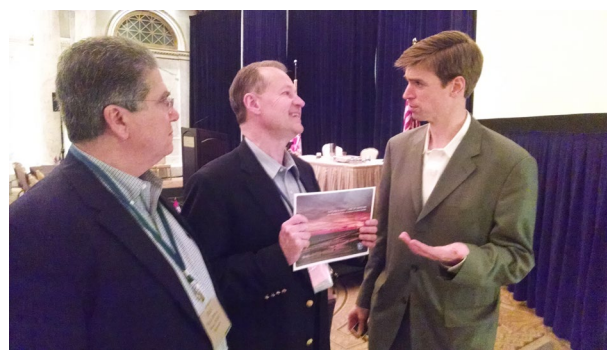
omy and contribute to the recovery and restoration of coastal resources can be fully and fairly understood, discussed, and compared. Ultimately, projects that have the greatest long-term benefits for coastal communities can then be widely supported by the public and implemented as quickly as possible.

If we use this money to restore coastal habitats, improve water quality, and increase coastal resiliency we will create new jobs and reduce flood risks, improve tourism opportunities, and help achieve economic and ecological stability over the long term.

In short, we can either make sound

investments that will make a lasting difference to our future prosperity, or we can squander this opportunity. Despite its title and fairly explicit intention, the RESTORE Act leaves plenty of wiggle room for non-restoration expenditures. Florida's leaders could easily spend these funds on the very kinds of infrastructure and development that have left the coast in its current degraded state. We the People must let our elected officials know we want the legacy of this tragic event to be a healthy, resilient Florida Gulf Coast that will support our communities and our economy for generations to come.

Collin O'Mara Named National Wildlife Federation's New President and CEO



Rick Abbott and Manley Fuller presenting a copy of FWF's *Nature's First Line of Defense* report to Collin O'Mara, the new President and CEO of NWF. Photo by Richard Mode, North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

The NWF Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Collin O'Mara as the next president and chief executive officer of National Wildlife Federation effective July 7, 2014. O'Mara currently serves as Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, where for the past five years he has led the state's efforts to restore wildlife and fishery habitat, improve air quality and public

health, ensure access to clean water, expand outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities, and enhance the state's resilience to extreme weather and other climate impacts.

"Collin is a tireless leader with a deep understanding of conservation issues and a strong, entrepreneurial spirit," says Deborah Spalding, Chair of the NWF Board of Directors. "His track record in implementing innovative solutions to conservation challenges and his experience in managing large, complex organizations with a diverse stakeholder base are key skills that will be critical in taking the Federation forward in the coming years."

Confronting this generation's pressing conservation challenges "will require that Americans from every corner of our nation and every walk of life work together community by community and state by state to drive change at the national and international level," O'Mara said.

Arthur R. Marshall National Wildlife Refuge Marsh Photography Project



"Florida softshell turtle" by Charles O. Slavens.

Visit <http://www.fwfonline.org/blog> for more pictures and video.

Wild animals are exactly that... wild. Respect their wildness!

By Pat Pearson
FWF Habitat Coordinator

You know, as I do, that as much as we don't want to think about it, coyotes, rattlesnakes and alligators are Florida wildlife just as much as beautiful birds and butterflies and bunnies and those adorable bandit-masked raccoons. We love to see the pretty or cute ones in our habitats...but some of us would rather not have to deal with the other kind close-up.

What's to be done about all that? It's too late to design the natural world, isn't it? That's already been done, and though I wouldn't mind if mosquitoes were eliminated entirely, I wouldn't want the responsibility of a re-design. I'd probably forget to include somebody's favorite critter. The design has already been done, and done magnificently, and it is beautiful and works well. Mostly, it seems that human interference just messes things up.

However, most people who do think about those things do know that it's important to try to replace some of the dwindling wildlife habitat for Florida critters that we've taken away with our buildings and roads and shopping centers. With the continuing development in Florida, the problem will only get worse. That's the idea behind creation of **backyard wildlife habitats**. With

backyard habitats, we also have the bonus of enjoying the beauty of the creatures that are attracted to and use them.

So, what's the best thing to do about this somewhat complex problem? Surely, the best thing is to educate ourselves. In order to help stressed wildlife and do no harm to ourselves, the animals or to the environment, we need to know how to do this right. For starters, we shouldn't leave pet food outdoors, especially overnight. We should secure garbage cans and put bird feeders higher above the ground and on metal cables if you live where bears are!

Florida is a large and diverse state. Different wildlife is prevalent in different areas. The good news is that we only need to know about our own area to do it right. If you live in bear country or in alligator country, you need to know what might attract them, or repel them if you don't want them. Then do it. Be aware of state and local regulations regarding the feeding of wild animals. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website is a good source of much of this information as are any of their local offices. The Florida Extension offices will be helpful as well. There is a great deal of reading material available to anyone from their own local library. After all, humans are smarter than the average bear, aren't they?

There are important lessons for all of us to be learned in all this, including those who maintain wildlife habitats, certified or not, as well as for people who just love nature and wild things. We could start with this thought: **"Wild animals are exactly that...wild. Respect their wildness."**

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for their generous monetary and In-Kind gifts to assist with the 77th Annual Meeting and Silent Auction.

Private Equity Group, LLC,
Donald R. Schrotenboer, President
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Walt Disney World Community
Relations (Lake Buena Vista)

Bok Tower Gardens (Lakes Wales)

Brian Call (Palmetto Bay)

Busch Gardens (Tampa)

Captain Ned Stone (Fort Lauderdale)

Elam Stoltzfus, Live Oak Production Group
(Blountstown)

Guy Harvey, Inc. (Davie)

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(Tallahassee)

Lion Country Safari (Loxahatchee)

Miguel A. Leyva (Miami)

The Museum of Science & Industry
(Tampa)

Naples Princess Sightseeing Cruises
(Naples)

Native Nurseries (Tallahassee)

Norman Love Confections, Inc.
(Naples)

North Florida Botanical Society
(Gainesville)

Paul Schulz (Winter Haven)

Peter R. Gerbert (Ridge Manor)

Santa Fe Canoe Outpost (High Springs)

Stanley H. Boynton (Naples)

Steve and Jerilyn O'Hara (Jacksonville)

TradeWinds Island Grand Resort,

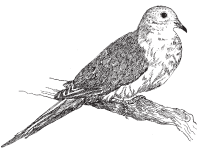
Keith Overton, President (St. Pete Beach)

Virginia Brock (Crawfordville)

IN
MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in
memory of:

Catherine Gordon Crowell Fuller



by Diane Hines

by Claudia Farren

by Tom Evans

by Mary Page Evans

by Martha Musgrove

by National Wildlife Federation

by Linda Levitt & Family

by Nancy Payton

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by Claudia Farren

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by Nancy Payton

by Diane Hines

by Tom Evans

by Steve & Jeri O'Hara

by Rick & Laurie Abbott

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by Mr. & Mrs. John Kori, III

by Emily Shirley

Betsy Radebaugh Knight

by Annette C. Cowart

Brenda

by Jack Sewell

Jack

by Teresa Rowell and family



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 77th 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 77th Annual FWF Conservation Awards Banquet was held on June 21st at the Naples Hilton.

Photography by Lou and Betsy Kellenberger

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Elam Stoltzfus



still exists, Mr. Stoltzfus and his team seek to focus on protecting critical habitat linkages to ensure long term viability for native wildlife.

Having won multiple awards for his work, including many Tally awards, and even an Emmy, Mr. Stoltzfus has long been recognized by his colleagues as a leader in his profession.

With over 20 years of work to his credit, Mr. Stoltzfus has produced pieces on many topics.

These include the Big Cypress National Preserve; the Kissimmee Basin; the Loxahatchee River; Aquatic Preserves of Florida; the coastal dune lakes in the Panhandle; the Apalachicola River above and below the surface; the *Florida Beauty in Nature* series; and the *America the Beautiful* series with Clyde Butcher.

The Federation was proud to name Elam Stoltzfus as Conservationist of the Year for 2014.

Cinematographer Elam Stoltzfus was recognized for his commitment to environmental education and conservation.

In 2013, Mr. Stoltzfus served as producer, cinematographer, and host for the *Florida Wildlife Expedition: Everglades to Okefenokee*. This documentary records in detail the journey of kayakers travelling from South Florida's Everglades to Florida's northern border. By showing that the state's natural heart

The FWC Panther Team conducts field studies, management programs, and public outreach in an effective effort to save this highly endangered species. In the early 1990s the population was estimated at 20-30 inbred and unhealthy animals. Today, due to efforts led by the FWC Panther Team, the breeding population is estimated at a growing population of 160 healthy animals.

Marc Criffield is the Panther Capture Team Leader. He works closely with other research and management biologists on the panther conservation team to conduct field-work, analyze data, and summarize the results for publication.

Mark Lotz has performed over 200 captures of Florida panthers and has examined more than 300 neonatal Florida panthers at den sites. Mark has had

more close encounters with living panthers than most humans.

Dr. Dave Onorato is associated with FWC's Research Institute and is responsible for developing, initiating, and publishing projects that will assist in the conservation and management of Florida panthers. He has published over two dozen peer-reviewed articles on Florida panthers, black bears, and snow leopards.

In recognition of their tremendous efforts to recover the endangered Florida panther through scientific study, management and public education, the Federation was proud to name FWC panther biologists Marc Criffield, Mark Lotz and Dr. Dave Onorato as the Wildlife Conservationists of the Year for 2014.

FOREST CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Mike Owen



As the largest concentration of wild orchids in North America, Fakahatchee is unique. The ghost orchid exists in this beautiful place, along with other orchids whose seeds originally blew in from across the seas.

Mr. Owen is working to bring back orchids long gone from the park due to exploitation and illegal harvesting. He traveled to Cuba to locate orchids with the goal of restoring them to the Park.

Concerned about the continuing loss of Fakahatchee's Giant bromeliad air plants, due to the Mexican Bromeliad weevil infestation, Mr. Owen organized a "rescue" to remove remaining known Giant bromeliads from their host trees. These specimens are now in the safe care of botanical gardens where they will remain until ready to flower and produce reproductive seed capsules. They will then be returned to their host trees in the Fakahatchee to produce another generation.

For his deep love of nature and tireless efforts on behalf of this very special place, the Federation was delighted to name Mike Owen as the Forest Conservationist of the Year for 2014.

Biologist Mike Owen was recognized for his commitment to the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and its wildlife.

Totaling 85,000 acres in Collier County, Fakahatchee is the largest unit in the Florida State parks system and consists of a linear swamp. It is called the "Amazon of North America."

Fakahatchee is an Eden of native flora and fauna, but the real draw is the plants.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR

Dave Onorato, Ph.D., Mark Lotz and Marc Criffield
FWC Panther Team



Panther Team experts on the Florida panther, were recognized for their impressive achievements in bringing back the Florida panther from the brink of extinction.

Historically, the Florida panther, *Puma concolor coryi*, ranged widely across the Southeastern United States from the Mississippi River to the Florida Keys. Due to a variety of factors including habitat

loss and persecution, the breeding population is now found only in South Florida.

Marc Criffield, Mark Lotz, and Dr. Dave Onorato, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

LAND CONSERVATION & PLANNING AWARD

Daniel J. Smith, Ph.D.



environmental planning. His primary focus is studying movement patterns and habitat use of terrestrial vertebrates; and integrating conservation, transportation, and land-use planning.

As the lead author of the 2006 Eastern Collier Wildlife Movement Study, funded in part by the Florida Wildlife Federation, Dr. Smith developed an invaluable guide for habitat connectivity, land use, and transportation planning in eastern Collier County. The study is relied upon by Collier County, the Florida Department of Transportation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Since its publication, four wildlife crossings have been built under road segments identified by Dr. Smith as needing underpasses.

His assessment of the Cumulative Effects Evaluation Study for the proposed I-75/Alligator Alley interchange at Everglades Boulevard exposed many of the study's shortcomings. Dr. Smith's detailed professional analysis was instrumental in the proposed interchange being rejected by the Federal Highway Administration.

For his outstanding efforts on behalf of Florida's wildlife in the face of ongoing development pressures, the Federation was pleased to award Dr. Dan Smith the Land Conservation and Planning Award for 2014.

Dr. Dan Smith from the University of Central Florida was recognized for his achievements in the field of ecology and transportation planning that have aided the conservation of Florida's wildlife, particularly the endangered Florida panther.

Dr. Dan Smith is a research associate and member of the graduate faculty at the Department of Biology, University of Central Florida. He holds a Ph.D. in wildlife biology from the University of Florida and is a land use planner certified by the American Planning Association's American Institute of Certified Planners.

Dr. Smith has over twenty years' experience in the fields of ecology and en-

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Dana Pounds — Nature's Academy



Nature's Academy Founder Dana Pounds was recognized for her commitment to scientific literacy and environmental knowledge through personal inquiry.

In 2007, Ms. Pounds founded Nature's Academy, a Tampa Bay area nonprofit education organization. Ms. Pounds is a marine biologist by training who has taught and delivered programs for over 20 years. Nature's Academy

education programs have positively impacted over 30,000 participants including visitors from 41 states and four countries.

To counter students' lack of proficiency in science, Nature's Academy launched the Science Literacy Project. It is free to schools and students. By prioritizing local public schools in economically disadvantaged areas, this project provides a curriculum designed to increase environmental stewardship.

Aligning with STEM, Common Core, and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, the program's content includes outdoor investigation and data collection.

Environmental accountability is instilled in students through coastal and school litter cleanups and community awareness initiatives. Students use dip nets to survey seagrass bed biodiversity and collect water quality data on

temperature, salinity, pH, turbidity, nitrate, and dissolved oxygen levels. As citizen scientists, the children contribute toward the long-term monitoring of local estuarine health and teachers can integrate the data into classroom activities. Schools are provided the tools to conduct post-field trip litter cleanups. As they "green" their school, each class records and tracks litter statistics. This initiative continues the experiential learning process and sparks changes in behavior as students actively participate in pollution prevention.

Through Ms. Pounds' leadership,

Nature's Academy has partnered with the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) and the Galveston Bay Foundation (Texas). Additionally, the Academy works with many local and Gulf-wide organizations to spread environmental education far and wide.

For her outstanding commitment to teaching others about the necessity of conservation, and her unstinting dedication to making the world a better place, the Federation was pleased to name Dana Pounds as the Conservation Educator of the Year for 2014.

WATER CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR

Mike Duever, Ph.D., Janet Starnes and Ananta Nath
SFWMD Picayune Restoration Team



Three individuals who pioneered the Picayune Strand Everglades Restoration Project were recognized for their conservation achievements. Janet Starnes, Dr. Mike Duever, and Ananta Nath have devoted their professional careers at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to the acquisition and restoration of Picayune Strand in Collier County.

Formerly part of the now defunct Southern Golden Gate Estates subdivision in Collier County, the Picayune Strand Everglades Restoration Project covers over 55,000 acres. The \$610 million restoration effort involves plugging 48 miles of canals and removing 260 miles of roads. The project lies south of Interstate 75 and north of US 41 with Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park bordering on the east.

Janet Starnes is a Principal Project Manager for the SFWMD and is responsible for overseeing Picayune

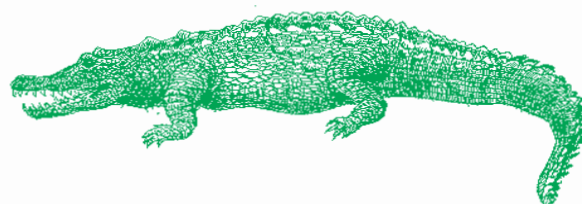
Strand Everglades Restoration Project. She has worked on the Picayune Strand Restoration Project since 2001.

From 2000 to 2011, Dr. Mike Duever was a senior environmental scientist with the SFWMD and the environmental lead for the Picayune Strand Everglades Restoration Project. After leaving

the District, Dr. Duever started his own company, *Natural Ecosystems*, and is currently working on contract to oversee the successful completion of the environmental aspects of Picayune Strand restoration.

Ananta Nath recently retired as Principal Engineer at SFWMD where he held several technical and supervisory positions including Chief Engineer of the Big Cypress Basin. Mr. Nath is the co-author of the 1996 *Southern Golden Gate Estates Conceptual Restoration Plan* and worked on the restoration of Picayune Strand for almost three decades.

For their long-term dedication to a project that will bring back one of the environmental jewels of Florida, the Federation was proud to name Janet Starnes, Ananta Nath, and Dr. Mike Duever as the Water Conservationists of the Year for 2014.



BIFF LAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

Jeff Lytle — *Naples Daily News*



Jeff Lytle, *Naples Daily News*, was recognized for his outstanding contributions to environmental reporting and editorial writing.

The award is given in honor of Burke “Biff” Lampton, former editor of *Florida Sportsman* magazine, who died in 1995. Mr. Lampton was an expert on Everglades issues and a leader in the successful campaign to ban commercial gill nets from Florida’s coastal waters.

Without the ability to clearly articulate and disseminate information about environmental issues, the conservation movement would be weakened. Thankfully there are journalists who under-

stand the need for making the public aware of the ramifications of habitat loss, wildlife endangerment, and destruction of native habitats. Jeff Lytle, the recently retired *Naples Daily News* Editorial Page Editor, is a stellar example of such a journalist.

Importantly, as the editorial page editor, Mr. Lytle has penned many editorials and commentaries supporting conservation and responsible growth management. His television show frequently highlights environmental issues ranging from oil drilling to Everglades restoration. As Florida’s human population continues to grow, Mr. Lytle’s contributions to discussions about sustainability are critical.

Indeed, promoting the necessity of conservation and the enjoyment of nature are a hallmark of Mr. Lytle’s writings. For years he consistently endorsed traditional recreational uses and public access to public lands. As avid cross country hikers, Jeff and his wife Susan have personally seen the natural wonders that still exist in our nation and understand the need for them to be protected now and forever.

The Federation was pleased to name Jeff Lytle as the Biff Lampton Conservation Communicator of the Year for 2014.

of investigation.

Water quality is a core mission of the SCCF. The River, Estuary and Coastal Observing Network (RECON) tracks changes in water quality and includes a real-time monitoring system that uses biogeochemical sensors deployed at specific fixed locations in the Caloosahatchee River system.

SCCF’s Natural Resource Policy Department advocates for natural resource protection. Its efforts have brought local conservation issues to a broader arena. The Department’s focus on water quality and quantity issues is based on scientific documentation. The unacceptable impacts of dumping nutrient-laden water from the Lake Okeechobee-Everglades Agricultural Area down the Caloosahatchee River to the estuary have



Many members of Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation attended the Banquet.

been well documented by the SCCF. Moreover, the Natural Resource Policy Director, Rae Ann Wessel, effectively collaborates with other environmental groups to share information and advocate for science-based water quality decisions and implementation.

For many reasons, the Florida Wildlife Federation was honored to name the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation as the Conservation Organization of the Year for 2014.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation



The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation was recognized for their achievements in bringing back the Florida panther from the brink of extinction.

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) was selected to receive this award because of its outstanding accomplishments on water quality, land use policy, sea turtle monitoring, and conservation education, among other important issues. SCCF was es-

tablished in 1967 by a group of concerned citizens in Lee County. Its initial goal was acquisition and protection of remaining natural habitat lands on Sanibel Island as development pressures grew. Those involved in establishing SCCF had also been involved in the establishment of the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge on the island. In 1977, the SCCF Nature Center was opened with the goal of educating island-

ers and visitors about the special beauty and fragility of island habitats. A native plant nursery was also established to encourage old and new residents to landscape with native plants in lieu of exotics. In 2002, a marine research program was established in order to base natural resource policies on a strong scientific foundation. Sea turtle research and monitoring and water quality issues are among the research staff’s many areas

FRANCIS S. TAYLOR OUTDOORSMAN OF THE YEAR

Carl Veaux



Camp. He gladly shared his vast knowledge of the natural world with numerous school children - teaching city kids about the “real world.”

As an activist, Mr. Veaux has sought to help nature in the conservation of everything from dolphins, panthers, burrowing owls, and eagles to the ongoing effort to curb global climate change.

Carl Veaux was recognized for efforts and advocacy on behalf of Florida’s natural world.

Mr. Veaux received a Masters in School Administration and was been actively involved in education for over 37 years, spending several years as a school principal. In active military service for three years, he served in the army reserves for 24 more. His tour of duty involved fighting forest fires, floods, and hurricanes. Throughout these years, Mr. Veaux’s passion for nature never waned.

Moving to Cape Coral in 1980, Mr. Veaux continued his environmental and outdoor pursuits. Acting as a range master and fishing instructor at the old Game and Fresh Water Fish Youth

As a member of the Babcock Ranch Preservation Partnership, Mr. Veaux relentlessly pushed for the acquisition of the ranch. Lying contiguous to the Webb Wildlife Management Area in Charlotte County, eventually 73,239 acres of Babcock Ranch were protected. This huge tract, along with other existing conservation lands, affords the opportunity to have interconnected wildlife habitat from Lake Okeechobee almost to the Gulf of Mexico.

Recently, Mr. Veaux became heavily involved as a volunteer with Florida’s Water and Land Legacy Campaign. This statewide effort required hundreds of thousands of Floridians to sign petitions to place the issue of environmental

protection on the November 2014 ballot. A successful vote will change our state constitution and provide a dedicated source of funding for conservation. Incredibly, he collected over 5,000 petitions! His tremendous effort greatly aided in the successful placing of Amend-

ment 1 on the ballot.

For his many years educating others as to the need for conservation, the Federation was pleased to name Carl Veaux as the Francis S. Taylor Outdoorsman of the Year for 2014.

WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Lee Lawshe — FWC



As an Officer, Lee Lawshe routinely assists other officers during their peak activity times and he is seen as someone with leadership qualities. He readily works outside of his area when the need arises, working special details including holiday weekends and with marine patrols. As a man-tracking instructor, he has assisted SWAT teams in training. He has also put his skills to work in successfully locating individuals in dire need of assistance and

in the solving of a murder. In 2013, Officer Lawshe worked on cases involving marine fish violations, illegal take of deer, armed trespass, illegal baiting, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, trespass, possession of an endangered species and many others. By enforcing the wildlife code, he has stopped those who would steal the public's resources and thereby protected the rights of ethical hunters and anglers.

For his outstanding commitment to the people and natural treasures of Florida, the Florida Wildlife Federation is proud to name Officer Lee Lawshe as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2014.

For his outstanding commitment to the people and natural treasures of Florida, the Federation was proud to name Officer Lee Lawshe as Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2014.

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PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Mark Perry — Florida Oceanographic Society

Mark Perry, Executive Director of the Florida Oceanographic Society, was recognized for his commitment to protecting and restoring the Indian River Lagoon.

Growing up on the waters off Florida's Treasure Coast, Mr. Perry spent his youth learning the intricacies and beauty of Florida's offshore marine resources. With Jacques Cousteau as his hero, Mr. Perry has taken his childhood interest and made it his career as Executive Director of the Florida Oceanographic Society. His father, Clifton Perry, was an

original board member of the Society.

Following the study of oceanography and marine sciences, Mr. Perry spent time working on research vessels before returning to Florida in the late 1970s. In 1978, he was hired as the first Executive Director of the Society. A position he still holds. Starting with a two person office, Mark has grown the organization into a model of effective coastal advocacy and education.

Located on Hutchinson Island, the Society's Coastal Center provides hands-on marine conservation educa-

tion to thousands of children from the local area and beyond. With access to both the beleaguered Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie River, students and other visitors can see first-hand the problems created by pollution.

By focusing on what citizens can do, the Society strives to increase public understanding of the natural world and to create advocates for the environment.

Mark also works with effective passion as a champion for Everglades restoration and for the protection of the Indian River Lagoon. For his lifelong commitment to coastal conservation and education, Manley Fuller selected Mark Perry to receive the President's Award for 2014.



FWF CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME TWENTY-SIXTH INDUCTEE

Thomas W. Reese, Esq.



red-cockaded woodpeckers, and other native wildlife. The judge ruled that Collier County must honor the U.S. Endangered Species Act and cannot circumvent public interest provisions through private settlement agreements.

Last year, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's permitting of the

1,575-acre Highlands Ranch Mitigation Bank in Clay County was defeated in a lawsuit by the Federation, represented by Mr. Reese. He skillfully opposed interests who sought to manipulate and undermine Florida's wetlands protection program.

Mr. Reese is a native Floridian and graduated from Stetson Law School. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1980. His St. Pete law office is in the home he built by hand, a skill learned from his father who was a respected contractor.

For his unwavering commitment to natural Florida, the law, and justice in the public's interest, the Federation was extremely proud to name Thomas W. Reese, Esq., as its twenty-sixth inductee into the FWF Conservation Hall of Fame.

Attorney Thomas W. Reese of St. Petersburg became the twenty-sixth inductee into the Florida Wildlife Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame.

As a legal advocate Mr. Reese has represented the Federation in multiple cases over twenty years involving land use, clean water, wetlands, and wildlife. He has consistently adhered to high standards in ethics and in legal acumen. Indeed, he has set precedents that have benefited conservation and land use planning across Florida.

Mr. Reese recently represented the Federation in a legal challenge to a Bert Harris Property Rights settlement agreement on the grounds that Collier County failed to consider the negative impacts to Florida panthers,

Nominee Profiles for District Directors

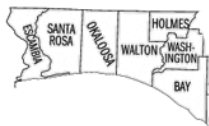
"Eight District Directors (one for each district) shall be elected by the Individual Associate and Corporate or Business members. Nominations for those eight District Directors shall be published to the Individual Associate and Corporate or Business members in the form of a ballot at least 30 days prior 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, 2014. For assistance call us at 1-800-656-3014.

NORTHWEST REGION

DISTRICT I



Name: Steve Theberge
Residence: Panama City
Years of Florida Residence: 16
Occupation: Fish Biologist and Marine Educator
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, SCUBA diving/snorkeling, freshwater & saltwater fishing, environmental activism/lobbying, conservation education, birdwatching/nature photography, cycling/hiking, gardening/habitat restoration
Other club/organization affiliations: St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association, Audubon, FishSmart.
Goals: • Preservation of critical habitats in estuaries, bays, rivers, lakes, springs and near-shore marine habitats.
• Promoting responsible and sustainable practices in fishing, hunting, nature watching, and ecotourism businesses.
• Education programs highlighting the above.
• Improving water quality and restoring habitats to create more resilient and healthy ecosystems.
• Getting youth involved in the great outdoors through education, outreach, and habitat and water quality restoration efforts.

DISTRICT II

Appointment Pending.



NORTHEAST REGION

DISTRICT III



Name: John Jopling
Residence: Gainesville
Years of Florida Residence: 57 (lifelong)
Occupation: Lawyer
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, freshwater & saltwater fishing, environmental activism/lobbying, bird watching/nature photography, cycling/hiking
Other Club/Organization Affiliations: President, Ichetucknee Alliance, Inc.; President, Dell

Graham. P.A. (law firm); Past president, Coalition for Responsible Growth.

Goals: I have had a life-long interest in protection of my state's natural environment, sparked in part by canoeing the length of the Suwannee River as a Boy Scout. My particular passion is for the restoration and preservation of our natural springs and the ecosystems they nurture, as these are unique and uniquely vulnerable jewels of Florida's natural heritage. I have appreciated FWF's leadership role, especially in the area of springs protection, and would like to foster continued cooperation in this area.

DISTRICT IV



Name: Mark Middlebrook
Residence: Ponte Vedra Beach
Years of Florida Residence: 30
Occupation: Executive Director, St. Johns River Alliance
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: With three grandchildren - all Florida natives - my personal goal is simple: leave Florida a better place than I found it. I have worked on more than \$200 million land preservation projects, developed land conservation plans for local governments, managed large tracts of public lands for public access, reviewed and made recommendations on state conservation management plans, created policy initiatives to assist in the restoration of the St. Johns River. I believe I can bring a wide-range of diverse experience to the FWF board.

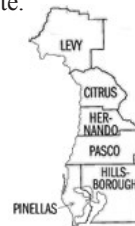
CENTRAL REGION

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

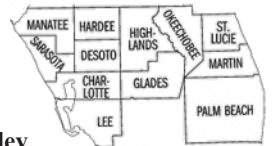


Name: Alex Sink
Residence: Thonotosassa
Years of Florida Residence: 30
Occupation: Retired banking executive
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, saltwater fishing, bird watching/nature photography, environmental/conservation policy development, preservation park design and development
Other Club/Organization Affiliations: St. Johns River Alliance; advisory board, Timucuan Trail Parks Foundation; advisory board, North Florida Land Trust; state Acquisition and Restoration Council (governor's appointment);

Ft. George River restoration working group; policy/steering committees, America's Great Waters Coalition; Groundworks Jacksonville, steering committee.

Goals: I would like to use my extensive statewide contacts of friends and supporters to educate Floridians on the mission of Florida Wildlife Federation.

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: FL 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.

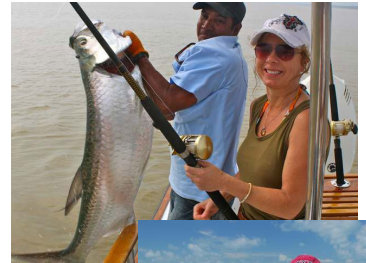
Outdoor Trip of a Lifetime Drawing to be Held on September 3

By Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

TWO DRAWINGS IN 2014 – GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

FWF has added a new prize, an **Outdoor Trip of a Lifetime**, to our 24th Annual Boating Sweepstakes. There will be two drawings at FWF Headquarters. For the first drawing, the winner will have their choice of a trip for two from ONE of these three great outdoor adventure companies: Guy Harvey Outpost, Cabela's Outdoor Adventures, National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions, **OR \$12,500 in cash!** The Outdoor Trip of a Lifetime Drawing will be held September 3.

The second drawing will allow the Grand Prize winner to choose ONE of four brand new boats: the Sea Hunt Triton 188 nearshore boat, the Sundance SV211 bay boat, the Hewes Redfisher flats boat, the Ray E-Boat Explorer 21 with the Ray electric outboard motor **OR \$25,000 in cash!** The Boating Sweepstakes Drawing will be held on December 18. All entries submitted by September 3rd are eligible for both drawings.



This year we are offering a new boat from Sea Hunt. The Triton 188 (18-foot 8-inches) is a center console ideally configured for both nearshore and inshore, serious salt-water fishing. The package includes a stainless steel grab rail, windshield, 40-quart built-in console cooler, 105-quart insulated bow storage, 20-gallon aerated livewell, rear boarding ladder, rod holders, hydraulic steering, helm chairs, rear jump seats, recessed cleats (4), and the smooth performance of the Vortex deep-V hull design. Powered with a quiet, reliable Yamaha 115 HP four-stroke engine with stainless steel prop, the prize package includes a Magic Tilt aluminum trailer.

A New Boat Choice



Travel with National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions is pure delight with their knowledgeable team of oceanographers, scientists, explorers, and photographers. Visit a rainforest in Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica, where you can swim in waterfall pools, kayak, ride horses, and hike in search of an anteater or poison dart frogs. Or, see howler monkeys while exploring the Amazon River in a national reserve in Peru. Take a cruise to marvel at a young gray whale in the Bahia Magdalena breeding lagoon off Baja, California.



Guy Harvey Outpost Resorts and Lodges has 10 Outposts to choose from. Stalk world-class bonefish in the crystal waters of Abaco one day, blue marlin the next. Dive Blood Bay Wall off Little Cayman Island and bird watch at Booby Pond Reserve. You can snorkel with whale sharks or sailfish, catch sails and mako sharks, or go beachcombing on Isla Mujeres off Cancun, Mexico. Explore the Galapagos Islands where you'll see giant tortoises, whales, penguins, and more from the stylish and secluded Iguana Crossing.

Outdoor Trip of a Lifetime Choices



Cabela's offers many national and international outdoor trips for you to choose from. One is located on a sleepy little island north of Cancun, Mexico, where a new lodge caters to the tarpon junkie. Spring and summer is the best time to catch the tarpon migration – some weigh over 100 pounds. A second location for fantastic fishing is the rich saltwater flats of Belize where statistics show there is no better place to get a bonefish, tarpon, permit Grand Slam. Right offshore is the second largest barrier reef in the world. Non-fishing activities include snorkeling and diving, visiting nearby Mayan Ruins, and relaxing by the pool.

How to Enter

Ticket contributions are \$5 each, 6 tickets for \$25, 15 tickets for \$50, or 35 tickets for \$100. 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 24th Annual Boating and Outdoor Trip or a Lifetime Sweepstakes. If you would like a set of tickets mailed to you, send an email to FWF at boatsweeps@fwfonline.org or call our toll-free number (800) 656-3014. Please provide your full name and complete mailing address to receive a packet of tickets. Specify "Boat Sweeps" in the Subject line.

2014 "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes Winner

In January, the Florida Wildlife Federation kicked off its Second Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes offering three exciting Grand Prize choices – five days of fishing for the winner and a companion at the legendary Orca Adventure Lodge in Southeast Alaska, a cruise from ocean to ocean via the Panama Canal with Holland America Cruise Lines, an eight-day cruise through American history touring southeastern U. S cities linked by the Intracoastal Waterway with American Cruise Lines, or \$10,000 in cash. The Sweepstakes drawing was held on June 5, 2014 at 3 pm at FWF Headquarters in Tallahassee, and supervised by Carroll and Co., Inc., Certified Public Accountants.



John Lorenzen of Palatka, Florida, (middle) winner of the Second Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes, receiving his Grand Prize certificate from Sarah Owen Gledhill, FWF Northeast Office Planning Advocate (left). John's wife, Linda, is on the right.



The winning ticket, won by John Lorenzen, was drawn by Michael Dupree, Carroll and Company, CPA. On the right is Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator, with the winning ticket.

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 OF FLORIDA. THE REGISTRATION NUMBER ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION IS: CH-499.

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

For Wildlife



Rick and Laurie Abbott with their two children.

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

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

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

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 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

September 10-11, 2014
FWC Commission Meeting
Kissimmee area
www.myfwc.com

September 26-28, 2014
FWF Board of Directors Meeting
Singer Island Hilton Hotel
dhines@fwfonline.org

October 3-5, 2014
3rd Annual Wings & Wildflowers Festival
Leesburg, Lake County
www.wingsandwildflowers.com

October 4, 2014
FWF Kids Fishing Day
River Preserve, Leon County
Contact 850-656-7113

October 4, 2014
Blue Spring Water Festival
www.floridastateparks.org/bluespring

October 11, 2014
Black Bear Festival in Umatilla
www.myFWC.com

November 4 – Election Day
Get out and VOTE!

November 15, 2014
Annual Right Whale Festival
Jacksonville Beach

January 8 – 10, 2015
Everglades Coalition Annual Conference
Hilton Key Largo Resort
www.evergladescoalition.org/conference

January 23-25, 2015
FWF Board of Directors Meeting
Oakland Nature Preserve
Winter Garden/Orlando area
dhines@fwfonline.org

