

Florida Fish and Wildlife News



Florida Wildlife Federation

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Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

August 2015

Florida Wildlife Federation Files Amendment 1 Lawsuit

By Preston Robertson

The Florida Wildlife Federation, along with allies the St. Johns Riverkeeper and the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida, recently filed suit to compel the Florida Legislature to comply with the provisions of Amendment 1. The Federation is represented by Earthjustice.

The suit was filed due to the Legis-

LAWSUIT con't page 7

78th Annual Conservation Awards Weekend



From Left: **David White**, 27th inductee into FWF's Conservation Hall of Fame; **Manley Fuller**, FWF President; **Jenny Brock**, NWF District 4 Director and FWF Director.

The Florida Wildlife Federation's Officers, Directors, staff, members and guests enjoyed a fine weekend in St. Augustine June 12-14, 2015. A highlight of the weekend was the presence of **Collin O'Mara**, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. Collin made very inspiring remarks at the Annual Conservation Awards Banquet held Saturday night, June 13, at the St. Augustine Rod & Gun Club. Photos of the Award Winners and details of their conservation achievements can be found commencing on page 10. On the previous evening, the Federation held a fun social event, a fish fry at Genung's Fish Camp on the banks of the Matanzas River where 90 people feasted on a supper of fried fish, crab cakes and all the trimmings. (Photos taken at Genung's Fish Camp, page 9.)

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

In Memoriam

M.C. Davis
1944-2015



Photo by Matt Ozug, NPR

The Florida Wildlife Federation was saddened to hear about the passing of Marion Clifton "M.C." Davis on July 11, 2015 after a battle with lung cancer at the age of 70. M.C. was a champion for conservation and a good friend to FWF. He will be greatly missed.

His legacy includes the establishment and endowment of Nokuse Plantation, a 54,000-acre nature preserve in the Florida Panhandle and the E.O. Wilson Biophilia environmental education center. His goal for both was to advance the mission of restoring and preserving viable ecosystems that support native plants and animals and to educate the public about the importance of conserving the world's biodiversity.

M.C. grew up poor in West Florida. By perseverance and great intelligence, he managed to get a good education and became a tremendously successful business man. Later in life M.C. turned his attention to conservation. He focused on the Panhandle as scientists had recently identified it as one of six biological hotspots in the U.S. He spent around \$90 million buying conservation land and planting eight million longleaf pine seedlings. The land has also become an important relocation point and research center for gopher tortoises, a threatened species. Nokuse Plantation staff have so far released over 4,000 gopher tortoises onto its lands.

Both the land and education center are part of what M.C. saw as a 300 year project. M.C. was also a strong proponent of entrepreneurial conservation meaning that we would have more conservation if it were properly linked with financial incentives.

We were all truly blessed to know M.C. Davis.

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

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Steve O'Hara



My legislators betrayed me. I'm mad as heck, and I'm not going to take it anymore.

We elected our state legislators. They hold office by virtue of our votes. They are beholden to us, and they have a duty to listen to us, but they did not. Our legislators not only failed to listen to us; they thumbed their noses at us.

I am one of the overwhelming majority of voters (75%) who supported

Amendment 1 and made the Florida Land and Water Legacy Amendment part of the Constitution of the State of Florida. I told my own legislators – and many others – that I wanted them to honor the will of the voters and fully fund Florida Forever.

They did not do what I asked. I'm not mad so much because they ignored me. I'm mad because they heard me (and 75% of voters like me) and deliberately disregarded my wishes.

I'm going to do something about it, and I know you will too. Here is what I am going to do.

First, I am going to contact my own legislators and tell them what I think of them. I know them, I respected them, and I voted for them. No more. I have lost respect for them. I will never vote for them again.

Second, I'm going to up my ante of financial support for the Florida Wildlife Federation.

The Federation was not the only conservation organization lobbying for more dollars for Florida Forever, but the Federation was there, lobbying just as hard as any of them. Because of my position with the Federation, I got regular reports, so I know the extraordinary effort its staff devoted to the lobbying effort.

The Federation was also locked and loaded for the next step – a lawsuit – if it became necessary, which it did. The Florida Wildlife Federation filed a lawsuit for a judicial determination of what legislators can and cannot do with Amendment 1 dollars.

What can you do about your own legislators thumbing their noses at you? You can do the same as me. First, tell them what you think of them and that you will never vote for them again. Second, increase your level of financial support for the Florida Wildlife Federation. The Federation needs your finan-

cial support to continue its efforts in lobbying and in litigating.

The best way you can help the Federation financially is to join the FWF Partners program. This is an annual donation program to provide a continuing stream of unrestricted support to the Federation year in and year out. A partner pledges to make a gift each year, and does. There are levels of partnership for people of all means.

Please become an FWF Partner. There is a notice on page 7 of this issue that explains the FWF Partners program, the various giving levels, and the importance of the steady stream of unrestricted support it provides to the Federation.

Thank you.

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CUT OUT AND RETURN THIS BALLOT

CANDIDATES

Check (1) selection per district*

DISTRICT I

Steve Theberge _____

DISTRICT III

Richard Hamann _____

DISTRICT V

Jay Exum _____

DISTRICT VII

Linda Stanley _____

DISTRICT II

Curt Kiser _____

DISTRICT IV

Mark Middlebrook _____

DISTRICT VI

Alex Sink _____

DISTRICT VIII

Franklin Adams _____

*For more information about each candidate see pages 14.

THANK YOU

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.

You may also vote online at www.fwfonline.org/ballot/ballot.aspx.
Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by September 10, 2015 to be eligible.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear Florida Wildlife Federation members,

Thank you once again for your support for FWF! The last several months have been highly eventful. We recently lost great allies with the passing of M.C. Davis, Bob Taylor and Mariana Jones, all great champions of wild Florida. Please note our recognition of these individuals in this issue of *Florida Fish & Wildlife News*. We also note some of their significant conservation accomplishments. Bob Taylor was an advocate for sound land conservation and water quality policy across Florida, and was instrumental in the protection of Circle B Bar Reserve. Mariana Jones was a partner in a duo of unmatched conservation leaders dedicated to Florida and the Everglades. Her special skills included knowing the land and people who love the outdoors, especially hunters and fishermen, and channeling that enthusiasm into permanent land conservation. M.C. Davis was a great friend and mentor and is sorely missed. He was a great Floridian and national treasure for his work in restoring and protecting the natural world and promoting environmental education.

All three of these people were committed to conservation, were fearless in speaking truth to power and provided great models for all of us going forward. From a personal standpoint, I feel privileged to have known them and will strive to further inculcate their passion, skill and intelligence into FWF's conservation work.

As you know, Florida Wildlife Federation, leading supporter of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment Campaign, decided to challenge the Legisla-

ture's failure to properly implement the Amendment. The goal of our litigation is for Florida courts to provide clear definition as to how the Florida Legislature can and cannot spend Amendment 1 funds. We believe the Amendment clearly prioritizes the funding of conservation land acquisition through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. We feel it is imperative that we act quickly and will keep you posted as to the progress of our legal actions. In this matter, Florida Wildlife Federation is represented by EarthJustice. FWF would much appreciate any financial support for our defense of Amendment 1's integrity.

Another area of Florida Wildlife Federation's conservation work is embodied in a new educational coastal policy video, "Battle for the Barriers." I accompanied FWF director and former Congressman Tom Evans to the national premier showing of "Barriers" at the Delaware Theatre on June 29th in Wilmington. Please view a clip from "Barriers" on FWF's website at www.fwfonline.org.

"Battle for the Barriers" points out many benefits of protecting nature's first line of defense, our coastlines and barrier islands, in response to climate change and sea level rise. The film highlights the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA), one of the most important but little known pieces of national environmental legislation in American history. Please view the film clip and if you are interested in arranging for a local showing of the entire film, which is 32 minutes long, please contact me or Diane Hines at dhines@fwfonline.org. We are also seeking support to expand the film to a full PBS format. We have worked with Sharon Baker and Pascal Diekman of Teleducation to produce "Barriers," and it will be shown across Florida and other coastal states.

FWF has also worked with Elam and Nic Stoltzfus of Live Oak Productions on a new film, Coastal Dune Lakes, which was underwritten by the St. Joe Foundation. The film highlights coastal dune lakes in the Panhandle's Walton County. FWF has been involved for years in conservation efforts at Topsail State Park and Point Washington State Forest. Unfortunately, Walton County is contemplating reducing protections of the rare coastal dune lakes. FWF along with 1000 Friends of Florida and local members, are exploring options to better protect these natural treasures from runoff and excessive nutrients.

It was with great pleasure that the Federation once again honored a number of Florida Champions of conser-

NEW FWF Photo Contest

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the launching of its new FWF Photo Contest. The Contest celebrates the enjoyment of taking photos in Florida's great outdoors which promotes FWF's mission to encourage citizens to participate in sustainable outdoor recreation.

Members, supporters and friends of Florida's fish, wildlife and their habitats are encouraged to enter. Anyone over the age of 12 may enter the contest (with the exception of FWF staff members). Entrants have an opportunity to win \$250 in cash, a tablet (Kindle Fire) and more! It has never been easier to capture images in Florida's outdoors – use your camera, smartphone, or tablet to document the wild world around you. Enter your most compelling nature images and photos of Florida today at www.snappiephoto.com.

Entries will be taken from now until December 31, 2015. There are eight categories including Birds, Flowers, Portrait, Macro, Sunrise/Sunset, Landscape, Waterscape and Wildlife. Entry fees are \$5 for one photo, \$10 for 3 photos, and \$25 for 7 photos. One Overall Contest Winner will be selected for the First Prize of \$250, a Second Prize winner will receive a Kindle Fire tablet or \$100; there will be six Third Prize winners. Only digitally uploaded images may be entered. Judging will follow the closing date of December 31st.

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



Kay Wells, "Departure Chick"



Barbara Bowen, "Florida's Natural Beach"



Manley Fuller (far left) attended the America's Great Waters Coalition meeting in Washington, D.C. in June. The National Clean Water Rule was a primary focus of the meeting.

vation at our June 2015 event in St. Augustine. Please review the photos and recognitions of these great people who mean so much to Florida. FWF was honored to have National Wildlife Federation's President and CEO **Colin O'Mara** make a presentation at the FWF board meeting and provide inspirational remarks at our awards banquet. He indicated that the passage and the proper implementation of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment is one of the most important conservation matters in the United States today. He also complimented FWF and our allies on passing the amendment and recognized the

need to ensure proper implementation by the Florida Legislature.

FWF and NWF are partnering in a number of areas including Everglades and Gulf Restoration and supporting the new Clean Water Act rule submitted by EPA and the Corps of Engineers. Our position is that the rule is needed to properly protect wetlands and waters. The rule clarifies a number of ambiguities regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction while providing regulatory exemptions for normal farm activities. It also better protects headwater wetlands. Un-

PRESIDENT con't page 5

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



Mega Landfill Mega Problems for Wildlife

For years, the Florida Wildlife Federation, ranchers, landowners, local county governments, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other stakeholders have been working collaboratively - and in good faith - to recreate a viable habitat link between CREW (Collier and Lee counties) and the OK Slough State Forest (Hendry County). This regional connection is approximately ten miles across private ranch lands and includes underpasses on SR29 and SR82.

In June, the Federation was alerted to a proposal by A. Duda & Sons to site a huge landfill in Southwest Hendry County within the boundaries of its Rodina Sector Plan.

Hendry County's Comprehensive Growth Plan identifies the landfill location as "long term agriculture." This designation is the result of the 2011 Rodina Sector Plan Stipulated Settlement Agreement with the State of Florida. A reason to designate these lands for agriculture is to accommodate Florida panther movement and contribute to the reconstruction of the habitat link.

The Federation is on record opposing the Duda landfill and access road because they effectively block regional wildlife movement between Lee and Hendry counties via Collier County.

The Duda landfill and access road undermine the following regional land use, transportation, and conservation planning efforts.

1. The Southwest Hendry County Sector Plan designed its wildlife habitat areas to complement Rodina Sector Plan's long term agriculture and con-

servation lands. The Duda landfill and access road prevent wildlife from moving further north from CREW or moving south from the OK Slough State Forest.

2. Florida Department of Transportation identified two locations on SR29, Twelve Mile Slough and Roberts Canal, for wildlife passages connecting the Rodina Sector Plan and the OK Slough conservation lands. The Duda landfill and access road create a barrier and make these underpasses more difficult to justify because regional habitat value and usefulness is lost.

3. The Eastern Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, now under review by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, identifies a "Panther Corridor" to facilitate habitat movement between CREW and the Southwest Hendry County Sector Plan's protected wildlife habitat. Although there is still value for this connection, its regional importance will be greatly diminished by the placement of the Duda landfill and access road.

4. Florida Department of Transportation plans include crossings under SR82 in the design to widen the road. Potential locations are under Canal and Panther Creek, lining up with the Southwest Hendry County Sector Plan's connected open space for wildlife leading to the Rodina Sector Plan's Long Term Agriculture and Conservation areas.

The landfill and related facilities will cover 1200 acres or almost two square miles. The trash heap will reach a height of 315 feet. This equals a 30 story high rise building. The Statute of Liberty is 315 feet. In addition, the landfill requires **a three mile access road from SR29 which impacts another 256 acres.**

To apparently circumvent the 2011 Stipulated Settlement Agreement, A. Duda & Sons invoked a planning loophole and is seeking approval through underlying agricultural uses that includes landfills.

The Duda landfill will be operating from 6am to 8pm for trash disposal and additional hours for related activities generating significant noise and light pollution. The landfill's major service area will be Southeast Florida.

Over 500 trucks hauling 20-25 tons of garbage will be travelling daily on SR 29 between Alligator Alley and the Duda landfill. SR29 between Immokalee

and the Florida Panther Refuge is a deadly highway for panthers and the trash trucks will be travelling at hours when panthers and other wildlife are most active.

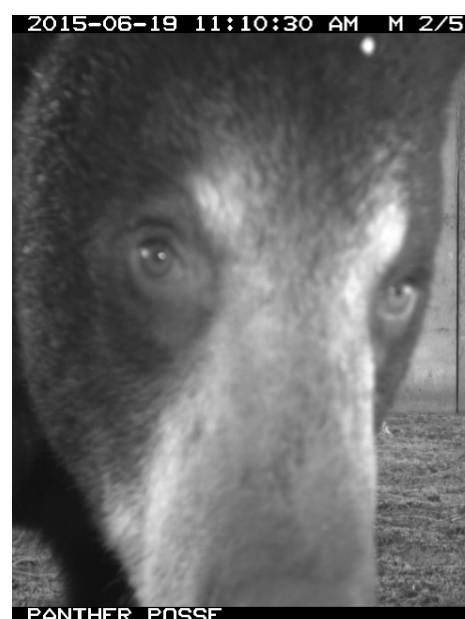
Hendry County's Conservation Policy 6.2.1 states "It shall be the policy of Hendry County to protect habitat for threatened or endangered species or species of special concern from destruction by development." This policy is simply "Acknowledged" by Duda's consultants in the Application for Rezone's Comprehensive Plan Consistency Analysis.

The Application for Rezone provides no management plans for listed species particularly Florida panther, Audubon's crested caracara and wood stork. In addition, the Application for Rezone provides no details on how garbage and black bears will be addressed; and no information on how conflicts between attracted birds and nearby farming operations will be prevented.

Florida Wildlife Federation, King Ranch (Southwest Hendry County Sector Plan), Eastern Collier Property Owners (Eastern Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan), Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other stakeholders **relied upon the Rodina Sector Plan's Long Term Agriculture and Conservation land designations to assemble a tri-county wildlife habitat network** connecting CREW conservation lands with the OK Slough conservation lands.

Hendry County Board of County Commissioners is slated to vote on the proposed Duda landfill and access road early this fall. The Federation will be there.

Additional information including the application, maps, and the Federation's letter are available upon request. Send email to nancypayton@fwfonline.org.



Bear selfies



After resting (left) a panther stretches (below). Note time in upper left of photo below.



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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



FWF Attends East Coast Ocean Leadership Roundtable



Sea Turtle Release at Home

Mahi, a juvenile green sea turtle, was released in early July on Vilano Beach after two and a half years of rehabilitation at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. Mahi was discovered by a hiker in the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve recreation area. She was tangled in fishing line. Due to the damage from the line wrapped around her flipper, the rehabilitators amputated the front right flipper. She also underwent surgery to remove the fishing line inside her stomach.

Mahi's story of survival moved so many people that she had more than 1,200 families adopt her, setting a record for the Georgia Sea Turtle Center.

In early May, Mahi, which means "very strong" in Hawaiian, was flown to Gulf World Marine Park in Panama City, Fla., for "sea turtle boot camp," in preparation for her release. There she learned how to dive and swim in deep water with only one flipper.

Mahi's release was attended by several hundred people coming from Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Mahi had to be rehabilitated in Georgia because the Turtle Center is the closest turtle hospital to Northeast Florida. Soon we will have a local hospital housed at UF's Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience that will serve Nassau, Duval, St Johns and Flagler counties. It is anticipated to open at the end of the 2015.

See Mahi's journey in pictures here: <http://bit.ly/MahiTimeline>.



Mahi, photo courtesy of Keelean Burkhalter

In June, FWF attended the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative's East Coast Ocean Leadership Roundtable in New York. The purpose of the roundtable was to engage and generate a conversation around ocean policy reform at the national, regional, state and local levels. This was the second installment in a four-part roundtable series hosted by the Joint Initiative as part of its 2014-2017 strategy, which convenes high level leaders in various sectors to identify regional approaches to major ocean challenges, generate creative solutions, and inspire state and local leadership.

The focus of our discussions included four broad topics:

- Resilience and adaptation to climate change;
- Offshore energy development;
- Marine transportation and infrastructure; and
- Addressing multiple environmental stressors.

FWF was honored to be invited as a stakeholder and represent Florida's ocean challenges. As the roundtables move to other regions of the U.S. such as the Gulf Coast, we look forward to staying engaged.

Million Pollinator Garden Challenge



In early June, FWF joined with the National Wildlife Federation and other organizations and seed groups that formed the National Pollinator Garden Network. Across the nation, there is concern about the fact that pollinators such as honey bees are declining. The natural pollination process has been disrupted by various factors and there is a national call to action to preserve and create gardens and landscapes that revive the health of pollinators. There are a number of factors that have caused this decline, including loss of habitat, disease, pesticide use, changing weather patterns and other factors. By all of us working together, we can help to revive the health of honeybees, native bees, beetles, butterflies – including the monarch, hummingbirds, certain bats and other pollinators across the nation.

There are things you can do to help pollinators, such as planting a garden of native flowering plants with blooms of various shapes, sizes and colors. Have a variety of plants with something blooming every month. Create a healthy habitat in your garden avoiding the use of pesticides and herbicides. Purchase plants and seeds from nurseries and garden centers suited to your area that offer pollinator-friendly plants. We are working to see that the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge will be successful. Create a backyard wildlife habitat that is pollinator-friendly. Have your habitat certified by the National Wildlife Federation. To find out more about the pollinator challenge, visit www.millionpollinatorgardens.org.

PRESIDENT from page 3

fortunately, just as the State of Florida was on the wrong side of Chesapeake Bay protection efforts, the State is now maligning the Clean Water Act rule.

As to fisheries, I want to note that FWF and our allies are pleased that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recently adopted a proactive resolution recognizing the need to conserve and monitor marine forage fish populations. We look forward to working with them in support of the resolution's goals.

Concerning Florida bears, the Federation wants to see a high priority given to reducing human food habituation by bears. The old saying that "a fed bear is a dead bear" often rings true. While there was a lot of controversy over the FWC's decision to re-open bear hunting this fall, we were heartened that Waste Pro is publicly committed to reducing the incidence of bears becoming habituated to food sources by changing trash management practices. Waste Pro has pledged to join with FWC, local governments, homeowner's associations and the public to ameliorate the bear-garbage issue. We urge the FWC to carefully monitor all sources of bear mortality so that the long-term health of Florida's bear population is maintained.

As to the Florida panthers, we do not believe our panther population can be

considered recovered before we are able to expand the current population and establish other populations. Increasing panther numbers to levels approaching recovery in Florida will require ongoing and close cooperation between the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the FWC, the NRCS, private landowners and the public. We need to continue to build wildlife corridors interconnecting both private working lands and public conservation lands. Landowner incentive programs and effective protocols addressing livestock depredation need to be in place and expanded. FWF is actively engaged in promoting the proper location of safe wildlife crossings to benefit panthers and other wildlife.

We also believe the FWC and FWS need to build upon past successes in cooperative research and proactively reach out and work with willing landowners to build habitat connectivity so we can effectively manage wide ranging species like bears and panthers.

Thanks much for your continued support! We need your help for Florida Wildlife Federation to be the most effective conservation advocates we can be.

Manley



Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation
& General Counsel

Please Don't Release Balloons

As a kid I loved balloons. They are indeed fun and can enliven any party. Unfortunately, they are also very dangerous to birds and animals if they are let loose into the environment, especially if they land in water. As Florida is surrounded by water, this is very much an issue for us. Balloons are eaten by birds, fish and sea turtles, and they cannot digest them. These creatures will then starve or choke to death. There is even a state law against releasing more than 10 balloons. In the 2014 Legislative Session, there was an attempt to allow many more balloons to be released, but the Federation and others opposed this move and it was defeated.

Balloons are great, but please use them indoors or if outdoors, make sure they are secured and then deflated after use. Once up in the air, they can travel miles and become litter or worse.

Thanks!



Jay Liles
FWF Policy Consultant

BP settlement shows strong tie between Florida's ecology and her economy

From time to time we find ourselves debating whether or not Florida's economy is directly dependent upon her ecology. The recently announced proposed settlement between BP and the State of Florida should eliminate any doubt. Our economy is unequivocally and irrevocably tied directly to a healthy and robust environment. How else can one explain why, in the most devastating **ecological** disaster in recorded history, Florida ends up with a record \$2 billion **economic** damage settlement? Yes, the state furthest from the site of the disaster, with arguably the least amount of direct environmental damage, ends up with the largest economic loss.

Of course, it is much more cut and dry to calculate the value of lost revenues versus the unique value of a lost brown pelican, or white shrimp, or bottle-nose dolphin, or any number of other species that happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time back in 2010. They can tell you how much the cancellation of vacation reservations in Miami Beach, hundreds of miles from the spill, cost the local economy. But placing a value on blue-fin tuna that perished in the Gulf is not quite so accountant friendly. Yet there it is – those critters and all that makes Florida such a wonderful place to live cost us \$2 billion in lost revenue for one relatively short period of time. That's how much Florida lost because someone in Minnesota or Germany or somewhere else across the world heard there was a spill in the Gulf and it might foul a beach somewhere in Florida. Waiter, check please! We are out of here.

Adding further irony to the story, an-

ecdotal evidence indicates that some hoteliers actually may have seen increased profits during the spill due to the extended stay of large numbers of workers and others who had a role in the spill clean-up. Some commercial and recreational fishermen also gained a windfall from the Vessels of Opportunity program. The economic crash of 2008 likely did more to damage their bottom line than the spill.

This is not to say that Florida's environmental damage was entirely overlooked or ignored when the Gucci wearing lawyers sat face to face in beautiful downtown New Orleans. But in a world where perception and sound bites have a tendency to drown out the facts, one has to wonder how the economy gains \$2 billion while funding for the ecological portion of the settlement reads like this:

- \$7.1 billion (not including the \$1 billion already committed by BP for early restoration projects) to the Gulf Coast states and the United States to resolve their natural resource damage claims, of which Florida gets an additional \$680 million.

- \$5.5 billion to resolve Clean Water Act civil penalties, with Florida receiving at least \$572 million of this amount pursuant to the RESTORE Act.

In total Florida will receive at least a total of \$3.252 billion in funds paid out over the course of 15 years, starting in 2017. (It should be noted that this is only an agreement in principle, with any final agreement contingent on the execution of settlement agreements and court approval of the Consent Decree).

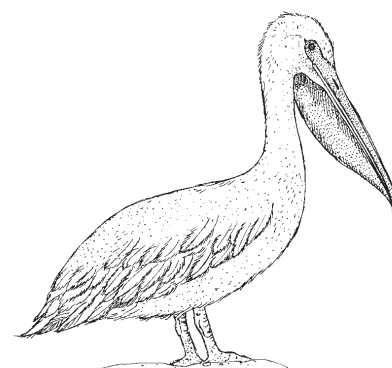
The settlement provides clear messaging points: project expenditures from the RESTORE Act funds should, at the very least, cause no further ecological damage. Thus, a project that would use these scarce funds to build water infrastructure for new development should not be looked upon as a good use of this funding stream. Secondly, projects that have no tie to the environment could better be funded out of the economic damage settlement. That decision falls to a body known as Triumph Gulf Coast. This sleeping giant was the result of a 2013 law intended to be sure that there was a mechanism in place to insure that most of the money would be spent in that region of the state that can arguably claim the most damage from the spill – the eight counties from Escambia to Wakulla. That is why it is good to see former House Speaker Al-

lan Bense chairing this important board of directors and a group of well-known Panhandle residents helping guide these funds. Bense knows Florida and specifically the Panhandle, having lived most of his life in Panama City. He served the state well as Speaker of the House and gave equal time and attention to the environment during his tenure.

And we in the environmental community face an equally daunting task. For we must help advise county and state officials, who now have a clear picture of what they will spend for the next 15 years to restore, protect and sustain the Gulf of Mexico and its environs. Helping them find ways to leverage every dollar will be critical to success. Finding good projects with long-term payoffs for the natural resources damage assessment (NRDA) portion will be more important than ever.

While some will argue that the \$5.5 billion allotted to the five states under the RESTORE Act portion is "not a game changer," I would argue that this misses the point and ignores the larger picture. When coupled with the upfront funds BP provided for emergency operations, the initial NRDA funds already at work, and the TransOcean Settlement which is already finding its way into county expenditure plans, this remains a historic environmental fine. It should give BP and other oil exploration companies pause when they consider where and how they will exploit our natural resources. But perhaps more importantly this settlement and all of the work that has gone into preparing for this day has resulted in a shift in the environmental work going on along the Gulf Coast. We have teams of environmental advocates and project managers, from Texas to Florida, who are now focused on Gulf restoration. Funders are supporting important advocacy and projects.

It is an exciting time to be engaged in coastal and marine work on the Gulf.



lature failing to comply with the goal of the overwhelming majority of voters who, at the 2014 election, approved Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Amendment. "The Legislature did not do what the amendment requires," Florida Wildlife Federation President Manley Fuller said. "Seventy-five percent of Florida voters approved this amendment last November, and they were clear that they want the state to buy conservation land and to acquire permanent conservation easements from willing landowners. Instead, the Legislature took the money and used it for things it should not be spent on. This is a slap in the face to Florida voters, and it should not stand."

The Water and Land Legacy Amendment requires that, for the next 20 years,

33 percent of the proceeds from existing real estate documentary-stamp taxes go for land acquisition. For the upcoming year, the share of the real-estate tax is projected to bring in more than \$740 million.

"It's sad that a positive groundswell of popular support for conserving Florida's best places has come to this," said St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman. "It's a shame we have to go to court to force legislators to do what their constituents directed."

While the outcome of any lawsuit is uncertain, the Federation believes that the expressed will of the people in a democracy should be the guiding light for its elected leaders. The people of Florida voted to conserve what remains of natural Florida before it is paved over or degraded. We need to try to ensure that the Legislature does exactly that.

New Youth Conservation Board Member: Marilu Morgan

My personal goal concerning the future conservation activities of the Florida Wildlife Federation is to ensure the long-term preservation and sustainability of diversity and natural ecosystems in the state of Florida through environmental activism as well as public, private, and nonprofit conservation projects. My experience working directly under legendary conservationist M.C. Davis gives me a unique perspective to help FWF as a director. Through my work with Nokuse Plantation, a 51,000 acre nature preserve and environmental education center in Freeport, Florida, I will be able to keep FWF abreast of conservation issues in the Florida Panhandle.



-- Marilu Morgan

New Eagle Club Members:

Christine M. Aaron Brewer, Deland

Mike Rappaport, Ft. Myers

Janet Bunch, North Fort Myers

New Life Member:

Olga Utevskeya, Wellington

Thank you for your generous support!

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

Congratulations to those members of FWF who earned GreenStar Certification!

The Federation began its GreenStar Certification program to acknowledge our members' personal commitments to a clean and healthy environment through the use of environmentally beneficial practices in their daily lives. We truly appreciate all those who responded and requested GreenStar Certification. The program is still up and running on our website, www.fwfonline.org. Go to PROGRAMS on the main menu at the top, and

you'll find GreenStar Certification on the drop down menu. From there you will be taken to the online GreenStar Questionnaire.



New Green Star Members

Katherine Elshant, Flagler Beach

Rebecca D. Martin, Inverness

Estefania Saraintaris, St. Petersburg

FWF PARTNERS PROGRAM

The Federation has a new and exciting dimension to its fundraising program — FWF PARTNERS!

Wildlife Steward

Christine M. Aaron Brewer

Olga Utevskeya

Friend of Wildlife

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Drda

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

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

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

FWF PARTNERS Levels

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

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



Collin O'Mara, NWF President, Manley Fuller, FWF President and Jenny Brock.



Sarah Owen Gledhill and Manley Fuller presenting awards.

Photos from Annual Conservation Awards Banquet



(Above) The Banquet was held at the St. Augustine Rod & Gun Club

(Below) Diane Hines thanking the FWF staff for all of their help.



(Above) Robert Christianson receiving his award from Sarah Owen Gledhill.

(Below) FWF Staff Tessa Kleck, Ryan Ricciardi and Michelle Hakemoller.



Martha Lord, Manley Fuller and Robin Mitchell.



Sarah Bailey, Linda Stanley and April Ward.



Billy Causey, John Hankinson and Laura Causey.



Jeri O'Hara, Steve O'Hara, FWF Board Chair, and Kathy Adams.



Will, James and Brenda Burnett pose after James received his award for Public Lands Conservationist of the Year.

Florida Wildlife Federation asks:

Do you want to make sure that your children and grandchildren have a healthy environment and can enjoy quality outdoor recreation in Florida?

Do you want to ensure our lands and waters are conserved and available for resource-based public recreation?

If you agree that we must protect the future of well managed outdoor recreation by acquiring public conservation lands, encouraging private-lands conservation, and restoring habitats and populations of fish and wildlife through sound management, then we would like you to become a member of the Florida Wildlife Federation!



By joining with us, you will become part of a dynamic, statewide organization with the goal of conserving Florida's fish, wildlife, water and plant life in the face of rapid loss of habitat statewide. **It is only with the financial support of our members that we may continue to pursue these goals. Please join or donate today!**

We need your support to conserve Florida's wildlife and habitat for the future!

Don't forget about a gift membership!

Yes! I want to join the **Florida Wildlife Federation** to conserve, protect, and restore Florida's natural treasures such as springs and water bodies, fish & wildlife habitats, and to enhance the public's enjoyment of resource-based, outdoor recreation in Florida. With your membership you will receive the FWF publication, *Florida Fish and Wildlife News (FFWN)* by mail or email (please select your choice below).

- ☐ Student.....\$15
- ☐ Associate.....\$25
- ☐ Family.....\$35
- ☐ Sustaining.....\$50
- ☐ Sponsor.....\$100
- ☐ Life Member.....\$500
- ☐ Eagle Club Member.....\$1,000
- ☐ Wildlife Legacy Club...\$5,000
- ☐ Benefactor.....\$25,000

*A Life, Eagle Club, Wildlife Legacy or Benefactor Membership is a one-time donation.

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 ☐ Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Sec. Code _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please send me my *FFWN* by _____ Mail _____ E-mail _____

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

☐ This is a gift membership from: _____

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.

IDEAS For Us with FWF in St. Augustine

Another year and another fantastic turnout as 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. This marks five consecutive years IDEAS has participated with FWF. IDEAS members joined in meetings with the FWF board, as well as conducted their own annual business meeting during the weekend.

Photos from Fish Fry - Genung's Fish Camp



FWF Board, Staff and members, as well as IDEAS For Us members, enjoyed a Friday evening Fish Fry along the Matanzas River. Pictured bottom left is (from left) Jay Exum, Rick Abbott, Betsy Kellenberger and Franklin Adams.

Page 8 and 9 photos by Lou and Betsy Kellenberger.

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for their generous monetary and in-kind gifts to assist with the 78th Annual Meeting expenses and the Silent Auction.

Alexander Doska (Orange City)
Jane West Law LLC (St. Augustine)
Stephanie Pew (North Palm Beach)
Steve and Jerilyn O'Hara (Jacksonville)
Timothy Keyser (Interlachen)

Walt Disney World Community
Relations (Lake Buena Vista)

Brian Call (Palmetto Bay)
By Design Catering (Jacksonville)
Cindy Wilson/BATIK (St. Augustine)
Elam Stoltzfus, Live Oak Production
Group (Blountstown)
Louis & Betsy Kellenberger (Tallahassee)

Medieval Times (Kissimmee)
Paul Schulz (Winter Haven)
Pecan Park RV Resort (Jacksonville)
Peter R. Gerbert (Ridge Manor)
Roland & Mary Ann Martin's Marina
and Resort (Clewiston)
Saltwater Flytyers (St. Augustine)
San Sebastian Winery (St. Augustine)
Sleuths Mystery Dinner Show (Orlando)
Southern Horticulture (St. Augustine)
St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure
Museum (St. Augustine)
St. Johns Illuminations (St. Augustine)
Tour St. Augustine Inc. (St. Augustine)

IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in memory of:

Dr. Robert E. Taylor, Jr.

by Associated Food Equipment & Supplies, Inc.

by Barbara Duvall

by Marian & John Ryan

by Rob Heffner

by Brian & Suzanne Raspberry

by Douglas & Jo Ann Fogleman

by Frances Howell-Coleman

by Gabor Tigyi

by Drs. Leonard R. & Dianna A. Johnson

by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bertucci

by Peggy Spirakis

by Michele Purcell

by Thomas B. Evans, Jr.

by Franklin & Kathy Adams

by Nancy & Bob Dean

by Arlene Albritton

by Amanda Clarke

by Edward & Sally Schneider

by Howard Horn, MD

by Martha Pope

by Richard Peppler

by Thomas Palmer

by Wes Bonnett

by William Baker

by Linda Stanley



David Lairson

by Mike & Linda Gunter

by The Department of Political Science, Rollins College

by Luis & Chiqui Valdes

by Donald & Joan Davison

by Wally & Sharon Clark

by Gary & Sandra Williams

William Chambers

by Tech Data Corporation

Todd Berman

by Bonnie & Allen Cohen



Rev. Robert A. Fatur

by Ruth Fatur

Glenn Lingle

by The Denzel Families and Abner McKee

by Jane Lingle

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 78th 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 78th Annual FWF Conservation Awards Banquet was held on June 13th at the St. Augustine Rod & Gun Club.

Photography by Lou and Betsy Kellenberger

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Charles G. Pattison, FAICP



Monroe County Land Authority, he developed the first local land authority authorized by the Florida Legislature and put the Comprehensive Plan into effect, identifying 6,300 parcels for acquisition. In 1989, Charles was employed by the Nature Conservancy, where he oversaw the establishment of a Bio-Reserve on Virginia's eastern shore.

In 1998, Charles became the President and Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Florida. 1000 Friends was created as a non-profit organization to assist in the implementation of the state's growth management policies. With the goals of saving special places, fighting urban sprawl and building better communities, Charles built the organization into a stalwart defender of good growth management in Florida. Recently stepping aside as the organization's President, he continues today as its Policy Director.

For over 30 years, Charles Pattison has stood for superior stewardship of the state's natural resources. His knowledge of the permutations of growth management is second to none, and he has used this knowledge for the betterment of the lives of all Floridians.

For his lifelong commitment to sound planning and sustainability, and his wisdom on environmental policy, the Federation was proud to name Charles Pattison as its 2015 Conservationist of the Year.

Charles Pattison, FAICP, was selected by the FWF Board of Directors to receive the Conservationist of the Year Award for 2015. Charles Pattison earned his Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina (UNC) in 1976; he also earned his Bachelor's degree from UNC. Charles Pattison has used his education and exceptional knowledge ever since to make places more livable and to improve quality of life. His actions have helped to conserve natural resources while dealing with constant population growth and the expansion of urban areas.

Working as a Senior Planner in Miami and in North Carolina, Charles concentrated on coastal conservation. In 1983, he became the Director of the Building, Planning and Zoning Department of Key West, managing a highly fragile environment even as growth threatened the waters and remaining natural lands in the Keys. As Executive Director of the

MARINE CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

A. Quinton White, Jr., Ph.D.



A. Quinton White, Jr., Ph.D. received the FWF's Marine Conservationist of the Year Award for 2015. The Federation's Board of Directors selected Quinton White for this award because of his exceptional work in conservation of Florida's marine life and ecosystems, with a special focus on the manatee and the kingfish, and for his great ability to teach others about marine

ecosystems.

Born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia, Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr., learned how to repair appliances working alongside his father, and later worked at the Ford plant in Norfolk. He originally planned to go to medical school, but realized he loved to teach. Following graduation from North Carolina Wesleyan College, he enlisted in the Army, applying to graduate school while still on duty in Vietnam. He obtained a Master's degree from the University of Virginia and then achieved his doctorate from the University of South Carolina, Baruch Institute for Marine Biology and Coastal Research, in 1976. He joined the faculty of Jacksonville University (JU) that same year.

Dr. White has educated a multitude of students about marine ecosystems.

He established the major in Marine Science at JU and served as Chair of the Department of Biology and Marine Science. He has also been Chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics, and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 2008, he was deeply involved in the construction of the LEED-certified Marine Science Research Institute at JU, which opened in 2010.

Dr. White has written and developed over 35 research and technical papers on a wide variety of topics, including the effects of pollutants on marine species behavior and physiology, Comparative Physiology and Behavior of Invertebrates and Manatee Behavior and Ecology. He has also spent much effort in analyzing the ecology of the St. Johns River and advocating for its environmental sustainability.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Frank J. Mazzotti, Ph.D.



sive species, particularly reptiles, in both Florida and abroad. Moreover, his dedicated research and teaching skills have significantly advanced our knowledge.

Frank has conducted research on a wide range of topics, including old world climbing fern infestation, climate change, American alligators and crocodiles, least shrew populations and coyotes in Everglades National Park. One main area of study has been the presence of the invasive

Burmese python in South Florida. This tropical invader from Southeast Asia has fomented a tremendous amount of analysis so that we may attempt to sustain native wildlife. Pythons live up to 25 years, can grow up to 20 feet in length, and can lay up to 100 eggs per nest. They therefore have the potential to devastate native ecosystems. Frank has also been a leading researcher on other destructive invasive species such as the black and white tegu and the Nile monitor.

Dr. Mazzotti has been involved with analyzing birds and mammals that are consumed by the pythons, thermo-

Frank Mazzotti, Ph.D., was chosen by the Florida Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors to receive the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year Award because of his many years of extraordinary efforts to conserve Florida's native fish and wildlife, including endangered species.

Professor of Wildlife Ecology Frank Mazzotti, University of Florida, achieved his B.A. from Johns Hopkins University in 1971, his M.S. in Biology in 1981 from the University of Miami and his Ph.D. in Ecology from Pennsylvania State University in 1983. He has spent a career studying native and inva-

regulations of brooding pythons, cold-induced mortality of the snakes and a risk assessment concerning exotic reptiles imported to South Florida. He has also utilized radio-telemetry to gain an understanding of snake movement. It is imperative that this type of information be available if we are to gain an understanding of how to combat this species.

FOREST CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Ed Montgomery



Ed Montgomery was selected for the Forest Conservationist Award because of his outstanding efforts over many years to see that Florida's important forest resources are appropriately managed and conserved.

Ed Montgomery grew up in North Florida exploring the woods and wild lands near the St. Johns and Suwannee Rivers. Upon graduation from the University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation in 1979, Ed went to work for Rayonier, Inc., the 7th largest private timberland owner in the United States. Placed in charge of the conservation program, he initially wrote forest management guidelines to pro-

This is especially true in Florida, which is the destination for so many potentially harmful exotic species.

For his long-standing work to increase the understanding of natural systems and threats to their viability, the Federation was proud to name Dr. Frank Mazzotti as the 2015 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year.

tect listed plants and animals on Rayonier lands and teach foresters how to implement the plans.

When Preservation 2000 was launched by the state, Ed partnered with The Nature Conservancy to identify the most ecologically important Rayonier lands. Out of this partnership, thousands of acres of Florida were eventually saved, including: Pinhook Swamp, 60,000 acres connecting the Osceola National Forest and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge; Matanzas Marsh, which expanded Faver Dykes State Park and created the Matanzas State Forest; Barr Hammock, 2,600 acres in Alachua County south of Payne's Prairie; Hatchett Creek, a one thousand acre addition to the Austin Cary Forest; Thomas Creek, protecting longleaf pines habitat in Nassau County; and Haw Creek, a 10,000 acre project in northern Volusia County.

For his lifetime dedication to the preservation of our woodlands, and thereby wildlife habitat and clean water, the Federation was pleased to present Ed Montgomery with its Forest Conservationist of the Year Award for 2015.

LAND CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Robert Christianson



Robert Christianson, formerly with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), received the Federation's Land Conservationist of the

Year Award. Robert was chosen because of his exceptional contributions to sensitive public lands acquisition, and for his vision, integrity and creativity that allowed the SJRWMD public lands acquisition program to thrive for decades.

Robert Christianson, originally from Ohio, moved to Florida shortly after high school. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from the University of Florida and earned a Master's Degree at the UF Center for Wetlands where he was fortunate to work in the lab of world-renowned ecologist H.T. Odum.

Following graduation, Robert pursued a career in natural resource management. Employed by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Robert's initial efforts resulted in the creation of the 2,000 acre Moses Creek Conservation Area. Since that time, he has overseen the acquisition and management of approximately 450,000 acres of land within the 18 county region of the District. These critical lands buffer rivers, lakes and streams, providing water recharge to our aquifer and countless hours of public recreation.

Robert Christianson was also instrumental in the acquisition of 14,000 acres of farmlands on the north shore of Lake

Apopka. The pollution from years of runoff had turned the once pristine lake into a toxic soup. By purchasing the land, and after many years of effort by hundreds of volunteers and agency personnel who cared about Lake Apopka, water quality is improving and thousands of acres of wetland habitat have been restored.

Robert Christianson has left a remarkable legacy, one which ensures that a critical part of "Old Florida" will remain intact. Until recently the Director of the Division of Strategic Planning and Financial Services for SJRWMD, Robert has truly served all Floridians.

PUBLIC LANDS CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

James F. Burnett

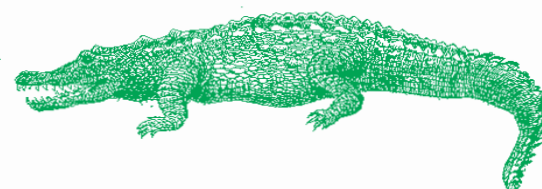


Burnett's next assignment was as Deputy Manager of Noxubee NWR in Mississippi, and Regional Office positions as private lands program coordinator and deputy refuge supervisor for Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

James returned to St. Marks NWR in 1997 as the sixth manager in the history of this iconic Refuge. St. Vincent NWR was administratively coupled with the St. Marks NWR in 2006 and James assumed responsibility for both areas. In 2014, the North Florida National Wildlife Refuge Complex was created and James was selected as the new manager. This large NWR complex includes the nine refuges that extend across the Big Bend of Florida from St. Vincent NWR in Apalachicola Sound to Egmont and Passage Key NWRs in Tampa Bay.

An overarching emphasis of James' work has been to promote landscape conservation benefiting our National Wildlife Refuges in cooperation with other government agencies, non-government conservation organizations, community representatives and conservation philanthropists. Due to these efforts, over 5,000 acres of strategically important habitat have been added to the St. Marks NWR over the past 15 years.

For his strong commitment to protecting the best of Florida, the Florida Wildlife Federation was proud to name James Burnett as its 2015 Public Lands Conservationist of the Year.



CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Maia P. McGuire, Ph.D.



conducts programs on such topics as climate change, invasive species and protecting coastal habitats. She has helped educate citizens young and old about manatees and the endangered North Atlantic right whale. The right whale, which weighs up to 70 tons and grows up to 50 feet in length, migrates to the coast of northeast Florida and southeast Georgia; these areas serve as critical habitat for female whales and their calves. Only approximately 450 of these beautiful creatures are left in our oceans.

Growing up on the islands and waters around Bermuda, Dr. Maia McGuire developed a keen interest in marine biology and ecosystems early in life. As a teenager, she was initially employed at a public aquarium, and later worked at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research. Moving to the mainland, Dr. McGuire received a Bachelor of Science degree in marine biology from the Florida Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. degree in marine biology from the University of Miami.

After spending two years teaching high school science in St. Lucie County and a year at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution conducting postdoctoral research, Dr. McGuire joined the University of Florida's Sea Grant Extension Program in 2001. As the Sea Grant extension agent for Northeast Florida, she

our oceans.

Dr. McGuire has also worked on a 5th grade curriculum focusing on sea turtles. In 2005, Dr. McGuire was awarded the Marine Science Educator of the Year award by the Florida Marine Science Educators' Association and in 2014 earned the Don Sweat Award from Florida Sea Grant for her initiative, creativity and leadership.

As education is the key to the creation of environmental stewards and as Dr. McGuire has successfully dedicated herself to informing others of the need for coastal sustainability, which is an absolute necessity in a state such as Florida, the Federation was pleased to name her as Conservation Educator of the Year for 2015.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Putnam Blueways & Trails Citizen Support Organization



Created in 2012, the Putnam Blueways & Trails Citizen Support Organization (CSO) has achieved a tremendous amount in a very short time due to the extraordinary effort of its volunteers. It now has over 100 members and the organization has initiated a multitude of activities to encourage public awareness of the special natural attributes of this rural county.

Putnam County, bisected by the St. Johns River, is home to many special

places, including the Rice Creek Conservation Area, Etoniah Creek State Forest and the northern part of the Ocala National Forest. Its many rivers and creeks, used for recreation and wildlife viewing, include 184 miles of designated "blueways," including the Ocklawaha and Dunn's Creek paddling trails and the Crescent Lake paddling trail. The mission of the CSO has been to educate citizens and visitors about these amenities, and get people outside into "real Florida."

The CSO has held several events to highlight the paddling and walking trails within the county. At the Welaka State Forest Fall Festival, and in cooperation with both public and private partners, the CSO supported kayak trips, nature hikes, geo-caching and equestrian events. In January 2015, the group took part in the Earth Stewardship Summit in

Palatka.

The members of Putnam Blueways & Trails CSO serve as ambassadors to the out-of-doors and they also educate policy makers to better understand the economic benefits of a sustainable county. As ecotourism grows in Florida, this effort is more important than ever.

For its inspirational efforts on behalf of Putnam County, her residents, and her lands and waters, the Florida Wildlife Federation named Putnam Blueways & Trails Citizen Support Organization as its 2015 Conservation Organization of the Year.



Many members of Putnam Blueways & Trails Citizen Support Organization attended the Banquet.

FRANCIS S. TAYLOR OUTDOORMAN OF THE YEAR

Robert E. Taylor, Jr. (Dr. Bob)



Bob Taylor's children Gail and Greg accepted the award on his behalf.

For his many years of dedication to conserving wildlife and wild places in Florida, and for encouraging others to appreciate the natural places in Florida, Robert E. Taylor, Jr., PhD. was selected by the Florida Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors to receive its Francis S. Taylor Outdoorsman of the Year Award for 2015.

Dr. Taylor was born in Polk City, Florida. From an early age he had a fascination with nature and the outdoors. As a life-long conservationist who loves to fish and hunt, he strongly believes that people will only support protection and preservation of natural areas as long as they have access for ethical enjoyment of these public lands.

Prior to retirement in 1992 as Professor Emeritus, he worked at the University of Tennessee Center for Health and Sciences. His specialties were biophysics, physiology and research. One of his many accomplishments was writing the Health Careers grant proposal that helped disadvantaged students to pursue a career in the medical field.

Following retirement, he and his wife

Billye moved to Lake Hamilton. There Bob met Richard Coleman, a longtime advocate for the restoration of the Kissimmee River. Richard and Bob began making nesting boxes as a fund raiser. After Richard's untimely death in an accident in 2003, Bob continued to perfect the craft of building beautiful cypress wood boxes, primarily for wood ducks, of which he made many hundreds. He has made barred owl boxes, song bird

boxes and a magnificent chimney swift tower for the Circle B-Bar Reserve in Polk County. He has also conducted several song

bird nesting box workshops for kids at the Circle B.

In 2013, Bob formed a coalition which included the Florida Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club and Audubon. The purpose of this coalition was to bring the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition presentation to Bok Tower. It was a sold out event and the proceeds were used to promote Florida's Water and Land Legacy Amendment. Florida's voters ultimately passed the Amendment with 75% support.

Bob became a Board Member and a Life and Eagle Club Member of the Florida Wildlife Federation and decided to continue the nest box program as a fundraiser for the Federation while serving as a Director. Bob is frequently asked to make nesting boxes and have them placed in appropriate habitat areas where they are most needed.

Due to recent illness, Dr. Taylor was unable to attend the Awards Banquet. Two of his children were on hand to accept his award on June 13, 2015, in St. Augustine at the Awards Ceremony.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Major Paul R. Ouellette, FWC



Major Paul Ouellette (FWC, Retired) was selected by the Federation's Board of Directors to receive the Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer Award because of his outstanding efforts to preserve Florida's natural resources and for protecting citizens and fish and wildlife through law enforcement during his career as a Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer.

Born and raised in Southeast Florida, Paul Ouellette earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology from Fort Lewis College in Colorado. Commencing work as a law enforcement officer for the old Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in 1985, and initially based in Broward County, Paul soon rose to Regional Training Lieutenant and then to Watch Commander in 1994, overseeing the St. Johns River law enforcement team.

Made a Captain in 2002, Paul au-

thored the Airboat Operations Manual and initiated the K-9 program. He also took charge of the agency's Boating Safety Grant program, serving as the liaison with the U.S. Coast Guard. In 2006, Paul became Section Leader of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Boating and Waterways Section. From 2010 to his recent retirement, Major Ouellette was the Regional Commander of the FWC's Northeast Region,

a 12 county area with 160 sworn law enforcement officers and administrative staff. Besides overseeing public safety and the observance of laws on land and sea, Paul also served as the agency's Field Incident Commander for the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

As Regional Commander, Paul oversaw everything from hunting on the Ocala National Forest to bass fishing on Lake Kissimmee and the Indian River. He exerted beneficial leadership over the field officers who interacted with those seeking to enjoy our wild lands and waters.

For his 30 years of public service to keep Floridians and visitors safe in the woods and on the water, and to protect our fish and wildlife resources, the Federation was proud to name Major Paul R. Ouellette as its Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2015.

LIVING GREEN AWARD

Sarah A. Boren



Sarah Boren was unable to attend the Awards Banquet.

Sarah Boren was chosen by the FWF Board of Directors to receive the Living Green Award for 2015 because of her outstanding efforts to teach businesses and individuals how to be environmentally friendly in their everyday living practices and for her twenty plus years

of leadership and service in the area of "living green."

Sarah A. Boren, raised in Los Angeles as a fifth-generation Californian, learned her love of the environment hiking with her family in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Sarah received her B.A. in Politics with a minor in Chinese from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1991 and later earned a Masters degree in Environmental Management in Resource Economics, Policy and Business, including corporate environmental management, from Duke University.

Moving to Jacksonville in 1999, Sarah now serves as Executive Director of the U.S. Green Building Council North Florida Chapter, a non-profit organization committed to creating a sustainable region and advancing the cause of green construction practices. She is also the Executive Director of the Green Team Project, a program of the Tides Center, a solutions-oriented national non-profit

that helps individuals and small businesses save money by becoming environmentally-friendly in their everyday practices.

As co-organizer of Sustainable Jacksonville, Sarah pursues ways to educate, increase the awareness of, and connect the general public to green businesses and sustainability efforts in Northeast Florida. She also helped co-found the local Northeast Florida Green Chamber to

spur the business community to become more sustainable and "green" the supply chain.

Along with her husband, Sarah is the owner of A Child's Place Montessori School in the Southpoint area. For her lifelong efforts to keep our planet, and Florida, sustainable for future generations, the Federation was pleased to recognize Sarah Boren with the Living Green Award for 2015.

FWF CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME TWENTY-SEVENTH INDUCTEE

David J. White, Esq.



David J. White, of St. Petersburg, became the twenty-seventh inductee into the Florida Wildlife Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame. David White was selected by the Federation's Board of Directors to receive this honor for his many years of remarkable dedication to the conservation of Florida's natural resources.

David White, an environmental attorney, spent his career making our world, and particularly Florida, a more ecologically sustainable and livable place. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Florida in 1980, David went on to obtain his Master of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology in 1983 studying alligator movements. He graduated from the UF College of Law with honors in 1986, having served as President of the Environmental Law Society and as a legal research assistant for the Center for Governmental Responsibility. He also clerked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

From 1987 to 1995, David worked as Regional Counsel for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) based in their Atlanta office.

In 1995, David became a volunteer board member of the Florida Wildlife Federation. He was active on the Board

until 2012, serving as the Chair from 2000 to 2002. He also commenced a career as a sole practitioner in Gainesville, always with a focus on serving the public good and conservation. For the next five years, he represented clients in local, state and federal cases concerning environmental permitting, land use, river restoration, including being a leader in efforts to restore the Ocklawaha River, and endangered species restoration efforts.

The Ocean Conservancy hired David as its Regional Director in 2000. Relocating to St. Petersburg, he and his staff addressed species and habitat issues in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Ocean. As a dedicated saltwater angler and boater, David coupled his passion for marine aquatic systems with his professional goals. During this period, he taught Environmental Policy and Politics and Advanced Policy of Protected Areas at Eckerd College.

Following the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster of 2010, and the passage of the RESTORE Act, which channels civil fine money to restoration projects in the Gulf of Mexico region, David became Director of the Gulf of Mexico Restoration Campaign for NWF. As Director, he promoted ecosystem-scale revitalization of natural systems to benefit water quality and coastal habitats.

Now in private legal practice, David serves as President of the Everglades Law Center, a public interest law firm focused on environmental and land use cases. He has been a true friend and ally of the Florida Wildlife Federation for many years. His uncompromising defense of what makes Florida a special place and his legal acumen have served the citizens of Florida well.

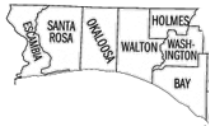
Nominee Profiles for District Directors

"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/ballot.aspx
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 10, 2015. For assistance call us at 1-800-656-3014.

NORTHWEST REGION

DISTRICT I



Name: **Steve Theberge**
Residence: Panama City
Years of Florida Residence: 17
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, cycling/hiking, gardening/habitat restoration
Other club/organization affiliations: St. Andrews Bay Resource Management Association - Board, Audubon, FishSmart.
Goals: • Improving water quality in bays and springs of the Florida Panhandle
 • Habitat protection and restoration, especially seagrass beds
 • Basing management decisions on science and research findings
 • Education and outreach on Native ecosystems and scientific methods
 • Getting youth involved in the great outdoors through education, outreach, and habitat and water quality restoration efforts.

DISTRICT II



Name: **Curt Kiser**
Residence: Lamont
Years of Florida Residence: 45+
Occupation: Retired attorney and former Florida Legislator
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, freshwater & saltwater fishing, environmental activism/lobbying, gardening/habitat restoration
Goals: It is a pleasure to serve on the FWF board of directors again and be able to assist the Federation in pursuing its goals of protecting Florida's natural resources, and fish and wildlife. I want the Federation to continue efforts to have the legislature honor the will of the people with reference to Amendment One. The conservation of habitat is extremely important in Florida and I've worked for many years to see land conserved; I want to see it continued. Also conservation education of our youth and getting them outdoors is a good focus of attention for FWF.

NORTHEAST REGION

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



Name: **Mark Middlebrook**
Residence: Ponte Vedra Beach
Years of Florida Residence: 31
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: 29
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

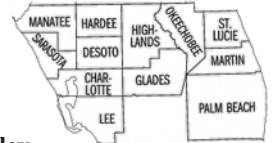


Name: **Alex Sink**
Residence: Thonotosassa
Years of Florida Residence: 31
Occupation: Retired banking executive
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, saltwater fishing, bird watching/nature photography, environmental/conservation policy development, preservation park 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: 70
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 Leage, 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.

Get Outdoors with FWF

Play the 2015 Boating Sweepstakes Today

By Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

The Florida Wildlife Federation is excited to be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our Annual Boating Sweepstakes. Instead of four boats, the Grand Prize winner will choose ONE of five fabulous prizes: One of two top-selling, family-friendly fishing boats with low emission engines, or a hybrid car, or an A-frame RV that's easy to tow with many of today's fuel-efficient SUVs, **OR \$25,000 in cash!** The prizes are: the Sea Hunt Triton 188 nearshore boat, the Blue Wave 2000 Pure Bay boat, the Prius Three hatchback, or the Aliner Expedition camper. Get outside with your family and friends and enjoy all the marvelous outdoor opportunities that only Florida can offer. The Boating Sweepstakes Drawing will be held on December 17th.



Rule the Bay in this high performance, custom fishing boat. **The Blue Wave 2000 Pure Bay** (20-feet) is ideal for a family outing or the serious angler. With its 8-foot beam, this boat can float in 11-inches of water. Standard equipment includes a leaning post with fold down footrest plus ice chest underneath, multiple live wells, 100% hand-laid hulls, rod lockers, two rear flip seats with storage, stainless steel hardware, unsinkable foam flotation, dry floor drain system and a 10-inch manual jackplate. Package includes a fuel-efficient Suzuki 115 HP fuel injected four stroke outboard engine and a Magic Tilt aluminum trailer.

Get out on the water in a **Sea Hunt Triton 188** (18-foot 8-inches) center-console nearshore boat, ideally configured for 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.

Introduced in 2010, the **Prius Three Hybrid Hatchback** continues to offer superior fuel economy with estimated 51 city/48 highway mpg. Due to the unique shape of the hatchback it has a very low drag coefficient of only 0.25, making it one of the most aerodynamic cars in the world. Available high-tech options in the Prius Three model are display audio with navigation; smart key system; subscription-free Entune Apps Suite that includes real-time traffic, weather, Pandora, and Open Table. The 2015 hybrid won a 4-star safety rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Safety features include antilock brakes, seven airbags, and a backup camera.

The Aliner Expedition—Aliner's largest model camper—is an easy-to-tow, pop-up RV trailer ready to handle any outdoor adventure. It weighs less than 2,000 pounds and is towable by many fuel-efficient vehicles. The package includes off-road capability, A/C-heat, oven, stove, refrigerator, microwave, euro-style sink, toilet, inside or outside shower, dinette booth, plus your choice of a rear sofa to foldout queen bed, twin beds, or queen mattress. All water tanks and lines are inside the camper so it can be used in winter. Sleeping capacity is four. Expedition is for the whole family or the couple that just wants more room. Smaller Aliner models are also available.

Outstanding Grand Prizes

SECOND PRIZE: Ten winners will receive a \$75 Gift Certificate to Guy Harvey Sportswear which features Guy Harvey t-shirts, Limited Edition shirts, jackets and fleece, Ladies t-dresses and dry-release performance shirts, youth t-shirts and sandals, hats, footwear, towels and backpacks. Guy Harvey merges his stunning art with high-performance and high-quality fabrics, fits and designs.

How to Enter

Ticket contributions are \$5 each, 6 tickets for \$25, 15 tickets for \$50, or 35 tickets for \$100. Watch for your Sweepstakes tickets in the mail or play online anytime. For more information, including the official rules, visit www.fwfonline.org and click on the Sweepstakes navigation bar at the top of every page. Then click on 25th Annual Boating Sweepstakes to enter. 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.



2015 "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes Winner

In January, the Florida Wildlife Federation kicked off its Third Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes offering three fantastic Grand Prize choices - five days of fishing for two at the Soldotna Bed and Breakfast Lodge in Alaska; a leisurely cruise through the Panama Canal on a luxurious Holland America cruise ship; a step back in time with a cruise in the Galapagos Islands with National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions; **OR \$10,000 in cash.** The Sweepstakes drawing was held on June 18, 2015 at 3 pm at FWF Headquarters in Tallahassee, and supervised by Carroll and Co., Inc., Certified Public Accountants.



Steve Giamberdine of Aurora, CO, winner of the Third Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes.



Tessa Kleck of FWF and Stephen Roeder of Carroll & Company, CPAs. Stephen drew 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.

In Memoriam

Mariana Beebe Jones

1934-2015

The Florida Wildlife Federation was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mariana Beebe Jones on May 23, 2015. Mariana was a stalwart supporter for protecting Florida's natural world and its fish and wildlife. She was preceded in death by her husband, John C. Jones, who was formerly the Executive Director of the Florida Wildlife Federation. Together Johnny and Mariana Jones were a force for good environmental policy across the state of Florida. They were champions of Florida Everglades restoration and tireless advocates for state acquisition of sensitive conservation lands. Their strong support for outdoor recreation included hunting and fishing on Florida's public lands and waters. They were among the first to oppose the straightening and ditching of the Kissimmee River and later were leaders in efforts to restore the Kissimmee River with its incredible natural and recreational values. Their efforts are already benefiting current citizens and will continue to benefit future generations.

Mariana was a wonderful mother to her five children. She had six grandchildren, five great grandchildren and two great-



great grandchildren. Her efforts to protect Florida's fish and wildlife are extremely noteworthy. She was a tireless advocate and helpmate to her husband, Johnny, who served the Florida Wildlife Federation for sixteen years as Executive Director. The Florida Wildlife Federation expresses deepest sympathy to her family for their loss.

In Memoriam

Robert E. Taylor, Jr. (Dr. Bob)

1930-2015

FWF was very sorry to learn of the passing of former FWF Board Member and lifelong conservationist, Dr. Robert E. Taylor, Jr., of Lake Hamilton on June 25th after a lengthy illness. Bob served on the Federation's Board of Directors from 2008 to 2014. He was active in a great number of conservation activities, enjoyed the outdoors and promoted outdoor and conservation education in his community. Bob was a Life and Eagle Club Member of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Bob Taylor was born in Polk City, Florida. His family later moved to Georgia where he attended high school; Bob received a pharmacy degree from Mercer College in Savannah. He completed his Master's and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Florida. Following additional post graduate study in Vermont, Bob served as a professor at the University of Alabama Medical School for many years. In 1977, he became Professor of Physiology and Biophysics and Associate Dean at the University of Tennessee's Center for Health Sciences in Memphis.

Bob and his wife, Billye, retired to Lake Hamilton, Florida, in 1992. His retired life was spent largely helping causes dedicated to the conservation of Florida's wildlife and the environment. Bob was instrumental in the protection of Circle B Bar Reserve by Polk County and a strong proponent of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment. He is fondly remembered for making beautiful cypress wood bird boxes, primarily for the nesting of ducks. He donated the proceeds of these to the Sierra Club and the Florida Wildlife Federation. Bob received many accolades for his charitable efforts and was awarded the Francis S. Taylor Outdoorsman of the Year Award on June 13, 2015 by the Florida Wildlife Federation. Due to his illness, his children Gail Johnson and Greg Taylor attended the Federation's awards ceremony in St. Augustine to receive the award statuette on his behalf.



Conservation Calendar

September 2-3, 2015
FWC Commission Meeting
Fort Lauderdale

September 25-27, 2015
FWF Board of Directors Meeting
Tradewinds Resort, St. Pete Beach
dhines@fwfonline.org

November 18-19, 2015
FWC Commission Meeting
Panama City
www.myfwc.com/commission

December 17, 2015
25th Annual Boating
Sweepstakes Drawing
FWF Headquarters

January 7-10, 2016
Everglades Coalition Annual Conference
The Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables
www.evergladescoalition.org

January 22-24, 2016
FWF Board of Directors Meeting
Location TBD

