

Florida Fish and Wildlife News



Florida Wildlife Federation

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936!

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Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

August 2016

79th Annual Conservation Awards Weekend

On Saturday, June 25, 2016, FWF held its 79th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet at the Courtyard Marriott Riverwalk in Bradenton. In addition to honoring the ten 2016 FWF Conservation Award winners, banquet attendees heard from Peter van Roekens of Save Our Siesta Sand 2 (SOSS2), who described the efforts of his organization to protect Siesta Key, a barrier island, and to ensure that no harm comes to Siesta Key beaches, waterfront property or navigation in Big Sarasota Pass. The Federation is partnering with SOSS2 to see that harmful dredging proposed by the US Army Corps of Engineers will not take place. Banquet attendees were also treated to an art exhibit by Peter R. Gerbert and to a silent auction of exciting items



Left to right: Steve O'Hara, FWF Board Chair;
Carissa Kent, 2016 Conservationist of the Year;
Manley Fuller, FWF President.

to raise funds for the Federation's many conservation programs.

On Friday evening, June 24th, FWF held a cocktail party event at nearby South Florida Museum which included a video and photo presentation by Dr. Dan Smith, UCF Wildlife and Research biologist, on the ecology of bears, followed by a "Star Talk" in Bishop Planetarium, a digital fully dome planetarium theater. The audience was treated to an unforgettable "voyage" of billions of light years into outer space.



Award statuettes given to each of the 2016 conservation award winners.

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

In Memoriam

Louis P. Kellenberger, Jr.
1937-2016



Photo by Terry Parker.

The Federation was saddened by the loss of board member Louis Kellenberger on June 28, 2016. Lou served as the Northwest Regional Director on the FWF Board of Directors since 2012. He attended board meetings for many years prior to that as a representative of Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park and St. Marks Refuge Association. Lou and his wife Betsy have been widely known for many years as outstanding nature and outdoor

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Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870
www.fwfonline.org

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Steve O'Hara



My term as Chair of your Board of Directors is drawing to a close. A new Chair will be elected at our annual business meeting in September. During my

two-year term as Chair, the Florida Wildlife Federation has been keeping the wild in Florida.

In 2014, an overwhelming 75% of Florida's voters ratified an amendment to Florida's Constitution to enhance spending on water and land conservation. Unfortunately, our legislators have not properly implemented the constitutional amendment. We had to file a lawsuit against the state legislature for failing to honor the will of the people.

We partnered with friends in Siesta Key in opposing a plan to dredge a natural inlet, Big Sarasota Pass, which has never been dredged. In June of this year, we honored ten individuals with an award at our annual conservation awards banquet in Bradenton. We also inducted Sen. Bill Nelson into our Conservation Hall of Fame.

We hold a conservation awards banquet every year. Each time, we honor a new group of conservation heroes. Last year, the banquet was held in St. Augus-

tine. We inducted David White, an environmental attorney and former FWF Board Member and Chair, into our Conservation Hall of Fame.

Our ongoing panther protection work in Southwest Florida, led by Nancy Payton, scored a "win for wildlife" when the Florida Department of Transportation decided to add additional wildlife fencing along Interstate 75 east of Naples where there had been a number of recent Florida panther deaths. At the opposite end of the state, our Northeast Florida Planning Advocate, Sarah Owen Gledhill, was honored by the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute for all that she has accomplished as a young environmental leader.

This year, we took a position on a recommendation by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologists to hold a bear hunt in 2016. We opposed this recommendation, asserting that a more detailed bear population sustainability analysis was needed. The

Commission decided against holding a bear hunt this year.

I could go on and on and on. The Florida Wildlife Federation does more to keep the wild in Florida than can be summarized in this short column.

I have served on the Florida Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors since the mid-1980s, except for eight years during which I served on the National Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors. I am completing my third non-consecutive two-year term as Chair of the FWF Board. When my successor is elected in September, I will continue to serve on the Board for two more years as Past Chair.

It has been such an honor to serve with the Florida Wildlife Federation's dedicated staff and volunteers. Members of our Board of Directors are all volunteers, all dedicated to keeping the wild in Florida. Thank you all.

Steve

FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2545 Blairstone Pines Drive; P.O. Box 6870
Tallahassee, Florida 32314-6870
850-656-7113; FAX 850-942-4431

www.fwfonline.org E-mail: dhines@fwfonline.org

Affiliated With National Wildlife Federation

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

NORTHWEST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR
Steve Theberge
3616 Oakbrook La
Panama City, FL 32408
503-338-0420

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR
Curt Kiser
5385 WPA Rd
Lamont, FL 32336
850-591-5416

CENTRAL REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Jay H. Exum
2253 Peachleaf Ct, Longwood, FL 32779
321-229-5653

DISTRICT V DIRECTOR
Billy Causey
30939 Delgado Lane
Altosna, FL 32702
305-809-4670

DISTRICT VI DIRECTOR
To be appointed

NORTHEAST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Richard Hamann
2020 SE 32nd Place, Gainesville, FL 32641
352-273-0842

DISTRICT III DIRECTOR
John Jopling
5323 NW 92nd Way
Gainesville, FL 32653
352-538-4154

DISTRICT IV DIRECTOR
Mark Middlebrook
212 Sailfish Dr
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
904-509-0918

SOUTHERN REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Martha Musgrove
2432 Edgewater Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33406
561-965-9409

DISTRICT VII DIRECTOR
Linda Stanley
5665 Summit Blvd
West Palm Bch, FL 33415
561-312-3918

DISTRICT VIII DIRECTOR
Franklin Adams
761 15th St. NW,
Naples, FL 34120
239-455-1567 H

EIGHT AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Joseph Atterbury
5393 Pennock Point Rd
Jupiter, FL 33458
561-371-0532

Tom Evans, Jr.
1000 Warwick Lane
Wilmington, DE 19807
302-656-0880

Bobbie Lindsay
212 Caribbean Rd
Palm Beach, FL 33489
561-797-9405

Ray Carthy
U.F. Coop Unit
PO Box 110485
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-213-5851

Terry Gibson
4394 NE Skyline Drive
Jensen Beach, FL 34957
772-285-7683

Jim Schuette
16736 94th St N
Loxahatchee, FL 33470
561-301-4883

Keith Overton
5600 Gulf Blvd.
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
727-432-3428

Julia Yarbough
740 SW 122nd Terrace
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025
954-383-1434

STAFF

TALLAHASSEE OFFICE

PRESIDENT

Manley K. Fuller, III

Vice President for Conservation & General Counsel
Preston T. Robertson

Vice President of Administration
Diane Hines

Membership & Database
Coordinator
Lynn Jones

Executive
Administrative Assistant
Michelle Forman

Administrative Assistant
Tessa Kleck

Policy Consultant
Jay Liles

Communications Specialist
Cole Sousa

Florida Fish & Wildlife News
Producer/Editor:
Danny Gwynn-Shapiro

Habitats Coordinator
Pat Pearson

FWF SW FL OFFICE
SW Florida Field Representative
Nancy Payton
2590 Golden Gate Pkwy, Ste. 105
Naples, FL 34105
(239) 643-4111

FWF NE FL OFFICE
NE Florida Planning Advocate
Sarah Owen Gledhill
88 Riberia St., Ste. 400
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 461-1160

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EDITOR in CHIEF
Manley K. Fuller, III

CONTACT US AT
dhines@fwfonline.org

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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
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Director Ballots

Florida Wildlife Federation
PO Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314

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

CUT OUT AND RETURN THIS BALLOT

CANDIDATES

Check (1) selection per district*

DISTRICT I

Steve Theberge _____

DISTRICT III

Richard Hamann _____
John Jopling _____

DISTRICT V

Tim Bachmeyer _____

DISTRICT VII

Linda Stanley _____

DISTRICT II

To be appointed _____

DISTRICT IV

Mark Middlebrook _____

DISTRICT VI

Jay Bushnell _____

DISTRICT VIII

Franklin Adams _____

*For more information about each candidate see pages 14.

You may also vote online at www.fwfonline.org/ballot/ballot.aspx.
Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by September 9, 2016 to be eligible.

THANK YOU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear Florida Wildlife Federation members,

We really appreciate your support of the Florida Wildlife Federation and its conservation work. I will begin my column on a sad note. We very recently lost two of our great friends, conservationists and members, Lou Kellenberger and Don Ashley. Each of these gentlemen recently passed away and more details on their wonderful lives and their love of Florida and the natural world can be found on pages 1 and 9. They are both sorely missed.

We would like to express our great appreciation to both April and Claude Ward for their generously including FWF in their estate and conservation land planning (see back cover of *Florida Fish and Wildlife News* for more details).

I wanted to report on some of the recent activities with the National Wildlife Federation and its June meeting in Estes Park, Colorado. Representing FWF were Rick Abbott, delegate; Jim Schuette, alternate delegate; myself; and Jenny Brock, NWF Regional Director. FWF sponsored a resolution calling for a more effective and better funded effort to address exotic invasive species across the United States. The resolution highlighted and used as an example of an area with a serious invasive exotic problem, the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Palm Beach County. The resolution was unanimously approved by the convention

delegates. We are distributing the resolution to heighten awareness and are seeking more and better utilized resources to deal with this pervasive problem.

One of the principal themes of the NWF annual meeting was the strong support for protecting and maintaining America's public lands. Unfortunately some people and politicians would like to sell off vital public conservation and outdoor recreational lands and some extreme zealots have attempted to seize public lands. The National Wildlife Federation, the Florida Wildlife Federation and other affiliates across the nation strongly support our National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks and their various units, National Forests and other valuable public conservation lands.

NWF recognized former Congressman Tom Evans for his lifetime of conservation leadership. Tom was the chief author of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act and a key player in the Alaska Lands Act as well as other important conservation legislation. FWF was proud to nominate Tom for this important national award. Tom continues to serve as a member of the FWF board of directors, working closely with me on coastal and other issues. Tom also has been instrumental in the FWF assisted film, *Battle for the Barriers*.

FWF continues to support a comprehensive strategy regarding the conservation of bears in Florida. FWF is actively engaged in efforts to place wildlife crossings at critical points valuable for bear and other wildlife movements. Our work on behalf of the proper use of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment funds seeks to benefit wildlife corridors linking important wildlife habitats to address the growing problem of habitat fragmentation across Florida. We also support the use of bear and other wildlife resistant trash receptacles particularly in areas (14 counties) where bear garbage issues are a known problem. The Federation called for the application of biological sustainability analysis, building upon the existing bear research of the FWC. Application of biological sustainability analysis (BSA) would help assure that future bear management in

PRESIDENT con't page 13

FWF's 2016 Photo Contest New Categories for Kids and Bigger Prizes!

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the second year 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. New categories this year include "**Recreation**", "**Shots on a Mobile Phone**" and a "**Kids Contest**" for those 14 and under.

Members, supporters and friends of FWF are encouraged to enter, noting anyone may enter the contest with the exception of FWF staff members. Entrants have an opportunity to win \$300 in cash, a tablet (Kindle Fire), \$50 Visa gift cards and more! Ten total winners will be selected. It has never been easier to capture images in Florida's outdoors – use your camera, smartphone, or tablet to document the wild world around you. Enter your most compelling nature images and photos of Florida today at www.snappiephoto.com.

Entries will be taken from now until December 31, 2016. 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 \$300, a Second Prize winner will receive a Kindle Fire tablet, six category winners will receive a \$50 Visa gift card and the kids contest winner will receive an outdoor backpack. Only digitally uploaded images may be entered. Judging will follow the closing date of December 31st.

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



Photo by Anthony Goldman.

KELLENBERGER from page 1

photographers. Lou and Betsy moved to Tallahassee from Dothan, Alabama, in 1988. Prior to retirement, Lou was a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley and an advisor to City of Tallahassee employees for retirement planning. He was an avid fan and supporter of Florida State University's athletics' programs, particularly FSU football and baseball.

Lou's greatest passion in recent years was digital photography, and he could often be found in the field at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Maclay Gardens State Park or Wakulla Springs State Park. He assisted the Federation with its Photo Contest; Lou and Betsy served as judges for the contest for many years, a very arduous task considering the thousands of entries to review. They also donated their talents as photographers for the FWF Awards Banquets in recent years.

The Kellenbergers enjoyed many summers in Maine, fall in North Carolina and South Florida in winter for many photo opportunities. Lou was generous with his photographs which can be found in many FWF publications as well as publications for the City of Tallahassee and for a number of other organizations. He loved photographing lighthouses and took many pictures of St. George Island's newly rebuilt lighthouse as well as the moving of the Cape San Blas Light to Port St. Joe. The Florida Wildlife Federation expresses our deepest sympathy to Betsy, their four children, and their many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His service and contributions to the Federation were exceptional. Lou will be truly missed.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



Alligator Alley I-75 Update

Last year Florida Wildlife Federation petitioned Florida Department of Transportation to install wildlife exclusionary fencing and improve habitat connectivity along Alligator Alley between the Naples toll booth east to the FakaUnion Canal. This nine-mile segment is the only section of the interstate highway that does not have proper fencing and wildlife underpasses.

Florida Department of Transportation moved quickly improving paths under two bridges, seeking quotes on 18-miles of fencing, and conducting a feasibility study on additional crossings connecting Picayune Strand State Forest and Collier County's North Belle Meade Resource Protection Area.

The bridge pathways are nearing completion and fencing is expected to be installed later this year. The Federation continues to work with Florida Department of Transportation, neighboring landowners, Collier County, and wildlife agencies to determine suitable locations for additional wildlife crossings.



Alligator Alley I-75 Miller Canal Bridge pathway under construction. Photo Courtesy of FDOT.



A worker inspecting a Miller Canal Bridge pathway. Photo Courtesy of FDOT.



Alligator Alley I-75 Bridge pathways nearing completion. Photo Courtesy of FDOT.

Florida Panther Festival November 5 in Naples



Mark the Date. The annual Florida Panther Festival will be held on Saturday, November 5, at the Naples Zoo. Florida Wildlife Federation is a major sponsor of the 2016 festival and will be co-hosting a display table with conservation education partner FGCU Panther Posse and Bear Brigade programs.

For detailed information on the festival, go to:

<http://www.floridapantherfestival.com>.

This family-friendly event celebrates the Florida panther and other local wildlife. Along with all the regular zoo activities, there will be exhibits, fun activities for kids, guided nature walks, field trips and practical talks about co-existing with wildlife.

Attendees will have the opportunity to view Uno, the Florida panther sadly blinded by gunshot and found emaciated wandering a rural road searching for roadkill. He now lives permanently at the Naples Zoo in an exhibit designed especially for his needs.

<http://napleszoo.org/panther>



Uno at the Naples Zoo. Photo Courtesy of Naples Zoo.

The festival will also be hosting an Exotic Pet Amnesty Day to accept unwanted exotic pets and to provide approved placements instead of releasing them into the wild.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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



Protecting our Public Lands

The City of DeBary recently had the audacity to unveil a scheme to use the public's Gemini Springs Addition lands to accommodate the private development of a city sponsored, transient-oriented development project. DeBary's efforts undermine the conservation goals of the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) and Volusia County.

During the 2012 Surplus Lands Assessment, the District deemed the 948 acre Gemini Springs Addition lands as "not needed for conservation purposes." Importantly however, the District prescribed transferring the lands to Volusia County with a perpetual conservation easement. Even though both parties were agreeable, the transfer never transpired.

The Gemini Springs Addition was acquired in 1999 with the use of FDOT mitigation funds for the widening of I-4 and SR 417. Gemini Springs Addition provides important habitat for wildlife, creates a continuous recreational corridor, protects Lake Monroe from stormwater runoff and preserves the Gemini Springs springshed.

The City of DeBary approached the District with the request to transfer 102 acres of the Gemini Springs Addition to accommodate a development which would include 2,400 residential units, 258,000 square feet of non-residential space and a stormwater retention facility. The District came close to acquiescing, until the public got wind of the idea.

FWF, as a long-time advocate for our public lands, viewed the City's proposal as having negative implications far beyond the city limits. It would have established a dangerous precedent which could unravel our state's conservation

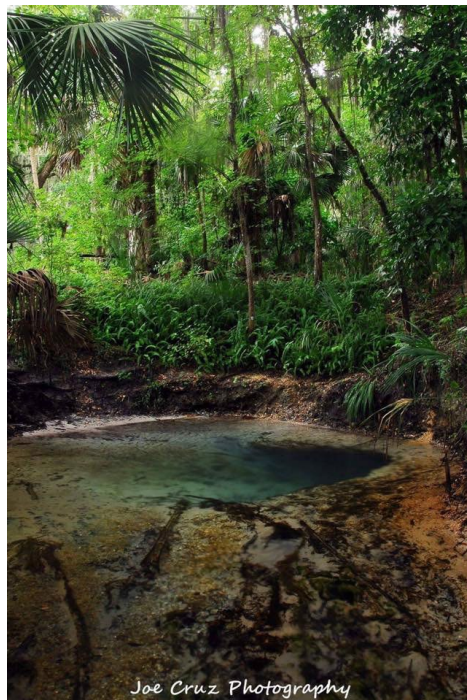


lands programs and undermine the requirements and purpose of mitigation.

Along with its conservation partners and a groundswell of well-organized grassroots opposition, FWF lobbied the District to fulfill the intent of the Surplus Lands Assessment and transfer the public lands to Volusia County. We know Volusia County will be good managers. In 2005, we recognized Volusia County's Land Acquisition and Management Director, Doug Weaver, as the FWF's Land Conservationist of the Year. This recognition was for his efforts to position the County as a good environmental steward. Volusia County still embodies these characteristics.

In June, the District put this issue to rest at their monthly governing board meeting. Following a recusal from the board chairman, the governing board voted unanimously to convey the ownership of the property to Volusia County with a perpetual conservation easement thereby protecting the land. FWF will continue to monitor the conservation easement language to ensure Gemini Springs and its buffer lands are protected.

Last but not least, FWF commends the *Daytona News Journal* for supporting their reporters in conducting investigative reporting and leaving no stone unturned as events unfolded.



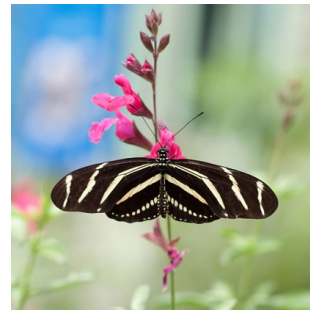
Joe Cruz Photography

Photo Courtesy of
Joe Cruz Photography.



FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. Why is it a good thing to encourage frogs and toads to live in your garden?



2. What is the Florida State Butterfly, and who decided that?

3. What is causing that big, ugly, stinky algae muck on Florida shorelines?



See page 13 for answers, and more information.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FLORIDA GARDENERS

New FWF Certified Habitat Partnership with NWF

The Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) has a new partnership arrangement with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF).

FWF has been re-vamping and updating our Florida Wildlife habitat pages, in part to make it easier for you to connect with the NWF pages where you can certify your Florida habitat, and while you are there, to take advantage of informative gardening material. Of course, you can just enjoy your own Florida habitat without certifying, and know that

every bit of Florida terrain that is reclaimed for wildlife is a boon for our own state's critters as well as for migrating birds and butterflies and Nature in general. **Please know that FWF truly appreciates you for that alone.**

NWF certification and the extensive gardening information, videos, and quick access to national news in a rapidly changing gardening world can widen your perspective and bring you much more enjoyment of your Florida garden. We particularly recommend the new "Native Plant Finder" feature on NWF's website, where you can enter your own Zip Code and find a list of plants native to your area. Native plants are the best food to plant for native critters. You will also be registered as a participant in NWF's Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. In addition, FWF receives \$5 of your NWF certification fee to use for the benefit of our own Florida wildlife.

Certify your yard, balcony container garden, schoolyard, work landscape or roadside greenspace today as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. FWF's website pages contain valuable information to aid you in establishing your own Florida wildlife habitat. Every habitat garden is a step toward restoring resources for wildlife locally and along migratory corridors.

(<http://www.fwfonline.org/Habitat/Florida-Wildlife-Habitat-Center.aspx>)





Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation
& General Counsel

A Disaster Many Years in the Making

Recent state and national headlines are full of the algal bloom disaster now unfolding in South Florida, especially along our east and west coasts. A wave of green, smelly, toxic goop has inundated shorelines, fouling water and suffocating aquatic species and manatees. This situation is not only upsetting, it is, unfortunately, completely predictable.

Since the Hoover Dike was completed in its current form in the 1960's, essentially making Lake Okeechobee into a giant bath tub, pollutant-laden water from agricultural and other sources has been deposited into the Kissimmee River and surrounding watersheds which has traveled south to the Lake. Nitrogen and phosphorous now degrade this once pristine water body, threatening a fishery of once great renown. Following completion of the dike, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, fearing a breach or overflow of the dike, has pulsed polluted water east and west, to the coasts, threatening fish and wildlife with toxic algal blooms. Prior to the dike, clean water had flowed slowly south, thereby creating the "River of Grass" and the Everglades. Today, millions of gallons of polluted water are shunted to the St. Lucie Canal eastward or to the Caloosahatchee River westward. As has been clear for a long time, this inundation of polluted freshwater has had significant deleterious impacts on these rivers and the estuaries they create at the coasts. Citizens in communities impacted by

this assault have complained loudly about this for many years.

Florida Wildlife Federation has been involved in efforts to rectify this horrendous situation for at least 20 years, pushing for action on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and taking private polluters, state agencies and the federal government to court when we believed our laws were being violated, especially the Clean Water Act. We have sued the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), which was supported by U.S. Sugar, over the sugar industry's back-pumping of dirty water into Lake Okeechobee from agricultural land south of the lake. We have litigated against the Corps of Engineers when it shifted essential water resources from the Caloosahatchee River to irrigation projects. These cases take time, and even if we prevail at the trial level, lengthy appeals follow. Years of inaction go by as the problems get worse. FWF and our allies have had wins and losses, but the overall picture remains the same: **we continue polluting and destroying our waters, killing our fish and wildlife and severely damaging our quality of life and our economy.**

Even as Everglades National Park, an internationally designated world heritage site, is deprived of essential clean water from the Lake, our state government has gutted water management districts of knowledgeable staff, eliminated the Department of Community Affairs, which provided a slight brake on urban and suburban sprawl, and completely disregarded the public will as to Amendment 1, passed by 75% of voters in 2014. Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Amendment, was intended to dedicate adequate funding for land and water protection, exactly what we need. This the Legislature has not done. We are therefore presently in litigation with the Legislature over that critical issue.

What is the solution? We need to stop the pollution at its source – especially agricultural run-off upstream from the lake. **We need to halt back-pumping of dirty water into the Lake. We need to move clean Lake Okeechobee water south by acquiring additional lands south of the Lake for water treatment, storage and conveyance.** We need to put property owners on central sewer and eliminate septic tanks from

FWF Supports Amendment 4 for Solar Power on the August 2016 ballot



Amendment 4 would remove a barrier to solar power by exempting the panels and other solar equipment from the real property tax and the tangible property tax – currently huge barriers to solar in Florida. This policy will lower the cost of solar, increase clean energy jobs, and greatly expand solar development across the state! It is ludicrous that Florida, the Sunshine State, is so far behind other states in taking advantage of this free and natural source of energy. This non-

partisan Amendment, supported by Republicans, Democrats and Independents, will lessen our dependence on fossil fuels, save money and help clean our environment.

Here is the Amendment language: SOLAR DEVICES OR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE DEVICES; EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT —Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to exempt from ad valorem taxation the assessed value of solar or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal property tax, and to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit consideration of such devices in assessing the value of real property for ad valorem taxation purposes. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2018, and expires on December 31, 2037.

Please vote YES on Amendment 4 this August!

***Please note Amendment 4 is NOT the utility-backed proposal that is on the November ballot (Amendment 1).

sensitive areas (this goes for our coasts and our freshwater springs). We need to **fully fund Florida Forever**, which was the hallmark of past governors, both Republican and Democrat. We need to permanently conserve lands that store and clean water. Saving lands for water restoration is a lot cheaper than building more treatments plants, and also provides wildlife habitats and open space.

It is well past time to stop kicking this can down the road if we are to save what makes Florida special, economically viable and ecologically sustainable.

Preston T. Robertson



Kurt Ritchey with FWF sponsorship information at disc golf tournament, Tallahassee.

“Ecological destruction in Florida is nothing less than economic suicide.”

- Gov. Reubin Askew in 1971



Claudia Farren
Education Consultant

We Can All Protect and Nurture Florida's Bees (Part Two)

Africanized Bees

Florida's domesticated European honey bees and native bees are usually docile. Africanized bees are another story. Honey bees from Africa were first introduced to the Americas through Brazil in the 1950s in an effort to increase honey production. Also known as killer bees, they are more aggressive, swarm in higher numbers, and can stay agitated for hours. Always be aware when outside. Watch for lots of bee activity and look for large numbers of bees hanging around certain parts of your home and property. Also, listen for the hum of a bee hive. Africanized bees are much more aggressive and you should run away whenever you see or hear them. If you find a colony do not attempt to destroy it yourself; call professional exterminators. You might kill 50 or so guard bees but there will be hundreds more that will come out of the hive to sting you. If you are stung do not attempt to pull out the stinger. Flick it off your skin with a credit card or similar material. The Florida Poison Control Center is open 24/7, 365 days a year. The phone number is 1 (800) 222-1222.

Bee proof your home:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in741>



Research at U of F: Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab (HBREL)

The University of Florida has several ongoing research projects at the [Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab \(HBREL\)](#). Many concentrate on honey bees because of their importance to Florida's agricultural community. There are investigations into honey bee diseases, understanding Colony Collapse Disorder, finding where honey bees are nesting in relation to crop fields, and how pesticides affect overall colony health. One study is trying to determine how interactions develop between honey bees and their nest invaders with the long-term goal of developing control measures that focus on the invaders.

Another study aims to find solutions for farmers to improve pollination results on blueberry and watermelon crops. It is an Integrated Crop Pollination Project funded by the USDA. The goal is to enhance pollination of these crops by realizing the value of honey bees and native bees working together. Native bees pollinate many Florida crops more effectively than honey bees. Recognizing the very real threat of crop failure that dependence upon a single species (honey bee) poses, university researchers are looking for ways to attract native bees into farm fields. In its fourth year of five, the researchers are deploying several strategies to attract native bees. One strategy is adding a strip of native wildflowers around the fields to attract native bees to see if that will result in an increase in fruit crop yield. Being able to utilize many species of bees can provide crop insurance.



Africanized honeybee nest.
Photo from the University of Florida.

New Bee Research Laboratory at the University of Florida

Money is being raised for a new bee research laboratory at the University of Florida. The 2016-2017 state budget includes \$2 million for the new lab. The university will contribute \$500,000 and the Florida State Beekeepers Association will be raising \$200,000 for the project. Goals for the new lab include reducing colony loss rates and improving colony health along with proper training of future beekeepers and bee researchers.

Become a Citizen Scientist and Participate in Native Buzz

[Native Buzz](#) is a citizen science project created by the [Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab](#) at the University of Florida. Their goal is to learn more about the nesting preferences of native solitary bees and wasps, share that information, and provide a forum for those interested in native beekeeping. Participants can track their own nest sites and see the results of other participant's nest sites.

Florida Bee College

[Florida Bee College](#) is a two-day event from the Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab at the University of Florida that offers classes for beekeepers of all ages and experience levels, gardeners, naturalists, county agents, and anyone else interested in honey bees. You do not have to keep bees to attend.

Master Beekeeper Programs throughout Florida

Master Beekeepers are available to your organization—great or small—for lectures, activities, and demonstrations about beekeeping, honey bees, native pollinators, honey, and related topics for schools, clubs, youth groups, and other organizations. With nearly 300 participants throughout Florida, [Master Beekeeper Programs](#) have reached three million people to date.

Create a Florida Wildlife Habitat

The Florida Wildlife Federation will continue to bring you, our members and supporters, articles about how to revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators by increasing the number of pollinator-friendly gardens and landscapes around the state. We encourage you to do whatever you can to protect and nurture pollinators by planting native flowers in your gardens and yards and by following smart gardening practices.

On June 30, I became the 201,601 gardening enthusiast to certify their wildlife habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. It's been fun the last three years planting new native plants and watching more wildlife visit my yard. I've seen a variety of birds, frogs, dragonflies, and many butterflies including zebra longwing, viceroy, and the majestic monarch.

[Certify your wildlife habitat](#) today and share your photos with [Pat Pearson](#) for the FWF Habitat website pages.

For Continued Research:

- [Where to Shop for Native Plants and Supplies: Florida Native Nurseries](#)
- [Honey Bee Health and Colony Collapse Disorder](#)
- [YouTube Video: Why are honey bees important?](#)
- [YouTube Video: How To Do Florida Beekeeping](#)
- [How to Protect Native Bees](#)
- [Project Integrated Crop Pollination Program](#)
- [Research at University of Florida](#)



Africanized bee.
Photo from the University of Florida.



Above: Franklin Adams, FWF Board Member.

Below: Peter van Roekens of SOSS2.



Photos from Annual Conservation Awards Banquet



Above: Richard and Jennifer Harris are seated with Esteban Gutierrez (Award Winner) and his wife Jessica. Larry Allan pictured right.

Below: George and Diane Jones.



Above: Diane Hines thanked attendees for joining us.

Below: Sarah and Max Gledhill with their children.



Nancy Payton and Dr. Dan Smith, UCF wildlife biologist.



FWF Staff Tessa Kleck and Michelle Forman.



Earl and Lynn Jones with Ned Stone.



Preston and Christina Robertson and Marilu Morgan, FWF Board Member.



Manley Fuller with artist Peter R. Gerbert.



Attendees at the 79th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet.

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:

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

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

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Martha Musgrove and Linda Stanley, FWF Board Members.



Ray Carthy, Ph.D., FWF Board Member.



Banquet photographer and FWF staff member Danny Gwynn-Shapiro.

IDEAS For Us with FWF



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.

What is IDEAS For Us? IDEAS for Us is an environmental nonprofit organization (founded at UCF by Chris Castro and Henry Harding in 2008) that helps to identify how global issues related to energy, water, food, waste and ecology are affecting communities and then developing local solutions to address these global challenges through a grassroots movement.



FWF was pleased to receive a special gift of recognition from IDEAS for Us, a beautiful wooden, laser-cut bear and its base were designed and produced for FWF by one of the IDEAS members.



In Memoriam James "Don" Ashley 1948-2016

Don Ashley, a great friend of the Florida Wildlife Federation, Eagle Club Member and Board member from 2004 to 2007, passed away on June 26, 2016. Don was a passionate family man and wildlife conservationist. He was well known and respected throughout the conservation community in Florida and in international circles due to his outstanding advocacy for the crocodilian products industry. For example, Don led the way to change state and federal laws allowing the sale and export of alligator hides. His knowledge of U.S. and international conservation and utilization issues pertaining to crocodilian products was extensive.

A passionate family man, Don met his wife, Pamela, in Tallahassee in the early 1970s. Don and Pam have two sons and a daughter, and ten grandchildren. Don generously made all of his family members, including the children and grandchildren, Eagle Club (\$1,000) members of the Florida Wildlife Federation. The Ashleys lived in Tallahassee for many years, and later moved to Panacea where they resided in their home on the Ochlockonee River. FWF has long held Don Ashley in high regard. The Federation expresses deepest sympathy to Pam and the Ashley family for their great loss.

New Eagle Club Member:

Deborah Gale, Orlando

New Life Members:

Larry Hubbard & Sharlene Lippy, Lady Lake

Charles L. Rue, Jr., Naples

Peggy A. Strahman, New Smyrna Beach

Chatham & Marilu Morgan, Destin

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.*

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for their generous monetary and in-kind gifts to assist with the 79th Annual Meeting expenses and the Silent Auction.

Peter R. Gerbert (Ridge Manor)
Steve & Jerilyn O'Hara
(Jacksonville)

Walt Disney World Community
Relations (Lake Buena Vista)

Al Hoffacker (Fort Myers)
AMC Theaters (Tallahassee)
Bass Pro Shop (Fort Myers)
Botanical Gardens of PBC
(West Palm Beach)

Busch Gardens (Tampa)
Country Inn & Suites (Cape Canaveral)
Doo's Amazing Tours (St. Petersburg)
Gaylord Palms Hotel (Kissimmee)
Grundens (Miami)
Guy Harvey Inc. (Davie)
Hawks Cay Resort (Duck Key)

Holiday Inn Suites Habourside
(Indian Rocks Beach)
IP Casino Resort & Spa (Biloxi, MS)
Jungle Queen Riverboat (Ft. Lauderdale)
Larry Allan (Sarasota)
Louis & Betsy Kellenberger
(Tallahassee)
Miami Seaquarium (Miami)
MOSI (Tampa)
MOTE Marine Laboratory (Sarasota)
Paul Schulz (Winter Haven)
SALT LIFE Advertising
(Phenix City, AL)
Santa Fe Canoe Outpost (High Springs)
Stephen Koury (Lakeland)
Sunken Gardens (St. Petersburg)
Wild Adventures Theme Park
(Valdosta, GA)
VIZCAYA Museum & Gardens (Miami)

THE FEDERATION'S 79th 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 79th Annual FWF Conservation Awards Banquet was held on June 25th at the Marriott Courtyard Riverfront in Bradenton.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Carissa Kent



raising. She has served as the co-Chair of the Central Florida Zoo and Kaboom! Community Playground Project, which built a playground for low income citizens. Carissa also helped after the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster, acting as Incident Commander for seven teams in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida to save oil-covered birds and sea turtles.

Even as Ms. Kent has for many years selflessly served our wildlife, her work as the Founder/Director of Saving Florida's

Gopher Tortoises is simply an amazing story of what an individual can do to make a significant and positive difference. While the intentional killing of gopher tortoises has been illegal for many years, there still exist permits that allow the "incidental" and legal take (i.e., killing) of this long-lived reptile. Many holders of these permits do not want to kill the tortoises, but need someone to come and move them out of harm's way. That is where Carissa and her assistants come in - with a backhoe, shovels and lots of experience.

Since 2006, over 5,000 gopher tortoises have been saved from entombment by SFGT. Additionally, over 1,000 injured or lost tortoises have been helped. Importantly, assisting these individual tortoises aids not only the tortoise, but over 350 other native species (known as commensals) that rely upon the tortoise burrows as part of their lifecycles. Species such as the Gopher frog, Florida pine snake, Florida mouse and a multitude of invertebrates rely upon these sanctuaries. The saved tortoises are safely relocated to protected lands such as Nokuse Plantation in the Panhandle.

For her tremendous efforts on behalf of native and endangered wildlife, the Federation was proud to name Carissa Kent as the Conservationist of the Year for 2016.

Biological Administrator in 1984, having moved to Panama City.

In 1993, Tim was promoted to Regional Director of the Northwest Region, with responsibilities for 13 counties. Tim's people skills came to the forefront as he worked with diverse user groups and elected officials on all manner of issues concerning hunting, fishing and conservation of natural resources. Moving up to Assistant Director, Division of Wildlife and then to Director of this Division in 2004, Tim oversaw more than 350 employees whose main mission was to improve the outlook for wildlife in a state that was growing exponentially in human population even as our limited natural resources waned. His duties entailed habitat management on over five million acres of public land. With efforts that included everything from gopher tortoise and Florida panther preservation to prescribed burning, he sought to involve members of the public and other stakeholders in the decision-making of the agency.

As a valued advocate for conservation nationally, Tim has served on several boards, including

Chair of the Atlantic States Joint Venture, which strives for comprehensive conservation of avian species in the eastern United States. He also represented the agency on the Acquisition and Restoration Council which oversees Florida Forever land protection statewide.

Following retirement from the state in 2011, Tim became the Coordinator of the Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative (PFLCC), one of nine such organizations spanning the nation. By looking at conservation on a landscape level and coordinating amongst multiple governmental and private entities, he has sought to ensure that peninsular Florida retains environmental and cultural resiliency in the face of climate change and urban expansion.

Tim Breault has been at the forefront of conservation in Florida for over three decades. His intelligence and dedication have served our state and our citizens well.

For his outstanding contributions to Florida and her natural resources, the Federation was proud to name Tim Breault as the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year for 2016.

LAND CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Alto "Bud" Adams



Bud Adams was unable to attend the Awards Banquet. Photo by Carlton Ward, Jr.

calf operation in the nation, but also provide habitat for countless native species. Moreover, he has promoted biological pest control and less use of fertilizers.

What started out as a very small cattle operation in the 1940's has grown to thousands of acres of ranchland and wilderness. With property in Osceola, Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties, the Adams Ranches total approximately 50,000 acres. Bud Adams grew up on the St. Lucie ranch, 18,000 acres in size, which was originally bought by his father, Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Alto Adams, in 1937. Not only are cattle raised on these ranchlands, but citrus and ecotourism are part of business plan. Commencing in 1996, the Adams started taking visitors around the ranch on eco-tours. Amazingly, this land looks much like it did hundreds of years ago. Cabbage-palm hammocks, grasslands, dry prairie and longleaf pine flatwoods are all present. Along with domesticated cattle, deer, turkey and alligators abound, as do many bird and fish species.

Critical parts of the Adams' ranches are now protected by perpetual conservation easements which provide essential wildlife corridors and water recharge areas. Thanks to the many years of environmental stewardship on the ranches, our native wildlife has a much better future in this fast growing part of the state. The Adam's Ranch is also well known for high quality wildlife management and hunting leases. Private landowners like Bud Adams, who strive to leave a conservation legacy, are helping every Floridian by ensuring that our natural attributes are sustained.

For his dedication to protecting the Old Florida, our native wildlife and helping our water resources, the Federation was pleased to name Alto "Bud" Adams, Jr., as the Land Conservationist of the Year for 2016.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Tim Breault



Born in Connecticut, Timothy A. Breault graduated from Cornell University in 1974. Af-

ter coming to Florida, he commenced his long and successful career in conservation by collecting loggerhead turtle eggs on Jupiter Island as a seasonal laborer with the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. In 1975, he started work with the old Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission as a wildlife biologist on Fisheating Creek near Lake Okeechobee. This was the start of a 37-year career with that agency, which became the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 1999. He worked on the Everglades Wildlife Management Area until he become a

Alto "Bud" Adams, Jr., is an icon in the world of Florida cattle. As a little boy growing up in Ft. Pierce, he helped his family raise the hardy and heat tolerant Spanish cattle that had been introduced into the state with the conquistadors. Unfortunately, these cows were not preferred in the marketplace. To solve this problem, in 1948, Mr. Adams began crossbreeding Herefords and Brahmans. Several generations into the experiment, the true "Braford" cow emerged, and has been essential to the success of the Southern cattle industry ever since.

Thankfully, for all Floridians, Bud Adams is also a true conservationist, successfully combining his cattle business with land and water protection. Indeed, the fabled Adams Ranch properties are not only home to one of the largest cow/

CONSERVATION COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

Paula Dockery



Sen. Paul Dockery receiving the Conservation Communicator of the Year Award from Manley Fuller and Preston Robertson in Tallahassee. Dockery was unable to attend the Awards Banquet.

Florida State Senator Paula Dockery, was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1996. Owing to her skill of gaining consensus amongst sometimes fractious parties, she was chosen to chair the Environmental Protection Committee. In 1999, she authored the Florida Forever initiative as a successor to the highly successful Preservation 2000 program. She also played a critical part in the debate over water allocation, concentrating not only on equitable distribution amongst agriculture, domestic use and the environment, but on increasing alternative water sources.

Elected to the Florida Senate in 2003, Senator Dockery continued as a leader on environmental issues. Senator Dockery understands the worth of open space and the need to protect not only our life-sustaining environment, but our rural heritage. She has never lost her commitment to water conservation issues and her steadfast determination to keep conservation programs alive.

Since leaving the Legislature in 2012, Paula has devoted herself to informing Floridians about what is happening in our state government in her

very well-received blog, *Political Ponderings-One Woman's Opinion*. With reasoned observations about a multitude of important policy positions taken by our elected leaders in the Legislature, Paula has spoken to the dangers of fracking, threats to our state's once iconic Government in the Sunshine law, the proposed misuse of our award-winning state parks, and the importance of the approaching Constitutional Revision Commission. She has also bemoaned the lack of accountability of some legislators to their constituents and the state as a

whole.

Critically, Paula has underscored the Legislature's shabby treatment of the will of the people as to Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Amendment, that was passed by 75% of Florida's voters in 2014. Her incisive commentary on this topic has helped keep the issue in the public eye. Moreover, her observations have made readers more aware of the seeming lack of connection between the desires of the populace and many of our politicians.

As Thomas Jefferson essentially stated, an informed electorate is indispensable to a functioning democracy. Paula Dockery is doing her part to make sure we are all up to date on the legislative actions and inactions that affect our fragile environment and therefore our quality of life.

For her dedication to educating Floridians about issues critical to the future of our state, especially about topics concerning Florida conservation, the Federation is proud to recognize Paula Dockery as the Conservation Communicator of the Year for 2016.

and community involvement.

Not only a talented public speaker and environmental educator, Ms. Greenough is a noted clarinetist. She was inducted into the Festival of Winds Honor band at USF, and was made a member of Macy's Great American Marching Band.

Young Floridians who are dedicated to conservation are essential if we are to retain our

quality of life. Kaitlin has met the challenge to educate herself on the issues, get involved and make our world a better and more sustainable place.

For her work on behalf of our fragile environmental, FWF was pleased to name Kaitlin Greenough as the Youth Conservationist of the Year for 2016.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program



The collegial partnership of citizens, elected officials, resource managers, and commercial and recreational resource users works together as an advocate for the 4,700-square-mile estuarine watershed by building consensus that is based on sound science.

It is Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program's outreach program to school students through its *Adventures in the Charlotte Harbor Watershed* that caught Florida Wildlife Federation's attention and support. The educational program includes not only the coastal schools, but also the often overlooked "upstream" and rural schools.

By engaging local schools and communities throughout the watershed, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is focused on improving water quality in the estuaries while maintaining the integrity of the watershed as a whole. The program not only strengthens the land-water connection, but is also building a multi-generational appreciation of the Charlotte Harbor estuarine watershed.

For its comprehensive and effective outreach programs to school children across the Charlotte

Harbor watershed, the Federation was pleased to honor the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program as its 2016 Conservation Organization of the Year.

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is celebrating two decades of work by community stakeholders to improve the health of the water, habitat, and living resources of Southwest Florida's estuaries – where fresh and saltwater mix – from Venice to Bonita Springs to Winter Haven.

In 1995, then Florida Governor Lawton Chiles submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a nomination to designate the greater Charlotte Harbor estuarine system as an estuary of national significance. The nomination was accepted and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is now one of only 28 across the United States.



Carol Mahler and Maran Hilgendorf receiving the award for The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Kaitlin Greenough



Kaitlin Greenough started her Girl Scout career as a Daisy in kindergarten. Now enrolled at the University of South Florida as a studio art major, Kaitlin spent the intervening years as a student in Zephyrhills, as a musician, and as a Floridian who has given back to the community by educating others about the importance of water quantity and quality.

As a Girl Scout, Kaitlin started volunteering at the Crystal Springs Preserve, a 525 acre piece of old Florida in Pasco County. This private preserve protects Crystal Springs, a 2nd magnitude spring that emits 30 million gallons of water daily. As a project, Kaitlin decided to share the importance of protecting our rare natural freshwater springs. She researched the science behind springs and the Floridan aquifer, becoming fa-

miliar with the critical need for water protection and conservation in a state that is underlain with karsts.

For her class presentation at Crystal Springs, Ms. Greenough toured students around the site and guided them through creating miniature watersheds, allowing them to see firsthand how pollutants can get into our drinking water and our natural ecosystems. She focused her teaching efforts on the need to prevent over-pumping and avoid pollution. Over the course

of three years, Ms. Greenough spent over 130 hours informing students about the importance of a healthy environment and clean water with lessons appropriately geared towards children of varying ages. Students were also made aware of the wide variety of native flora and fauna that exist near the springs, including sandhill cranes, turtles, fishes and butterflies.

Due to her commitment to making the Zephyrhills region more sustainable, Kaitlin was presented with a proclamation from the Mayor's Office and been granted Lifetime Membership in the Girl Scouts of America (GSA). Additionally, she has received the Gold Award from GSA, the highest award any scout can receive. It is presented to individual Girl Scouts in the 9th to 12th grade who demonstrate extraordinary leadership

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Lt. Mike Andriano, FWC



Following four years in the United States Marine Corps where he served as a corporal and infantry squad leader in Kuwait and Somalia, Mike Andriano joined the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 1999. He graduated at the top of his law enforcement officer class and earned the highest scholastic

achievement award. He was first assigned to the Ocala area. As law enforcement in the National Forest, Mike protected the public's natural resources. His work included patrolling the immense forest, and making arrests, including for hunting during closed season and taking protected species.

Relocating to Southwest Florida, Mike was promoted to Lieutenant/Patrol Supervisor. His career in this part of the state has involved both fisheries and wildlife protection. He has dealt

with cases concerning undersize game fish, lack of proper licensing, illegal take of deer, possession of firearms by convicted felons, possession of drug paraphernalia, petit theft, armed robbery and a plethora of other violations, including manatee speed zone enforcement, boater education and the arrest of intoxicated armed trespass-

ers on Babcock Ranch. He was part of a high speed boat chase on Estero Bay as illegal netters tried to escape after attempting to ram the FWC officers' vessel. When a shot by the officers to disable the netters' engine failed, the pursuit was on and ended with the arrest of the violators. Importantly, Lt. Andriano follows up on his arrests to ensure that the criminals who would steal our public resources pay a price for their misdeeds.

Lt. Andriano has previously been recognized for his stellar work. He was named FWC State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Officer of the Year by the National Wild Turkey Federation. Moreover, while he has committed himself to his law enforcement career, he has never stopped pursuing his own education. He

has earned a Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice Studies, a Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Administration and a Masters in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of South Florida. He has also taken numerous leadership and management courses to enhance his performance as an FWC officer and serves on several committees for the agency. Mike is also an avid runner, having participated in many long distance events.

For his commitment to the conservation of Florida's fish and wildlife, and the protection of her residents and visitors, the Federation was delighted to name Lt. Mike Andriano as the Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2016.

FRANCIS S. TAYLOR OUTDOORSMAN OF THE YEAR

Captain Esteban Gutierrez



be highly positive. Indeed, it can be life changing as people get out of their daily grind even for a day and see the beauty that nature affords.

As a kayak guide and kayak fishing seminar facilitator, Esteban's goals are to promote kayak fishing and teach others about wildlife and marine conservation. There can be no better way to be immersed in the natural world than in a kayak, floating on the water and able to silently observe both terrestrial and aquatic species in an unobtrusive position.

Born in Costa Rica, Esteban Gutierrez moved to this country in 1996 at the age of 18. Shortly thereafter, he joined the United States Navy and served our nation for 10 years, taking part in the War on Terrorism, and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He was also stationed off the coast of Somalia interdicting pirates. Following his stint in the Navy, Esteban earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Management and is currently pursuing a Masters in Business and Marketing.

HOW programs have served over 23,000 veterans and family members and the success of the program is beyond debate. Participants' stress levels are significantly reduced. Lives may well have been saved owing to the HOW volunteers and their dedication to helping others in time of need.

Captain Gutierrez presently works for Florida Power and Light and in 2012 started Blackbeard Group, LLC, an international marketing firm specializing in sport fishing. While he has made his fishing addiction part of his business, he has also given back to the community by helping those in their time of need.

For his selfless commitment to inspiring our nation's veterans, and his enthusiasm for conserving our natural resources, the Federation was pleased to name Captain Esteban O. Gutierrez as the Outdoorsman of the Year Award recipient for 2016.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

David Theriaque, Esq.



Following graduation from Westfield State College in Massachusetts with a degree in biology, Dave Theriaque moved to Florida and enrolled in Florida State University. In 1989, he earned both a Masters of Science in Planning and a law degree from FSU, graduating with high honors and meriting the Environmental Law Achievement Award. Following employment as a law clerk at the U.S. District Court, he taught as an adjunct professor at the FSU Department

of Urban and Regional Affairs. For many years he has been in private practice in Tallahassee, presently as a partner with Theriaque and Spain, PA.

Dave has been named as a Super Lawyer in land use and zoning, and is an AV-Preeminent rated attorney, the highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. With professional memberships in several sections of the Florida Bar, including Environmental and Land Use Law and Administrative Law, he has published numerous treatises on a myriad of topics including "Private Property and Development Rights," "The Bert Harris Property Rights Act," "Florida Growth Management Act - Has it Made a Difference?" and "The Constitutional and Legal Framework of Planning." In brief, there are very few who know planning and its legal ramifications in Florida better than Dave Theriaque.

Besides being a highly experienced attorney, David is also a dedicated conservationist. He has served as the Presiding Officer of the Federation's Life Members' Council and has successfully represented FWF in several very important legal actions. Of particular note are the 'Kirtan's Corner' case in 1996, which permanently con-

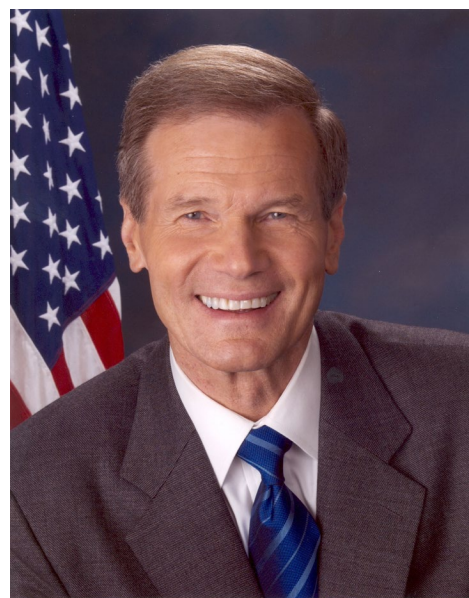
served a vital water recharge area near Wakulla Springs State Park and the City of Tallahassee sprayfield case in 2006. In the latter case, FWF, with Mr. Theriaque's lead representation, succeeded in not only closing down the polluting wastewater sprayfield being used for many years by the City, but was also able to significantly strengthen the City's pollution control protocols, thereby ensuring many pounds of nitrogen and phosphorous were not able to enter the aquifer. David has worked on land use cases all over the state, representing local conservation organizations and state organizations such as FWF's ally 1000 Friends of Florida. He has worked on wetlands and water quality issues in Nassau County, dairy farms in Suwannee County and protection of the public's right to enjoy the beaches of Walton County.

As a staunch birder, Dave has traveled to other nations to view rare species, but fortunately he also works to benefit our native wildlife as well.

For his many years of assistance to the Federation, his friendship and his stellar representation in both the judicial and administrative arenas, FWF was delighted to present David A. Theriaque, Esq., with the President's Award for 2016.

FWF CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME TWENTY-EIGHTH INDUCTEE

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson



A fifth generation Floridian, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson was first elected to public office in 1972. Having been born in Miami and raised in Melbourne, he served with the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1971. He was initially elected to the Florida Legislature where, for three terms, he advocated for growth management, conservation lands, habitat restoration and consumer protection. Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978, he represented Orlando and the Space Coast for six terms as an early proponent for a balanced federal budget. In 1986, Senator Nelson orbited the Earth on the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, and is noted as a leading expert on NASA and space exploration.

In 1994, Senator Nelson was elected to the Florida office of State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal. In 2000, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he is widely recognized as a moderate voice and an advocate for Florida's public lands. As a member of the Senate Commerce Committee, he took a leadership



Digna Alvarez, Regional Director for Senator Bill Nelson, accepted the award on his behalf.

The Senator was unable to attend and provided comments by video.

role in protecting Florida's economy, military mission and ecology from oil drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Indeed, the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, which cost the state millions of dollars and countless jobs, showed the prescience of Senator Nelson's concern for a state so reliant on tourism.

Following the BP oil disaster in 2010, and with many millions of gallons spilled into the Gulf, Senator Nelson played a critical role in shepherding a bill, in collaboration with other Gulf state Senators, to have the majority of this money come back to those states most impacted by the disaster. Without this bill, the money would have gone into the general fund where the focus

NELSON con't page 13

NELSON from page 12

on Gulf Restoration likely would have been lost. The bill passed out of Congress and now monies from the fines will be used to aid in environmental and economic recovery along the Gulf Coast.

Senator Nelson has consistently backed conservation measures throughout the nation. He is a keen supporter of alternative energy, and opposed opening the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. In Florida, he has been a critical, long-term backer of Everglades restoration and the protection of the Picayune Strand region, home of our endangered panther. He also helped with securing the 91,000-acre Babcock Ranch in Southwest Florida and has facilitated the remediation of contaminated sites via the Superfund program.

Senator Nelson has also been a leader in efforts to alert Americans to the threats to fish and wildlife posed by invasive exotic species like the Burmese python, the black and white tegue lizards and the red lionfish.

More recently, Bill Nelson has again positioned himself at the forefront of defending against federal legislative initiatives which would lessen protection for our Gulf. These efforts, which seek short-term financial gain while risking the economic and environmental vitality of our home state, have found an unyielding roadblock in Senator Nelson. Moreover, he continues to fully support restoration of the Apalachicola River, renewable energy and expanding the protection of special areas like the Big Cypress National Preserve by supporting a comprehensive environmental impact analysis for proposed expansion of oil and gas activities. His determination to ensure a healthy Gulf, clean water and sustainable public lands has been of benefit to us all.

For his long-term and stalwart dedication to the conservation of our natural resources and life-long love and commitment to Florida's environment, FWF was proud to name Senator Bill Nelson as its twenty-eighth inductee into the Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame.

PRESIDENT from page 3

Florida would take into consideration all mortality factors and a number of important bear population demographics.

Bear hunting in Florida has been very controversial in both 2015 and 2016. FWF believes that the Florida Black Bear is one of our most iconic species and that any harvest objectives should be set through the most rigorous scientific methodology. Florida has been a leading state in bear research and we are happy the bear population has increased in the last 25 years. Bear hunting is employed in over 30 other states, but due to Florida's rapidly expanding human population and development greater pressures are being applied to our bear population. That is why we support properly sited wildlife crossings, better habitat protection and linking our conservation lands through corridors. We also advocate increasing efforts to reduce human bear conflicts by reducing human food habituation and building upon existing bear studies by utilizing the most rigorous models to calculate bear mortality levels from human and natural causes that are sustainable.

The Florida Wildlife Federation was at the forefront in passing Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Amendment in 2014. An astounding 75% of voters backed this amendment to our state constitution to direct adequate funding to popular conservation lands programs like Florida Forever and to ensure wildlife habitats, water recharge areas, and our waterways and adjacent buffer lands across Florida are protected for future generations. We were hopeful that a new day had dawned in Florida.

Unfortunately, the Florida Legislature did the exact opposite of what the voters, Republican, Democrat and Independent, decided. They have used substantial portions of the funds from the Water and Land Legacy Amendment dollars for regular operations instead of buying and restoring fragile lands that help to reduce water pollution and protect habitat. Consequently, FWF and allies represented by David Guest and Earthjustice have filed a series of legal actions in an attempt to correct these misappropriations. Now, we are seeing extraordinary al-

gal blooms, sometimes toxic, fueled by excessive nutrients, primarily by inadequately regulated agricultural runoff, polluting Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries in South Florida. Fishing and other forms of sustainable outdoor recreation has been devastated.

For many years it has been well known that nutrient-laden waters stimulate toxic blooms which kill fish and wildlife, livestock and threaten human health. The destructive and massive discharges damaging our east and west coast estuaries from Lake Okeechobee could be significantly reduced if our elected officials used Water and Land Legacy Amendment moneys to buy critical lands below Lake Okeechobee in the Everglades Agricultural Area for water storage, treatment and conveyance south through the Everglades, Everglades National Park and onto Florida Bay.

Thank you for assisting the Federation to vigorously pursue actions to restore the quality of our coastal waters and end the water pollution in the Everglades Region. Our political leaders must squarely address these problems NOW for ourselves and for future Floridians.

At a minimum, FWF wants the Water and Land Legacy Amendment dollars spent by elected state officials to (1) fully fund Florida Forever, a program that benefits the entire state in the protection of our waters by acquiring and protecting conservation and outdoor recreational lands; and (2) fund the acquisition of lands needed to provide critical water storage, treatment and conveyance capacity in the Everglades Agricultural Area which will help alleviate the horrendous ongoing pollution along South Florida's coasts.

This summer's pollution problems affect all of Florida, a state with a strong natural resource-based economy. With your help, we will continue our effective statewide advocacy, and particularly work for important land purchases by the state so that, for example, more water can be treated and directed south from Lake Okeechobee into the Everglades and to Florida Bay.

Thank you,

Manley

Answers to Florida Kids' Quiz

1. *It's a good thing to encourage them because frogs and toads, along with other amphibians, are declining (going extinct) and are considered by many scientists to be the "canary in the coal mine" of our wildlife (the first kind of critter to go when all kinds of animals are declining). That "canary" name comes from the old times, when coal miners sent canaries down into mines to be sure that there were no deadly gasses present where the workers would be mining coal. If the canary died, the workers knew they shouldn't go in. That was kind of rough on the canaries, wasn't it?*

Amphibians are cold-blooded reptiles that spend part of their lives in the water, and part out of the water. They have thin skins, are susceptible to changes in temperature and try not to get either too hot or too cold. So, it is a kindness to give them a toad house to go into when they need to be warmed by the ground temperature, or get out of the direct sun to be cooler. A toad house can be just an empty flowerpot on its side, buried about halfway in the ground with the open top of the flowerpot used as the entrance that they use for going in and out. You can place some rocks and perhaps some moss or tufts of grass around it to dress it up.

Frogs and toads both eat insects, spiders, roaches, crickets, termites, ants, and beetles, which they prefer live, not dead, so just let them catch their own food. They do not drink water; they absorb water through their skins. Usually frogs have smooth, moist skin, but toads have bumpy, dry skin. Toads usually have a heavier body than frogs, as well as shorter legs. Frogs are more likely to live near water, and toads live more on dry land.

The decline of amphibian populations probably indicates that humans use too many chemicals on farms and gardens. We should limit chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and the like.

2. *The Florida State butterfly is the Zebra Longwing, and is pictured on the question page. The State Butterfly, like the State Bird and the State Tree, is chosen by a vote of the State Legislature in Tallahassee. Each State symbol is native to or found in Florida, and is considered to be typical of the state.*

3. *The horrible algae blooms happen when polluted water from Lake Okeechobee is sent east and west (to the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts). This water needs to be cleaned and sent south to supply the Everglades where it used to go before the construction of a huge dam (Hoover Dike) around the lake.*

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!

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.

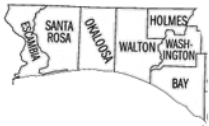
PLEASE USE BALLOT ON PAGE 2 OR VOTE ONLINE AT www.fwfonline.org/ballot/ballot.aspx

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 9, 2016. For assistance call us at 1-800-656-3014.

NORTHWEST REGION

DISTRICT I

Name: **Steve Theberge**
Residence: Panama City
Years of Florida Residence: 18
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: **To be appointed**



NORTHEAST REGION

DISTRICT III

Name: **Richard Hamann**
Residence: Gainesville
Years of Florida Residence: All
Occupation: Attorney/faculty at UF - Retired
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.

Name: **John Jopling**
Residence: Gainesville
Years of Florida Residence: 59 (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).
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: 32
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

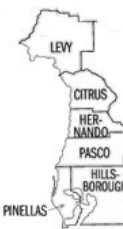
DISTRICT V

Name: **Tim Bachmeyer**
Residence: Windermere
Years of Florida Residence: 28
Occupation: Educator
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: bird watching/nature photography, cycling/hiking, fundraising/donor development
Other Club/Organization Affiliations: Board of Directors, Friends of Lake Apopka; President, Andean Research Institute.
Goals: Balancing development and conservation interests in Florida is possible only with strong conservation voices, a role I can support with my 30+ years in non-profit management, communications, and professional fundraising.



DISTRICT VI

Name: **Jay Bushnell**
Residence: Chiefland
Years of Florida Residence: 68
Occupation: Retired Educator
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, SCUBA diving/snorkeling, freshwater & saltwater fishing, hunting, conservation education, birdwatching/nature photography, gardening/habitat restoration
Other Club/Organization Affiliations: Friends of the Lower Suwannee/Cedar Key NWR, Florida Anthropological Society, The Conservation Fund, PDK, Earth Justice, Union of Concerned Scientist, Environmental Defense Council, Trust for Public Land, Cedar Key Art Center
Goals: Any conservation effort has to be an international effort. I believe human caused climate change is a real threat. My public position on this issue since early 1990s has been "why take a chance that humans are not having a detrimental effect on our earth." We also need to work to stabilize the world's population. Here

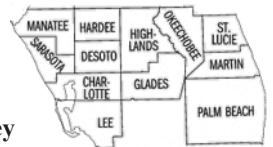


we know that when women are offered education opportunities, they take control. Now my immediate Florida conservation concern is with the conservation and economic development of the Big Bend Region of Levy, Dixie, Taylor and Jefferson counties. According to a 2015 study by The Conservation Fund, the region makes up only .5% of Florida's population thus the name the 'hidden coast'. There is a need to find ways to provide jobs for young folks and at the same time protect the environment.

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 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.



Get Onboard with FWF

Play the 2016 Boating Sweepstakes Today

by Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

The Florida Wildlife Federation has launched the 26th Annual Boating Sweepstakes. We are no longer limiting the prizes to 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 family wagon, 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 Beavertail Micro 16 flats boat, the Blue Wave 2000 Pure Bay boat, the Prius v Three hybrid wagon, 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 15.



Fish the shallowest backcountry flats in the **BEAVER-TAIL MICRO 16** (16-feet 8-inches), a side console technical poling skiff. With a true 5-inch draft fully loaded and a soft, dry ride, the Micro will take you places only kayaks could previously reach. The package includes a removable bow casting platform, insulated baitwell, twin rod holders, Ocean-Grip padding, Moonlighter carbon fiber push pole, Tibor pole caddy, trim tabs, Garmin ECHOMAP 54DV with transducer, and dual storage compartments. Powered with an Evinrude E-TEC 30 HP engine with a stainless steel propeller, this prize package also includes a Peterson custom aluminum trailer with swing away tongue and transom tie downs.

Rule the Bay in this high performance, custom fishing boat with center console. **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, spacious bow casting deck, 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.

The **TOYOTA PRIUS v THREE HYBRID** is the perfect road-trip vehicle and family wagon offering outstanding fuel economy with its proven Hybrid Synergy Drive for an EPA-estimated 42 mpg combined rating. Inside you'll find a roomy interior with 34.3 cubic feet of cargo space. Plus, the back seats fold flat to 67.3 cubic feet rivaling most small SUVs for total cargo capacity. Some of the high tech features in the Prius v Three model are a multi-information display with energy monitor, navigation system, smartphone app integration, and a smart key system. Entune Apps Suite provides real time traffic, weather, Open Table, and Pandora. Safety features include seven air bags, roadside assistance and a backup camera.

Aliner's largest model camper—**The ALINER EX-PEDITION**—is ready to handle any outdoor adventure. It is easy to tow by many fuel-efficient vehicles and sets up in 30 seconds upon arrival. The 2016 pop-up RV trailer includes off-road capability, soft-side and hard-side dormers, A/C-heat, 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 a queen mattress. Weighing just 2,000 pounds, its sleeping capacity is four. Expedition is perfect for the whole family or the couple that just wants more room. Other models are also available. It's time to hit the road!

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 26th 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.

2016 "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes Winner

In January, the Florida Wildlife Federation kicked off its Fourth Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes offering three fantastic Grand Prize choices - five days of fishing for two at Waterfall Resort on Prince of Wales Island 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 16, 2016 at 3 pm at FWF Headquarters in Tallahassee, and supervised by Carroll and Co., Inc., Certified Public Accountants.

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.



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

The winner was Ken Zorc of Vero Beach.

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

For Wildlife



April and Claude Ward.

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

It is very rare to find a place anywhere in this state that has retained virtually all the characteristics of what the land looked like 200 years ago, before development and agriculture changed the face of Florida. The Ward property is one of those special areas. With wiregrass, longleaf pine, turkey oak, sand live oak, Florida rosemary and saw palmetto, it is a very fine example of the habitat known as Florida scrub. The land also boasts one of the largest, and no doubt oldest, flowering dogwoods I have

ever seen. Due to the diversity of this land, it harbors many native animal and bird species, and it is most evident that the gopher tortoises love it. Their burrows are everywhere! In addition, white-tailed deer, barred owls, many subspecies of woodpecker (including the large pileated - inspiration for the old Woody Woodpecker cartoons) call this land home.

The Wards manage the property with the assistance of "Godzilla", a Japanese mini-truck that serves as their all-terrain vehicle. While the land is very much intact, invasive species such as Chinese popcorn tree do appear at times. These are dealt with rapidly.

Thankfully for us, the Wards have very kindly put the Florida Wildlife Federation into their wills as a beneficiary to receive and protect this special place forever. The Federation is very grateful. By acts such as these, Florida will retain the natural beauty that makes it a special place to call home. --by Preston Robertson

Please join with April and Claude 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 or bequest benefitting the Florida Wildlife Federation, or gift in a will like the Ward'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**.



The Wards' land in Gilchrist County.

Conservation Calendar

September 8-9, 2016
FWC Commission Meeting
Amelia Island/St. Augustine
www.myFWC.com

September 23-25, 2016
FWF Board of Directors
Annual Business Meeting
Singer Island Hilton
Riviera Beach
dhines@fwfonline.org

October 1, 2016
FWF Kids Fishing Day
FWF River Preserve
preston@fwfonline.org

November 5, 2016
Florida Panther Festival
Naples Zoo
www.floridapantherfestival.com

November 16-17, 2016
FWC Commission meeting
St. Petersburg
www.MyFWC.com/Commission

January 5-8, 2017
Everglades Coalition Annual Conference
Sanibel Harbor Marriott
www.evergladescoalition.org