

Florida Fish and Wildlife News

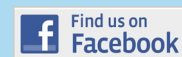


Florida Wildlife Federation

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936!

FWFN is printed on recycled paper, ISSN 1520-8214

We're on Facebook and
Twitter @FIWildFed
To follow us, just go to
www.fwfonline.org
and look for:



Volume 31, Issue 3

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

August 2017

FWF At Work To Build Florida's Conservation Legacy

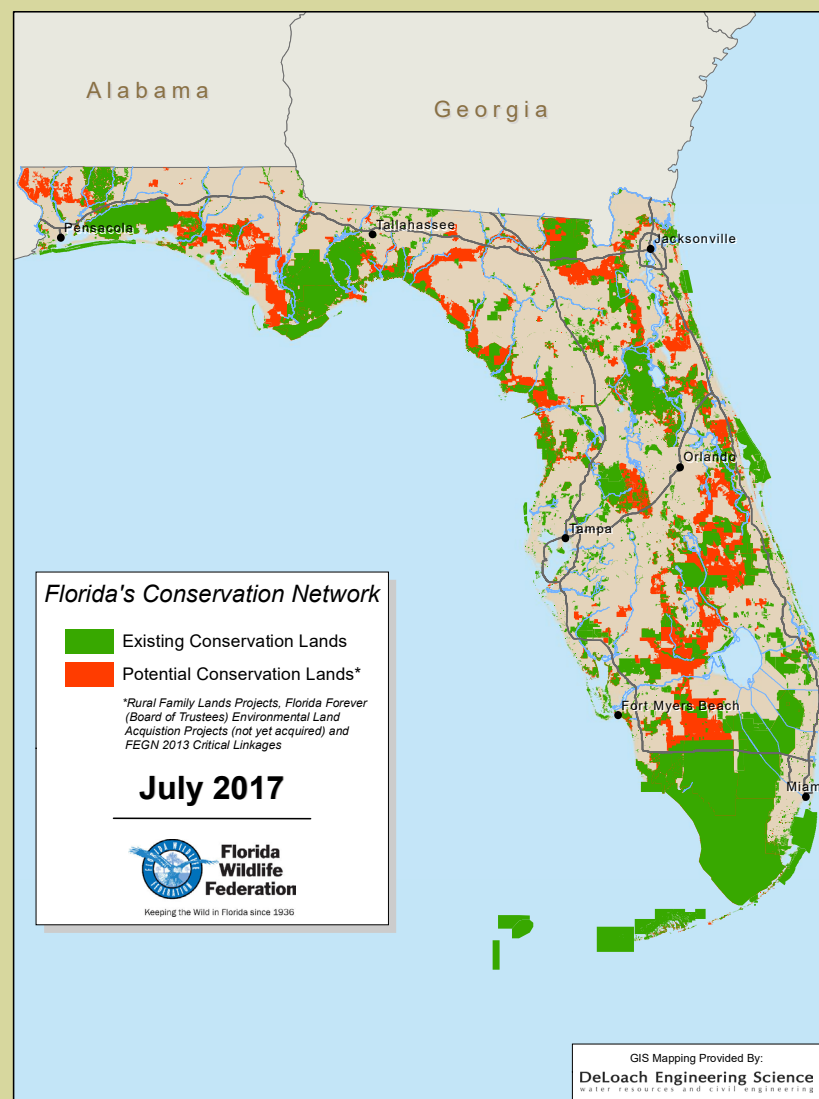
Thanks very much for your ongoing support! I wanted to update you on FWF efforts to promote critical conservation linkages across Florida. Please take a look at the accompanying map. As you know, FWF is also engaged in ongoing litigation seeking significantly increased funding for conservation lands acquisition. The conservation priority properties yet to be acquired are of demonstrable conservation and outdoor recreational value and will only be acquired from willing sellers. The properties to be acquired may be fee or less-than-fee permanent conservation easements.

The **Protecting Florida's Natural Resources Forever Map** (right) shows Florida's Existing Conservation Lands (green) and those which can be acquired (i.e., Potential Conservation Lands in reddish) if the Florida Legislature spends the funds from the Florida Land Acquisition Trust Fund as voters intended. These are lands which can be acquired with funds authorized by the 2014 Legacy Amendment to the Florida Constitution. The lands shown have been identified and prioritized under the Florida Forever Environmental Land Acquisition Projects program, the Rural and Family Lands conservation easement program and critical landscape-scale habitat linkages via the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

During the Legacy Amendment campaign in 2014, FWF spent heavily to assure the Amendment's passage, reducing FWF financial reserves. Federation members also made critical contributions of time, money and volunteer hours to secure passage of the Amendment. Since 2015, in response to the Legislature's annual misapplication of approximately \$300 million, FWF has challenged the Florida Legislature for failure to follow the will of the people. This legal challenge has gone through many permutations, mostly legislative attempts to have our case thrown out. FWF has excellent attorneys who have rebuffed those efforts and our case should be argued in the spring of 2018.

To help FWF continue these critical conservation efforts, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Florida Wildlife Federation. We will immediately put it to good use. I also wanted to let you know that an anonymous FWF member will match the first \$10,000 raised in this appeal, dollar for dollar, for contributions received by September 30, 2017. Thanking you in advance. -Manley

Protecting Florida's Natural Resources Forever



NON-Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSONVILLE, FL
Permit No. 2840

official publication of the
Florida Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870
www.fwfonline.org

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

INSIDE:

MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR AND PRESIDENT.....	2-3
DIRECTOR NOMINEE RETURN BALLOT.....	2
NEWS AROUND THE STATE.....	4-10
DIRECTOR NOMINEES PROFILES.....	14
27TH ANNUAL BOATING SWEEPSTAKES.....	15
CONSERVATION CALENDAR.....	16

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Rick Abbott



Summer of 2017 in the Northern Hemisphere began on June 21st and will end September 22nd. Not so around the Abbott household!

Summer begins at 3:15 the day high school is let out in May and ends the Sunday before school starts in the middle of August. Last May, my family decided we were traveling west for our summer vacation. In our sights were Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. We could not decide on either one or the other, so we had to see both. Oh boy, ten days with two teenagers! What were my wife and I thinking? Turns out that I just got back from the best vacation I have ever had!

First on the list was Yellowstone. We flew into Salt Lake City, rented a Toyota Sequoia and drove to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. In Jackson, we stayed in a lodge on the foot of the mountains where the ski slopes are located. I have a whole new respect for skiers, and now, I know why I have never skied. The "slopes" as

they are called, looked more like cliffs than slopes. For the three days we spent exploring Yellowstone, the family saw more wildlife than you can imagine. There were mule deer, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, bison, antelope, elk, and believe it or not, we saw a bear. We did not see moose or wolves, but maybe that means we should go back next year and try our luck. I noticed that a lot of people were fly fishing in the park, and that made me want to try my hand at it next time. Before leaving Yellowstone and Jackson, the one thing that impressed me was all the people taking advantage of outdoor activities: hiking, biking, rafting, wildlife viewing, fishing, and photography just to name a few. Last year, Yellowstone had 4,257,177 visitors in the 2,219,789-acre park to enjoy one and only one thing...the

outdoors. On the last night in Jackson Hole, after supper, we stumbled upon the National Elk Refuge which is a few blocks outside of town. This 17,000-acre preserve is where most of the Yellowstone elk herds migrate for winter grazing. Another beautiful national park!

The next day, we headed northwest toward the Glacier National Park with a rest day in Missoula, Montana. Glacier is a 1,012,837-acre park that hosts 2.33 million visitors each year. It is located in northern Montana, right on the Canadian border. Driving through this national park, we did not see the same amount of wildlife as in Yellowstone, but the views were just breathtaking. Never before have I seen such beauty that cannot be captured to its fullest in

CHAIR con't page 11

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

CHAIR

Rick Abbott
3233 Heather Hill Road
Tallahassee, FL 32309
850-284-4300

VICE-CHAIR

Joseph Atterbury
5393 Penneck Point Road
Jupiter, FL 33458
561-371-0532

VICE-CHAIR

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

VICE-CHAIR

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

2017 DELEGATES TO NWF
Delegate: Jim Schuette
Alternate: Ray Carthy

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Steve O'Hara

PAST CHAIR'S COUNCIL

Steve O'Hara
Jenny Brock
Jim Schuette
Linda Stanley
Bob Reid
David J. White
Lynn Alan Thompson
Franklin Adams
Jim Scanland
Tommy Needham
Walt Brandon
Timothy Keyser
Richard Tillis

PRESIDING OFFICER OF LIFE MEMBERS' COUNCIL

David Theriaque

Youth Conservation Director
Samantha Baraoidan
Marilu Morgan

NORTHWEST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR

Steve Theberge
3616 Oakbrook Lane
Panama City, FL 32408
503-338-0420

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR

Jenny Brock
311 Old Magnolia Road
Crawfordville, FL 32327
850-459-9341

NORTHEAST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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

DISTRICT III DIRECTOR

Jim Schuette
244 Dorothy Land Rd.
Branford, FL 32008
561-301-4883

DISTRICT IV DIRECTOR

Mark Middlebrook
212 Sailfish Drive
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
904-509-0918

CENTRAL REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

To be appointed

DISTRICT V DIRECTOR

Tim Bachmeyer
120 Casa Mirella Way #1208
Windemere, FL 34786
561-801-5752

DISTRICT VI DIRECTOR

Jay Bushnell
15639 NW 46th Lane
Chiefland, FL 32626
352-493-1807

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 Beh, 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

Ned Stone
2012 Coral Shores Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306
954-205-9595

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

Bobbie Lindsay
212 Caribbean Road
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

Billy Causey
30939 Delgado Lane
Altoona, FL 32702
305-809-4670

George Jones
1420 Seaway Drive
Fort Pierce, FL 34949
772-380-2039

To be appointed

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

Education Consultant
Claudia Farren

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

Policy Consultant
Jay Liles

Communications Specialist
Cole Sousa

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

Habitats Coordinator
Pat Pearson

Planning Director
Sarah Owen Gledhill

FWF NE FL OFFICE
88 Riberia St., Ste. 400
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 347-6490

The Florida Fish and Wildlife News is published quarterly by the
Florida Wildlife Federation
2545 Blairstone Pines Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301.
ISSN: 1520-8214

EDITOR in CHIEF
Manley K. Fuller, III

CONTACT US AT
dhines@fwfonline.org

No original material may be reproduced without written consent
from the publisher.

CUT OUT AND RETURN THIS BALLOT

CANDIDATES

Check (1) selection per district*

DISTRICT I

Steve Theberge _____

DISTRICT III

Jim Schuette _____

DISTRICT V

Tim Bachmeyer _____

DISTRICT VII

Linda Stanley _____

DISTRICT II

Jenny Brock _____

DISTRICT IV

Anna Hamilton _____

DISTRICT VI

Jay Bushnell _____

DISTRICT VIII

Franklin Adams _____

*For more information about each candidate see pages 14.

THANK YOU

FWF Members:

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

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

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

You may also vote online at www.fwfonline.org/ballot/ballot.aspx.

Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by September 11, 2017 to be eligible.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear Members,

I want to draw your attention to and encourage you to read a highly regarded book *Travels on the Green Highway: An Environmentalist's Journey* by Nathaniel P. Reed, a leading voice for Florida's and America's environment for many decades. Please see the top right of this page for the review of his book. Nathaniel is a personal friend, a Florida Wildlife Federation supporter and a lover of Florida's outdoors and its fish and wildlife since childhood. FWF was honored to add Nathaniel to FWF's CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME recognizing his lifetime of conservation achievements in 2011. He has been a doer for Florida's and America's natural heritage.

Nat is no armchair environmentalist, but has spent much of his life out enjoying nature in many ways including birding or shooting, watching whales or catching salmon, tarpon or pompano. He is a highly effective conservationist whether before Congress, in the board room or in the field. *Travels on the Green Highway* describes the modern era of American and Florida conservation and I highly recommend you get a copy for yourself and friends who love nature. There is a lot of experience and environmental history embedded in the book which is critical to know as we face conservation challenges today and into the future. Well done, Nathaniel!

One of FWF's top conservation priorities is our strong support for landscape-scale fish and wildlife habitat connectivity. Please take a look at our Florida map (page 1) showing our existing conserved lands and potential future priority conservation areas. Building upon Florida's existing conservation lands, these additions can provide vital habitat linkages

so that we can have healthy habitats across Florida's increasingly developed landscape. Wildlife crossings at strategic locations help tie together corridors and reduce wildlife road kills.

Broad acceptance of BearWise programs of the FWC, working in tandem with local governments, waste collection companies and neighborhoods helps reduce bear habituation to human food sources. Please review the FWC "BearWise Tip" following my message (page 10) for more information.

On a personal note I recently purchased a bear proof trash can as my neighborhood has started experiencing issues with bear's getting into people's trash. People in areas with bears should look into bear proof or resistant containers which also help with other wildlife and dog garbage issues. Increasingly, local efforts are helping reduce these problems but more acceptance of these programs is needed. In my own experience, the folks with Wastepro and Wakulla County were very user friendly when I acquired my new can.

As Florida grows, we need to think about wildlife related issues and reducing nuisance garbage-related bear problems is a part of that. It is much like people in Florida needing to be vigilant in keeping their pets away from areas frequented by alligators. The FWC is a great source of information about living with wildlife in Florida.

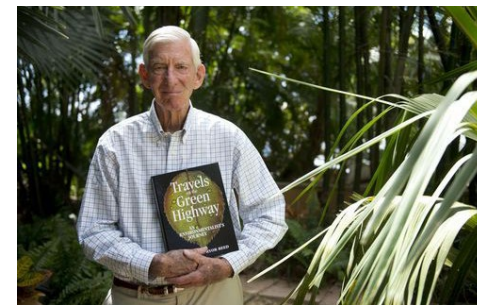
Another recent experience I had in South Florida was observing a brown basilisk in Broward County. The basilisk is a lizard native to Central America which is now increasingly common in southern Florida. We have many other exotic species. Some well-known exotic species are the Burmese python, Nile monitor lizard, black and white tegu, green iguana and red lionfish. We also have a host of aggressive plants like the old world climbing fern established in Florida. Exotic species of animals and plants are a big and growing problem for Florida's native wildlife and habitats.

We need more resources and stronger laws to prevent the importation of potentially injurious and invasive species. We must target invasive exotics before their populations reach an inflection point beyond which control is extremely difficult.

Another matter we have been following is the implementation of Senate Bill 10. The South Florida Water Management District recently indicated it will meet all of the statutory requirements. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is studying how it will pursue its portion of the reservoir project.

Travels on the Green Highway: An Environmentalist's Journey

It is impossible to overstate the contribution Nathaniel Reed has made to transforming the culture of Florida. When he arrived more than six decades ago, Florida was continuing a long-held belief that Florida, its land, water, wildlife, other natural resources with few exceptions, were commodities to be used and disposed of at the will of the current generation of state residents. Nathaniel and a small band of his disciples, in less than a decade, evolved Florida into a new definition – a treasure for which each generation has a responsibility to protect for future Floridians. In culture and politics, no victory is assured. Now into his eighth decade, Nathaniel still battles frequent relapses into commoditization; his vigor and vision personifying the essential grandeur of natural Florida. This is a book of essays of Nathaniel Reed's memories of behind the scenes events that helped shape this nation's environmental laws during a period of environmental renaissance. Order on Amazon: <https://goo.gl/e5G4k2>



FWF's 2017 Photo Contest

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the third year of its FWF Photo Contest, which we renamed **The Lou Kellenberger FWF Photo Contest** in memory of this past board member and friend. Lou was an outstanding nature photographer who passed away in June 2016. The Contest celebrates the enjoyment of taking photos in Florida's great outdoors which promotes FWF's mission to encourage citizens to participate in sustainable outdoor recreation.

Members, supporters and friends of FWF are encouraged to enter, noting anyone may enter the contest with the exception of FWF staff. Entrants have an opportunity to win \$300 in cash, 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, 2017. 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, 2017.

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

Please note the recent letters concerning wildlife crossings and the status of panthers in Florida (page 10). This issue of *Fish and Wildlife News* discusses a number of Florida Wildlife Federation priorities. We appreciate your steadfast support. Please consider donating to help us with our habitat connectivity work across the state. It is a privilege to have your support. Whenever possible



Photo by Dave Berman

please get out and enjoy Florida's natural wonders and outdoor experiences. Best to you.

Manley

PRESIDENT con't page 10

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



Cameras, Crossings, and Coordination

In April, a working group convened to collaborate, share information and reduce duplication of efforts regarding the use of cameras to monitor wildlife crossings under state roads in Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 (southwest Florida). The meeting was called by FWF consultant Dr. Dan Smith, facilitated by Florida Wildlife Federation, and hosted by Tim Tetzlaff of the Naples Zoo.

Dr. Smith provided an overview and participants provided updates of his or her projects. This is the first

time researchers, biologists, and photographers who are photographing animals using crossings in South Florida have met to coordinate efforts. The working group will result in easier coordination with FDOT, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Big Cypress National Preserve and others.

The group addressed procedures to improve efficiency and maximize benefits for design, planning, and management of cameras monitoring wildlife crossings. FDOT now requires a permit that regulates how and where cameras can be placed at crossings.

Since the April meeting, FDOT District 1 developed a new data portal and central database. The public ArcGIS online program is at <https://goo.gl/v5t3CQ>.

The site includes identification of roads with high panther death rates, existing wildlife crossings, panther vehicular mortalities, and photos of Florida wildlife using underpasses. For example, click on a green dot and a box appears providing information on that wildlife crossing along with a link to pictures of wildlife using that crossing. The site is updated as new information is received.

Wildlife crossing research and monitoring studies funded by the Federation will be posted to this public site.

Ongoing Projects

Using the recommendations from the Federation and based on Dr. Smith's 2006 Eastern Collier Wildlife Movement Study, Collier County is now designing bridges in rural areas to include terrestrial wildlife ledges. New bridges in the Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern east of SR29 will have these ledges. The Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern is located between the Big Cypress National Preserve and the OK Slough public land conservation network in Hendry County. The Federation recommended these bridges to Senator Bill Nelson and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for federal infrastructure funding. The Federation continues to push for these new bridges with terrestrial wildlife ledges.

The Federation recently offered assistance to the Golden Gate Estates Area Civic Association in rural Collier County. The Civic Association is educating drivers to be on alert for wildlife crossing roads. The main road through Golden Gate

Estates, Golden Gate Boulevard, is a known hot spot for panther road deaths. Unfortunately, the antiquated platted land use pattern with no protected land prevents the installation of wildlife crossings under Golden Gate Boulevard.

The Federation nominated HHH Ranch in North Belle Meade, Collier County, for purchase by Conservation Collier. The ranch is now under evaluation by the county and could serve as an excellent location for additional Alligator Alley underpasses between North Belle Meade and Picayune Strand State Forest. The ranch is almost 1000 acres, to the east is Collier County's 6,500 acre North Belle Meade Natural Resource Protection Area and south across Alligator Alley is Picayune Strand State Forest. The ranch is nesting and foraging habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Panther 224 denned on this ranch twice. The clock is ticking on HHH Ranch. Mining companies are considering the ranch for a major rock mining operation.



Florida Panther 224



From left to right around the table: Deb Jensen, Big Cypress National Preserve; Jen Korn, formerly with FWC now with Johnson Engineering a FDOT crossings consultant; Ricky Pires, FGCU Panther Posse; Mark Lotz, FWC; Tim Tetzlaff, Naples Zoo; Mark Danaher, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge; Carlton Ward, National Geographic photographer; Nicole Monies, FDOT; Brent Setchell, FDOT; and Dr. Dan Smith. Also present were Danielle Green, Naples Zoo, and Nancy Payton, Florida Wildlife Federation.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

by Sarah Owen Gledhill, FWF's Planning Director



Saving One Gopher Tortoise at a Time

FWF is working with our partner, Saving Florida's Gopher Tortoises, and private landowners to relocate gopher tortoises away from development projects. Over the summer, I had the opportunity to attend a tortoise removal dig in Indian River County and meet some tortoises at their new home - a recipient site in Jefferson County, near Tallahassee.

Prior to 2007, the state did not require the relocation or removal of gopher tortoises prior to construction. The state's incidental take permit program, which required developers to pay into a fund, allowed the destruction of an estimated 100,000 imperiled gopher tortoises. The tortoises were often buried alive, causing a slow and inhumane death for the tortoise and the other species that lived in the burrow.

In June 2007, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) adopted a proposal to end the con-

troversial gopher tortoise incidental take permit program. However, FWC grandfathered all permits applied for before July 31, 2007. These grandfathered permits have no expiration date and are transferred with property sales. In past years, due to the slump in the housing market, many development projects were put on hold. As a result, thousands of gopher tortoises are still living on construction sites that hold grandfathered permits that allow tortoises to be destroyed. Now that the housing market is again very strong, many tortoises are at risk.

Relocating gopher tortoises from these lands with incidental take permits is very challenging. Many times the developer has agreed to allow the relocation with zero financial assistance and sometimes within a very limited time frame. Carissa Kent, of Saving Florida's Gopher Tortoises, and her two man team (plus a dog) bring a back hoe on site and start the

work to find and relocate as many tortoises as they can. Sometimes a burrow comes up empty after a dig, which can be discouraging. The hard work and dedication that goes into relocating tortoises is worth it in the end when you successfully rescue a tortoise from being entombed.

Once the tortoises are delivered to the recipient site, they are placed in

"Tortoise Introduction Pens." These pens use silt fencing to encircle a multiple-acre area of managed pine flatwoods. Starter burrows are created to entice the tortoises to adopt them as their new home. After a minimum of six months, the silt fence comes down and the tortoises may disperse, but not many do as they have adapted to their new home.

THANK YOU for Helping us Protect Gopher Tortoises

A huge thank you to all our supporters for donating to the gopher tortoise educational signs!

With your generous support we have completed the design of the signage and installed 50 signs to educate the public about gopher tortoise habitats in our coastal communities. All too often, well-intended beachgoers mistakenly place a gopher tortoise into the ocean thinking it is a sea turtle. Tragically, this drowns a gopher tortoise. Our first round of installations occurred along the east coast from Fernandina Beach all the way to Indian River County.

FWF has placed signs at:

- 5 local beaches
- 1 college
- 7 local government parks
- 1 national seashore
- 1 marine education science center

Due to the overwhelming response from the public we have requests for more signs. Because of this response, we have exceeded our budget. However, we believe this campaign serves to address a critical need in our state. Please help make this a major campaign for FWF to provide these signs all across the state. **Your amazing response has now enabled us to mass order signs for \$50 per sign!**

Raised: \$6,250

1st Goal: \$5,000

Stretch Goal: \$10,000

Please help us expand our campaign and meet the requests of all our local communities in need. Donate directly to this campaign!

<https://goo.gl/zMk49y>

You may also donate by check:

ATTN: GT SIGNS

Florida Wildlife Federation

P.O. Box 6870

Tallahassee, Florida 32314-6870





Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation
& General Counsel

Looking Back

I recently ran across some old copies of *Nature Magazine*, once the property of my now departed father-in-law, and produced in 1935. As a small town kid, he must have welcomed this monthly installment depicting America's flora and fauna and the important issues that faced our remaining natural resources. Grainy black and white photos depict antelopes in Wyoming, the life-stages of a monarch butterfly, and an extensive assortment of back-yard birds. An opinion piece slams the slaughter of owls in Michigan as part of "predator control." Advertisements include staying in a four-star New York City hotel for \$2.50 per night, or receiving H.G. Wells' *The Science of Life* (originally a four-volume set), yours free for joining the Literary Guild of America.

Back in 1935, the United States (48 of them, no Alaska or Hawaii) was not a super power. We were contending with the Midwest's Dust Bowl caused by massive man-made erosion, and counting on the New Deal which President Franklin Roosevelt had initiated to heal the wounds of the Great Depression. It would take Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939 to pull us towards World War II then Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor to propel us into that global conflict. Since the war, somewhat like "the last man standing," we have stood tall on the world stage.

Things have changed drastically since the defeat of the Nazis and Imperial Japan. In 1945, Florida had 2.25 million residents. South

Florida's Dade County had 315,000 residents. At present, 82 years later, the state's population has reached 21 million and growing; what is now Miami-Dade County is at 2.4 million. This tremendous human population growth has completely changed the face of the Sunshine State. Where once mangroves marched along our southern coasts, condos now loom. Central Florida's orange grove country is now Disney World and houses. Where estuaries were replete with a multitude of fish and other aquatic species, toxic algal blooms proliferate.

But the passage of time has not been all destructive. Up to 1950, there was a bounty on the Florida panther - \$5 per scalp. Regulation and law enforcement on the taking of fish and wildlife was lax to say the least. Today, we strive mightily to save our iconic panther and state wildlife officers enforce the law. Over the past 30 years, until quite recently, both Republican and Democratic leadership have seen the wisdom of conservation. During his time as Governor, Bob Graham started our first state land conservation program, which became Preservation 2000 in 1990 under Bob Martinez and then Florida Forever under Jeb Bush. These programs have saved natural habitats, enhanced water quality and quantity and provided wonderful recreational opportunities to our residents and visitors. Lands have been saved even in the face of mounting growth and sprawl.

On a national level, the bi-partisan federal Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act were made into law in the 1970's, and have helped protect wildlife and human health. Most people know not to shoot owls and hawks, and the protections of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are enforced. Additionally, the use of perpetual conservation easements, whereby lands remain in private hands but are forever protected from development, are now more commonplace.

In trying to protect the natural birthright of all Floridians to a sustainable quality of life for ourselves and our children, we have had wins and losses. It has always been a battle, but one that once found allies in

all parts of the political spectrum. Unfortunately, environmental issues have now taken on political overtones and sadly civility and compromise have become dirty words. The division and antagonism between people who happen to have an R or a D behind their names is not healthy for our nation, our future, our state or our planet. It would seem wise to make conservation of our natural resources apolitical.

There are plenty of issues we can argue about. Preserving the only place in the universe where we can live should not be one of them as we move into the 21st Century.

Sun Finally Shines in Tallahassee

It is very easy to get consumed by the oftentimes bad news coming out of the capitol city, but rays of progress sometimes peak through. The ray I'm speaking of is the new 20 megawatt solar facility that will be constructed near the Tallahassee airport; a facility that will be able to produce energy for approximately 3,400 homes and businesses.

The Tallahassee City Commission voted unanimously to go forward with the project, consisting of 100,000 solar panels, which will be built on 90 acres out of a 120 acre site of ruderal land. The City has a 20 year purchase agreement with the operator, and will only pay for the energy produced. Construction is estimated to take four months, and completion is expected by the end of this year. Interestingly, customers may choose to receive electricity

from the solar farm at varying levels: 25%, 50% or 100%. **A 100% subscription to the solar facility is the equivalent of saving an average household from emitting 5.9 tons of CO2 per year.** CO2 is the prime contributor to global warming, which is changing our weather and raising our seas, to the detriment of ourselves, the environment and our children's future.

As with a growing number of things in our modern world, the facility will be remotely monitored, thereby requiring no onsite staff.

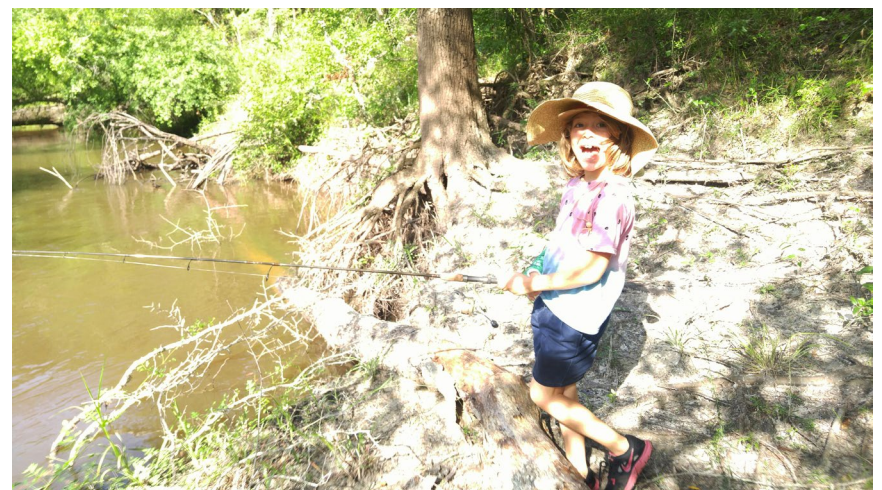
The city is also negotiating on the construction of another solar facility, which will produce 40 megawatts. It will also be built near the airport. If and when completed, another 6,800 homes and businesses could benefit from this clean energy source.

Solar energy is a win-win for customers and our life-supporting environment. According to Ben Cowart, Manager, Alternative Energy, City of Tallahassee, the price of solar installation has now dropped to where it makes economic sense to increase its usage. Moreover, from the air, the expanse of black or dark blue solar panels appears to be a body of water as the panels do not reflect light. This fact likely diminishes any negative impacts to wildlife.

Living in a low-lying state such as Florida which is already experiencing rising seas, it is vitally important that steps be taken to at least mitigate the impacts of a warming planet. The City of Tallahassee has done just that.

For more information about the solar farms, please go to www.Talgov.com/Solar.

Preston T. Robertson



Having fun at the FWF River Preserve!



Jay Liles
FWF Policy Consultant

A “BAT” we can do better without

Typically an article in this newsletter dealing with bats would highlight the amazing skills these mammals exhibit in flight and how useful they are in controlling mosquitos; or how vampire bats aren’t nearly as scary as the name implies. Bats are our friends! They help keep Florida a little less overrun by biting insects.

Today, however, I want to share a little information about a proposed tax policy change know as the Border-Adjustment Tax (BAT). A recent Florida TaxWatch report finds that applying a national border-adjustment tax to reinsurance would “significantly increase property insurance premiums for Floridians and negatively impact the state economy and job market.” Why should that concern the Florida Wildlife Federation? Because, over the past decade we have been working with insurance interests, including reinsurers, who want to continue to grow the Florida market and reduce the state’s dependence on government backed, Citizens Insurance, a subsidized insurance carrier set up by the state to offer insurance to homeowners who could not find, or could not afford, insurance in the private market.

In the past decade, Citizens Insurance has steadily shrunk in size: from more than 1.6 million insured properties to around 550,000. Now most of their remaining portfolio is truly difficult to place with the private market due to exposure to wind and storm. We should expect Citizens to continue to divest of more risk and FWF continues to advocate for just that. However, the only way to continue on

this path is to have an affordable and robust private insurance market and reinsurance is key to that. Since they are the “insurance company for insurance companies” they assume excess risk and spread that risk globally so no single storm, or series of storms, can financially destroy our private insurance markets.

Now comes a movement to impose a BAT. This would make it possible for only U.S. based insurers to compete and the numbers just don’t work. And as usual, we get stuck with the bill! TaxWatch predicts annual increases for insurance between 7.9 and 12.9%. That works out to a projected \$2.6 billion annual tax increase for Florida homeowners!

FWF wants to see appropriate premiums for homes that are built in high risk, flood-prone areas. Those who chose to live in harms way because they just can’t get enough of the ocean view should bear the burden. It is the only fair way to financially account for the rising cost of damages associated with rising seas and more intense storms that will lead to more flooding in the years to come. However, if we price reinsurance right out of the market it is very likely that buyers will return to less costly Citizens Insurance and we will be right back where we started – with subsidized insurance making otherwise bad locations for homes look reasonable.

We hope Congress will simply withdraw the border tax-adjustment idea. Tom Feeney, the head of Florida’s most powerful business lobby, says “The long-term damage to the state economy by the application of such a tax on reinsurance would put Florida behind for years.”

The next time you are in contact with your Member of Congress remind them of the important role reinsurance plays in a state so vulnerable to catastrophe.



Free-tailed bat, commonly found in Florida

FWF PARTNERS PROGRAM

New Wildlife Steward

Curt Kiser

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

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

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

FWF PARTNERS Levels

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

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

New Life Members:

Sharon Glasrud, Jensen Beach

Jay Reinfeld, Aventura

Thank you for your generous support!

**Legacy Club Members are those who have donated \$5,000 or more in a single gift.
Eagle Club Members are \$2,500 donors and Life Members are \$1,000 donors.*

IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in
memory of:

**Valentine Francis Christopher
Grabowski, Sr.**

by Linda Clark

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



Claudia Farren
Education Consultant

Likely Sighting of a Buff-bellied Hummingbird in Wakulla County

On March 31st I saw a request on Facebook from a friend, Jenny Brock, asking for help to identify a hummingbird with a brown belly, pinkish bill and a turquoise throat. She had posted an image of a bird hovering next to a hummingbird feeder on her deck. Many ruby-throated hummingbirds live on Jenny's property and she keeps several feeders stocked with sugar water. This bird was different. I called and asked if I could come by and take some photos. We hung out on her porch for a few hours watching for the bird to appear and drink from the feeder. While we were waiting we flipped through our bird books and online trying to discover which hummingbird it might be. I was finally able to take some close-ups that might help us with identification.

"My cousin and I think it could be a [broad-billed](#) because of the turquoise coloration and the pinkish bill with a black tip," said Jenny, "but these photos on the web show a white or light chest and there is no white on this hummingbird coming to the feeders. The color of the tail feathers is wrong too."

I said, "Let's look at the rufous. My Peterson's Field Guide says they are sometimes spotted in North Florida in the winter." Right away we knew it wasn't that either because both male and female rufous hummingbirds also have a white breast. We looked at the photos on my camera again and continued to look for a bird with a turquoise throat and green back, plus a reddish-brown belly and tail. We thought it might be a buff-bellied hummingbird.

The next morning another friend helped me post the photos to the University of Florida's List Serve. Not long

after there were responses saying the little hummer looked like a buff-bellied hummingbird, a very rare visitor from eastern Mexico. Later in the day, a local hummingbird expert wrote he would like to document and band the bird. He had banded a buff-bellied nearby in December. Unfortunately, the bird appeared only a few times very early that morning and never returned.

On May 8, I filled out a [Submit an Observation](#) form on the Florida Ornithological Society website to record our sighting.

The buff-bellied hummingbird is mainly an eastern Mexican species living year-round along the Gulf of Mexico and breeding in southern Texas. The [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) states they regularly fly to the southeast from their breeding grounds. The [dispersion map](#) shows verified sightings in Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina and in Florida at Fort Walton Beach, Santa Rosa Island, east of Brooksville, north of Homestead, Everglades National Park, and several sightings around Pensacola and the Tallahassee areas.

Jenny Brock's property in Wakulla County on the St. Marks River has been a certified wildlife habitat for 15 plus years. It is a beech-magnolia forest plant community with a few pine trees, native azaleas and other flowering trees and shrubs. The hummingbirds love the azalea flowers and the potted plants on her deck. She has a gorgeous orange rose and colorful impatiens that are visited daily by the resident ruby-throated hummingbirds.

Attracting and Feeding Hummingbirds

To make sugar water for your hummingbird feeder, mix a cup of boiling water with one-quarter cup of white table sugar. Use any 4 to 1 ratio for your mixture. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Food coloring is not recommended. Sugar water can become toxic so change the water frequently and keep your feeders clean. Do not allow the solution to become cloudy or discolored.

Another option is to plant flowers, shrubs and trees to attract hummingbirds to your garden. The ruby-throated, Florida's most common hummingbird, is attracted to nectar-rich orange or red flowers with a tubular shape. The birds that visit my yard in Tallahassee like the cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*), gold lantana (*Lantana depressa*), and firebush (*Hamelia patens*). Other nectar flowers and trees native to Florida are the tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*), coral

honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), wild rosemary (*Conradina canescens*), and the geiger tree (*Cordia sebestena*). Your local extension agent or master gardener

are excellent sources for finding plants in your area.

[More photos and bird facts](#) can be found at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website "All About Birds."



Both sexes of the buff-bellied hummingbird have a light brown (buff) belly and a notched rufous-colored tail. The shimmering turquoise throat is strikingly beautiful. The head and back are blue-green while the bill is pinkish-red with a black tip. In the photo above, the wings and tail are blurry as he/she never stopped hovering while sipping sugar water on March 31st at Jenny Brock's feeders.

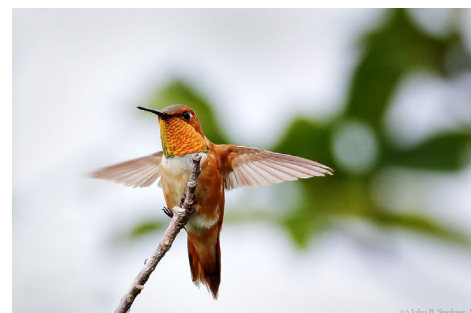
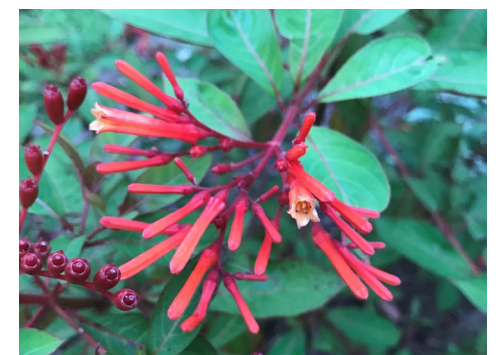


Photo courtesy of John Spohrer.

The rufous hummingbird is an infrequent fall and winter visitor to Florida. The males [left] are distinguished by their rufous-colored face, sides, back, and tail with a striking iridescent red-orange throat. The breast is white and the bill is black. The female (not shown) has a green crown and back with dull rufous coloring on the sides and base of the tail. There is a red-orange spot in the center of the throat.



A male ruby-throated hummingbird perches on Jenny Brock's birdfeeder. Most Florida birdwatchers are familiar with these resident hummingbirds. The male has a glowing red throat, white belly, black beak, metallic-green head and back, with a notched tail.



Plant flowering bushes, trees and wildflowers in your garden to attract hummingbirds. They are especially interested in nectar-rich, brightly-colored flowers with a tubular shape. Firebush (above) with its bright orange flowers will be a favorite in any Florida yard.

Solar Power Grows in Florida

by Claudia Farren

The City of Tallahassee Utilities has recently partnered with Origis Energy USA to build a 20 megawatt (MW) [solar farm](#) near the Tallahassee International Airport that will be capable of powering 3,400 homes and businesses. Phase one will be complete this fall and plans are in the works to expand to 40 MW and then to 60 MW in the next few years. Residential and commercial customers will be able to purchase clean energy from the city utility for a fixed rate for the next 20 years.

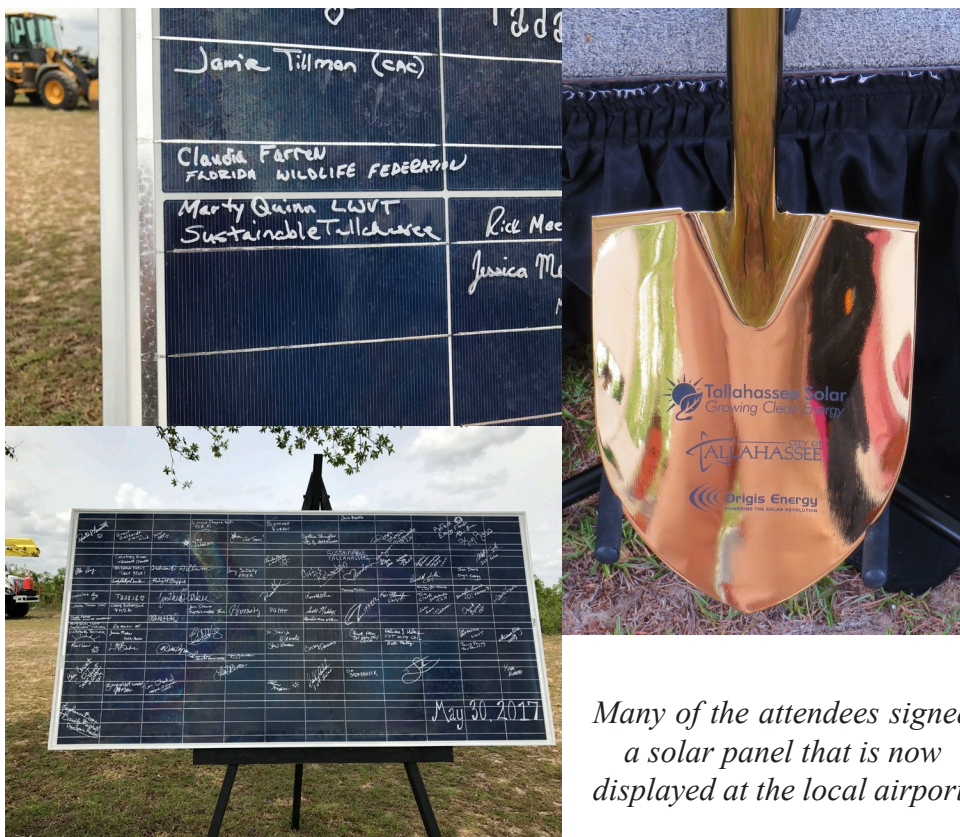
Solar farms are popping up all around Florida. Recently, Florida Power and Light submitted a 10-year plan to state officials to install 2.5 million solar panels in 2018 at small [solar energy centers](#) around the state. They will add 1500 MW of power for 120,000 homes. Already online are three FPL solar power plants in Charlotte, Manatee and DeSoto counties constructed in 2016. [Duke Energy](#) has a long-term plan to install 500 MW of solar in the state by 2024. Their existing solar facilities are in Perry, Walt Disney World, Stanton and Osceola. And, in northwest Florida, [Gulf Solar Energy Share](#) is a community solar program where Gulf Power customers can opt to pay a yearly fee to offset 750 kilowatt hours of their annual power use with solar energy.



The groundbreaking ceremony for the new [Tallahassee Solar Farm](#) was held May 30. City commissioners were pleased to announce that city utility customers would have a choice between continuing to receive their power from natural gas or signing up for solar power.



The City of Tallahassee Utilities has recently expanded solar opportunities.



Many of the attendees signed a solar panel that is now displayed at the local airport.



FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ



1. What is a simple and easy thing that you can do for Florida's wild critters in the summer heat?



2. What is a good plant to choose if you don't have a yard or garden and can plant only one plant in a pot?



3. What should you know right now about the Florida panther?

See page 12 for answers and more information.

Congratulations to those members of FWF who earned GreenStar Certification!

The Federation began its GreenStar Certification program to acknowledge our members' personal commitment to a clean and healthy environment through the use of environmentally beneficial practices in their daily lives. We truly appreciate all those who responded and requested GreenStar Certification. The program is still up and running on our website, [www.fwfonline.org](#). Go to PROGRAMS on the main menu at the top, and you'll find GreenStar Certification on the drop down menu. From there you will be taken to the online GreenStar Questionnaire.



New Green Star Member
Virginia Knudsen, Oakland Park

BearWise Tips from FWC

Keep Bears Wild, Be BearWise - Are bears spending too much time in your community? Consider becoming BearWise and minimize negative interactions! By securing garbage, you can minimize bears lingering in the community. BearWise communities protect both people and bears.

BearWise: A Commitment and a Way of Life - When people intentionally or inadvertently feed bears, both people and bears lose. BearWise communities commit to learning to coexist with bears, knowing when and how to report bear activity, and securing all potential food sources. The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies External Website aims to prevent human-bear conflicts to protect people and bears across the 15 states of the Southeastern U.S. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission passed a statewide resolution in 2015 highlighting the importance of securing attractants.

BearWise Works! - There are at least 19 communities throughout North America who have successfully reduced human-bear conflicts by adopting BearWise practices. Hurlburt Air Field in Okaloosa County reduced their human-bear conflicts by 70% when they adopted BearWise principles.

Benefits of BearWise - Bear reports have increased five-fold in the last decade in Florida. FWC can assist communities in becoming BearWise.

Why be BearWise? The most important reason to be BearWise is to protect people and bears. However, being BearWise can protect your local community organization (e.g. HOA, city, county) from being held liable if a person is injured by a bear. Bears that come into neighborhoods and get rewarded with easily accessible food begin to lose their natural fear of people. Once a bear spends more and more of its time in a neighborhood, its chances of survival drop as it is more exposed to vehicle strikes, illegal shooting, or trapping and removal by FWC to protect public safety.

Remember, 'a fed bear is a dead bear!' - BearWise communities:

- Report fewer human-bear conflicts
- Increase confidence of their residents in enjoying the outdoors in their neighborhoods
- Attract fewer raccoons, rodents, and other nuisance wildlife which can be vectors of disease

- Respond more effectively to wildlife encounters
- Receive recognition for high standards of safety and prevention of human-bear conflicts
- Ready to get started? Take Action! Visit <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/bear/wise/>

Florida Wildlife Crossings Are Working*

It's always heartbreaking when I hear that yet another Florida black bear or Florida panther has gotten killed on a Florida road.

So far this year, vehicle collisions killed an average of two endangered Florida panthers a month. And for bears, the toll has been worse: About 20 black bears die every month on roadways as they travel the state looking for food and mates. And we all see many other dead creatures - deer, squirrels, opossums, bobcats, birds, reptiles and more - along our roadsides. This hurts people too: An estimated 200 people are killed and 29,000 injured yearly in the U.S. when their cars collide with animals.

The good news is that we can prevent this, and we have proven technology to do it. Building safe crossings for wildlife can reduce the carnage to nearly zero. Wildlife crossings take a number of different forms - expanded culverts, special ledges built along rivers or canal banks under highway bridges, or full-blown landscaped overpasses, like the striking forested Cross Florida Greenway Land Bridge over Interstate 75 near Ocala.

In Tallahassee, a study has shown that 90 percent of the turtles that tried to cross Highway 27 from Lake Jackson to a nearby waterway didn't make it. Since the Lake Jackson Ecopassage was built under the roadway in 2010, the death toll has dropped to zero because turtles, alligators, and other creatures are now funneled by fencing to a culvert that allows them to pass between water bodies without dodging traffic.

More good news: A project that the Florida Wildlife Federation sparked years ago is finally a reality. It's along a nine-mile stretch of Alligator Alley (which runs from Naples to Fort Lauderdale) that was a renowned hot spot for dangerous collisions, especially Florida panther deaths. The Federation commissioned a detailed study of the problem in 2015, sent a letter to the state petitioning action, and today there is finally a system of fencing and underpasses to help wildlife cross safely. In Southwest Florida, we've been involved in 50 different wildlife crossings

Report on Heroes Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament - May 27, 2017

FWF Life Member Scott Allison and his son, Matt, were volunteers representing FWF at the recent Heroes Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament, held May 27th in Fort Myers. One of the Federation's previous Conservation Award Winners, Esteban Gutierrez, 2016 Outdoorsman of the Year, was in charge of logistics and management of the Tournament. The profits from the Fishing Tournament benefit "Southwest Florida Heroes on the Water," an organization which takes wounded veterans on kayak fishing trips. FWF is proud to have been a sponsor of this great fishing tournament which benefits a great cause.



Matt and Scott Allison in their FWF Tech Shirts at the Tournament

so far, and are excited to be involved with even more projects statewide.

Think about how nerve-wracking it is for us to try to dodge traffic when we have to run across a highway - just imagine how confusing it is for a wild animal to be moving through the woods and suddenly be confronted by a road with speeding cars everywhere.

The highway crossings we're installing have another important benefit besides cutting collisions: they provide key connections so that animals can roam in search of mates, which helps prevent inbreeding and protects a healthy gene pool for whole populations.

Since wildlife watching contributes \$5.8 billion yearly to Florida's economy, it makes sense for us to do what we can to keep our wildlife populations healthy and protected. If we humans are going to take over their landscape, the least we can do is use whatever tools we can to make it safer for them so we can all coexist.

**This opinion piece by Manley Fuller first appeared in the Orlando Sentinel and similar opinion pieces ran in newspapers across Florida.*

Letter to the Editor in Tampa Bay Times

Thanks also to the Tampa Bay Times for letting folks know about the federal

government's plans to revisit the endangered status of Florida panthers.

The fact is, the Florida panther does not meet the criteria for losing its federal endangered protection. With only an estimated 220 cats living in the wild, we do not have a sufficient population to justify moving the species off the endangered list. We also do not have sufficient habitat to meet the criteria for changing the species listing. We've seen some hopeful signs, with panther kittens documented north of the Caloosahatchee for the first time in decades. But on average, two panthers a month die on southwest Florida roads along stretches where designated wildlife crossings haven't been put in.

We need to keep working to nurture these magnificent cats - our state animal. **Removing federal protections is clearly unwarranted.** Thanks to the Times for giving people information on how to contact the federal government on this issue. Here's the information again:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is accepting public input for consideration in the review of Florida panthers until Aug. 29. **Input should be sent to biologist David Shindle through one of the following methods:**

- Regular mail: South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 12085 State Road 29 S, Immokalee, FL 34142
- Email: david_shindle@fws.gov
- Fax: (772) 562-4288

a photograph. This is one park that everyone deserves to experience in person and should be in the top third of anyone's bucket list. The one and only thing I did not like was the narrow roads way up in the mountains. I mean, they were at least 7,000 feet up with the mountain on one side and only square rocks on the other as guard rails to help prevent a disaster. One misstep over the edge, and it

would be all over but the crying!

When I was up in the mountains viewing wildlife or seeing breathtaking valley and pass views, I kept thinking about prior conversations with friends, clients, and family about wanting to go on vacation in a foreign land and who have never been to the Everglades or other national parks such as the ones I visited in July. This makes me sad, real sad. Oh well, at the end of the day, this is why I am associated with the

best environmental organization in the country, the Florida Wildlife Federation. It is such a privilege to help protect the land and its wildlife as well as educate people about the splendor and benefits of being outdoors and enjoying all that our state and national parks have to offer.

"We must live together as brothers or perish together as fools." -Martin Luther King, Jr.



FWF Scholarship Update

Dear FWF Members,

I received letters of thanks from each of the recipients of the 2017 FWF Scholarship Fund awards. They received the awards (scholarship funds) at the annual UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Picnic in April. The letter from one student, Diane Episcopio, stood out to me and I'm sharing part of it with you below.

"The support to my research that the Florida Wildlife Federation Scholarship provides is a significant contribution to my Florida wildlife and habitats conservation efforts. To be able to reduce the detrimental impacts of invasive species in Florida related to the exotic pet trade, scientists need a better understanding of the public's knowledge, perspectives, and opinions on the topic. This scholarship will allow me to reach even more members of the public, including stakeholders that are typically underrepresented in the human dimensions of the wildlife field. I am hopeful that my research will provide further information on how to protect Florida's unique ecosystems from invasive species by providing agencies with insight into how they can develop and model management programs and policies to elicit behavioral change and public support for invasive species and pet trade management."

This FWF Scholarship Fund award recipient is working in an area of utmost concern: how to deal proactively with invasive, exotic pets and other organisms. There are 139+ exotic reptiles and amphibians documented and reproducing in Florida. The current and future work of this student is crucial toward helping Florida get a handle on such an important issue. Your donations to the FWF Scholarship Fund are certainly going to a worthy cause and these students all greatly appreciate receiving funds to help them complete their education. Many of them will be the future managers and researchers of Florida's fish and wildlife.

Thank you,

Manley

To make an online donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund, please go to:
<https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=013403>

You may also send your donation to the FWF office, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, Florida 32314. Attn D. Hines.

In Memoriam

Ney Cody Landrum
1931-2017



Ney Cody Landrum, long-time Tallahassee resident, died July 12, 2017 at the age of 86. He was a very special person in the State Parks movement not only in Florida, but across the nation.

Ney was born in 1931 in a tin-roof shack on the edge of a lime rock mine in Levy County. At the age of three, he moved with his family from the hamlet of Williston, Florida (1935 population: 862) to Tallahassee (pop. 11,725), where he grew up and graduated from Leon High School. In 1948, Ney enrolled in the new Florida State University. When the Korean War began, he joined the Marine Corps officer training program and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He served two years and remained in the Marine Corps Reserve for the following thirty years, retiring as a Colonel.

Following his release from active duty in 1954, he returned to FSU for graduate work. With a Master's degree in hand, he set out to pursue a career in the field of land use and management, with special interest in public lands. His desire to improve the quality and management of Florida's vast public land holdings governed his actions, in both private and public work, for the following thirty-three years. Ney was Florida State Parks Director from 1970 until 1989. During his tenure as parks director, Florida's state parks program doubled in size and management. Upon retirement, Ney was honored by Florida's governor and cabinet as "Director Emeritus of Florida State Parks." He also was recognized for his work by the U. S. Department of the Interior with its "Conservation Service Award," its highest honor given to an individual other than its own employees.

Following retirement from public service, Ney was recruited to be the first executive director of the National Association of State Park Directors, a position he held for nine years. Simultaneously, he served in a similar position for the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers for twelve years, and joined the staff of the National Parks and Conservation Association for three years. Ney did extensive volunteer work for the Florida International Volunteers and the U. S. Agency for International Development in Central America and the Caribbean Islands. He worked closely with Maya Indians in Belize on programs to improve the eco-tourism potential of their reservations.

Among his many honors, he was selected, first for the Florida Tourism Roll of Honor, and later was inducted into the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame. Above all, however, Ney's primary interest was his family who he loved dearly. He also greatly appreciated all of the friends who had helped him along life's path. He felt blessed to have lived a long, eventful and happy life.

ANSWERS TO FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. What is a simple and easy thing that you can do for Florida's wild critters in the summer heat?

All animals, wild or domesticated ("domesticated" means farm animals or pets) need water. In summer heat, sometimes puddles or small streams that they might use to get a drink simply dry up.

You can supply birds with water in a birdbath, making sure that there are trees or bushes nearby that they can fly away to if they are threatened. You can leave a big shallow plant saucer on the ground that you can fill with water from a hose or a bucket or a sprinkling can for animals that live on the ground.

I think that the raccoon pictured at the beginning of this article is wondering why his water saucer didn't get filled up today so he can have a drink. He is generally a nocturnal animal. "Nocturnal" means that he only comes out to play at night. You will probably never get to see him, but he still needs water.

It is important to empty birdbaths and saucers about every 3 days, and refill them with fresh water so mosquitoes can't breed in them. Nobody likes mosquitoes.

2. What is a good plant to choose if you don't have a yard or garden and can plant only one plant in a pot?

Well, that is a very hard choice to make, but think about growing a basil plant. A basil plant is great in cooking, you can harvest the leaves to make pesto, sprinkle in salads and add to tomato sauces. You can make a delicious healthy tea (hot or cold) with the dried leaves and the beautiful flowers after they have bloomed. Pollinators love the flowers as well, so you will be helping the bees and butterflies! A basil plant is a very useful plant, and a pretty one!

3. What should you know right now about the Florida panther?

You should know that the federal government is about to review the endangered status of the Florida panther, and it is time to let our representatives in Washington know that Florida Kids love their panthers. In 1981, the state's schoolchildren chose the panther to be our official state animal. At this time there are only about 230 Florida panthers left on earth, and they are listed as endangered.

When you go back to school this fall, you might ask a favorite teacher to help your class write to your representatives in Washington, asking him or her to defend that endangered status for the beautiful and unique Florida panther. You can use your citizen's voice to help keep our panthers safe.

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!

*"In the Presence of
Osceola Turkeys"*

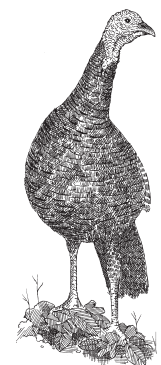
Direct Link:

[www.PeterRGerbert.com/
osceola.htm](http://www.PeterRGerbert.com/osceola.htm)

"Late one morning, Osceola Turkeys meander out of the dense forest and into a clearing as a young Barred Owl watches quietly from the background. Touched by the first light of day, the iridescent feathers of these birds became the focus of this painting.

Special thanks to Captain Franklin Adams (FWF Board of Directors) and my research colleague, Dr. Forest Redding, Jr. (former Fulbright Senior Research Scholar) for helping me find the Osceola Turkeys to study & photograph in the Big Cypress National Preserve and surrounding areas!" - Peter R. Gerbert, Florida Wildlife Artist

Each Osceola Turkey print comes with a Certificate of Endorsement from the Florida Wildlife Federation.



Florida Wildlife Federation asks:

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

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

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



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

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

Don't forget about a gift membership!

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

- ☐ Student..... \$15
- ☐ Associate..... \$35
- ☐ Family..... \$50
- ☐ Sustaining..... \$100
- ☐ Sponsor..... \$250
- ☐ Wildlife Steward..... \$500
- ☐ Life Member..... \$1,000
- ☐ Eagle Club Member..... \$2,500
- ☐ Wildlife Legacy Club... \$5,000

**Please send completed form
with check, money order, or
credit card information to:
Florida Wildlife Federation
PO Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314
or
Join or Donate Online at:
www.fwfonline.org**

Enclosed is my payment for \$ _____

Please charge my payment to:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Sec. Code _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

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

☐ This is a gift membership from: _____

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA. THE REGISTRATION NUMBER ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION IS: CH-499.



“In the Presence of Osceola Turkeys” © Peter R. Gerbert, Acrylics on Gessobord. Original Painting Available.

Signed & Numbered Prints are now available, **numbered only to 200!** Endorsed by the **Florida Wildlife Federation**, a portion of the proceeds will benefit conservation efforts in Florida. Visit www.PeterRGerbert.com for more information and to order your fine art print. See more on page 12.

Nominee Profiles for District Directors

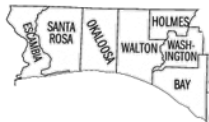
"Eight District Directors (one for each district) shall be elected by the Individual Associate and Corporate or Business members. Nominations for those eight District Directors shall be published to the Individual Associate and Corporate or Business members in the form of a ballot at least 30 days prior 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 11, 2017. For assistance call us at 1-800-656-3014.

NORTHWEST REGION

DISTRICT I



Name: Steve Theberge
Residence: Panama City

Years of Florida Residence: 19

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: Jenny Brock
Residence: Crawfordville

Years of Florida Residence: 70+

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, freshwater & saltwater fishing, hunting, conservation education, birdwatching/nature photography, gardening/habitat restoration

Other club/organization affiliations: Wildlife Alert (crime stoppers for wildlife), National Wildlife Federation (retired board member)

Goals: My goals as a board member are to 1) help implement conservation policies of FWF 2) help with conservation education and to 3) help facilitate good conservation legislation.

NORTHEAST REGION

DISTRICT III



Name: Jim Schuette
Residence: Loxahatchee

Years of Florida Residence: 25

Occupation: Wildlife Biologist

Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, SCUBA diving/snorkeling, freshwater & saltwater fishing, hunting, conservation education, cycling/hiking, gardening/habitat restoration

Other club/organization affiliations: Future of Hunting in Florida Board, Friends of Corbett Board, NWF, NRDC, NAS, TWS, SC, NRPCV, WWF, WLRN, 1000 Friends, TNC member

Goals: As FWF delegate to NWF the past few years, I have been witness to, and part of, a seismic shift in NWF priorities back towards their roots, with renewed emphasis on addressing those issues and forces that created the need for a unified voice for those who rely on healthy and vibrant natural systems and environments 80 years ago. I hope to help bring a similar courage to FWF, so they can also become a big tent representing the echos of these voices in Florida. The destruction facing the environment locally, nationally and internationally today is incomparable to any time in history. No matter what the reason we hold these values so highly, we must unite our efforts if our descendants are to even have a taste of what we have been able to live, short of reading about in a history book.

DISTRICT IV



Name: Anna Hamilton
Residence: Gainesville

Years of Florida Residence: 30

Occupation: Journalist

Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, SCUBA diving/snorkeling, freshwater & saltwater fishing, hunting, conservation education, birdwatching/nature photography, fundraising/donor development, gardening/habitat restoration

Other club/organization affiliations: Association of Independents in Radio; American Folklore Society

Goals: In joining the FWF, I am especially passionate about supporting conservation initiatives encouraging habitat restoration, mitigating climate change, protecting native species, and developing clean and sustainable energies. I look forward to engaging my skills—which includes writing, editing, research, broadcasting, social media, grant writing, project development, and community outreach—in pursuit of those goals. As a professional communicator and lifelong Floridian, I believe that when the public understands how science, policy, and

human action affect our natural spaces and resources, they are more willing to engage with conservation practices.

CENTRAL REGION



DISTRICT V

Name: Tim Bachmeyer

Residence: Windermere

Years of Florida Residence: 29

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: 69

Occupation: Retired Educator

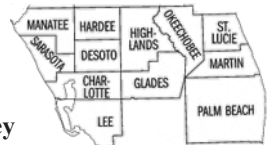
Hobbies and Conservation Interests: boating/canoeing/kayaking, camping, SCUBA diving/snorkeling, freshwater & saltwater fishing, hunting, conservation education, birdwatching/nature photography, gardening/habitat restoration

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 On Board with FWF

Play the 2017 Boating Sweepstakes Today

by Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

The Florida Wildlife Federation has launched the 27th 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. Help the Federation achieve its conservation goals by sending in your tickets today or going online to enter. When you play, Florida wins! The Drawing will be held on December 14.



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 41 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, hands-free phone, and a smart key system. Entune Apps Suite provides real time traffic, weather, Open Table, and Pandora. Safety features include seven air bags, vehicle proximity notification system and a backup camera.

Aliner's largest model camper—**The ALINER EXPEDITION**—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. This pop-up RV trailer includes off-road capability, soft-side and hard-side dormers, A/C-heat, stove, refrigerator, microwave, euro-style sink, toilet, 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 27th 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.

2017 "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes Winner

In January, the Florida Wildlife Federation concluded its 5th Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes offering three fantastic Grand Prize choices - Costco Travel Cruise in the Carribean, a Fishing Trip at Sitka Point Lodge in south-eastern Alaska, OR a \$10,000 cash prize! The Sweepstakes drawing was held on June 22, 2017 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.



Tim Keyser (right), a former FWF Board Member and Past Chair, presenting a check to the Grand Prize winner, Mr. Jim Jordan.

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

For Wildlife



Rick and Laurie Abbott with their two children.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conservation Calendar

September 22-24, 2017
FWF Board of Directors
Annual Business Meeting
Tradewinds Guy Harvey Resort
dhines@fwfonline.org

September 27-28, 2017
FWC Commission Meeting
Gainesville, Florida
www.MyFWC.com/Commission

September 30, 2017
FWF Kids Fishing Day
FWF River Preserve
Leon County, Florida
preston@fwfonline.org

November 4, 2017
Florida Panther Festival
Naples, Florida
www.floridapantherfestival.com

December 6-7, 2017
FWC Commission Meeting
Okeechobee, Florida
www.MyFWC.com/Commission

December 14, 2017
Boating Sweepstakes Drawing
FWF Headquarters
Tallahassee, Florida

January 8-11, 2018
33rd Annual Everglades
Coalition Conference
Hutchinson Island, Florida
www.evergladescoalition.org/conference

