



# Florida Fish & Wildlife News

Volume 32, Issue 3  
**Summer 2018**

*Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation*

## *Tremendous Trial Victory!*



**President's  
Message** *Page 4*

---

**Conservation  
Report** *Page 6*

---

**Southwest  
Florida  
Report** *Page 8*

---

**Coastal  
Protection** *Page 10*

**Conservation Wins!  
Florida Wildlife  
Federation and  
Allies Prevail  
at Trial!!**

*Page 3*

## Chair's Message

Rick Abbott

# Living in Florida

The blazing hot summer is definitely here in the Sunshine State. Beach parties and warm weather fun are part of the tradition of living in our state. If we are to retain these traditions for ourselves and future Floridians, we need to make sure and keep pollution at bay. In this regard, the Federation has long advocated for a ban on near shore oil drilling, and this measure will be on the ballot this November as Amendment 9. We strongly support this amendment and indeed, FWF successfully proposed it to be put on the ballot. The possibility of our beautiful sandy beaches being despoiled is unthinkable. By supporting this amendment, we can do something to stop that from ever happening.

I have been thinking about my younger days and all the time I spent in the woods and on the water. These outings led me to

become the conservationist I am as I gained an appreciation and respect for the natural world. The present-day constant usage of smart phones and computers is a concern as they take people away from the glory that is the "real" world. I am hopeful that the younger generation of Floridians will take up the cause of environmental sustainability and conservation even if they also sometimes live in the "virtual" world.

Lastly, with the election coming upon us, please go vote. FWF is completely non-partisan as to what we do; we support conservation no matter political affiliation. When you go vote, please consider what that politician's stance on clean water and land protection is. It matters.

Thanks!



Photographer:

**Perry Doggrell**

Location: **Gulf Islands National Seashore**

Animal: **Pelican**



## Cover Photo

Photographer: **Randy Traynor** Location: **Green Cay Wetlands**

"This shot was taken from about 20 yards away. It was early morning and these Spider Lillies caught my eye, but I couldn't get close to them as they were across a small wetland area. Out came the zoom lens and I was 'right on top' of them."



## Florida Fish & Wildlife News

### FWF Board

Chair: Rick Abbott  
Vice Chair: John Jopling

Vice Chair: Jay Exum  
Vice Chair: Joe Atterbury

### Northwest Region:

Regional Director:  
Curt Kiser  
District I Director:  
Steve Theberge  
District II Director:  
Jenny Brock

### Southern Region:

Regional Director:  
Martha Musgrove  
District VII Director:  
Linda Stanley  
District VIII Director:  
Franklin Adams

### Northeast Region:

Regional Director:  
Richard Hamman  
District III Director:  
Jim Schuette  
District IV Director:  
Anna Hamilton

### Central Region:

Regional Director:  
Billy Causey  
District V Director:  
Tim Bachmeyer  
District VI Director:  
Jay Bushnell

### At Large Directors

Ned Stone  
Thomas B. Evans, Jr.  
Bobbie Lindsay  
Ray Carthy  
Terry Gibson  
George Jones  
Pepper Uchino  
David Preston

### Youth Conservation Directors

Marilu Morgan  
Samantha Baraoidan

### FWF Staff

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Manley K. Fuller

General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer  
Preston Robertson

Operations Manager  
Michelle Forman

Southwest Florida Field Representative, Naples  
Meredith Barnard

Policy Consultant  
Jay Liles

Membership & Database Coordinator  
Lynn Jones

Marketing Director  
Danny Shapiro

Information Technology Consultant  
Cole Sousa

Habitats Coordinator  
Patricia Pearson

Bookkeeper  
Jeannie Scruggs, CPA

Sweepstakes Coordinator  
Claudia Farren

Administrative Assistants  
Marney Richards  
Susan Williams



Cover Photo by: Randy Traynor Photography

### Contact Information

**Tallahassee Mailing Address**  
PO Box 6870  
Tallahassee, FL 32314  
news@fwfonline.org

**Naples Office**  
2590 Golden Gate Parkway,  
Ste 105  
Naples, FL 34105  
239-643-4111  
meredithb@fwfonline.org

**Tallahassee Street Address**  
2545 Blairstone Pines Dr  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850-656-7113

### The Florida Fish & Wildlife News

is published quarterly by the Florida Wildlife Federation  
2545 Blairstone Pines Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

ISSN: 1520-8214

#### Editors

Danny Shapiro & Preston T. Robertson

If you would prefer to receive this publication only via email instead of print, contact [news@fwfonline.org](mailto:news@fwfonline.org). Please include your name and address with your request.

Contact Us at: [news@fwfonline.org](mailto:news@fwfonline.org)

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

# AMENDMENT 1 – LAND CONSERVATION

## Tremendous Trial Victory!

In 2014, 75% of Florida voters supported Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Amendment, to change our state constitution. This amendment directed money to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to fund land and water protection programs such as Florida Forever. Unfortunately, the Florida Legislature did not use these funds as directed by the voters, and funded overhead for state agencies instead.

To make the Legislature and state agencies do as their constituents directed, FWF and its allies sued. After many, many months of legal maneuvering, and considerable public money spent on lawyers representing the Legislature, FWF was provided a signal victory at trial. **On June 15, 2018, Leon County Circuit Court Judge Dodson ruled for us.** He commented that he had read the Amendment approximately 100 times and there was only one conclusion to be rationally drawn from the language: **the money must be spent on land acquisition and management of those conservation lands.**

He also found that the Legislature had unconstitutionally misspent millions of dollars since 2014.

While there is little doubt the Legislature will appeal to the District Court of Appeal and likely the Florida Supreme Court, we will be fighting them all the way. As important as this case is to the future of Florida's environment and quality of life, it is also essential for our state's democracy. Power vests in the people, and when they amend the



Photographer: Wioletta Pietrzak Location: Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

State Constitution on this or any other issue, the elected politicians should do what the people tell them to do.

If we are successful in maintaining this decision through the appellate process, many millions of dollars will be available

---

*“There was only one conclusion to be rationally drawn from the language: the money must be spent on land acquisition and management.”*

---

for land protection by purchase by the state or by providing permanent conservation by the use of perpetual easements. The Florida Forever program was once a world-renowned effort to secure for future generations what makes Florida special. It enjoyed strong bi-partisan support in the

Legislature and was very popular with the public. During the recession several years ago, Florida Forever was defunded. Regrettably, when the economy came roaring back, Florida Forever did not. The purpose of Amendment 1 was to make the Legislature act now on conservation projects before it is too late. Importantly, Florida Forever is a voluntary program that works with willing landowners who care about preserving our rich natural heritage.

The lawsuit is *Florida Wildlife Federation, Inc., et al. v. Joe Negron as President of the Florida Senate, et al.*, Case No. 2015-CA-001423, 2nd Judicial Circuit, in and for Leon County, Florida.

**Please consider helping us in this very important matter by donating to our legal fund.**

  
General Counsel/  
Chief Operating Officer





# Dear Florida Wildlife Federation Members and Supporters,

Thank you very much for your previous ongoing support of the Florida Wildlife Federation. Your support is vital to the Federation's ongoing conservation advocacy.

It is with heavy heart that I note the recent passing of Nathaniel Pryor Reed and Karl Wickstrom. Both meant a lot to me and to conservation and they will be sorely missed.

**Nat Reed was an environmental icon.** His recent book *Travels on the Green Highway: an Environmentalist's Journey* was recently reviewed in *Florida Fish and Wildlife News*. He championed the establishment of the Big Cypress National Preserve and successfully defended against a misguided attempt to build an international airport in environmentally sensitive lands. He was a strong supporter of a number of successful state constitutional amendments benefitting Florida, including the recent Water and Land Legacy Amendment of 2014. As a passionate and intelligent advocate for fish and wildlife conservation, **Nat promoted the protection of iconic places like Everglades National Park, Biscayne Bay, Big Cypress, the Florida Keys, the Ocklawaha River** and more. He was a lifelong foe of polluters and of policy decisions that hurt fish and wildlife sustainability and was one of the chief architects of Florida's Growth Management law.

He was also an avid outdoorsman whether with binoculars, a fly or spinning rod or

a shotgun. His last outdoor adventure had him doing what he loved: fishing. Nat was a true friend to me and to many others. We were honored to have known him; he created a model for effective conservation advocacy. For his outstanding achievements, Nat was made a member of Florida Wildlife Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame.



Nathaniel Pryor Reed

Photo by Mac Stone

Miss you, Nat. Glad to have spent some great times with you!

We also lost a great friend of Florida's outdoors in Karl Wickstrom. Karl, founder of *Florida Sportsman* magazine, was a persistent advocate of recreational fishing, hunting and boating and a staunch critic of those who polluted our waters. He believed that polluters should pay their share of clean-up costs and advocated for large scale solutions to Everglades pollution problems.

**Karl was also the chief driver behind getting gill nets out of Florida's coastal waters through a successful constitutional amendment**

**campaign.** He led the effort to have red fish designated as a game species and campaigned to remove destructive non-selective fishing gear. He was a great guy to have on your side in a conservation battle and if circumstances placed you on another side of an issue he was a challenging foe. He could raise hell with you, but by the next battle you would be arm in arm. As a champion of recreational fishing and a strong Everglades' restoration advocate, he was a polluter's nightmare. For his stellar work, Karl is a member of Florida Wildlife Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame.

FWF'S major activities and achievements in 2018:

- **Successfully fighting in court for full funding for Florida's conservation lands and clean waters.** In 2014, 75% of Florida voters approved Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Amendment, which was to adequately fund critical conservation lands protection programs such as Florida Forever. Due to the Legislature misspending this money, FWF and our allies sued the Legislature and state agencies. The trial judge recently ruled in our favor, stating that it was clear that the money was to be used for land acquisition and management. **This is a tremendous victory**, though the Legislature will likely appeal to the higher courts. We believe the Legislature should do as the voters clearly intended and fund conservation.

- Promoting coastal habitat protection through proposed Florida Constitutional **Amendment 9**, which if approved by voters in November will **prohibit oil and gas drilling** in Florida's coastal waters. FWF strongly supports marine forage fish and coral reef conservation which are critical to fish and wildlife throughout the marine and coastal food webs.
- Working with elected officials on water protection. **We share the outrage at the ongoing discharges of polluted waters into our estuaries in South Florida.** To reduce those destructive discharges, **we need to clean and convey water south from Lake Okeechobee.**

I want to close this message by noting some recent conservation success stories. We are very pleased to inform you of the tremendous generosity of Sam and Betty Shine, two outstanding conservationists, who have donated over 6,000 acres of predominantly wet flatwoods

habitat in the Big Bend region of Florida to expand the St Mark's National Wildlife Refuge. They are also FWF supporters.

Thanks much, Sam and Betty.

I also wanted to give a shout out to Jacksonville area conservationists whose quick opposition led to a development proposal being withdrawn from Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve. The proposal would have allowed over 400 acres of the Preserve to be converted to 1,400 condominiums. I was honored to join with fellow conservationists in a celebratory event along with the St. John's Riverkeeper, Sierra Club, the local Audubon chapter, League of Women Voters, Center for Biological Diversity and other allies and was able to recognize former FWF Board member Sarah Bailey for her great work and advocacy of Julington-Durbin Creek protection. People coming together to defend our conservation lands is critical and FWF is always there to help.

The Federation's conservation record for advancing wildlife



Karl Wickstrom

habitat protection and management, ethical and sustainable outdoor recreation and clean water is unmatched. **It is made possible by your support.**

Thanks, and have a happy summer!

Sincerely,

*Manley Fuller*

## Nominees 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 vote online at** <http://www.fwfonline.org/site/Ballot>  
Only current members may vote.  
Voting ends September 6, 2018.

### NORTHWEST REGION

#### **District 1**

Steve Theberge

#### **District 2**

Pepper Uchino

### NORTHEAST REGION

#### **District 3**

John Jopling

#### **District 4**

Anna Hamilton

### CENTRAL REGION

#### **District 5**

Tim Bachmeyer

#### **District 6**

Jay Bushnell

### SOUTHERN REGION

#### **District 7**

Linda Stanley

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch

#### **District 8**

Franklin Adams



## Environmental Education and More

The Florida Panhandle is the least populated part of Florida and home to wonderful public lands such as the Apalachicola National Forest and the Blackwater River State Forest. More South Alabama than South Florida, the Panhandle is also the location of a world class environmental education facility - the EO Wilson Biophilia Center. FWF recently took part in a program at the Center, along with our ally, the National Wildlife Federation. Topics discussed included the benefits of conservation easements, site preparation for the planting of native longleaf pines and how to be certified as a tree farm.



Preston Robertson, FWF and Tiffany Woods, NWF at the EO Wilson Biophilia Center.

Participants also got a tour of the 54,000 acre **Nokuse Plantation**, home to hundreds of relocated gopher tortoises that have been saved from entombment by development.

If you are ever near Freeport, take a trip to the Center – it's great for kids and their parents!

**EO Wilson Biophilia Center, 4956 Hwy. 20 East, Freeport, FL 32439, [www.eowilsoncenter.org](http://www.eowilsoncenter.org)**

### Federal Aid in Land Conservation

During the Lyndon B. Johnson administration, a program called the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was started by the US government. This program takes monies from offshore royalties paid by oil and gas extractors and has funded the protection of land and waters across the United States for 52 years. **On September 30, 2018, the LWCF will expire unless it is reauthorized.** With no LWCF money, many states will not have the resources to protect critical habitats. These lands have provided Americans with countless hours of recreational opportunities, including birdwatching, hiking, camping, fishing, and just plain outdoor enjoyment. The LWCF has enjoyed bi-partisan support, and is not funded by tax dollars. Moreover, it supports 9.4 million related jobs. To find out more about LWCF and its future, go to [www.lwcfcoalition.com](http://www.lwcfcoalition.com).

**To ensure that LWCF is reauthorized, please contact your U.S. Representative and Senators Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson and tell them to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund. To find and contact your federal Representative, go to: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov); for Senators, go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).**

### Climate Change

Each year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) tracks global trends as to climate and

weather. The report on the year 2017 is startling, yet consistent with previous years. As carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions increase, global temperatures rise. In 2017, the average sea surface temperature was 1.21 degrees Fahrenheit above average, and the average global land surface temperature was 2.36 degrees Fahrenheit above average. As temperatures rise, ice melts. The average Arctic ice extent for 2017 was 4.01 million square miles, the second smallest since record keeping began in 1979.

Noteworthy climate events in the United States include Barrow, Alaska having its warmest November on record, 9.1 degrees F above average. In 2017, the lower 48 states had the third highest average temperature since 1895, with 2012 and 2016 being the hottest. All around the Earth, temperatures have risen, with Europe having its fifth warmest year on record last year.

Florida residents, habitats and wildlife are feeling the effects. Ground zero seems to be the heavily populated Southeast coast, where flooding in the streets is now common. Rising seas will have impacts on home values and especially insurance. Aquatic species, including our coral reefs, are negatively impacted by ocean warming, and mangroves are now moving into North Florida as winters get less cold. Invasive plants and animals which were previously confined to semi-tropical South Florida are also moving northward.

No matter the political



persuasion of Floridians and our elected leaders, we need to do something to at least mitigate against this ongoing threat. Florida has a tremendous amount to lose if present trends continue.



Every 20 years, the Florida Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) meets to consider changes to the State Constitution. This year, and at the request of the Florida Wildlife Federation, the CRC

placed Amendment 9 on the ballot. Amendment 9 will **prohibit oil and gas drilling in our state's territorial marine waters** (approximately three miles out into the Atlantic and nine miles into the Gulf of Mexico). As there were so many proposed amendments that will appear on the ballot, many of them were combined. The oil drilling ban will therefore be voted upon in combination with a prohibition against the use of vaping smoking devices in the workplace.

**Please support Amendment 9 this November.** The State of Florida relies on unsullied beaches

as a major driver of our tourism-based economy. Moreover, the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster showed that a leak or spill will do tremendous damage not only to our economy, but to marine life, including sea turtles, saltwater fishes, sea birds and a wide range of aquatic organisms.

For passage, Amendment 9 will require 60% approval from Floridians who vote. We can ensure no drilling on our coasts by supporting this effort.

## Collier County Honors Nancy Payton

As Nancy Payton, longtime Southwest Florida Field Representative for the Florida Wildlife Federation, prepares for retirement in August, Collier County requested her presence one last time at the July 10, 2018 Board of County Commissioner meeting. The Commission presented Ms. Payton with a proclamation designating that day as Nancy Payton Day in Collier County.

Nancy Payton began working at the Federation in the early 1990s and has provided invaluable leadership in the environmental community. She has been instrumental in moving the Federation's mission forward in the wake of expanding growth. The Florida Wildlife Federation congratulates Ms. Payton on this very well-deserved honor!



The Collier County Board of County Commissioners honored Nancy Payton during its meeting on Tuesday, July 10.



## Featured Animal

### Florida Native – Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*)

The eastern indigo snake is the longest native snake in the United States, growing up to 7 ½ feet and weighing up to 10 pounds. This non-venomous and mostly docile reptile is a glossy blackish-purple, with males being slightly larger than females. Existing mainly on small mammals such as mice, it also consumes lizards, frogs and toads. Indigo snakes occur throughout Florida and South Georgia and will share space with gopher tortoises in underground burrows or live in hollow logs. Preferring drier sandhill and flatwood locations, a typical indigo snake has a summer home range of approximately 275 acres. Sadly, this beautiful and harmless snake is declining in population due to development and road kills and is on the Federal threatened species list. We need to preserve land for this species to thrive.





## Setting-up Wildlife Cameras for Ongoing Studies

The Southwest Florida office recently joined Dr. Daniel Smith on his latest field work here in the region. Dr. Smith, a transportation ecologist from the University of Central Florida, was contracted by the Federation to conduct assessments of wildlife habitat and travel corridors used by Florida panthers, black bears and other native wildlife. Dr. Smith has two current Federation-funded projects; one of them focuses on Keri Road in Hendry County and the other along Corkscrew Road in Lee County. He is studying wildlife movement across Keri Road in the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest



Image from the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest from one of the cameras Meredith Barnard checked with Dan Smith.

and examining existing wildlife crossings on Corkscrew Road. Both of these studies will provide valuable information to both local and state agencies, ensuring there is a regional strategy for safe wildlife movement across Southwest Florida.

As the Federation's new Field Representative, I had the unique opportunity to join Dr. Smith at both locations to erect new wildlife cameras as well as check on existing cameras. Since the wildlife cameras operate on motion sensors, strategic placement as well as site maintenance are of great importance.

Working alongside Dr. Smith, the Federation successfully placed several new cameras along Corkscrew Road. In the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest, I joined Dr. Smith and his research student to prune vegetation and retrieve photo memory cards from the existing cameras. (continued on page 9)



## Featured Natural Area



### Natural Area Highlight – John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Heavily urbanized eastern Palm Beach County contains a very special natural oasis - MacArthur Beach State Park. The Park is approximately 440 acres of land and water, and provides a wide variety of activities, from kayaking, swimming and fishing to birdwatching and camping. Importantly, the Park provides vital nesting habitat for sea turtles, with green, loggerhead and even leatherbacks nesting there. With a 1,600-foot boardwalk, visitors can enjoy a taste of Old Florida while looking for peregrine falcons, wood storks and least terns when they are in residence. Plant species include black mangroves, pigeon plum, wild coffee and strangler fig. Location: 10900 Jack Nicklaus Dr., North Palm Beach, FL 33408, phone: 561 624-6950.



Photographer: Vince Lamb Animal: Loggerhead sea turtle



## Setting-up Wildlife Cameras *(continued from page 8)*



*A wildlife research camera used to study wildlife movement.*



*Dr. Smith and his research assistant attaching a camera to tree.*



*Site location of cameras in the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest*

## Conservation Collier Acquires 180 Acres in North Golden Gate Estates, but There's More to Do

**F**WF has been actively advocating for Collier County to purchase all of the A-list ranked properties offered to the Conservation Collier land buying program this year. While the County has held off on purchasing most of the properties, one key parcel, the Gore Property, jumped its final hurdle this summer and will become a permanent Collier County preserve. This property is approximately 180 acres and is located north of Picayune Strand State Forest and east of the National Panther Wildlife Refuge. The County also approved naming the preserve after the late Dr. Bob Gore, a well-known Collier County conservationist who owned the land and endorsed its preservation.

The Federation has long advocated and worked to establish protected habitat linkages immediately north of I-75, near the Gore property, to ensure sufficient wildlife connections through



*Meredith Barnard at the latest Commission meeting where she spoke in support of the Gore Property.*

eastern Collier lands to the Picayune Strand State Forest. The Gore property abuts Federation-owned conservation land. For these reasons, County acquisition was a top priority for the Southwest Florida office. The Federation actively advocated for County acquisition and was instrumental in securing this recent purchase.

In June of this year, the County also put an offer on another approved A-list acquisition, known

as the Hack Property. This 28 acres of mangroves along Haldeman Creek faces pressure from developers wanting to build waterfront homes with access to Naples Bay. If the offer is accepted by the owner, the project will return to the Board of County Commissioners in the fall for final approval. The Federation looks forward to supporting this final step in the acquisition process.

Collier County staff recommended down-listing the remaining seven A-list properties, but with the Federation's advocacy efforts, those properties will remain on the A-List and return to the Board of County Commissioners at a later date. FWF continues to work with the County Commission to begin negotiations to purchase the remaining properties – purchases would nearly double the amount of conservation land the County currently protects!



## Coastal Protection – CBRA

FWF is presently working with the National Wildlife Federation to encourage Congress to modernize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) program. Important to the future of this program is reducing the need for insurance by mitigating the impacts of flooding, which is becoming more prevalent with warmer temperatures and rising seas. At the heart of mitigation for flooding is a very successful effort called the **Coastal Barrier Resource Act (CBRA)**. While development may occur in CBRA designated areas, federal money (our tax dollars) may not be used to build or maintain infrastructure like roads and other utilities. Florida currently has more than 767,000 acres in the CBRA system, much of which serves as critical natural storm buffers, and which make great areas for coastal parks, recreation and wildlife habitat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is currently seeking public comment on expansion of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) in the states of Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New Jersey. As you may recall, those are the four states that felt the greatest impacts of Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Much of the damage done and loss of personal property occurred because of storm surge. Many found that their homes had no flood insurance coverage. Those that did have coverage learned that the U.S. Treasury is



Photographer: Michael Johnson Location: Perdido Key

the source of funding and federal flood loss funding has a deficit that exceeds \$25 billion! Making matters worse, the NFIP program rewards rebuilding in the same flood prone areas but provides no assistance to those who want to move to higher, safer property.

FWS provides oversight of CBRA and the lands that make up this vast system. The expansion of CBRS lands under consideration comes at a time when the agency is reviewing boundaries and determining where flood lines should be sited based on technological advances that make locating the CBRS boundaries much more accurate. FWS is using this planned expansion to gather further public comment on the need for review and to update historic boundary maps. FWF is leading efforts to get Congressional support for the update of maps in our state. This will help avoid debate and concerns about the location of CBRS boundary lines and aid in enforcement of restrictions on federal dollars used to rebuild coastal areas after flood damage.

FWF is honored to have as a member of our board of directors Tom Evans, Jr., a former congressman from Delaware and one of the original sponsors of the CRBA. Representative Evans and US Senator John Chaffee organized a near unanimous vote in favor of the act. President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law citing its common sense approach to saving taxpayers' money and protecting lives.

Since its inception in 1982, the law has exceeded all expectations as to its effectiveness in reducing the worst impacts of flooding and protecting Americans from storm losses. Representative Evans also authored FWF's letter of support for the expansion of the CRBA areas in the four states impacted

---

*“The law has exceeded all expectations as to its effectiveness in reducing the worst impacts of flood and storm losses.”*

---

by Hurricane Sandy, and has been invited to testify when Congress holds hearings on proposed legislation to expand CRBS boundaries. We thank Tom for his commitment to protecting our nation's coastal lands.





## 2018 Spring Cards by Kay Wells

Kay Wells' photography is a good example of a positive result from a bad experience. After retiring from DC to St. Augustine in 2003, Kay was diagnosed with breast cancer. To divert her from chemotherapy treatments, her husband Tom bought her a digital single-lens reflex camera, and his strategy worked beautifully. Even fatigued, Kay could take the camera into the backyard, sit quietly and use the zoom lens to observe and photograph the birds, butterflies, lizards and other creatures that came through the area. As scuba divers, both Kay and her husband had enjoyed watching and identifying underwater fish and animals, so it was natural to

transfer the fascination to the terrestrial world. Developing a photographer's eye took her mind off the illness and gave her a compelling new hobby – one that she continues to enjoy and cherish. Photography has led to new experiences, new friends, the founding of an active camera club and continued learning. What's not to like? **Price: \$10.00**



## Florida Gulf Coast University Wings of Hope/ Panther Posse Scholarship

Two core missions of the Florida Wildlife Federation are environmental education and encouraging ethical outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, each year FWF funds the transportation of thousands of 4th and 5th grade students to the Wings of Hope Hiking Adventure program presented on the CREW (Corkscrew Regional Ecological Watershed) marsh trails. The field trips are essential for young people to make the connection between what was learned in the classroom and the natural world during the fall Panther Posse program.

The 60,000-acre CREW watershed provides an excellent and safe place for students to increase their awareness about the Florida panther and Florida black bear. Students hike trails winding through pine flatwoods and enjoy



*A recent hike conducted by FGCU Wings of Hope*

marsh vistas and mysterious oak hammocks. They even get to walk in front of their infra-red cameras that were saved by the students own "Pennies for Panthers" effort. **For many children, the field trips are their first exposure to the natural world.** When asked at the trail head if he or she has hiked on a nature trail, over 80% of the

children respond "No."

The teachers hand out an "I spy something in my own back yard" form after the hike for the students to connect the natural world (flora and fauna) with their families. FWF is proud to help build bridges of hope for wildlife and the natural world with education, research and awareness.

# Gopher Tortoise Protection Sign Update

Marney Richards, FWF Staff

**Phase I** of the sign project has been completed. Thanks to your generosity and involvement, FWF has received nearly \$10,000 in donations and **150 informational signs have been placed on public land!**

**Our Phase 2** goal is to double the number of signs placed in Florida so far. With your help, we think we can do it! Natural areas on public lands, such as state and local parks, preserves, forests and nature centers with gopher tortoise populations are ideal places for the signs.

Let us know if there is an area in your region that needs the educational signs. Please help us by including the name, email address or phone number of a manager, ranger or naturalist whom we can contact with the information. If you know the contact person, please feel free to forward this information to the

individual. The FWF contact is [marney@fwfonline.org](mailto:marney@fwfonline.org).

**Note:** Instead of donating through a specific link, as you may have in the past, please now go to our donation page and designate "Gopher Tortoise Protection Signage" for your donation to go specifically to this campaign:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/donate-to-fwf/>

You can also send your gopher tortoise sign donation to FWF, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, Florida, 32314, Attn. Marney.



Above is Megan Lee with an FWF aquatic sign and a close-up image of gopher tortoise taken by Matt Aresco, Nokuse Plantation Director. To the left circled in red, note the gopher tortoise walking behind an FWF uplands sign placed to ensure its protection!

FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S LOU KELLENBERGER

## 2018 PHOTO CONTEST

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the fourth year of the **Lou Kellenberger 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. Note that there are several categories which may be entered.

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](http://www.snappiephoto.com).

Entries will be taken from now until December 31, 2018. Entry donations 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



Photographer: **Janet Fikar** Location: **St. Augustine** Animal: **Bald eagle**

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 31, 2018.

Visit [www.snappiephoto.com](http://www.snappiephoto.com) to get started. Contact FWF at (850) 656-7113 for more information.





## FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S *Boating Sweepstakes*

**Choose One-of-Four All New Grand Prizes  
OR \$30,000 In Cash**

*Play the 2018 Boating Sweepstakes Today!*

### *This Year's Grand Prize Choices are:*

- Sea Born FX22 Bay Sport
- Beavertail Mosquito 18 Flats Boat
- Honda Accord Hybrid Sedan
- Small Boat Alaskan Cruise plus Fishing Adventure
- or \$30,000 in Cash

Ten Second Prize winners receive a \$75 Gift Certificate to Guy Harvey Sportswear.

### **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.

For more information, read the Sweepstakes Flyer and the Official Rules at our website, [www.fwfonline.org](http://www.fwfonline.org). To enter, click the Programs icon at the top of our webpage. If you would like a set of tickets mailed to you, send an email to FWF at [boatsweeps@fwfonline.org](mailto: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.

Help the Federation achieve its conservation goals by **PLAYING** the 28th Annual Boating Sweepstakes today. The Drawing will be held on December 13, 2018.

*When you play, conservation wins!*

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

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Florida Wildlife Federation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

When you Start With a Smile, we can facilitate Wildlife Crossings statewide which protect wildlife and humans.

Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1398265> to sign up!



*Sea Born FX22 Bay Sport – perfect layout for a family cruiser or the serious angler*



*Beavertail Mosquito 18 Flats Boat – designed for silently stalking inshore game fish*



*Honda Accord Hybrid Sedan – entire Accord line named the North American Car of the Year*



*Small Boat Alaskan Cruise plus Fishing Adventure – intimate wilderness experiences*

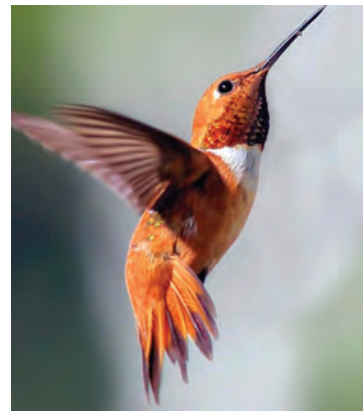
**amazon**smile  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

FLORIDA  
WILDLIFE

**Kids' Quiz**

**1.**

**What are Florida hummingbirds doing this time of year?**



**2.**

**What are scientists saying right now about amphibians?**



*See page 14 for answers and more information.*

# Jim and Ginger Visconti

## Where There's a Will, There's a Way... For Wildlife

**J**im and Ginger Visconti live in Jefferson County east of Tallahassee and near the small town of Monticello. Lifelong conservationists, the Viscontis, originally from New York State, have made themselves a wonderful home in rural North Florida. They have retrofitted their house to accept solar power and enjoy the wooded land that surrounds them, as well as the abounding native wildlife.

The Viscontis wanted to make sure that after they were gone, their special place on Earth would be saved for Nature. They very generously allowed a perpetual conservation easement to be placed on most of their wooded acreage, and have



*Jim and Ginger Visconti (and friend), Manley Fuller and Preston Robertson*

listed the Florida Wildlife Federation in their wills as the recipient of not only their land, but their home.

It is by the magnanimous actions of residents such as the Viscontis that the Federation can keep fighting the good fight for a

sustainable Florida.

***Please join with Jim and Ginger and help make sure we and future residents can enjoy a healthy, clean and environmentally sustainable Florida.***

***A bequest or trust benefitting the Florida Wildlife Federation 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 estate planning can benefit both you and wildlife, please contact Manley Fuller or Preston Robertson at (850) 656-7113.

---

## Answers to FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

1. They are getting ready to fly to Canada! The ruby-throated hummingbird, which lives in Florida, is a migratory bird and flies in a group more than 2000 miles. These tiny birds need nectar from blooming wildflowers to fuel themselves along the way, and some hummingbird feeders would be a help too. We should be hoping that they will have a successful trip, because the number of these hummingbirds has declined.
2. Scientists are saying that amphibians (frogs, etc.) are among the kinds of the world's critters that are most rapidly declining in numbers. Wouldn't it be sad not to have any frogs or toads left in the world?  
To give them a good place in your garden to live and multiply, try the following things:
  - Don't spray pesticides. Pesticides will kill amphibians as well as the native insects that frogs and toads feed on. Garden organically and plant native plants in your garden that will attract native insects.
  - Provide cover and hiding places for them. Densely planted beds of native ferns or wildflowers or thickly grown groundcovers will give them a place to hide. You can also make a "toad abode", a little shelter for them by laying a flowerpot on its side, buried a few inches into the ground, and putting some dirt inside it to make a level place there to shelter them. Some nurseries sell toad houses.
  - Frogs and toads lay their eggs in clean bodies of water. A pond is perfect, or you can use a simple birdbath or a large planter saucer placed at ground level and filled with water. All amphibians love moisture.

*How Did You Do, Florida Kid?*





## Thank You to Our Donors

### New Life Members:

Lawrence Flinn, Hobe Sound  
Genevieve Dimmitt, Clearwater

*\*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.*

### Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Photographer: **Terri Cannon** Location: **Dog Island**  
Plant: **Pine Tree**



### IN MEMORIAM

*Donations have been received  
in memory of:*

**Lawrence H. Dimmitt, IV**  
*by Genevieve Dimmitt*

**Kenneth Patterson “Pat” Ross**  
*by Mary Ann Skinner and Family  
by W.K. & Laura Wenkstern  
by Mark & Linda Garrett  
by James & Eve Sullivan*

**Juanita Greene**  
*by Jim & Eunice Baros*

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

### FWF Trail Camera Donation

In preparation for long-time representative Nancy Payton's upcoming retirement, both Nancy Payton and Meredith Barnard have been engaging with local partners to ensure a smooth transition. The Federation was delighted to introduce Meredith Barnard to Mrs. Ricky Pires, founder and director of the Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) 'Wings of Hope' program. This program introduces University students and local 4th & 5th graders to native Southwest Florida habitat and wildlife. We were pleased to present Mrs. Pires with field cameras, purchased by FWF members, to be used in her education programs. The Federation has been a longtime partner in this unique and effective education program and look forward to a continued partnership.



*Mrs. Ricky Pires and Meredith Barnard*

## We're Social!



[www.facebook.com/FlWildFed](http://www.facebook.com/FlWildFed)



[www.twitter.com/FlWildFed](http://www.twitter.com/FlWildFed)



[www.instagram.com/FlWildFed](http://www.instagram.com/FlWildFed)



[www.youtube.com/FlWildFed](http://www.youtube.com/FlWildFed)

[www.FWFonline.org](http://www.FWFonline.org)

Official Publication of the  
**Florida Wildlife Federation**  
P.O. Box 6870  
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870  
[www.FWFonline.org](http://www.FWFonline.org)

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



### “King of the Lost River” © 2018 Peter R. Gerbert

*Acrylics Belted Kingfisher*

Signed & numbered, framed & unframed prints with size options are now available through the artist's website. This is a Special Edition signed & numbered only to 100 and endorsed by the Florida Wildlife

Federation; a portion of the proceeds will benefit conservation efforts in Florida. A Certificate of Endorsement by the FWF will be included with each signed print.

Visit [www.PeterRGerbert.com](http://www.PeterRGerbert.com) for more information and to order your fine art print. Direct link with framing options: [www.PeterRGerbert.com/lost\\_river.htm](http://www.PeterRGerbert.com/lost_river.htm)



## Florida Fish & Wildlife News

*Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation*

Volume 32, Issue 3  
**Summer 2018**