



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

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Summer 2019

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

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Chair's Message

Jay Exum

Hello Florida Wildlife Federation Members and Supporters!



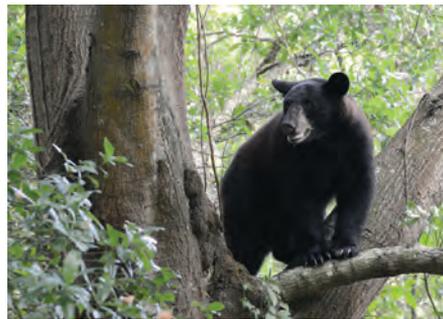
I'm extremely fortunate. I alluded to this in my last message in this newsletter, but I live in a wildlife haven. I can walk out my back door and see white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, American alligators, a plethora of resident and migratory birds and, occasionally a black bear, bobcat, coyote, or river otter. This wildlife is ever-present at my home because I live adjacent to a large conservation area that was acquired by numerous state land acquisition efforts over the course of about 20 years.

I reside at the edge of some of the highest quality black bear habitat remaining in Florida. Through focused research and effective management, cooperating researchers and agency biologists implemented a management plan that has expanded the population of black bears substantially in the last couple of decades. Granted, this has caused problems in neighborhoods like mine, but we have participated in the solution through the development of a bear-wise management plan.

There are other examples of the restoration of wildlife populations across the state; consider the increases in the numbers of the American alligator, West Indian manatee, bald eagle and, until the recent devastation associated with red tide, the resurrection of a harvestable redfish population. As a wildlife biologist, I'm proud to say that the advancement of our profession's understanding of ways to effectively manage species and habitat allows us to celebrate some of these successes.

As we bask in the good fortunes of these successes, we should reflect on how they came to be, and make sure we continue the good work with species that are still in peril, and less high-profile species, especially in the

context of ecosystems. These future efforts will be complicated, costly, and require a degree of partnership commensurate with the difficult tasks. It requires a collective agreement that protection of natural systems is imperative, even for obscure, or poorly understood species or habitats.



American black bear by Jay Exum.

I ask that you please help to educate those people who don't understand why it is important to continue to focus on the protection of big, wild and connected linkages of fish and wildlife habitat. **Ask them to join an organization like ours and encourage them to participate in a meaningful way.** Imagine the impact if everyone receiving this newsletter expressed their commitment by influencing their circle of friends and colleagues to contribute to an organization like FWF, advocated for conservation on policy issues affecting wildlife and habitats, or helped **spread the message to younger generations.**

Let's celebrate the great accomplishments of past conservation initiatives and re-double our efforts to make even more progress in the future.

Cover photo information on page 5



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

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To Be Appointed
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"Firefly Skies" © 2019 Peter R. Gerbert, Acrylics

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Florida Wildlife Federation's Celebration of the Wild and Annual Conservation Awards Banquet

FWF held its Annual Conservation Awards Banquet on June 22 at Mission Inn Resort and Spa in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida. Seven outstanding Florida conservationists were recognized for their achievements. The Federation's annual selection of conservation awards winners is one of the oldest in the state, with winners being chosen from nominations made to the Federation's Board of

Directors based on a nominees' accomplishments on behalf of Florida's fish, wildlife and natural resources. The special evening began with a cocktail reception. Preston Robertson, FWF President and CEO, was the award presenter at the banquet. Brief remarks were made by Jay Exum, FWF Board Chair, and Senator Lee Constantine. Keynote speaker was renowned wildlife photographer Mac Stone.



2019 FWF Award Winners

Water Conservationists of the Year:

Captains for Clean Water, Ft. Myers

Volunteers of the Year: **Claude and April Ward, Hudson**

Land Conservationists of the Year:

Sam and Betty Shine, New Albany, Indiana

Forest Stewards of the Year:

Ben and Louann Williams, Palatka

Environmental Educator of the Year:

Jim Schortemeyer, Naples

Conservation Organization of the Year:

Alachua Conservation Trust, Gainesville

Hall of Fame: **Franklin Adams, Naples**





Dear Federation Members and Supporters:

Our annual awards banquet at Howey-in-the-Hills was a delight and we were very pleased to recognize those **citizens who have made progress in saving natural Florida**. Award winners have protected lands, educated the public on environmental matters and proper habitat management, as well as acted to clean our estuaries and promote the Federation. We were also very pleased to have internationally recognized nature photographer Mac Stone as our keynote speaker!

The banquet also offered a special opportunity to name FWF Board member Franklin Adams as an inductee into our Hall of Fame. Franklin has served on our board for over 30 years and has been an inspiration for his continuous efforts to protect Southwest Florida, and particularly the Big Cypress region. He has been, and continues to be, a stellar advocate for FWF and a true friend.

FWF continues to work with our allies to move marine fisheries management to a more holistic approach that ensures the viability of the entire food chain, which will also benefit game species such as redfish and sea trout. By making sure forage species such as menhaden are abundant and well-managed, we help to keep the marine ecosystem vibrant. We also are continuing our efforts to invigorate **the planting of our native longleaf pine**, especially in areas hit by Hurricane Michael last fall. The longleaf is a disease resistant species that is acclimated

to fire, and, along with native groundcover such as wiregrass, provides a home for a wide diversity of animals.

This past Legislative Session was again one of working against entrenched interests. While we were thankful that \$33 million was



Animal: American Alligator Photographer: Bob Luce Location: Hillsborough River

appropriated to the Florida Forever program, that is a far cry from what the voters wanted by the passage of Amendment 1 in 2014 (the Water and Land Legacy Amendment). **Our lawsuit as to Amendment 1 spending** went to oral argument in the court of appeal on July 16 and, as of this writing, we await the result. Growth management took another hit when House Bill 7103 was signed by the Governor. This bill requires those members of the public who challenge development projects as conflicting with the comprehensive plan to pay all attorneys' fees and costs if they lose in court. The other bill we fought was Senate Bill 7068, the toll roads bill, which sets in motion the

creation of three new massive roadways in the last remaining rural areas of the Peninsula.

Unfortunately, this bill was also signed into law by the Governor.

Many thanks to all who participated in the Legislative process. **We must continue the fight to preserve what makes Florida special.**

I was pleased to participate in the filming of an educational video on the benefits of sea grass beds off the Nature Coast, particularly the areas around Crystal River in Citrus County. These watery grasslands are the marine nurseries not only of Florida waters, but the Gulf of Mexico. The conservation of lands around these **seagrasses** has protected them from many of the negative impacts of pollution, but **boaters still need to be cautious in not scarring the beds with their propellers.**

Blue-green algae continues to haunt Lake Okeechobee, with the Port Mayaca Lock reporting a bloom with a toxicity level three times too toxic to even touch. Thankfully, as Lake O is at a low level, there will be no polluted discharges to the St. Lucie River, at least in the near term. The algae have been known to cause nausea, vomiting, rashes, and is even linked to liver disease. What this situation has done to aquatic life cannot be good. It is past time for the government to **get a handle on this ongoing disaster to our waters**, and regulate nitrogen and phosphorus inflows in our rivers, creeks and lakes.

Lastly, but importantly, it's hot out there! I am hopeful even the doubters will finally realize climate change is real and is certainly no joke. Europe has sizzled. France recently recorded its highest temperature on record, at 113 degrees. Paris activated its heat emergency plan, and approximately 4,000 schools were closed to keep students out of the heat. In Spain, manure self-ignited, causing a 10,000-acre wildfire. Germany, Poland the Czech Republic all recorded record-breaking temperatures. This is not normal and **heat indices have been creeping up over the last few years.** 2015-2019 were the hottest five years in history worldwide and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has stated that these **extreme temperatures are "absolutely consistent" with patterns linked to climate change fueled by the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.** The scientists at the WMO have been studying planetary climate for many years.

In our country, late May saw the South experiencing record highs, with temperatures breaking 105 degrees in Gainesville, Florida and 102 in Savannah, Georgia. Triple digits were recorded in Macon, Augusta, Charleston, Wilmington and Jacksonville, Florida. These heat waves are 10-20 degrees above normal and the number of very hot days has significantly increased since the 1960's. Increased average heat means more wildfires, more severe storms, rising seas, flooding and more devastating weather.

As we continue our efforts, many thanks to all members and supporters of the Federation. We could not do it without your generosity.

Dustin T. Reddick

Cover Image



"Firefly Skies" © 2019 Peter R. Gerbert, Acrylics

The Florida Wildlife Federation is proud to offer prints of this imaginative new painting from Wildlife Artist Peter R. Gerbert. "Firefly Skies" is now available as a signed and numbered canvas print, limited to 200. Image size 12 by 18 inches, UV coated, framed (ready to hang) and unframed. Your print will come with a Certificate of Endorsement from FWF. A portion of the proceeds will directly benefit wildlife conservation efforts in Florida. To order please visit – www.PeterRGerbert.com or www.PeterRGerbert.com/firefly_skies.htm.

"Fireflies, also known as Lightning Bugs, are not flies or bugs, they are actually beetles (order Coleoptera). The blinking light from a firefly comes from a chemical reaction called bioluminescence. They appear in my backyard every year in the Spring and always fascinate me. Luckily, I was able to temporarily capture a few to be able to study their interesting detail, or I couldn't have done this painting showing some of them up close!

My concept here is that this inquisitive red fox (Vulpes vulpes) runs into them and wonders about their luminescence . . . are they stars that have fallen to Earth?" – Peter R. Gerbert



Art Collectors Sandra Johnson, Dr. Forest W. Redding, Jr. (Research Assistant), and Terri Creighton (who commissioned "Firefly Skies").

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 www.fwfonline.org/site/Ballot
Only current members may vote.

Voting ends September 13, 2019.

NORTHWEST REGION

District 1

Laurie Hood

District 2

Pepper Uchino

NORTHEAST REGION

District 3

Ray Carthy

District 4

Anna Hamilton

CENTRAL REGION

District 5

Cary Lightsey

District 6

Jay Bushnell

SOUTHERN REGION

District 7

Linda Stanley

District 8

Ana Meira



Featured Animal

Florida Native – Sandhill Crane *(Antigone canadensis)*

The large, high-flying sandhill crane forages for grains and invertebrates in Florida’s prairies, grasslands and marshes. Growing up to four feet tall, and with a wingspan of over six feet, cranes soar over the landscape with its feet dangling behind and its neck stretched out. During the breeding season, the crane will dance and leap in an elaborate courtship display. Generally laying two eggs per year, cranes nest in wet areas to ward off predators. While present populations are currently stable, it is only by protecting necessary habitats that we will continue to hear the rattling “karoo” call of these majestic birds.



Animal: Sandhill Crane Photographer: Libbey LeFils
Location: Osteen, Florida



Gardening for Wildlife

We share a common interest – helping to preserve Florida’s native wildlife. We work to protect natural habitats for water and wildlife. We look to provide kids with opportunities to learn about and enjoy the environment, and hope they grow up with a strong sense of stewardship for the land.

Have you ever thought of the role your garden or yard can play in helping wildlife? The spaces in our yards, neighborhoods, local parks and schools can become preserves that will help sustain plants and animals. **Even a small area can provide the elements needed by wildlife.**



Animal: Southern Dogface *Photographer: Myrna Erler-Bradshaw* *Location: Citrus Wildlife Management Area*

Gardening for wildlife means providing food, water, cover and places to raise young and, of course, using sustainable practices. You can have a beautiful landscape and provide these critical elements for pollinators, birds and other animals by using a variety of native plants for diversity, having vegetation of different heights, providing water sources and maybe even keeping a brush or rock pile.

Native plants are an essential part of the equation.

They are the base of the food web and provide flowers, seeds and



Animal: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Photographer: Charles Littlewood
Location: Paynes Prairie State Preserve

fruits used by native pollinators, birds and other animals. Did you know that most of our native insects, which are a huge part of the wildlife food web, can’t use plants that evolved outside of their region? And that our beloved birds need about 70% native plants and trees in their habitats to sustain their populations? **It just makes sense when we remember that native plants and wildlife evolved together.**

If you’re just getting started or want to start small, you might consider creating a pollinator garden. In a small space you can plant native flowers like cone flowers, black-eyed Susans, sunflowers and bee balm for nectar for adults, and plants like milkweed, parsley, fennel, common rue and passion vine, for food for butterfly larvae. Butterflies and other pollinators like native bees will gladly share some of the same plants. Add water and they will

come! An active pollinator garden can be a wonderful place for wildlife viewing for kids. You can use it to help them learn about life cycles and how providing a healthy habitat can make a difference for birds, pollinators and other animals.

With a small pollinator garden or larger yard planted for wildlife, you can choose to certify your space as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. As an affiliate of National Wildlife Federation, Florida Wildlife Federation participates in this certified habitat program. You can go to the FWF website home page, select Programs tab, then select Create a Florida Wildlife Habitat. From here, selecting Certify Your Habitat will take you to the page with all the information on the Certified Habitat Program. You can certify your habitat and choose to purchase a sign for your yard or garden. This can be a good conversation starter with interested neighbors about how urban gardeners are helping pollinators, birds and other animals. And it doesn’t hurt to mention that native plants, once established, require less water and maintenance.

If you take a great picture of your new or existing habitat garden, please share it with us. We are updating our Florida Wildlife Habitat page and would love to showcase pictures of our members’ gardens on the site. You can email pictures, with a short description, to me at marneyr@fwfonline.org.

Marney



Panther Mom and Kittens Captured on Camera

Capturing images of panthers on wildlife cameras is not out of the ordinary, especially when the cameras are strategically placed to study panther movement. However, **seeing a mother panther followed by three spotted panther kittens is rare.** For this reason, the Federation was thrilled to discover panther mom and kitten video footage captured by one of our wildlife cameras in Hendry County.

In 2017, FWF contracted with a transportation ecologist, Dr. Daniel Smith, to conduct an assessment of wildlife habitat and the travel corridors used by Florida panthers, black bears, and other native wildlife in Southwest Florida. There are two major roadways being studied as a part of this project, Keri Road and Corkscrew Road. Keri Road is in Hendry County and the panther and kitten footage was captured along this corridor. This



Check out the panther footage here: www.youtube.com/FlWildFed

road is being studied between State Road 29 and County Road 833 and is the only major east/west road between Collier County and the Caloosahatchee River that has not previously been studied for wildlife crossings.

The portion of Corkscrew Road being analyzed extends from the existing Lee County wildlife crossing on the road eastward to the intersection with State Road 82 in Collier County. This past Spring, Dr. Smith finalized all the associated field work and data

collection for both these roadways and recommendations for wildlife crossing needs will be released this summer.

The Keri Road and Corkscrew Road studies complement the previous Federation-funded Eastern Collier Wildlife Movement Study from 2006. Together, the studies provide a regional strategy to ensure safe wildlife movement

across Southwest Florida.

It is very encouraging to see kittens on our wildlife cameras. **Seeing footage of youngsters means that there are new litters being born and inspires hope for an increasing panther population.** The Federation has an ongoing campaign to secure wildlife crossings and enhance habitat connectivity to help better protect the Florida panther and ensure there is substantial habitat to enable the recovery of this endangered species.

Lee County Loosens Regulations on Mining

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recently approved changes to their existing Comprehensive Plan (Plan) pertaining to lime rock mining. The plan previously limited new and expanded lime rock mines only to

those areas identified on a map (known as Map 14). This ensured that lime rock resources located in or near existing mines and/or disturbed areas would be more fully utilized and therefore limited the spread of lime rock mining impacts

to more disturbed areas of the county. This was essential for natural resource and wildlife protection.

Lime rock mining is unlike any other land use. It is extremely intensive, impactful, and by its very

nature, forever changes the landscape. In layman's terms, lime rock mining blows up the earth and once the earth is blown up, there is no turning back. The County initially created Map 14 to minimize negative impacts on valuable water resources, natural systems, residential areas, and road systems. Clearly, Lee County understood the gravity of the intrusive nature of mining during the creation of Map 14, and so it is unclear why Lee County no longer seems to think these mining regulations are necessary. In fact, the County previously felt so strongly about Map 14's necessity that when the policies were legally challenged

shortly after their initial adoption, the County spent taxpayer dollars to defend the policies. FWF stood alongside Lee County in this case and funded legal representation on behalf of the County. The Administrative Judge ruled in our favor, but the County has now repealed the very policies the Judge's ruling upheld.

Deleting Map 14 fundamentally eliminates protective measures that were in place to determine whether and where new mines could be approved. This certainly weakens the County's protections against such a destructive land-use and will undoubtedly result in greater

impacts to remaining natural resources.

Additionally, without Map 14, most of the areas that will now be available for potential mining are located along Corkscrew Road. The Corkscrew Road corridor has been the focus of a Federation-funded wildlife movement study. The changes Lee County made in June seriously undermines our campaign for habitat connectivity across this corridor. That said, **we remain committed to engaging with Lee County and all stakeholders to ensure panthers and other native wildlife can freely cross the roadway and have suitable habitat to thrive.**



Featured Natural Area



Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

Consisting of a patchwork of lands and waters between Amelia Island and Jacksonville, the Timucuan Preserve contains a wealth of both ecological and historical treasures. At 46,000 acres, the Preserve protects saltwater marshes, streams and uplands and provides habitat for white-tailed deer, foxes, gopher tortoises and a suite of native plants. Recreation includes kayaking, hiking, fishing and the simple enjoyment of getting out of the city and into nature. Containing the remains of Ft. Caroline and Kingsley Plantation, visitors can also learn about Florida's storied past. The Preserve is named after the Timucuan Indians, who previously inhabited this area. Interestingly, archeologists discovered pottery dating back to 2500 BC on the Preserve's Black Oak Island. Location: 12713 Ft. Caroline Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32225, phone (904) 641-7155.



Photographer: Will Dickey Location: Theodore Roosevelt Area at Timucuan Preserve Website: www.willdickey.com

This 600-acre natural area within the Timucuan Preserve has over five miles of hiking trails winding through one of North Florida's most pristine areas.



Putting Food on the Table, Florida Style!

From time to time I like to give over this column to a young person who loves the outdoors as much as we do. In that regard, please be introduced to Brennan Reyes, a Leon High School senior from Tallahassee who loves saltwater fishing. In both pictures and words, Brennan takes us along on his trip, as described below.

Early this summer, I was given the opportunity to embark on a tuna fishing trip, sailing out of New Smyrna Beach aboard a family friend's new Freeman 42. (For more on this beautiful boat go to www.freemanboatworks.com.)

Growing up near the Gulf, I had become accustomed to bottom fishing for grouper, snapper, and amberjack, but tuna fishing was a new experience for me. We woke up at the crack of dawn, loaded the boat, and began our 110-mile journey offshore. With us was



Dinner is served

Captain Cory Schiedel, a charter captain based out of New Smyrna, who has lots of tuna fishing experience. Using his techniques, we were able to spot flocks of birds, use radar, and then troll over the schools of fish below.

Once we started trolling, I noticed that you could almost calculate the timing between dropping lines and having a fish on. After a few loops around flocks of birds, we finally hooked a fish and got it into the boat. Although we didn't catch the giant yellowfin we were

looking for, we were able to fill the fish box with plenty of nice-sized yellowfin, blackfin, and even a mahi. The only thing better than the fishing was eating tuna three different ways with friends and family.

There couldn't have been a much better trip!

— Brennan



Brennan works the lines

Editor's note: Recreational fishing in the Atlantic or the Gulf is truly a part of the Florida experience. To ensure that future generations can enjoy the sea's bounty, we must tackle the issue of water pollution and the degradation of saltwater habitats.

Jay

Photos courtesy of @fullsendoffshore



Brennan with his prized tuna

FWF Visits Bay County Master Gardeners

Marney Richards was invited by an FWF member to talk to the Bay County Master Gardeners meeting in Panama City. Hurricane Michael wreaked havoc in the area in October. In addition to damage to their homes, many residents lost trees and plants, and are concerned about the loss of habitat for urban

wildlife. Marney introduced them to FWF's history and conservation work and talked about planting for wildlife using native plants. Master Gardeners are a knowledgeable group, so several shared information about native plants for the region!



FWF Scholarship Update

The Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department at the University of Florida has awarded \$4,000 from FWF Scholarship Funds at the UF Foundation to the following graduates and undergraduates:

- **Meghan Beatty** studies the effect of land management and conservation strategies in North Central Florida on populations of the southeastern American kestrel. She plans to remain in Florida for her doctoral program.
- **Don Hardeman, Jr.** has spent the past four years contributing to multi-faceted research projects related to the ecology and management of Florida black bears. His graduate research is focused on addressing knowledge gaps concerning black bear behavior in human-dominated landscapes.



From left to right are Don Hardeman, Jr. (WEC MS student), Meghan Beatty (WEC MS student), Adrian Dougherty (WEC senior) and Rick Lassiter (WEC senior).

- **Adrian Dougherty**, a senior, is interested in wetland management and restoration, having grown up in the Fort Myers area. She plans to study abroad with UF in the Quito/Ecuador program this fall.
- **Rick Lassiter**, a senior and aspiring wildlife biologist, plans to work with the Florida public to teach preservation of natural resources in the state.



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. Michelle

2019 PHOTO CONTEST

Categories for Kids and Big Prizes!

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the fifth year of the **Lou Kellenberger FWF Photo Contest**. The Contest celebrates the enjoyment of taking photos in Florida's great outdoors, and 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 or a Kindle Fire tablet! 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, 2019. Entry donations are \$5 for one photo, \$10 for 3 photos, and \$25 for 7 photos. One Overall Contest winner will be



2018 Runner Up - **Rattlesnake** by Kristian Bell

selected for the First Prize of \$300, a Second Prize winner will receive a Kindle Fire tablet, 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, 2019.

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

Trash Transformation

The Kids' Quiz is on summer vacation. In its place, here's a cool story about using plastic bottles and all kinds of unrecyclable plastic for building materials.

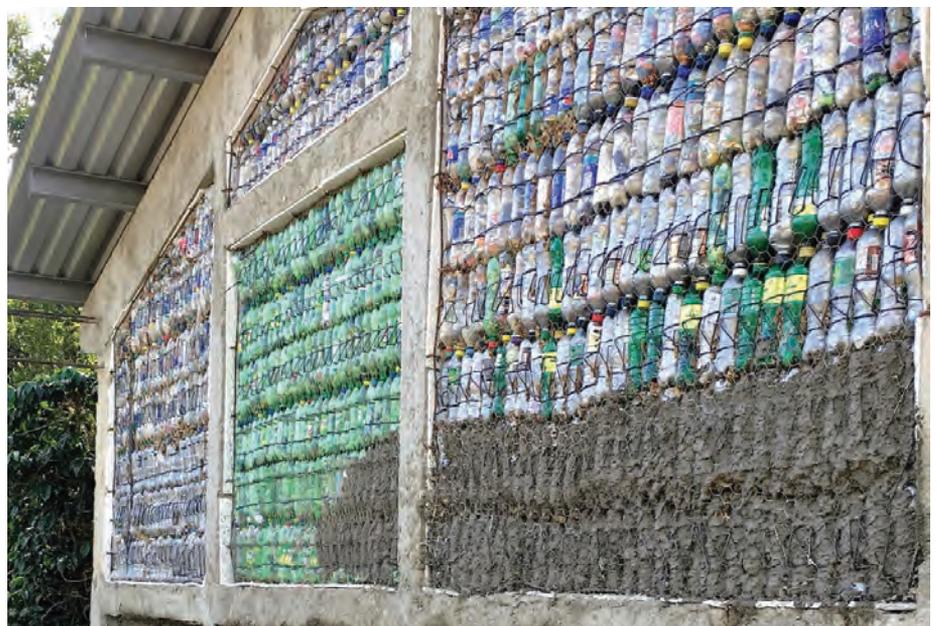
Bottle bricks or ecobricks, are a new building material that is helping keep plastics out of landfills and waterways. In many places around the world "ecobricking" has already become an important way of recycling and reusing waste products to build everything from benches to buildings.

Ecobricks are building blocks created by stuffing clean, dry used plastic into a plastic bottle to a set weight. It is amazing to see how much plastic waste can fit into a single plastic bottle. Here's a glimpse of some of the projects happening around the world:

- Students in Malaysia make ecobricks to be used to make garden benches and tables.
- A woman in Indonesia teaches neighbors to build bricks with

plastic she collected and stored over 3 years to keep it out of their local river.

- A young artist in New Mexico organizes volunteers to collect



A school built by Hug It Forward. All photos thanks to www.hugitforward.org.



plastic litter and make ecobricks to build educational structures.

- In Scotland, ecobrick projects are popping up all over, along with ecobrick drop off and collection points.



Ready to try your hand at making ecobricks? You can find directions for making the best bricks and see great pictures of ecobrick projects at ecobricks.org.



FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S *Wild Florida Sweepstakes*

Play the Wild Florida Sweepstakes Today and Win \$20,000 in Cash!

Five second prize winners will receive a \$50 Bass Pro Shop gift card.

How to Enter: Ticket contributions are \$5 each. Six tickets for \$25, 15 for \$50, 35 for \$100, and 50 for \$125 (the best value). Watch for your sweepstakes tickets in the mail.



Photographer: Christy Draper Location: Wakulla Springs

For more information, read the Wild Florida Flyer and the Official Rules at our website, 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 sweeps@fwfonline.org or call our toll-free number (800) 656-3014.



*Animal: Black bear
Photographer: Jonah Parker Hanson*

Please provide your full name and complete mailing address to receive a packet of tickets.

By playing the sweepstakes you help FWF advocate in critical areas such as **Clean Water**, the preservation of the **Florida panther** and the sustainability of species like the **Florida black bear**.

Thanks for supporting the Florida Wildlife Federation!

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!

Robert Murtagh

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

A lifelong outdoor enthusiast, Bob Murtagh's leisure time took him to Yellowstone, diving in the Cayman and Hawaiian Islands, and hiking in Canada, Ireland and Midway Islands. He was particularly amazed by the unique wildlife he encountered, including the bagaboos (elk) in Canada, Midway's gooney birds and the canaries left behind when the US Navy departed the island in World War II. But his true love has been the sea turtles of Hawaii.

Bob's conservation philanthropy began locally in Palm Beach County where he supported loggerhead turtle rehabilitation and research, and education programs at the Grassy Waters area where he led canoe trips for urban kids on their first forays beyond the inner city.

Robert Murtagh joined FWF in 1994 and has had a continuous history of giving to the organization over the years. Born in Long Island, New York, it is in Florida where he decided to support FWF "while I still can." He admits that his exposure to wildlife around the world has "soaked in" over time and he wants to make a positive difference.



Robert Murtagh

Through a charitable gift annuity, Mr. Murtagh found a way to sustain FWF over the long haul, get a guaranteed income for the rest of his life, and lessen taxation on securities he owned—a win-win-win formula that fully embraces his lifelong love for the environment. Thank you, Bob, for your generosity and thoughtfulness to the

Florida Wildlife Federation.

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

A charitable trust or bequest benefitting the Florida Wildlife Federation, or a charitable gift annuity similar to Bob's, is relatively 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 Preston Robertson at (850) 656-7113.



Animal: Hooded Merganser Photographer: Janet Fikar
Location: Choctawhatchee Bay



Animal: Tricolored Heron Photographer: Patricia Ann Wright
Location: Amberjack Park, Placida



Thank You to Our Donors

New Life Members:

Richard Bradley, *Kissimmee*
Gary C. Wendt, *Ft. Lauderdale*
William Weller, *Tierra Verde*
Gary Renfrow, *St. Pete Beach*

**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!



IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in memory of:

William Leon Eagan

by Murray and Nancy Pardue

by Walter and Karin Taylor

by The Austin Caruso Family

by Pamela Dikeou

by John and Geanne Erwin

by Carol and Ernest Heina

by Mr. & Mrs. G. Dean Davidson

Robert and Ruth Finney

by Kathryn Georgiou

The Federation thanks you for your thoughtful contributions.

We express our sympathy to family and friends of those who have passed away.



Animal: Bobcat Photographer: Robyn Churchill Location: Lake Apopka

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Photographer: **Steve daPonte** Website: www.dapontephotography.com Location: **Wekiwa Springs** This photo was shot while swimming with the camera partially submerged.



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