



Florida Fish and Wildlife News

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Volume 27, Issue 1

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

February, 2013

FWF Board of Directors Meeting

On January 26, 2013, the FWF Board of Directors and House of Delegates met at Prairie Creek Lodge in Alachua County. The lodge and 1,100 acre property are owned by Alachua Conservation Trust. The group was treated to a hayride/field trip into Prairie Creek Basin, an afternoon meeting outdoors and a large bonfire in the evening. Board member Richard Hamann served as outdoor guide, expert on field sites and hosted the bonfire that evening. Photos by Lou Kellenberger.



*Announcing the
76th Annual
Conservation
Awards Banquet,
June 8, 2013.*

*Please mark your cal-
enders and watch for
further information
about upcoming events
at the FFA Leader-
ship Training Center in
Haines City, the site of
the Meeting and Awards
Banquet.*

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FWF 2012 Photo Contest

FWF is pleased to announce the winners of the 2012 FWF Photo Contest. The winning photos were selected by FWF Eagle Club Members Lou and Betsy Kellenberger, who are award winning photographers themselves. The Federation is grateful to Lou and Betsy and to all the photographers who entered the 2012 Contest. See the winning photos at www.fwfonline.org.



Overall Winner:
"Landing" by Miguel Leyva
(Everglades National Park)

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name and address with your request.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Jenny Brock



We Can Do This Together

The Florida Wildlife Federation staff and board of directors have just returned home from their winter meeting held in Gainesville. I want to send my thank you to all our Gainesville friends for making our visit wonderful. Not only did we get a lot of work done, we really enjoyed our stay!

I continue to find friends who have not yet heard of the RESTORE Act. It is federal legislation that requires 80% of the civil penalties levied because of the Deepwater

Horizon disaster of 2010 be distributed to the five Gulf States for restoration. We all need to understand that this is the largest restoration effort in the history of this country! There is a list of 11 eligible activities that will be considered for the use of the 7% (millions of dollars) that each of the five Gulf States will receive from the first pot of money. This is the only pot that will be divided equally among the five states. This could be the pot that allows for the best opportunity for citizen input. (See chart on page 10 to understand how the other four pots will be divided). There are two or three items on the list that leave enough wiggle room to move away from conservation restoration activities into the area of economic development. Each of Florida's 23 Gulf region counties (from Monroe to Escambia) has or will be establishing a Gulf Restoration Advisory Committee. Many outdoor enthusiasts believe that we should encourage our committee members and local County Commissioners to look more closely at activities that are more beneficial to the health of the Gulf of Mexico and its estuaries, and there are plenty of those on the list of eligible activities. This is where we need your help. Serving on this committee requires that you file a financial disclosure annually with the Ethics Commission and the government if the Sunshine Law applies. Anyone



Flowers, First Place
"Waterlilies" by Larry Nieland
(McKee Botanical Gardens)

can attend and make comments as well as ask questions about projects selected. The agendas usually have a section allowing for public comment. It is my understanding that the committees have already been selected although some are not settled yet as some people are dropping off, causing the need for replacements. I hope that you understand now why we need your help. If we can help and encourage our committees to choose the best possible projects and they are accepted we can send a message to others who are selecting projects from the other pots

that we expect the same from them. We also need to send a message to Congress and the rest of the nation that we can be trusted to do the right thing with a project this big, this important and with this much funding. If we don't get it right, the next time this happens the money will all go into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund as usual, and we will be on our own to clean up! Keep in mind, this is only about the civil penalties. There are other penalties in other pots that have and continue to be used for projects already approved. Therefore, the biggest restoration project in the history of this country will be ongoing for years to come. Please get involved. Help us get it right!

Jenny Brock



Portrait, First Place:
"A Spiky Swallow" by Kay Wells
(Washington Oaks Garden State Park)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear Florida Wildlife Federation Members,

The Florida Wildlife Federation is engaged in a number of major conservation issues facing our state. We and our allies are strong supporters of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment campaign. We are asking for volunteers and supporters to help with the gathering of signatures of registered Florida voters to be able to place this amendment on the General Election Ballot in 2014. Placing reliable long term funding for Florida conservation and outdoor recreation lands in Florida's Constitution is truly one of the most important things we can do for Florida's natural resources. We absolutely need your help with this great challenge. To assist, please contact the Legacy Campaign office at <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org> or by calling the campaign office at 850-629-4656.

Recently I attended a gala event of Collier County Audubon Society and the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary honoring the following individuals as "Guardians of the Everglades:" Franklin Adams, Clyde Butcher, Chairman Buffalo Tiger of the Miccosukee, Nathaniel Reed, Deb Jansen, Ed Carlson, Honorable Bob Graham, Roy McBride and his dog Chili, Dr. Hilary Swain, and Joe Browder. The event on February 7th in Naples was outstanding, and these individuals are all exceptional in every way. One of the highlights of the event was the portraits of all of the "Guardians of the Everglades" in the style of the Old Masters painted by artist Nicholas Petrucci. To learn more about this project and the honorees, visit www.GuardiansoftheEverglades.com.

I am pleased to announce that the Public Interest Environmental Conference at the University of Florida Levin College of Law has chosen **Nancy Payton**, our Southwest Florida Field Representative, as **this year's "Unsung Hero."** This year's conference is on the Endangered Species Act and they are honoring Nancy for her work in saving the Florida panther as well as other endangered species. The conference is Feb 21-23.

Presentation of the award will occur at the February 22, 2013 banquet at the Sweetwater Branch Inn in Gainesville. For more information on the conference, please visit <http://www.law.ufl.edu/academics/concentration/elul/public-interest-environmental-conference>.

FWF is at work across the state on behalf of sound coastal policies, the Gulf of Mexico, the Everglades, Ocklawaha restoration, clean water, fish and wildlife habitat protection, wetlands, sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation education. Thank you for your support!

Manley

The following letter was presented to the Governor and members of the Cabinet.

Dear Governor Scott:

This is a request that you and the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund defer proposed actions on today's agenda regarding agricultural leases of state-owned lands within the Everglades Agricultural Area. We learned only recently that you are being asked to extend these leases for 30 years without seeking competitive bids. The leases for which these lengthy extensions are being sought do not expire until 2015, 2016 and 2018. There is no urgency to approve them today. Typically state agricultural leases are for six years, existing leases for these parcels have 20-year terms as a result of specific authorization in the Everglades Forever Act.

We believe state-owned lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and elsewhere should be utilized to maximize opportunities for Everglades and environmental restoration and to reduce the costs. We support and recognize that value-for-value land swaps to expand the South Florida Water Management District's Stormwater Treatment Area 1-West are essential to reducing the level of nutrients in agricultural runoff discharged to the Arthur R. Marshall National Wildlife Refuge. We are also supportive of the Lake Hitchcock project, which will benefit the Caloosahatchee River and its estuaries by providing additional and greatly needed water storage in the region.

Nonetheless, we question the wisdom and prudence of locking up state-owned land with new 30-year leases that make these lands unavailable for future environmental restoration projects. We would hope to use the delay in approving the lease extensions to negotiate shorter-term leases with reasonable termination clauses and to require the most effective best management practices be used on state-owned land. These properties ought to be utilized in a manner that improves the quality of farm runoff and sets an example of what EAA agriculture can do.

Of the seven leases you are asked to extend today, it is our understanding that three, covering approximately 2,200 acres will include "claw-back" provisions, allowing for

PRESIDENT con't page 10

FWF Scholarship Update

February 2013

Dear Members and Friends of the Florida Wildlife Federation,

I am very pleased to report that the principal balance in the FWF Scholarship Fund at the UF Foundation is \$80,493.18 as of February 8, 2013. That means we are within \$20,000 of reaching our goal of \$100,000 -- We are 80% of the way there! Once we reach this goal, the fund then becomes eligible for matching funds from the state.

FWF received a letter from Martin B. Main, the Interim Department Chair of the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, in November 2012, stating, "The Florida Wildlife Federation Scholarship Endowment fund earnings provided scholarship support for a total of five recipients in 2012. This is a tremendous contribution for which the students and the Department are very thankful. The award recipients were judged upon academic accomplishment and their demonstration of a keen interest in Florida wildlife or their intent to pursue a career in Florida wildlife ecology or conservation after graduation."

Dr. Main ended his letter with, "The FWF Scholarship provides meaningful support for the students in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and we greatly appreciate the support you have shown us." The individual award amounts vary from year to year, and range from \$250 up to \$1,500. Scholarship recipients are selected annually and receive their awards in April.

Since the last issue of this publication, FWF received a memorial donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund as follows:

In memory of Walter G. Brandon, Sr.

A gift from Bob Reid and Betsy Clark, Niceville

The Federation was grateful to receive this donation.

Individuals may make donations directly through the UF Foundation's website to the FWF fund by using: <https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=013403>. By clicking this link, or by entering it into a web browser, one can go directly to the donation's page for the FWF Scholarship Fund. Donations may also be sent to the Florida Wildlife Federation office earmarked for the FWF Scholarship Fund. FWF will send your donation to the University of Florida Foundation by check noting that it is for Fund #013403.

Thank you to all of you who have donated directly to the UF Foundation for this special scholarship and to those who made contributions through the Federation office.

Thank you very much,

Manley

To make an online donation to the FWF Scholarship Fund, please go to:

<https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=013403>

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



Proposed Interchange Stalled

The proposed interchange on Alligator Alley (I-75) at Everglades Boulevard in Collier County has been deferred to the 2021-2025 planning cycle of the Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The precipitating factors for the delay were two: the chief interchange proponent was defeated in his bid for re-election to the Collier County Board of Commissioners and the Florida Department of Transportation notified Collier County that it could not support a new interchange on Alligator Alley because the need was not demonstrated.

The Florida Department of Transporta-

the Collier County Commission and the Metropolitan Planning Organization referenced in their motions.

- Defer any discussions and actions until the 2021-2025 local transportation planning cycle.
- Expedite Collier County's Everglades Blvd/Alligator Alley (I-75) Emergency Access Resolution with the Florida Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration. This formal agreement will allow the temporary ramps built for Picayune Strand construction traffic to be commandeered for emergency and public safety uses including fire evacuation.

- Redirect the roughly \$100 million currently allocated for the proposed interchange and related road improvement to jumpstart local projects including enhancing traffic circulation in and around North Golden Gate Estates. Priority projects are the construction of bridges across canals and the widening of Golden Gate Boulevard, the major highway through North Golden Gate Estates.

The Federation continues to monitor the adjustments to Collier's Long Range Transportation Plan in response to deferred interchange activities.

Picayune Strand Florida Panther Compensation Bank

With the proposed interchange stalled, the Southwest Florida Office is turning its attention to the Picayune Strand Florida Panther Compensation Bank.

Picayune Strand, the top Everglades restoration project, is being enhanced and protected to make amends for the loss of panther habitat by Everglades restoration projects elsewhere. Related projects are also benefiting from the Picayune Florida Panther Compensation Bank and include the elevation of the Tamiami Trail over Shark River Slough.

Unable to determine how and who operates the Picayune Strand Panther Compensation Bank, the Federation sent a letter of inquiry to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District, and Florida Forest Service (manager of Picayune Strand State Forest). The Federation asked ten questions.

1. Who is ultimately responsible for overseeing the Picayune Strand Florida Panther Compensation Bank? The Federation requests a copy of the formal documents that establish and describe the restoration and management obligations of this compensation bank.

2. Is there an endowment? If so, how much and who administers?

3. What are the boundaries of the Picayune Strand Florida Panther Compensation Bank and the total acreage? The Federation requests a map showing the boundaries of the Picayune Strand Florida Panther Compensation Bank.

4. Who distributes the credits and who keeps the tally of credits used and credits available?

5. What is the total number of credits assigned to the bank and how many credits have been distributed? The Federation requests a list of the projects that have been or are being mitigated in the Picayune Strand Florida Panther Compensation Bank and the credits consumed by each of these projects.

6. Is there a map showing which areas of the Picayune Strand Florida Panther Compensation Bank have mitigation credits severed? If such a map exists, the Federation requests a copy.

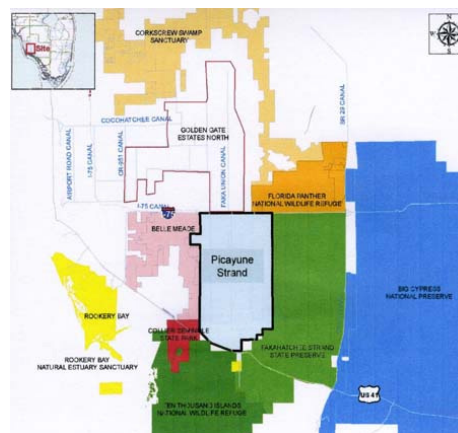
7. What is the yearly restoration and management budget specifically for the compensation bank (not the general forest budget)? What are the sources of those monies and which agency administers the budget?

8. What is the exotic removal and maintenance schedule for 2013 and each year beyond until the Picayune Strand Panther Compensation Bank is exotic-free?

9. Please confirm that the areas that have credits severed are also areas that have no exotics and there is a funded program to keep these areas free of exotics.

10. What are the checks and balances to ensure that forest activities do not conflict with the management goals of a panther compensation bank? For example, the Federation has repeatedly raised concerns about commercial and public harvesting of palmetto berries which are a major food source of panther prey. Are the areas that have credits removed now off limits to berry picking? Who enforces this prohibition, if there is one?

To date only the US Fish and Wildlife Service has acknowledged the letter and is working on a response.



A map depicting the Picayune Strand Restoration Project boundaries and showing its strategic location in the South Florida conservation lands network.

Off into the Picayune...

On January 31, biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) returned an orphaned female Florida panther to the wild.

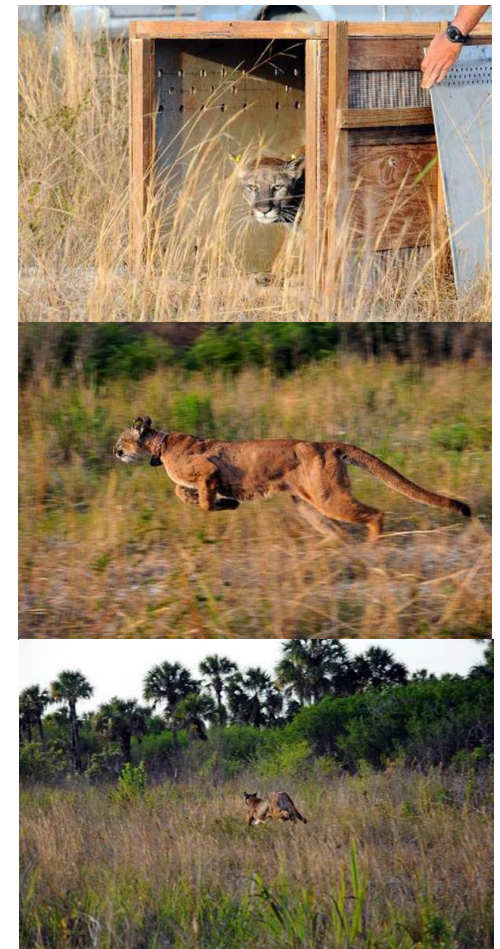
Biologists chose the Picayune Strand State Forest for the release after they evaluated the home ranges of other females in the region and found available space between them. The release was coordinated in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The panther and her brother were raised at the White Oak Conservation Center in Yulee since they were five months old. FWC rescued the two panther kittens in September 2011 near the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed in northern Collier County after their mother was found dead. The brother has yet to be released in the wild.

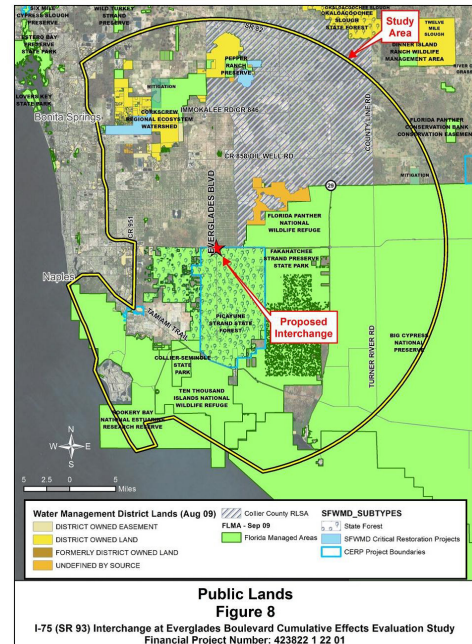
"The female panther is healthy and has grown to a size that should prepare her for life in the wild," said Darrell Land, FWC panther team leader. "The goal in any panther rescue is to be able to release the animal back into the wild to aid in the recovery of this endangered species."

Florida residents can support the rescue and rehabilitation of Florida panthers through the purchase of a panther license plate. Fees from license plate sales are the primary funding source for FWC's research and management of Florida panthers.

To report dead or injured panthers, call FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC or *FWC on a cell phone.



Photos courtesy of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



A map showing the location of the proposed Everglades Boulevard Interchange on Alligator Alley. Conservation lands are shown in green.

tion recommended that Collier County reassign the monies dedicated to the interchange to projects that enhance the local road network including bridges, road improvements, and transit. A federal grant of over \$1 million secured for designing and engineering the interchange will be redirected to improve Collier County's bus transit system.

The Federation prepared the following bullet list of recommendations which both

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

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



Protecting Our Public Lands from Incompatible Land Uses

In December, the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board approved the Surplus Lands Implementation Plan. A year long process was spent by staff analyzing the District's conservation lands to measure the conservation and recreational values as well as management plans. Public workshops were held to inventory both the public's sentiment with regard for the concept and the identified list of specific parcels that were subject to the Implementation Plan. In summary the process resulted in:

- Retaining 569,779 acres, which represents 92 percent of District-owned lands.
- Donating 25,091 acres to local governments and retaining conserva-

tion easements on those lands.

- Selling 6,574 acres and retaining easements to protect the lands' conservation values.
- Surplusing to sell/exchange 3,591 acres of land that have lower conservation value, have

land management issues, or are no longer needed for the original purpose of the acquisition.

- Converting 13,388 acres to alternative uses, such as leases allowing for forestry activities or peat removal.

While the plan identifies about 1 percent of the District's property holdings as surplus, the plan is not self-executing. A proposed contract for sale or exchange of property must subsequently be approved by the Governing Board in a public meeting.

As staff moves forward on each parcel it is critical for the public to stay engaged. Of concern to the Federation, and many others, is the potential for the surplus lands to be sold for future land uses that are incompatible with the adjacent conservation lands. This would be a battle at the local government level between staff, land owners and the community, and is a situation we would like to avoid. With each parcel project,

interested stakeholders need to assist staff in identifying those land uses that have the potential to impact the recreation, wildlife and water resources of the retained lands. The Federation will alert its members as public meetings are held and provide the Governing Board and staff with our thoughts.

Celebrating the Return of the North Atlantic Right Whale and Bringing Awareness to our Youth through Education

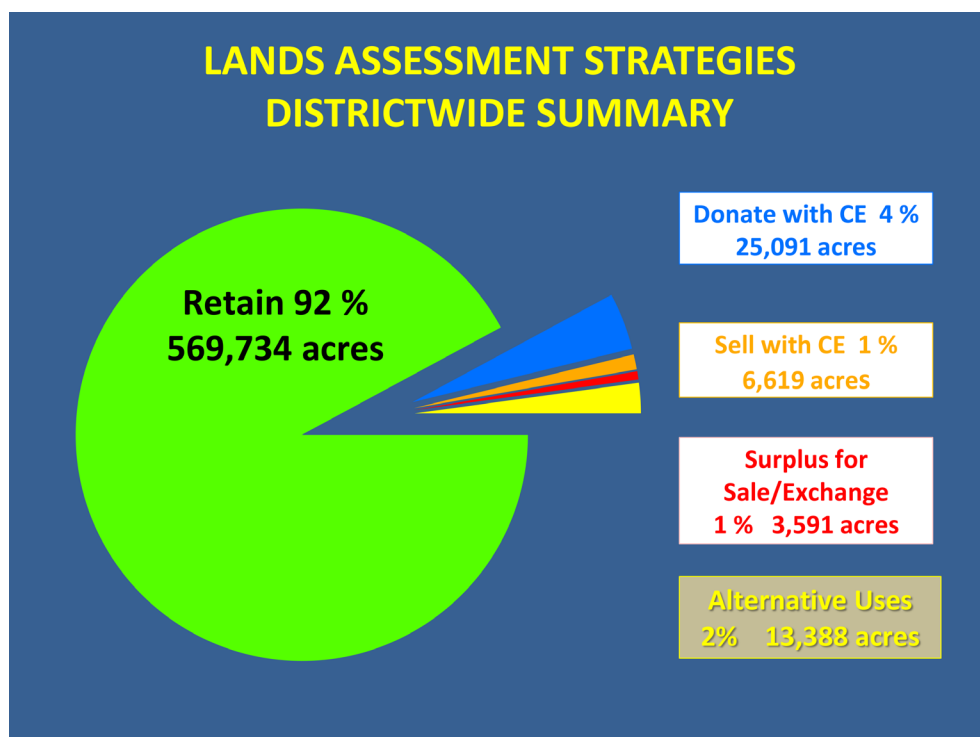
The Federation kicked off the return of the North Atlantic right whale calving season with a bang. We hosted author, educator and illustrator Peter Stone during an evening at the GTMNERR. Although our turnout was low due to competing events in the area, those in attendance had the chance for some one on one time with Stone before and after his presentation. Stone provided a preview to his Art & Science Nature Journaling - a life skill that nurtures better attention, inner calm and reflection. It also encompasses critical skills for Science, Math, Art and Language Arts, including observation,

intuition, inference, expression, and systems thinking. The Federation is currently collaborating with Stone and two school districts to bring his workshops into the schools so that the teachers can help their students bring a new awareness to their world. The foundation of his presentation was his recently published book, *Waltzes with Giants, The Twilight Journey of the North Atlantic Right Whale*, which is a provocative portrait of an endangered mammal that makes science and the marvels of the oceans engaging and comprehensible.

We have launched a campaign to raise funds to enable us to donate copies of *Waltzes with Giants* to the schools that we are working with. To see how you can donate go to our webpage <http://www.fwfonline.org/Fundraising/Donate-Books/Help-FWF-Donate-Wildlife-Books-to-Northeast-Florida-Schools.aspx>

Also to see pictures of the North Atlantic right whales' return to the Northeast Florida coast, check out the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/myfwc/sets/72157632171865684/>

**Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve*



Jacksonville resident and past FWF Board Member Debbie Keller gets her copy of *Waltzes with Giants* signed by Peter Stone at Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

75 Club

Thank you to those who joined the 75 Club!

In August, David Theriaque, Presiding Officer of the FWF Life Members' Council, asked other Life Members to join him in a new "75 Club" by contributing \$500.00 or more to the Florida Wildlife Federation – "essentially doubling down on your initial investment" in the Florida Wildlife Federation. We truly appreciate the response from our Life, Eagle Club and Wildlife Legacy Club Members! Thank you, David, for assisting the Federation with fundraising efforts!

Kelly and Suzanne Mather, Sebastian

Alexander Doska, Orange City

Billy D. Causey, Big Pine Key

Lou and Betsy Kellenberger, Tallahassee

New Board Position: Youth Conservation Director

FWF is happy to announce two new board members, Brianna "Bri" Jones and Samantha Baraoidan who will both be serving in the position of Youth Conservation Director. FWF Directors made the decision to add this position to the board to make sure it included up and coming conservation voices and new ideas and ways of looking at the world to tackling the variety of challenges our state faces. We are excited to have them on board!

Samantha Baraoidan

Greetings! I am an undergraduate junior majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. I also serve as President of UF's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. As a wildlife enthusiast from a very young age, I knew as soon as I entered college that conservation was the only career path for me. I believe that Aldo Leopold said it best when he wrote, "That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics." I am honored to join FWF's

board, and I look forward to an exciting year of pushing Florida forward in the realm of conservation!



New Legacy Club Member:

John Keffer, Vero Beach

New Eagle Club Members:

Lou and Betsy Kellenberger, Tallahassee

New Life Members:

Gail E. Smith, Naples

Daniel Alvarez, Tallahassee

Rosemarie Williams, Brandon

Thomas R. Davis, Homosassa

Elice Nicholson, Celebration

Claudia Kersey, Lakeland

Randy Beasley, Orlando

Jonah Parker-Hanson, Crawfordville

Bobbie D. Lindsay, Palm Beach

Thank you for your support!

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

Brianna "Bri" Jones

Bri has a lifelong interest in wildlife and the outdoors. She's been going on horseback packtrips since she was an infant and has never stopped spending time in the wild. She is keenly interested in advocacy on behalf of habitat protection, wildlife conservation, and public access. Her favorite things are tea, world travel, photography, skiing and snorkeling.

Bri is a Wyoming native and 2009 graduate of the University of Wyoming, with a B.A. in International Studies and Political Science. She moved to Florida in 2012 and currently works in communications and finance in Tallahassee. Before her

involvement with FWF she sat on the board of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and is currently a member of the National Wildlife Federation Emerging Leaders Council and the NWF Powerbuilding and Annual Meeting Task Forces.





Preston Robertson
Vice President for Conservation &
General Counsel

2013 Legislative Session - Here We Go Again

On Tuesday, March 5, 2013, the Florida Legislature comes, once again, into Session. The 2013 Session ends 60 days later, on May 3, if there is no extension. Our 40 State Senators and 120 State Representatives will debate and vote on a plethora of bills that deal with everything under the sun. Bills are written by legislators, staff, agencies, lobbyists or constituents who seek to change the Florida Statutes to reflect their beliefs.

The Florida Wildlife Federation is presently focusing on several bills already filed by legislators, particularly House Bill (HB) 33 by Rep. Jimmie Smith, HB 109 by Rep. Dana Young and Rep. Ray Pilon and HB 7 by Rep. Elizabeth Porter and Pilon (with an identical bill filed in the Senate (Senate Bill 244) by Sen. Charlie Dean. At present, the most worrisome filed bill is SB 584 (Sen. Alan Hayes).

HB 33 would allow private landowners adjacent to public land to place a conservation easement on their own land and in return get ownership to public land. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (the Governor and the Cabinet) would have to approve the deal. While FWF is a long-time supporter of the use of perpetual conservation easements, we have great concern over the loss of public lands that this bill may produce.

HB 109, HB 7 and SB 244 all concern our precious water resources. The bills deal with the duration of Alternative Water Supply permits,

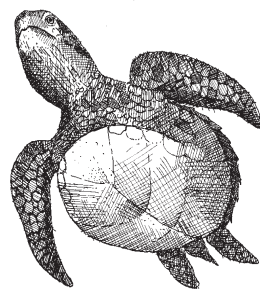
minimum flows and levels, water reservations and withdrawals and the rule authority of DEP and the five water management districts. As plentiful and clean water is the key to the health of our economy and ecology, all of these bills will need to be followed to assure that no harm is done to this vital resource.

SB 584 would essentially end conservation land acquisition in the state of Florida by requiring that any newly acquired public land must be offset by the public giving up an equal amount of land to the private sector. Even as tens of thousands of Floridians have shown their support for the continuation of the Florida Forever Act by signing the petition for the Water and Land Legacy constitutional amendment, this bill would gut environmental land protection.

There is no doubt that many more bills and amendments that impact our state's natural attributes will be filed this Session. Examination of pending bills is simple. Just go to the Florida House of Representatives and click on "bills" or the Florida Senate site and click on "session" and then "bills." You can also search bills by a term you are interested in (e.g., "water").

Please get involved by voicing your opinions. You can find out how to reach your elected officials on the House and Senate websites. Moreover, I am happy to talk to you about advocating on behalf of our land and water. Feel free to contact me at (850) 656-7113 or preston@fwfonline.org.

Preston T. Robertson



*Sunsets - Sunrises.
First Place:
"Seaoats and Sunsets" by Barbara Bowen (Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary)*

FWF board member works with Congressman on Fisheries Management

FWF Vice Chair Ned Stone had a constructive meeting with Patrick Murphy, incoming Member of Congress (Florida District 18) during the Stuart Boat Show. Murphy, who spent much of his childhood in Islamorada and participated in the Gulf Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill cleanup, is acutely aware of Everglades restoration challenges and attended the opening night of the Everglades Coalition Conference. Congressman Murphy and Stone discussed Fisheries Management and FWF's opposition to reopening the Florida Straits to long lining.



DOES YOUR COMPANY MATCH YOUR CHARITABLE GIFTS?

Many companies will match their employees' or retirees' charitable gifts to their favorite charities—usually on a 1:1 basis, but sometimes 2:1. The following corporations have established a Matching Gift Program which benefits the Florida Wildlife Federation. Many others may do so as well. If you—or someone you know—has a relationship with those corporations that offer matching gifts, please submit a matching gift form with your contribution. This will double or triple its value! FWF completes the form and returns it to the corporation which will make its gift match in honor of the employee making the original gift. We then credit the entire gift value to the employee or retiree. Please consider this simple gesture to give important support to our conservation mission.

Corporate Matching Gift Programs

Alliant Energy	America's Charities
American Express	AT&T
Bank of America	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Chervon	ConocoPhillips
Duke Energy	ExxonMobil
General Electric	IBM
Merck	Merrill Lynch & Co.
Network for Good	Hewlett Packard
Pfizer	PPG Industries
Siemens	Tyco
Verizon	





Jay Liles
FWF Policy Consultant

The Debate over a Proper Role for Government in Addressing Climate and Sea Level Rise

We often hear policy debates about the proper role of government. What is and what isn't "too big" for government intervention? Often the debate comes down to questions of costs and personal responsibility. Then political rhetoric collides with harsh reality. What politicians say are core values they want to promote and what they expect government, at all levels, to accomplish is frequently contradictory. I guess I should no longer be shocked by that kind of behavior but when it comes to public policy, promoting smaller government then demanding big, expensive government solutions strikes me as a bit hypocritical. Take the two examples cited below, that involve state and federal programs designed to address the impacts of climate change. Forget the fact that some in our government don't wish to believe climate is changing and that we should have already begun to address mitigation and adaptation as well as the root causes. Just consider the approach some would take to address the worst impacts and how difficult it is to forge a path that does not tend to simply dig the hole deeper.

A recent editorial in the *Times-Picayune* bemoans the fact that Louisiana will need much federal assistance from the taxpayers and their representatives in Congress to save the lower one third of the state from the onslaught of sea level rise. The author is highly critical of those, in his own congressional delegation, who when faced with a vote on Hurricane Sandy relief, decided it was not the appropriate role of government to offer such assistance. This after Louisiana has been spending federal funds at a rate of about \$1 billion a year to address flooding since Hurricane Katrina. What has been accomplished so

far is but a drop in the bucket when compared to what will be needed in the way of coastal restoration in Louisiana.

Then there is the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (FHCF) and its sister state program, Citizens Property Insurance. As the Federation has done over the past three years, we are working to educate policy-makers on the perverse incentive that Citizens Insurance provides for development in low lying, flood prone areas, especially along our coasts. As the Legislature renews the debate as to reforming the insurer and its reinsurance source, FHCF, once again focuses on the proper role of government (backed by you and I every other taxpayer and insured in this state). The central question is - should the state be in the insurance business and, if so, how limited should that role be?

Most of us concede that there will always be a need for Citizens Insurance as the insurer of last resort. However, due to artificial price controls, Citizens has become the only insurer in some locations and is the dominant player elsewhere. That has to change in order to promote private carriers returning to the state.

Equally important will be the future of the Hurricane Catastrophe Fund that purchases reinsurance for Citizens using a portion of each insured's premium and reserves. Not to get too technical, but in the insurance world that tends to focus the risk solely on Florida. Most reinsurers remain healthy and wealthy by spreading the risk across the globe so when a tsunami hits or an earthquake happens they don't go belly up. It's factored into their disaster projections; they have great forecasting tools for that very purpose. Unfortunately, the FHCF relies on taxpayers and insurance policy holders to make up any potential gap in exposure. If they can't meet the costs of a hurricane season like 2004-5 it falls to us to pay the difference. You see that tax on your current policy whether you are insured by Citizens or any other carrier licensed in Florida. You see it again on your auto insurance premium. It is the FHCF and CPIC "Emergency Assessment." We are advocating for more reinsurance paid for by an additional assessment on Citizen's insured's. It is they, after all, who gain to benefit from the coverage.

We are also pushing for reforms that will halt the sale of Citizen's policies to owners of new construction built within federally designated Coastal Barrier Resource Act (CBRA) units - approximately 750,000 acres in Florida. These units comprise low-lying, storm and flood-prone areas of high ecological value along the coast and on barrier islands. When he signed the Act in 1982, President Reagan stated, "The CBRA will enhance both wise natural resource conservation and fiscal responsibility." The same holds true today and is even more relevant to our times.

We would like to see the Legislature

apply this same restriction to properties located seaward of the 30-year Erosion Projection Line. Both of these common sense recommendations came out the Citizens Mission Review Task Force, created by the Legislature in 2008 to provide remedies for the state's reliance on Citizens Insurance. Neither has been adopted by the legislature.

In listening to recent testimony before the State Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, I was struck by one comment offered by those who administer Florida's insurance programs. They were explaining to the committee that in an effort to further reduce the exposure of Citizens Insurance, future claims coverage would be limited to homes and businesses costing \$1 million or less with contents coverage of \$200,000 or less. Thus, we are all on the hook for beach homes costing a million dollars with furnishings that are more expensive than many homes! Wouldn't it be wise to at least begin to reduce that exposure?

Please call your elected representatives and ask them to address meaningful reform to shrink the size of the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation and place the Hurricane Catastrophe Fund on sound financial footing. Florida policymakers have got to confront the harsh reality that these government programs are too big and that a strategy based on the hope that a major storm won't strike Florida is going to come back to bite us all.

Louisiana Is Relying on the Federal Government's Help To Rebuild Our Coast

New Orleans Times-Picayune

By Contributing Op-Ed columnist Bob Marshall, January 27, 2013

Is the state GOP building a retirement community for its elected officials north of Interstate 10? I've been wondering about that possibility because of this fact: If the nation practices the message being preached by the GOP, its Louisiana delegation and governor, then much of Southeast Louisiana below I-10 could well be gone in 60 years.

The message I'm talking about is the one that goes like this: The federal government is the problem. We need to reduce the federal government and get its agencies out of our lives; prevent new regulations and turn back old ones on industry; rein in or abolish the Environmental Protection Agency, and put science below business priorities in all federal policy considerations.

To read more go to:

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2013/01/louisianas_republican_leaders.html#incart_river_default

Business, Environmental Advocates Push for Leaner Citizens Insurance

Sunshinestatenews.com

By: Jim Turner, January 26, 2013

With a bill expected soon that is intended to give a massive boost to Florida's property insurance market by shrinking the state-backed insurance provider, business advocates and some environmental groups have already lined up their support.

The expected direction of the bill, as discussed favorably before legislators this past week by groups ranging from the Florida Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Florida to the Florida Wildlife Federation, is to make it harder for homeowners to fall to Citizens Property Insurance while reducing the size of both the state-backed insurance provider and the Hurricane Catastrophe Fund,

Means to do this could come through increased premiums, the creation of a clearing house for private firms to cherry pick accounts, leaving Citizens with only the most risky or uninsurable as it was intended, or breaking up Citizens Property Insurance Corp. into more manageable pieces based upon areas of coverage.

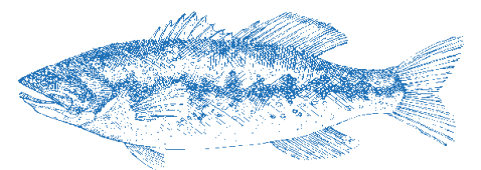
To read more go to:

<http://www.sunshinestatenews.com/story/business-environmental-advocates-push-leaner-citizens-insurance>



Waterscapes, First Place:

"Does It Get Any Better Than This"
by Scott Nielsen (John D MacArthur Beach State Park)



Call For Director Nominations

If you are interested in serving as a director of the Florida Wildlife Federation during the September 2013 to September 2014 term, or if you wish to nominate someone to fill one of these positions, please write to the Florida Wildlife Federation Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870; FAX (850) 942-4431.

Nominations must be submitted by April 26, 2013.

To be eligible, a candidate must be a resident of Florida and a member in good standing of the Florida Wildlife Federation. District and Regional Directors must reside in the region or district for which they would serve. Officers and At-Large Directors may reside anywhere within the state.

Federation Directors are expected to regularly attend Federation meetings, participate in Federation activities, assist in building Federation member-

ship, be actively involved in fund-raising efforts, attend public workshops, act as a liaison with other conservation organizations, and generally promote and lead state-wide conservation activities through the Florida Wildlife Federation. Being an FWF Director requires a substantial commitment of time and resources but will give the individual an opportunity to be a conservation leader in Florida.

Also, if you are interested in assisting the directors in your region, or in serving on one of the Federation's committees, please contact Diane Hines at the Federation office in Tallahassee at (850) 656-7113 or dhines@fwfonline.org.

Northwest Region

District I	District II
Escambia	Jackson
Santa Rosa	Calhoun
Walton	Gulf
Holmes	Franklin
Bay	Liberty
Okaloosa	Gadsden
Washington	Leon
	Wakulla
	Jefferson

Northeast Region

District III	District IV
Madison	Baker
Taylor	Nassau
Hamilton	Duval
Suwannee	Clay
Lafayette	St. Johns
Dixie	Putman
Columbia	Flagler
Union	Volusia
Bradford	
Gilcrest	
Alachua	

Central Region

District V	District VI
Marion	Citrus
Lake	Hernando
Seminole	Pasco
Orange	Hillsborough
Osceola	Pinellas
Polk	Levy
Brevard	
Indian River	
Sumter	

Southern Region

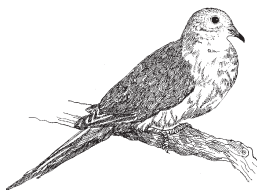
District VII	District VIII
Manatee	Hendry
Sarasota	Collier
Charlotte	Broward
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Highlands	
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Okeechobee	
St. Lucie	
Martin	
Palm Beach	
Lee	

IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in memory of:

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by Mr. & Mrs. Keith Smith



by Mr. & Mrs. Saul Silverman and Family

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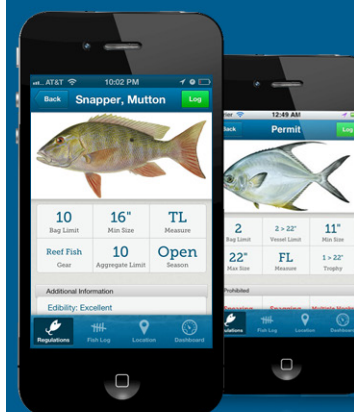
by Clay County Port

The Florida Wildlife Federation truly appreciated receiving these memorial donations.

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early termination, that are intended to permit potential use of these state lands in restoration projects. Upon reviewing the language presented to us yesterday, it appears it will take multiple years to invoke these provisions, some of which are so complex and onerous that it is questionable that they could ever be invoked. Consequently, we request that approval be deferred and more attention be devoted to the drafting and public review of the provisions of the lease extensions.

We believe the short delay would evidence your serious commitment to the stewardship of public lands.

Sincerely,

Manley Fuller
President, Florida Wildlife Federation

Charles Pattison
President, 1000 Friends of Florida

Lisa Interlandi
Executive Director, Everglades Law Center

**The item was not deferred as we requested, so we, represented by Earth Justice, have filed a petition objecting to the 30 year leases and provisions within .*

Tom Evans: U.S. needs better energy policy, more legislation to curb dangerous building along Florida coast and in other flood-prone areas

Policies needed for alternative energy, building in flood-prone areas

Published by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, December 28. By Tom Evans.

Climate change is in part a result of a natural cycle of nature with a substantial assist from mankind. We can't do much about Mother Nature but we can do lots of other things that may slow the process.

We desperately need an energy plan that not only encourages production of cleaner energy that does not add further to the warming of our planet but a plan that also encourages conservation. We must reduce the burning of fossil fuels and the spewing of carbon dioxide that adds to the greenhouse effect that is making our planet warmer.

We should and can, through conservation, reduce the amount of energy we use. All of us need to be a part of the effort. Everyone should do their fair share. For example, turning our thermostats up on hot days

and down a touch on cold days will make a difference. Wearing a little extra clothing in winter and less clothes in summer is not too difficult a task.

We can increase fuel economy standards and in the process thousands of engineers and scientists can be given meaningful jobs that help our economy. The automobile companies have already indicated they are up to the challenge. This will not only reduce fossil fuel use but it will save consumers money by giving them more bang for the buck.

Another very important element in any credible energy plan is the development of alternative sources of energy: wind, solar, nuclear and natural gas. We have a great deal of natural gas right here in the United States and it will in time help us to substantially reduce the use of coal and oil. In the process, the United States will move away from our dependence on foreign oil from unstable regions in the world. This also makes good sense from the standpoint of national security.

There's a lot riding on our ability to implement an energy plan that addresses the problems we will continue to face. In the meantime, the melting of Arctic ice and glaciers that provide water for half of our planet continues and that creates enormous problems and especially in the undeveloped areas of the world. We must reduce the burning of

fossil fuels and America must lead the way. We have recently seen an increase in the intensity of storms that cause such bad beach erosion and create storm surges that destroy properties and place so many lives at risk. Sandy's devastation should remain forever etched in our minds. Mankind's significant contribution to climate change may be doubted by a few but it is for real and we have a profound responsibility to do everything possible to slow the process — not only for ourselves but for future generations as well.

In the meantime, we also need to adapt to the dangers created by increasingly vicious storms.

We need to stop encouraging development through government subsidies, in storm-prone vulnerable areas. We cannot prevent development, but we should and can say to those developing, "Do it on your own nickel and not the American taxpayers."

Fortunately, there is an existing law, "The Coastal Barrier Resources Act" that prevents subsidies, including Federal Flood Insurance, on undeveloped barrier lands along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, including 677,334 acres in Florida. It was initially opposed by many well-funded special interests but the common-sense approach Congress took in passing it was a fine example of Democrats and Republicans working together. This will happen again because there is no other choice.

Coastal barriers protect the wetlands that play such an important role in our economy because they are spawning grounds for fish and shellfish. These valuable natural resources also provide vital habitat areas for wildlife of all kinds and are helpful in reducing the impact of flooding. If the wetlands had not been destroyed, Katrina would not have destroyed much of New Orleans.

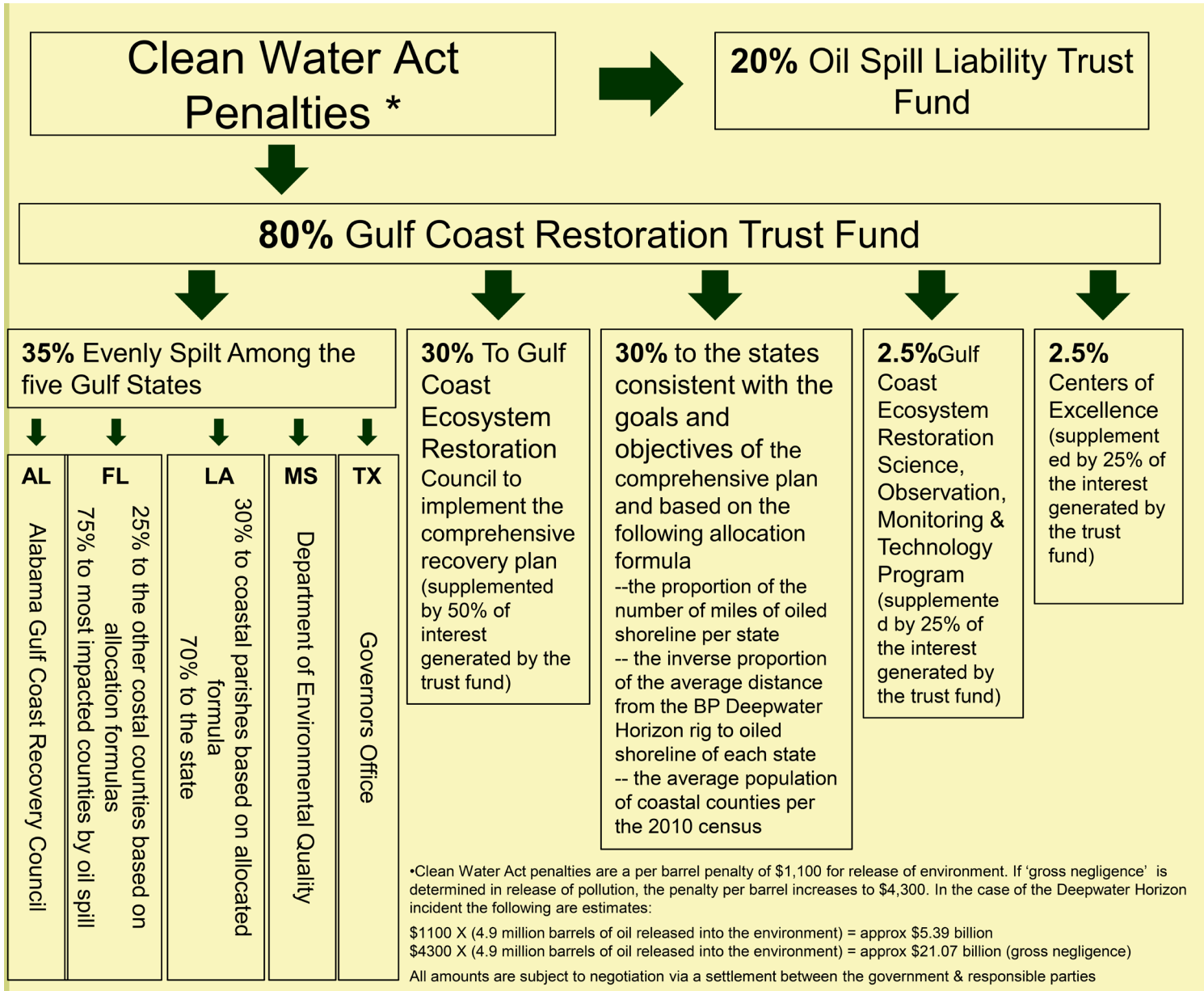
As Ronald Reagan said 30 years ago when he signed the Evans-Chafee Bill, "It is a classic example of environmental legislation that is a triumph for natural resource conservation and federal fiscal responsibility."

Former U.S. Rep. Tom Evans, R-Del., co-authored the first Coastal Barrier Resources Act. He serves on the board of the Florida Wildlife Federation and is active in the Smarter, Safer Florida Coalition.



*Wildlife, First Place:
"It's a Cool Sunny Day" by Ilene Seidel (Grassy Water Preserve)*

RESTORE Act Funding Flowchart



Full Amendment Text

TITLE:

Water and Land Conservation - Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands

SUMMARY:

Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years..

FULL TEXT:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA THAT:

Article X, Section 28, Florida Constitution, is created to read:

SECTION 28. Land Acquisition Trust Fund.--

a) Effective on July 1 of the year following passage of this amendment by the voters, and for a period of 20 years after that effective date, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall receive no less than 33 percent of net revenues derived from the existing excise tax on documents, as defined in the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, as amended from time to time, or any successor or replacement tax, af-

ter the Department of Revenue first deducts a service charge to pay the costs of the collection and enforcement of the excise tax on documents.

b) Funds in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall be expended only for the following purposes:

1) As provided by law, to finance or refinance: the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests, including conservation easements, and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat; wildlife management areas; lands that protect water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems; lands in the Everglades

Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Article II, Section 7(b); beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic or geologic sites; together with management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands.

2) To pay the debt service on bonds issued pursuant to Article VII, Section 11(e).

c) The moneys deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, as defined by the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, shall not be or become commingled with the General Revenue Fund of the state.

To help: Fill out form or visit <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/volunteer>



Florida's Water and Land Legacy campaign needs your help to gather one million signatures from Florida voters to get the Florida Land Conservation amendment on the Nov 2014 ballot.

Together with concerned citizens around the state, leading conservation organizations like The Trust for Public Land, Audubon Florida, Florida Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, and others are launching a statewide campaign to put the Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the November 2014 ballot.

Since 2009, the Florida state legislature has slashed funding for conservation programs by 97.5 percent. We simply can't afford to turn our back on the Everglades, neglect water quality in our rivers, lakes and streams, and miss the chance to save Florida's last remaining natural lands. To put this important measure on the ballot, we need to gather one million signatures.

Will you help us protect Florida's waters and lands for future generations?

We have just 14 months to gather **one million** signatures from Florida voters. With your help, we can do it! Contact our campaign headquarters to see how you can participate in the biggest environmental campaign of our lifetimes!

Please call (850) 629-4656 to volunteer so we can:

- Protect and restore clean water in Florida's lakes, streams, rivers and springs.
- Complete the restoration of our magnificent Florida Everglades.
- Conserve natural areas and habitat critical for fish and wildlife.
- Protect our beaches and the special places that are an important part of our natural heritage, economy, and quality of life.

Pd. pol. adv. paid for and sponsored by Florida's Water and Land Legacy, Inc.,
1700 N. Monroe St., Ste. 11-286, Tallahassee, FL 32303

Yes, I want to help volunteer!

- ☐ I can help gather signatures at events and stores.
☐ I'd prefer to gather signatures from friends and family.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Home Ph: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Email: _____

I'd also like to help the campaign with a contribution of (v):

___\$25 ___\$35 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$250 Other_____

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Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

*Occupation _____*Employer_____

* Information required for contributions by state law

Contributions are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes

Mail this completed form to:

**Florida's Water and Land Legacy
316 Williams St.
Tallahassee, FL 32303
campaign@FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org
www.FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org**

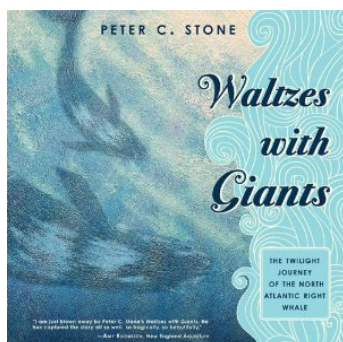
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Waltzes with Giants

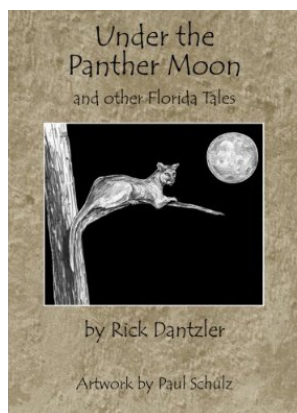
by Peter C. Stone



Waltzes with Giants, The Twilight Journey of the North Atlantic Right Whale (Skyhorse, Fall 2012), is a moving portrait of one of the earth's largest endangered mammals. Mystical and provocative, the book is inspired by a real North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) and her threatened migrations from Atlantic Canada to her calving grounds off the coasts of Georgia and Florida. Blending sound science and art with a literary voice, Peter C. Stone takes the reader beneath the waves to reveal how we have historically decimated many species of whales and other species of fish and aquatic mammals for material gain, even though they are an integral part of the ecosystems upon which we depend. Supported by a glossary of scientific and book-specific words, as well as a list of resource links for the North Atlantic right whale and other marine mammals, Waltzes with Giants is built upon questions. It will captivate readers of all ages by making science and the marvels of the oceans engaging and comprehensible.

Hardback, 112 pages. 50 color paintings and 9 b/w drawings.

FP - 516 Price \$17.95 Member Price \$15.95



Under the Panther Moon

by Rick Dantzler, artwork by Paul Schulz

Anyone reading this book will develop a working understanding of nearly every major Florida environmental issue from the last twenty-five years. The author, a former Florida state senator, uses twenty-two fictional short stories, each constructed around

an actual environmental issue, to illustrate the challenges facing Florida as it tries to preserve a rural way of life that is threatened by population growth. Magnificent artwork by the great artist Paul Schulz complements the copy perfectly, making the book as enjoyable to look at as it is to read.

Paperback, 339 pages. FP-521

Price \$16.95, Member Price \$15.45

Back By Popular Demand!

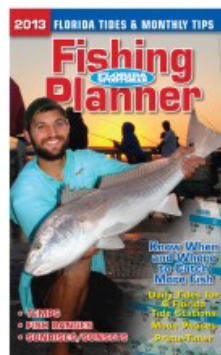
Longleaf, Far as the Eye Can See: A New Vision of North America's Richest Forest

by Bill Finch, Beth Maynor Young Rhett Johnson, John C Hall

Longleaf forests once covered 92 million acres from Texas to Maryland to Florida. These grand old-growth pines were the "alpha tree" of the largest forest ecosystem in North America and have come to define the southern forest. But logging, suppression of fire, destruction by landowners, and a complex web of other factors reduced those forests so that longleaf is now found only on 3 million acres. Fortunately, the stately tree is enjoying a resurgence of interest, and longleaf forests are once again spreading across the South. Blending a compelling narrative by writers Bill Finch, Rhett Johnson, and John C. Hall with Beth Maynor Young's breathtaking photography, Longleaf, Far as the Eye Can See invites readers to experience the astounding beauty and significance of the majestic longleaf ecosystem.

The authors explore the interactions of longleaf with other species, the development of longleaf forests prior to human contact, and the influence of the longleaf on southern culture, as well as ongoing efforts to restore these forests. Part natural history, part conservation advocacy, and part cultural exploration, this book highlights the special nature of longleaf forests and proposes ways to conserve and expand them.

Hardback, 176 pages. FP-522. Price \$25.00, Member Price \$23.95



2013 Fishing Planner

from Florida Sportsman

Florida Sportsman 2013 Fishing Planner Inshore and offshore hot fish of the month for each Florida region plus exclusive tips on the tackle, bait, and techniques you'll need to catch them.

Paperback, 191 pages. FP-316

Price \$8.95, Member Price \$8.05

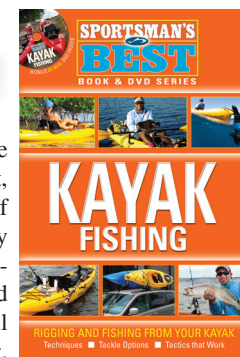
Sportsman's Best: Kayak Fishing NEW!

by Jeff Weakley, Book and DVD

Kayak fishing is among the hottest trends in fishing today. It's affordable and enjoyable for anglers of all ages, on all waters: the saltwater coast, inland lakes, and freshwater rivers. In this new book from the publishers of Florida Sportsman magazine, award-winning photojournalist Jeff Weakley covers this fast-growing sport with expert reporting and rich, full-color photography on every page. The book offers advice on selecting, outfitting and transporting fishing kayaks, technique-specific instruction for catching all kinds of fish and is a fascinating window into the evolution of kayak fishing. Dozens of leading kayak anglers from around the U.S. are featured in this book. Included DVD features instruction by author and interviews with anglers profiled in the book, with fishing action from Florida Sportsman and Shallow Water Angler TV.

Paperback, 243 pages. DVD Length, 43 minutes. FP-519

Price \$19.95, Member Price \$17.95



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FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. Why is it a bad thing to have lights near Florida's beaches where sea turtles make nests?



2. What is the 2013 Python Challenge?



3. Why should you move your bird feeders from time to time?



See page 15 for answers, and more information.



Macro, First Place:
"Southern Dogface Butterfly" by
Barbara Bowen (Withlacoochee
State Forest)

Tallahassee Native Daniel Alvarez Paddles 4,000 Miles

By Danny Gwynn-Shapiro
FWF Publications Editor

With 3,000 miles under his belt, Daniel Alvarez stopped in his home town of Tallahassee for a brief respite, before setting off to continue another 1,000 miles along the Gulf Coast to Key West and the southernmost point in continental United States. What was his starting point? The Boundary Waters in Minnesota at the Canadian border, the northernmost point in the continental United States. His journey has taken him portaging and paddling, guided by an old fur trading rout not used for 200 years, down into Lake Superior, along its borders to the Mississippi, down the Mississippi to the Gulf and along the Gulf to the Florida panhandle.

As part of his Tallahassee stop, Daniel gave a talk to family, friends, supporters and interested community members on January 21st. He provided insight into his trip so far, flushed-out stories from his excellent blog (<http://predictablylost.com/>), answered questions and showed off his kayak.

Beyond the thrill of adventure and the challenge of testing himself, Daniel discussed his goals of raising awareness about public spaces and the vastness still able to be explored and enjoyed. He remarked on the unique perspective that comes with seeing the landscape change by paddling, something that is often lost when we fly or drive. With his trip, Daniel has aimed to "highlight the victories, losses and ongoing battles" being fought to protect these invaluable areas.

Daniel has put his money where his mouth is, donating funds he won from a contest by Outdoor Magazine to four conservation organizations (Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, American Riv-

ers, Gulf Restoration Network and the Florida Wildlife Federation) that work to protect stretches of his paddle. We are hugely appreciative of his gift.

Daniel's parting words were that "everyone should take a moment to think about an adventure they want to do, then go do it. Don't wait around for it to happen, just go!" We can only hope people follow in his lead, for then our wild spaces would be truly appreciated by all.



Daniel Alvarez on January 21,
in Tallahassee.

What's Really, Really Basic?

By Pat Pearson
Habitats Coordinator

Food and water, hands down, right?

Florida Wildlife Federation works hard to protect our water supplies, as you know. However, we don't focus as much on the larger question of what is happening worldwide as many experts are predicting an impending global food crisis, having to do with Climate Change, the possible continuation of last summer's widespread droughts, big agriculture, monoculture (one species of grain or vegetable in a whole area, rather than diversity of crops, (it's more profitable to farm this way), and the problem of loss of diversity of the seed stock for edibles. There has been a loss of 94% of the traditional variety of seeds available; they are just not being produced, and are becoming extinct, and most of the remaining crops are all the same variety of corn or wheat or whatever veggie you can name, and a great many of those are genetically altered. In other words, we are all eating the same diet. And this is true also for farmed livestock. So, what happens if some of the currently prevalent kinds of foodstuffs being produced fails or is blighted on a large scale, or is proved to be (especially the genetically altered produce) not good for us to eat? I don't see the government addressing this. In fact, they are subsidizing Big Farms to plant corn for use in manufacturing of ethanol as a substitute for gasoline instead of corn on the cob. I suppose we'll still be driving around the country in our automobiles, but we'll all be too hungry to enjoy the scenery. Just joking.

I wrote an article some time ago about the decline of the pollinators because of Colony Collapse Syndrome in

honeybees. Scientists are still working to find the cause for that problem with bees. Those little buzzers supply us with every third bite of our food through their pollination of crops. These two issues put together are kind of worrisome to me. I am certainly no expert or qualified to speak on such large issues, but perhaps it's something that we all should be concerned and learning about. I just plant as much in my backyard wildlife habitat as I can for my wild visitors.

However, there is a non-profit organization out of Portland Oregon called the Collective Eye Team that is making some wonderful documentaries talking about both problems and what the average person can do: grass root solutions. The first documentary is about bees, called 'QUEEN of the SUN: What are the bees telling us?', and the second one, still unfinished, is called "SEED: The Untold Story." "Queen of the Sun" has held premier showings in theaters and has won rave reviews from critics. The New York Times' called it "Revelatory!". Roger Ebert said "Remarkable documentary that's also one of the most beautiful nature films I've ever seen." It has won 11 international film festival awards and is now available on DVD for around \$25, or you can watch it for \$4.99 on their website www.queenofthesun.com. We do not have it for sale currently at FWF, but if we should decide to carry it, you'll hear about it in the newsletter and on our FWF website. The makers are encouraging community showings of the "Bees," it is wonderful family viewing. I'm sure you would enjoy it, and also "SEEDS" when it comes out. It's not my intention to be doing a commercial for this film, I just wanted you to know about something quite lovely.

Happy Gardening!

Pat



Daniel's kayak was
donated by Necky
Kayaks.

Florida Wildlife Federation Kicks off 1st Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes

By Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator

Would you like to have the adventure of a lifetime? The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the new "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes which got underway in January. This exciting new sweepstakes is offering three grand prize choices -- five days of fishing for you and a companion at the legendary Waterfall Resort on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, a 10-day cruise for two with Lindblad-National Geographic Expeditions to the Galapagos Islands on the National Geographic *Endeavour*, or \$10,000.00 cash.

Spectacular scenery and huge fish are what you'll find at Waterfall Resort. Nature made Waterfall Alaska one of the most productive fisheries on earth. If you choose this prize you will marvel at the staggering number of trophy-sized salmon and halibut you will catch and the Alaska fishing stories and memories they will create. The resort attracts anglers of all skill levels, from novices to avid tournament fishermen. Guests return year after year to enjoy the personalized service and unique guest experience. While there, lodging and meals are provided. You'll take daily fishing trips with tackle and gear included, plus the

resort will freeze and pack your fish for shipment home.

Hear the call of the wild! A cruise on the National Geographic *Endeavour* is fun for all ages, with daily activities geared to every fitness level and interest. Cruise to pristine islands and walk among colonies of animals and birds unfazed by your presence. Observe rare giant tortoises. Snorkel amid shimmering fish, sea turtles, penguins, and playful sea lions. Don't feel like snorkeling? Take a ride on a glass bottom boat. Explore the waters of the Galapagos by kayak or Zodiac. The Galapagos, a "living laboratory" of natural history, helped to inspire Charles Darwin 175 years ago and continues to offer a unique opportunity to explore a pristine natural environment. Walk, kayak and more as you create lasting memories.

If you'd like to design your own vacation, but wish to support the Federation through this program, the 2013 winner can also choose to receive \$10,000.00 in cash in lieu of our trips.

For more information visit www.fwfonline.org and click on any of the icons for the Sweepstakes located throughout the site, including the

Sweepstakes navigation at the top of every page. Then click on "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes.

The "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes, in conjunction with the Federation's annual "Green" Car Sweepstakes and the annual Boating Sweepstakes, which will launch in the spring, represents one of the most important fundraising programs for the Florida Wildlife Federation. Proceeds are used exclusively in Florida in support of initiatives such as clean air and water programs, wetlands protection, public land acquisition and stewardship of our unique fish and wildlife resources.

Visit www.fwfonline.org for details



Kid's Wildlife Habitat Contest!

The Florida Wildlife Federation is proud to announce the 4th Annual Kid's Wildlife Habitat Contest! We will award a prize of a gardening book and a commemorative plaque to the Floridian 12 years of age or under with the best wildlife habitat.

It's easy to enter! Just tell us how your habitat provides food, water, cover, and a place to raise young. Teachers, please note that schoolyard habitats are eligible. The winning habitat will be featured on our website and in our newsletter. We will send an announcement of the winning child or school to your local newspapers, and, if it can be arranged, an FWF representative will come to the winning habitat to present the award on Earth Day 2013, April 22.

There is currently great concern among health care specialists, educators, environmentalists, and parents about the shrinking amount of time today's children spend outdoors. It is believed that this is increasing obesity in children as well as other health problems, decreasing first-hand observation of basic scientific lessons to be learned from being outdoors and causing a sad disconnect with nature among our youngsters. Many programs are being started on the local, state, and national levels to get kids to leave computer games indoors and get outside for healthy activities.

The Florida Wildlife Federation is committed to Florida's children as well as to Florida's flora and fauna. We think there is a way to tie them together promoting health for both kids and animals by encouraging youngsters to start and maintain a wildlife habitat.

This is an excellent activity for children 12 and under. It gets them outdoors, keeps them active digging and pulling the inevitable weeds, sparks an interest in gardening, teaches them something about identifying both plants and animals in the natural world, and (important to all parents), keeps them at home and

from wandering to places where they might not be so safe.

For all the above good reasons, Florida Wildlife Federation is announcing the 4th Annual KID'S WILDLIFE HABITAT CONTEST. We give a prize of an award plaque and an excellent gardening book on Earth Day, 2013 to the best wildlife habitat created by a 12 or under Floridian. The event will also be featured on our website. Schoolyard habitats are included as long as they are planted and maintained by the children. Certification by National Wildlife Federation it is not necessary for this contest. Just tell us how

this habitat provides water, food, cover, and a place to raise young. We will send an announcement of winning kids or schools to your local newspapers (with your permission, of course). We won't use last names or exact addresses, in order to keep the young winners safe from unwanted intrusions.

Go to www.fwfonline.org and look at the Habitat PowerPoint there for help and ideas. Entries close March 31st.

Email patricia@fwfonline.org for more information and start sending in those pictures.

The Florida Wildlife Federation held two sweepstakes drawings in December to help raise funds to pursue vital fish and wildlife programs. Congratulations to all the winners of the 6th annual "Green" Car Sweepstakes and the 22nd annual Boating Sweepstakes.

2012 Sweepstakes Winners

FWF is pleased to announce the winners of the 2012 sweepstakes program.



Ms. Florence Banks, of Temple Terrace, Florida, (left) winner of the 6th Annual "Green" Car Sweepstakes, receiving her Grand Prize certificate from Ann Vanek Davovich, FWF District VI Director.



Capt. James E. Weber, USMC Ret., of Daytona Beach, Florida, (right) winner of the 22nd Annual Boating Sweepstakes, accepting his Grand Prize certificate from Sarah Owen Gledhill, FWF NE Florida Planning Advocate at FWF's NE Florida Office.



FWF's 22nd Annual Boating Sweepstakes Drawing was held on December 13, 2012 at 3 pm at Federation Headquarters. The drawing was supervised by Carroll and Co. Inc., Certified Public Accountants. Attending the drawing were: (from the top left) Michael Dupree, Carroll and Company, CPA; Claudia Farren, FWF Sweepstakes Coordinator; Neal George, FWF Administrative Assistant; Officer John Beeman, Tallahassee Police Department, who provided security for the drawing; Tessa Kleck, FWF Administrative Assistant; Michelle Hakemoller, FWF Administrative Assistant; Diane Hines, Vice President of Administration; and Lynn Jones, FWF Membership Coordinator.

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Florida Wildlife Federation "FWF"



We welcome you!

To join FWF, a conservation organization dedicated for 75+ years to the health of Florida's fish and wildlife, its waters, native habitats, and sustainable outdoor recreation. We support scientifically based, professional management of natural resources and nature based recreation including hunting and fishing. Ecosystem restoration and recovery of depleted species are also primary objectives. We appreciate your support! Please join today!

Yes I want to join Florida Wildlife Federation in promoting conservation of Florida's natural treasures and the enjoyment of our Great Outdoors! You will receive our publication *Florida Fish and Wildlife News* and periodic conservation updates by mail or email. Thank you.

- ☐ Student.....\$15
- ☐ Associate\$25
- ☐ Family.....\$35
- ☐ Sustaining\$50
- ☐ Sponsor.....\$100
- ☐ Life Member.....\$500
- ☐ Eagle Club Member\$1000
- ☐ Wildlife Legacy Club ...\$5000+

Please send completed form with check, money order, or credit card information to:

Florida Wildlife Federation
PO Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314

or
Join or Donate online at:
www.fwfonline.org

Enclosed is my payment for \$ _____

Please charge my payment to:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Cards # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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

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

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ANSWERS TO FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ

1. Because when the baby turtles break out of their eggs they need to get into the water as fast as they can to avoid predators who want to eat them. The shoreline looks like the horizon to them, especially if it is a moonlight night, and the moon is shining on the water. However, if lights are shining from the land, they get confused, and go skittering toward those lights on the shore instead of heading for the water, which is their home and where they will be safer.
There are five species of sea turtles that swim in Florida's waters and nest on Florida's beaches, all of which are protected under state law. Houses or hotels on shore should use yellow bug-lights or low pressure sodium lights and keep blinds closed after dark and NO white incandescent, mercury vapor, metal halide or fluorescent lights from May to October so that those little flippy guys know which way to head when they hatch.
2. It is a contest that runs from January 13th to February 10th in four areas in the Everglades for hunting and humanely killing the invasive Burmese Pythons that are causing so much damage to native rabbits, foxes, raccoons, opossums, bobcats and other native critters, and changing the ecology of the Florida Everglades. A University of Virginia study indicates that 99 percent of native animals are harmed because of Pythons. Pythons have no natural predators in the Everglades, and in August 2012, a 17 foot 6 inch specimen was found. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is managing the hunts, and according to the Daytona Beach News-Journal more than 1800 people from 30 states have signed up and taken the required online course to be allowed to participate. As of January 29th, 37 snakes have been destroyed and brought to the University of Florida laboratories to be registered and weighed and measured. It has been estimated that the population of these alien pythons in Florida's unique Everglades runs to many, many thousands...so even though naturalists usually dislike killing any animals without a good reason, this is a very necessary procedure to try to restore the natural balance of Nature, as the pythons have been proved to be breeding and thriving now. One 16 foot snake was killed (not during this hunt) and found to be carrying 87 eggs that would have developed into 87 additional killers of rabbits and possums and foxes. You can find out the final total of snakes destroyed by googling the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's website after the hunt is over.
3. You should move your bird feeders every few weeks when the ground below them gets littered with seed hulls and bird droppings and rake the mess up and carefully dispose of it to prevent the spread of diseases among the bird population using the feeders. You can go to our website, www.fwfonline.org and find the Bird Feeding Do and Don't list in the Habitat section PowerPoint about establishing a habitat and for more information about keeping our feathered friends healthy.

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!

Conservation Calendar

February 15, 2013
FL. Wildlife Corridor
presentation
Bok Tower Gardens
(863) 734-1222 for information

March 14-16, 2013
National Wildlife Federation
Annual Meeting –
Albuquerque, NM
info@nwffaffiliates.org
www.nwf.org

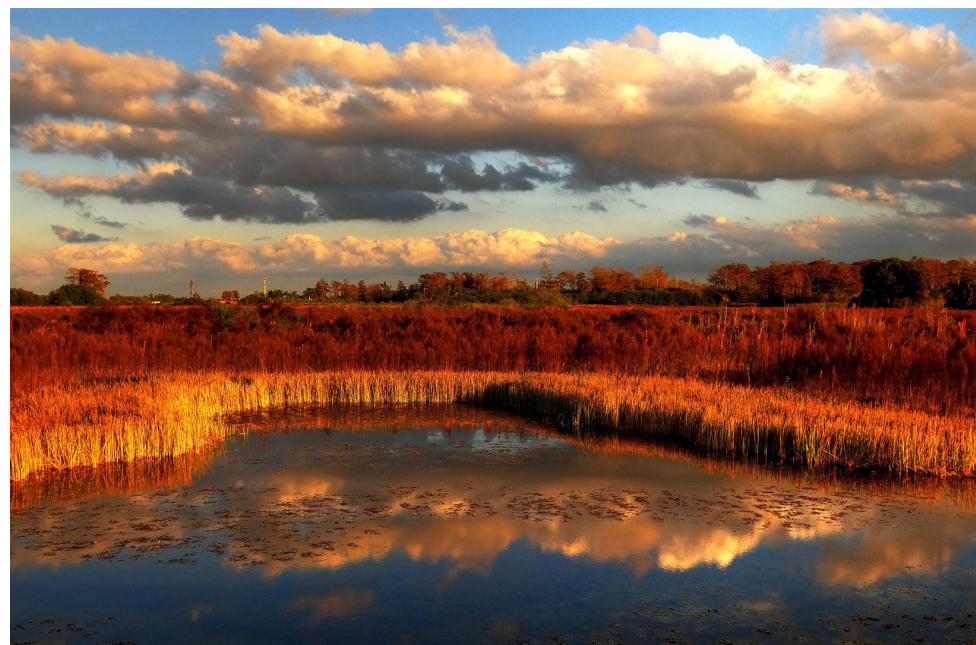
April 5-7, 2013
FWF Board of Directors Meeting

Staybridge Suites, Tallahassee
dhines@fwfonline.org

April 8-9, 2013
Everglades Coalition Lobby
Days
The Capitol, Tallahassee
www.evergladescoalition.org

April 17-18, 2013
FWC Commission Meeting
Tallahassee
www.myFWC.com/commission

June 7-9, 2013
FWF Annual Awards Banquet
and meeting FFA Leadership
Training Center
Haines City, FL
dhines@fwfonline.org



Landscapes, First Place:
“Loxahatchee Park” by Alex Kaufman
(Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge)

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

For Wildlife



Sarah Bailey with Federation president, Manley Fuller

Sarah Bailey grew up on a farm in Western Kentucky. Tree climbing and seining the creeks for crayfish and salamanders, she spent most days outdoors, and delighted in bringing home various animals, including a box of baby snakes that escaped (inside!). That young love for the natural world matured into a fervent desire to protect land, not only to benefit her beloved wildlife, but to ensure a sustainable future for her children and grandchildren.

After a stint as an art director in New York City, Sarah met her late husband, John Matthews Bailey, of the family who pioneered Sanibel Island in the 1890s. John graduated from the University of Florida in Animal Husbandry, and he and Sarah went on to establish an award-winning cattle operation in Arkansas. Raising livestock and Quarter Horses has remained a lifelong passion, and today the Bailey herd is registered Florida Cracker Cattle. To help preserve their ranch in St. Johns County, the Baileys created a special trust with the University of Florida Foundation, which will benefit several conservation charities including the Florida Wildlife Federation—a gesture that will continue her special relationship with the land and the outdoors after she is gone.

During years of trail riding all over Florida, “I came to see how important it is to save land. We saw the devastation of South Florida wetlands, and what it was doing to our native plants and wildlife.” Her sentiments reflect not just her personal feelings, but her lifelong commitment to conservation. Working with statewide land trust programs such as Endangered Lands, C.A.R.L., and Florida Forever; the St. Johns County Board of Commissioners; and the FWF Board of Directors, Sarah contributed to the preservation of many Florida properties including Big and Little Talbot Islands, Guana State Preserve and the Julington-Durbin Creeks Peninsula. Among her most cherished awards for her long-term activism is the eagle sculpture she received as the ninth inductee into the Florida Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame.

Please join with Sarah 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 bequest to the Florida Wildlife Federation or a charitable trust like Sarah'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**.