

Florida Fish and Wildlife News

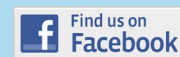


Florida Wildlife Federation

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936!

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Volume 31, Issue 1

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

February 2017

FWF and the FGCU Panther Posse Program



First place winner in the "Never Say Goodbye" poster contest.

Read more on page 4!

FWF Priorities for 2017 Legislative Session

by Preston Robertson

The 2017 Legislative Session starts on March 7 and lasts for 60 days. Committee meetings have already begun. The Federation will focus on four major issues this Session, which are specifically outlined below.

1. Fully fund the Florida Forever program.
2. Support the creation of a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee. (SB10 and HB761)
3. Support a ban on fracking. (SB422 and HB451)
4. Support incentives for flood mitigation.

1. Conservation Land Funding: Since 1990, both Republican and Democratic Administrations have supported a robust conservation lands program. In 1900, Florida

LEGISLATIVE con't page 6

Announcing the 80th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet
Friday April 21, 2017
at the Wyndham Grand Jupiter at Harbourside Place.

See the back page of this issue for all the details!

Get Involved

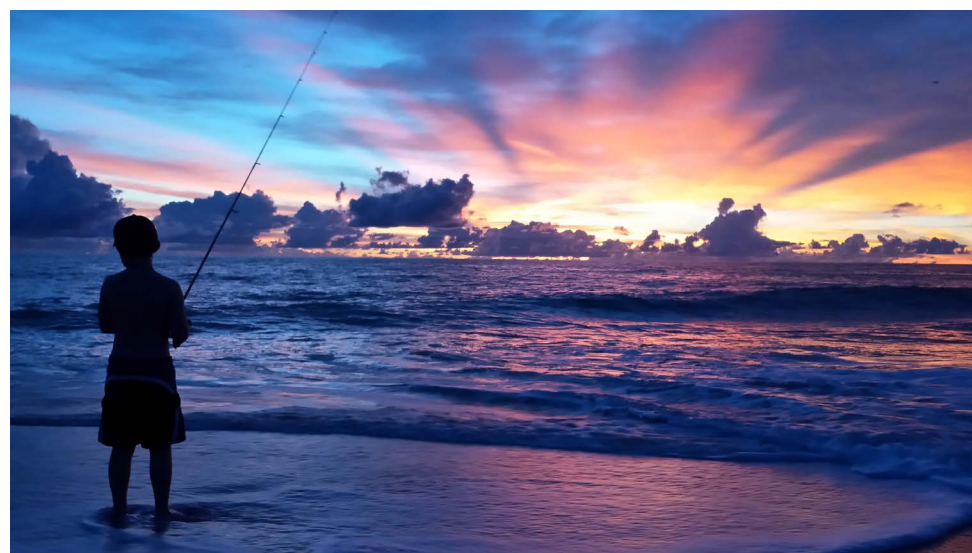
FWF members, volunteers, staff and our lobbyists will be heavily engaged during the Legislative session. We need our grassroots members to be involved and make your voices heard to affect policy. Here are some ways you can stay informed and let legislators know what you think about key bills during the session:

JOIN THE FWF ACTION ALERT LIST: FWF's email list will be a crucial tool during the legislative session for sharing information about key bills and votes. Sign up for the list at www.fwfonline.org.

FOLLOW FWF ON SOCIAL MEDIA: We will post regular updates on Facebook and Twitter.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS: Contact your legislators in their home offices now to get to know them and tell them about the wildlife and conservation issues that matter to you. A little relationship building goes a long way. It is much easier to ask your elected officials to cast a vote or take a stand when they know you. Go to www.myfloridahouse.gov and www.myflorida.house.gov to find out who represents you.

SHOW UP: There are many opportunities to get involved in the legislative process by giving testimony and meeting with legislators. There may also be rallies and events during the session to give you a voice.



Mobile Category - Overall Runner-Up
by Matt Erpenbeck - Vero Beach, FL

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Rick Abbott



Coming Together for Florida's Environment

Wow! This was the only word that came out of my mouth after the presidential election in November. Let me say it again. Wow!! Whether one is a Democrat, Republican, or Independent, no one in his or her wildest dreams could have definitively predicted the outcome. Personally, I was distraught during the campaigning phase about the lack of mutual respect exhibited by the candidates on national television and in social media. Hurtful things were said toward and about each other, and it may take a long time

to heal the resulting wounds. I hope that I am grossly wrong about my concerns that environmental issues will be put on the back burner during the next few years. That would be unacceptable for the state of Florida and the United States as a whole. My thoughts are that our political differences should be put aside for the sake of the best interests of our state and country.

I know that spending time outdoors and participating in recreational activities is not, and should not be, enjoyed by members of one political party to a greater extent than others. All members of our community, despite political affiliations, have a right to enjoy the natural resources that Florida has to offer. When was the last time that any one of us has gone to a state park, and prior to collecting the entrance fee at the gate, the attendant asked about party affiliation? When I was a child, my folks took the family to the beach. We were not discriminately told that we could only play on the right side or the left side of the pier. Another example was when my father took us camping and said we could invite some friends. He never asked about the party affiliations that my friends' parents held before embarking on the camping trip. In a free society such as ours, we can have differences of opinions and still go the beach and camping together.

The point that I hope I am making is that the environment in the great state of Florida can benefit from healing which will allow prosperity to flourish. We need to come together as a united front defending Florida's environment from the select few who might be pushing their own agenda to Florida's detriment. The consequences of division and greed can be vast and will require effort on all of our parts to reverse the effects.

"We must live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rick Abbott



Ron Warnken, Bobbie Lindsay, Joe Atterbury and Tim Bachmeyer.

FWF Board of Directors Meeting

The FWF Board of Directors and House of Delegates held their winter meeting in Gainesville, beginning with a guided field trip at Sweetwater Wetlands Park on Friday afternoon, January 27, and a group dinner at Francesca's Trattoria Restaurant that evening. The Saturday, January 28, meeting was held at Little Orange Creek Nature Park (LOCNP) near Hawthorne outside of Gainesville. The group was treated to a short tour of the 1300 acres of ecologically diverse conservation lands at LOCNP. Although time did not permit a grand tour, our guides, Ivor Kinkaide of Alachua Conservation Trust, and Richard Hamann, FWF Northeast Region Director, provided excellent details of this natural wildlife corridor, often used by black bears, that connects continuous habitat from the Ocala National Forest to the Okefenokee Swamp. The new museum and education center at LOCNP was a perfect location for the all-day meeting. FWF staff is grateful to Board Members Samantha Baraoidan, Ray Carthy and Richard Hamann for their assistance in planning the events.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Manley Fuller



Dear Florida Wildlife Federation members,

I want to reiterate how much your support means to us. The Florida Wildlife Federation works hard for conservation across Florida in the legislature and beyond. This issue discusses a number of our key challenges with the 2017 legislative session. We also work on national policy with the National Wildlife Federation and conservation allies. FWF is working actively with anglers for a new reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee. Mark your calendars for April 11 as anglers from across Florida will gather in Tallahassee in support of legislation to acquire lands south of Lake Okeechobee which would store, treat and convey water south. Doing so would reduce devastating estuarine discharges during wet years to the Caloosahatchee estuary and to the St. Lucie River and southern Indian River Lagoon. That would be a tremendous benefit but there are other benefits including less pressure on the Lake Okeechobee dike, a 70 plus year old 140 mile long structure in need of constant repairs. The structure was not built to current post Katrina standards and is increasingly vulnerable to piping and potential breaches when the lake levels get too high. A reservoir south of the lake would benefit Lake Okeechobee's marsh and freshwater fishery. Water stored in this new reservoir would be part of dynamic

water storage, treatment and conveyance benefitting Everglades restoration, moving clean water south through the Water Conservation Areas 3A & B on into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. Senators Bradley and Negrón have put forward a bill, SB-10 to create a new southern Reservoir as critical to Everglades Restoration (House Bill 761 does the same). FWF supports this critical acquisition as well as significant increases for conservation lands acquisition through the Florida Forever program.

Regarding the upcoming legislative session, we are seeing legislation that distracts from the acquisition of new land for a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee. The latest is SB-816 by Simmons which promotes the idea that we should store more water in the Lake. That has lots of problems such as increasing the chances of dike failure, destruction of the lake marsh ecosystem and fishery, not moving water south so the threat of destructive discharges to the northern estuaries remain, failing to provide additional flows of clean water south to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. The Corps of Engineers now spend millions every year doing emergency repairs to the most vulnerable portions of the dike, but these repairs are insufficient to protect the integrity of the Lake's dike, if you significantly increase lake levels. The Federation will oppose this and other similarly problematic legislation which distracts from real long term solutions.

Florida Wildlife Federation volunteers like Martha Musgrove have been leaders in the effort to continue the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and to help secure additional resources to help address the significant problem of the invasive old world climbing fern which is one of the worst invasive plants in Florida. Florida, as you know, has one of the worst set of challenges in the nation posed by invasive plants and animals.

Outside of legislative activity in Tallahassee, FWF works actively with the National Wildlife Federation on significant conservation issues at the national level. With the

recent election, many longstanding environmental laws and conservation policies are being challenged. FWF continues to support America's bedrock conservation laws and programs and will oppose efforts to weaken them. FWF also looks for new opportunities to promote natural resource conservation.

FWF greatly appreciates the support of our members. If you would like to consider FWF in your long term giving or estate planning, we will be glad to work with you. Please contact Preston, Diane or me if you would like to pursue charitable giving with FWF. Tim Bachmeyer, FWF board member and consultant, is a specialist in this area and can also assist with special gifts or estate planning.

It is a personal pleasure and honor to have recently passed my 30th anniversary as President and CEO of the Florida Wildlife Federation, working with you, our board members, allies and affiliated organizations on behalf of conserving Florida's natural resources and in securing great places for outdoor recreation and experiences. I look forward to continued service on behalf of conservation and to strengthen the Florida Wildlife Federation and its mission.

Yours in conservation,

Manley

2016 FWF Photo Contest Winners

FWF is pleased to announce the winners of the 2016 Photo Contest. This year, we were grateful to have Nick Baldwin of Tallahassee as our judge for the contest for the first time. He is an excellent photographer and a Life Member of the Federation. Thank you to the over 500 photographers who entered, and to Nick for taking the time to review over 750 photos that were entered. You will find other winning photos from the contest throughout FFWN. Visit www.snappiephoto.com to view the winners online and we hope you enter the contest in 2017.



Birds - Overall Winner

Family Hug, by Thomas Chadwick
St. Petersburg, FL



FWF Southern Regional Director Martha Musgrove (top right) hosting a panel discussion on Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge at The Everglades Coalition 32nd Annual Conference.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REPORT

by Nancy Anne Payton, Southwest Florida Field Representative



Transportation and Conservation Planning

Collisions with vehicles are the major cause of Florida panther mortality. Thirty-four panthers were killed in 2016 on Florida's highways along with unknown numbers of other native wildlife. Where fencing and underpasses are installed, the deaths drop to almost zero.

One of the deadliest highways for Florida panthers is the nine-mile stretch of I-75 Alligator Alley immediately east of the Naples toll booth. It is the only segment of I-75 Alligator Alley without wildlife exclusionary fencing.

In response to the Federation's 2015 study and letter petitioning action, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced that **wildlife exclusionary fencing will be installed** on both sides of the highway from the Naples toll booth to the FakaUnion Canal Bridge. Construction is underway and expected to be completed in 2017.

It is important to maintain habitat connectivity under Alligator Alley I-75 for panthers and other wildlife. Picayune Strand State Forest/Picayune Strand Everglades Restoration Project is on the south side and Collier County's North Belle Meade Natural Resource Protection Area is on the north side of this exposed stretch of Alligator Alley I-75.

In addition to the exclusionary fencing, FDOT reset the existing rubble riprap under the west side of the FakaUnion Canal Bridge and both sides under the Miller Canal Bridge to create 2ft wide pathways for panthers and other terrestrial wildlife. These passages or ledges under the canal bridges are done and monitoring cameras are in place.

The Federation is continuing to work with FDOT, US Fish and Wildlife



Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Collier County, and private landholders to identify locations to build additional underpasses between North Belle Meade and Picayune Strand State Forest.

A long term monitoring study funded by the Federation identified a major problem with an underpass in eastern Collier County. The situation was brought to Collier County's attention along with a simple solution. The County built a land bridge with a culvert so wildlife could comfortably cross a wide and deep swale at the north entrance of the underpass. Two panthers were killed in the vicinity. Wildlife biologists suspect the panthers may have been avoiding the flooded underpass and opting to cross the road elsewhere.

The Federation was also successful in securing terrestrial wildlife ledges in the design of new county bridges in eastern Collier County. These bridges are in the OK Slough section of the Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern. This important wildlife habitat links the Big Cypress National Preserve and the OK Slough public conservation lands network.



I-75 Alligator Alley bridge before panther ledge. Photo courtesy of FDOT.



I-75 Alligator Alley bridge after panther ledge installed. Photo courtesy of FDOT.

Wildlife Science and Education

Several years ago the Federation contracted University of Central Florida to study the varied panther underpasses in Southwest Florida and to develop recommendations on designs that are cost efficient without sacrificing wildlife use. This long term study is building on the 2006 Federation sponsored Eastern Collier Wildlife Movement Study and the photo diaries developed by Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) Panther Posse Program using cameras donated by the Federation. The University of Central Florida is coordinating with the junior panther biologists as well as the director of the Panther Posse Program, "Mrs. Ricky" Pires.

Videos and photos are regularly used in the Panther Posse Program's education efforts and the Federation's outreach campaigns. In addition to the education value, panther biologists monitor panther populations, panther movements, and the health of individual panthers without the stress of capture and fitting with a radio collar.

The Panther Posse Program educates fourth and fifth grade students on native wildlife and encourages them to "get outdoors" to explore nature. Every year the Federation provides buses so Panther Posse junior biologists can hike the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) public conservation lands and experience panther habitat firsthand with knowledgeable "trail guides."

The year long program educates over 5,000 children and involves hundreds of FGCU students as mentors and guides. The program begins in the fall with a visit to FGCU and its interactive Florida Panther classroom. The program culminates in the spring with the CREW field trip.

Every year the Federation co-sponsors the Florida Panther Festival. The 2016 festival was held at the Naples

Zoo and generated the largest crowds ever. The Federation and FGCU Panther Posse Program sponsored a "Never Say Goodbye" poster contest. Judges included Mark Lotz, FWC Florida panther biologist.

The winners were announced and posters revealed at the Florida Panther Festival. The posters will be displayed in Southwest Florida, the Florida State Capitol, and Washington, DC.



From left to right: First Place "Never Say Goodbye" poster by Diana Garcia, held by FWC Panther Biologist Mark Lotz, Second Place poster by Karla Arago, held by FWF Field Representative Nancy Payton, Third Place poster by Jack Stek, held by FGCU Panther Posse Director "Mrs. Ricky" Pires.

Promoting Private Conservation Efforts

Through the Florida Panther Protection Program, the Federation is working with farmers, ranchers, and conservation partners to protect working lands in rural Southwest Florida. These lands provide important wildlife habitat and linkages among the region's public conservation network.

The importance of private landowners to the recovery of the Florida panther cannot be underestimated. All panther underpasses built in the last ten years connect privately owned and maintained wildlife habitat. Underpasses in planning also involve private lands.

Since 1994, the Southwest Florida Office's strategy of combining science, education, and advocacy on well-defined campaigns is resulting in significant wins for Florida panthers and other native wildlife.

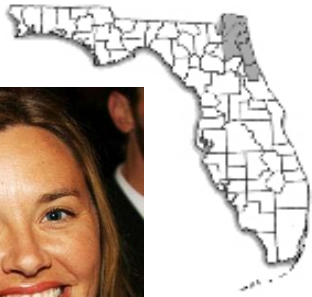
Thank you to the individuals, foundations, and companies who continue to support the Southwest Florida Office and the Federation's wildlife programs.



FGCU Panther Posse members taking a break from hiking the CREW trails to thank FWF for providing the buses.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REPORT

by Sarah Owen Gledhill, FWF's Planning Director



Strength in Numbers

Writing articles for our publication is always easier when we get to brag about hard work resulting in success. Recently, FWF engaged in two projects which would have negatively impacted our natural resources and public access – the Rivertown Marina in St. Johns County and the Bull Creek WMA land swap in Osceola County. FWF and our partner organizations developed public outreach campaigns to alert our members and urge them to engage as citizen activists. Your phone calls, emails, letters and attendance at meetings were effective and the officials were listening. Partnering with other organizations and mobilizing our memberships on a collective front provides us with strength in numbers that can sometimes lead us to victory.

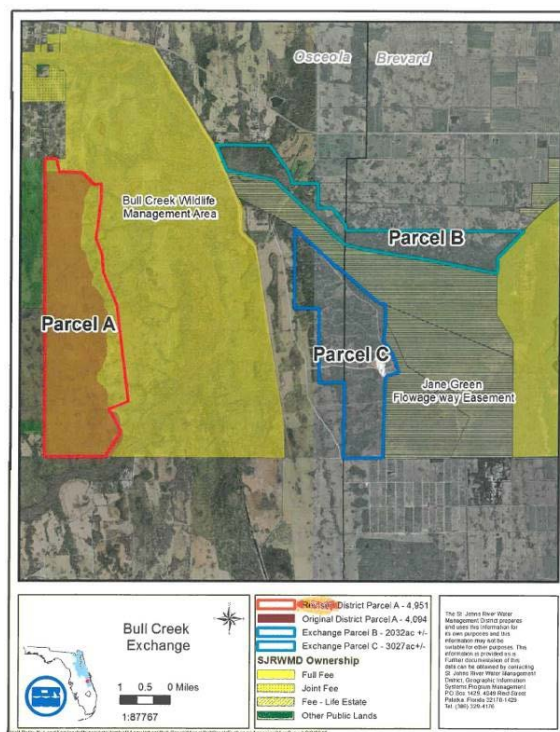
One of the projects, the Bull Creek land swap, was a very troubling and challenging project to work on. Under state law, real estate transactions during appraisal are kept confidential until they are ready to be voted on. The St. Johns River Water Management District worked under this law as they negotiated a deal for a proposed land swap involving Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area. This prevented us from taking a solid position on the issue because we didn't have all the facts. All we knew was it involved the Bull Creek Area and a private land owner. We poked and prodded state staff, submitted public records requests and still had no substantial facts. Our public records requests resulted in heavily redacted documents. We were growing very con-

cerned, as was our membership, about the lack of transparency involving a land swap concerning our public lands.

The Friends of Bull Creek started a petition and we all started stewing. The District scheduled an informational meeting in Osceola County and the deal was set for a vote before the Governing Board. Two weeks prior to the informational meeting, the deal would be unveiled. Everyone was eager to see what the deal would entail. In the meantime, calls were made and signatures kept coming in.

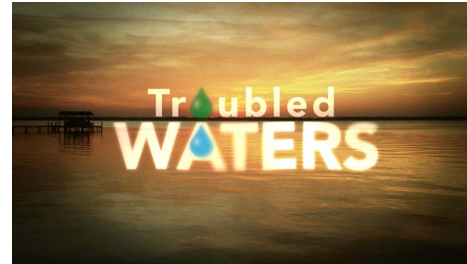
In a bizarre twist of events, the District abruptly called the deal off, which we later we found out was due to a disagreement on valuation. I believe our collective voices of concern told the District that it needs to be a pretty sweet deal for the public to exchange our land. We were all pleased, but honestly we still didn't know what we were happy about. Finally, the appraisal was released and we were able to look into the proposed land swap. The map below shows the three parcels up for consideration. The landowner would receive Parcel A encumbered by a conservation easement and the District would have received Parcels B and C with Flowway and water Storage Easements.

Even though the land swap is off the table for now, there is still an underlying problem with the process. There needs to be a public venue prior to initiating a real estate transaction so that the public can voice their concern or support regarding any changes to our public lands.



Map of proposed Bull Creek Exchange

Troubled Waters

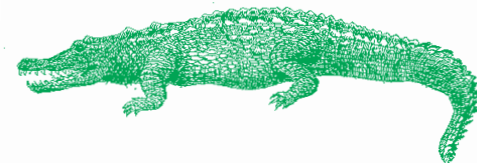


The St. Johns Riverkeeper has sponsored a documentary about growth pressure in Florida and how it is impacting our natural resources. The film focuses on the St. Johns River Basin, but the pressures are evident across the state. It all comes back around to the real heart of these issues which are the mandates coming down from Tallahassee. Beginning in January, viewings have been scheduled around the state.

Upcoming events include:

- Deland February 28 at the Athens Theater
- Jacksonville March 23 at the Sun-Ray Cinema

If you are not able to attend one of the viewings, you are in luck. Access the documentary at <https://goo.gl/okVdm9> and learn how we can continue to work together and make our voices heard.



Office Update

In the fall issue of FFWN, our president, Manley Fuller, mentioned that I had relocated to Tallahassee and took on new responsibilities as the Federation's Planning Director. For our NE Florida loyal members and followers, I want you to know I am still monitoring regional activities and traveling to the area in response to the needs. We continue to maintain an office in downtown St. Augustine at 88 Iberia St. I still serve on the Board of Directors for the Regional Community Institute and I'm excited to be involved with the Institute's Water Committee led by Dr. Quinton White. One effort that I am currently working on, which has spread beyond NE Florida, is the development of signs to protect gopher tortoises. I will continue to work with our Conservation Partners group on our action items to protect NE Florida's natural resources. Our goal is to staff the office with a conservation advocate but we need to identify sustainable funding sources. If you are interested in supporting the campaign please contact Manley Fuller or me at (850) 656-7113.



Waterscape

Ospreys at Dawn, by Vicki Santello - Blue Cypress Lake, FL



Preston Robertson
Vice-President for Conservation &
General Counsel

FWF Continues to Push Legislature to Do the Will of the People

The Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) and its allies continue the legal battle to ensure that our state government uses the funding from the Water and Land Legacy Amendment, approved by 75% of voters in 2014 (Amendment 1), as the voters directed: to acquire and restore our remaining natural areas. On January 10, 2017, the Federation filed its Amended Complaint against the Florida Legislature, Florida Senate and House leaders and state agencies, specifically, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Department of State. We assert that the Legislature misappropriated Water and Land Legacy funding and that the state agencies

unconstitutionally expended these funds. From a thorough review of the state budget, our Complaint cites over \$300 million that we believe has been illegally spent from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. This money was used for activities not allowed within the confines of the language of the Constitutional provision voters approved.

While all legal actions take time and resources, this effort is well worth it. When three out of four Floridians voted to dedicate funds to sustain our state in the face of the loss of conservation lands, and our elected representatives do not act accordingly, the people must take action. As Florida continues to be paved over and as our aquifer recharge areas and wetlands are lost, what will we leave our children and grandchildren - a hot New Jersey?

The 2017 Legislative Session officially begins on March 7, 2017, but committee meetings are already being held. Please let the Governor, your state Representative and your State Senator know that the money generated from 2014's Amendment 1 vote should be used to fully fund the Florida Forever program and aid efforts to clean our waters. That is the will of the people.

Go to www.myfloridahouse.gov and www.myfloridahouse.gov to find your legislator.

PS - Update: The Florida Legislature recently invoked statutory law to hold our Amendment 1 litigation in abeyance until the 2017 Legislative Session has concluded.

Preston T. Robertson



Landscape

by Zachary Randall - Wewahitchka, FL

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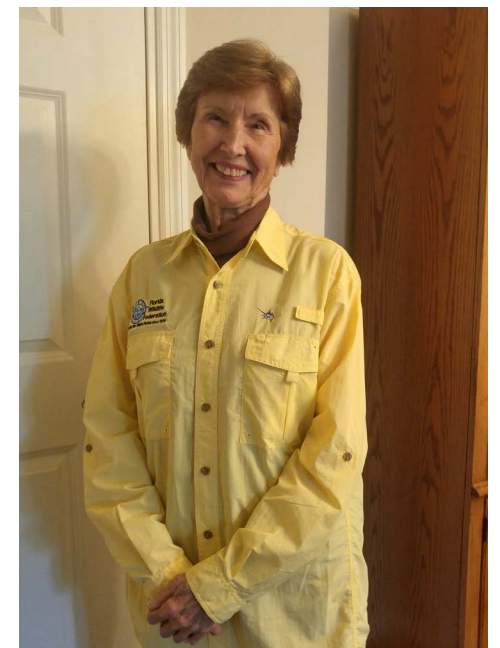
was home to one million residents. We are now at 21 million and growing. To keep a high quality of life, we must preserve our remaining open space, water resources and wildlife habitats. In 2014, 75% of Floridians supported setting aside dedicated funding for land and water protection. By the use of targeted land purchases and the wider use of perpetual conservation easements, we can ensure that future Floridians may enjoy the real Florida and its natural wonders.

2. Everglades Restoration: The Federation supports the concept put forward by Senate President Joe Negrón to create a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee so that excess water from the Lake may be cleaned and sent south to rehydrate the Everglades. The result would be the mitigation of pollution of the Indian River Lagoon and the Caloosahatchee River, and the assurance of water to the Biscayne Aquifer, which one-third of Floridians rely upon. THE BILLS TO SUPPORT ARE SENATE BILL 10 AND HOUSE BILL 761.

3. Ban on Fracking (Hydraulic fracturing): The Federation supports a ban on fracking in Florida. Fracking, otherwise known as well stimulation treatments for exploration or production of oil or natural

gas, entails a process heavy in the use of freshwater and carcinogenic chemicals and threatens protected wildlife species. Moreover, the risk to our precious water supply is too great to allow this activity. **Bills to ban fracking are Senate Bill 442 and House Bill 451.**

4. Flood Mitigation Incentives: The Federation supports measures to incentivize local governments which proactively mitigate the community impacts experienced by increased flooding. More specifically, the Federation advocates for increased participation in the Community Rating Systems program and adaption plans focused on restoring low lying flood prone areas to serve as natural buffers and wildlife habitat.



FWF member Polly Robertson in her FWF tech shirt.

IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received in memory of:

Michael "Mikee" Fetterly

by Up the Creek Pub, New Port Richey

Rebecca Mae Salokar

by Maureen Donnelly



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



Jay Liles
FWF Policy Consultant

Everglades Restoration

There are many reasons to **support Senate President Joe Negron's proposal to spend as much as \$100 million acquiring a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee**. The best science available, from multiple sources both in and outside government agencies, tells us that acquiring land for a new reservoir south of the Lake has the greatest near-term impact on reducing runoff into our estuaries. It is these surges of water, resulting in unnatural levels of salinity, that lead to the algae blooms that create a sea of green muck where we once had beautiful blue-green water and bountiful sea grasses. Sales data offered by the Florida Realtors Association points to at least a **billion-dollar loss in real estate values**. Family physicians regularly ask their patients if they have had any contact with local water bodies when treating any respiratory or skin ailments. Tourism suffers and outdoor recreation based businesses are closing and these are just the human impacts.

We are seeing a devastating loss of sea grass beds along the Florida Bay. With the disappearance of these nurturing beds comes the loss of fish and wildlife habitat. At a recent senate appropriations committee meeting, witness after witness reported the fact that where they once saw abundant sea grasses there are now barren wastelands. They report that once thriving waters have given way to green slime. Perhaps most importantly, there is the matter of water supply to millions of Floridians who call Southeast Florida home. It is the human caused effects that are the most difficult part of this political puzzle to grapple with. Too much nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizer goes into the surface and ground water of the Kissimmee River Basin and Lake Okeechobee. Too many homeowners rely on outdated, oftentimes ineffective septic tanks that leach nitrogen and phosphorus into the

groundwater that ultimately feeds into the Indian River Lagoon. Any fix requires multiple points of attack and will cost millions and millions of dollars. The argument put before policymakers has always been how to prioritize projects and how to pay for it all. Legions of lobbyists have been hired to make the case for building the reservoir or staying with the original Comprehensive Everglades Plan (CERP) or, most sadly, to block anything from happening at all. FWF supports Senator Negron's bill for a reservoir south of the lake. We think it has the best shot for saving our unique and fragile Everglades.

Are there pitfalls? You bet!! At that same committee meeting several people spoke in opposition to the Negron Plan. Passionate arguments were made and fears were raised that a reservoir south of the lake would lead to the closure of another sugar mill, placing the livelihoods of residents in the small mill towns around the lake in jeopardy. Racial overtones and environmental justice are front and center in this debate regardless of the fact that pollution knows no color or party affiliation. This is high stakes capitalism at its worst. Poor versus rich, white privilege versus poor and minority. In a world devoid of socio-economic differences people living around Lake O, who depend upon sugar crops for a job, would realize that mechanization is much more likely to threaten their income than is fixing the environmental problem that sickens their children. They would not have to choose between a paycheck and a healthy environment. Their employers would seek retraining dollars, educators would offer career training for a generation that knows the writing is on the wall and that a future in Belle Glade, Pahokee or Clewiston will not be built solely on sugar. But policymakers don't get to make decisions in such a vacuum. And advocates have to make choices: none of them simple and none without tradeoffs. We are almost always faced with a choice that comes at a cost and with little assurance that everything will work out exactly as we want. With the exception of resolutions honoring Mother's Day or beauty queens, our legislators rarely get to take votes that have a clear "win-win."

There are those in the Legislature and even among our community who will argue that spending upwards of \$100 million dollars on the south reservoir solution means other much needed projects will suffer. This strikes me as a glass half-empty argument. For years and despite the voter's will, the Florida Legislature has done little in the way of supporting land acquisition. At last



Photo by Donna Hackett.

we have a presiding officer anxious to see Florida Forever spending at levels that can have an impact. If approved by both chambers and signed into law by the Governor, we will have the precedent of bonded funding at levels that begin to approach historic levels. FWF will continue to fight for higher levels of spending for conservation land acquisition, spread as evenly across the state as policymakers and willing sellers will permit. However, today the question is - can we support a much higher level

of spending focused on the Everglades? The answer is a resounding yes! To do otherwise threatens the loss of further sea grass beds and wildlife habitat in South Florida. To say no to this proposal jeopardizes both a tourism and real estate economy worth billions of dollars. Before the 2017 Legislature we will have one of the great policy debates of this decade. Let your policymakers know how you feel and please let us know how we can assist you in making sure your voice is heard.

New Wildlife Legacy Club Member:

Robert E. Murtagh, Juno Beach

New Eagle Club Member:

Brenda Ware, Temple Terrace

New Life Members:

Howard Patton, Gainesville

Senator Jack Latvala, Clearwater

Scott Zarecki, West Palm Beach

Kathryn Duncan, Port St. Lucie

Lloyd Schiller, Jupiter

Thea M. Hein-Mathen, Bushnell

Arthur Choate, Coral Gables

Thank you for your generous support!

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



Claudia Farren
Education Consultant

FWF Celebrates Arbor Day with the Trees for Wildlife Program

The Florida Wildlife Federation partnered again this winter with the Iris Garden Club (IGC) of Wakulla County and the National Wildlife Federation to give away close to 1,000 young trees in Crawfordville, a small town south of Tallahassee. On January 21, at the IGC's annual Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Giveaway, nearly 500 people came to a downtown park to choose a tree to take home and plant in their yards. Everyone was allowed to take home one free tree in a pot, and then pay a requested \$4 donation for each additional tree. The contributions will be used toward next year's event. The

Florida Forest Service also distributed 1,000 Longleaf Pine seedlings.

"NWF's Trees for Wildlife Program aspires to educate youth about the role of trees in our environment, how individuals can take action to plant trees and provides stewardship for sustaining trees locally," explained Luisa Grant, Community Programs Senior Coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation. "Trees for Wildlife also teaches the unique connection wildlife have with trees."

This year's National Wildlife Federation grant enabled the IGC to continue to increase the amount of trees given away at the festival. Tree seedlings donated by NWF included Southern Red Oak, River Birch, Buttonbush, Redbud, Mockernut Hickory and Parsley Hawthorne. The garden club's free trees were Live Oak, Dogwood, Bald Cypress, Redbud, Crabapple, Ogeechee Tupelo, Hop-tree, Black Walnut, Arrowwood, Post Oak, Tulip Tree and Chinquapin. All the seedlings were bought from a Florida native plant wholesale nursery and planted in one-gallon pots with potting soil by volunteers of the Iris Garden Club and local school children.

"We were delighted to see so many young children take home trees to plant," said Jeannie Brodhead, one of the event's coordinators. "I hope these trees will help to replace some of the trees we lost during Hurricane Hermine," said Lynn Artz, the other event coordinator. "We've already

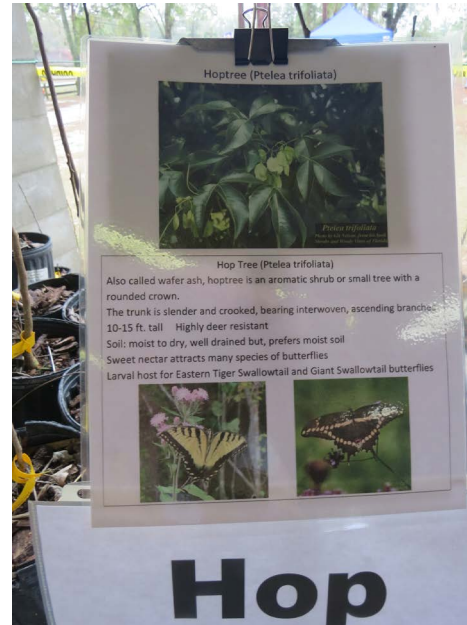
ordered the 1,100 trees that we will give away next year," said Connie Kolias, Iris Garden Club President. "We will start putting them into pots soon."

The Tree Giveaway was organized by the Iris Garden Club of Wakulla County. FWF assisted with

fulfillment of the NWF grant, publicity, and participated in the January 21 tree giveaway.

If your garden club or school is interested in the Trees for Wildlife Program, please contact Claudia Farren, Florida Wildlife Federation at (850) 656-7113, claudia@fwfonline.org.

Left: The Trees for Wildlife Program strives to teach kids and their parents about the life cycle of a tree from seed to seedling to mature tree to snag to decaying log, and how wildlife benefit from all these stages of life.



NWF's Trees for Wildlife grant helped the IGC increase the number of trees they could give away this year at their annual Arbor Day Celebration. FWF assisted with fulfillment of the grant, publicity, and participated in the January 21 tree giveaway.



By planting trees, children and their families can help to ensure that wildlife thrive for many years to come.



Taking home trees from the 13th Annual Iris Garden Club of Wakulla County's Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Giveaway.



At the IGC's 13th Annual Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Giveaway hundreds of families came to a downtown park to choose a tree to take home and plant in their yards. The Florida Wildlife Federation recently partnered with the Iris Garden Club of Wakulla County and the National Wildlife Federation to give away 2,000 trees on January 21, 2017.

Remembering the Federation

If you wish to name Florida Wildlife Federation in your will or estate plan, please use the following language:

The Florida Wildlife Federation, a nonprofit cooperation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, with principal business address of PO Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870.

Our federal tax identification number is 59-1398265.

Help Us Plan

If your plans already include a gift for Florida Wildlife Federation, please let us know. We will honor all requests for anonymity, and you can always modify your gift if your circumstances change. For more information please contact **Tim Bachmeyer**, FWF Development Consultant, at 561-801-5752 or **Diane Hines** at 850-656-7113.

More photos of the 2017 and 2016 tree giveaways are at:

<https://goo.gl/EE66u5>



Portrait

Red Eye Pink Dress, by Dave Berman
St. Augustine, FL



Wildlife

Moment of Zen
by Erin C. Amerman
Gainesville, FL



Flowers

Desert Rose, by Cathy Gilmartin
Davie, FL



Kids Category

by Alexia Cucchiaro
Ding Darling, Sanibel Island, FL

Amazon Smile

You Shop. Amazon Gives.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon-Smile 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!



You shop. Amazon gives.



FWF is proud to be a co-sponsor for the 4th Annual Heroes Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament

When: May 27, 2017
REDFISH, SNOOK & TROUT

Captain's Meeting: Port Sanibel Marina
Weigh In: Port Sanibel Marina

Tournament: Safe Light - 4 pm, Check in: 2-4 pm
TOURNAMENT LOCATION – SW Florida ...
Launch Anywhere ...

Phone: (239) 297-3663 or (813) 471-7234
E-Mail: info@heroesinshoreslam.com

Learn More and Registration:
www.heroesinshoreslam.com

Instagram: howSWFL Twitter: @southwestflhow
Facebook: @swflhowis

All of the proceeds are donated to Heroes on the Water.

Heroes on the Water helps our Nation's warriors and veterans from all branches of the United States military unwind using the therapeutic qualities of fishing from kayaks. What looks like a day trip of paddling and fishing is in fact something much deeper and long lasting.

Founded in 2007, the unique kayak fishing program allows the participants a chance to decompress from the stresses associated with combat and the physical rigors of rehabilitation. Warriors enjoy these benefits while on guided fishing trips held in local communities around the country.

Adaptive kayaks, kayaking accessories, and angling equipment is offered on an as needed basis to accommodate a soldier's particular needs.

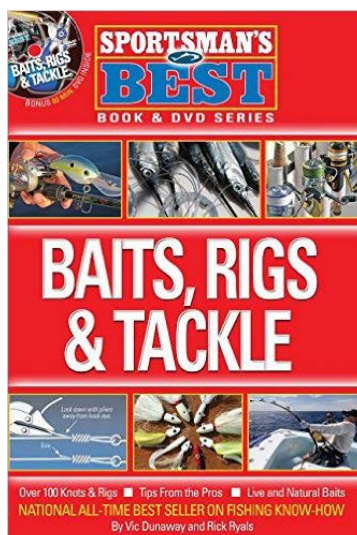
FWF is pleased to be in partnership with the SW Florida Chapter of Heroes on the Water. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with this event, which takes place over Memorial Day Weekend in the Fort Myers area, please contact Diane Hines at 850-656-7113 or dhines@fwfonline.org.

Go to www.fwfonline.org for these items and more great merchandise!

Sportsman's Best: Baits, Rigs & Tackle Book & DVD

The latest in rods, reels, lines and terminal tackle. The hottest in rigged baits, live baits and lures. The strongest and easiest knots, leaders and rigs And much, much more. The book and DVD provide all the important angling know-how you'll ever need to fish fresh water or salt water, big game or bass, spinning or baitcasting, flyrod or canepole, boat or shore-for all kinds of sportfishing anywhere in the world.

FP - 309, **Sale Price \$14.25** (Retail \$21.95)



FWF PARTNERS PROGRAM

Friend of Wildlife

Linda Bishop

Margaret Hyde

Nancy R. Amos

Carolyn and George Cooper

Peggy O'Neill Wagner

William King

Brenda Ward

Murray Duffin

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

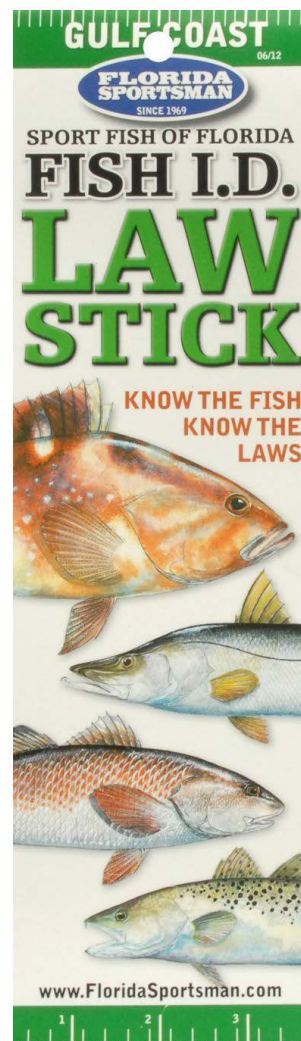
A PARTNER pledges to make a gift each year to join one of the PARTNERS gift clubs. PARTNERS names will also be acknowledged regularly in FWF communications including the *Florida Fish and Wildlife News*, the FWF website and our annual report. Of course, any PARTNER may choose to remain anonymous.

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

FWF PARTNERS Levels

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

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



Florida Sportsman Fish ID Lawstick Gulf Coast 36"



Florida Sportsman Fish ID Lawstick Atlantic Coast 36"

36" Four Color Atlantic and Gulf Coast Law stick. Keeps you up-to-date on bag limits, size limits and seasons, also includes fish identification. Plus, they're handy when you want to measure that trophy. Sticks are made of a coated durable plastic, are waterproof and they will not tear.

FP - 486 (Gulf) // FP - 487 (Atlantic), Price \$7.25 Each

Congratulations to those members of FWF who earned GreenStar Certification!

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



New Green Star Members

Vickie and Stuart Carver, Lutz

Mary Beth Ridderman, Jacksonville

Think Vertical!

Pat Pearson
Habitats Coordinator

There are many reasons to consider a new and different way of gardening. Perhaps you are an apartment-dweller with only a balcony, or a renter without access to any growing space. Maybe you are not as young as you used to be, or are physically handicapped and unable to take care of a large garden, but would still like to grow veggies and/or some flowers. Whatever the reason you can't go into a garden ... you need a garden that comes to you.

There is a surprising amount of interest in and many sources of information about how to grow a vertical garden, and many new products on the market to help. An hour to google "vertical gardening" on the internet, and a visit to Home Depot or Lowe's or to your local gardening center to see what products are available should give you enough encouragement to make a start. Home Depot actually runs an instructional course at their stores to teach about the subject. As with anything new, it would probably be wise to start on a small scale, just to test things out. See the photos below for some ideas. I think most of the towers of pots pictured would benefit from being put together with lengths of rebar threaded through their drainage holes to keep the pots from shifting sideways. There are many sources

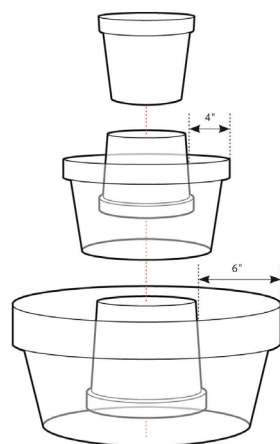


Many more flowers than you can plant in the space needed for just one pot. I think these are pots stacked on the soil surface of the pot underneath. In this design, there is more soil for the plant roots to spread in and to hold water. Don't forget the rebar.

on the internet and in magazines for ways to put many pots together to give you much more space to plant in.

Spring is coming soon, and I am afflicted with the long-time gardener's need to plant something. I'm starting to plan out a way to get some new plants concentrated nearer to the steps to my deck, and forget spreading them out all over the yard as I usually do. It will be easier to water and to care for them that way. Flowering shrubs such as hydrangeas and azaleas and butterfly bushes already grow in beds around the edges of my yard and will still give me enough color out there to keep me happy, and since I will have to pass by the new plants every day when I go out I won't forget to water a tomato plant or two when they show signs of needing it.

I hope I'll soon be saying "HELLO" to a new "Tower of Flowers", and small clay pots of box basil, chives, parsley, rosemary, thyme, and maybe even strawberries, all lined up neatly and hooked onto a simple wooden



Looks like rosemary in the top pot, and some oregano in the bottom pot. Basil could go there, too. It's a whole herb garden in a small space.

frame and attached to my sunny wall like a trellis!

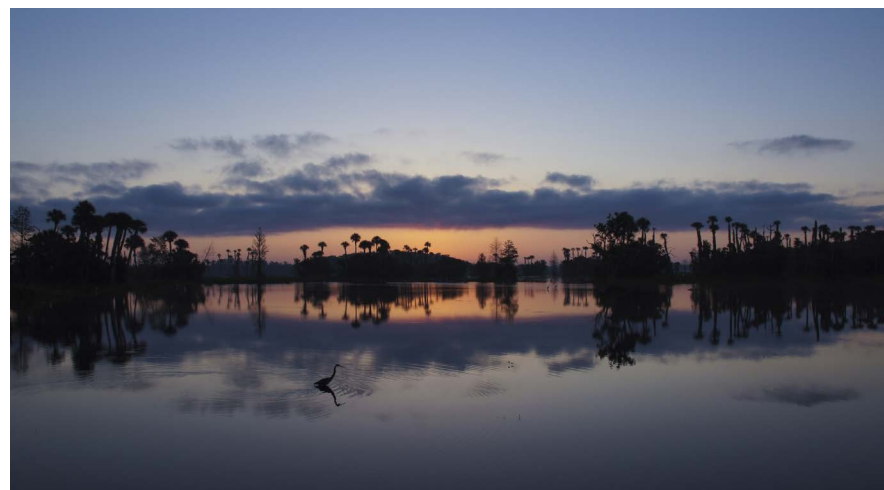
Happy Gardening!



Photo of a tipsy tower. It is supported by rebar driven into the ground.



The location of this attractive balcony garden is unknown, but I think it could be accomplished by hanging the pots on chains with large cotter pins as spacers holding the pots in place.



Sunset-Sunrise

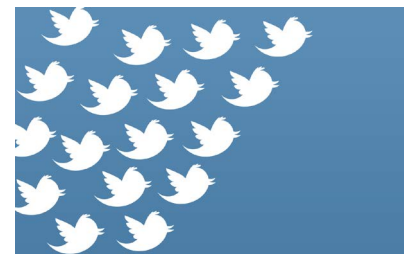
Silhouette, by Brian Kamprath - Orlando Wetlands Park, FL



FLORIDA KIDS' QUIZ by Pat Pearson



1. Why are the states of Florida and Georgia fighting about the Apalachicola River that flows into the Gulf of Mexico?



2. What is some good news about the number of birds that are killed by flying into communication towers?



3. What color is the Florida State butterfly?

See page 14 for answers, and more information.

Call For Director Nominations

If you are interested in serving as a director of the Florida Wildlife Federation during the September 2017 to September 2018 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 3, 2017.

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 membership, be actively involved in fund-raising efforts, attend public workshops, act as a liaison with other conservation organizations, and generally promote and lead statewide 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

Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Holmes, Bay, Okaloosa, Washington

District II

Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Franklin, Liberty, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson

Northeast Region

District III

Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Dixie, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Gilcrest, Alachua

District IV

Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putman, Flagler, Volusia

Central Region

District V

Marion, Lake, Seminole, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Brevard, Indian River, Sumter

District VI

Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Levy

Southern Region

District VII

Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Glades, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Lee

District VIII

Hendry, Collier, Broward, Dade, Monroe

What's happened to Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary Since Betsy Knight passed away?

by Terry Morse

Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary Inc. (BBWS) was founded by Betsy Knight in Blountstown, FL in 1988. Betsy was a real pioneer with a great love for the area's native wildlife. In 2006, my husband, John, and I signed on as volunteers at BBWS and Betsy became our mentor. Betsy was in her 70s and it was becoming more difficult for her to do some things, so eventually she asked us to take over BBWS. At the time, we couldn't assume such a big responsibility, but we stayed to help Betsy and learn from her experience until her death in February of 2012. She hoped that BBWS would continue to do great things for wildlife and we decided to make that happen. Since the property in Altha, Florida, was willed to Betsy's son, we moved BBWS from that location to Alabama because of the need for wildlife rehabilitators in Alabama, (there were only 19 in the entire state at that time) and so I could be closer to my family.

Although we knew Alabama had only a few rehabbers, we had no idea what an impact moving the sanctuary there would have. The first year (2012) BBWS took in 150 animals and rehabilitated them at our home in Enterprise, AL. It wasn't until 2013 that the sanctuary was actually up and running at its current location in Level Plains, AL. That year BBWS took in about 400 animals; the next year it was more

than 800; and now it is more than 1,000 animals each year. Obviously, there was a huge need for these services in the Alabama wiregrass area. BBWS is currently the only facility in Alabama that has permits to take in all native wildlife species (birds, mammals and reptiles), and one of only five facilities that is permitted to take in Rabies Vector Species (RVS) such as raccoons, bats, skunks, foxes, and coyotes.

The relocated BBWS carries on Betsy's legacy by taking in orphaned and injured wildlife and giving them a second chance to live free in the wild. BBWS encourages the public to bring in injured animals to receive appropriate care, and also provides education programs to inform the public about wildlife native to Alabama and surrounding areas, and how they can help ensure their survival. We work hard to replace old stereotypes about wildlife by using our "education animals" in public outreach to provide information about specific species and to tell their stories about why these animals can't be released in the wild. Alabama needs to expand the availability of educational programming that focuses on developing an appreciation for wildlife and a better understanding of their role in Alabama's various ecosystems. To that end, John and I both belong to the Alabama Wildlife Alliance, an organization that wants to increase the public's appreciation of the state's native

wildlife, improve the care of injured or orphaned wildlife, and mentor current and future wildlife rehabilitators.

When it was located in Florida, BBWS was the first sanctuary that was allowed to take in the Florida black bear for rehabilitation with the plan for release back to the wild. At one time it was thought that such rehabilitation could not be done. However, under Betsy's direction, BBWS was successful with 45 bears (injured juveniles, adults and orphaned cubs) over the years and rehabilitated them until they could be released. Out of those 45 bears, only two had to be recaptured and placed in a permanent facility because they got too close to humans. We hope to develop the same program here in Alabama. There aren't many bears in southern Alabama but, since their numbers have increased in Florida, they are searching for more territory to the north and are slowly moving into Alabama and Georgia. There have been two bears in the Alabama wiregrass area over the last five years that were both killed by vehicle collisions. BBWS couldn't help those bears, but with the experience that we gained while working with Betsy at BBWS in Florida, John and I hope to help other bears in Alabama get a second chance for a life in the wild.

For those of you who knew Betsy Knight and Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary, you prob-

ably remember our education eagles, Agena and Olaha. These eagles are still teaching Floridians and visitors about wildlife and conservation at the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center in Freeport, Florida. They were moved there before Betsy died. Mr. M. C. Davis had helped BBWS in many ways and it seemed appropriate that the eagles should be given to him for his education programs. Mr. Davis has also passed away now, but the eagles continue his legacy at the Biophilia Center, just as we're trying to continue Betsy's legacy at Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary. We hope she would be proud of the work we're doing at BBWS.

You can find out more about BBWS on our webpage (www.bigbendwildlife.org) and our Facebook page is (www.facebook.com/Wildlife.2nd.Chances).

**Editor's Note - Betsy Knight served on the FWF Board of Directors for 10 years and was a wildlife rehabilitator in Florida for over 40 years.*



John and Terry Morse.

Monarch Butterfly Update

Claudia Farren
Education Consultant

Monarchs need our help more than ever. In March of 2016 a severe snowstorm with heavy rain and strong winds in the Oyamel fir forests in central Mexico's Transvolcanic Belt killed from 3 to 50 percent of some colonies. The butterflies continue to face other threats in their winter home including illegal deforestation, salvage logging of downed trees, and a new mining operation that could dry up springs vital for the fir trees and pollute the butterfly's water sources. Here in the United States, farming practices have changed which no longer help the species migrate from Mexico to Canada and back.

Eastern migratory monarchs that spend the months of late October to early March in Mexico come mainly from the United States and southern Canada east of the Rocky Mountains. In late summer and fall, Florida is an important migration flyway for monarch butterflies headed to Mexico. Parts of South Florida and the Panhandle coast have year-round populations. As climate warming continues, more butterflies are expected to stay in Florida for the winter. If the Mexican population continues to decline, Florida monarchs will be even more important to the survival of the species.

Monarch Nectar Plants Florida

Florida nectar plants for monarch butterflies to add to your garden

Monarch butterflies need more than milkweed to sustain them throughout their lives. They also require native nectar plants for nourishment and fuel for breeding and during migration.

Click [here](#) to see an excellent guide to Monarch butterfly nectar plants specific to Florida. Common and scientific names, photos, bloom times, flower color and water needs are included. These 23 plants have been chosen because they are known to be hardy and are commercially available.

Here is the link: <https://goo.gl/McQz61>



Claudia Farren and Beth Hake-moller volunteering to host FWF exhibit at the annual Monarch Festival.

Conservation Calendar

March 7, 2017

Florida Legislative Session begins

April 4, 2017

Everglades Action Day
Tallahassee

info@evergladescoalition.org

April 19-20, 2017

FWC Commission Meeting
Tallahassee

www.MyFWC.com/Commission

April 21-22, 2017

FWF Awards Banquet & Meeting
Wyndham Grand Jupiter
at Harbourside Place
dhines@fwfonline.org

Friday, April 21

Conservation Awards Banquet

Saturday, April 22

Board/House of Delegates Meeting
www.wyndhamgrandjupiter.com

July 10-11, 2017

FWC Commission Meeting
Gainesville
www.MyFWC.com

September 22-23, 2017

FWF Board of Directors
Annual Business Meeting
dhines@fwfonline.org

Answers to Florida Kids' Quiz

1. This dispute has been going on for many years. Florida is worried that Georgia (especially in the Atlanta area) uses a great deal of water from the Chattahoochee river for its own needs before the river flows into Florida, and that is leaving too little freshwater coming into the oyster beds in Apalachicola to sustain the famous Apalachicola oysters. If the oysters die, the oystermen won't have work to do to feed their families. Florida says that the fresh river water belongs just as much to Florida as to Georgia, and the river should be kept as close as possible to its natural state so that the oyster beds, wildlife and fish can thrive. The problem will almost certainly get worse for the Florida oyster industry as the number of people in Georgia grows larger and needs even more water. Nobody likes battles like this between states, but the situation needs close attention.

**** Note: the Chattahoochee and the Flint Rivers come together at the Florida state line to form the Apalachicola River.**

2. A new study by researchers from nine institutions, published in the science journal PloS One, says that about 70% of the millions of birds that are killed every year by flying into communication towers (TV and radio towers) can be saved by simply changing the lights on these towers from solid red or white lights to flashing lights.

The towers are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration and that agency is looking at the problem along with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Federal Communications Commission. There has been no official announcement, but keep watching for a good announcement soon.

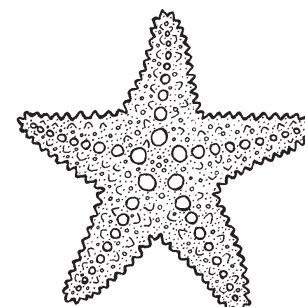
3. The Florida State butterfly is the Zebra Longwing, and as the name implies, it has black and white stripes. Although most of Florida's butterflies are brightly colored, you will probably notice this one right away because its coloration is so distinctive.

How did you do, Florida Kid??!!



Recreation

*Biker on Beach, by Barbara Richie
Jekyll Island, GA*



Florida Wildlife Federation asks:

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

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

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



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

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

Don't forget about a gift membership!

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

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

**Please send completed form
with check, money order, or
credit card information to:
Florida Wildlife Federation**

**PO Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314
or**

**Join or Donate Online at:
www.fwfonline.org**

Enclosed is my payment for \$ _____

Please charge my payment to:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Sec. Code _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

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

☐ This is a gift membership from: _____

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

Spectacular Scenery and Exciting Fishing Adventures Await the Winner of Florida Wildlife Federation's 5th Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to announce the 5th Annual "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes which started in January. Here's your chance to



FWF Director Jenny Brock catches big fish!

win a Fantastic Travel Prize: A Costco Travel Cruise in the Carribean (you select the cruise you want), OR a Fishing Trip at Sitka Point Lodge in southeastern Alaska, OR you may decide to take the \$10,000 cash prize ... Your choice!

The drawing will be held at the FWF offices on Thursday, June 22, 2017.

To enter the "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes or 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.

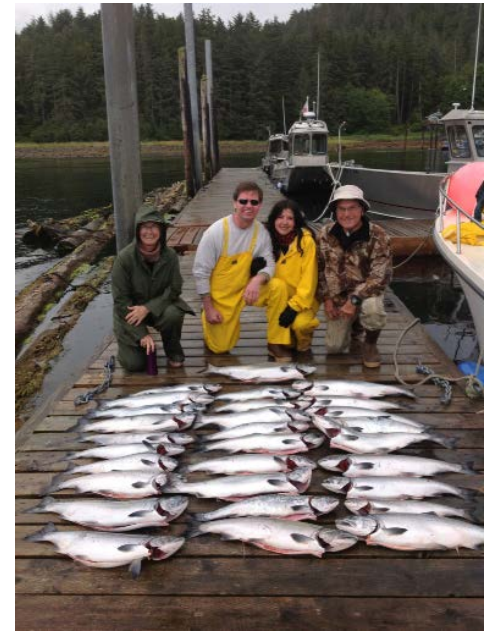
Ticket contributions are \$5

each, or 6 tickets for \$25. You can also order 15 tickets for \$50 or 35 tickets for \$100.

As the state's population continues to grow, paying critical attention to our remaining natural resources is more important than ever. Since our founding in 1936, the Florida Wildlife Federation has grown in membership and resources, enduring ups and downs, victories and losses. Like many other non-profit organizations, we rely upon the good will of our supporters and donors to keep the doors open.

If you believe, as we do, that all citizens and visitors benefit from a clean, healthy and productive environment, and that our state's future will be brighter with natu-

ral habitats intact and flourishing, please support the Florida Wildlife Federation by participating in the 2017 "Fish or Cruise" Sweepstakes!



One day's catch while fishing at the Sitka Point Lodge in Alaska.

Congratulations to the winner of the 26th Annual Boating Sweepstakes. Florida Wildlife Federation's sweepstakes helped raise funds to pursue vital wildlife and fish programs that ensure that we all continue to enjoy Florida's wondrous outdoors.

2016 Boating Sweepstakes Winner



Jeff Haynes, of Largo, winner of the 26th Annual Boating Sweepstakes, accepting his Grand Prize certificate from Ann Vanek-Dasovich, former FWF director in District VI.



Claudia Farren, Sweepstakes Coordinator, with Stephen Roeder, CPA at Carroll and Company, who pulled the Grand Prize Boating Sweepstakes ticket at Federation Headquarters in December.



FWF's 26th Annual Boating Sweepstakes Drawing was held on December 15, 2016 at 3 pm at Federation Headquarters. The drawing was supervised by Carroll and Co., Inc., Certified Public Accountants. Attending the drawing were: (from the left) Sarah Gledhill, FWF Planning Director; Officer John Beman, Tallahassee Police Department; Danny Gwynn-Shapiro, Florida Fish and Wildlife News Producer and Editor; Diane Hines, Vice President of Administration; Tessa Kleck, Administrative Assistant; Claudia Farren, Sweepstakes Coordinator; Mattie Robertson, former FWF Staff; Preston Robertson, VP for Conservation and General Counsel; Michelle Forman, Executive Administrative Assistant; and Stephen Roeder, CPA, Carroll and Company.

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Florida Wildlife Federation's 80th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet

*Friday April 21, 2017 at Wyndham Grand Jupiter at Harbourside Place.
122 Soundings Ave., Jupiter, FL 33477.*

We cordially invite you to attend the Florida Wildlife Federation's 80th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet and Silent Auction Fundraiser. This year's banquet events are being held at the Wyndham Grand Jupiter Hotel. The evening events include a delicious dinner, the awards ceremony and our famous Silent Auction as well as an art exhibit by Peter R. Gerbert. You don't want to miss this opportunity to meet the 2017 Conservation Award Winners and to bid on items including fine art, trips and amusement park tickets from the Silent Auction fundraiser. I sincerely hope to see you in Jupiter for the 80th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet.

Yours in conservation,

Manley

Friday, April 21st

5:30 pm

Cocktail Reception + Silent Auction

Preserve A + B Ballroom Prefunction Area
Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar
Silent Auction and Art Exhibit
Featuring: Peter R. Gerbert

7:00 pm

FWF's 80th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet

Preserve A + B Ballroom
Dinner & Presentation of Awards
(\$100 per person)

Wildlife Artist - Peter R. Gerbert



For the past twenty years, wildlife artist Peter R. Gerbert and the Florida Wildlife Federation have developed a fine relationship, helping each other in many ways. Peter's artwork has enhanced our Awards Banquet each year with a tasteful exhibit of his outstanding wildlife art work. This year you can meet Peter by attending the April 21st Conservation Awards Banquet. You will have the opportunity to view and purchase works of art which he will have on display for the evening.



Wyndham Grand Jupiter ~ Luxury Waterfront Hotel

Enjoy a sense of laid back luxury at the Wyndham Grand Jupiter at Harbourside Place, which is nestled on the bank of Jupiter's Intracoastal Waterway. Located within Harbourside Place, the Wyndham Grand Jupiter is surrounded by unique dining, shopping, and entertainment. The Wyndham Grand Jupiter offers luxuriously appointed guestrooms and suites, in addition to an exquisite lobby lounge, pool bar and gym. The Palm Beach International Airport is just 17 miles away.

To make your room reservations, call 1-800-996-3426. Request the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Jupiter, Florida. Identify yourself with the "FWF Awards Banquet group," or just "FWF" to receive the group rate of \$169.00 per night. The cut-off date to receive this rate is March 29th. Availability and room rate not guaranteed after March 29th. Daily \$12 Hotel service fees waived for this group. Overnight self-parking rate is \$8 per night. Complimentary guest room services include internet access and use of the Fitness Center, the pool and lobby lounge.

On Saturday, April 22nd, the Florida Wildlife Federation Board of Directors and House of Delegates will hold the spring board meeting in the Dunes/Pelican meeting rooms of the Wyndham Grand Jupiter Hotel from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. For further information, contact Diane Hines at: 850-656-7113 or dhines@fwfonline.org.

Registration Form For Banquet and Silent Auction

Please reserve your **banquet** tickets no later than **April 10th!**

Attn. Diane Hines, Florida Wildlife Federation

P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870

Questions? Email: dhines@fwfonline.org

Friday, April 21st — 80th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet — Wyndham Grand Jupiter, \$100.00 per person. Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ people for the Banquet. Event Includes Cocktail Reception, Cash Bar, Awards Banquet and Silent Auction. Special Dietary Requests must be noted in advance : _____

Please enter the names of all persons attending with you: _____

Total amount: \$ _____

Checks payable to Florida Wildlife Federation

You may also register online at

www.FWFawards2017.eventbrite.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Discover, AMEX, VISA, MC #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____ **Total charged:** _____

Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____