



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

Volume 33, Issue 1
Winter 2019

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

Florida Wildlife Federation Gets New President

Manley Fuller Farewell

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Chair's Message

Jay Exum

Greetings Florida Wildlife Federation Members and Supporters:

In this, my first communication as Chairman of the Board of Directors of FWF, I would like to first pay tribute to Manley Fuller, our president for the last 32 years. In Manley's letter in this edition of FFWN, he outlines some of the accomplishments made during his tenure at FWF – they reflect a substantive, lengthy career of advocacy for conservation. Manley has taken the Federation from an organization with a few of hundred members to one with over 10,000 members and 60,000 supporters. Manley has been the face of the organization from Pensacola to Jacksonville to Everglades City. If you have ever spent any time with him, you know he can discuss the details of any significant issue affecting fish and wildlife conservation in every corner of the state, and we will continue to seek his advice.

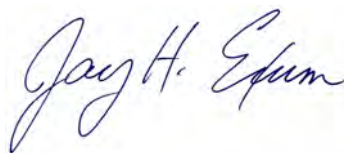
We also celebrate the transition of leadership to Preston Robertson who has served as the Federation's COO and General Counsel and is eminently prepared to take the helm. I know that Preston is excited by the opportunity to grow the Federation's role as the leading environmental organization for wildlife conservation.

You should also know that the all-volunteer Board of Directors consists of an incredible group of individuals whose expertise and experiences

have collectively resulted in protection of natural resources in every region of the state. We have recently completed a strategic plan that defines our goals and objectives, and the board is positioned to achieve challenging milestones related to habitat conservation, water resource protection, climate change and Everglades restoration. I am honored to serve this group as chairman.

I have lived in central Florida for almost 35 years, where my wife and I have raised our children at the edge of the Wekiva wilderness. In my profession as a wildlife biologist, I have explored, paddled, hiked and photographed natural habitats across the state. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for Florida's natural resources, the threats to wildlife habitat and the challenges we face. I look forward to serving you, the members and supporters of the Florida Wildlife Federation, and working with the Board of Directors to continue to "Keep the Wild in Florida."

Feel free to contact me with advice or suggestions as to how FWF can leverage your passion for the natural environment.



Cover Photo

Photographer: Barbara Woodmansee

Location: Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

The barred owl (*Strix varia*), is also known as the northern barred owl or hoot owl. Their hooting call "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" is familiar to many forests and treed swamps. Barred owls often take up residence in nest boxes. Consider putting one up to attract a breeding pair!



Florida Fish & Wildlife News

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Vice Chair: Curt Kiser
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To Be Appointed
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Cover Photo by: Barbara Woodmansee

Contact Information

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

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

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

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Editors

Danny Shapiro & Preston T. Robertson

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Preston T. Robertson Named President and CEO

Preston Robertson, *President and CEO*

As I take the position of President/CEO of the Federation, I want to express my sincere thanks to my friend and predecessor Manley Fuller. He has led us for many years and attained some truly remarkable victories for our environment. I wish him all the best in his new position in North Carolina. Also, many thanks to our volunteer Board of Directors for the opportunity to serve the cause of ensuring a sustainable future for our natural resources. Our Board members possess a commitment to the conservation of our beautiful state that is unsurpassed.

Our challenges have only increased over past decades, with a booming human population, water



degradation, and the loss of open space and habitat. It is up to us as a team, and regardless of political affiliation, to act upon a vision which retains the attributes that make our home unique: our springs, our forests, our Everglades, our fisheries and our wildlife.

Together we can accomplish much, and I ask that you please consider how you can assist the Florida Wildlife Federation. As we move into the next 80 years of this

organization, we need all hands on deck to keep Florida a wonderful place to live.

Thanks.



FWF Embarks on a New Strategic Plan for 2019 – 2025

The Board of Directors held a Strategic Planning workshop in December to define the goals and objectives for FWF for the near future. The facilitated workshop began with an assessment of internal and external influences on the organization, and included an assessment of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Five priority goals were identified, and objectives were specified for each goal. At our January Board meeting, we defined milestones, set timeframes and identified the people responsible to meet priority objectives. They included:

1. Focus the efforts of staff and board members on critical conservation topics:
 - Habitat Conservation
 - Water Resource Protection
 - Climate Change
 - Everglades Restoration
 - Coastline Preservation
2. Develop and fund an improved social media strategy
3. Increase the number of members and the diversity of our membership
4. Be prepared to litigate against activities that impact fish and wildlife habitat
5. Enhance opportunities for member engagement



Annual Meeting



Mission Inn Resort & Spa
Howey-in-the-Hills
June 21-23, 2019
www.missioninnresort.com

Outgoing President's Message

Manley Fuller



Dear FWF Members, Supporters and Friends,

It has been a privilege and a great joy to serve the Florida Wildlife Federation membership and volunteer board these past 32 years as your President and CEO. I am honored to have worked with you, the FWF membership, including many outstanding volunteer Board Members and Chairs, wonderful colleagues, dedicated FWF staff members and an outstanding group of conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts who are my dearest friends. I am grateful to have had a job that I truly loved practically every day, from the beginning to the end of my tenure. You have been my mentors in conservation and we have together accomplished a great deal in fulfilling our mission of “Keeping the Wild in Florida.” There will be much more to do as you carry on facing this great state’s conservation challenges.

I have decided to leave my position with FWF, opening up new leadership opportunities for the organization. While my last day of FWF employment will be February 1, 2019, I will continue to actively support the organization as a volunteer member of the FWF family. I will be returning to my native North Carolina to help lead the North Carolina Wildlife Federation’s conservation initiatives as their Vice President of

Conservation Policy.

Preston Robertson, who has served FWF as a leader for years, will become President and CEO upon my departure.

During my 32 years serving FWF, it has been my primary



responsibility to advance the often-challenging task of conservation, management and protection of Florida’s fish and wildlife and their myriad habitats. It has been gratifying to have represented an organization that has often played a key leadership role in advancing many critical conservation causes, including but not limited to, our work to strengthen conservation within the State’s Constitution as follows:

- prohibiting coastal oil and gas drilling (2018);
- providing for a major 20-year state conservation lands acquisition funding (2014);
- providing for tax relief for landowners placing their properties under permanent

conservation easements (2008);

- supporting the unification of the State’s fish and wildlife agencies into the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (1998);
- providing more stringent conditions for surplus State conservation lands (1998);
- providing for “polluter pays” standards in the Florida Everglades (1996); and
- providing limitations on entangling nets in State waters (1994).

Together, we helped expand and link many outstanding conservation and recreational properties statewide including the

Big Cypress National Preserve, Osceola National Forest, St. Mark’s National Wildlife Refuge, Wakulla and other iconic springs across the state, North Key Largo and Topsail Hill State Parks, Tate’s Hell and Point Washington State Forests, and a number of State Wildlife Management Areas. FWF has been a consistent defender of public conservation properties when threatened by developmental pressures. We have successfully protected many wetlands across the state by supporting regulatory programs and by modification of projects to eliminate or diminish destructive impacts. FWF has also been a strong advocate for the Coastal Barrier Resources system, which helps protect over 750,000

acres of Florida's coast by removing federal subsidies from low-lying flood and storm water vulnerable habitat.

FWF also spearheaded efforts to build landscape-scale linkages of public and private conservation lands across Florida, including the placement of wildlife crossings where they can be most effective. And together, we championed conservation of marine forage fish and protection of reef fish spawning aggregations, protection of threatened and endangered species, as well as the ban on importation of deer and other cervids to reduce the serious threat posed by chronic wasting disease to Florida's wild deer populations.

Florida Wildlife Federation's conservation reach extends far beyond Florida through our active participation in many national conservation and environmental issues. FWF and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) have been closely linked since the founding of both organizations in 1936 and maintain a close relationship with our sister affiliates in the region and across

the United States. I am proud that we have recently initiated a forest stewardship program with NWF to advance longleaf pine forest restoration and management. FWF is also a founding and active member of the Everglades Coalition.

We are working with private landowners in Southwest Florida to protect critical habitat linkages for panthers, bears and other wildlife. In 2019, FWF is also embarking on a program to educate people about the importance of maintaining vital habitats such as the sea grass meadows of the Gulf Coast.

FWF has been and continues to be a forceful advocate for Florida's natural environment and for peoples' enjoyment of sustainable, ethical, nature-based outdoor recreation, including fishing and hunting with science-based regulations, nature observation, boating, hiking and other enjoyable outdoor activities. It is so important for people to experience the natural world. Personal experience in the outdoors is critical to becoming a passionate and effective conservation

advocate. FWF has worked hard to educate decision-makers as to the tremendous values of Florida's nature-based economy and the need to protect our waters as well as wildlife habitat through appropriate regulation and strong enforcement of our laws.

Together, we have accomplished a great deal. I love this organization and all that it stands for, and will continue to actively support its critical conservation mission as a regular donor, volunteer and proud member. I have included FWF in my planned giving and urge all of you to support FWF as a sound investment in an organization that truly believes in the lasting conservation of Florida's natural heritage.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for conservation in Florida and for your support of the Florida Wildlife Federation. It has been an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,



Manley K. Fuller

2018 Photo Contest Winners



Wildlife and Runner Up: Rattlesnake Photographer: **Kristian Bell**
Location: **Ocala**



Waterscape: Light on Manatee Photographer: **Dan Mele**
Location: **Fanning Springs**



Land and Water

The New Year brings an opportunity for a more focused effort to conserve our land and water resources. A new Governor, new legislators and likely new agency heads will take their places in Tallahassee, and hopefully will respond to the people's plea to protect our natural attributes. Florida was once the leader in environmental land conservation with the Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever programs. These formerly bi-partisan programs have saved open space and wildlife habitats all over the state. They are also critical for water quality and

“Amendment 1 passed overwhelmingly at the ballot booth in 2014 and was designed to fund land conservation programs such as Florida Forever.”

quantity as they serve as recharge areas for our life-giving aquifer. With an estimated 1000 new residents moving to our state every day, the time is now to save those lands and thereby waters that make Florida a high quality place to call home.

Our lawsuit concerning the Amendment 1/Water and Land Legacy Constitutional Amendment continues on appeal following our victory at trial. Amendment 1 passed overwhelmingly at the

ballot booth in 2014 and was designed to fund land conservation programs such as Florida Forever.

Take Action: Contact your State Senator and Representative and let him or her know you expect the conservation of our resources. Environmental protection should not be a partisan political issue – all Floridians deserve a sustainable and beautiful state. Go to: www.flsenate.gov to find your Senator, and www.myflorida.house.gov and click on Representatives tab at top to find your Representative and **tell them to please support full funding for the Florida Forever program.**

Some Good News

In December 2018, the Florida Cabinet approved moving forward on the perpetual protection of over 19,000 acres in the Big Bend region's Dixie County. This vast mosaic of wetlands, hardwood hammocks and pines are truly emblematic of the Old Florida. Not only does the conservation easement protect the habitat for black bears, deer and a myriad of other species, it also aids in ensuring the water quality of the fabled Suwannee River and the Gulf of Mexico. The land will remain in private ownership but can never be developed. Therefore, timber production and the jobs that are created will continue. The project is situated amongst other large conservation easement parcels and adjoins the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge and Manatee Springs State Park south of Cross City. While the actual closing has not

transpired on the easement, it is hoped that this beautiful area will soon be conserved in perpetuity.

LWCF – Protecting Lands and Giving Back to Communities

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard our natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreational opportunities to all Americans. Using zero taxpayer dollars, the fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve our history and protect our nation's lands and waters. The funds are also used to provide public access to natural areas, purchase parks and even save our historic battlefields.

Although the LWCF is widely supported by elected officials, it has terminated owing to a lack of action by the Congress.

Take Action: Go to www.house.gov/representatives and insert your zip code at the top right to get the correct phone number. You may also contact our US Senators - Marco Rubio 202 224-3014; Rick Scott 202 224-3041.

Please ask that they support the reauthorization of LWCF.

Please ask your federal representatives to support the reauthorization of the LWCF.

Population and Growth

Florida became the third most populous state in the nation in 2014, and if present trends continue, it is predicted we will have approximately 33 million residents by 2070. That is only 50 years away. With each new resident comes additional pressure on our natural resources, open space and water. Unfortunately, growth

management was severely weakened in 2011 when the Florida Department of Community Affairs was abolished. This Department attempted to guide growth so as to comport with approved plans. It is now up to counties and municipalities to manage growth, even if that growth impacts surrounding counties and cities. With a thousand new Floridians

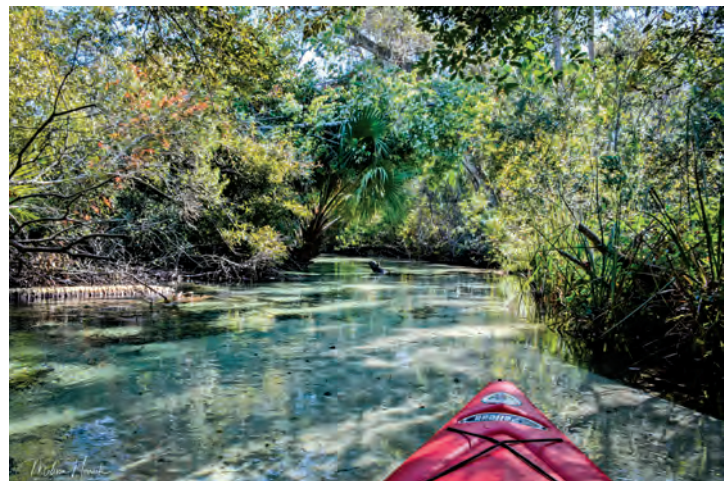
coming in every day, it may well be time for the Legislature to take another look at the resurrection of a statewide governmental entity that can guide us into the future and thereby retain the qualities that make Florida special.

Don T. Robertson

2018 Photo Contest Winners



Sunset Sunrise, Photographer: **Debbie Blanco**
Location: **T. Mabry Carlton Jr. Memorial Reserve** in **Sarasota County**



Recreation: Juniper Creek Kayaking Photographer: **Melissa Herrick**
Location: **Juniper Creek, Ocala National Forest**



Featured Animal

Florida Native – Bobcat (*Felidae rufus floridanus*)

Besides the panther, our other native wild cat is the bobcat, named for its short, or “bobbed” tail. Weighing between 13 and 35 pounds, the bobcat has white on the underside of its tail and black on top. It also has white triangles on the back of its ears, likely so kittens can see their mothers in tall grass. Bobcats grow to approximately 20" tall, and prey on a wide variety of other animals, including birds, rabbits, squirrels and even carrion. It can swim and climb trees, and lives for up to 14 years in the wild. The Florida population is doing quite well, even with human development.



Photographer: **Robyn Churchill**



Give, Shoot, and Score for Charity!

The Florida Panthers hockey team and the Florida Wildlife Federation are teaming up for the **March 23 hockey game against the Boston Bruins at the BB&T Center in Sunrise**: it is Panther Conservation Night! The Federation is being recognized at intermission for our panther conservation work. There is also an exclusive opportunity for discount game tickets. A portion of the proceeds from each ticket sold through our link comes directly back to the Florida Wildlife Federation and all tickets purchased using the Florida Wildlife Federation discount includes parking! If you make an additional pledge to the Florida Wildlife Federation while purchasing your ticket, you will score yourself a trip onto the ice! **All donors win a puck shot at the end of the game, and if you donate the most, you'll score a ride on the Zamboni at intermission!** Can't wait to see you all on March 23 to watch the Panthers take on the Boston Bruins! <https://groupmatics.events/event/floridawildlifefederation>

New Wildlife Study Initiatives for 2019

As the Federation's wildlife studies wrapped up in 2018, our

Southwest office seeks to further enhance habitat connectivity across Florida's extensive road network. We are coordinating with our long-time transportation ecologist, Dr. Daniel Smith, on **wildlife crossing needs** and structure design to enhance land use planning and protect threatened wildlife as development continues to spread and intensify. While some aspects of this project will be focused on South and Central Florida, major elements will be applicable and beneficial throughout the state.

Roadways are significant

barriers to wildlife and wildlife movement. Roads significantly contribute to habitat loss and fragmentation, which are the greatest threat to establishing and maintaining sustainable populations of the endangered Florida panther and many other species of native wildlife. Additionally, **vehicle strikes on roads are the leading cause of mortality for panthers**. In 2018 alone, there were 22 panther deaths due to vehicle collisions (including two 4-month old kittens). As Florida's population continues to grow, the demand for more and larger highways will increase. This is especially troublesome for Southwest Florida, since much of the region is identified as important panther habitat. The Florida panther is an umbrella species, so what is good for the panther is generally good for all native wildlife. The Federation's proposed project with Dr. Smith will provide for an updated inventory of existing infrastructure in South and Central Florida and will have statewide-applicability for wildlife crossing siting. A manual will also be produced to serve as a resource for planning, design and construction.

FLORIDA PANTHERS
2018-19 SEASON

GAME INFO
Florida Wildlife Federation presents:
Give, Shoot, and Score for Charity!
Boston Bruins vs. Florida Panthers
Saturday, March 23 at 7:00PM | BB&T CENTER

DETAILS
The Florida Panthers and the Florida Wildlife Federation are teaming up for the game on March 23rd for an exclusive discount opportunity. A portion of the proceeds from each ticket sold goes back to the Florida Wildlife Federation and all tickets purchased using the discount include parking!

Make an additional pledge to the Florida Wildlife Federation while purchasing your ticket and score yourself a trip onto the ice! All donors win a puck shot at the end of the game. If you donate the most, you'll score a ride on the Zamboni at intermission!

TICKET PRICES:
Sideline Premier (rows 3-17): \$108
Sideline (rows 18-28): \$83
Lower Goal Zone (rows 3-15): \$93
Lower Goal Zone (rows 16 and up): \$83
Club End: \$63
Upper Center: \$44
Upper Goal Zone: \$34
**Lord Stanley's Loft (Sections 328, 329, 330): \$83
**Includes unlimited food, beer, wine, and soda with ticket.

TO ORDER: <https://groupmatics.events/event/floridawildlifefederation>
Bags or purses larger than 1'x1' will NOT be permitted in the arena. Backpacks, backpack purses & drawstring bags will also not be permitted into BB&T Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
RORY SPECIA | rspecia@floridapanthers.com | 954.835.8891

Logos for Boston Bruins, Florida Panthers, and Florida Wildlife Federation (35 Years as a Panhandle Territory).

Through our new partnership with the Florida Panthers Foundation and long-time Federation supporting Foundations, we have secured funding to begin this project and look forward to initiating work this year.

Conservation Collier: Buy the Land

Since its inception, the Conservation Collier program has acquired over 4,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land. Unfortunately, the program has been in a management phase since 2013 and has not protected land in several years. Early in 2017, the Collier County Board of Commissioners directed staff to begin an acquisition cycle using \$17 million borrowed from the program management fund. This amount was to be repaid to the management fund through a .25 mil allocation in the 2017-18 budget. Despite the Federation's advocacy to the Board, this repayment option was not included in the 2017-18 budget. Thus, the repayment of these funds is not guaranteed. That said, the Federation is confident Collier voters will re-authorize a tax to fully fund the program and repay the

management fund when a referendum is placed on the ballot, presumably in 2020.

In the meantime, the Conservation Collier program accepted applications for the newly activated acquisition cycle. The Conservation Collier Lands Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) ranked the applications and recommended their A-list ranked properties for acquisition to the County Commissioners in late April 2018. Due to concerns regarding potential cash flow in the summer 2018 hurricane season, the Commissioners voted to move forward with the purchase of a single property and re-assess the remaining A-list parcels. The one property secured by the County was the **Gore Property, 180 acres north of Picayune Strand State Forest** restoration area and east of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. The Gore Preserve was the private preserve of a local biology professor and conservation advocate. This is a fantastic conservation opportunity for the County and is advantageous to the Federation because the "Gore Preserve" abuts the Federation's

conservation parcels.

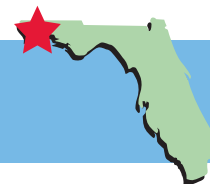
The County will likely move forward with offering to purchase just three more of the nine total parcels recommended for acquisition. If the offers are accepted by the landowners, the parcels will be acquired using part of the \$17 million borrowed from the management fund. The Federation is committed to ensuring the Conservation Collier management fund is re-paid and the program gets fully re-authorized for future acquisition cycles.

Additionally, in advance of the predicted 2020 referendum, Collier County is considering several changes to the Conservation Collier ordinance that could substantially change the way the program has historically functioned. The Federation is engaging with the advisory committee and Board of County Commissioners to ensure this good program continues so as to protect the County's most rare and unique habitats for ourselves and future generations.

Meredith Budd



Featured Natural Area



Featured Natural Area – Naval Live Oaks Nature Preserve

Combine American history and a beautiful seaside with a visit to the Naval Live Oaks Nature Preserve. Near Pensacola, and part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, the Preserve is 1,300 acres sandwiched between Pensacola Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. In 1828, during the age of wooden naval vessels, President John Quincy Adams set aside this stand of live oaks from which to fashion our first navy. One of the ships built from these trees was the famous USS Constitution, also known as Old Ironsides due to the strength of her timberwork during the War of 1812 with Britain. Beside the history to be found at the Visitor Center, miles of trails lead one through a maritime forest brimming with Florida flora and fauna. Location: 1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563, phone 850 934-2600.



Location: **Live Oaks Nature Preserve**



Passing the Torch

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, in his famous inaugural address, said “Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation...”

With the announcement that Manley Fuller is leaving the helm as President of the Florida Wildlife Federation, no better words summarize this moment in time. Indeed, Manley’s career at FWF spans a whole generation. In fact, many Floridians have grown to reach adulthood and now make up the next generation of environmental advocates during Fuller’s tenure.

Upon reading his farewell letter it struck me, once again, how many momentous events in Florida’s environmental history Florida Wildlife Federation has been a part of. Yes, Manley will be missed, but he will continue doing great work for the North Carolina Federation and, thus by extension,

for all of us when he moves on to his next big adventure.

Meanwhile, FWF begins a new chapter under the guidance of an engaged and active board and the competent management and dedicated leadership of Preston Robertson who, himself, has been at the forefront of many of Florida’s most important environmental efforts. The continuity is reassuring and the best days for this organization truly lie ahead.

Florida’s political leadership also transitions to a new generation with the election of Ron DeSantis as our 46th and youngest governor in Florida history. In his inaugural speech, Governor DeSantis laid out an ambitious environmental agenda. As his words are translated into action, FWF and our allies will be there to ensure that progress is made.

As with every New Year, this is

a time for reflection and for planning. I reflect on the fact that a growing number of newly minted

“I hope that the Florida Wildlife Federation family, friends and supporters will consider how they might advance the cause of conservation.”

college graduates think of the environmental movement as a good career path. Others hold to a belief that technology will alleviate the worst aspects of climate change. How we engage and empower these new environmental advocates is critical to the future of the conservation movement, and it is hoped they become more involved in the work to save natural Florida. Moreover, I hope that the Florida Wildlife Federation family, friends and supporters will consider how they might advance the cause of conservation.

We can all do more to make sure that Manley’s legacy of environmental stewardship continues to thrive and make Florida a better place for this and future generations. Because the most famous line in Kennedy’s inaugural speech was, “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”



Photographer: Nathanael Herrera Location: Hickory Mound Wildlife Management Area

A stylized blue ink signature of Jay Liles.

Crawfordville's 15th Arbor Day Celebration a Great Success

This year's Crawfordville Arbor Day event was a collaboration amongst the Wakulla County Garden Club, Florida Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation, Florida Forest Service and others. Fifteen different native tree species were on display at the celebration and each person, including children, took home one free tree. 634 trees found new homes!

The fun included a petting zoo with bunnies, goats, sheep, and piglets, an inflatable obstacle course, and making pinecone birdfeeders. Parents and children posed for portraits by a local artist. The Wakulla County Library and Wakulla County 4-H

Sharpshooters also entertained young tree seekers.

"We were delighted to see so many young children enjoying the festival and taking home trees," said Jeannie Brodhead, one of the event's coordinators. Claudia Farren, with the Florida Wildlife Federation, encouraged tree recipients to plant their trees as soon as possible and to follow the planting instructions they received. "Plant your trees in a wide, bowl-shaped hole with the upper roots level with the ground," she said. "Water them 1-2 times a week for the next few weeks, and then water them deeply once a week through next fall."



Member Fundraising

Thank you to FWF members Claude and April Ward for this unique fundraising idea which they created and implemented all on their own!

This is the display in all 11 Famous Tate Appliance and Bedding Showrooms. They were inspired to do this by an article several editions ago in our newsletter about FWF helping gopher tortoises.

All profits go to FWF, continuing our conservation mission in Florida. Thanks!!

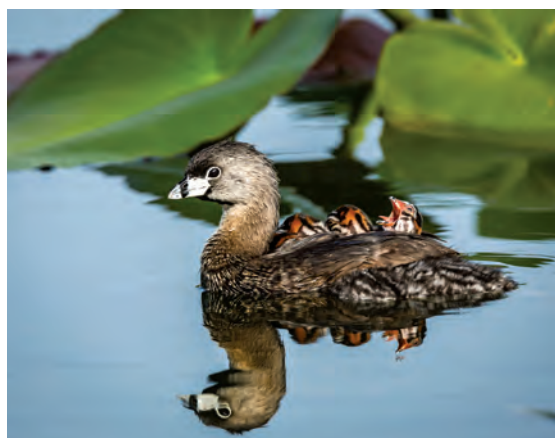


2018 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

FWF is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 Photo Contest. This year, we were grateful to have the renowned photographer John Spohrer as our judge for the contest for the first time. Thank you to all the photographers who entered, and to John for taking the time to review the hundreds of photos entered. You will find other winning photos from the contest throughout this publication. Visit www.snappiephoto.com to view the winners online and we hope you enter the contest in 2019.



Flowers: Ghost Orchid Photographer: **Nancy Moreland** Location: **Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park**



Birds and Overall: Yawner (pied-billed grebe)
Photographer: **Michael Johnson** Location: **Admiral Mason Park, Pensacola, Florida**



Portrait: Juvenile White Ibis Photographer: **Cathy Kunkle**
Location: **Naples, Florida**

In Memory – Pat Pearson

We regret to note the passing away of Pat Pearson, who worked for FWF for many years, particularly concerning community gardens and environmental education. She was truly an angel on this Earth and always had a kind word for everyone.

The Federation wishes to express its deepest condolences and sympathy to Miss Pat's family and friends.





FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S *Boating Sweepstakes*

Congratulations to the Winner of the 28th Annual Boating Sweepstakes

The annual sweepstakes helps the Florida Wildlife Federation raise funds to pursue vital wildlife and fish programs that ensure that we all continue to enjoy Florida's wondrous outdoors.

RIGHT: Richard Cobb, of Naples, winner of the 28th Annual Boating Sweepstakes, accepting his Grand Prize certificate from Meredith Budd, FWF's Southwest Florida Field Representative.

BELOW: FWF's 28th Annual Boating Sweepstakes Drawing was held on December 13, 2018 at 3 pm at Federation Headquarters. The drawing was supervised by Carroll and Co., Inc., Certified Public Accountants. Attending the drawing were: (from left) Stephen Roeder (CPA, Carroll & Co.), Officer John Beeman (TPD), Claudia Farren (Sweepstakes Coordinator), Lynn Jones (Membership Coordinator), Jeannie Scruggs (Bookkeeper/CPA), Susan Williams (Administrative Assistant), and Preston Robertson (President and CEO).



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



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

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

FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

by Marney Richards

1.

Which of the many ducks that winter in Florida can be recognized by a spatula-like bill?



2.

What is a very popular vegetable to plant in the winter in Florida?



3.

What large prehistoric fish migrates from the Gulf of Mexico to the Suwannee River?



See page 14 for answers and more information.

Mere
of the
Cobb

Steve O'Hara

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

Steve O'Hara spent his childhood family vacations camping in Florida's state parks and national forests and paddling on Florida waters. He hunted and fished his way through high school and college on Florida lands and waters which were open to public access. These experiences were the foundation for his lifelong devotion to conserving Florida wildlife habitat and keeping it open for public recreation.

In the early 1980s, Steve O'Hara joined the Florida Wildlife Federation and campaigned with other conservationists for public acquisition of the Guana area, a 12,000 acre wildlife habitat with 10 miles of undeveloped waterfront in Northeast Florida. This successful endeavor convinced Steve O'Hara that the Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) was Florida's most effective grassroots conservation organization in large



Steve O'Hara and his wife, Jeri.

part because it so willingly engages with others in achieving common goals.

Since then, Steve O'Hara has served almost three decades on the Florida Wildlife Federation's volunteer Board of Directors. He has also included the FWF as a beneficiary in his will. "Guana is still my favorite fishing destination. I am a grandfather, and I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to have places

like Guana for hiking, hunting, paddling, and other outdoor recreational pursuits. I will leave them that legacy by helping the Florida Wildlife Federation continue its good work for generations to come."

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

A charitable trust benefitting the Florida Wildlife Federation or a bequest like Steve'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 estate planning can benefit both you and wildlife, please contact Preston Robertson at (850) 656-7113.

Answers to FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

1. The Northern shoveler has a broad bill that is adapted to sifting food from muddy shallow water. Their diet is mostly aquatic plants, but they also eat crustaceans, insects and even small fish. You can see these beautiful ducks in many places, including the National Wildlife Refuges at Merritt Island and St. Marks.

2. Potatoes can be planted in January in South Florida, and in January through March in Central and North Florida. In fact, Valentine's Day is a traditional planting date for potatoes in the Panhandle. They will be ready to harvest in about three months. Bake or roast them – or make potato salad for a picnic!

3. The Gulf sturgeon spends cooler months in the Gulf, then lives 8-9 months in the Suwannee. Sturgeons have bony plates along the sides of the body and whisker-like projections on the snout. The average sturgeon is 5-6 feet long and weighs about 40 pounds, but they can reach 8 feet and nearly 200 pounds! These huge fish can leap seven feet out of the water.

How Did You Do, Florida Kid?



Thank You to Our Donors

New Life Members:

Elaine Head, Lehigh Acres
Sara Oconnell, Stuart
Selma Ankist Family Trust, Hallendale Beach
Diane Jones, Port St. Lucie

Eagle:

John & Page Corey, Richmond, Virginia

In Honor:

Tom Evans *from John & Page Corey*
Dave & Carol Balman *by Jim Schortemeyer*


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

***Thank You for Your
Generous Support!***

2018 Photo Contest Winners



Mobile: Pineapple King Photographer: **Keven Williams**
Location: **Fort Ogden, Florida**



IN MEMORIAM

*Donations have been received
in memory of:*

Kenneth Ross
by Carolyn Davis

Dave Balman
by Jim Schortemeyer

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



Kids: Black Bear Photographer: **Jonah Parker Hanson**
Location: **Wakulla County, Florida**

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S LOU KELLENBERGER

2018 PHOTO CONTEST

Be on the Lookout for Our 2019 Photo Contest!

Visit www.snappiephoto.com to view the 2018 winners and learn more.



Landscape: Last Light Photographer: Nathanael Herrera Location: St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1931 to provide wintering habitat for migratory birds. It is one of the oldest refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It encompasses over 70,000 acres spread out along the Gulf Coast of northwest Florida.

The refuge includes coastal marshes, islands, tidal creeks and estuaries of seven rivers, and is home to a diverse community of plant and animal life. The refuge also has strong ties to a rich cultural past, and is home to the St. Marks Lighthouse, which was built in 1842 (current tower) and is still in use today.



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