



# Florida Fish & Wildlife News

Volume 35, Issue 3  
Summer 2021

Florida Wildlife Federation – *Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation*

## FWF *Annual Awards*

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# Chair's Message

Joe Atterbury

## You Can See it from Your House

After I graduated from college, I was hired briefly as a novice carpenter outside Chapel Hill, NC, so went out and bought a Sears Craftsman hammer and showed up the next morning at 7. I had virtually no experience, training, or supervision. At the end of my first day, I asked the foreman to review my handiwork. Rolling his eyes, he muttered, "I can't see it from my house," and down the road he went. He'd leave it for someone else to fix. Reminds me of our current lack of political will, on both the state and federal level, to address water quality issues in our state.

We have known for decades that Florida's water quality has been deteriorating, but it was largely invisible. We let the problem fester until we could see the blue green cyanobacteria starting to turn our lakes and rivers green and smelly. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently warned that dogs shouldn't swim in areas with visible cyanobacteria. Thankfully, the dogs at my house wouldn't consider getting off the sofa if they couldn't drink in it, wade in it, and roll in it. But the catastrophic impact on our fish and wildlife is incalculable.

On June 21, the DEP analyzed Port Myakka water samples that contained 130 parts per billion of the toxin microcystin. This is 16 times higher than the 8 parts per billion maximum set by federal standards beyond which

water becomes toxic for people, pets and wildlife.

Piecemeal fixes not only have been ineffective but have also created unintended repercussions of their own. Recently in Palm Beach County, residents were informed that elevated amounts of cyanobacteria made drinking treated tap water unsafe. To combat the algae problem, the disinfectant trihalomethane was

*“Please let your elected leaders know there should be no more foot-dragging on cleaning our water!”*

added to the mix. That disinfectant created a byproduct which itself exceeded the state limits for safe drinking water.

We can no longer postpone addressing the causes of the degradation of this invaluable resource. Leaving the issue of water quality and quantity for someone else to fix later is no longer an option.



## Cover Photo

Photographer: Jodie Dellinger

Animal: Dragonfly on a rosebud

Location: Washington Oaks Gardens State Park



**Florida Fish & Wildlife News**

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District I Director:  
David Ward  
District II Director:  
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Ray Carthy  
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Animal: Dragonfly on a rosebud Photographer: Jodie Dellinger  
Location: Washington Oaks Gardens State Park

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# Florida Wildlife Federation Annual Awards

Many thanks to all our Award Winners for going above and beyond to conserve Florida's natural habitats and species for ourselves and future generations!



## Land Stewards of the Year

Husband and wife Jim Stevenson and Tara Tanaka are lifelong conservationists who have saved and enhanced the beautiful wetlands behind their home to create a natural area resplendent with native wildlife.

*Photo by* Tori Lynn Schneider / Tallahassee Democrat



## President's Award

George Willson, who sadly passed away, was a titan of land conservation in Florida. All Floridians should be grateful for his lifelong work to perpetually protect large natural landscapes across the state.

*Left to right:* Preston Robertson (FWF), Michael Willson, Cait Willson (4), Alyssa Willson, Lynne Willson, and Sam Willson (4).



## Wildlife Officer of the Year

FWC Officer Ben Norbrothen serves the public, native species and natural lands by ensuring our fish and wildlife laws are observed to the benefit of all residents. Joe Atterbury (FWF) and Ben Norbrothen.



## Conservation Organization of the Year

The St. Johns Riverkeeper is an outstanding organization dedicated to saving the wonderful St. Johns River and its ecosystem from threats such as pollution and mismanagement.

*Left to right:* Shannon Blankinship, Gabbie Milch, Vince Lamb, Jay Exum (FWF), Lisa Rinaman, Jim Schwarz



## Conservation Communicator of the Year

Blair Wickstrom's career has promoted the conservation of our marine resources, the Everglades and sustainable recreation through advocacy and education.



## Clean Water Award

The Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA) uses the latest scientific techniques to help save precious aquatic habitats such as the Indian River Lagoon.

*Left to right:* George Jones (FWF), Dr. Edie Widder, Warren Falls

*Award Winners continued on page 5*



# Dear Federation Members and Supporters:

As we start to normalize following the COVID pandemic we thankfully have some good news to report.

First off, I am delighted to convey that Sarah Owen Gledhill, a former esteemed staffer of FWF, has rejoined us! From her base in St. Augustine, she will be our Northeast Regional Policy Director. Welcome back, Sarah!

The 2021 Florida Legislative Session concluded at the end of April. This Session, FWF focused on repealing the environmentally devastating and incredibly expensive MCORES toll roads law. This law, passed in 2019, mandated the construction of over 300 miles of toll roads in what remains of the rural portions of the peninsula. Steadfastly opposed by FWF, rural county commissions and thousands of Floridians, I am delighted to report that the Florida Legislature overwhelmingly approved Senate Bill 100 to repeal the MCORES law and this repeal bill was signed into law by the Governor. While there is still the potential for new sprawl-inducing roads, most of the mandated construction has been eliminated. We will need to keep a sharp eye out going forward to retain habitats, water supply and quality of life.

The Florida Forever program, once funded at \$300 million per year, was appropriated \$100 million, but was augmented by a one-time additional \$300 million

from the federal American Rescue Plan. It is hoped these dollars will be used to perpetually conserve large areas of natural land via projects that have long lingered on the Florida Forever project list. On that issue, our litigation against the Legislature and state agencies for misspending millions of dollars

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*“ Although some states have taken individual action on greenhouse gas emissions, we need a national strategy.”*

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accrued from the Water and Land Constitutional Amendment continues. We expect a hearing on this matter in the next few months and are hopeful for a positive outcome from the trial court. We seek a bright line test on how this money can actually be spent, noting the money is housed in the “Land Acquisition Trust Fund.”

Another great program that conserves precious resources is the federal Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), that concentrates on protecting our water recharge areas

which also serve as vital fish and wildlife habitats. This national effort and similar programs have conserved over 200,000 acres across the state, mainly in South Florida.

Additional action at the federal level is Senate Bill 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act. This bipartisan bill creates a voluntary program for farmers, ranchers and timber producers to obtain credit for activities to reduce greenhouse gas emission. Importantly, this will help spur a market in environmental credits. By linking private entities with a market to reduce climate change, companies can either make or save money and also abate impacts of a changing climate. Although some states have taken individual action on greenhouse gas emissions, we need a national strategy.

We also continue our legal fight against the state taking dredge and fill permitting authority from the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Florida simply does not have the financial wherewithal and personnel to take on the critical task of protecting our remaining wetlands. We have already lost half of our wetlands and cannot afford to lose anymore.

Many thanks to all who contacted legislators during the Legislative Session and all who support FWF. Know we truly appreciate your help as we strive to keep Florida a wonderful and sustainable place to live.

# Florida Wildlife Federation Annual Awards *continued*



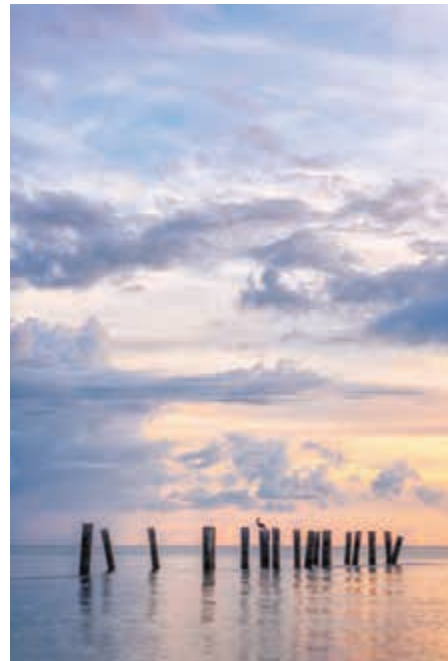
## Environmental Steward Award

Dr. Paul Gray has ardently pursued the goals of land and water protection in the Everglades watershed to conserve our natural resources.



## Hall of Fame

FWF is proud to induct long-time noted environmental journalist and FWF Board member Martha Musgrove into our Hall of Fame. Martha's dedication to "speaking truth to power" was unsurpassed. Thanks for all you do, Martha!



*Location: Naples*

*Photographer: Hilda Champion*



## Nominees for District Directors

Please vote online at <https://floridawildlifeederation.org/vote/>  
Only current members may vote. Voting ends September 10, 2021.

### NORTHWEST REGION

*District 1* David Ward

*District 2* Pepper Uchino

### NORTHEAST REGION

*District 3* Ray Carthy

*District 4* Adam Morley

### CENTRAL REGION

*District 5* Matthew Erpenbeck

*District 6* Joe Welbourn

### SOUTHERN REGION

*District 7* Linda Stanley

*District 8* Ana Meira

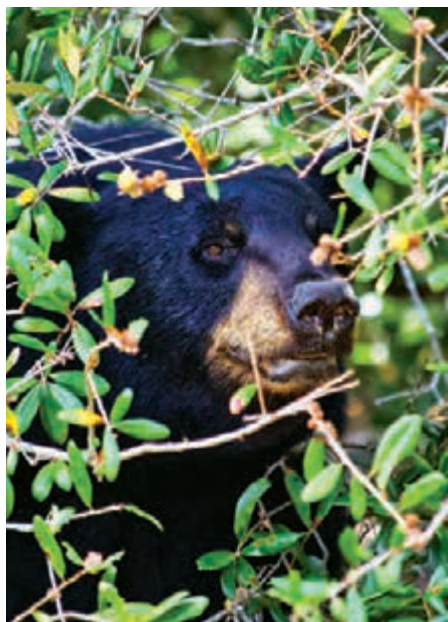
"Eight District Directors (one for each district) shall be elected by the Individual Associate and Corporate or Business members. Nominations for those eight District Directors shall be published to the Individual Associate and Corporate or Business members in the form of a ballot at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Such ballots shall be received by the Federation's principal place of business no later than fifteen days prior to the annual meeting; otherwise, the votes on such ballots shall not be counted. The ballots shall be tabulated by the Federation's employees, verified by the Organizational Affairs Committee, and announced at the conclusion of the other elections. The eight District Directors so elected shall be the nominees who received the most votes and neither declined their nomination nor were elected to another office or directorship." — FWF Bylaws, article XI, section B – as amended September, 2005.





## Protecting our Natural Resources

**H**ello members and supporters. I am delighted to write this segment for the *Florida Fish and Wildlife News* as a returning FWF Regional Policy Director. In 2004, I began my professional career with FWF and opened the Northeast Florida office based in St. Augustine. Over the next 14 years, FWF defended Florida's wildlife and native habitats from egregious development proposals, advocated for comprehensive planning, and



Animal: Black bear  
Photographer: Vivian McClain

educated private landowners about conservation opportunities.

In 2018, I pursued an amazing opportunity to work for a national organization to develop a grassroots mobilizing effort. I focused on digital campaigns, organizing, public outreach, and campaign planning. It was an

experience which helped develop new skills. I am happy to bring those skills back to FWF.

As a new chapter unfolds, we look forward to working on several priorities in Northeast Florida.

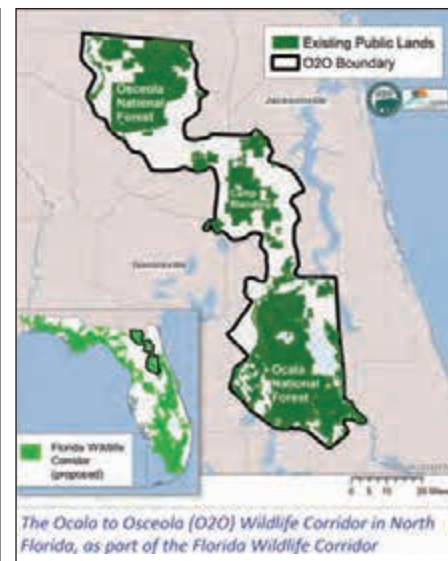
### Ocala to Osceola Wildlife Corridor

The Ocala to Osceola Wildlife Corridor (O2O) is a 100-mile-long, 1.6-million-acre network of natural and rural lands anchored by two large National Forests. About 90% of the O2O is forested, and roughly half is presently in public ownership. It has long been recognized as a “critical linkage” of the larger Florida Wildlife Corridor.

As a major north-south corridor, the O2O facilitates wildlife migration and adaptation as our natural landscapes adapt to climate change. In addition, the O2O protects water resources and provides resilience to storm damage that is an increasingly urgent issue. This area is also home to dozens of imperiled species, many of which require large landscapes and connected forests to thrive.

### Ocklawaha River Restoration

A critical component of the O2O Wildlife Corridor is the Ocklawaha River. The Rodman Dam was constructed in 1968, and it flooded over 7,500 acres of forested wetlands, 20 springs, and 16 miles of the Ocklawaha River. Dam construction has led to a decline of water quality, spring flow, wetland forests, fish, wildlife



Linking Conservation Lands.

and recreation, prompting the American Rivers organization to designate the Ocklawaha River as one of America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2020.

Moreover, the Ocklawaha River is the heart of the proposed Great Florida Riverway, a 217-mile river



Photographer: Elie Wolf

system that reaches from the Green Swamp in Central Florida all the way to the Atlantic Ocean via the Ocklawaha, Silver, and St. Johns Rivers. Breeching the Rodman Dam, which was part of the long-abandoned Cross Florida Barge Canal project, will re-establish access to essential habitat for manatees, bring back migratory fish, reunite three river ecosystems, rejuvenate historic Silver Springs, and restore a lost riverway for anglers and paddlers.

### Manatees

This year has been the deadliest year for manatees with over 850 deaths to date. Deadly boat strikes

and cold stress are the usual culprits but this year starvation is the main reason. Manatees are starving to death because our seagrass beds are dying from polluted run-off which includes fertilizer from lawns and agriculture and leaking septic tanks. These pollutants promote toxic algae growth that blocks sunlight from penetrating down to the sea grass. As the seagrass beds die off, the manatees compete for the last remaining sources. We have reached the tipping point and need political action now.

Creating the Great Florida Riverway will provide additional

natural warm water refuges for manatees and will relieve pressure on other refuges like Blue Springs in Volusia County. But we need to address the seagrass die-off by stopping polluted run-off from entering Florida's rivers, marshes, lakes and estuaries. Cleaning up our waterways for seagrass beds to grow not only benefits our state's designated marine mammal, but also supports clean, swimmable, and fishable waters and our tourism-based economy.



## Featured Animal

### Florida Native – Sand Skink

Existing in only seven counties from Putnam southward to Highlands County in the interior of Florida, the sand skink (*Neoseps reynoldsi*) “swims” though the sand just below the surface and is therefore rarely seen. A threatened species, it eats spiders, termites and beetle larva. With a length of about five inches, it has no external ear openings and only tiny legs, one-toed in the front and two-toed on the back legs. Skink eggs hatch in June and July and a female must reach at least two years of age to reproduce. Sadly, this ancient species faces many threats, especially elimination of its remaining habitat by developments and roads. Permanent protection of scrubby flatwoods, sand and oak scrubs and turkey oak ridges will help save this somewhat mysterious species.



Photographer: Glenn Bartolotti





## Arthrex Inc. Recognized for Creating Wildlife Habitat on Campus

**T**he corporate headquarters of Arthrex Inc., a global medical device company, sits in a busy, urban area of North Naples, Florida. That said, stepping onto the campus you are seemingly transported to a much more tranquil setting with live oaks, red maples and other native flora surrounding the buildings, all providing food and protection for wildlife.

Upon seeing the scenic and functional habitat Arthrex has incorporated into their recent campus expansion, the Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) worked with the company to certify their headquarters as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. The Certified Wildlife Habitat program is part of the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Garden for Wildlife effort that was implemented in 1973. This program aims to maintain and restore habitat so that wildlife can safely coexist alongside humans. Gardening for wildlife benefits not only wildlife, but people and our planet.

FWF and NWF have certified over 17,600 wildlife habitat gardens in Florida. The majority of these are in residential backyards, but businesses may also participate in this program, and collectively, these individual wildlife habitat areas make a big difference.

There are four major criteria to meet before a garden or natural landscape can be certified wildlife habitat: there needs to be food, water, shelter and a place to raise young. Do you want to see if your



Native plants grow in the area around the SpeedBridge at Arthrex's North Naples campus. Photo by Naples Daily News.



Littoral shelf of aquatic plants at Arthrex. Photo by Naples Daily News.

home or business can be certified as wildlife habitat? Check out the full Garden for Wildlife checklist here: [https://www.nwf.org/-/media/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certified-Wildlife-Habitat/NWF\\_Garden-Certification-Checklist.ashx](https://www.nwf.org/-/media/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certified-Wildlife-Habitat/NWF_Garden-Certification-Checklist.ashx)

FWF was honored to work with Arthrex to certify their campus as habitat and be able to recognize their good work in providing the essentials for local wildlife.

*continued on next page*





### Talk on the Wild Side Launches this Summer

FWF has launched a new podcast called Talk on the Wild Side. This educational series seeks to educate youth about the wide array of careers in which people can advocate for Florida's wildlife, protect habitats, and safeguard natural

resources. Season One of the podcast series includes professionally-conducted interviews with some of Florida's largest private and public sector environmental leaders.

FWF is working with local Southwest Florida organizations to ensure the podcast is widely utilized in existing educational programs as education is the key to protecting

Florida's treasured habitats. Indeed, educating students about the various professions based on environmental sciences is critical for securing a future cohort of conservation leaders. Season One of Talk on the



**Download the  
Talk on the Wild Side App!**

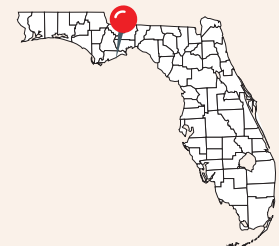


Wild Side can be accessed on the Federation website by downloading the Talk on the Wild Side app, or on podcast streaming services. Take a look!



## Featured Natural Area

### Tate's Hell State Forest



At over 200,000 contiguous acres, Tate's Hell State Forest in the Panhandle's Franklin County contributes greatly to environmental benefits as well as public recreation. Named for a man who was lost for several days in the area in 1875, the Forest was originally ditched to drain the wetlands and produce pine timber. Following public acquisition, extensive efforts have been made to mitigate this damage and return the land to its proper biological function. A multitude of species reside here, including the Florida black bear, red-cockaded woodpecker and bald eagle. Plant species include pitcher plants, Chapman's butterwort and water willow. A wonderful boardwalk and observation tower allow a visitor to view extensive dwarf cypress stands, with some trees over 150 years old, yet only 15 feet tall. Recreation includes hiking, fishing kayaking and hunting. 290 Airport Rd., Carrabelle, FL 32322; 850 697-0010.





## Vines and Trees

**V**ines are interesting plants and grow abundantly in many habitats, including our yards. Their abundance may be linked to one of their big advantages – they often let another plant grow a stalk or trunk and then essentially hitch hike-up that plant. This method conserves time and energy for the vine.

To climb up things, vines have evolved some interesting ways of attaching themselves. There are three basic methods or types of vines: clingers, twiners, and winders. The clingers are vines that grasp rough surfaces by means of rootless or adhesive disks. This type of vine includes English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*). These vines can be difficult to remove, and their roots can loosen mortar between bricks or concrete blocks in masonry walls. Twining vines climb by encircling upright vertical supports (such as a tree). Confederate jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) is a common twining vine. Lastly, there are the winder vines. These vines climb by means of tendrils. Tendrils come in many forms and sizes. They wind themselves around supporting structures in response to friction. Passion vine (*Passiflora caerulea*), Cross vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) and grape vines (*Vitis spp.*) are examples of winder vines.



Greenbrier and grape vines  
Photographer: Stan Rosenthal Location: Tallahassee

Interestingly, one of Florida's oddballs is the native strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*). This plant is a vine for only part of its life. First, its sticky seeds get nestled in the limbs of a host tree and the fig becomes an epiphyte. Eventually, the strangler fig becomes vine-like and sends down heavy aerial roots which strangles its host. Finally, the fig becomes a self-supporting, independent tree as it takes the place of the original host tree.

Many types of vines can grow up trees, competing for sunlight, breaking off branches, or even pulling trees over. So, while vines can add beauty to trees, it is important to watch vines and trim them from time

to time to keep them from causing damage. The simplest method is to cut them at the base when they start to get into the crown of a tree. I have found that pulling the vine out of the tree usually causes more damage than letting the vine simply decay after cutting. Of course, the vine will resprout at the base and grow up the tree again, so you need to be vigilant. Invasive species, like kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) or Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), should always be eliminated as they over-compete with native plant species to the detriment of the entire local ecosystem.

It should be noted that native vines in trees help our wildlife by providing food for animals. Cover is another important benefit of thick vines. The common greenbrier or smilax with its troublesome thorns, provides a lot of protection for songbirds. This winder vine's fruit is consumed by turkey, quail, and more than 40 songbirds. Deer and rabbits also eat its leaves. Many vines have flowers that are rich nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds; trumpet creeper is an excellent ruby-throated hummingbird plant.

Stan Rosenthal is Forest Advocate with the Florida Wildlife Federation and Extension Agent Emeritus with UF/IFAS Leon Extension.



# Climate Change: Thoughts from Generation Z

**D**uring the summertime, Floridians are reminded of the numerous benefits our state brings us during this time of the year. It is sunny and warm, the water is a perfect temperature for swimming, and coastal areas can give us a sea breeze. These conditions attract human “snowbirds” and tourists from other states and countries. While we should appreciate Florida’s beautiful climate, we should not take it for granted. It is our generation’s duty to pay attention and prevent climate change not only in Florida, but across the country and the world.



*Alison Ramos*

While Florida’s temperature right now is fairly normal, the Pacific Northwest is battling temperatures in the triple digits due to a heat wave. An analysis conducted by the World Weather Attribution group found that greenhouse gas emissions made the heat wave at least 150 times more likely to happen. Closer to home, the Gulf of Mexico caught on fire for hours due to an underwater gas pipe leak earlier this month.

How humans treat the Earth determines how we treat every living organism on this planet. It is not the next generation’s job to fix; it is our job to greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate against ongoing consequences. If we continue down our current path of destruction, the Earth will continue to experience more extreme disasters, rising sea levels, and less clean air.

Although our summer in Florida may seem like paradise at the moment, it is important to look at how our personal actions and corporations’ decisions are impacting our community and world as a whole and how it will affect our future.

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Durante el verano, se recuerda a los floridianos los numerosos beneficios que este estado nos brinda durante esta época del año. Es soleado y cálido, el agua tiene una temperatura perfecta para nadar y las zonas costeras pueden sentir la brisa del mar. Estas condiciones atraen a las personas mayores y turistas de otros estados y países. Si bien debemos apreciar el hermoso clima de Florida, no debemos darlo por

sentado. Es el deber de nuestra generación prestar atención y prevenir el cambio climático no solo en Florida, sino en todo el país y el mundo. Si bien la temperatura de Florida en este momento es bastante normal, el noroeste del Pacífico está luchando contra temperaturas de tres dígitos debido a una ola de calor. Un análisis realizado por el grupo World Weather Attribution encontró que las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero hicieron que la ola de calor ocurriera al menos 150 veces más. Más cerca de casa, el Golfo de México se incendió durante horas debido a una fuga en una tubería de gas submarina a principios de este mes. La forma en que los humanos tratan a la Tierra determina cómo tratará a todos los organismos vivos de este planeta. No es el trabajo de la próxima generación en arreglarlo; es nuestro trabajo de arreglar y prevenir el cambio climático, ya que las consecuencias están ocurriendo. Si continuamos por nuestro camino actual de destrucción, la Tierra seguirá experimentando desastres naturales más extremos, aumento del nivel del mar, y menos aire limpio.

Aunque nuestro verano en Florida puede parecer un paraíso en este momento, es importante observar cómo nuestras acciones y decisiones corporativas están impactando nuestra comunidad y el mundo en general y cómo afectarán nuestro futuro.



*Photographer: B137. Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0 Location: Miami*



## Insects: We Can't Live Without Them

Insects are all around us. With over one million known species, insects are the largest group of animals on Earth. There can be hundreds of species right in your yard! How do they breathe? How far can they fly? How do they live through winter? Why are they so important?

Insects are vital to all ecosystems. They pollinate plants and food crops, decompose plant and animal matter, help control pests and provide an essential source of food for other species.



Cardinal with insect prey

Insects don't have lungs; they take in air through holes along the sides of the abdomen. Modern insects are small and don't need a high concentration of oxygen to live. In prehistoric times, when Earth's air contained more oxygen, there were giant insects – like a dragonfly with a 2-foot wingspan!

Bees can fly up to 60 miles in a day gathering food and hundreds of species of bees contribute to pollination. Sweat bees, or “halictids” are a diverse group of important pollinators of wildflowers and crops.

Long before bees evolved, beetles were pollinating plants! Beetles are essential pollinators, especially for some ancient plant species like magnolias and



Cardinal feeding young

spicebush. Some beetles are crop pests, but others, like soldier beetles (*Chauliognathus spp.*), are beneficial, feeding on aphids and pollinating plants.

Butterflies are primary pollinators for vegetables and herbs in the carrot, legume, mint and brassica families. Some butterflies are incredible fliers, especially monarchs that travel hundreds of miles a day during migration. Many other butterflies also migrate, but over shorter distances.



Soldier beetle

Ants were on Earth with the dinosaurs, then survived the mass extinction and the Ice Age! They are incredibly strong; some can carry 50

times their own body weight. The activities of ants improve soil structure and drainage and help fix nitrogen in the soil.



Sweat bee

To prepare for winter, many insects build up glycerol in their bodies to serve as an antifreeze. While some species migrate to warmer climates, many overwinter in different stages nestled in soil, leaf litter, shrubs or trees.

Recently a coworker was wondering how to provide food for birds in her new yard. Add native plants! Birds need fat and protein provided by insects to make eggs and to feed their young. Our birds depend on a diet of native insects, which in turn, depend on native plants for their own food.

Though insects have been a hugely successful species, they are in serious decline due primarily to habitat loss and pesticides use. Our gardens and yards are places where we can make a significant difference. By providing habitats free of pesticides, with native plants full of nectar and pollen, and ample cover and nesting sites, we can benefit insects and support species and biodiversity in our rapidly growing state.





## FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S *Wild Florida Sweepstakes*

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

*Five second prize winners will receive a  
\$50 Bass Pro Shop Gift Card.*



**How to Enter:** Ticket contributions are \$5 each. Six tickets for \$25, 15 for \$50, 25 for \$100, and 50 for \$125 (the best value). Watch for your sweepstakes tickets in the mail or go online to [floridawildlifefederation.org](http://floridawildlifefederation.org).

#### FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S LOU KELLENBERGER

## 2021 PHOTO CONTEST

**T**he Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to offer the seventh year of the Lou Kellenberger FWF Photo Contest. The Contest celebrates the enjoyment of taking photos in Florida's great outdoors and promotes FWF's mission to encourage citizens to participate in sustainable outdoor recreation.

Enter your most compelling nature images and photos of Florida today at <https://floridawildlifefederation.org/>. Entries will be accepted until December 31, 2021.

Entry donations are \$5 for one photo, \$10 for 3 photos, and \$25 for 7 photos. One Overall Contest winner will be selected for the First Prize of \$300, a Second Prize winner will receive a Kindle Fire tablet, and the Kid's Contest winner will receive an outdoor backpack.

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.** This large, white wading bird stands out in a crowd, with red legs and a red curved bill.



**2.** This well-known and popular game fish is our state freshwater fish.



**3.** These colorful tubers are a great warm season crop for Florida.



*See page 14 for answers  
and more information.*

# FWF Scholarship Update

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

- Madison Harman (WEC MS student) received the graduate student FWF scholarship of \$2,000.
- Chloe Arbogast received a \$1,000 undergraduate FWF scholarship award.
- Hannah Henry received a \$1,000 undergraduate FWF scholarship award.

## Graduate Awardee

Madison Harman earned her B.S. in biology from Duke University, and volunteered in Peru assessing the biodiversity and abundance of native herpetofauna and also spent a semester in Costa Rica with the Organization for Tropical Studies. Madison became



Madison Harman

passionate about invasive species management, and currently manages python removal data for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's PATRIC program. Her master's program involves collaborating with USGS to further investigate the impacts of invasive tegus in South Florida.

## Undergraduate Awardees

Hannah Henry's work specializes in avian behavioral ecology and conservation, with her current project analyzing vocal complexity in perching songbirds, and the landscape of highly useful social information they produce. She is interested in animal care, research, and



Hannah Henry

environmental education. Hannah has volunteered with the Aquatic Animal Health Program, based at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, and with NOAA, developing learning opportunities for middle school students at the Nature Coast Biological Station.

Chloe Arbogast is currently a junior at UF majoring in wildlife ecology and conservation with a concentration on management. Her main passion is avian ecology, and she hopes to do her own research on how urbanization affects migratory birds and has learned countless field techniques and how we can protect bird communities.



Chloe Arbogast



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

<https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=013403> You may also send your donation to the FWF office. P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, Florida 32314. Attn. Michelle

## Answers to FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

**1.** The adult American white ibis has black tipped wings, a red face and legs and a downcurved, pink bill used to probe the ground for food. Ibis live throughout most of Florida, mainly in coastal marshes and wetlands, but you can also see them in parks and yards. They eat crabs, crayfish, fish, snakes, frogs and insects. Their population is declining due to the loss of wetland habitat and freshwater feeding areas.

**2.** The Florida largemouth bass is found statewide in lakes and rivers. Its upper jaw extends beyond the rear edge of the eye. The babies, called fry, eat microscopic zooplankton. Adults eat a variety of fish, crustaceans and larger insects.

**3.** Sweet potatoes can have flesh of yellow, orange, or even purple. They're a tasty source of vitamins A and C. The young leaves and shoots can provide a good source of tender and mild-tasting leafy greens through the hot Florida summer.

*How Did You Do, Florida Kid?*





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**New Life Member:**

Robert Cornell, *Clearwater*

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**“ FWF’s mission is to conserve  
Florida’s wildlife, habitat,  
and natural resources through  
education, advocacy and  
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Animal: Barred Owl

Location: Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

Photographer: Barbara Woodmansee

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