



# Florida Fish & Wildlife News

Volume 36, Issue 4  
Fall 2021

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

## FWF *Annual Awards*

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## History Repeats Itself



It is well known that many unsuspecting people in the 1920's bought land in Florida only to find out later that the purchase was swampland best appreciated by alligators. Since then, laws have been passed to prevent such transgressions, but now rising sea levels are creating a similar scenario. I would encourage members of this organization and others to review Flood Factor, a free online tool created by the nonprofit First Street Foundation. Floridians can assess their property's risk of flooding and understand how flood risks are growing due to climate change. A considerable amount of that flooding will occur within our lifetimes and impact us and future generations.

While some cities, such as Miami, have begun a few projects designed to address current flooding, governmental agencies do not have the resources to provide funding to safeguard established communities on a large scale. That said, we continue to build new communities, and create additional infrastructure on land which will be inundated before the mortgage is paid off. Purchasers are often unaware of these issues as Florida law presently does not require disclosure of past flood damage, nor does it mandate disclosure of projected flood conditions.

It's not just coastal properties that are at risk; areas well inland are being flooded by overflowing canals that no longer function as designed. Residents of Miramar, in western Broward

County, are seeing this phenomenon firsthand. Canals which had relied on gravity to drain floodwaters to the ocean are becoming less effective as canals are being blocked by sea level rise. On the other side of the state, Yankeetown, a rural community on the Gulf Coast, has seen large tracts of upland trees dying due to saltwater intrusion. These circumstances do, however, provide an opportunity to take action to preserve flood-prone natural areas from further development.

*“We have been steadfast proponents of land preservation.”*

Our organization and President, Preston Robertson, have been steadfast proponents of land preservation, whether it be by perpetual conservation easement, outright purchase by governmental agencies, or flood plain ordinances barring development in areas we know will be compromised. By leaving these areas in a wild state, we will benefit wildlife, the environment, and unsuspecting purchasers. Nor will the taxpayers of this state be asked to pay for the protection and possible rebuilding of homes, businesses, and infrastructure from the consequences of ongoing development in areas affected by this totally foreseeable flood risk.

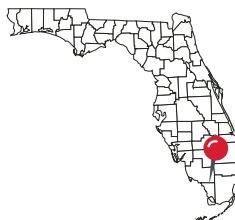
## Cover Photo

Photographer: Alfredo Torres

Animal: Egret

Location: Big Cypress National Preserve

A white egret looking for food within cypress trees.



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Animal: Egret; Photographer: Alfredo Torres; Location: Big Cypress National Preserve - A white egret looking for food within cypress trees.

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# We Can Do it – Climate Change Solutions

**T**here is absolutely no doubt now that our world is heating up and the cause is our use of fossil fuels that emit greenhouse gases. Severe weather, environmental degradation, rising seas, mass migrations and expensive mitigation actions are now part of everyday life.



*Preston Robertson*

While climate change presents complex problems, both societal and economic, we must not lose sight of the fact that the Earth is the only place we as humans can live. Moreover, to not address this crisis is to leave our children and future generations with a planet that is very much diminished and less habitable.

While some believe there is a political component to this issue, there really shouldn't be. All of us, no matter party affiliation, are and will be impacted by a failure to act. History shows us that we can join together and combat what we have wrought.

In the 1970's and 1980's, acid rain caused by coal-burning power plants spewing sulfur dioxide were wiping out vast forests and fish died in almost uncountable

numbers. This led to international agreements to curb pollution from these sources and the creation of a cap and trade system to reduce both sulfur and nitrogen. Harmful emissions have dropped drastically as a result in North America and Europe. Where these regulations were opposed, especially in Asia, acid rain continues to fall.

In 1985, the ozone layer began to thin, creating a hole,

thereby exposing the planet to harmful ultraviolet radiation. The Montreal Protocol, signed in 1987, phased out the use of ozone depleting chemicals, especially CFC's (chlorofluorocarbons). While it took some years, this action started to heal the ozone layer, which size peaked in 2000. The hole has decreased in scope every year since.

Automobiles used to run on leaded gasoline, and this lead caused heart attacks, strokes and mental health problems. By the 1980's, developed nations, including the U.S., had banned leaded fuels by agreement of both government and industry. Since then, the vast majority of countries around the globe have banned lead in gasoline.

We can learn from these past successes. Yes, we seem to be addicted to fossil fuels, but change is already taking place in the form of solar and wind energy and electric cars. By having a plan that greatly incentivizes renewable energy production and use, we can become the leader of the world in transitioning to a cleaner and healthier economy and environment.



*Photographer: Brian Kamprath    Location: Orlando Wetlands Park*





# Dear Federation Members and Supporters:

As we move into the fall and winter seasons, it is hoped we will all get to enjoy the outdoors in cooler weather. Try to find some time to just take a walk in the woods or go bird watching. Time spent in the real world and off the computer is always a nice change of pace.

Here's some good news: approximately 20,000 acres of natural land and working ranches were recently perpetually protected by the Governor and Cabinet. The purchases were made with money from the federal American Rescue Plan, which is a one-time appropriation. Properties in these transactions include a 1,600-acre addition to the existing Devil's Garden Florida Forever project in Hendry County, which will aid the Florida panther.

Also, over 2,000-acres were added to Blackwater River State Forest in Santa Rosa County, the site of reestablishment of the native long leaf pine ecosystem that once dominated the state. In Central Florida, the 4,300 Corrigan Ranch was protected in Osceola County, and over 6,500 acres in Indian River and Martin Counties. Moreover, 1,600 acres were conserved in Hardee County and 3,200 acres in Okeechobee County. Lastly, a small 63-acre tract was perpetually protected by a conservation easement at Millstone Plantation near Tallahassee to

protect significant archeological sites, some 10,000 years old.

All of the above-cited lands provide open space, water recharge to our aquifer and essential wildlife habitat, as well as public recreation. While we are delighted with these actions by the state, it must be remembered that

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*“Here's some good news: approximately 20,000 acres of natural land and working ranches were recently perpetually protected by the Governor and Cabinet.”*

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expenditures such as these would not have happened without this singular federal support.

The Legislature continues to ignore the will of 75% of voters who supported Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Constitutional Amendment in 2014, which specifically directed that the Florida Forever program be adequately funded. As Florida grows in population, and more land is developed, we must conserve our forests, ranches, and wetlands to keep Florida a special

and sustainable place to live.

As to Amendment 1, our litigation against the Legislature and state agencies for mispending millions of dollars continues. On October 27, 2021, a court hearing on this important matter was held; we seek a bright line test on how this money can actually be spent. Please note that the money is housed in the “Land Acquisition Trust Fund.” Over the years, it has been spent on a wide variety of state expenditures having nothing to do with land protection.

We also continue our fight to save the famed Apalachicola River and stop the degradation of our remaining wetlands statewide. Wetlands act not only as significant wildlife habitats but provide water storage and supply the underground aquifers from which we all drink.

The next Legislative Session commences January 11, 2022. We need to keep up the drumbeat for clean water and land conservation in our rapidly developing state.

Many thanks to all who support keeping Florida a wonderful place to live. Please contact your legislators before and during the Legislative Session and tell them we want a state with thriving habitats, clean and abundant waters and sustainable outdoor recreation.

Thank you for your support.  
Happy holidays!



## Call for 2022 Conservation Awards Nomination

The Florida Wildlife Federation is again calling for nominations for the **2022 Annual Conservation Awards Program**, the oldest conservation awards program in the state. A list of the achievements of nominees should include organizational memberships and affiliations, published papers, news clippings and other references, along with a narrative describing the accomplishments of the nominee. You may also include letters of support.

You must be an FWF member to make a nomination. Nominations will be accepted through January 14, 2022, and should be submitted to: Michelle Forman, Florida Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 6870, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870, or via e-mail [michelle@fwfonline.org](mailto:michelle@fwfonline.org).



*Photographer: Staci Doucett; Location: Panama City Beach; Animal: White-Tailed Deer*





## Manatees Struggling to Survive

In 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) declared the West Indian manatee no longer endangered and downlisted the species to threatened. Now they are dying at a record pace. Between January and June 2021, 833 West Indian manatees died of starvation, the highest number ever recorded in Florida during a six-month period. Sadly, in 2021, we will likely see the highest mortality rate on record, with nearly 1,000 manatees dying.

Ongoing water quality problems in Florida's estuaries, one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet, have led to a widespread loss of seagrass, the manatee's main food source. Although manatees also face grave threats from toxic blooms of red tide, habitat loss, and boat strikes, the majority of manatee deaths are now related to starvation.

For the past several years, ongoing nutrient pollution associated with fertilizers, neglected septic tanks and municipal sewer lines have triggered harmful algal blooms that cloud Florida's historically crystal-clear

estuaries, preventing sunlight from reaching the seagrass beneath the surface. As a result, since 2009, the Indian River Lagoon has lost 58% of its seagrass and since 2012, Tampa Bay has lost 13%. Between 2018 and 2020, Sarasota Bay lost 18%.

Fortunately, we have Members of Congress who recognize the urgency to act now as manatees are in grave danger. The Manatee Protection Act, a bi-partisan effort led by Representatives Vern Buchanan and

Darren Soto, seeks to reclassify the manatee to endangered. FWF supports the legislation, and we need your voice to apply pressure on the federal government to act swiftly to prevent further tragic die-offs. Take action today and support the uplisting of the West Indian manatee to endangered.

Please go to:  
<https://floridawildlifefederation.org/manatee-campaign/>



Photographer: Kay Wells; Location: Crystal River; Animal: Manatee

## Free the Ocklawaha River

For too many decades, the Ocklawaha River, its hidden springs and 7,500 acres of forested wetlands have been suffocated by the Rodman Dam. FWF, a member of the Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition for Everyone (FORCE), continues to pressure the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and St. Johns River Water

Management (SJRWMD) to move forward on breaching the dam. Indeed, FWF has proposed the dam's removal or breaching for many years as an unwanted relic of the ill-fated and defunct Cross Florida Barge Canal project.

The preferred restoration proposal involves breaching the dam structure at the natural river channel and

removing 1,000 feet on each side of the dam structure. By doing this partial breach, we maintain some of the infrastructure to serve as a fishing and viewing platform.

In October, the SJRWMD opened an online public comment process along with several focus group

*continued on next page*

## Free the Ocklawaha River *continued*

meetings. FWF, along with our FORCE partners, rallied the public to submit comments in favor of restoring the Ocklawaha River. Our collective goal was 10,000 comments submitted and at the time of writing this article, approximately 10,500 comments were submitted. More significantly, during this process, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service submitted comments in favor of restoration with the goal of providing quality natural habitat for manatees.

Freeing the Ocklawaha River and breaching the dam has regional significance. This fabled river is the heart of the proposed Great Florida Riverway, a 217-mile river 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.



Ocklawaha River



### *Featured Animal*

## Florida Native – Seminole Bat

**R**esiding in every Florida County, the Seminole bat (*Lasiurus seminolus*) is a migratory species which moves around the South as the weather changes. Weighing only about 4 ounces and with a 13-inch wingspan, these bats prefer to roost in Spanish moss, usually shaded from the sun and on the western side of oak trees. Emerging at dusk, they forage for insects among or above the crown of trees and over water, consuming a variety of flying insects and sometimes ground-dwelling crickets. Baby bats, born in May or June, can fly at only three to four weeks of age. Our Seminole bats, like all bats, are wonderful and natural pest eradicators. Even those who did not attend Florida State University get to enjoy these wonderful night flyers.







## Restoration at the Picayune Strand State Forest

**H**istorically, the Picayune Strand State Forest (PSSF) was a hydric forest that sustained wetland communities like cypress swamps, pine flatwoods and wet prairies for several months throughout the year. In the 1960s, an ill-fated real estate development known as Southern Golden Gate Estates in western Collier County commenced there. The failed attempt to create the “largest subdivision in the world” resulted in draining nearly 85 square miles of wetlands in the region that is now known as PSSF. After the development failed, the region had been left with a road and canal system that drastically altered the local hydrology and detrimentally affected the region’s natural communities and wildlife.

Both State and Federal agencies recognized the need to acquire and restore the region. Hence, PSSF was acquired and, in 2007, the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP) began. PSRP is the first Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project to begin construction and now additional restoration benefits are finally being realized on a landscape scale.

Currently, even though over 80% of the costs to restore PSSF have already been expended, only 30% of the ecological benefits were being realized. This led Charlette Roman, Governing Board member for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), to ask what could be done to advance the ecological benefits before the



*Picayune Strand State Forest*



*Picayune Strand State Forest*

anticipated PSRP completion in 2025.

To answer that question, eyes turned to the Faka Union Pump Station, the largest of the three PSRP pumps. This pump had been

completed in 2017, but had not been used because parts of the Faka Union Canal still needed to be filled.

As a result of Roman’s inquiry, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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(ACOE), who are partners with the SFMWD on the PSRP, moved forward with filling in 3.3 miles of canals in the north central region of Picayune Strand. With those canals plugged and sufficient water supply from the region, the SFWMD was finally able to turn on the Faka Union Pump Station in July 2021.

Up until this point, only one of the three pump stations, the Merritt Pump, was moving water south across the landscape. Now, after



*Faka Union Pump Station*



*Charlotte Roman "Flipping the Switch"*

Roman officially 'flipped the switch' to activate the Faka Union Pump Station, the largest of the three pump stations is operational and the wetlands south of the Faka Union Pump are receiving immediate restoration benefits, truly a milestone for Everglades restoration.

The Forest is already seeing improvements as an array of native wildlife have returned to the former

Southern Golden Gate Estates development site. At project completion, PSSF will be wetter in the summer, not be as dry in the winter, and afford a diverse and dynamic matrix of wetlands, marshes and upland wildlife habitats.

**A restored Picayune Strand brings us one step closer to a restored Western Everglades.**

A video of the historic start of the Faka Union Pump station can be viewed at the SFWMD Vimeo page here: <https://vimeo.com/571795671>.

#### *PHOTO CREDITS*

*South Florida Water Management District Big Cypress Basin*



## *Featured Natural Area*

### **Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park**

Encompassing over 43,000 acres of land and water, Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park is truly a treasure in Southwest Florida. Containing mangroves, fresh and saltwater marshes, salt flats and pine flatwoods, as well as prehistoric shell middens, the Park provides a home to many wading birds and fish species. Moreover, otters, alligators and hawks, such as the red-shouldered, reside here.

Importantly, the Park protects approximately 80 miles of coastline from development and pollution. Pine Island Sound, Matlacha Pass and Gasparilla Sound aquatic preserves are all part of the Park. Nearby are Caya Costa State Park and Don Pedro State Park. Boating, kayaking, fishing and birding are popular activities at Charlotte Harbor, with this site being listed on the Great Florida Birding Trail. 12301 Burnt Store Rd., Punta Gorda, FL 33955; 941 575-5861.



*Photographer: John Furlong; Animal: Great Blue Heron*



## Things That Grow in Trees

A forest is really a community of plants and animals. Within this large community are smaller groups of living things that grow together. Even an individual tree often has an association of plants that exist with it. Some are easily seen, like Spanish moss, while others are not as noticeable. Many of these plants are harmless to the tree.

Spanish moss is commonly found throughout Florida, most often located on trees in wet to dry hammocks. It is a close relative of the pineapple and is found in warm humid climates like ours. This moss is an epiphyte, an organism that requires the host only for support and protection and does not feed directly from the tree but obtains its nutrients from the air and rain. Each bundle of moss is made up of a mass of long slender, gray-green filaments. These filaments are stems and leaves of the plant and produce food through photosynthesis. Since the leaves of this moss require sunlight to produce its own food, it thrives in trees that are in a state of decline or have less vigorous growth. Since Spanish moss uses the tree only as a place to grow, it does not cause the tree to decline or die. That said, where it is really thick, it may compete with the tree for sunlight, but if it is that thick, there is probably something else seriously affecting the tree. A healthy vigorous tree is not affected.

Spanish moss spreads by wind and birds. Many species of birds and some bats use it for nesting material, so it is good to have around.

Resurrection fern is another epiphyte that is found on rough



Spanish Moss Photographer: Phil Gornicki

barked trees, especially live oak. Like the Spanish moss, this epiphyte only uses the tree for support and protection. It can grow where there is little soil to store water and survives dry spells by going into



Resurrection Fern Photographer: Phil Gornicki

dormancy and then "greening up" when rain returns, hence the name. Broken branches containing the fern can be decoratively placed in gardens and if you desire the brown crinkled up leaves to be lush and green, simply spray the fern with water.

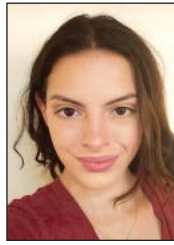
Lichens are a gray-green type of mossy growth often found growing on the bark of trees. This plant is not parasitic. It is a combination of alga and fungus growing together. The lichen is a green plant and produces food through photosynthesis. The fungus protects the alga and keeps it moist, while the alga supplies food for the fungus. Like the resurrection fern and Spanish moss, lichen is harmless to the host tree.

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



# Green Holiday Traveling: *Thoughts from Generation Z*

**A**s the holiday season approaches, friends and families are eager to spend time with one another as the year comes to an end. Whether you are traveling to another state to spend the holidays or you are staying close to home and celebrating New Year's Eve down the street, there are numerous transportation options that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



*Alison Ramos*

While traveling by airplane for the holidays is tempting, a single mile in the sky produces about 53 pounds of carbon dioxide. To put this into perspective, more than 65 tons of carbon dioxide is generated from a flight from New York City to Los Angeles. In comparison, traveling by train only emits about .2 pounds of greenhouse gases per passenger mile. However, transportation options that are better for the environment are not exclusive to long-distance travel.

Even if one's gatherings are down the street this year, walking to a neighbor's house on foot does not create any greenhouse gas emissions, whereas driving will. While the short drive to the celebration may seem insignificant and harmless, a typical vehicle produces about 4.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. By ditching the car when going to close-by locations, we can do our part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The holidays are a special time for many people. They are a time of appreciation, love, joy, and togetherness. It is important that while we enjoy these special moments with those we care about, we stay mindful of our planet and how we treat it.

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A medida que se acerca la temporada navideña, los amigos y las familias están ansiosos por pasar tiempo juntos cuando el año llega a su fin. Ya sea viajar a otro estado para pasar las vacaciones con la familia o quedarse cerca de casa y celebrar la víspera de Año Nuevo en la calle. Existen numerosas opciones de transporte que pueden reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero.

Si bien viajar en avión durante las vacaciones es tentador, una sola milla en el cielo produce alrededor de 53 libras de dióxido de carbono. Para poner esto en perspectiva, más de 65 toneladas de dióxido de carbono

se generan en un vuelo desde la ciudad de Nueva York a Los Ángeles. En comparación, viajar en tren solo emite alrededor de 0,2 libras de gases de efecto invernadero por pasajero y milla. Sin embargo, las opciones de transporte que son mejores para el medio ambiente no son exclusivas de los viajes de larga distancia.

Incluso si las reuniones de uno son en la calle este año, caminar a la casa de un vecino no genera ninguna emisión de gases de efecto invernadero, mientras que conducir sí lo hará. Si bien el corto viaje en auto hasta la celebración puede parecer insignificante e inofensivo, un vehículo típico produce aproximadamente 4.6 toneladas métricas de dióxido de carbono al año. Al no usar el automóvil cuando vamos a lugares cercanos, podemos hacer nuestra parte para reducir nuestras emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero.

Las vacaciones son un momento especial para muchas personas. Es un momento de aprecio, amor, alegría y unión. Es importante que mientras disfrutamos de estos momentos especiales con aquellos que nos importan, estemos conscientes de nuestro planeta y de cómo lo tratamos.



*Photographer: Yoelis Diaz; Location: Homestead; Animal: Grey Squirrel*



## Becoming Environmentally Aware

Do you remember what grabbed your imagination in early outdoor experiences? Or what piqued the curiosity of young people in your life when exploring the natural world? Time spent with birds, bugs, trees, rivers and lakes helps many of us develop a love of the outdoors and become conservation advocates.

For many young people now, nature can seem like something “out there” or far away. They might see wildlife and wild places only on screens. Especially in urban areas it



*Web of Life by Todd Ireland*

can be hard for kids to connect even to the natural world right around them. Yet that connection can be essential to developing an understanding and appreciation of our life-sustaining environment.

FWF supports environmental education for Floridians young and old; we believe it's a great way to inspire people to protect our world. When people gain a deeper knowledge and appreciation of nature, they are more likely to become conservation stewards and take action to make a positive difference.

We face complex and critical environmental problems and need dedicated people with the necessary skills to work on solutions. Education and awareness can be a path to those skills. The benefits of



*Schoolyard Safari by Project Learning Tree*

environmentally-focused education for K-12 students have been widely confirmed by studies showing students' improvement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) performance, critical thinking, confidence and leadership.

FWF has been pleased to partner with Project Learning Tree (PLT), one of the most widely used PreK-12 environmental education programs in the United States and abroad. PLT is a program of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and offers high-quality instructional materials and creative professional development training. PLT activities cover a wide range of topics from forests, wildlife and water, to community planning, waste management and energy. These



*Adopt a Tree by Project Learning Tree*

activities can be integrated into lesson plans for all grade levels and subject areas, especially STEM, reading,

writing, and social studies, making them easy for teachers to use.

Hands-on activities that get kids outside make teaching and learning more fun. One PLT activity takes a group outside to look and listen closely for signs of animals and plants in and around trees and gather data on their observations. This leads to discussions of trees, habitats and connections between organisms.

Another activity guides each student to research plants and animals in their habitats. Students take the



*Field measurements by Jessica Ireland*

role of a plant or animal to learn how all are connected in a living web. Even younger kids quickly see what happens if any element in the web is taken away.

Programs like PLT get young people outside, actively participating in learning. These experiences help develop greater appreciation of the environment and encourage young people to see a role for themselves in conserving and restoring Florida's natural resources.

Marney Richards has been a facilitator with Project Learning Tree since 2019. She was named Facilitator of the Year for 2021.

**CONGRATULATIONS, MARNEY!**





## 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!

**amazon**smile  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

## FLORIDA WILDLIFE Kids' Quiz

by Marney Richards

**1.** I might look like a turtle, but I live on land. Please don't put me in the water – I can't swim. Who am I?



**2.** These small owls are about the size of a robin and make a spooky-sounding trill at night that might help you locate them.



**3.** These beneficial insects, in the Order Odonata, are fast fliers that eat other insects like mosquitos and flies.



*See page 14 for answers  
and more information.*

# There is a Way to Help

Let me introduce myself. My name is Rick Abbott. I am a hunter, fisherman, explorer, kayaker, financial advisor, FWF board member, boater, but most importantly, I am a husband and a father. In these difficult and changing times it is very challenging to raise a family with proper values. This task is made easier by enjoying the Florida outdoors together as a family. Whether it is boating and exploring the Chattahoochee River, fishing off the beach at St. George Island State Park or spending a cold December morning in a deer stand, these are activities that are crucial to teaching my children about life.



Rick Abbott

Preserving Florida's natural habitats are crucial for current and future generations. I know that while I am working my 8-5 job, FWF is constantly pursuing ways to keep the

environment healthy and natural for all of Florida's citizens.

I have included FWF in my will. I want to make sure that my children and their children can enjoy the same Florida that their parents and grandparents experienced. Please consider FWF in your financial planning.

*Please join with Rick 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 Rick'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.



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.** Gopher tortoises are terrestrial animals, meaning they live only on land. They use their shovel-like feet to dig burrows in the sand and then share their burrows with hundreds of other species! The long burrows provide shelter and protection for all inside.

**2.** Eastern screech owls often find a tree cavity to rest in during the day. Their gray and brown feathers blend in well, making them very hard to spot. They range throughout Florida in woods, parks and suburbs. Screech owls regurgitate the bones, fur and feathers of their prey in an oval pellet. The ground below an owl roost can be full of pellets, giving you clues about the owl's diet.

**3.** Dragonflies can fly at speeds up to 30 miles per hour. Their speed assists them in avoiding predators like birds and frogs and helps them catch their prey. We are lucky to have over 100 species in Florida. Dragonflies are fun to watch and provide organic pest control in our gardens.

*How Did You Do, Florida Kid?*





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**“ FWF’s mission is to conserve  
Florida’s wildlife, habitat,  
and natural resources through  
education, advocacy and  
science-based stewardship.”**

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*Animal: Tricolored Heron; Location: Pelican Bay  
Community Park; Photographer: Susan Leach Snyder*

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## Florida Fish & Wildlife News

Florida Wildlife Federation – Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation



Photographer: Dino De Rosalia    Animal: Great horned owl    Location: Port Charlotte