

Summer 2020

# THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I hope this email finds you and your family safe. 2020 continues to be a turbulent year, bringing daily changes and challenges into our lives. Rather than feeling overwhelmed by the upheaval in our personal lives and the world around us, I encourage each of you to use this time for reflection both internally and professionally. This unique opportunity to identify areas needing improvement and to make those adjustments allows us to emerge as a stronger organization with a unified platform. Newly formed committees and research groups will allow all members to contribute their talents towards our most pressing issues.

Our Spring Conference was cancelled as a result of the global pandemic, but I remain proud of our Diversity in Wildlife theme. As critical as this topic felt in April, it is increasingly pressing and I look forward to bringing an expanded and deeper delve into inclusivity when we are able to reconvene. Ongoing events only strengthen our commitment to make our organization diverse and inclusive for all environmental professionals, and more reflective of our state's population. The Society continually looks for new opportunities to welcome underrepresented groups through outreach efforts, mentorships, and scholarships, and we rely on our members to identify new avenues. Our strength lies in diversity, and only through a collection of varying perspectives will we advance our mission as a voice for wildlife conservation and management.

Florida's continued population growth remains in our organization's focus, placing an ever-growing demand on our state's natural resources. Latest projections show that on average 300,000 people are moving to Florida annually, a number we've seen since 2014 and not too dissimilar since the late 80's. Our state is a desirable place to live, requiring that realistic and meaningful conservation efforts account for continued growth. New development and accompanying traffic and transportation needs are everywhere, and taking a farsighted and thoughtful approach to this expansion is the

only option. Just last year, 2019 Senate Bill 7068 was brought forward as a transportation bill that proposed using the construction of new highways to facilitate the expansion and growth of rural communities.

The Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) program was established and signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis on May 17, 2019. Under this initiative the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is exploring the possibility of constructing three (3) new toll roads throughout predominately rural areas of Florida. The roads are currently identified as Suncoast Connector, Northern Turnpike Connector, and the Southwest-Central Florida Connector. If undertaken, this will be the state's most significant highway building project since the 1950's. The concept is to build the 150-mile Heartland Parkway (Southwest-Central Florida Connector) from Lakeland to Naples. The Suncoast Connector would extend the turnpike 40 miles north/west to link I-75 with the Suncoast Parkway. The final project would be to extend the Suncoast Parkway 150 miles north to Georgia. In all, the three projects are anticipating nearly 350 miles of new highways along the west coast of Florida.

We must remain educated and engaged on this issue. As an organization, FLTWS should be the recognized source for scientific and non-partisan positions on environmental topics, particularly in a world playing increasingly loose with facts. Each of these road systems has their own issues ranging from environmental to socio-economic, and I encourage each of you to become familiar with the proposed roads and get involved. Recently, FLTWS shared a notice from the Florida Wildlife Federation regarding these upcoming meetings, many of which will be conducted online due to Covid-19 concerns. There are a number of upcoming FDOT M-CORES events that will give interested individuals and organizations the opportunity to hear about the plans and weigh-in with their thoughts on the matter. Florida M-CORES and FDOT both have quite a bit of

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tim O'Meara started his wildlife career as an undergraduate in wildlife biology at the University of Michigan. He then completed a Master's Degree at Colorado State University in wildlife ecology before moving to Florida in 1978. That move was to start a position as staff research biologist in the Department of Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Florida, earning \$10,000 per year. What had originally be planned as maybe a couple years of bass fishing before going back out west., turned 42 years as of 2020.

The 8 years experience in wild-Florida gave Tim an under-the role of science in natural switched to the management and Frank Montalbano offered gional nongame wildlife biolo-Nongame Wildlife Program of Fish Commission. A year later and moved to Tallahassee. As sources Chief, Tim supervised gator management, black bear endangered species conserva-face Water Improvement Act ment, and waterfowl manage-



life research at the University of standing of and appreciation for resource management. In 1986, he side of the field when Vic Heller Tim one of the five original regist positions in the newly formed the Florida Game and Fresh Water Tim had moved to administration the first Bureau of Wildlife Re-statewide programs including alli-management, deer management, tion, small-game management, Sur- coordination, wild turkey manage- ment. After ten years in this role

and the reorganization into the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tim became the Wildlife Research Section Leader, supervising all wildlife research programs in the agency except marine mammals. Tim viewed his responsibilities as an administrator as fourfold: to help his employees stay out of trouble, to ensure their work addressed agency priorities, to ensure the quality of their work products, and, most importantly, to facilitate his employees' achieving their objectives.

Tim became a member of The Wildlife Society in 1974, a member of the Florida Chapter in 1978, and a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 1980. As a Florida Chapter member, Tim has served on the Executive Board as president-elect, president, and past president and on Forest Management, Nominations, and Scholarship committees. For the past 15 years, he chaired the Awards Committee. While the diversity of wildlife species, habitats, and issues Tim has worked on throughout his career in Florida has been rewarding, what he says he appreciated most are the people he has worked with and come to know as coworkers and friends. Participating in the activities of the Florida Chapter, both professional and social, played a major role in facilitating the formation and maintenance of these relationships. All-in-all, Tim feels he has been fortunate to live the career he dreamed of as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan.

*Want to highlight a program, project, or member? Send photos and a short description to: the editor, Jen Korn at [jennifer.korn@fltws.org](mailto:jennifer.korn@fltws.org)*

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Visit the Florida Chapter website at <http://www.fltws.org>

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Sponsorship Opportunity to Attend the NAFWS Annual Conference

The **Native American Fish & Wildlife Society**, a national organization, holds a conference each year to bring together fish and wildlife managers, technicians, conservation law enforcement officers, biologists and others who are dedicated to preserving and enhancing tribal natural resources. The 2020 conference, hosted by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, was scheduled to take place in Miami on 4-7 May 2020. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was postponed until November 2020.

Having this event in Florida provides a unique opportunity to increase linkages between our chapter and NAFWS. Accordingly, FLTWS will sponsor registration for one FLTWS member to attend the conference. The registration fee for the event is \$350 for members or \$450 for non-members. If you're interested in pursuing this opportunity, please send an essay describing your primary reasons for wanting to attend and your ideas on how we could increase engagement with the Native American natural resource management community (250-500 words) to [holly.ober@fltws.org](mailto:holly.ober@fltws.org).

More information on the conference can be found here: <https://nafws.org/2020-38th-annual-nafws-national-conference>.

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*Continued from page 1*

information, and of course there is wide-reaching amount of information available on the internet. As wildlife professionals we feel strongly that Florida's desirability rests on our amazing natural ecosystems, making environmental protection also of economic importance. This development is coming, and we must position our organization to ensure that Florida's growth prioritizes meaningful and long-term conservation planning. As such, we are looking for people to participate in a new committee focused specifically on this issue.

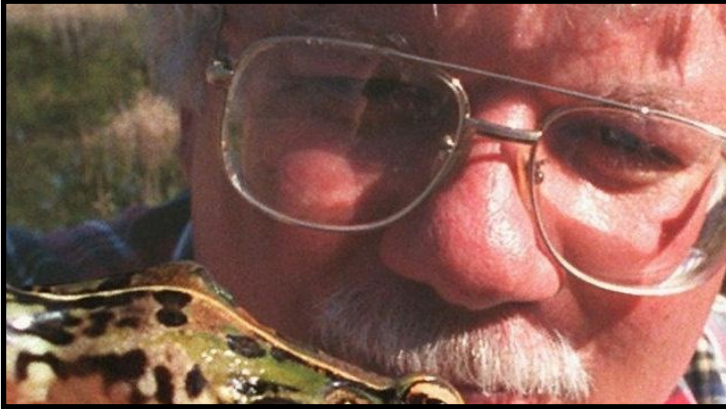
If you are interested and want to be involved in the M-CORES study, please contact me at [mark.ausley@fltws.org](mailto:mark.ausley@fltws.org).



Sincerely,  
Mark Ausley  
President, FLTWS



## IN MEMORIAM



**Dr. George Tanner (Professor Emeritus, University of Florida Wildlife Ecology and Conservation)** died early August 1 of liver cancer only weeks after being diagnosed with an advanced case. Tanner received a BS and MS from the University of Central Florida and a PhD from Texas A&M in Range Science. Dr. Tanner worked in UF/IFAS from 1978-2009 in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Department of Wildlife and Range Sciences and ultimately, the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. He

worked in the fields of wildlife habitat management and restoration, management of rangeland systems, role of fire in southeastern ecosystems, and wildlife ecology. He played a leadership role in both undergraduate and graduate education for WEC, including the advising/co-advising of nearly 40 MS and PhD students. He was an active member of TWS and the FL Chapter throughout his career.

George is [remembered by his students and colleagues](#) as a dedicated, dependable, egoless faculty member. He relished his work with students. He served his department in multiple ways. He selflessly served as Interim Chair 4 times and was pleased each time to relinquish the appointments.

Carrie Sekerek, a MS student of Tanner and a dedicated FL TWS member, offered her thoughts about George. Any graduate advisor would be so honored by such praise.

"I cannot help but be positive when I think of George. Even if I am sad. At least I told him often what he meant to me, as a person and a professional mentor. No regrets there.

I think his scientific accomplishments are very important, especially in the infancy of using mechanical and chemical treatments as a fire surrogate or pre-fire treatment as Florida was leading the nation in restoring fire to long unburned ecosystems. And his work showing low-intensity cattle management for positive ecological outcomes. So much of what he did was foundational to restoration ecology 'common practices' today that we take for granted.

George's great power was his ability to translate science to the land or range manager, and the student. He was comfortable among everyone, everywhere. Ivory tower or swamps or science conferences or cattle pens. He made everyone understand by asking questions, laughing, and getting them to picture the issues and why the answers suddenly seemed so obvious.

He taught like that also. I never felt stupid. He never condescended. He was Chuluota's Socrates. Man, did he make me keep unraveling ecosystems. He taught me to think them through. He taught me to see and consider what was missing and what it did. How to measure for it, test it.

And he was so decent. He loved Loren (his wife) so much. He had integrity, and was humble, and would do anything for you. He would drive across the state 6 hours, camp next to a swamp with you and help you get your field work started, be there to trouble-shoot it with you as you got your plots started, in heat and mosquitoes and heavy cover, just to give you the support you needed. "

Please visit the University of Florida Wildlife Ecology and Conservation page honoring Dr. Tanner to read other stories or to share your own experiences.

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/wecdept/2020/08/08/honoring-the-late-george-tanner-wec-professor-emeritus/>



## IN THE FIELD

### Sand Skink Survey Season



Tracks of sand skink. Credit Bio-Tech Consulting

Springtime brings a busy time for many environmental consultants, conducting surveys for the presence of bluetail mole skinks (Federally threatened) and sand skinks (Federally endangered). Both species are endemic to Florida's central ridge and may only be surveyed from March 1st through May 15<sup>th</sup>; a narrow window to get surveys



completed each year. To conduct the survey, coverboards (a 2' x 2' square of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plywood) are placed within suitable habitat

(photo above) at a minimum density of 40 coverboards per acre. Placement and site prep are key, as each coverboard must make full contact with the soil surface. Ideal areas are bare sand or sparse vegetation adjacent to leaf litter or other detritus, where groundcover can be practically removed to expose a sandy substrate. Raking or grading of the soil is often needed to ensure full contact of the coverboard with the soil surface, while minimizing impacts to federally listed plants as applicable. Coverboards are lifted and

checked for sand skink tracks at least once per week. Each coverboard is lifted, any tracks are noted, and the top several inches of soil are raked with fingers to expose skinks, if present. After checking for tracks and skinks, the edge of the coverboard is swiped across the soil to smooth the surface, and the board is flipped over to prevent warping. In addition, during each site visit biologists look for tracks in sandy patches between coverboard locations.



Representative sand skink habitat. Credit Bio-Tech Consulting



Sand skink tracks in sand. Credit Bio-Tech Consulting



## MEETING NEWS

Though we had to cancel the spring meeting, we still hope and plan to see everyone next spring in Jacksonville. The Society would like to recognize each of our award and scholarship recipients. It is unfortunate that we were unable to do this at the conference banquet, but we do want to acknowledge their efforts to receive these honors.

### **FLTWS Award Recipients:**

Danny Bales for the FLTWS Citizen Conservation Award;  
 Dr. Dan Evans for the NGO Special Recognition Award;  
 C. Kenneth Dodd for the Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award;  
 Hannah Campbell for the Outstanding Educator Award; and  
 Reed Noss for the Herbert W. Kale, II Award.

### **FLTWS Scholarship Recipients:**

Sarah Teman for Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship  
 Keara Clancy for Undergraduate Diversity Student Scholarship  
 Catherine Frock for the Courtney A. Tye Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship  
 Tracey Tobkin for the Southeast Section TWS Field Course Tuition Award

The chapter has several vacant committees in need of members and chairs. If you have ever wanted to get engaged with the chapter this may be a great opportunity. Below, is a list of open positions. Most of these positions require bursts of action, typically associated with our spring and fall conferences. If you are interested please email Mark Ausley.

### **Awards Committee**

Positions Available: Committee Chair, Committee Member

Description: *The Awards Committee annually solicits and receives nominations from the FLTWS membership for the Chapter's awards. The Committee subsequently reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the Executive Board as to what recognitions should be awarded.*

### **Education and Information Committee**

Position Available: Committee Member

Description: *The Education and Information Committee seeks and employs methods of informing the public of basic concepts of wildlife management and of Chapter, Section, and Society activities and interests through a periodic newsletter, website, and social media.*

### **Membership Committee**

Positions Available: Committee Chair, Committee Member (2)

Description: *The Membership Committee is responsible for managing current members and increasing membership. We maintain the database of all past and current members and send out renewal reminders. When a new member joins it is our responsibility to welcome the new member, familiarize him/her with the chapter, and offer opportunities to become involved in the chapter. Retaining existing members is also a priority, so we conduct periodic surveys to evaluate member satisfaction.*

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## MEETING NEWS

### **Nominations and Elections Committee**

Positions Available: Committee Chair, Committee Member

Description: *The Nominating and Elections Committee consists of three members selected by the Executive Board. Elections are held every two years, and committee members are responsible for preparing a slate of two candidates from the Chapter membership for each of the elective positions: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Representative to the Southeastern Section, and two Members-at-Large.*

### **Audit Committee**

Positions Available: Committee Chair or Committee Chair

Description: *Review yearly report from the Treasurer and create report for the Spring Board Meeting.*

**Merchandise:** *We are also looking for someone to be responsible for our merchandise. This includes holding and maintaining inventory and purchasing new items for our store. Our merchandise is primarily sold at our conferences, but also includes online sales.*

### **Program Committee**

Positions Available: Committee Members

Description: *Plans the annual Fall and Spring Meetings. The committee is overseen by the President-Elect and President, who set the theme, invite speakers, and plan symposiums, field-trips and workshops. The Program Chair leads the committee in proposing several possible locations for each meeting, which is selected by the Executive Board. The committee then works with a planner or dedicated member volunteer to choose a suitable venue, dates, menu, social events, entertainment, and negotiate a contract with the selected site. The President-Elect and President coordinate with the Website, Membership, Education, Awards, Scholarship, Student Chapter and Fundraising committees to announce and promote the meeting. Committee members handle all onsite meeting needs including registration, merchandise, A/V management, food and entertainment, poster session, field-trip or workshop logistics, speaker needs, banquet agenda, volunteer coordination, student lodging, and printing the program.*

### **Scholarship Committee**

Positions Available: Committee Member/Reviewers

Description: *Awards the Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships, which are presented each year at the Spring Meeting. The Chair issues the announcements in the Fall to all Florida schools with Wildlife or Biology programs or other relevant departments; applications are due in early December. The Chair processes the applications, ensures they meet the requirements, and distributes them to committee members around the end of the year. Committee members review and rank the applications according to established criteria and return their results to the Chair by February 1. The Chair reviews the selection and notifies the Executive Board of the results. The award recipients are notified and a press release is issued. The Chair presents the awards in the form of a check to the recipients at the Spring Meeting, usually in April.*

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Mark Ausley [mark.ausley@fltws.org](mailto:mark.ausley@fltws.org)

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## CHAPTER NEWS—T-SHIRT CONTEST

### DESIGN THE NEXT FLTWS T-SHIRT!

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is looking for contest submissions for an ORIGINAL and UNIQUE DESIGN to be featured on a new FLTWS t-shirt!

#### Contest Rules:

- ◇ Design Guidelines:
  - \* Your design should be inspired by and/or pertain to wildlife or its conservation and management.
  - \* Your design must be within 11 x 11 inches and will be on the back of the shirt only. The FLTWS logo will be applied to the sleeve or the front breast pocket area of the t-shirt. A slogan may be submitted as incorporated into the t-shirt design. If this is the case, the slogan may be applied to the front breast pocket area of the t-shirt and the logo may be applied to the sleeve, at the discretion of FLTWS.
  - \* Your design must be wholly original. By submitting a design you are guaranteeing that you hold rights to everything in it, and that it does not contain any copyrighted material, including images/copy found on the internet, unless clearly marked as published under a creative commons (cc) license.
  - \* Digital entries only. Design submission should be saved to produce a quality output. Acceptable file formats are high resolution JPG, TIFF, GIF, PNG, Adobe Illustrator (AI), PDF, or Photoshop (PSD). Resolution should be at least 300 dpi.
  
- ◇ The contest is open to all FLTWS members, student chapter members, or their family members.
- ◇ All entrants must be 18 years or older to submit an entry. If you are under the age of 18 you may still create and submit a design, but it must be submitted on your behalf by a parent or guardian.
- ◇ You may submit up to two designs per person, but they must be submitted as separate entries.
- ◇ All entries should be submitted to [mark.ausley@fltws.org](mailto:mark.ausley@fltws.org) with the following information/statements:
  - \* Entrant name
  - \* Affiliation with FLTWS (member, student chapter member, family member of an FLTWS member (including their name))
  - \* Contact information, including:
    - ◆ Name
    - ◆ Address
    - ◆ Phone number
    - ◆ Email
  - \* Optional: Describe your inspiration for the design.
  
- ◇ The submission information must be filled out completely and truthfully. If you fail to submit the requested information completely, give any false information or fail to reveal any pertinent information, you may be disqualified from the competition.
- ◇ You must submit your design digitally by midnight ET, **December 31, 2020**.
  
- ◇ Designs will be judged on the following criteria:
  - \* Concept/originality - striking and/or memorable design
  - \* Visibility (eye-catching and visible from a reasonable distance)
  - \* Completeness of design – must be ready for print
  - \* Feasibility - must be easy to reproduce

*(continued on page 13)*



## CHAPTER NEWS—T-SHIRT CONTEST

- ◇ Entries will be judged by the FLTWS board members.
- ◇ The winner will be notified by email and/or phone at the close of the voting period, via the information provided on the entry form.
- ◇ At the sole discretion of FLTWS, disqualification, forfeiture and the selection of an alternate winner may result from any of the following:
  - \* A winner's failure to respond to notification within seven (7) business days after its transmission; the return of an email notification as undeliverable after three (3) attempts; winner's failure to provide original design files; winner's failure to execute and return a release form.
  - \* Upon contacting a winner and determining that they have met all eligibility requirements of the contest, such individual will be declared the "winner" of the contest via social post, FLTWS website, and the FLTWS e-newsletter.
- ◇ The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society will have first printing rights to the winning design. By submitting you agree that if your design wins, it can be used by The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society on a t-shirt and other promotional items, including the FLTWS website and marketing and public relations materials. In addition, FLTWS reserves the right to make adjustments to the design.
- ◇ The winner and image of the design will be recognized in our newsletter, on our website ([www.fltws.org](http://www.fltws.org)) and on social media.
- ◇ All contest decisions are made by FLTWS and are final.

**By submitting an entry, you are agreeing to all contest rules.  
If you have any questions, please email [mark.ausley@fltws.org](mailto:mark.ausley@fltws.org) .**

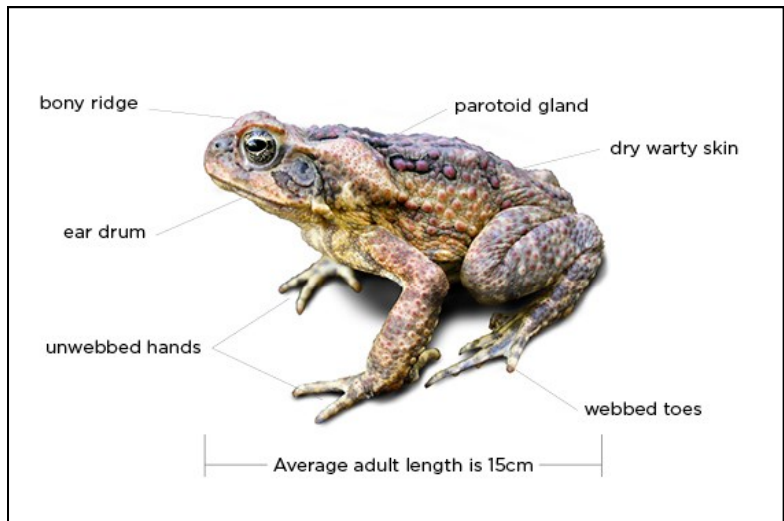


## SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

### Cane toad

(*Rhinella marina*)

**Identification:** If your dog likes to chase lizards and other critters in the backyard, be aware of the potential presence of cane toads. Classified as the largest toad in the world, the females are significantly longer than the males, and can be between 4 and 9.4 inches. The skin of the toads appears warty (bumpy) and dry, they have ridges above the eyes that go down to the snout, but lack the crests that are found between the eyes of the native southern toad. They can vary in color from gray to red-brown. The pupils are horizontal, and back feet are webbed, while front feet are not. The large parotoid gland occurs behind the eye on each side and secretes a white, thick toxin when the toad feels threatened. It is this toxin that is dangerous to pets like dogs and cats, and if ingested is often fatal.



**Distribution and Habitat:** The cane toad is native to mainland Central America and South America. It was released into Australia in 1935 in hopes it would rid them of cane beetles that were destroying crops of sugarcane. It turned out that cane toads were not good at eating cane beetles, but they were good at reproducing. They have thrived in Australia since introduction due to the presence of little to no predators. Cane toads were also introduced into the US in the 1930s related to sugarcane production but some also arrived through the pet trade. In their natural habitat, they are found in subtropical forests, but that can limit their dispersal due to the dense foliage. Cane toads are very successful in places modified by humans, like gardens and drainage ditches. Their diet consists of both live and dead matter, and they have decimated many native species in Australia and the US. They commonly eat our native Florida toads and frogs. They have a life expectancy of 10 to 15 years in the wild, with the oldest recorded being 35 years. Cane toads can lay between 8,000 to 25,000 eggs at once and the tadpoles take between 12 to 60 days to turn into juveniles.

**Threats:** Cane toads have few predators even in their native habitat. They include broad-snouted caiman, the banded cat-eyed snake, eels, catfish, and bullet ants. Humans can be another threat, but not necessarily significant if humans do not actively partake in their removal (i.e., humanely euthanizing any cane toads found). Education is key for persons living in areas where cane toads have been introduced in order to keep pets and livestock safe, and to encourage the public's assistance in removing cane toads.

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# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

**Population Status:** Because Cane toads reproduce rapidly, their population density is high., especially in areas where they have been introduced. Cane toad populations are stable and under no threats in their native habitats. Populations in Florida are stable to increasing and more education and removal assistance is advisable to protect native amphibians.

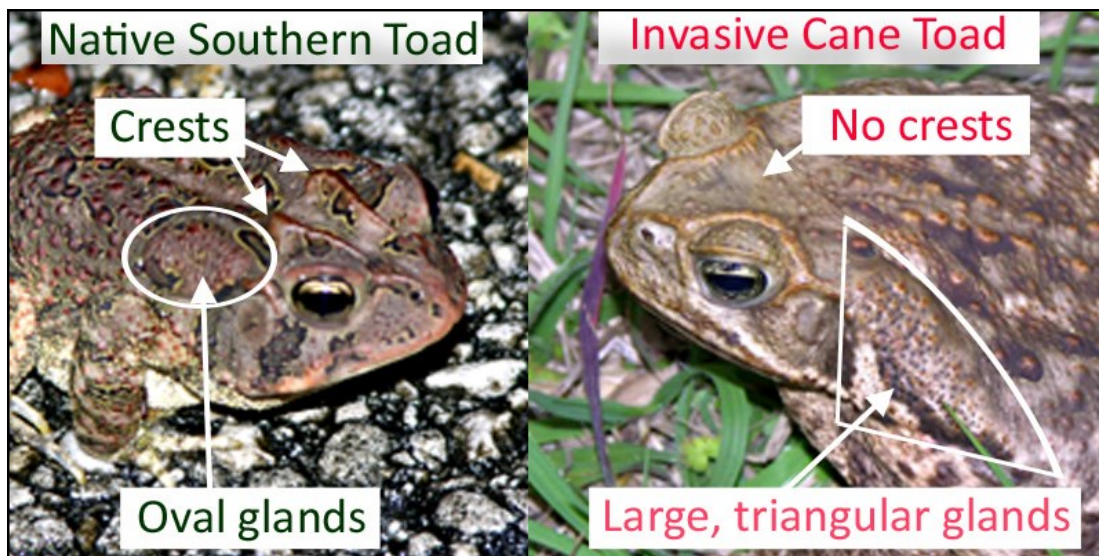


Photo by Matt Jagielski

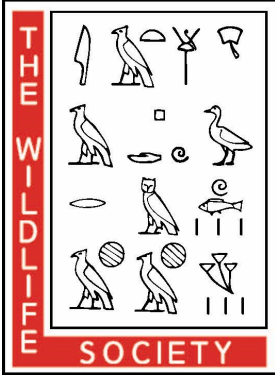
**Links for more information:**

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/06/11/cane-toads-bufo-toads-continue-spread-florida-what-know/5342297002/>

<https://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/frogs/canetoad.shtml>



# NATIONAL CHAPTER NEWS



Greetings,

The Wildlife Society recently developed a banner ad for the Associate Member edition of the eWildlifer. Associate members are individuals that are a member of a Section or Chapter but not of The Wildlife Society at the main. If interested in receiving the free monthly eWildlifer, you can sign up clicking on the banner below.

A banner advertisement for The Wildlife Society. The background is a landscape with a blue sky and green hills. A silhouette of a person is visible in the foreground. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box. On the right side of the banner, there is a smaller version of the Wildlife Society logo.

## Interested in hearing more from TWS...

Sign up [here](#) for our free, monthly edition of the *eWildlifer* — your one-stop shop for the latest wildlife news, Section and Chapter updates, TWS announcements, and more.



## MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

Stay tuned for information about the FLTWS Fall Virtual Meeting about Human Diversity in the Wildlife Profession.

## 2019-20 FLTWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### AUDIT:

Alexis Cardas  
[alexis.cardas@fltws.org](mailto:alexis.cardas@fltws.org)

### AWARDS REVIEW:

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[Tim.O'Meara@MyFWC.com](mailto:Tim.O'Meara@MyFWC.com)

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Becky Bolt  
[becky.bolt@fltws.org](mailto:becky.bolt@fltws.org)

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 Mark Ausley 407-760-9157  
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[Alexis.cardas@fltws.org](mailto:Alexis.cardas@fltws.org)

### NOMINATING & ELECTIONS:

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[erin.myers@fltws.org](mailto:erin.myers@fltws.org)

### PROGRAM:

Monica Folk  
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### WEBSITE: Mike Milleson

352-377-5556  
[mike.milleson@fltws.org](mailto:mike.milleson@fltws.org)

## PHOTO CALL



Fantastic news from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and partners, a female Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) and kitten were photographed north of the Caloosahatchee River in November 2019. You may remember that the first female panther verified north of the River since 1972 was photographed on Babcock Ranch Preserve in November 2016 and was later confirmed to have two separate litters of two kittens (survival unknown). FWC partners with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and local partners like Lee County to use remote cameras to monitor for the presence of panthers. Florida panthers are federally protected and have a current population of about 120-230 individuals with the majority found in southwest Florida. You can read more about panthers at <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/panther/> and submit your own panther photos at <https://public.myfwc.com/hsc/panthersightings/>.

Photo credit: Brian Kelly, FWC; USFWS; Lee County of Florida

*Do you have a really awesome photo from the field or from a game camera? We want to see it! Each newsletter we will feature one of our member's photos here and on the FLTWS website. Please e-mail photos with a short description to the editor, Jen Korn, at [jennifer.korn@fltws.org](mailto:jennifer.korn@fltws.org). Please indicate your permission for usage in both the newsletter and the website or newsletter only. We can't wait to see everyone's adventures!*

