

March 2013

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

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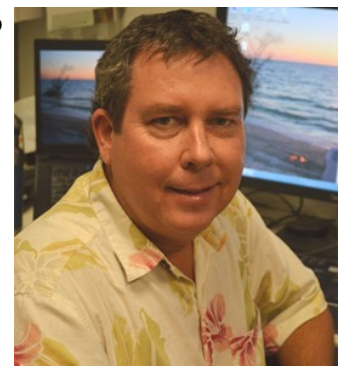
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Dale Gawlik

My term as Florida Chapter President is winding down but thankfully the pace of activity of the Chapter is not. Planning for the spring conference is in high gear and we continue to work on rekindling conservation activity and involvement in decisions that affect wildlife populations and wildlife professionals in the State of Florida. Keeping the chapter relevant, or in some cases, making the Chapter relevant, is neither an effortless nor painless process, as I was reminded of recently when the Chapter wrote a letter to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) regarding its proposed Private Lands Deer Management Program and the rule modifications of 68-A 13.004. I offer some introspection here to show how we can improve on past efforts and better execute our unique role as the professional organization of wildlife biologists in the state of Florida.

Our comments on the deer management rules exposed two issues; one procedural and one substantive. The procedural issue revolved around a better and more formal line of communication between the Chapter and state and federal wildlife agencies. In this case, the Chapter was surprised to learn of the proposed rule changes only days before the Commission meeting, and that the issue was brought to us through The Wildlife Society (TWS), who was concerned about a possible violation of the Public Trust Doctrine. After a careful reading of the proposed plan, which would give landowners of over 10,000 acres new authority to set their own deer harvest quotas and use of particular hunting gear, the Chapter’s Conservation Committee and President didn’t agree with TWS outright. However, our letter, which expressed other concerns, may have come as a surprise to some in the FFWCC because the Chapter was not included as a stakeholder in formative discussions and therefore had not provided feedback previously. We can and ought to do better with communication. An organization of over 225 Florida wildlife professionals whose bylaws direct it “to develop and promote sound stewardship of Florida’s wildlife resources” and “evaluate the principles involved in proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife” should be known by wildlife agencies as a stakeholder in any significant wildlife policy. The extent that we are not is the gap that the Chapter’s next leadership team will have to close if we are to be effective at promoting sound stewardship of Florida’s wildlife resources.

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Florida Chapter of
The Wildlife Society
President
Dale Gawlik

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

The more substantive issue into which we were pulled was the concern for wildlife and the public trust doctrine in the U.S. The public trust doctrine is the core principle of the North American Model of wildlife conservation and is what sets our system apart from the more aristocratic system of many other countries. Under the public trust doctrine, wildlife are treated as a public resource owned by no individual or group, and held in trust by the government for the benefit of present and future generations. A joint technical review of the public trust doctrine by TWS, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and Wildlife Management Institute (2010) found that states are increasingly adopting rules that erode the public trust doctrine and privatize or restrict access to trust resources. A recent example in Florida was unsuccessful legislation (House Bill 1103 and Senate Bill 1362) that would have lowered the Ordinary High Water Line along Florida's waterways and transferred thousands of acres of public land, and the access it provided to wildlife, to adjacent private land owners. Hunting and angling groups were understandably upset. These kinds of bills threaten the North American model of wildlife conservation, leading TWS to make this issue one of their top 10 standing priorities.

In just a few steps, we went from a routine state conservation issue to something of the highest importance to national wildlife professionals. If that doesn't make a case for members to get more involved in Chapter activities, then I don't know what else to write. This Chapter needs a steady flow of new dedicated and talented people to make it hum; and when it has them, it does hum. In just the past two years, the Committee Chairs, Committee Members, and Board Members have provided input on conservation issues, staffed informational stations at public events, revamped our outstanding website, hosted one spring conference and planned another, offered workshops on burning and other technical skills, and provided scholarships to foster the next generation of wildlife professionals. Still debating whether this group is worth the commitment? I saved the best for last. Being an active member of the Florida Chapter means that you will develop a rich professional network of Florida colleagues, only to see it dissolve over time into ... a network of friends. 🐾

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

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Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Annual Spring Conference in Melbourne, Florida April 10-12, 2013

This year, our theme is **Imperiled Species Conservation: Managing in the Face of Conflict**. Today, we all face decreased budgets and increased species management responsibilities with no adjustment in the number of conservation acres we manage. Now more than ever, we need to meet with our fellow professionals to discuss ideas, share strategies, learn our state priorities and determine how we can assist each other and our student professionals.

This year's conference will also feature a "Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Conservation" symposium, oral presentations, poster session, and field trips to unique conservation areas in Central Florida. Social highlights include a beachside social with entertainment by the Fresh Squeeze band, awards ceremony and banquet dinner with FLTWS founding members and a special showing of Elam Stoltzfus' film about the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition.

Location: *Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront, 2605 North Highway A1A, Melbourne, FL 32903*

Registration: *Early Registration (by April 1st) is \$99 for members, \$139 for non-members, and \$59 for students. Registration Now Open, visit: <http://www.fltws.org/spring-conference/>.*

Room Rate: *Group rate is only \$99/room. Reservations can be made by calling 877-701-9252 and referencing group code FWS (Florida Wildlife Society). Additional hotel information can be found at www.CPMelbourne.com. Space is very limited, so book your room before March 20th to assure you get the discounted rate.*

Have you heard about the Scrub-jay Management Workshop?

Join us Wednesday morning at the 395-acre Malabar Scrub Sanctuary and explore the habitat needs of scrub-jays, methods used to restore and maintain scrub-jay habitat, and challenges to managing for scrub-jays and other scrub wildlife. The workshop is FREE to all conference participants.

For more information, visit the FLTWS website: <http://www.fltws.org/>. 🐾

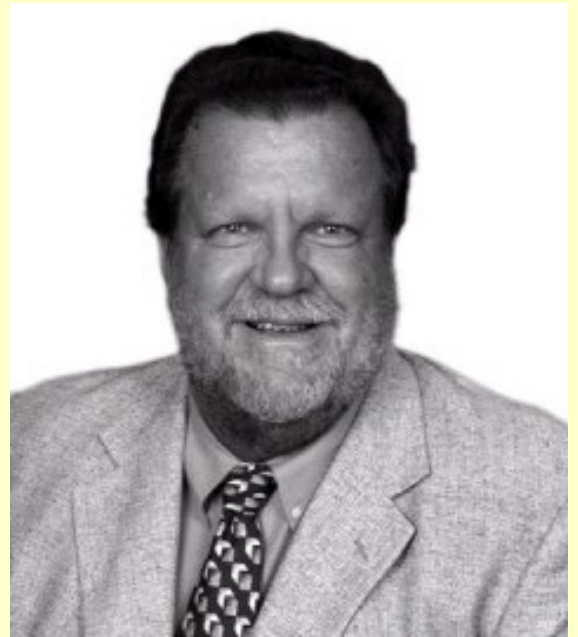
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In Memoriam

Submitted by Dale Gawlik

Long-time member of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Nova University Professor Ed Keith died September 14, 2012. Ed received a BS degree in Wildlife Biology and a MS degree in Physiology and Biophysics, both from Colorado State University. After receiving his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1984, Ed headed to Florida to teach at the Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, which later became Nova Southeastern University. Ed stayed at Nova throughout his career, eventually holding appointments in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and the Nova Oceanographic Center. Ed was well known for his research on marine mammals, including long-term studies on the Florida Manatee. He also studied manatees in Mexico, and conducted research on a wide range of avian and small mammal species in South Florida.

Ed regularly attended meetings of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society, where he actively participated in discussions and worked to make the Chapter more effective. Ed will be remembered for his broad smile and friendly demeanor. His colleagues at Nova called him one of the most student-centered faculty members in the college. He was advising 11 graduate students at the time of his death.



One of Ed's graduate students, Laura Veverka, described how lucky she felt to have Ed as an advisor. She wrote, "I know he had my back because his wish for my success was heartfelt. The best moment was after I passed my defense and he offered his congratulations due to all my hard work; most of all, I wanted to be a credit to him and at that point I felt like I deserved to be. At our last meeting, we were still working on developing new ideas about conservation biology for publication; Dr. Keith was always thinking one step ahead. I think of Dr. Keith as a classic scientist-not in it for the money, or prestige, but just wanting to find out as much as possible about everything. I'll always remember him in his checkered shirt, shorts, and high socks at the helm of our little boat for surveys, binoculars at the ready, telling jokes and relaying random facts at the same time, always with a twinkle in his eye. He will be sorely missed."

One of Ed's last graduate students, Catherine Hamilton, knew that Ed was the right professor for her when she saw Ed's profile picture and he was holding a giant pumpkin with an even greater smile on his face. She wrote, "Choosing him as my advisor was one of the best decisions I ever made. Getting to know him as an advisor and a friend was such a rewarding experience. Together we created a project in the Everglades that has never been done before. Losing him was very hard, not only for me but for my project. I have had to deal with many difficulties to continue on our research. Despite the obstacles, I have continued on for no other reason than to fulfill a project that he and I had created together. The last time I saw him, was two weeks before his death, after he had come from a doctors appointment. Though I knew he had some serious health issues, I didn't realize the severity. We discussed my latest progress, and as I left his office he called me back saying Catherine, I want you to know that I am really excited about this project. I said I am too Dr. Keith! I had no idea at the time that it was his way of telling me goodbye. I wish I could have been able to tell him goodbye. Goodbye Dr. Keith. Thank you for being such a selfless advisor that you gave yourself to us even when you were sick. Thank you Dr. Keith for taking us on manatee surveys and always entertaining us with jokes and your latest ideas on who made a political blunder. Thank you Dr. Keith for being my friend, and thank you even more for being my mentor. I will continue this project, despite the obstacles because we made this together and I will end it for both of us. Thank you Dr. Keith, I will never forget you." Well put, Catherine. 🐾

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

2013 Elections

Greetings Florida Wildlifers – it's time to elect new officers for the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Please review the candidates and vote for President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, 2 Members at Large, and Southeastern Section Representative at <http://www.fltws.org/elections/>. Please cast your ballot on or before Friday, April 5. Winners will be announced during the business meeting at the upcoming spring conference next month in Melbourne Beach, Florida.

FLTWS President Elect Candidates

Rebecca Bolt - Rebecca has a Master's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Central Florida, and 26 years of experience working with wildlife on the Kennedy Space Center (KSC). She conducts monitoring and research to determine and minimize the effects of KSC operations on a wide variety of habitats and wildlife. She also confers with a number of governmental agencies and private groups regarding wildlife issues, writes NEPA documentation, and is involved with public outreach and education. Becky has been a member of the FLTWS for more than 25 years. If elected, her goal would be to carry on the work started during the past year to improve the capability of FLTWS to influence wildlife conservation in Florida. She would accomplish this by increasing visibility and involvement with critical issues so that FLTWS is recognized and respected as the premier wildlife conservation organization in Florida.



Mark Ausley - Mark earned his BS in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida. After leaving UF, Mark began his career as an environmental consultant. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with 15 years of environmental consulting experience throughout the southeast. He is the owner of Sunrise Environmental Consulting located in Orlando, Florida. Mark has been a member of The Wildlife Society for over 18 years and served as the President of the University of Florida Chapter. He remains an active member and co-chairs the fundraising committee for the Florida Chapter.

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FLTWS Treasurer Candidates

Marsha Ward - Marsha earned her BS in biology from Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, and her MS in wildlife ecology and management from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. After graduate school, Marsha moved to Florida and began working as a wildlife biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, where she has been for the past 8 years.

She is currently a District Biologist, overseeing wildlife and habitat management activities on several wildlife management areas in the Everglades and south Florida. She is a Certified Wildlife Biologist through TWS, and has been active in TWS since 2003. She was a participant in TWS's Leadership Institute in 2007. Marsha has been involved with the Florida Chapter of TWS since moving to Florida, most recently serving on the FLTWS Board as Secretary. She hopes to continue to support FLTWS by serving as the Treasurer. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and being outdoors.



Kristee Booth - Kristee hails from West Virginia, but has lived in Florida since 1991. She has a Bachelors Degree in Biology from West Virginia University and a Master of Science in Ecology from Florida Institute of Technology. She worked for the Florida Department of Transportation as an Environmental Specialist for 8 years, and has been working for EMS-Greenhorne & O'Mara, now Stantec for 10 years, a private consulting firm, as an Environmental Consultant. Kristee has been a member of the Florida Chapter for 15 years and is a member of the Funding Task Force Committee, was Volunteer Coordinator for the 2008 National Conference, a past Chapter Secretary and Chapter Member-at-Large. She has also reviewed paper submittals, served as a session moderator for Spring Conference, and put together a social for another of the Chapter's annual Spring Conference, as well.

As a Treasurer of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society, I would work to continue the great system that was developed by previous treasurers while looking for ways to expand our opportunities to bolster

our fundraising and endowment funds while supporting The Florida Chapter of TWS on the Board in all our goals according to the strategic plan. As a founding member of the Funding Task Force, I would continue to assist building our financial support and endowment fund that would lead to our hiring an Executive Director as well as providing financial support to worthy endeavors and our partners. I fully support our Chapter being more active as a stakeholder in the state; providing more input on conservation, natural resource and wildlife issues by working with partners and other stakeholders; and commenting on management plans and other items created by the regulatory and other agencies. Above all else, an active membership means we will continue to grow and achieve our goals as a chapter so we must continue to host and co-host meetings, activities and conferences that afford us to flourish through the interactions, exchange of ideas and networking between agencies, private businesses and non-profit organizations that these events can foster.

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FLTWS Secretary Candidates

Stefanie M. Nagid - Stefanie is a native Floridian. She graduated from the University of Florida in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and a minor in Forest Ecology. After various contracted professional positions, she then graduated from the University of Florida again in 2001 with a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Ecology.

She spent a little over 6 years with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as a Biologist and in 2008 left FWC to work for the City of Gainesville as a Program Coordinator. Work with both agencies involve rare plant and animal surveys and monitoring, invasive exotic plant control, ecological community monitoring, wetland restoration, and upland ground cover restoration projects. Stefanie first joined The Wildlife Society as an undergraduate student and has been an active professional member for over 6 years. Stefanie has served as Member at Large and Program Committee Chair, and currently serves as one of the Scholarship Review Committee members. Stefanie is an avid angler and enjoys spending her spare time chasing redfish in the Gulf of Mexico.



Tim Hall - Tim graduated from the University of Florida in 1989 with a degree in Wildlife Ecology. While at UF, he served as the vice-president of the student Chapter of TWS and was active at both the regional and national levels as a student representative. After graduating, he joined the Peace Corps and served in Central America for three years working on boundary delineation, floral, and faunal surveys of park areas in Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras. From there he went to Africa where he developed restoration and management plans for several companies. He returned to Florida in 1997 and started working for a small environmental consulting firm. Tim is now a Principle at Turrell, Hall & Associates, Inc., where he oversees the environmental division of the firm. As the senior ecologist, he is very active in wetlands jurisdiction and protected species issues, and works closely with federal, state, and local agencies as well as private sector clients to design environmentally responsible projects. Tim has served on the FLTWS board in the past as a Member-At-Large and looks forward to continuing to work with the organization in the future.

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FLTWS Member At Large Candidates — Choose 2

Holly Ober - Holly is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida, stationed off-campus at the North Florida Research and Education Center. My research program is designed to gain a better understanding of mechanisms that explain the abundance, distribution, and diversity of forest dwelling wildlife, as well as to develop management practices that reduce conflicts between humans and forest dependent wildlife. Recent research conducted by my students and I has examined the influence of forest management and restoration activities on a variety of taxa (i.e., bats, woodpeckers, turkeys), human dimensions of wildlife conservation (gopher tortoises, sea turtles), and identified tactics to moderate wildlife damage (deer, armadillos). I spend a great deal of time working with folks from agencies through my role as director of the Natural Areas Training Academy, a co-director for CFEOR (Conserved Forest Ecosystems: Outreach and Research), and chair of the Florida Bat Working Group. I have a PhD in Wildlife Science and Forest Science from Oregon State University, an MS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Arizona, and a BS in Biology from Duke University. I have served as Chair of the Student Scholarship Committee for FLTWS 2010-present and served in a vacated Member-at-Large position 2012-13.



Joe Bozzo - Joe holds a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Maine at Orono and a M.S. degree in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. He is currently a Senior Environmental Analyst with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) working on the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Project in Lee and Collier Counties. He is responsible for the land management and public use of the project. He was a Wildlife and District biologist for 21 years with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation and its predecessor the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission before moving to the SFWMD in 2011. As a biologist he conducted population surveys for various species, developed management plans, managed habitat, managed public hunts, coordinated all sorts of activities with other agencies, and worked to resolve human-wildlife conflicts. Joe has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1988.

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Larame Ferry - Larame began working for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) after graduating from Florida State University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology. Larame has now worked with FWC ten years, where she has gained extensive outreach and education, administration, and wildlife conservation planning experience. She currently works with the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation within the Land Conservation and Planning sub-section. This group aids in the fulfillment of the Commission's mission to conserve Florida's fish and wildlife through FWC's land conservation and land management planning programs. Larame's primary duties involve developing statutorily required ten-year Management Plans for each of the FWC's statewide network of Wildlife Management Areas and Wildlife and Environmental Areas that must be approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) and the Board of Trustees (Governor and Cabinet). ARC serves as an advisory council to the Governor and Cabinet on state conservation acquisition, management, and disposition matters.



Since her involvement with the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FLTWS), she has been very active, serving as Treasurer, Secretary, Information Chair, and Newsletter Editor. She now hopes to continue to remain active and support the Chapter's mission by serving as a Member-at-Large. She has served on numerous conference programs and other committees for the FWC and the FLTWS and has received superior performance awards and certificates for her hard-work, dedication, outstanding service, and commitment. In her free time, Larame enjoys mentoring and spending time outdoors with friends and family.



Brigham Mason - Brigham Mason came to Florida in 1999, after receiving a degree in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, working for a large private landowner since coming to Florida, where here he manages the wildlife resources on 520,000 acres in Florida and 4 other states. Brigham has been a TWS member since 1995 and was actively involved at the student chapter level, serving as treasurer and helping earn the Student Chapter of the Year Award, and has maintained membership at the state chapter and national levels throughout that time. During his membership with TWS, he has also served as a peer reviewer of scientific publications, and as a committee member and chair in hosting regional wildlife meetings. In addition to his involvement in TWS, he has also served as an officer in other local

conservation associations, and is currently serving as a stakeholder representative on the FWC's Deer Management, Gopher Tortoise, and Wildlife BMP Technical Assistance Groups.

I believe that, through my experience managing wildlife in the private sector and through the associations I have formed there with private landowners, I can help the chapter to more effectively reach out to this important segment of the public that fills a critical role in conserving Florida's wildlife. As Member-at-Large, I will work to carry out the goals outlined in the chapter's strategic plan, with a focus on enhancing the member services offered to student and chapter members and on ensuring that the membership has access to the knowledge and expertise they need to carry out the chapter's mission of promoting wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and the sound stewardship of Florida's wildlife resources.

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Southeastern Representative Candidates

Kimberely Tillman - Kimberly was born and raised in the state of Florida. She received her bachelor's degree in Biology and minor in Psychology from the University of Central Florida. At UCF, she specialized in wildlife behavior, working in her mentor's lab on studies involving ground squirrels in Africa and polar bears in Canada. From there, Kimberly was selected for an internship with St. Johns River Water Management District and then subsequently hired on as a Land Management Specialist. While employed with the District, she enjoyed working with the listed wildlife species found on the District's property as well as developing and implementing new habitat restoration and management techniques. Kimberly's interests and strengths continue to revolve around wildlife, especially the management of listed species, and she is currently a private contractor/consultant specializing in this field. She has been a Florida Chapter and national member of The Wildlife Society for 7 years. In her free time she enjoys family, the outdoors, dancing, and passing the time with close friends.



Patrick Delaney - Patrick Delaney earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental studies and Biological Science from Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL. After undergraduate school, he took a position in 2006 as a biological scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Reptile and Amphibian Research Section. While working full-time with the commission, Patrick is also pursuing a Master of Science degree from the University of Florida in Wildlife Ecology. His thesis is focusing on defining critical nesting habitat, nest site selection, and developing GIS techniques for estimating nest abundance for alligators. Patrick is an active member of both FLTWS and TWS and is serving on the FLTWS Website Committee. Elected or not, Patrick will strive to help carry on the Chapter's mission by staying involved in various committees and working towards addressing many of the goals listed in the strategic plan. When he's not chasing alligators, Patrick enjoys playing guitar, spending time outdoors, mud races, and watching movies.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Thomas Eason: New Science Coordinator for the Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Dr. Thomas Eason is leaving his position as deputy director of the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to take a new job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He will serve as the Science Coordinator for the Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) and will be working with Tim Breault to grow the fledging initiative. As Science Coordinator, Thomas will play a key role in collaboratively developing, maintaining and advancing a landscape scale approach to fish and wildlife conservation. His duties will focus on working with all of the conservation-based science efforts underway in Florida and viewing them collectively as pieces of a larger system. From this vantage point, he can help bring the science together in new ways that strengthen existing efforts and create better conservation for fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Thomas is thankful for his long tenure with FWC that has prepared him so well for this opportunity. He is excited to be able to contribute to conservation in Florida from a new perspective.



The Florida LCC is one of 22 such partnerships that collectively form a national network of land, water, wildlife, and cultural resource managers, scientists, and interested public and private organizations—within the U.S. and across our international borders—that share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation. As a collaborative, LCCs seek to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify gaps, and avoid duplication through improved conservation planning and design. Partner agencies and organizations coordinate with each other while working within their existing authorities and jurisdictions. Landscape Conservation Cooperatives recognize that today's natural resource challenges transcend political and jurisdictional boundaries and require a more networked approach to conservation—holistic, collaborative, adaptive and grounded in science to ensure the sustainability of America's land, water, wildlife and cultural resources.

Letter from the FLTWS Conservation Committee Chair

Dear FLTWS Members,

Protecting our waters, natural areas, and wildlife are fundamental to the goals and vision of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Please consider helping us help Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign place a critical conservation amendment on the November 2014 ballot. The coming months offer the most productive signature gathering opportunities during this campaign while festivals are happening around the state. Volunteers are needed now to sit at tables and ask festival participants to sign petitions.

There is less than one year to gather the remaining 480,000 volunteer signatures needed to put the Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the 2014 ballot. Right now, the most important thing you can do to protect our rivers, springs, beaches, and wildlife is to volunteer. Please visit Florida's Water and Land Legacy website (<http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/>) to learn more about the campaign and sign up to volunteer today.

Thank you,

Becky Bolt

FLTWS Conservation Committee Chair 🐾



FLORIDA NEWS

Imperiled Species Management Planning – A New Conservation Model

Submitted by Claire Sunquist Blunden

Beginning in 2012 and continuing through 2015, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is introducing species action plans and an imperiled species management plan for 60 species on Florida's Threatened Species list. A State Wildlife Grant provides funding for additional staffing and other resources that are being utilized for this five year project, which includes planning for the development and implementation of the imperiled species management plan.

The FWC began this process by adopting a new conservation model in September 2010 to evaluate the status of species listed as state threatened or species of special concern. As part of the new conservation model, there were updates made to the rules for Florida's endangered and threatened species, Chapter 68A-27, Florida Administrative Code, which were approved by the FWC Commission in September 2010. The rule is important for identifying and protecting Florida's imperiled species. Within the rule one category of state listed species was created with clear criteria for evaluation of the risk of extinction.

The Commission-approved process first called for developing a Biological Status Review (BSR) for each species. After completing the biological status reviews, FWC teams and staff began management planning efforts. The new approach to management planning means that teams are focused on creating Species Action Plans that will be integrated into one final Imperiled Species Management Plan (ISMP), while considering and planning for how implementation across all 60 species will be conducted. The Imperiled Species Management Plan draws on three components.

- ◆ **Species Action Plans:** Evaluating the core threats and needs of each species, the forty-nine Species Action Plans prioritize conservation actions and provide rule and permitting intent. The Species Action Plans are expected to be completed by July 2013.
- ◆ **Integrated Conservation Strategies:** Designed to address multiple species and align current and future resources, the Integrated Conservation Strategies will address elements common across the Species Action Plans.
- ◆ **Imperiled Species Management Plan:** Integrating broad conservation strategies with specific actions for each wildlife species, the Imperiled Species Management Plan will identify the highest priority needs for individual and suites of species and will address recommendations for implementing both priority individual species conservation actions and priority integrated conservation strategies that will benefit multiple species.



The FWC is committed to keeping these 60 species healthy in our growing state of 19 million people. Just as important is the interest of the public in protecting the wildlife and wild places all of us enjoy and love. We invite individuals and stakeholder groups to be part of the process. We know we cannot accomplish all of the actions in the plans without help! We would like you to share your ideas on how to improve the draft species action plans and the draft imperiled species management plan so we can help these species remain at home in Florida.

Each draft Species Action Plan and the final Imperiled Species Management Plan will be released for public comment, revised to reflect FWC and public input on improving the draft plans, and then the Imperiled Species Management Plan will be submitted to the Commission for final approval. Visit <http://www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/imperiled/> and follow FWC on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for more information. You can also visit our SharePoint to comment and see more of the plans. ☺

Pictures by Claire Sunquist Blunden



STUDENT CHAPTER REPORT

Highlights From the University of Florida Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The UF chapter hosted their annual fundraiser, Beast Feast, in mid February at the Whitehurst Lodge in Archer, Florida. This year, they profited almost \$8,000 with approximately 430 people in attendance! Also, the UF chapter adopted a section of the Barr Hammock Preserve as their own to manage and hope to keep this up as a legacy to pass on to future generations of students. On March 7-10, 2013, the UF chapter participated in Conclave, which was hosted by North Carolina State University. UF placed 6th out of 22 schools.

Congratulations Team Florida!! 🐾

For more Student Chapter information, please visit their website:

<http://www.wec.ufl.edu/tws/>

Photos from Beast Feast:



2013 OFFICERS:

President: **Sam Baraoidan**

Vice-Presidents: **Jaclyn Colton & Gene Galke**

Treasurer: **Rebecca Atkins**

Secretary: **Danielle Salmon**

Historian: **Lindsay French**

Webmaster: **Katie Price**

Environmental Education Coordinator:

Chanel Bird & Phil Rodgers

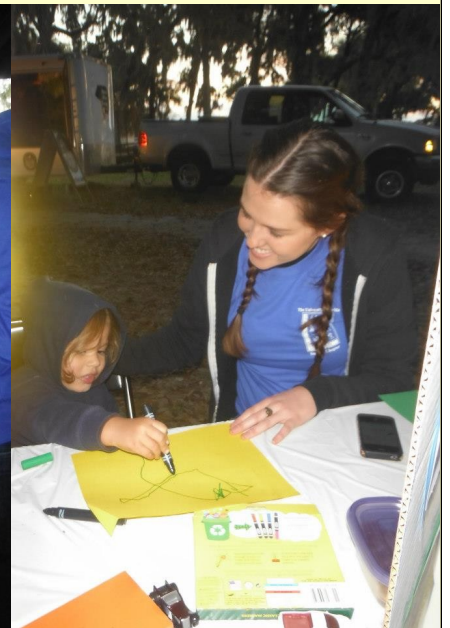
Conclave Coordinator:

Elizabeth Wells & Olivia Olin

Editor: **Lindsay Ohlin**

Sophomore Representative: **Kaitlyn D'Angelo**

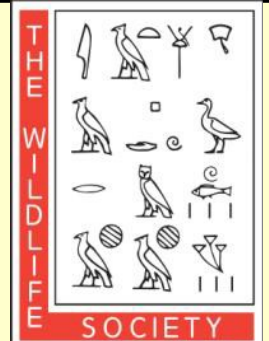
Freshman Representative: **Steve Tillis**



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWS



20th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 5-9, 2013



Call for Contributed Papers and Posters *Deadline: April 12, 2013, Midnight CST*

The Wildlife Society will hold its 20th Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from October 5 - 9, 2013. The meeting will include workshops, symposia, panel discussions, breakfast round-tables, special poster sessions, contributed papers (oral presentations), and contributed posters.

TWS invites you to submit contributed papers and posters on topics of wildlife ecology, management, conservation, education, or policy. All contributed papers (oral presentations) will be scheduled for 20 minutes, which includes 15 minutes for the presentation and five minutes for questions. We urge participants to consider presenting their work as posters, as this format allows authors to interact with attendees and discuss their research at length.

Instructions for Submitting Abstracts

TWS is working with Coe Truman Technologies - OASIS for abstract submission and conference program planning. The submission site opened on February 18, 2013 (www.wildlife.org/conference). This site will lead you through the submission steps and the subject categories. The submission deadline is April 12, 2013 at midnight CST. **Only one contributed paper or poster may be submitted per primary author.**

Abstract Evaluation

Papers and posters will be accepted based on technical merit and contribution to our knowledge of species, populations, communities, ecological processes, management practices, conservation initiatives, education models, or policy issues. Papers and posters should present results from **completed studies** or completed phases of long-term projects. All abstracts will have a **blind** review by two to three reviewers. Please note that presentations from students are welcome but are not given preferential treatment. We have found that students do just as well as or better than professionals under our blind review process. However, due to time/space limitations, we will not be able to accept all papers and posters submitted.

Notice of Decision

Notice of decision will be made in early June 2013 by email.

Registration

All presenters MUST register and pay the appropriate conference registration fee. Advance registration is strongly recommended. Registration information will be posted on the conference website wildlife.org/conference in July.

Questions?

Questions about the conference program may be directed to Program Committee Coordinator, Tricia Fry at tricia@wildlife.org. For all other conference questions, please call (301) 897-9770 or email membership@wildlife.org. 🐾

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

2013

Marjorie Stoneman Douglass Festival: Presentation by Elam Stoltzfus

March 22, 2013 at the Everglades City Museum

Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference

May 16-19, 2013 in Jacksonville, FL

<http://www.fnps.org/conference>

2013 Triennial National Wildlife & Fisheries Extension Specialists Conference

April 8 - 11, 2013 Haines City, Florida

<http://2013twfc.wix.com/conference>

2013 FLEPPC/SE-EPPC Joint Annual Symposium

Plant Wars: The EPPC's Strike Back

May 21-23, 2013 in Panama City Beach, FL

<http://www.fleppc.org/Symposium/2013/>

Pet Amnesty Day

April 13, 2013 from 10A—2P at Zoo Miami

Sponsored by FFWCC and Zoo Miami

Contact:

Jenny Novak, 850-617-9554;

Jenny.Novak@MyFWC.com

93rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists

June 14-18, 2013 in Philadelphia, PA

<http://www.mammalsociety.org/meetings>

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference

October 5-9, 2013 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

<http://www.wildlife.org/conferences/future-conferences>

Pet Amnesty Day

April 16, 2013 from 10A—2P at Straughn Extension

Center in Gainesville, FL

Sponsored by the University of Florida

Contact:

Steve Johnson, 352-846-0557; tadpole@UFL.edu

Jenny Novak, 850-617-9554;

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Stamp
Here

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

An organization of wildlife professionals and others interested in proper management of Florida's natural resources.

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