



November 2009

# THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Arnold Brunell*

At the recent The Wildlife Society (TWS) Annual Conference in Monterey, California, one of our Chapter's distinguished members received the ultimate honor from TWS. Dr. Ron Labisky was awarded the 60<sup>th</sup> Aldo Leopold Award - an achievement that represents a career of excellence. His accomplishments, as well as those of others associated with our profession, help establish standards that we strive to achieve. One of the primary goals of TWS is to provide the tools and avenues to help us become more effective, better wildlife professionals. Similarly, the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FLTWS) Spring Conference offers us one of the best opportunities in the state to share our work with colleagues and learn from each other.

At the conference, we are able to share and develop our unique expertise with colleagues in a variety of forums. Workshops offer an excellent hands-on approach to gaining new skills. The ones offered at FLTWS conferences may expose participants to regional resources in the field or could include lessons best presented in a classroom environment. Technical sessions give us the opportunity to present and learn about research and management activities in a focused setting. Likewise, poster presentations serve the same purpose in a somewhat less formal, yet effective, manner. Whether a participant or presenter, all will benefit from what they learn and what they share by participating in the various sessions (technical, poster, plenary, and symposia), as well as from the in-person networking opportunities that come only from such gatherings which cannot be replicated by electronic communication. The value of these networking experiences can seem subtle, but they help us become aware of work or techniques that may be new and useful to us, as well as allow us to teach others the lessons that we have learned from our own experiences. The end result is that the wildlife and natural resources of our great state, and even beyond its borders, benefits.

These are the experiences that enrich our professional lives, develop our abilities, and motivate us to strive for the achievements that will benefit Florida's wildlife and natural resources the most. Although not all of us will have a career as accomplished as Dr. Labisky's, we can become better, more effective managers, researchers, educators, etc. by learning from each other including those who will accomplish such heights as they will undoubtedly be among the participants of professional conferences. Whether you conduct a presentation, present your work in a poster, participate in a workshop, or simply attend to meet other professionals and expand your knowledge, meetings such as the FLTWS Spring Conference are an excellent venue for learning and teaching. Information on our next Spring Conference is forthcoming. I hope to see you there.



Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society President



# STUDENT CHAPTER REPORT

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

*Student Chapter Information Submitted by Rachel Rubin*

The University of Florida Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is affiliated with The Wildlife Society (TWS), The Southeastern Section, and the State Chapter, which are part of the network for the professional society for wildlife biologists. Student Chapter evening meetings are held bi-monthly throughout the school year.

TWS Chapter events and proceedings are diverse and provide professional and fun opportunities for every member involved. Activities include inviting professionals to speak on a wildlife topic at meetings, attending State Chapter meetings, participating in the Southeastern Section Student Wildlife Conclave in the spring, and getting involved in political issues that affect wildlife resources. Career-building skills are also acquired, such as writing resumes and applying to graduate school. The Chapter also hosts an annual "Wild Game Dinner" in the spring, cleans up an adopted section of road adjacent to a state natural area, provides assistance at a wildlife rehabilitation center when necessary, and organizes other social and outreach gatherings. Some events the Student Chapter of TWS participated in are highlighted in the images (below). Participation in the Student Chapter of TWS is an excellent way to begin a student's wildlife career. In fact, TWS welcomes all majors in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and across other colleges at the University of Florida.

For more Student Chapter information, please visit their website

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~tws>



Adopt a Road (above): wildlife students collected 25 bags of trash on Millhopper Road in Gainesville early this Fall. This is the 18th year that the Student Chapter has adopted the three mile section the road.



Project Wild Certification (above): Earlier this year the Environmental Education Coordinator, Michelle Bakowski, along with Ashley Williams, taught a Saturday class with the purpose of giving club members the tools to conduct their own environmental education activities with grade-school students. Club members received "Project Schoolyard" certification as well as a large book of suggested activities.

Right: Wildlife Society students Dawn Brumley, Emily Wilson, Danielle Abbey, and Rachel Rubin (photographer) learned about hunting regulations at Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area in Palatka. The students volunteered at the hunter check station in October. Students returned in November for a hands-on experience weighing, measuring, and extracting jawbones of incoming deer at the check station.

### 2009-2010 OFFICERS:

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Micheal Bakowski

Editor: Rachel Rubin

Sophomore Representative:

Kira Taylor-Hoar

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Christina Maurice



Above: The Wildlife Society manned a table at the annual Lubee Bat Festival in Gainesville this October. Club members spoke about skulls and presented an activity that tested childrens' abilities to locate a baby bat by smell!



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## FLORIDA CHAPTER

### Operation Oak 2009-2010: National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) Regional Program

*Submitted by Brian Zielinski*



The NWTF's Operation Oak program is dedicated to restoring and creating oak habitat throughout the southeast. Last year alone, this program provided over 14,000 oak trees for planting on private lands throughout Florida. The NWTF has once again shown its commitment to this program in Florida and will have 14,100 trees available to private landowners including white oak, live oak, swamp chestnut oak, and cherry bark oak. All trees will be shipped to pre-determined, centralized locations within the panhandle and peninsular Florida for pick up in February 2010. A minimum request of 100 trees will be required per species, and landowners interested in participating in this **FREE** program must be or become a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The NWTF will send a letter to all interested landowners along with an application for completion, and completed applications must be received no later than December 1, 2009 to be considered for the program. If you are interested in participating in this program for 2009-2010, please contact Mr. Brian M. Zielinski, NWTF Regional Biologist, @ 386-804-6691 or via email: [bzielinski@nwtf.net](mailto:bzielinski@nwtf.net) to receive the Operation Oak program materials.



### Call for Scientific Papers and Poster Presentations Florida Native Plant Society 2010 Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society annual conference will be held at the Leon County Civic Center, Tallahassee, Florida, May 20-23, 2010. The Science Track of the Conference will include presented papers on Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22. Posters will be on display on Friday and Saturday and the poster session will be on Saturday afternoon.



Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 minutes presentation, 5 minutes questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer [paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by February 1, 2010. Please include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.





# FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

## Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Fall Meeting Review

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society's (FLTWS) fall meeting was a success. The meeting was held at the Archbold Biological Station on October 22 – 23. The first day consisted of business meetings, which included revisiting the strategic plan, hearing reports from the various committees, and discussing old business (e.g., dues increase) and new business (e.g., spring 2010 conference planning). Following the meetings, a dinner and awards ceremony was held (see page 6). On October 23, Archbold research staff conducted a workshop. Hilary Swain, Executive Director of Archbold, gave two presentations involving the ongoing work at the biological station (e.g., long ecological view, black bear study). Reed Bowman, with the Avian Ecology Lab, presented on episodic disease and the population dynamics of the Florida Scrub-Jay. Mark Deyrup, with the Invertebrate Lab, led a discussion on scrub arthropods. The Plant Lab presentation on trials and tribulations with their scrub restoration efforts was conducted by Stacy Smith. Following the workshop, Hilary Swain gave a station and building site tour. The meeting was a great opportunity to visit Archbold Biological Station and to learn of their ongoing work. It was also a great opportunity to network with other wildlife professionals from across the state and a chance to discuss the ongoing business of the FLTWS so that we can continuously improve as a chapter.



The screenshot shows the Facebook page for the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with tabs for Wall, Info, Photos, Discussions, Reviews, Boxes, and a plus sign for more options. The main content area features a post from November 19 at 4:10pm about the 2009 The Wildlife Society Conference in Monterey, CA, with a video thumbnail. Below this is a photo album titled 'Wildlife Professionals at Work' showing various wildlife professionals in their habitats. The page also has a 'Get More Fans' section on the right and a 'Fans' list at the bottom.

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society now has a facebook page. You can visit it to see photos of wildlife professionals at work, photos from previous meetings and conferences, videos from the 2009 The Wildlife Society conference in Monterey, California, and much more. Become a fan!



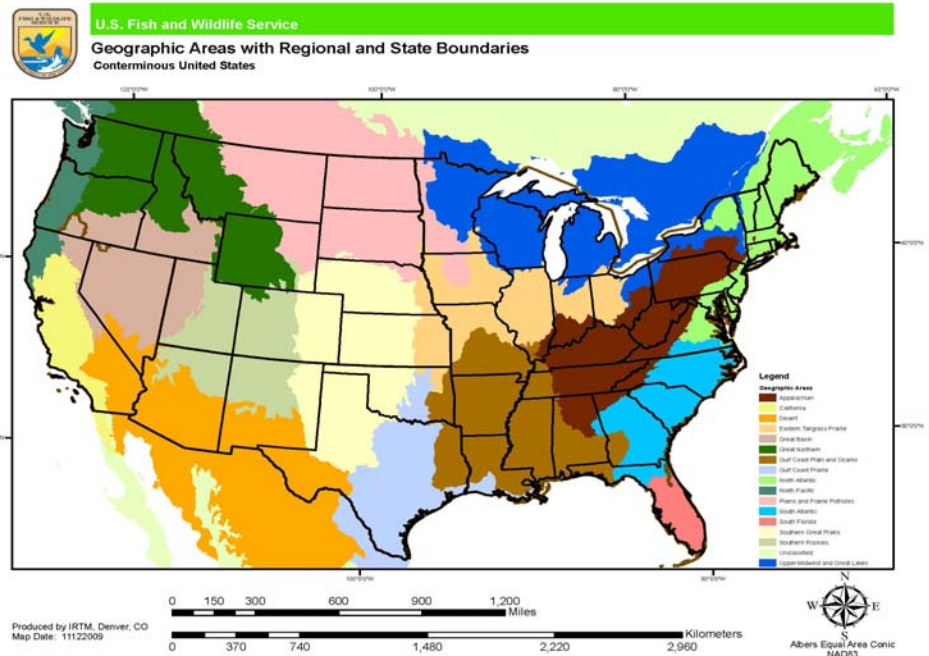
# CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

## THE RIGHT SCIENCE IN THE RIGHT PLACES

[Http://www.fws.gov/science/shc/lcc.html](http://www.fws.gov/science/shc/lcc.html)

In the face of escalating challenges such as land-use conversion, invasive species, water scarcity, and a range of other complex issues -- all of which are amplified by accelerated climate change -- the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service embarked several years ago to develop a broader vision for conservation.

Through a cooperative effort culminating in the [2006 National Ecological Assessment Team Report](#), the Service and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) outlined a unifying adaptive resource management approach for conservation at "landscape" scales -- the entire range of a priority species or suite of species. Known as "strategic habitat conservation" or SHC, it is a way of thinking and of doing business that requires us to set biological goals for priority species populations, allows us to make strategic decisions about our work, and encourages us to constantly reassess and improve our actions -- all critical steps in dealing with large-scale conservation challenges and the uncertainty of accelerated [climate change](#). This is our vision for building an organization and workforce that can successfully address 21st-Century conservation challenges.



*National Geographic Framework: Conterminous United States; Courtesy USFWS.*

Since then, the Service has taken significant steps to turn this vision into reality. Our ongoing commitment to landscape conservation is reflected in the Service's draft [Strategic and Action plans for Climate Change](#) and FY2010 budget proposal, which targets funding to build applied science capacity for biological planning and conservation design -- critical elements of our SHC framework and climate change response.

To ensure we're "putting science in the right places," the Service Directorate, in April 2009, determined the agency needed a [national geographic framework](#) for implementing landscape conservation. Just as flyways have provided an effective spatial frame of reference to build capacity and partnerships for international, national, state and local waterfowl conservation, this geographic framework will provide a continental platform upon which the Service can work with partners to connect project- and site-specific efforts to larger biological goals and outcomes.

The 22 Geographic Areas comprising the framework map were developed by aggregating Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs), biologically based units representing long-standing partnerships that facilitate conservation planning and design at landscape scales. BCRs can be partitioned into smaller ecological units when finer-scale planning and design are necessary. The Geographic Areas also incorporate Freshwater Ecoregions of the World as a standard unit for aquatic species considerations -- the same framework adopted by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan -- as well as existing ecological units (Omernick's Level II) to account for a variety of terrestrial species' needs. In most Geographic Areas, the boundaries of key partnerships are left intact to preserve existing conservation and science capacities.

The Service will use the framework as a base geography to locate the first generation of [Landscape Conservation Cooperatives](#) (LCCs) and in planning a second generation of LCCs during the FY 2011 budget formulation process. LCCs are conservation-science partnerships between the Service, federal agencies, states, tribes, NGOs, universities, and other entities. They are fundamental units of planning and science capacity to help us carry out the functional elements of SHC -- biological planning, conservation design, conservation delivery, monitoring, and research -- and inform our strategic response to accelerated climate change.

The Service's landscape conservation efforts are designed to meet 21st Century conservation challenges by ensuring that we accomplish the right things, in the right places, at the right times based on sound science. These efforts parallel changes occurring across the conservation and science communities as states, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders recognize similar challenges and work together to preserve our nation's fish and wildlife heritage.



## FLORIDA CHAPTER *Spotlights*

### 2009 Herbert W. Kale, II and Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award Recipients; Seeking Nominations

The Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society recognizes deserving individuals with the **Herbert W. Kale, II Award** and the **Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award**. Recipients of these awards for 2009 are [Dr. David S. Maehr](#) and [Dr. Thomas Kaplan](#), respectively. For full nomination statements, please visit our website on the hyperlinks above to learn the incredible impacts of the award winners.

The **Herbert W. Kale, II Award** was created in 1996 to recognize individuals who have demonstrated an ability to balance effective wildlife advocacy with the practice of wildlife biology and who have made a significant contribution to the conservation of Florida's natural resources. Florida has a distinguished history as home to many environmental activists who also were renowned wildlife professionals. Herbert W. Kale, II exemplified these dual qualities during a career that spanned four decades in Florida. Award recipients must display an ability to effectively communicate on both a technical and popular level. The recipient must bring a multi-dimensional approach to Florida environmental and wildlife issues.

The **Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award** was created in 2006 to recognize individuals who have demonstrated excellence in the field of amphibian and/or reptile conservation during the previous calendar year. Achievements can be related to research, management, administration, or education.

The FLTWS is seeking award nominations, so please give some serious thought to nominating deserving colleagues for these awards. Nominees do not have to be members of the Florida or parent chapter of The Wildlife Society. Send any nominee's full name, present position, address, and phone number; the nominator's and an endorser's name, address, and phone number; a clear and concise statement justifying the nomination (one page will suffice); and the award for which the individual is being nominated by **December 1** to: Timothy E. O'Meara, Committee Chair; Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society; 620 S Meridian St; Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600 (850-488-3831 or [Tim.O'Meara@myfwc.com](mailto:Tim.O'Meara@myfwc.com)).

Nominations will be accepted each year, but an award may not be conferred annually. Nominations received by December 1 will be considered by the Awards Committee (Mr. O'Meara, Ms. Rosi Mullholland, Dr. Ron Masters, and Dr. Marty Main) and the Executive Board of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society during its regularly scheduled Winter Board Meeting. The Awards Committee and Executive Board, acting as the Selection Committee, may confer a maximum of one of each award per year, to be presented at the Spring Membership meeting. Nominations will not be carried over from one year to the next, but may be resubmitted for consideration. Each recipient will receive a decorative plaque from the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Information on previous recipients of the awards can be found at <http://fltws.org/awards.php>.

Thank you for your help in identifying worthy recipients for these awards.



Dr. Christopher Jenkins, Executive Director for Project Orianne, accepted the Paul Moler Herpetological Award for Dr. Thomas Kaplan. To his left, Becky Bolt, and right, Paul Moler, attended the fall meeting and presented the award.



From Right: FLTWS President, Arnold Brunell, Awards Committee Chair, Timothy O'Meara, and accepting the Herb Kale Award are Diane Maehr, Tracee Smoak, Anne Smoak, Edward Smoak, and others.





## FLORIDA CHAPTER *Spotlights*

### Florida Chapter Members Receive Awards

*Submitted by Tim O'Meara and Brian Scheick*

Three divisions in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recently conveyed Employee Recognition Awards to members of their staffs. A number of Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society members were nominees and recipients. In the Division of Hunting and Game Management, **Blair Hayman** won Team Member of the Year and **Dwayne Carbonneau** was nominated for Scientific/Hunter Safety Employee of the Year. In the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, **Daniel McDonald** won the Heroism/Valor Award and **Fred Robinette** won Scientific Employee of the Year. **Robin Boughton** was nominated for Administrator/Supervisor of the Year, and **Arnold Brunell, Terry Doonan, Jamie Feddersen, Alex Kropp, and Steve Rockwood** were nominated for Team of the Year. In the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, **Amy Schwarzer**, took second place for the Cooperative Science Award, and **Robert Hardy** was nominated for the Excellence in Technological, Analytical, and Computing Skills Award. Join us in congratulating these fellow members.



### Dr. Ron Labisky Receives Aldo Leopold Award

Dr. Ron Labisky, long-time active member of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FLTWS), recipient of FLTWS's Herbert W. Kale, II Award, and Professor Emeritus in the University of Florida Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation was awarded the Aldo Leopold Award at The Wildlife Society 16th Annual Conference, in Monterey, California. The award is named in honor of Aldo Leopold, the visionary biologist whose work early in the 20th century formed the foundation for modern conservation science. The award is made "for distinguished service to wildlife conservation," and it is the highest honor bestowed by The Wildlife Society. We are proud to have one of our own receive such well-deserved recognition, and are grateful for his many contributions to wildlife conservation and the profession at the state, national, and international levels.

To view the video of the awards ceremony, [click here](#)

*Note: You will need Windows Media Player installed to view video. If it is not installed, you will prompted to download the player.*



Photos, such as these (left), of wildlife professionals at work are now on the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society's facebook page.

# FLORIDA NEWS

## Register for National Environmental Education Week April 11-17, 2010

*Submitted by Preston Robertson*

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week, [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)) connects educators with environmental resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment. Held each year the week before Earth Day, EE Week is the nation's largest environmental education event.

Our nation's water and energy resources are increasingly relevant topics of discussion in today's media, classrooms, and homes. Recognizing the importance of conserving both water and energy in order to protect the planet and reduce costs, and acknowledging the interdependence between water and energy, EE Week's 2010 theme is Be Water *and* Energy Wise!

When you register for EE Week, you will join a national network of educators dedicated to increasing the environmental literacy of K-12 students. You will also receive certificates of participation, free online resources, information on professional development and funding opportunities, and access to discounts and special offers on educational materials just for EE Week participants. Register today at

[www.eeweek.org/register](http://www.eeweek.org/register).



## Sign-up for E-Newsletters from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

*Submitted by Jessica Basham*

FWC 4-1-1 is an informative e-Newsletter for stakeholders of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Your free subscription to this quarterly, online publication will keep you informed about issues that matter to people concerned about Florida's fish and wildlife conservation future.



Subscribing is easy. You may join simply by sending an e-mail to: [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.MyFWC.com](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.MyFWC.com) with no subject line and "Subscribe FWCinfo-L" in the first line of the message body (no quotes). Then click the link in the confirmation e-mail to verify that we have your correct e-mail address. If you don't have an Internet connection, you can reply to the confirmation message, with the subject line left intact and "OK" (no quotes) in the message body.

You may unsubscribe (leave the list) at any time just as easily. Send an e-mail to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.MyFWC.com](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.MyFWC.com) with nothing in the subject line and "Signoff FWCinfo-L" in the first line of the message body (without the quotation marks).

For past issues visit website [FWC 4-1-1 Archives](http://FWC 4-1-1 Archives).





## FLORIDA NEWS

### Painted Bunting Observer Team Needs Help from Volunteers

Contact: Dr. Jamie Rotenberg, 910-962-7549; or Mike Delany, 352-955-2081

Want to help the painted bunting?

The Painted Bunting Observer Team (PBOT) Project at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) needs your assistance with these brightly colored migratory birds.

The team is looking for volunteers to help with a research study in Florida to develop strategies to bring the bird's population up to healthy and sustainable levels.

"Although past data from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) show that painted bunting populations were declining for 30 years, more recent data, along with detailed monitoring, indicate that these birds appear to be on the rebound," said Dr. Jamie Rotenberg, ornithologist in the Department of Environmental Studies at UNCW. "Still, the good news is tempered by uncertainty surrounding the causes for the recent rebound or whether the population is doing well on both the breeding and wintering grounds."

The painted bunting's decline may be caused by a variety of factors, including increased coastal development and more intensive agricultural practices, both of which clear scrub-land vital to breeding birds, according to Mike Delany, a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Wildlife Research Laboratory in Gainesville.

"The recent turnaround in the painted bunting population may be due to a suite of factors, including more people feeding birds at backyard feeders," Delany said.

In North Carolina and Florida, painted buntings typically breed in a narrow range along coasts and waterways. In South Carolina and Georgia, the birds also favor the coast, but breed well inland in low country scrub and young pine stands. As coastal habitats continue to be developed and as more inland scrub is cleared, these birds are losing their homes.

"Florida is unique in that it is the only one of the four eastern breeding ground states that also supports a wintering population of painted buntings," Delany said.

In Florida, the team wants to recruit and maintain an active group of volunteers who can make observations and collect data at backyard bird feeders and can help band and monitor banded buntings, especially during the winter months.

"We hope to determine the abundance and distribution of painted buntings at backyard feeders and to detect population patterns across the coastal-inland and suburban-rural landscapes," Rotenberg said. "We want to know if there are differences in how males and females use feeders and how important these backyard feeders are as a food resource. Already, just from last year's data, we may be seeing a winter-range expansion for painted buntings in Florida, possibly because of backyard feeders. Ultimately, we want to find out why the species was in decline and pinpoint what is causing the new increase."

Since painted buntings readily visit backyard bird feeders, volunteers can easily participate in gathering a variety of data that can aid the project in comparing populations breeding in suburban, rural and natural habitats, from the coast to more inland areas.

Last year, Rotenberg and his colleagues had more than 13,000 data hits to their website - [www.paintedbuntings.org](http://www.paintedbuntings.org) - from volunteers in the Carolinas and Florida, and the team captured and banded more than 600 painted buntings. The banded birds allow the team to learn about migration, site fidelity, lifespan and survival rate, reproductive success and population growth, as well as the behavior of individual birds.

"When we began, most of our volunteers wanted to know if the same birds were returning to their feeders every year," Rotenberg said. "With the bands, our volunteers can actually identify individual birds and know if the same ones are visiting."

Each painted bunting receives three pre-determined colors and one silver band with inscribed numbers. The silver band is a federal band from the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory. The bands are easily viewed with binoculars.

"We put four colored bands on each painted bunting. That color combination is unique to that individual bird," said Laurel Barnhill, bird conservation coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. "This allows observers to identify and distinguish a particular painted bunting from all the rest. For example, in 2009 a homeowner in Stuart, Fla. recorded a bird wintering at their feeder 23 times from January through April. This individual was originally banded at Bald Head Island, N.C. in August 2008."

This December, Rotenberg will be conducting several PBOT workshops around Florida to help with the "how-to" part of being an observer, as well as providing basic information about the species.

"My workshops cover all aspects of our citizen science-based project, from basic identification and counting of individual male and green birds to more detailed information - including reporting band colors, visit frequencies and duration at feeder behaviors," Rotenberg said. "All these data collected by our volunteers allow us to achieve our project objectives, including determining painted bunting population demographics and the importance of feeders on the wintering ground in Florida."

The dates and locations of the workshops are being finalized, according to Rotenberg. For updates about the workshops in Florida or to become a Painted Bunting Observer Team volunteer and learn more about the project, please sign up on the project website [www.paintedbuntings.org](http://www.paintedbuntings.org) - or e-mail the project coordinator at [pbot.mns@ncmail.net](mailto:pbot.mns@ncmail.net).



## MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Growth Management in Florida: What we did right; what we did wrong.

Bob Graham Center at University of Florida *Free* Event  
February 10, 2010. Pugh Hall Ocora in Gainesville. Speaker:  
Bob Rhodes—Former Growth Management Administrator for  
the State of Florida.

<http://www.graham.centers.ufl.edu/news.html>

### Becoming an Outdoors Woman

March 12-14, 2010 near Ocala

[www.MyFWC.com/BOW](http://www.MyFWC.com/BOW)

(561) 625-5122

### 75th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 22-27, 2010 in

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

<http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/>

### National Environmental Education Week

April 11-17, 2010

[www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)

### Florida Native Plant Society 30th Annual Conference

May 20-23, 2010 in Tallahassee, Florida

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



Burrowing owl image and text below from [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website](http://www.floridafishandwildlife.com/conservation/conservationcommission/).

### Living with Burrowing Owls

One of Florida's smallest owls, the burrowing owl lives in open, treeless areas. It spends most of its time on the ground where its sandy brown plumage provides camouflage from potential predators or in a burrow for both roosting and nesting.

Historically, the burrowing owl occupied the open native prairies of central Florida. Recently, these populations have decreased because of disappearing habitat. Burrowing owls inhabit cleared areas that offer short groundcover such as pastures, agricultural fields, golf courses, airports, and vacant lots in residential areas.

To conserve the burrowing owl, we must be aware of the needs of the owls, and strive to do our best to protect their habitat, nest sites and populations for future generations to enjoy.

## 2009 FLTWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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*Undergoing reorganization*

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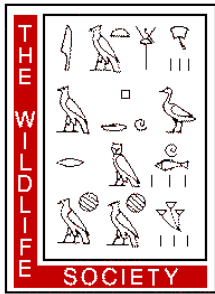
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Place  
Stamp  
Here

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

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

Visit our website [www.fltw.org](http://www.fltw.org) to  
become a member.

