

**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
FLORIDA CHAPTER**

**Spring Business Meeting
St. Petersburg, FL
April 12, 2006
FINAL**

- I. Call to Order** – President **Steve Rockwood** called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM. Introductions were made around the room.
- II. Approval of the Minutes from the Fall 2006 Business Meeting (K. Booth)** – The Minutes were read by the members. Becky motioned to approve the minutes with the necessary name and typing error corrections, Paul Moler seconded, and the motion passed.

III. Treasurer’s Report (S. Stiegler) – (See table) On December 31, 2006 there was a balance of \$20,938.46. The 2006 Spring Conference total net gain was approximately \$6,874.15. The 2006 Fall Business Meeting created expenses totaling \$1,614.37. We now have to pay for both the website hosting and the SharePoint site.

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2007 SPRING BUSINESS MEETING ST. PETERSBURG, FL APRIL 12, 2007			
Category	Sub-cat	Sum Of Debit (-)	Sum Of Credit (+)
JANUARY 1, 2006 BALANCE			\$15,619.17
MEMBERSHIP	MISC		\$1,770.00
MEMBERSHIP	NATIONAL		\$1,740.00
GRANTS	PER DIEM	\$68.00	
GRANTS	NATIONAL TWS CONF.	\$500.00	
GRANTS	STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP	\$1,000.00	
MERCHANDISE		\$1,553.38	
MISC	OVERHEAD	\$329.11	
SPRING CONFERENCE	ADMINISTRATION	\$8,839.77	
SPRING CONFERENCE	AWARDS	\$473.78	
SPRING CONFERENCE	MERCHANDISE		\$985.19
SPRING CONFERENCE	OVERHEAD	\$435.68	
SPRING CONFERENCE	REGISTRATION		\$10,638.19
SPRING CONFERENCE	SPONSORSHIPS		\$5,000.00
	SPRING CONF. TOTALS	(\$9,749.23)	\$16,623.38
			\$6,874.15
FALL CONFERENCE	ADMINISTRATION	\$2,864.20	
FALL CONFERENCE	OVERHEAD	\$120.17	
FALL CONFERENCE	REGISTRATION		\$1,370.00
	FALL CONF. TOTALS	(\$2,984.37)	\$1,370.00
			(\$1,614.37)
	TOTAL DEBITS	-\$16,184.09	\$37,122.55
	TOTAL CREDITS		\$20,938.46

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Audit (Alan Alshouse)** –Steve R. reported no new activities.
- B. Awards Review Program (Tim O’Meara)** - Steve R. reported that the Awards Committee submitted recommendations for the Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award and the Herb Kale Award. Awards will be announced tonight at the banquet.
- C. Budget (Arnold Brunell)** - No activities to report.
- D. Certification (Bill Giuliano)** – No activities to report.
- E. Conservation (Becky Smith)** – Becky wrote a letter to the Clean Water Network supporting the Natural Resources Defense Council’s policy paper, “Florida’s Coastal and Ocean Future, A Blueprint for Economic and Environmental Leadership” for Steve R to sign. The Non-Native Species Position Statement was submitted to National TWS for approval and given to Manley Fuller (FWF) for his use. Steve reported that Bernice will serve as FLTWS representative to FWF exotic species committee. The final draft and comments for the Gopher Tortoise Management Plan (GTMP) will be out in May. We made numerous comments regarding the developing GTMP and submitted then to the Stakeholder’s Group via the NGO representative.
- F. Education (Bill Giuliano)** –No new activities to report.

- G. Information (Hugh Boyter)** - Hugh Boyter asked who registered on-line and who had problems with it. A few people did have problems registering on-line, and the trouble reoccurred day later. Kristee had trouble renewing membership before the registration issue occurred. The Information Committee (Rog Vanderhoof, Steve Stiegler, Hugh Boyter, Laramé Ferry and Harry Dutton) continue to post announcements, newsletters and other informational items on the Chapter website. Additionally E-commerce aspects of the website are available and appear to be working well in their application to the commercial aspects related to Chapter meetings.
- i. Hugh reported that the new software Rog recently acquired to run the FLTWS.ORG site appears to be working well. This software added a documents library to house commonly-viewed or needed documents as well as copies of Chapter positions and letters. Sometime in the future we may add a module for displaying photographs.
 - ii. Florida-specific wildlife and natural resource news items continue to be posted daily by the Information Chair on the Chapter website, and both FWC and US Forest Service news items are now automatically posted (via RSS feeds) on a daily basis as well.
 - iii. The Chapter website, e-mail notices and postal mailings have all been utilized to keep the Chapter informed of events of importance to the Chapter. Paper ballots and copies of the Chapter newsletter, the Florida Wildlifer, were mailed by Laramé Ferry in December, 2006. Rog, Brian Scheick, and Hugh have been working to organize and consolidate the various website (member) and external e-mail lists for notification of outside organizations. These lists are used for distribution of the Florida Wildlifer, as well as for notifications of meetings and other Chapter information. Also there is an NGO list (currently contains 105 contacts), with points of contact for distribution of information. This list should serve the Chapter into the future as the basis for expansion of coordination among conservation organizations in Florida, and as a methodology for FLTWS to recruit new members and/ or spread its conservation message.
 - iv. Hugh asked Manley Fuller for an electronic copy of the legislative issues FWF is working on and we should know about so that we can be informed and follow up on them.
 - v. Emphasis for the Information Committee between now and the 2007 Spring Conference will include recruitment of a replacement for Hugh Boyter as the Information Chair. Hugh will be completing his DROP program in June 2007. Steve R. announced that Steve S. just agreed to be the new Information Chair.
 - vi. Other emphases will continue to include coordination with the website management group to improve the look and functionality of the website, to improve information delivery, and to encourage Chapter members to more actively utilize the website for their information needs. Also, the website management group is looking at obtaining a photo unit for the website. Steve S. said he is thinking about a SharePoint site for photos.
 - vii. Additionally, the Information & Education Committee(s) will continue to strive for a continuous flow of newsworthy items to Laramé Ferry in order to make the Florida Wildlifer a vital Chapter newsletter.

- H. Membership (Brian Schieck)** – Membership Committee has done some general house keeping duties, as well as new items.
- i. Chapter Business Cards: Stephanie Rousso helped me brainstorm a card that we can use to hand out to prospective members. It changed from our original postcard idea to a business card, but we now have a 2 sided business card. The cards were passed out to everyone, but there was a typo and a word missing on the back. The cards were not distributed after all. Steve R. said Brian will have to go back to the printer to fix the card. Hugh suggested putting the card template on the website for people who wanted to download it and personalize it. Doing this could also pose a problem if there are no access restrictions on the template; anyone could use/misuse it.
 - ii. FLTWS vs. TWS living in FL: I compared a list of people living in Florida who are members of National TWS against both our FLTWS members database and an updated list of people that National TWS has listed as our chapter members. From this comparison, there were only 17 Floridians in TWS but NOT in our chapter. I was surprised at how few there were. Of these 17, 8 were from Gainesville, most with UF email address (probably students) and the remaining 9 were from other parts of the state. I sent the conference announcement to 12 via email, and a letter with the announcement to 4 without emails. The remaining person had already contacted me about his membership a week or two prior. One, Roslynn Brain joined shortly thereafter.
 - iii. Member survey: I finally got a chance to complete the survey, and figure out which format would be best to send out. Rog helped me convert it into an interactive PDF that can be opened, filled out, and emailed to a special email address. Unfortunately, it just went out April 4th, not early enough to have it done and analyzed in time for the 2007 Spring Conference. We'll have the data to report next fall. There were a few mistakes found (type-o and a formatting error) but it is functioning now so we should be taking the survey. This will help us direct our future, serve members, and possibly recruit.
 - iv. Updated membership list and registration: I updated the membership list April 4th and created a report for the conference registration. I also checked the names of people who registered as members, 18 were not current, so I sent emails to remind them and ask them to pay up at the conference. As of April 4th, we have 269 current members. The 18 people who registered as members should pay up, putting us a bit higher. I'll add any new or renewing people to the roster after the conference and then send out a reminder to the many who were members in 2007 but are overdue. The last reminder was in December to coincide with the National TWS reminders. I will try to remind them in spring before the next conference as well. Jodi has the current list with her so get with her at this conference to check your membership status. Carrie asked if the student chapter members were included. Stephanie said she did not think they were.
- I. Nominations (John White)** - Becky reported that there was some difficulty recruiting nominees this year and thanked those that agreed to run. The 2007 election results have been tabulated:
- i. Vice-president: Dale Gawlik

- ii. Secretary: Erin Myers
- iii. Treasurer: Maria Zondervan
- iv. SE representative: George Tanner
- v. Members-at-large: Blair Hayman, Stefanie Nagid.

J. Program (Arnold Brunell) – Arnold said that the sponsorship committee is vital for the conferences. He rallied support for it in hopes that the chapter can do more fun things and increase the amount of income.

K. Scholarship (Maria Zondervain) – This year’s scholarship winner, Vanessa Oquendo, will be attending the conference and will receive her plaque. She has already been given the \$1000. Applications for next year’s scholarship will be accepted starting in the fall.

V. Old Business

A. Funding Task Force Proposed Endowment (L. Perrin/S. Rockwood) – Larry reported that this started due to the Strategic Plan, leading to the realization that we needed funds in order to make things happen. For this conference sponsors accounted for:

- \$6,250 cash donation
- \$1000 in-kind service
- \$1000 donated merchandise from various sponsors
- \$495 “Larry’s girls” raised with the raffle
- The silent auction will be held at the banquet, since National will make us hold one during the 2008 National Conference.

i. Larry discussed the concept of the Endowment Fund. By June 15th, money will go into an account for the Endowment Fund. **Larry, Steve S. and Maria will work on this account, as an investment account to raise funds.**

ii. Steve S. raised a concern with the June 15th date. He thinks it would be better to do it in December or the end of the year. He said in June we could have some money, but not the largest lump sum.

iii. **Maria motioned that upon the Board receiving the final ideas for investment strategies from the Board that it will then be posted on the website for 30 days for the membership to review and comment.** Hugh will notify the membership or the “poster” will notify the membership. **Jimmy Gragg seconded the motion and the motion carried.** The Board will decide what to do after receiving the members’ comments. The plan is to contact a few other NPO’s to see how they set up their funding/endowment strategies. Steve R. has talked with National about it already. **The task force will talk with investment companies as well.**

B. TWS National Conference Planning 2008 (Carrie/S. Rockwood) – Carrie recapped that we will host the National Conference in 2008. The conference will be November 8-12, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Miami. The Co-chairs are Carrie and Steve R., and there are 11 subcommittees. The SharePoint site is floridatws.org. For anonymous sign-in use Login: reader, Password: fltwsr. Carrie discussed the various committee duties, chairs and members. Both the Quiz Bowl and Student Activities

committees will now be chaired by Adam Wilcox. Carrie created a new Ad-hoc committee for Spanish-American relations. The next National Conference is September 21st, in Tucson, AZ.

- C. Workshop Update (S. Rockwood)** - Steve R. said that Erin has done a good job with our conference workshops. We co-sponsored two outside workshops with two different entities, one on amphibians and one on prescribed fire burns; both went well. They were posted on the website and announced at the meetings.

VI. New Business

- A. Fall 07 and Spring 08 Meeting Plans (Steve R.)** – Steve R. led the discussion that our fall 2007 meeting will be after the National meeting in Tucson, AZ. We will try to hold it at the Hyatt in Miami. He posed the question: should we or do we want to hold a Spring 2008 Chapter Conference? Discussion ensued but more will occur later.
- B. Status of FSECC Application and Solicitation of Contributions Act-** Steve R. continued by reporting that we are now registered with the Solicitation of Contributions Act and we have completed the application to get on the FSECC list. They will find out in May if we are on the list. If so, we will be under the Independent Category under our name the Florida Chapter of the TWS.
- C. Archiving Historical Records & Files-** Steve R. reported that he and his secretary have been electronically archiving the “Presidential Archive Box.” Kristee has the “Secretary’s Archive Box” and will give it to Steve R. for electronic archiving. He will then give the “Secretary Box” to the new Secretary, Erin.
- D. Other Items:**
- i. Ron Labisky reported that he sat in on a National TWS meeting in Portland and found out that TWS will send out ballots to the membership to elect the National President. He asked for the members to please vote. He described the candidates and pointed out that their bios are in The Wildlifer May issue. Only 7 or 8% of members voted last time.
 - ii. Ron reported that in 2003 TWS signed a cooperative agreement/MOU with other international organizations and is still pursuing other agreements with other organizations. For example, the International Working Group. The International Working Group will ask each chapter to donate some money to a travel fund to cover the cost for those who can’t afford it.
 - iii. Ron plugged attending the Cross Border Conservation Symposium. Two of the speakers will be Rodrigo Madellon (Mexico) and Justina Ray (Canada).
 - iv. Vanessa gave the Student Report. There was a record-setting 447 attendees at the Beast Feast this year (\$4500 profit was made). There have been several professional and educational speakers at their meetings. They held an air potato round-up. They are collecting books for their sister school in Cairo, Egypt. More nest box surveys have been conducted. The avian census project will continue.
 - v. Dr. Hayes will take a group of conference attendees out to detect bats tonight after the banquet.
 - vi. During the Southeast Conclave UF student Claire Sunquist won the radio-technology contest.

VII. Adjournment – Kristee motioned to adjourn the meeting; Erin seconded the motion; and the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM.