



Summer/Fall 2017

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

In North America, wildlife is considered a public resource, owned by no one. This is one of the two fundamental principles that sets apart wildlife management efforts in the U.S. and Canada from those elsewhere in the world. The other fundamental principle that guides wildlife management here is that wildlife is managed in a way that ensures populations are sustained for future generations. The healthy status of wildlife in North America relative to other countries is widely attributed to adoption of these principles long ago.

It was hunters and anglers that took the lead in shaping this general policy when it was loosely developed over a century ago. As many wildlife species experienced catastrophic declines, and several seemed on the verge of extinction, hunters and anglers realized they needed to take responsibility for the stewardship of the natural resources they cherished. A core group of visionary individuals recognized that if limits were not imposed on harvests, some species were likely to go extinct as a direct result of human action. These individuals also realized that scientific research was needed to generate a better understanding of wildlife, to serve as the basis for decisions on managing habitat and the animals themselves. More recently, this policy framework was formalized into a group of seven concepts referred to collectively as the "North American Model of Wildlife Conservation". These seven tenets are widely agreed upon by wildlife professionals as essential to perpetuating wildlife for future generations. The seven principles are that (1) wildlife resources are not owned by anyone, but rather are a public resource held in trust for the benefit of present and future generations; (2) commercial markets for game are not allowed because they would privatize a common resource and

could eventually lead to population declines; (3) wildlife are allocated to the public by law (as opposed to aristocracy, market principles, or other status), with public input to the law-making process expected to ensure equitable access; (4) wildlife are only killed for legitimate purposes; (5) wildlife are an international resource managed cooperatively across borders; (6) science is used to inform wildlife policy; and (7) hunting is open to all. Our parent organization, The Wildlife Society, supports and promotes these core principles ([link here](#)). In fact, TWS goes beyond simple support and calls upon all members to increase awareness of these principles among the public. That's why they're highlighted here today.

As mentioned previously, it was the troubling declines in game species that prompted our forefathers to initially embark on conservation efforts. Today, many Floridians are not in tune with wildlife the way those hunters were that became the first conservationists over a century ago. This could lead to trouble



Holly Ober,
President

(Continued on page 16)

FLORIDA SPOTLIGHT

Volusia County Major Wetland Restoration



- Mark Ausley (FLTWS President-Elect and Spring Meeting 2018 Program Co-chair) and Bio-Tech Consulting, Inc. are spearheading a major wetland restoration project in Volusia County.
- Under Mark's direction the team is restoring approximately 150 acres of forested wetlands from agricultural fields.
- The plan calls for 15,000 trees and another 500,000 herbaceous species to be planted.
- One of the biggest challenges to date has been dealing with mother nature.
- Droughts, fires, and localized flooding have been a challenge but so far so good. More updates as this project continues forward.

Want to highlight a program or project with which you are involved? Send photos and a short description to: the editor, Jen Korn at jennifer.korn@fltws.org



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

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

when policy decisions depend upon support from the general public. I encourage you to think about what you can do to make wildlife relevant to a broad spectrum of society and ensure public acceptance of wildlife conservation practices. *How do we counter the dwindling connection between people and nature? How do we make certain the public understands why substantial funding is allocated towards battling the spread of invasive plants and animals? How do we garner support for management practices, such as prescribed fire, which may seem dangerous or damaging to those who don't understand ecological principles? How do we convince others that rare species are worth investing in?* To maintain our relevance as wildlife professionals we need to find new ways to communicate effectively to the public about these pressing issues.

With a membership base of >200 individuals, FLTWS plays a unique role as the state's sole organization of professional wildlife biologists. The bylaws of our chapter direct us "to develop and promote sound stewardship of Florida's wildlife resources". If we are to be effective in this task of promoting sound stewardship of Florida's wildlife resources, we must rise to the challenge of applying the principles above in the face of the many threats facing Florida's wildlife. The social aspects of conservation are growing increasingly complex, as the range of public expectations regarding conservation efforts expands, and apathy towards the natural world grows.

The diversity of FLTWS members is one of our great strengths for managing modern-day challenges facing wildlife. The broad range of perspectives and expertise encompassed by our vast professional community enables us to respond in meaningful ways to emerging conservation issues. Our heterogeneity is reflected in the executive board you recently elected, comprised of individuals representing the private sector, state and federal agencies, as well as academia. We hope that when we as a professional society are called up to weigh in on conservation issues, you consider bringing your insight, skills, and perspective to the table so that collectively we express an opinion that represents all. FLTWS is committed to addressing issues that affect the current and future status of wildlife in our state, using sound science and your expertise as the basis for our decisions.

Sincerely,
Holly Ober
President, FLTWS
holly.ober@fltws.org

Please join us for the FLTWS Fall Business Meeting
Noon – 1:30pm, October 18, 2017
University of Florida Cattle Research & Education Center , Ona

What does FLTWS do?

Find out as we highlight each committee in upcoming newsletters.

Student Scholarship Committee

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society, in conjunction with the Florida Wildlife Federation and the National Wild Turkey Federation, sponsors two scholarships every year. The **Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship** is for a Junior or Senior undergraduate student interested in wildlife as a career. It awards \$2,000 to the most qualified applicant based on financial need, extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, and career goals. The **Courtney A. Tye Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship** is for a graduate student currently studying wildlife or biology. It awards \$3,000 for research and career expenses to the applicant who demonstrates the most potential for professional contribution through research, management, education, or outreach.

The Scholarship Committee is chaired by a convener who administers the announcement and collection of the applications in the fall of each year, and coordinates the review process. Each scholarship has a review panel of 6 or more professional wildlife biologists that evaluate and rank the applications based on a standardized rubric. The scores are averaged to select the recipients, which are announced in the spring and receive their award at the annual Spring meeting.

This committee is an excellent opportunity to interact with the upcoming generation of professionals, and to encourage their involvement with FLTWS. The scholarship brings students to the organization and to the Spring Meeting, who might not otherwise become involved. This leads to networking opportunities, future internships and a greater perspective for young people on their career options.

The announcements for this year's scholarships have just been released (See page 12-13 for details). Applications will be provided to reviewers before the Christmas break. Scores are due to the convener by the end of January, so this responsibility is basically a 1-month commitment. **If you are interested in participating as a reviewer this year, please contact me at monica.folk@fltws.org.**



FLORIDA NEWS

Hurricane Irma: A Perspective

Jodi Slater

FLTWS Board Member at Large

Hurricane season ramped up in September – the first time there were two Category 4 Hurricane landfalls in US history. The island of Barbuda was annihilated and is currently devoid of human habitation, its population having been evacuated to neighboring islands like Antigua. It is honestly amazing that there wasn't more severe loss of life from these extreme storm events. Unfortunately, there was quite widespread damage in the Caribbean, as well as throughout Florida. Many of our members have had severe damage to their homes and most of the state will be recovering for years to come. But while we were huddled in our homes waiting for the storm to pass, the wildlife of Florida had no where to go and had to ride it out au natural.

Species have naturally evolved to deal with bouts of extreme weather, but with hurricane activity increasing and drought occurring more frequently, even those evolved to handle extreme weather will take some hits.

The Audubon Society reported that all the endangered Everglade snail kites (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*) nesting in the Lake Okeechobee area was wiped out ([link](#)). Some juveniles and adults rode out the storm alright, but 44 active nests were lost. That is a huge blow to this endangered species recovery.

The Florida Keys host several threatened and endangered species, including the Schaus Swallowtail Butterfly, Key Deer, Key Largo Woodrat and Cotton Mouse and the Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit. Although there are several news stories of rescue workers finding live Key Deer that amazingly survived the storm's passing which severely damaged the archipelago, there is no telling (at this time) the long-term impacts this event will have on the populations of these species.

These are just some of the more dire examples of wildlife impacts, the common species of our state were just as spooked and freaked as the uncommon... though hopefully less impacted over the long-term. It took several days for the local wildlife to venture out and begin

to resume their normal patterns of behavior. Just like it has taken us a while to venture out, begin to clean up, and to attempt to get on with our normal behavior patterns.

It is just going to take time. Time for power to be restored to those most affected. Time to assess and repair the damage to infrastructure throughout the state. Time to manage the excess water that Florida finds itself custodian to, as well as the contamination that has occurred throughout the state by overrun sewer and septic systems, and various chemical contaminants. Recent water shortages may have been rescinded by water management districts due to increasing groundwater levels from the excess water, which is definitely a silver lining in all of this. Drought conditions are receding with the replenishment to the Floridan Aquifer.



The communities that have come together to help each other out during this time of disaster are amazing! Have patience and be thankful for all the good remaining in the aftermath of the storm. Yes, we have a lot of work ahead of us as a state and it's going to cost a lot of money, taking money away from other important programs... but at a certain point you just have to roll with it and make the best out of a disastrous situation. Hey-we're Florida. This isn't the first time we've had devastating impacts from hurricanes. We got this. Little by little, day by day... it'll just take time.

And during our recovery, our members that work on the species most affected by this extreme event will have to keep the rest of us informed on how they're doing with their own recovery efforts!

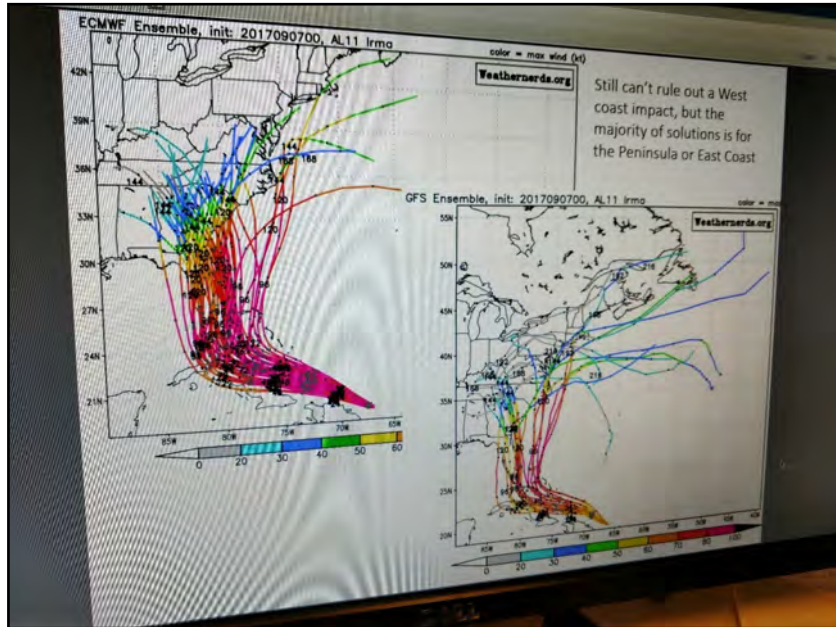
(Continued on page 5)



FLORIDA NEWS



Jim Cantore – enough said! (Photo credit: Jodi Slater)



Hurricane models had a wide spread, but all indicating major impacts to the Caribbean and Florida. (Photo credit: Jodi Slater)

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FLORIDA NEWS



Hurricane Irma directly affected every creature in Florida. Including invasive red imported fire ants (above). *Solenopsis invicta* form a ball around the queen when high water levels force them out of the ground. These balls can float and rotate so that any particular worker ant is not submerged for long periods of time, thereby protecting the queen ant inside the ball. These balls look like small piles of poo, but watch out! No one wants to come into contact with one of these! (Photo credit: Jodi Slater)



Levee breaches, erosion and infrastructure damage have occurred in areas throughout the state that were impacted with high waters during Hurricane Irma (Photo credit: Haley Carter, SJRWMD).

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FLORIDA NEWS



Photos of Camp Branch Creek on Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area immediately after the storm and 1 day after the water receded below road levels. (Photo credit: Jodi Slater)



FWC Wildlife Biologist and Area Manager Jason Slater had to immediately go to work with this backhoe to fill in the large impassible holes in the road to allow other FWC employees and their families to be able to get out of their state housing on the property. Prior to being able to fill in the holes, FWC employees and their families had to scoop out hundreds of two-toed amphiumas (*Amphiuma means*) that were trapped in the holes! (Photo credit: Jodi Slater)

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FLORIDA NEWS



Aquatic wildlife took the opportunity provided by elevated water levels to explore. These catfish were photographed swimming down the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (Photo credit: Rosi Mulholland, SJRWMD).



Water managers are continuing to regulate drainage through flood control structures so as to not flood any new areas (Photo credit: John Stenberg, SJRWMD).



CHAPTER NEWS

Notable Donation

FLTWS recently received a very generous donation. Maggie Hernandez made this donation on behalf of her diseased father, Miguel Truyol.

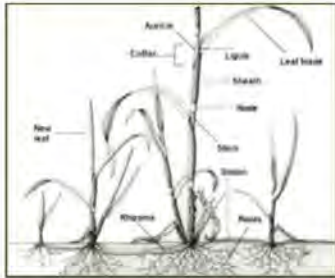
Miguel was a game bird enthusiast, and an avid collector of memorabilia. Maggie, a resident of TX, donated a portion of his collection to the Texas Chapter of TWS when Miguel passed away a few years ago. This summer she reached out to the Florida Chapter to ask if we would be willing to accept the remainder of his collection that had been stored at his second home in Florida. Maggie suggested that we consider using the donated items as a means to generate funds to support the chapter. We are honored to accept this very generous gift of gamebird plates and collectibles.

Be on the lookout for opportunities to purchase some of these rare and usual collectibles in the near future!



CHAPTER NEWS

FALL MEETING 2017



Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society Grass Identification Workshop

October 18-19, 2017

UF-IFAS Range Cattle REC
3401 Experiment Station
Ona, FL 33865

This 2-day workshop will be taught by Brent Sellers and Greg Hendricks, and will include indoor and outdoor classroom exercises in identification and management of native and invasive grasses in Central Florida.

REGISTRATION is \$35.00 for FLTWS members, \$60.00 for non-members and \$15 for students. Class size is limited so please register soon. The deadline for registration October 11, 2017, but late registration may be allowed if slots are still available at a cost of \$70.00.

Registration and Agenda at <https://fltws.org/new-events/2017/10/18/fltws-grass-identification-workshop>

LODGING: Local lodging may be found at the Best Western Heritage Inn & Suites in Bowling Green for \$90/night Govt Rate; or Holiday Inn Express in Arcadia for \$106/night Govt Rate. Both hotels are approximately 20 miles from meeting location. Reservations can be made by calling the hotels directly: Best Western: 863-773-2378; Holiday Inn: 863-494-5900. **There are no designated room blocks.**

Hosted by:

UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences:
Range Cattle Research & Education Center
Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society



CHAPTER NEWS

SPRING MEETING 2018



FLTWS 2018 Spring Meeting April 11th to 13th The Plantation—Crystal River, FL

SAVE THE DATE! The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society will hold its annual Spring Meeting on April 11-13, 2018 at [The Plantation—Crystal River](#). Certified Biologist Continuing Education Credits will be offered. FLTWS meeting committee encourages students to submit papers and posters for our student competitions. Come make the most of our numerous networking opportunities, social events, workshops, and field trips during this year's Spring Meeting.

Additional details will be forthcoming in future meeting reminders as well as on the <http://www.fltws.org> meeting page website. Managers, researchers, administrators, educators, students, and all natural resource professionals will benefit from the information exchange available at this Spring Meeting.

Mark your calendar today and start making your plans to attend FLTWS 2018 Spring Conference!

SPRING MEETING 2018

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLTWS Undergraduate Student Scholarship

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society, in conjunction with the Florida Wildlife Federation and the National Wild Turkey Federation, is sponsoring the **Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship**. This scholarship is for an undergraduate student who is a Junior or Senior during the 2017-2018 academic year. One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded this year.



To be eligible for this scholarship, the student must be interested in pursuing a career in wildlife ecology and/or management, and supportive of the mission of The Wildlife Society. The student must also be currently enrolled in a 4-year college or university in Florida and have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater. Recipients will be selected on the basis of financial need, extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, and career goals as stated in the student's letter.

Each candidate must submit the following 4 items to apply:

- (1) A letter expressing your professional goals and financial need;
- (2) Your resume;
- (3) Copies of your transcripts from each college or university attended (unofficial copies are acceptable);
- (4) One letter of recommendation submitted directly from a faculty member or wildlife professional.

*To be considered for this scholarship, all application materials (described above) must be emailed or sent through postal mail post-marked on or before **15 December 2017**.*

Send to:

Monica Folk, Chair
FLTWS Scholarship Committee
1475 Regal Court
Kissimmee, FL 34744
E-mail: monicafolk@embargmail.com

The Student Scholarship Committee will announce the recipient in Spring 2018.

Top applicants will be eligible for complimentary TWS membership through the Sponsor-A-Student program. This will provide membership benefits such as access to the national TWS Mentorship Center, Career Center, publications, and training and networking opportunities. They are encouraged to attend the 2018 FLTWS Spring conference (April 11-13 in Crystal River); complimentary registration and a student room will be provided to the winner.



SPRING MEETING 2018

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLTWS Graduate Student Scholarship

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society, in conjunction with the Florida Wildlife Federation and the National Wild Turkey Federation, is sponsoring the **Courtney A. Tye Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship**. This scholarship is for graduate students during the 2017-2018 academic year. One \$3,000 scholarship will be awarded. This scholarship is intended to assist a graduate student who has demonstrated potential for making a future professional contribution in wildlife science or management through research, management, education, or outreach.



To be eligible for this scholarship, the applicant must be a full-time graduate student at a college or university in Florida and have an interest in a career in wildlife ecology or management. The recipient will be selected on the basis of the contribution of their graduate research to wildlife in Florida, their demonstrated leadership, professional preparations, and need for the funding.

Each candidate must submit the following 4 items to apply:

- (1) A letter describing your professional career goals in wildlife ecology or management, your preparations for a career in this field, your previous or current involvement with TWS, and an explanation of how the funding would be used if awarded;
- (2) A resume;
- (3) A one-page document describing the nature of your graduate research, your role in developing the project, what stage the research is in, and an indication of how the project is funded;
- (4) A letter of recommendation form filled out and submitted directly by a member of your graduate committee (see accompanying form).

*To be considered for this scholarship, all application materials (described above) must be emailed or sent through postal mail post-marked on or before **15 December 2017**.*

Send to:

Monica Folk, Chair
FLTWS Scholarship Committee
1475 Regal Court
Kissimmee, FL 34744
E-mail: monicafolk@embarqmail.com

The Student Scholarship Committee will announce the recipient in Spring 2018.

The scholarship winner must be a member of the Florida Chapter of TWS, but may join at the time of scholarship application. They are expected to share information about their research through a poster or presentation at the 2018 FLTWS Spring conference (April 11-13 in Crystal River); complimentary registration and a student room will be provided to the winner.



NATIONAL CHAPTER NEWS

Greeting Students,

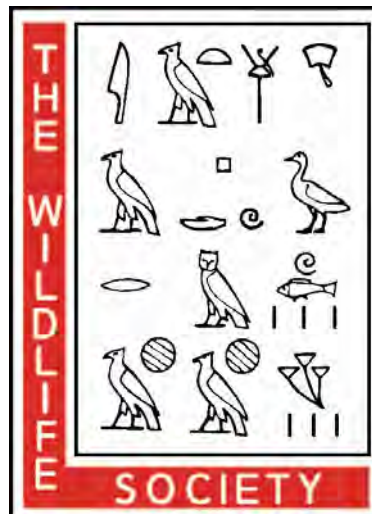
Have you ever heard of the Student Development Working Group? We are a Working Group within the National Chapter that promotes increased student awareness of national TWS membership benefits, works to expand knowledge and technical capabilities of student members, and helps prepare student members for professional wildlife careers. The working group facilitates networking between students and experienced TWS members by hosting meetings, workshops, poster sessions, a mentoring program, and a student chapter leaders' breakfast. The working group also selects the recipient of The Wildlife Society's Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award.

Our working group features the latest student's news in The Student Chronicles. We actively post on our TWS Student Development Working Group Facebook page. We delivery new topics, current student research and professional skill building.

We look forward to being the voice for students to the Parent Society of The Wildlife Society. We are always here to welcome new student members. We look forward to helping and providing for the next generation of the wildlife profession!

If you have any questions about the Student Development Working Group please contact Chair Kristi Confortin at kaconfortin@bsu.edu.

Please see attached link for the Student Development Working Group Facebook Page, all you have to do is "like" the page to get daily updates! Click on the logo below to visit our Facebook page!



MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

Audubon Assembly

Water for Florida's Future

October 20-21, 2017 in St. Augustine, Florida

Annual Florida Panther Festival

November 4, 2017, Naples Zoo, Florida

floridapantherfestival.com

International Fire Ecology & Management Congress

November 28-December 2, 2017, Orlando, Florida

<http://afefirecongress.org/>

32nd Annual Everglades Coalition Conference

January 11-14, 2018 in Stuart, Florida

evergladescoalition.org

13th Annual Southwest Florida Nature Festival

January 13-15, 2018 in Naples, Florida

Register [here](#).

41st Annual National Wild Turkey Federation Convention

February 14-18, 2018 in Nashville, Tennessee

http://www.nwtf.org/special_events/convention.html

24th Annual Pelican Island Wildlife Festival

March 3, 2018 in Sebastian, Florida

More details [here](#).

Prescribed Fire for Wildlife

April 24-27, 2018 in West Palm Beach, Florida

Details to come at www.fltws.org

2017 FLTWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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MAusley@VHB.com AND

Jen Korn 727-201-6622

jennifer.korn@fltws.org

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Tim.O'Meara@MyFWC.com

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kristen.nolte@fltws.org AND

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jodi.slater@fltws.org

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SCHOLARSHIP

Monica Folk

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www.fltws.org

PHOTO CALL



A coyote (*Canis latrans*) enjoys a meal of piglet (*Sus scrofa*). Coyotes are considered naturalized residents in Florida, while wild hogs are classified as non-native and invasive. This photo was obtained as part of long-term monitoring by FWC and biologist Dr. Jen Korn. The location of the photo was Babcock Ranch Preserve, Charlotte, County. Photo credit: FWC.

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 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!

