Volume 24, Issue 1



Spring 2022

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

be our LAST all-virtual gathering of the Florseveral years of financial records. The ida Chapter. It was a terrific conference on Awards and Scholarship Committees have Wildlife Movement, organized by our President-Elect Maria Zondervan, on a new virtual platform called HopIn. We had over 100 people register and most attended all day. It recognize our recipients with a raucous banprovided some innovative social activities including biologist speed-dating, a topical The Executive Board is looking to re-engage virtual coffee-hour, Happy Hour in regional meet-up rooms, and an outstanding Awards which has been on hold. Some key items Ceremony by Rosi Mulholland. The symposium on Translocation, facilitated by FWC's Karl Miller, was excellent, as was the Key- Federation partnership, increasing member note presentation by Carlton Ward and Jason Lauritsen of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Coalition. We had superb technical presentations on current projects from wading birds, hauling the website. This will require a whole owls and jays to bats to reptiles and amphibians; we can see that good wildlife work has continued to happen, despite the global pandemic. Some enjoyed real-world experiences, real work. This newsletter includes a list of with several small-group field trips held over the weekend following. Thanks to all who helped with the meeting or attended.

During the pandemic, the Executive Board has continued to meet quarterly and do our best to continue the work of the Chapter, Looking ahead, we are planning a workshop including planning meetings, which unfortu- for the Fall meeting, though the location or nately continue to be converted to virtual sessions, despite our optimistic hopes that Next year's annual Spring Conference (and it "this next one will be in person, for sure!". will happen this time!) is at Jacksonville Em-We continue to manage the finances and bassy Suites on Baymeadow on perform administrative duties, which is a March 22-24, 2023. Look forward challenge when we are all working remotely. to seeing you all then! One casualty of Covid is our Audit process, Monica Folk

so we commit to getting back on track and A few weeks ago, we held what we hope will performing an audit this summer on the last performed their duties faithfully for the last few years, so thanks to Rosi and the reviewers. We look forward to the day when we can quet and big hugs.

> with our Strategic Plan implementation, include beefing up our support for wildlife advocacy, strengthening our Florida Wildlife involvement, improving communications, creating a mentoring network, providing more skill-building opportunities, and overnew cadre of members to step-up and get involved, which I think comes at a good time, as we are all looking to dive back into committees, highlighting the areas where we need help, so consider volunteering for a new project or signing on to become an officer next year. We'll take any level of commitment, and the work is rewarding.

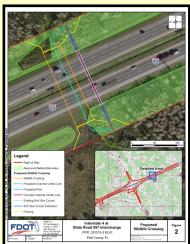
> topic are undecided, so send us your ideas.





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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



partment structing

new crossing will connect the existing conser- panther roadkills occurred just days (4/17/22) vation lands of the Hilochee Wildlife Manage- before the creation of this newsletter. ment Area on both sides of I-4. The crossing To see wildlife captured by game cameras on is 61' long with an 8' vertical clearance and is wildlife crossings and other bridges within designed to accommodate both aquatic and FDOT District One, please visit this link. terrestrial species. The project includes approximately 1.5 miles of wildlife fencing on both sides of I-4 to help funnel wildlife to the new crossing. Based on wildlife camera data, FDOT expects deer, bobcats, covotes, raccoons and hopefully an occasional bear or panther to use the new crossing. This is the first of three planned wildlife crossings along I-4 in Polk County.

On April 14, some attendees of the inaugural Florida Wildlife Corridor Summit, visited the wildlife crossing currently under construction. Brent Setchell and Nicole Monies (both with FDOT), William Freund (fStop Foundation), and FWC biologists from Hilochee WMA, presented summit attendees with construction plans of the crossing, information about moni-

The **Florida** De- toring the crossing via game cameras, and proof vided a tour of the structure.

Transportation The first Florida Wildlife Corridor ((FDOT) is con-Expedition was inspired by the movements of new a radio-collared Florida black bear known as wildlife crossing un- M34. This male bear attempted to cross I-4 at derpass as part of multiple locations, including just feet from the I-4 at SR 557 where the new crossing is being built. At least Interchange im- three Florida panthers have died due to vehicuprovements, approx- lar trauma along I-4, and two more on Polk imately 0.75 miles Parkway. The Parkway is approximately 20 east of SR 557. The miles from the new crossing, and one of those



Dr. Jennifer Korn (FLTWS Newsletter Editor), Nicole Monies (FDOT), Amber Crooks (Conservancy of Southwest Florida), and others, tour the new wildlife crossing currently under construction on I-4.

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

The Florida Wildlifer is published biannually by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and is distributed free to Chapter members and other interested parties. Please send letters to the editor, inquiries, newsletter articles, etc., to Dr. Jennifer Korn at jennifer.korn@fltws.org.

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

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IN MEMORIAM

FLTWS member Steve Johnson, had the honor of Doc's painstaking and exhausting work of counting all presenting the 2022 FLTWS Paul Moler Herpetologi- sea turtle nests in Melbourne Beach year after year, cal Conservation Award to Dr. Llewellyn M Ehrhart, provided the empirical data upon which the establishor Doc as he was known to his students and col- ment of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge is leagues. However, the occasion was bittersweet as the predicated.

at his home in Oviedo, FL, in March. On April 22, Earth Day, he would have been 80.

At the ripe young age of 26 he was hired as a faculty member in the biology department at Florida Technical University (FTU)—now known as the University of Central Florida. Doc remained at UCF his entire career and was awarded Emeritus status following his retirement in 2004. At UCF Doc was well known for teaching courses in mammalogy, vertebrate zoology, and herpetology.

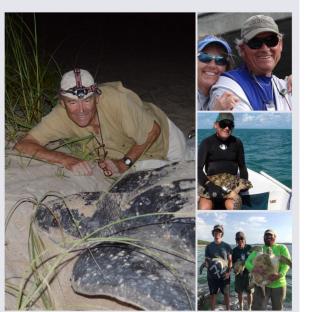
In the early 70's Doc and

a few other young FTU faculty received a grant to When Steve took his vertebrate zoology class, Doc Space Shuttle program and Kennedy Space Center. Moler. Doc would call him Mr. Muck. He said if we Though Doc was initially focused on small mammals, ever got to Gainesville that we must look up this including skunks, the manager of Merritt Island NWR Moler fella. shared with Doc that sea turtles (what turned out to be Doc won many awards during his career, but Steve loggerheads and green sea turtles) nested each summer reflected, "I know this one must have certainly held a on the beach at Canaveral Seashore. After consulting special place in his heart." Unfortunately, he died not with Archie Carr (who gave him advice and tags), he long after learning that he was this year's recipient. and his students began a night-time tagging program, Doc holds a special place in the hearts of many. We counting nests during the summer nesting season, and will never forget him. started netting juvenile sea turtles in Mosquito Lagoon. The award was accepted by Jennifer Elliott, former monitoring program in South Brevard County, and it tor. rookery in the Western Hemisphere.

award was presented posthumously. Doc passed away His other legacy is the many students he taught and

advised, many going on to teach and conduct research at universities and work for NGOs and local, state, and federal agencies. One of his students even serves as the national sea turtle coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

Although Doc is best known for his work with sea turtles, he was a vertebrate zoologist and had a fondness for Florida's amphibians and reptiles. When working at Melbourne Beach he was always on the lookout for the local herps. Doc was proud to have earned another nickname in his later years—he was affectionately "Rattlesnake."



study the vertebrates near the future location of the told them about a guy up in Gainesville named Paul

In the early 80's Doc and his students began an annual student of Doc's, and this years Outstanding Educa-

was not long before his accumulating dataset proved This article was derived from the award transcript given by Steve this area to be the most important loggerhead nesting Johnson, and an obituary written by Dr. Blair Witherington, published in the Herpetological Review.



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MEETING NEWS

Our first virtual conference using the Hopin Platform working professionals in a casual and fun way. A BIG was a success! We maxed out our capacity of 100 regis- THANK YOU to everyone that helped make this contrants. We started the day by catching up with each other ference a success! during our morning coffee social, discussing great topics like prescribed fire, FLTWS Chapter concerns and individual species topics. Then we all headed over to the main stage to enjoy a fabulous symposium on translocation. Karl Miller selected an incredible panel of expert on everything from birds to herps, educating us all on the successes and challenges of translocating wildlife.



working sessions. Everyone had a chance to get to know **Zondervan**. some new faces and connected with old friends. After lunch we were honored to have Carlton Ward and Jason Lauritsen as our Keynote Speakers. They enlightened us on the latest happenings with The Florida Wildlife Corridor projects and shared some of their latest footage and amazing photography. We kept the party going with our awards presentations and scholarship awards. If you missed any of these, you can see them on the Chapter's new YouTube Channel! After a brief business meeting, we dove into the technical session. As always, Paul Moler selected some fabulous papers to be presented. You can still download the abstracts here. If you were part of the conference and wish to rewatch any presentations, or catch ones you might have missed, you can access the recording on Hopin using your original registration link. Once that link expires, you can contact Maria Zondervan and she can send you a link to the presentations via the Chapter's YouTube Channel. We concluded the day with a Happy Hour. This was one last opportunity to socialize with our network of hard-



IF YOU MISSED THIS INCREDIBLE CONFER-**ENCE** – you can purchase access to the recordings by contacting Maria Zondervan.

IF YOU HAVE LOCATION IDEAS AND/OR WORKSHOP TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE Over lunch, participants enjoyed 3-minute speed net- FALL MEETING, please send those to Maria

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MEETING NEWS—AWARDS

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce the 2022 Award recipients. Awards were presented at the FLTWS Virtual Spring Conference on Thursday March 24th.



NGO Special Recognition Award

Audubon Florida c/o Julie Wraithmell

Audubon Florida was recognized for their advocacy, outreach, monitoring, and science-based management of Florida's beach-nesting birds. The award was accepted by the Director of Audubon Florida, Julie Wraithmell.

<u>Citizen Conservation Award (sponsored by Florida Master Naturalist Program, UF-IFAS)</u>

Central Florida RECON for their grassroots citizens efforts to improve the shorelines of Central Florida by removing trash and debris and by partnering with many local environmental groups in these efforts.





Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award

Dr. Lew Ehrhart, Professor Emeritus, UCF was posthumously presented the award, having passed away in March just days after learning of the award. Doc was a vertebrate zoologist, helped establish the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in 1991, and began what has become one of the longest continuous datasets in sea turtle research in the world.

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MEETING NEWS—AWARDS

Outstanding Educator Award

Jennifer Elliott, Program Director, UCF Arboretum and Natural Lands

Jennifer runs the Learning by Leading program out of the UCF Arboretum, which teaches students about real world natural resource-related topics such as greenhouse management, pollinators, volunteer management, urban horticulture, stormwater management, and natural resources.





Herbert W. Kale, II Award

Dr. Thomas Scott Hoctor, Research Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, UF

Tom was recognized for his work on the research team developing the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN, 1995) - a statewide trail network as well as a network to connect intact landscapes of conservation lands across Florida. FEGN later spawned the Florida Wildlife Corridor Project.

Influential Woman in Wildlife Award

Maria Zondervan, former Land Manager for Lake Apopka North Shore, St. John's River WMD

Maria has worked in wildlife in Florida for more than 25 years. She has been an instrumental player in restoration of Lake Apopka North Shore. She managed 19 Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) clusters and is highly respected in the RCW community.



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MEETING NEWS—SCHOLARSHIPS

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce the 2022 Scholar-ship recipients. Scholarships were presented at the FLTWS Virtual Spring Conference on Thursday March 24th. These scholarships are co-sponsored with the Florida Wildlife Federation.

<u>Courtney A. Tye Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship (Graduate)</u>

Lindsay Curl, University of West Florida Her current project is a study of microplastic contamination in sea turtle eggs, and she will graduate with her MS in Biology in Summer 2023.



Southeastern Section Field Course Tuition Scholarship

Hailee Quintero, USF

Hailee is a senior majoring in Zoology, and she expects to graduate this spring. All tuition expenses for Hailee to attend the 2– week field course will be covered by the Chapter.

4th Annual Undergraduate Diversity Student Scholarship

Jessica Scrivener, USF

Jessica has worked to overcome challenges like dyslexia during her academic career, recently becoming a peer leader in chemistry, a subject with which she once struggled. She works as a veterinary technician and is a senior in Integrative Biology, expecting to graduate this spring.



24th Annual Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship (Undergraduate)

Carly Naundorff, Eckerd College

Carly has conducted research on black skimmers, resulting in a peer-reviewed publication with her advisor, Beth Forys. She is a senior, and expects to graduate this spring.



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CHAPTER NEWS—COMMITTEES

If you are looking to get involved with the Chapter as we make our come-back, we have several committees in need of volunteers. Below is a description of open positions. Most require bursts of activity, typically associated with our spring and fall conferences, or at most a few hours each month. If you are interested, please email Monica Folk for details.

Conservation Committee

Position Available: Committee Chair

Description: The Conservation Committee reviews legislative proposals, administrative regulations, environmental impact statements, and other issues affecting wildlife within Florida, preparing position papers or recommending actions to the Executive Board. The Chairperson may ask any Chapter member to assist with reviews, based on member expertise.

Awards Committee

Positions Available: Committee Chair, Committee Members

Description: The Awards Committee Chair annually solicits and receives nominations for the Chapter's awards. Committee members review the nominations and make recommendations to the Executive Board as to what recognitions should be awarded. Most work occurs in January of each year.

Scholarship Committee

Positions Available: Committee Members

Description: The Scholarship Committee Chair annually solicits and receives nominations for the Chapter's Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships. Committee members review applications and provide rankings based on scoring rubric provided. Most work occurs in January of each year.

Audit Committee

Positions Available: Committee Members (2)

Description: The Audit Committee Chair receives financial records from the Treasurer in January and creates a report for review by the other committee members. Report is presented to the membership at the Spring Annual Meeting. Most work occurs in March of each year, however we need to 2 members to volunteer to review a report this summer (in time for Fall 2022 meeting).

Website Committee

Positions Available: Website curator, documents librarian

Description: The Chapter website is maintained by the current chairs but needs an update to bring in more current and relevant information. In addition, we have a backlog of Chapter documents (meeting minutes, committee reports) that need to be uploaded and organized into accessible pages. Training is available on website software and a revamp plan has been designed.

Merchandise: We are looking for someone to be responsible for our merchandise. This includes holding and maintaining inventory and purchasing new items for the Chapter "store". Our merchandise is primarily sold at our conferences, but also includes online sales. Most work occurs at annual Spring meeting.

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CHAPTER NEWS—COMMITTEES

Nominations and Elections Committee

Positions Available: Committee Members

Description: The Nominating and Elections Committee consists of three members. Elections are held every two years, and committee members are responsible for preparing a slate of two candidates for each elective position: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Southeastern Section Representative, two Members-at-Large. Next elections are scheduled for Spring 2023, so committee members are needed by this summer. Should be familiar with Chapter membership and general functions of each office.

Program Committee

Positions Available: Committee Members

Description: The Program Committee plans the Fall and Spring Meetings, overseen by the President-Elect and President, who set the theme, invite speakers, symposiums, fieldtrips and workshops. The Committee proposes venues and dates for each meeting well in advance, to be approved by the Executive Board. The committee then plans and implements meeting agendas, menus, social events, and entertainment. The Committee coordinates with the Website, Membership, Education, Awards, Scholarship, Student Involvement and Fundraising committees to announce and promote the meeting. Committee members and Chapter Treasurer handle all onsite meeting needs including registration, merchandise, A/V management, food and entertainment, poster sessions, fieldtrip and workshop logistics, speaker needs, banquet agenda, volunteer coordination, student lodging, and meeting program. Organizational skills are a must. Committee meets monthly.

Education and Information Committee

Position Available: Committee Member

Description: The Education and Information Committee informs the public of basic concepts of wildlife management and members of Chapter, Section, and Society activities and interests, through periodic newsletters, website, and social media. Looking for assistance in updating posts to social media (Facebook).

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Monica at monica.folk@fltws.org.

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CHAPTER NEWS

2022 SPRING MEETING MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Shortly before the spring meeting on March 24, 2022, the Chapter had a total of 165 members. Of those members, 136 paid membership dues through the National Chapter, and 29 through the FLTWS webpage. Professional memberships account for 134 members, and 31 are students.

Please spread the word to your colleagues and friends if they would like to become a member, it is easy to visit www.fltws.org and sign up!

2022 SPRING MEETING TREASURY REPORT

As of January 1, 2022:

GENERAL SUMMARY (1/1/21 – 1/1/22)	
Checking account balance as of 1/1/21	\$ 29,726.50
Checking account balance as of 1/1/22	\$ 28,922.86
Net Change	\$- 803.64
ALLOCATION OF ASSETS	
Checking Account as of 1/1/22	\$ 28,922.86
Morgan Stanley Endowment Fund as of 1/1/22	\$ 52,880.04
TOTAL	\$ 81,802.90

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CHAPTER NEWS—T-SHIRT CONTEST

DESIGN THE NEXT FLTWS T-SHIRT!

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

Contest Rules:

- ♦ Design Guidelines:
 - * Your design should be inspired by and/or pertain to wildlife or its conservation and management.
 - * Your design must be within 11 x 11 inches and will be on the back of the shirt only. The FLTWS logo will be applied to the sleeve or the front breast pocket area of the t-shirt. A slogan may be submitted as incorporated into the t-shirt design. If this is the case, the slogan may be applied to the front breast pocket area of the t-shirt and the logo may be applied to the sleeve, at the discretion of FLTWS.
 - * Your design must be wholly original. By submitting a design you are guaranteeing that you hold rights to everything in it, and that it does not contain any copyrighted material, including images/copy found on the internet, unless clearly marked as published under a creative commons (cc) license.
 - * Digital entries only. Design submission should be saved to produce a quality output. Acceptable file formats are high resolution JPG, TIFF, GIF, PNG, Adobe Illustrator (AI), PDF, or Photoshop (PSD). Resolution should be at least 300 dpi.
- The contest is open to all FLTWS members, student chapter members, or their family members.
- All entrants must be 18 years or older to submit an entry. If you are under the age of 18 you may still create and submit a design, but it must be submitted on your behalf by a parent or guardian.
- Vou may submit up to two designs per person, but they must be submitted as separate entries.
- All entries should be submitted to monica.folk@fltws.org with the following information/statements:
 - * Entrant name
 - * Affiliation with FLTWS (member, student chapter member, family member of an FLTWS member (including their name))
 - * Contact information, including:
 - ♦ Name
 - ♦ Address
 - ♦ Phone number
 - ♦ Email
 - * Optional: Describe your inspiration for the design.
- The submission information must be filled out completely and truthfully. If you fail to submit the requested information completely, give any false information or fail to reveal any pertinent information, you may be disqualified from the competition.
- ♦ You must submit your design digitally by midnight ET, **December 31, 2022.**
- ♦ Designs will be judged on the following criteria:
 - * Concept/originality striking and/or memorable design
 - * Visibility (eye-catching and visible from a reasonable distance)
 - * Completeness of design must be ready for print
 - Feasibility must be easy to reproduce

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CHAPTER NEWS—T-SHIRT CONTEST

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

By submitting an entry, you are agreeing to all contest rules. If you have any questions, please email monica.folk@fltws.org.

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STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

The Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society at the University of Florida has been busy in 2021-2022. Current President, Vasilios Kosmakos, shared the following impressive list of activities the group completed in the past year.

- Created a school workshop series that taught children over 250 kids across the state between the ages of 8 15 about various environmental and wildlife issues
- Conducted several invasive species removals in local woods around Gainseville
- Adopted a highway several trash cleanups
- Invited speakers at every club meeting on topics ranging from environmental archeology to elephant conservation (12 total)
- Attended festivals to promote LGTBQ representation in wildlife
- Hosted workshops on hunting, marine mammal strandings
- Members went on several fossil hunting, star gazing, birding, and hiking events
- Held several tailgates
- Beast feast celebration
- 15 members attended the regional conclave event
- Worked with the Florida Museum of Natural history and other community partners to fundraise a total of 10k for conservation.\

Vasilios is the current President of the UF Wildlife Society and a Samuel Proctor of the Oral History Program.

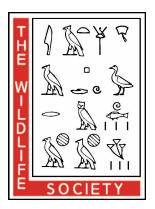


Photo credit: UF Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society Facebook Page



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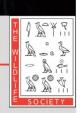
NATIONAL CHAPTER NEWS



Greetings,

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

Interested in hearing more from TWS...



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

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MEETINGS, EVENTS, OTHER "OF INTEREST"

Stay tuned for information about the FLTWS Fall Meeting

Conservation Florida 2022 Bioblitz Series

Rock Springs Run State Reserve

June 11, 2022

29th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

Spokane, Washington November 6-10, 2022

FLTWS Annual Spring Meeting

Jacksonville, Florida March 22-24, 2023

30th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

Louisville, Kentucky November 5-9, 2023

Live Wildly

The Florida Wildlife Corridor Needs You. Join the Movement

Path of the Panther

A project of Florida Wild with National Geographic Follow the adventure, and watch for the film to be shown somewhere near you within the year!

2022-2023 FLTWS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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VACANT

PROGRAM:

VACANT

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PHOTO CALL



Northern bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) range throughout the state of Florida but are most abundant where optimal habitat occurs. These smallish, round, and kind of funny-looking birds are a popular game species for hunters in the spring. Their name comes from the telltale whistle of the male that says "bob-white!"

Photo credit: Dr. Jen Korn; Johnson Engineering, Inc.

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!

