

Fall 2022

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Maria Zondervan

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Mark Ausley

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Tyler Pittman

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Robin Boughton

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Jennifer Korn

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Steve Johnson

Member-at-Large:

John Humphrey

Dear Members,

Last month was our FIRST in-person gathering of the Florida Chapter since the pandemic started in March 2020. WE ARE BACK!!! Our Fall Meeting and Workshop on Drones was a fantastic event, organized by President-Elect Maria Zondervan and Secretary Tyler Pittman. We had over 75 participants and a dozen instructors in a 2-day intensive learning activity about the intricacy of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and their use in natural resource management. Really neat stuff! The event was hosted at FWC's Florida Wildlife Research Institute in St. Pete. Thanks to all who attended or helped with the meeting. Drones are a HOT topic!

Plans are already in the works for next year's events, which will be in-person only (no virtual option). Start making travel requests and plans to join us for our first in-person Spring conference in four years, 22-24 March 2023 at the Jacksonville Embassy Suites on Baymeadows. We are again sponsoring the excellent Prescribed Fire for Wildlife Class, which will be 25-28 April 2023 at the FFA Leadership Training Center near Haines City, Florida. Please see the announcements later in the newsletter for more details about these events.

Now that things are getting back to the 'new normal', it is time to re-engage professionally. We are all anxious to start networking again; becoming more involved with FLTWS is a great way to be in the heart of things for the wildlife profession. It is also an easy way to

rack up 'credits' toward re-certification. A number of people have stepped forward to be leaders of various committees or to help with planning next year's events. We could still use some additional members for the Audit, Technology (Website), Scholarship, Awards and Program committees. These committees all have an experienced Chairperson and you will be part of a strong team working on defined projects. I'm also recruiting officer candidates for the March 2023-2025 term. If you are interested in contributing to the work of FLTWS, please contact me. So glad to be back and engaging face-to-face again!

Monica Folk

monica.folk@fltws.org

FLTWS President 2021-2023



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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The *Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society* sponsored two students, Hailee Quintero (2022 Recipient, and recent UCF graduate) and Lentil Evergreen (2020 Recipient, and recent FAU Honors College graduate), to attend the Southeastern Section Field Course held May 26-June 10, 2022, in Georgia. One of the students, Hailee, sent us this short summary of her experience.



Hailee with corn snake.

The two weeks I spent at the Jones Center in Ichaaway for the SETWS field course were magical and transformative to say the least. Driving into the 30,000 acre long-leaf pine reserve, I felt like I had entered another world entirely! Dr. Daniel Greene and Dr. Mike Conner, among many others, made sure this course was worthwhile and I can't thank them enough for such an incredible experience. During our two weeks stay, we covered many things including but not limited to: small mammal trapping, owl & bat surveys, radio telemetry with quail, necropsies, and we even participated in a prescribed burn! We then used our accumulated skills to create a group project covering the data we collected.

Throughout the SETWS field course, I made so many connections with professors and professionals from all over the country while learning about their careers, some of which I had no idea existed beforehand. It was so refreshing to be surrounded by likeminded people that have the same passion for environmental conservation and to learn from one another. This experience truly rekindled the fire within me towards a career in conservation and made me hopeful for my future. Most of the material covered were things I never learned in my undergrad and getting to bridge the gap between the online classroom, due to COVID-19, and practical application was such a rewarding experience.

Finally, I would like to thank Monica Folk and the FL chapter of TWS for sponsoring me; it was an honor to participate in this field course and I will surely never forget my time spent in Ichaaway!



Setting up mist nets for bats..



Hailee at necropsy.



Lentil on ATV.



Lentil small mammal trapping.

All photos courtesy of Daniel Greene.

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@fltw.org. *The Florida Wildlifer* is published solely for the information, interest, and enjoyment of our readers. Views and opinions expressed in *The Florida Wildlifer* are those of the author or source of material and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, views, or endorsements of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Copyright 2020 *The Florida Wildlifer*. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America.

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

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

MEETING NEWS—FALL WORKSHOP

Our first in-person meeting since the pandemic was incredibly popular! On September 15-16 at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg, we offered a workshop on UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) and Natural Resource Management. We maxed out the registrations with 75 participants – it was a full house!

We started the morning with the Fall Business Meeting. The minutes from the Spring 2022 meeting were not available to approve, so they are included in this Newsletter. If you have comments or questions about those minutes, please send them to Monica.Folk@ftws.org. We will approve the Minutes at the Winter Board meeting. Committee reports and other announcements from the meeting are found throughout this Newsletter.



attend (\$35); just contact Maria (pittmanh1@ufl.edu) for access.

The second day of the workshop was based at the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve a few minutes south of the hotel. We had great field demonstrations of quad UASs by FFS and Triad Drones, including post-field processing of various imagery types by Triad. Mark Cunningham gave an excellent presentation on the history and status of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Florida. We ended the day with a tour and presentation of some of the dozen or so educational Birds of Prey located at the Preserve. Great meeting and Workshop! Thanks to all the organizers, presenters, hosts and participants!



All photos courtesy of Maria Zondervan.

2022 FALL TREASURY REPORT

7/1-22—9/30/22:

GENERAL SUMMARY

Checking account balance as of 7/1/22	\$ 27,139.11
<u>Checking account balance as of 9/30/22</u>	<u>\$ 31,632.11</u>
Net Change	\$4,493.01

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS

Checking Account as of 9/30/2	\$ 31,632.11
<u>Morgan Stanley Endowment Fund as of 9/30/22</u>	<u>\$ 40,217.07</u>
TOTAL	\$ 71,849.19

The first day of the workshop consisted of excellent presentations by various drone experts from UF/IFAS Extension (several counties), UF Wildlife Ecology Dept, FWRI, Northern Arizona University, Leading Edge Aerial Technology, Florida Forest Service (FFS) and Wildlife Drones (based in Australia). We learned about UAS regulations, types, data collection and management and specific applications for herbiciding, prescribed burning, imagery collection, and monitoring wading birds, manatees and seagrass restoration. The presentations (PDF or video format) are available to registered participants (free) or members interested in the topic who could not attend (Maria.Zondervan@ftws.org) or Tyler Pittman

MEETING NEWS—SPRING MEETING MINUTES

FLORIDA CHAPTER of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY SPRING BUSINESS MEETING – MINUTES

24 March 2022

2 pm – 3 pm

2022 Awards (*Ros*) & Scholarship (*Monica*) **PRESENTATIONS** were made just before the business meeting was called to order.
Call to order (*Monica*) 2:41 PM

Attendance: Virtual via the spring conference platform.

Monica Folk, Robin Boughton, Maria Zondervan, Lisa Smith, Rosi Mulholland, etc. Monica indicated a quorum was present for voting.

Monica distributed meetings minutes and agenda via the conference host.

Fall Board Meeting Minutes (*Tyler*) - summary, **vote to approve**

Voted via poll in the virtual platform.

Passed Unanimous

Treasurer's Report (*Robin*) – **accept to file for audit**

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

Majority of income from membership dues and a donation from the Martin Anderson Foundation to support meetings.

Committee reports: Jen Korn will issue a newsletter with all of the other committee reports soon. We are recruiting for various committee members (listed by Monica).

Program (*Maria*)

Next spring conference will be in Jax in-person March 22nd-24th 2023.

Previous attempts to hold annual meeting were canceled because much of travel was restricted due to COVID.

Need ideas for a fall workshop. Please send suggestions to Maria.

Last chance to attend spring field trips. Email Kimberly ASAP.

Membership (*Lisa*)

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.

Lisa is updating the email listserv.

(continued on page 5)

MEETING NEWS—SPRING MEETING MINUTES

Old Business

Recruiting volunteers, committee chairs (Awards, Scholarship, Elections)

Monica asked for new volunteers for committee memberships. We hope people will get more involved as we move back to in-person events.

New Business

Prescribed Fire for Wildlife course sponsorship – April 2023

Supporting the course in spring of 2023. We will use our website to do registration and provide financial management.

Fall Meeting venue ideas? Send to Monica

Questions from the membership? - none

Adjourn 3:00 PM

Any comments, corrections, or questions about the Spring Meeting Minutes can be sent to Monica Folk at Monica.Folk@ftws.org.

CHAPTER NEWS—COMMITTEE REPORTS

Thanks to Laramé Ferry, Jay Exum, Eric Tillman, Sam Baraoidan, Bobbi Carpenter, Jodi Slater, Aubrey Greene, Tyler Mosteller and others who have recently come forward to volunteer for leadership positions within the Chapter! We are building a terrific corps of professionals to get FLTWS back on track, now that we are coming out of the pandemic fog. We have a few more volunteer positions open, so contact me if you want to become involved. We are also looking for candidates for all officer positions for next year (starting March), so let me know if you are interested in joining the Board.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Awards reviewer – 5 hours in December to review applications for Awards

Scholarship reviewer – 5-10 hours in January to review up to 10 applications for graduate research scholarship

Audit report reviewer – 2 hours in February to read and approve audit report

Website assistant – serve as backup for occasional postings to website (training provided)

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.

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

Committee Chairs

Awards—Laramé Ferry, larameferry@gmail.com

Scholarship—Monica Folk, monica.folk@fltws.org

UF Student Chapter—Mariaguadalupe Vilchez, mvilchez@ufl.edu

Membership—Lisa Smith, lisa.smith@fltws.org

Education/Communication—Jen Korn, Jennifer.korn@fltws.org

Fundraising—Larry Perrin, yelpper7@gmail.com

Conservation—Jay Exum, jay.h.exum@gmail.com

Technology/Website—Eric Tillman, website.team@fltws.org

Audit—Sam Baraoidan, sam.baraoidan@fltws.org

Nominating/Elections—Monica Folk, monica.folk@fltws.org

Program—Maria Zondervan, maria.zondervan@fltws.org

CHAPTER NEWS—AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

2023 FLTWS Awards Nomination Solicitation

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is seeking nominations! Please help us recognize the outstanding talent we have in Florida in wildlife conservation, research, management, and education by nominating deserving colleagues for following awards:



- 1) Herbert W. Kale Award
- 2) Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award
- 3) Citizen Conservation Award
- 4) Influential Woman in Wildlife Award
- 5) NGO Special Recognition Award
- 6) Outstanding Educator Award
- 7) Early Career Wildlife Professional Award

Descriptions of these awards and past award recipients are available on the FLTWS website at www.fltws.org (highlight “Awards” on the top banner and select from the drop-down list).

An on-line form makes it easy to submit a nomination. Just select “Submit a Nomination” from the drop-down, fill out the form, and click “Submit.” The following information will be needed:

- 1) Nominee's full name, present position, e-mail address, and phone number
- 2) Nominator's and an endorser's names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers
- 3) A clear and concise statement justifying the nomination (one paragraph will suffice)

Note the deadline for submission is **December 1**.

CHAPTER NEWS—SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

2022-23 FLTWS Undergraduate Student Scholarships



The *Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society* is sponsoring two undergraduate scholarship opportunities for wildlife-interested students. The Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship and the Diversity Wildlife Student Scholarship will award \$1,500 each to a Junior or Senior in wildlife or biology. The diversity award is for a student who identifies with minority status, including but not limited to, a racial, ethnic or gender identification. Students enrolled in programs at HBUs, private, community colleges, Native American programs or alternative institutions are encouraged to apply for the diversity award.

To be eligible for one of these scholarships, students must be pursuing a career in wildlife management or ecology and be supportive of the mission of The Wildlife Society. Students must also be currently enrolled in a college or university in Florida and have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater. Recipients will be selected based on financial need, extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, personal challenges and achievements, and career goals, as stated in the student's letter.

Candidates should submit the following items before **1 December 2022**:

1) A letter expressing professional goals and financial need; 2) a resume or CV; 3) copies of 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.

Students applying to the diversity scholarship should submit a separate essay on the topic of the applicant's minority status (can take the form of a reflection), which should express how selection of the candidate would increase equality and inclusivity in the field of wildlife study.

Send to:

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

The Student Scholarship Committee will announce the recipients of both awards in Spring 2023.

Students can apply to both scholarships but will only be awarded one. Recipients will be nominated for a complimentary national 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. Awardees will be required to attend the FLTWS Spring conference in Jacksonville, 22-24 March 2023; complimentary registration and a shared student room will be provided.

CHAPTER NEWS—SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

2022-23 FLTWS Graduate Student Scholarship

The *Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society* is sponsoring the **Courtney A. Tye Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship**. This scholarship is for graduate students during the 2022-2023 academic year. One \$2,000 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 based on 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 5 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 or CV;
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 completed assessment submitted directly by your major advisor (see accompanying form).
5. A letter of recommendation submitted directly by your major advisor. This letter should specifically address how the student and their research will advance wildlife research in Florida, the potential of the student to contribute to the wildlife profession, communication skills, competence, motivation, leadership potential, involvement and work ethic.

*To be considered for this scholarship, all application materials must be emailed (preference) or sent through postal mail post-marked on or before **1 December 2022**.*

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 2023.

The scholarship winner must be a member of the Florida Chapter of TWS and may join at the time of scholarship application. The Awardee is expected to share information about their research through a poster or presentation at the FLTWS Spring conference in Jacksonville, 22-24 March 2023; complimentary registration and a shared student room will be provided to the recipient.

CHAPTER NEWS

2022 FALL MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- As of September 1, 2022, the Chapter had a total of 155 active members
- 85 memberships have lapsed in the past year—reminders have been sent
- The majority of members have joined within the last five years.
- The Chapter’s current member with the longest continuous membership is **Jim Beaver!**

While we are excited that so many young professionals are joining, new members are less likely to get involved in Committees or Board activities. We need more experienced members to step up to leadership positions. Or if you are a fairly new member, volunteer to join a committee—it is a great way to become engaged and network with other professionals. Please spread the word to your colleagues and friends if they would like to become a member, it is easy to visit www.fltw.org and sign up!

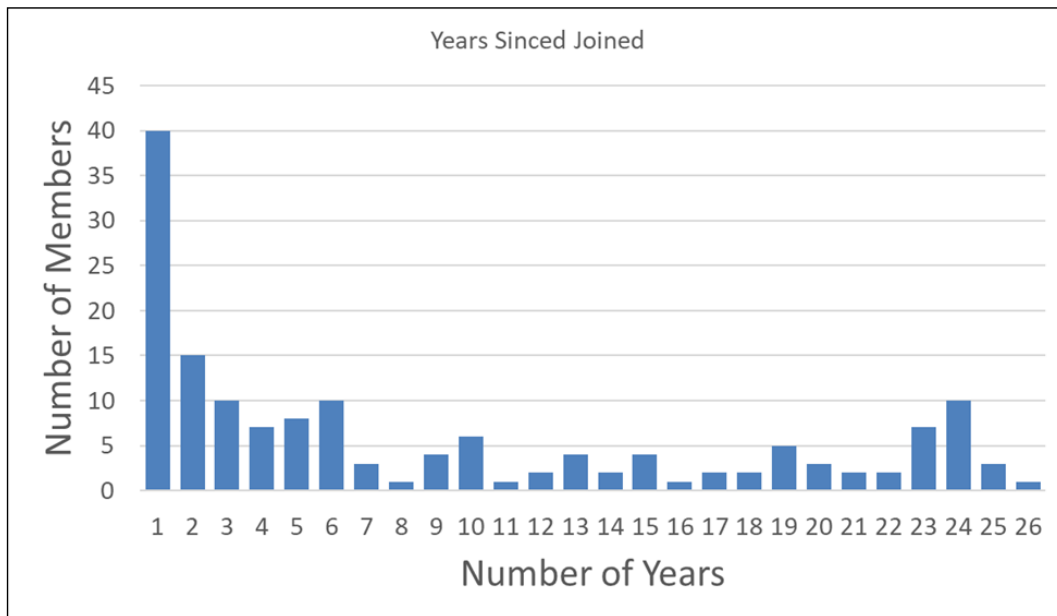


Figure 1. Graph showing the longevity of FLTWS memberships as of September 1, 2022.

CHAPTER NEWS

2023 Training Announcement: Prescribed Fire for Wildlife
April 25-28, 2023
5000 Firetower Road
Haines City, Florida 33844

Sponsors: Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Look for registration details after December 1, 2022 at <https://fltws.org/>

Prescribed Fire for Wildlife

We are pleased to announce the date and location for Florida's 2023 Prescribed Fire for Wildlife class. Our sponsors for this class are the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This class has been designed for Florida land stewards and wildlife biologists who use prescribed fire as a land management tool, to provide information on how prescribed fire is essential to maintain key Florida wildlife habitats and how it may be used to enhance or restore lesser quality habitats. Our overall theme for this class is **"Incorporating Wildlife Values in Prescribed Fire Planning, Ignition and Evaluation"**.

Our 2023 class will be at the FFA Leadership Training Center located at 5000 Firetower Road, Haines City. The training center is located east of Haines City on the east shore of Lake Pierce. It is surrounded by Catfish Creek State Preserve and other nearby natural areas. The training center and nearby natural areas provide an ideal venue for this class which relies on a combination of classroom sessions and field exercises, led by experienced wildlife biologists and prescribed burners. Field exercises will allow student groups an opportunity to develop plans to apply classroom knowledge to the landscape.

Look for information at <https://fltws.org/> in December; or contact Jim Schortemeyer at schortfire@aol.com or 239-682-4341.



Lentil Evergreen, assisted with a prescribed burn at the Southeastern Section Field Course in Georgia this past May/June (2022). Photo credit: Daniel Greene.



STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS



UF Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society UFTWS 2022-2023 Board



President:
Mariaguadalupe Vilchez (she/her)
Natural Resource Conservation



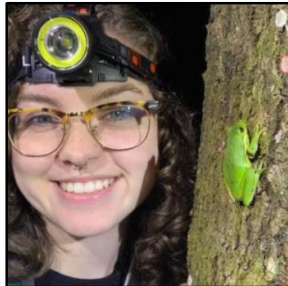
Vice-President of Internal Affairs:
Spencer Zeitoune (he/him)
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



Vice President of External Affairs:
Christian Fernandez (he/him)
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



Secretary:
Marne Quigg (she/her)
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and
Art



Treasurer:
Delana Gonzales (she/her)
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



Fundraising Coordinator:
Abby Willer (she/her)
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



Conclave and Social Coordinator:
Jesus Rodriguez-Riverol (he/him)
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



Education Outreach Coordinator of
Internal Affairs:
Charrise Sproha (she/her)
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



Education Outreach Coordinator of
External Affairs:
Natalie Bever (she/her)
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS



Social Media Manager:
Alex Nelson (she/her)
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Workshops and Events



Wilderness Survival



Ethical Hunting and Blood Tracking



Delta Waterfowl Led Hunt



Springs Trip



Meet a Wildlifer Night:
Graduate Student Mentor Mixer



Ice Cream Fundraiser



STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS



Guest Speakers for our Fall Semester:

- FLTWS with Dr. Monica Folk
- Tracks and Signs with Dr. Lee Burton, UF
- Gator Gobblers, The National Wild Turkey Federation
- Careers in Wildlife with Eric Suarez, FWC
- Lubee Bat Conservancy, Annalyse Williams
- Bats with Dr. Elizabeth Braun de Torrez, FWC
- Wildlife Rehab with Sunrise Rehabilitation Center

Workshops

- Wildlife Photography Skills Day
- Deer Management
- Jeopardy Quiz Bowl Practice for Conclave

Chapter Goals for this semester

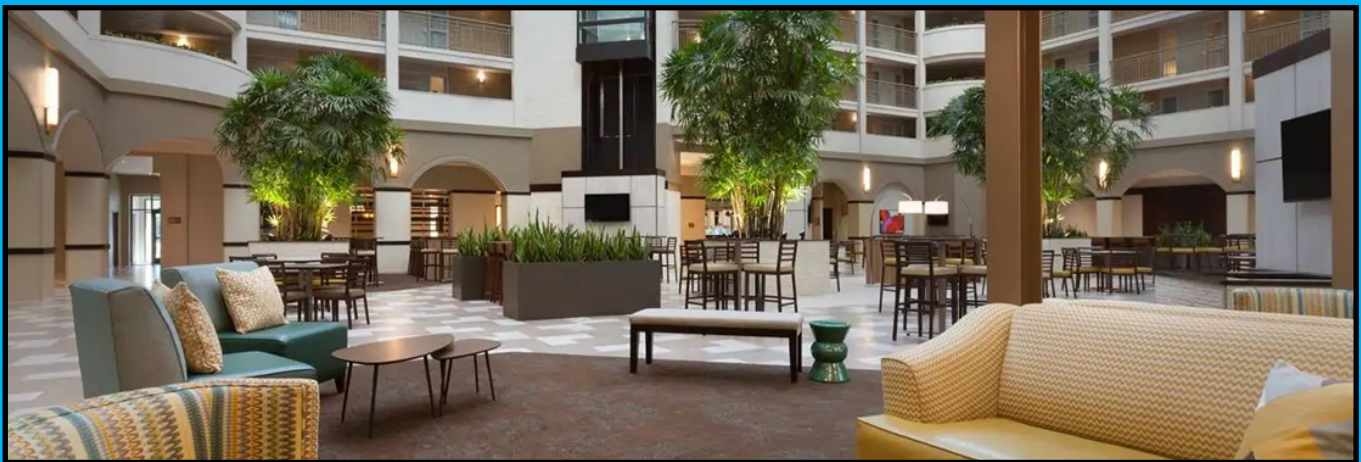
- Prepare for Conclave
- Our motto "Returning to Basics" which means implementing more applied and interactive workshops, socials and events where members get to build up their skills and resumes while also having fun in the outdoors
- Planning for Beast Feast (Feb. 18, 2023)
 - We are looking for seminar speakers for our Beast Feast
 - Meat donations and auction/raffle donations
 - Please feel free to contact us at ufwildlifesociety@gmail.com
- Building our network by collaborating with other university wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and natural resources clubs



SAVE THE DATE—SPRING MEETING 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

FLTWS 2023 Spring Meeting
March 22 – 24, 2023
Embassy Suites Jacksonville Baymeadows



9300 Baymeadows Road, Jacksonville, FL 32256

The first in-person Spring Meeting of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society since 2019 will be **22-24 March 2023** at the [Embassy Suites in Jacksonville](#).

The meeting theme is *Wildlife and Natural Disasters: Case Studies*.

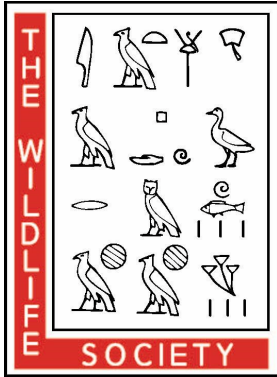
Room-rate will be about \$100/suite and registration also will be about \$100. Additional details will be available soon and posted on our website (<https://www.fltws.org>). Mark your calendar today and start making plans to join us at the FLTWS 2023 Spring Meeting!

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

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.

The banner features a background image of a person in silhouette against a landscape. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box. A small version of the The Wildlife Society logo is located in the bottom right corner of the banner.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, OTHER "OF INTEREST"

29th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

Spokane, Washington
November 6-10, 2022

FLTWS Annual Spring Meeting

Jacksonville, Florida
March 22-24, 2023

Prescribed Fire For Wildlife Course

Haines City, Florida
April 25-28, 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

AUDIT:

Sam Baraoidan
Sam.baraoidan@fltws.org

AWARDS REVIEW:

Larame Ferry
Larame.ferry@gmail.com

CERTIFICATION:

OPEN

CONSERVATION REVIEW; RESOLUTIONS & PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

Jay Exum
Jay.h.exum@gmail.com

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION:

Jennifer Korn
727-201-6622
jennifer.korn@fltws.org

FUNDRAISING CO-CHAIRS:

Mark Ausley 407-760-9157
Mark.ausley@fltws.org AND
Larry Perrin 850-926-5077
yelpper7@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP :

Lisa Smith
352-334-4255
lisa.smith@fltws.org

NOMINATING & ELECTIONS:

Monica Folk
Monica.folk@fltws.org

PROGRAM:

Maria Zondervan
Maria.zondervan@fltws.org

SCHOLARSHIP

Monica Folk
monica.folk@fltws.org

WEBSITE: Eric Tillmen

Website.team@fltws.org

PHOTO CALL



The Big Cypress Fox Squirrel (BCFS, *Sciurus niger avicennia*) is a state-Threatened member of the rodent family found in South Florida, south of the Caloosahatchee River. BCFS are omnivores feeding occasionally on insects or eggs, but primarily eat seeds, nuts, or fruit. While the climate of South Florida is conducive to breeding year-round (which they will) there are peaks in breeding from November to February, and April to July. Being primarily a ground-dwelling species, they prefer habitats with an open understory such as cypress domes, pine flatwoods, or hammocks, but will readily use human-dominated landscapes like golf courses, parks, or neighborhoods. The most prominent threat to BCFS is the loss or fragmentation of habitat due to development or conversion to agriculture, as well as degradation of habitat from the suppression of fire. Because they are state protected, [regulations and protocols exist for environmental permitting](#) and land use changes. For more information, visit [MYFWC](#), or [USFWS](#).

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!

