

# FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



## *Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship*

We are pleased to announce that **Alana Boyles** is the recipient of the 19<sup>th</sup> annual scholarship for undergraduate studies, administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Alana is a senior at the University of Tampa, double-majoring in Marine Biology and Environmental Science.

While an undergrad, Alana has assisted with research projects on coral disease genomics and sea horse geographic distribution, sex ratios, and site fidelity. She completed a NSF-funded summer internship on coral reef ecology at the Mote Marine Lab, which resulted in a peer-reviewed paper on staghorn coral genotypes resilient to white band disease. She co-authored the IUCN Red List assessment for the sea horse *Hippocampus zosterae*. Alana has received several prestigious awards including Audubon's Conservation Leadership Initiative award and Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots grant. She is a member of a large number of conservation organizations and is particularly active in Florida Audubon. At University of Tampa, she founded local chapters of Roots & Shoots, Society for Conservation Biology, Student Audubon, Society for Collegiate Leadership & Achievement, and is active in Campus Sustainability issues.

Alana is currently applying to graduate schools to earn her PhD studying coral conservation ecology, with the goal of studying threatened corals off the coast of Florida. She hopes to help develop management practices that will reduce threats and conserve the diversity of species that occur in marine protected areas.

The FLTWS Undergraduate Student Scholarship was established in 1998 to recognize and financially assist undergraduate students pursuing a career in wildlife biology at a 4-year school in Florida, during their Junior or Senior year. In 2008, the scholarship was renamed the *Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship* in honor of the 3 FAU students so tragically lost during a wading bird survey. Applicants for the scholarship are judged based on extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, financial need, personal goals, contribution to Florida wildlife and a letter of reference from a wildlife professional. The Florida Wildlife Federation and the National Wild Turkey Federation co-sponsor the scholarship. As this year's recipient, Alana will receive a check for \$2,000 at the FLTWS Spring Meeting, 5-7 April 2017 in Orlando, FL.

*Monica Folk*  
*Chair, FLTWS Scholarship Committee*