



May 2009

# THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Arnold Brunell*

That these are challenging times is stating the obvious, to say the least. Most people and employers have been forced to make sacrifices that they, during more favorable times, would not even consider. Among the casualties resulting from the ensuing domino effect are professional and other charitable organizations that rely on members giving of their time, talent, and support over and above their day jobs. Such are the challenges facing your organization, the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FLTWS), today. The good news is that motivated and driven individuals never shy away from a challenge and our membership is comprised of professionals who possess these qualities. FLTWS showed the national and international professional wildlife community last fall that it could host a first-class conference in the midst of a global recession. Admittedly, times have gotten tougher (especially in our state) since this conference, but the fact is that our membership rose to the challenge because of our drive, determination, pride, and skills. We now must refocus our attention to maintaining and strengthening our organization in these tough times so that it will better serve our professional needs and advocate for the wildlife and natural resources that we work so hard to manage.

Sounds good, but a fair question would be "how?" To begin with, we must not lose sight of the fact that the foundation of FLTWS's strength and credibility is based on our membership and the expertise that we have to offer. So the simplest way to support our organization is to maintain your membership. Even if you are unable to participate in some of the Chapter meetings or activities, the knowledge and expertise that you bring with your membership is recognized and represented in FLTWS's agenda, both professional and political.

Among the efforts that we as a chapter will focus on in the near future is to seek greater involvement of willing members by enhancing our committees. Our committees serve the vital role of making things happen for FLTWS. If you are a member looking to become more active or want to contribute your particular skill sets to the Chapter, consider one or more of the committees as an avenue for your involvement. As a committee member, you will have the opportunity to shape and improve the Chapter while working with other highly motivated and talented professionals. Because the committees work as a team, one's involvement does not equate to an exorbitant time commitment. The time and effort spent, however, will be very rewarding. So if interested, please visit our website and contact a committee chair to express your willingness to work with them.

All of our committees are important and do good work. Three in particular, however, will be critical in dealing with the short-term challenges that we face. The Fund Raising Committee has been an ad hoc committee, but is proposed as a standing committee in the latest Bylaw revisions. Like it or not, money is a necessity for accomplishing the goals that we have set for ourselves. The task of building our endowment funds in the hopes

*(continued on page 3)*



Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society President  
Arnold Brunell



# STUDENT CHAPTER REPORT

## Highlights From the University of Florida

### Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

*Student Chapter Newsletter Submitted by Danielle Abbey*

The University of Florida Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is affiliated with The Wildlife Society (TWS), The Southeastern Section, and the State Chapter, which are part of the network for the professional society for wildlife biologists. Student Chapter evening meetings are held bi-monthly throughout the school year.

TWS Chapter events and proceedings are diverse and provide professional and fun opportunities for every member involved. Activities include inviting professionals to speak on a wildlife topic at meetings, attending State Chapter meetings, participating in the Southeastern Section Student Wildlife Conclave in the spring, and getting involved in political issues that affect wildlife resources. Career-building skills are also acquired, such as writing resumes and applying to graduate school. The Chapter also hosts an annual "Wild Game Dinner" in the spring, cleans up an adopted section of road adjacent to a state natural area, provides any assistance at a local wildlife rehabilitation center when necessary, and organizes other social gatherings. Some events the Student Chapter of TWS participated in are highlighted in the images (right, below). Participation in the Student Chapter of TWS is an excellent way to begin a student's wildlife career. In fact, TWS welcomes all majors in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and across other colleges at the University of Florida.

**For more Student Chapter information,  
please visit their website**

**<http://grove.ufl.edu/~tws>**

### 2009-2010 OFFICERS:

President : Danielle Abbey  
Vice-President : Emily Williams  
Treasurer : Mike Dickson  
Secretary : Marissa Streifel  
Historian : Corie Ritchie  
Webmaster : Erika Lozano  
Environmental Education Coordinator:  
Micheal Bakowski



Student Chapter members at the Florida Museum of Natural History with an interpretive exhibit for children and the public. This was a great opportunity to spread awareness about the importance of the Everglades ecosystem and provide exposure for the Chapter.



Project WILD is one of the most widely used conservation and environmental education programs used in pre-K through 12th. The Project WILD—Aquatic certification course was sponsored by TWS and was administered at UF in November. Fun and games (above) were associated with the curriculum.



Students networked and volunteered their time at Annual Wildlife Society Conference in Miami in November, 2008, which was hosted by the Florida Chapter.



Picture from a Student Chapter trip to Caravelle Ranch where professors and biologists came out to teach wildlifer techniques. Also included was herping, birding, and spotlighting.

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## FLORIDA CHAPTER

*(President's message continued from page 1)*

of supporting a part-time executive director, as well as fund raising to support our meetings and membership services has become one of the greatest needs for our Chapter. Larry Perrin has chaired this committee and has done an excellent job, but he needs more help. In the course of preparing for the Miami conference last year, he and his committee proved that even wildlifers can be effective fund raisers.

The Program Committee is another committee that will be instrumental in the continued success of FLTWS. With the government and private industry financial problems, which have resulted in significant travel restrictions, our organization needs to strive even harder to provide our members with learning opportunities and networking venues. Part of the answer might be found by thinking outside of the box. Whatever the case, our members are the ones who know best the needs of wildlife and natural resource managers, and are therefore the ones to think of the programs FLTWS can offer, how they will be effectively provided, and provide the knowledge from which other may benefit.

The Membership Committee will also be facing greater challenges in the near future. As previously mentioned, maintaining our own membership is the simplest form of support. However, the Chapter will need to work harder to maintain and expand its membership – not just in numbers, but in representation also. Ethnicity, sector (private, government, education, etc.), areas of expertise, and regional location are all examples of representation that should be maximized. We all have colleagues who don't belong as FLTWS members, we must do things to gain their interest and encourage them to join.

Whether you decide to get more involved with Chapter activities or just maintain your membership, your affiliation with FLTWS gives the organization credibility as a science-based organization of professionals that provides leadership and recreational opportunities in regard to wildlife-related issues. Working together, we can share our knowledge and strengthen our abilities to serve Floridians as experts in the management and sustainable use practices of our unique natural resources.



### Position Statements of The Wildlife Society

*Submitted by Laura Bies*

The Wildlife Society (TWS) Council approved the following revised position statements:

- Acidic Deposition
- Alterations of Stream, Riparian, and Wetland Habitats
- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Confinement of Wild Ungulates Within High Fences
- Conservation Education
- Conservation Law Enforcement
- Conserving Biological Diversity



TWS Council seeks member review and comment on these statements, prior to renewing them. Comments must be received by **June 15, 2009** to be considered in a final position statement.

Visit [http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=117&Itemid=187](http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=117&Itemid=187) to view the statements.

Please send comments to: Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-2144 or email [laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org).



## FLORIDA NEWS



Picture from left: Attorney General Bill McCollum, Governor Charlie Crist, Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, and Commissioner Charles Bronson with Florida children.

### Get Outdoors, Florida!

*Submitted by Bob Wattendorf*

Governor Crist and his Cabinet signed a resolution on March 24, 2009 recognizing the *Get Outdoors Florida!* coalition and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, which encourages children and families to get outdoors, be active, and reconnect with nature.

Commissioner Charlie Bronson said, "Spending time outdoors is a healthy and emotionally satisfying experience for people of all ages, is especially beneficial for our children, and allows them an enjoyable way to get physical exercise, enhance mental and social development, and gain an appreciation for Florida's great array of natural areas and diverse wildlife."

The *Get Outdoors Florida!* coalition unites public and private partners and includes federal, state, and non-profit conservation organizations; health and education groups, and businesses. The coalition strives to create a vision of a healthy Florida community that is connected with nature, reflects social diversity, and exhibits a conservation ethic, ensuring recreational opportunities and a sustainable future.

The Florida Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights proclaims each Florida child has the right to enjoy nature-based activities, such as canoeing on a lake, climbing a tree, catching a fish, or camping out under the stars. Richard Louv, in his book *Last Child in the Woods*, described the disconnect between people and nature as "nature-deficit disorder." His timely publication coalesced concerns of many professionals involved with children's health issues, environmental conservation, and various societal concerns. Lack of outdoor activities contributes to obesity, attention deficit disorder, and much more. Whereas children who spend time outdoors become more fit and lean, perform better academically, play more creatively, have lower stress levels, use their imagination, experience fewer symptoms of attention-deficit disorder, develop stronger immune systems and have greater respect for themselves, others, and the environment. These are documented scientific realities.

The new *Get Outdoors Florida!* coalition is complementary to national groups such as Get Outdoors USA, the Children and Nature Network, the National Forum on Children and Nature, the Conservation Fund, Get Outdoors It's Yours, and No Child Left Inside, which help coordinate, fund, and support similar action groups across the country.

To learn more you can visit [www.GetOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://www.GetOutdoorsFlorida.com), where interested parties can view events, find tips for getting outdoors, make a donation, or even request to become a partner (and subsequently schedule their events on the website).





## CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

### Audubon of Florida Asks for Help Spotting Banded Roseate Spoonbills

*Submitted by Mark Rachal*

Audubon of Florida's Tavernier Science Center and Florida Coastal Island Sanctuaries Program are banding Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) chicks in Florida Bay and Tampa Bay, Florida to learn more about their distribution, behavior, and general ecological requirements.

Audubon of Florida hypothesizes that Roseate Spoonbills can be biological indicators to assess the ecological integrity of wetlands and other ecosystems and states "in Florida, Roseate Spoonbill numbers are increasing in Tampa Bay while sharply declining in Florida Bay, reflecting impacts of regional development and water management." Dr. Jerry Lorenz, State Research Director at Audubon of Florida's Tavernier Science Center, observes, "Water management practices destroyed spoonbill nesting efforts by flooding Florida Bay with water from the Everglades during what should have been the winter drought dry-down."

Audubon of Florida began banding spoonbill chicks in Florida Bay and Tampa Bay in 2003. Chicks are fitted with a colored band on the mid-leg (tibia) and a United States Geological Survey silver band on the tarsus (just above the foot). Each colored band has a unique letter and number code. Birds in Tampa Bay are banded with red bands, while birds from Florida Bay have yellow, white, grey, blue, or black bands. Audubon requests that observers from the southeastern United States assist them with their efforts by reporting banded spoonbill observations.

#### Two Steps to Submit you Spoonbill Sighting:

1. Confirm Visual ID; alphanumeric bands vs. plastic bands
2. Provide sighting information in online form

[http://www.audubonofflorida.org/who\\_tavernier\\_reportspoonbills.html](http://www.audubonofflorida.org/who_tavernier_reportspoonbills.html)

For more information, contact:

Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries Office:

Phone: 813-623-6826

Fax: 813-623-4086

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## FLORIDA CHAPTER

### *Spotlights*

#### Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Executive Director Honored at National Level

Kenneth Haddad, executive director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), received a conservation award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for his efforts in partnering with the Service.

Conservation efforts across the country require partnerships committed to the management of fish and wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service annually recognizes those organizations and individuals throughout the nation that partner with the Service to accomplish conservation goals.

"The Service accomplishes its conservation work with the help of many diverse partners," said Sam D. Hamilton, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast regional director, in a press release. "Their assistance takes many forms - everything from teaching a kid to fish to helping save entire ecosystems. All contributions are valuable."

Haddad was recognized for his leadership and support for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service projects, such as the Manatee Forum, manatee law enforcement efforts, bald eagle management, the Interagency Florida Panther Response Team, and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership.

Haddad began his career in 1978 as a marine biologist with Florida's Department of Natural Resources. In 2002, the Commission appointed him executive director of the FWC. He reorganized the agency with an emphasis on coordination among all of FWC's operations and the agency's partners.

Under Haddad's leadership, the FWC has completed management plans for such species as red-cockaded woodpeckers, manatees, bald eagles, and gopher tortoises.

"Working with partners like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWC staff has put into place conservation plans that are working," Haddad said. "As a result, we were able to remove the bald eagle from the imperiled species list in 2008. That's a true conservation success story."

The Service also recognized Haddad for coordinating responsibilities for permit reviews, developing strategies for species management, and partnering to create state and federal resource priorities.

The FWC's role often requires a balancing act between conservation and use by Florida's 18 million residents and 80 million visitors each year. Understanding that Florida's managers of fish and wildlife cannot work in isolation is the cornerstone of Haddad's leadership style.

"As our population grows, development increases, and the climate changes, we must continue to strengthen our partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others," Haddad said. "How we manage resources today represents what resources we'll have tomorrow."

For more information, contact Patricia Behnke at 850-251-2130.



*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Executive Director  
Ken Haddad*



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**We're going to make a big splash in Monterey.**

Come be a part of  
the excitement!

**September 20-24, 2009**

- ☆ Attend dozens of technical sessions.
- ☆ Choose from a full day of workshops.
- ☆ Enjoy many networking opportunities.
- ☆ Keep up to date with current technology at the Trade Show.
- ☆ Tour local attractions. Welcome Reception at Monterey Bay Aquarium.
- ☆ New! Career Fair - Students and professionals, meet potential employers.



[www.wildlife.org/conference](http://www.wildlife.org/conference)



# FLORIDA CHAPTER

## NEWS

### Florida Chapter Winners and Losers

*Submitted by Larry Perrin*

As many of you know, the "fund-raising raffle" that we have at our Spring Conference is always a fun event, and it provides some much needed cash for the Florida Chapter as well. At the 2009 The Wildlife Society (TWS) Conference in Miami, we introduced our raffle format at the Welcome Reception, which was quite successful in that it generated over \$2,000 for TWS National.

As usual, this raffle also generated a couple of good stories. First, Betsy Haley (Florida Chapter member with U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services) won the "flats fishing trip" with Sam Van Hook. Sam routinely donates this trip for our Spring Conference. Betsy and her husband just completed this adventure and she writes,

*"I have to tell you, this trip was a BLAST!! My husband and I met up with Sam before six a.m. and he drove us down to Pine Island. Sam netted some bait and then we fished for sea trout for a few hours. We caught seven sea trout and one Spanish mackerel -- along with many lady fish and one small jack-- during this time. We then tried to catch some snook, but only managed to land one small one, which was tossed back. Dave (my husband) did hook something big, but it broke the hook before we could see what it was. We then toured the area. Sam drove us around Cayo Costa and back to where we first caught trout. We fished for another hour or so-- catching another four trout and one mackerel, as well as more lady fish and a blue fish. Along with the fish, we saw stingrays and sharks, as well as dolphins and manatees-- not to mention the numerous birds in the area. A friend of Sam's gave us one more trout to complete our limit for the day and a mangrove snapper. It was a great day on the water. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone who has the chance to go-- however, now they are going to have to fight me to get it, because I will be trying hard to get this trip if it is offered again!!"*

Another raffle winner was Laramie Ferry of the Florida Chapter. She won a loaded Walt Disney gift basket and four single-day passes to any of the Disney theme parks. She and her family had a great time on this trip recently and visited the Magic Kingdom.

Another interesting raffle story involves our own Arnold Brunell. As you may recall, the "prized item" on the 2009 Conference raffle was a "museum quality" print of a Florida panther cruising through an Everglades landscape (see picture above). The first ticket drawn for the raffle was Arnold's, but unfortunately Arnold had stepped out of the room momentarily to help someone make arrangements to ship a mounted alligator head that they had purchased on the silent auction. So Arnold's good deed resulted in another number being drawn. When Arnold came back into the room he soon found out that he had been selected first for the raffle but had missed his chance. However, he was introduced to the woman (Dr. Susan Rupp, South Dakota State University) who had the next ticket drawn. She graciously offered Arnold "visitation rights."

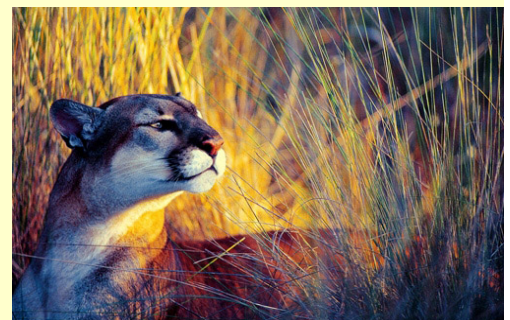
Come to our next Spring Conference, and you too can help generate some stories!



Family Sciaenidae, DRUMS  
*Cynoscion nebulosus*



Family Scombridae, MACKERELS and TUNAS  
*Scomberomorus maculatus*  
Illustrations by Diane Rome Peebles



"Majestic Moment" Print by Alan Maltz





# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

## NEWS

### The Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide

*Submitted by Stephanie Rousso*

The Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide is a computer-based online resource that enables multiple users to evaluate a property regarding fish and wildlife uses. The guide provides online links, resource documents, best management practices, conservation opportunities, and project planning guidance. The most common use will be environmental consultants who are identifying the best way to avoid adverse impacts to imperiled species from a development activity. However, there are also resources to guide biologists to protect fish and wildlife on areas such as military installments, roadway design, utility corridors, and golf courses. Other uses include evaluation criteria for purchasing or otherwise acquiring land that would be the most beneficial to wildlife. Overall, the guide takes a regional perspective when evaluating any project that may affect wildlife use. This guide is intended to support environmental commenting efforts by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologists not replace customized commenting. The guide introduces common guidance that may be applied to certain projects during various planning stages. The information provided is also basic enough for elected officials and citizens to obtain natural history on common, rare, and imperiled wildlife and also gather a better understanding of conservation on a regional scale. Compatible land uses and general habitat management is highlighted throughout since these are essential components of maintaining rural areas, protecting public land, and steering development away from urban sprawl. The guide is broken up into four sections, which are regional data including mapping, database search, literature search, and Geographic Information Systems, then habitats where best management practices for vegetation communities are provided, then wildlife where survey protocols, recovery plans, and natural history is provided, then conservation planning where an overview of opportunities and planning guidance is provided.

The second phase of the guide is to develop a dichotomous key where users can follow a series of yes/no questions. The result will allow the user to identify which land use is best suited for a certain property such as conservation, low impact development, high density urban development, agriculture, or a combination. Each category will have a set of best management practices and direct the user to specific pages within the guide. The first version is due in summer 2009 and the format will be a link from the [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) website to closed-circuit HTML pages similar to an online text book or college course. Subsequent versions will be revised annually or as significant new information is available. This product was developed by Stephanie Rousso and Ted Hoehn who managed a team of various external stakeholders who ranged from developers, landowners, state and local governmental staff, and private industry and also facilitated an external beta test of over 400 participants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida Natural Areas Inventory were partners on the development, editing, and final input of this product. FWC staff contributed a great amount of input into this effort including team representative Scott Sanders and project developers and managers Stephanie Rousso and Ted Hoehn. Stephanie and Ted were recently given the Superior Accomplishment Award through the FWC employee recognition program for their exemplary accomplishments with this project.

For more information, e-mail [FWCG.helpdesk@MyFWC.com](mailto:FWCG.helpdesk@MyFWC.com) or call Stephanie Rousso at 904-731-3196.



From left: Lawson Snyder, Award Winner Stephanie Rousso, Ken Haddad, Award Winner Ted Hoehn, and Tim Breault.



## MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

**Green Jobs in Red Hot Markets** May 20-21, 2009 in Orlando, Florida; [GreenCitiesFlorida.com](http://GreenCitiesFlorida.com)

**Florida Native Plant Society 2009 Annual Conference**  
**Wake Up and Plant the Natives: Planting Today to Preserve Florida's Tomorrow** May 21-24, 2009 in West Palm Beach, Florida

<http://www.fnps.org/>

**The Wildlife Society 16th Annual Conference** September 20—24, 2009 in Monterey, California

<http://www.wildlife.org/conference>

**63rd Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference, 2009; Challenges to the North American Model in the 21st Century**

November 1-4, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia

<http://www.seafwa2009.org/>

**75th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference** March 22-27, 2010 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

<http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/>



*Bat image courtesy of Chris Burney.*

### Fast Facts

Bats belong to the order Chiroptera, which means "handwing." They are the only mammal that can truly fly. Florida has 13 resident bat species. Contrary to popular belief, bats are not blind. Their vision is adapted for low light levels. However, bats can maneuver in complete darkness using echolocation. Echolocation is the use of sound waves to detect objects. Bats emit high pitched sounds and listen for them to echo back. The length of time it takes the echo to return tells the bat how far away it is from an object. This allows the bat to fly in the dark and hunt for food. Visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation's [bat website](#) for more information.

## 2009 FLTWS COM-

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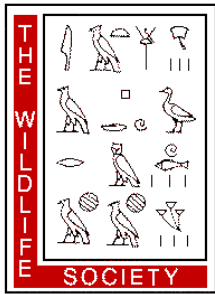
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Wildlife Society

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## YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

An organization of wildlife profes-  
sionals and others interested in  
proper management of Florida's  
natural resources.

Visit our website [www.fltw.org](http://www.fltw.org) to  
become a member.

