



May 2010

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Arnold Brunell

The resounding success of this year's [Spring Conference](#) was a testament to the hard work of many Chapter members, as well as a reflection of the hunger of professionals to expand and share their knowledge. The list of plenary, symposium, and workshop speakers was among the most impressive that we have ever arranged which probably contributed to the high attendance. This meeting however was symbolic of much more than just a successful single event – it showed that we are now back on track to providing the services and support to our members and the profession.

Although the conference was by far the biggest success of the past year, there have been other achievements along the way. One of our accomplishments was to reestablish our support of and partnership in offering the "Prescribed Fire for Wildlife" workshop. This continues to be one of our most popular workshops. It offers practical experience and education and is taught by some of the most qualified professionals available. We hope to be a part of this workshop as long as there continues to be a demand for such training.

Our means of communication and the efficiency by which we do business have also been greatly improved over the last year. Our [website](#) services continue to evolve and improvements are constantly made to make our operations more user-friendly. We now make use of third-party companies such as Survey Monkey to conduct elections and surveys. Our own website is used for conference/workshop registration services. Also, the recent addition of our [Facebook site](#) has given the chapter a presence in one of the most popular e-venues of today's media. The implementation and utilization of such current technology and trends ensures that we will remain in touch with those who want to follow us – especially the younger generations of tomorrow's leaders.

We continued our support of education and other environmental organizations. Although the student scholarship lost significant assistance from partners due to the poor economy, we decided not to lower the amount given. At the time of our decision, our own finances were questionable. However, we recognized that the current economy was precisely why we needed to support a promising young student with their educational costs. The presentation of the entire \$2,000 scholarship to this year's winner was extremely gratifying, knowing that our chapter was able to honor its commitment to offer the full amount at such a difficult time.

A pleasant surprise was the success of fundraising this year. The Fundraising Committee established and implemented strategies that have proved to be effective. Thanks to their efforts, the Chapter is in a much better financial situation than we would have imagined a year ago. This money, of course, supports many of the Chapter's services and activities, as well as the endowment fund for supporting a future executive director.

So where do we go from here? Simply put, in the same direction. We need to build upon the successes of this past year while identifying and addressing areas that need improvement. Membership is up (thanks in part to a successful conference) and we should ride this momentum to achieve even more in the coming year. And in the process, we should support, teach, learn, and have fun!



Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society President

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STUDENT CHAPTER REPORT

Highlights From the University of Florida Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Student Chapter Information Submitted by Holley Short

The Student Chapter has been involved with the following events:

Beast Feast, February 27th

The chapter hosted its annual Beast Feast, which serves a variety of meat prepared in original dishes. This year the menu included zebra steak, elk Sheppard's pie, cricket cookies, and dishes using amphiuma, venison, iguana, and Burmese python, among others. Tickets this year were \$15, and \$2,000 was made to fund trips to Conclave and the chapter's end of the year trip to hike on the Appalachian Trail. Not only did students serve a buffet of wild game, they also had a table of activities set up for children, which included activities such as face-painting and skull identification.

Conclave, March 18-20th

The Conclave was held in Maryland at Frostburg State University. Many students attended and participated in events such as USGS Bird Banding, Woodcock Management, Wildlife Education, Wildlife Law Enforcement, and Emergency Survival Techniques. Everyone participated to the best of their abilities and had a lot of fun. One chapter member, Aaron Fong, placed second in trap-shooting.

Gator Encounter, April 10th

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences hosted its annual Gator Encounter, which is an event open to middle school children to learn about various sciences within the college. The Student Chapter set up a table where members introduced kids to Florida wildlife and the need for conservation.

Earth Day Event hosted by NRCS-USDA, April 20th

Students participated in this public outreach event by setting up a table and promoting conservation of Florida wildlife. Fun, educational activities were provided for children, and the students informed visitors about the chapter and the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department of the University of Florida.

End of the Year Trip

This year, the most involved members are able to attend this year's hike on the Appalachian Trail (expenses paid) for a long weekend.

For more Student Chapter information, please visit their website

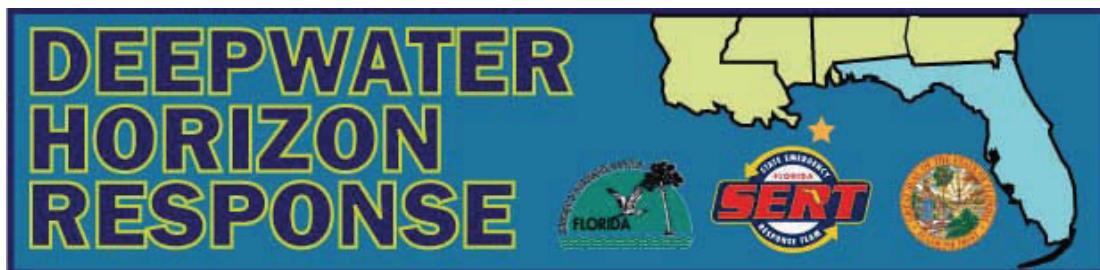
<http://grove.ufl.edu/~tws>



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FLORIDA NEWS



Deepwater Horizon Response

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has been designated the lead state agency for responding to potential impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill along Florida's shoreline. Their website will serve as the primary location for updates and information on response actions and impacts to the state of Florida. Please visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm> for the latest news, predictions, actions, health effects, closures, tips, volunteer opportunities, and other updates.

Additional information can be found on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response website http://myfwc.com/NEWSROOM/Resources/News_Resources_OilSpill_index.htm.



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The Wildlife Society

Check out <http://careers.wildlife.org>

facebook

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society continues to utilize the chapter's [facebook page](#) for chapter updates. You can visit the site to see photos of the spring conference such as those below.



FLORIDA SPOTLIGHTS

Resource Managers

Resource Managers Receive State's Highest Environmental Honor

Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet on April 13th signed three resolutions sponsored by Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson honoring recipients of the 2009 Florida Department of Environmental Protection Jim Stevenson Resource Manager of the Year Award, one of the state's highest environmental honors.

The three award recipients, Charlie Brown, Park Manager with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Nancy Dwyer, Lead Area Biologist for the Half Moon Wildlife Management Area with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Ken Weber, Tallahassee Forestry Center Manager with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (DACS) Division of Forestry, represent the state's leaders in natural resource management.

The recipients were recognized for the following accomplishments:

DEP: Charlie Brown has worked for the Florida Park Service for more than 29 years and currently serves as park manager for the 3rd largest Florida state park. Brown has made important contributions to the burn program at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park in Okeechobee, and successfully completed prescribed burns on more than 33,000 of the park's 53,700 acres last fiscal year; that's roughly 41 percent of all habitats burned statewide by the park service as a whole and the most of any DEP property. Brown has demonstrated commitment to all aspects of ecosystem management, including exotic control, wildlife habitat assessment, and interpretation of the park's dynamic natural resources for visitors.

"The dedication these three award recipients have shown to effectively managing the state's valuable natural resources for future generations to enjoy is truly commendable," said DEP Secretary Michael W. Sole. "I am especially proud of DEP's own Charlie Brown, whose leadership, knowledge and sound management of sensitive state lands makes him a deserving recipient of this honor."

DACS: Ken Weber, with the Division of Forestry, has made a tremendous contribution to the prescribed burning programs at Tate's Hell State Forest, Wakulla State Forest and Lake Talquin State Lands, and has overseen more than 290,000 acres of prescribed burns at Tate's Hell State Forest alone. Mr. Weber supports public access to state forests by maintaining more than 1,000 miles of roads, 200 miles of trails, 81 campsites and hunting on 218,500 acres, which bring in more than 60,000 forest visitors annually and more than \$1.2 million in annual forest revenue.

"We are very proud of the work and dedication that Ken has consistently exhibited in the management of our state forests," Commissioner Bronson said. "All of the resource managers being honored today should be justifiably proud of their contributions in maintaining some of the most beautiful natural habitats in Florida."

FWC: Nancy Dwyer is the lead area biologist at the 9,500-acre Half Moon Wildlife Management Area. Her effective leadership has resulted in well-managed wildlife management areas with sustainable wildlife populations. Dwyer has increased habitat restoration by partnering with other land management agencies to initiate a ground cover restoration project, which restored sandhill and scrubby flatwoods habitats at Half Moon. Dwyer also established an active scrub-jay survey and banding program, which led to the return of scrub-jays on areas previously inhabited. She has also played a large role in an effort to increase the red-cockaded woodpecker population.

"There is a great swell of pride throughout the entire Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission when the conservation community honors one of our distinguished scientists with an award like this," said FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto. "It is an acknowledgement that the future of Florida's natural treasures is in good hands."

The Jim Stevenson Resource Manager of the Year was established by DEP in 1992 to recognize the employee who is judged to have made the most significant progress in the stewardship of state lands that are actively managed by DEP, DACS' Division of Forestry and FWC. The award is selected by a committee of environmental professionals representing the Sierra Club, Florida Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy. This is the first year the award has extended beyond DEP to include all three agencies.

For more information about DEP, visit www.dep.state.fl.us. For more information about FWC, visit MyFWC.com. For more information about DACS, visit www.doacs.state.fl.us.

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Photo of Jim Stevenson, the namesake of DEP's highest award. Jim is also a Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society member.



FLORIDA CHAPTER *Spotlights*

Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship

By Maria Zondervan

Allison Daniel is the recipient of the 12th annual scholarship for undergraduate students. A senior at the University of Central Florida, Allison is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies, and a Certificate in Environmental Studies. Upon graduation, Allison plans to attend law school at Florida State University, pursuing a degree in environmental law. She has applied for a dual degree program which combines a J.D. and an M.S. degree in land management. Allison's professional goals include using her law degree to promote wildlife conservation and resource sustainability. She plans to advocate for cooperation among government agencies and private parties to minimize the impacts of habitat alterations and other threats to wildlife. She would like to work with the Florida legislature to influence legislative, regulatory, and policy processes related to wildlife conservation. In addition to her course work, Allison was the UCF chapter founder and president for Young Americans For Liberty. She is a member of the pre-law fraternity Phi Alpha Delta and was a member of the UCF Women's Rugby team. She has also interned within the Division of Land Management with St. Johns River Water Management District for 2 semesters.

The FLTWS Student Scholarship was established in 1998 to recognize and financially assist Junior and Senior undergraduates pursuing a career in wildlife biology at a 4-year school in Florida. In 2008, the scholarship was renamed the Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship and increased from \$1,000 annually to \$2,000 annually in honor of the 3 FAU students so tragically lost during a wading bird survey that March. Applicants are judged on their financial need, extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, and personal goals. The Florida Wildlife Federation cosponsors the scholarship. As this year's recipient, Allison Daniel, received the check for \$2,000 at the FLTWS Spring Conference.



Past Vice-President Maria Zondervan (left) awarding Allison Daniel the scholarship at the FLTWS Spring Conference.

Join us for The Wildlife Society's 17th Annual Conference, to be held in Snowbird, Utah, October 2-6, 2010. The Annual Conference has long been North America's largest gathering of wildlife professionals. This year's conference, promises to be one of the most memorable yet—especially given the location.

Snowbird lies nestled in Little Cottonwood Canyon at an elevation of 8,100 feet in Utah's Wasatch Mountains, just 20 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. A renowned ski resort in winter, it offers the rugged year-round beauty of aspen-lined hiking trails, mountain streams, and spectacular peaks that rise beyond 11,000 feet. The views—and the area's abundant wildlife—reflect the values we all share and work to preserve.

FLORIDA NEWS

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS



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www.wildlifesociety.org

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**Attention Certified and Associate Wildlife Biologists:
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You worked hard to earn your AWB® and CWB®, so add them to your business card and emails **and stand out from the crowd.**



TWS membership is now required for certifications to remain valid, so be sure to join or renew at wildlife.org

Update on Miami Blue Butterfly Conservation

By David Cook

The Miami blue butterfly, *Cyclargus thomasi bethunebakeri*, was formerly widespread in coastal south Florida, but is now known from only 2 locations in the Florida Keys. It is currently listed as endangered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Using stock from the population at Bahia Honda State Park, University of Florida (UF) biologists have successfully propagated Miami blues in captivity. However, attempts to reintroduce captive-bred butterflies to apparently suitable habitat have not resulted in self-sustaining populations. Field experiments coordinated through UF, FWC, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and volunteers from the North American Butterfly Association will be conducted over the next few months to refine reintroduction techniques. FWC staff, with input from stakeholders and the public, is revising the Miami blue management plan, originally drafted in 2003, and expects to bring the revised management plan to the FWC Commissioners for approval at their June 2010 meeting. For more information, contact David Cook at David.Cook@MyFWC.com.



Male Miami blue butterfly;
photo courtesy Michelle Wisnieski



FLORIDA NEWS

See the Documentary "Division Street"

Deland, Florida

By Kristee Booth

Please join us for a screening of the award-winning independent film *Division Street*, a documentary about the fascinating concept of wildlife corridors and how we are “greening” the modern highway system by fusing high-tech engineering with the best and brightest ecological research happening today.

This is not your father's road trip. From pristine roadless areas to concrete jungles, follow filmmaker Eric Bendick as he tours North America, dodging Yellowstone's grizzlies, Orlando's rush hour traffic and Miami's taxicabs, and highlighting sustainable road projects and wildlife corridors for the 21st century. Roads are the largest human artifact on the planet; the place “connecting everywhere to everywhere” is increasingly becoming a place of great disconnection. Roads and cars have fragmented wild landscapes, ushered in the age of urban sprawl, and challenged some of the bedrock values we once took for granted. But as the transportation crisis appears to be spiraling out of control, a new generation of ecologists, engineers, city-planners, and everyday citizens are transforming the future of the American road.

DIVISION STREET is at once a portrait of both ancient wilderness and new technologies and a call for connectivity, innovation, and solutions to shape the emerging green transportation movement. See the trailer here: <http://divisionstreetmovie.com/>

What: Screening of *Division Street*

When: 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 PM

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Where: Athens Theatre, DeLand, FL

Come to the screening, meet filmmaker, Eric Bendick, and participate in a panel discussion with experts in transportation and ecology. *Division Street* provides us with an opportunity to begin the conversation about public policy solutions that can keep America moving while protecting our precious natural heritage.



 **SUNDAY, MAY 23RD | 6:30 PM | ATHENS THEATRE | DELAND, FL**



[WATCH THE TRAILER](#)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

Florida Native Plant Society 30th Annual Conference
 May 20-23, 2010 in Tallahassee, Florida
<http://www.fmps.org/pages/conference/>

Prescribed Grazing and Wildlife Workshop
 May 20, 2010, Disney Wilderness Preserve, Kissimmee
<http://fltw.org/grazingRx.php>

Basic Wildland Firefighter Training
 August 9-13, 2010, UF and Ordway-Swisher Biological Station (OSBS) <http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/schedule.htm>

Conservation Site Assessment and Planning
 September 14-16, OSBS
<http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/schedule.htm>

17th Annual The Wildlife Society Conference
 October 2-6, 2010 in Snowbird, Utah
<http://www.wildlifesociety.org/>

Managing Visitors and Volunteers in Natural Areas
 October 19-21, 2010, Gold Head Branch State Park
<http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/schedule.htm>

Managing for Diversity Across Florida's Unique Landscapes
 November 16-18, Disney Wilderness Preserve
<http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/schedule.htm>

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration
 August 1-5, 2011 in Baltimore, MD
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NCER2011/>

How You Can Help Beach-Nesting Shorebirds

- ✓ Never enter areas posted with shorebird/seabird signs.
- ✓ Avoid driving on or beyond the upper beach.
- ✓ Drive slow enough to avoid running over chicks.
- ✓ Keep dogs on a leash and away from areas where birds may be nesting.
- ✓ Keep cats indoors, and do not feed stray cats.
- ✓ Properly dispose of trash to keep predators away.
- ✓ Do not fly kites near areas where birds may be nesting.
- ✓ When birds are aggravated, you are too close.



More information available here:
http://myfwc.com/CONSERVATION/ConservationYou_Living_w_Wildlife_shorebirds.htm

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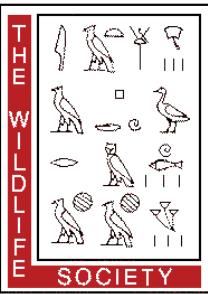
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Florida Chapter of The
Wildlife Society

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