

October 2012

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

Executive Board

President:

Dale Gawlik

President-Elect:

Erin Myers

Secretary:

Marsha Ward

Treasurer:

Larame Ferry

Southeastern Rep.:

Alan Alshouse

Member-at-Large:

Holly Ober

Member-at-Large:

Kristee Booth

Past President:

Arnold Brunell

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Message Continued</i>	2
<i>Spring Conference Review</i>	3-5
<i>Wildlife Corridor Protected</i>	6
<i>Student Chapter Update</i>	7
<i>Southeastern American Kestrel</i>	8
<i>The Mink / Amnesty Day</i>	9
<i>TWS Annual Conferences</i>	10
<i>Meeting and Events</i>	11
<i>Mailing</i>	12

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dale Gawlik

This year, The Wildlife Society (national) and the Journal of Wildlife Management are 75 years old. Any significant anniversary deserves reflection, and this one gave me the opportunity to look into the conservation setting at the time these entities took root, with the hope that it might provide a glimpse of our profession's trajectory. Curt Meine's biography of Aldo Leopold provided a meticulous and detailed view of the events unfolding nationally. Historical documents in our Chapter archive gave some insight to the priorities and thinking of our predecessors at the time our Chapter was created. What I found were two threads connecting our current professional direction with the past; the importance of keeping a broad view of conservation and the increased power that wildlife professionals have to affect conservation policy when they band together as an organization.

In 1935, Ding Darling, head of the U.S. Biological Survey, was fostering a major shift in conservation thinking and engaging industrialists, sportsmen, and politicians in the movement. "Wildlife" was increasingly being written as one word, and the long-standing American Game Association had just been disbanded and was being replaced with the American Wildlife Institute. The Institute funneled support from private donors to partnerships with governments and universities to promote the training of wildlife professionals through Cooperative Wildlife Research Units, an advanced collaboration even by today's standards. Ding Darling also drew on the public and formed a national consortium of sportsman's groups and conservation clubs, which later became the National Wildlife Federation. Even the President of the United States got involved. Roosevelt cancelled the 22nd American Game Conference, which Aldo Leopold was to chair, and instead called for a broader North American Wildlife Conference. Think of the prominence that wildlife issues must have had at that time compared to today. The first North American Wildlife Conference, held in 1936, was attended by a broad range of people interested in wildlife, but the professionals involved in wildlife research formed the Society of Wildlife Specialists, renamed in 1937 as The Wildlife Society.

So The Wildlife Society was formed at a pivotal time in the evolution of conservation. It was formed around the core belief that the profession needed to broaden its view of conservation to a wider array of species. Darling certainly had a broad view of who should be involved in conservation when he brought the general public and stakeholder groups to the table with biologists, an approach that is widely used today for large scale environmental management. The Society's policy statement published in the first issue of the Journal of Wildlife Management explicitly noted that although we may emphasize economically important species, sound biological management requires the conservation of all species and their habitats.

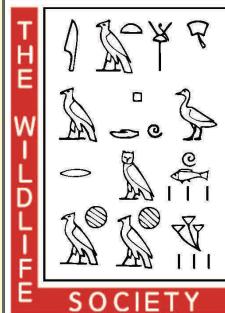
President's Message continues on page 2.



Florida Chapter of
The Wildlife Society
President
Dale Gawlik

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED



Even the official logo of the society couldn't be drawn broadly enough to capture all the important elements of the wildlife field. Instead, the Society logo became a set of Egyptian hieroglyphics that translate top to bottom as beasts, birds, fishes, and flowering plants.

There are signs that the wildlife profession is returning to a more expansive view of wildlife conservation. Recent issues of the Journal of Wildlife Management highlight a significant diversity of research and management topics in our field, the lack of which was criticized strongly in the 1990s. Our profession has broadened its view of predators beyond the attitudes that existed at the time The Wildlife Society was formed. Even Leopold was largely silent on the condemnation of predators until mid-way through his career. Large carnivores are

now recolonizing North America, a possibility that was once thought to be remote, and there are signs that the public is warming to the idea of coexisting with bears, wolves, and cougars. I have seen this change first hand on our family's land in central Wisconsin, where since I left, bears and wolves have reappeared after being absent for more than a century. Policies that affect the "re-wilding" of North America, such as mitigating livestock losses, controlling nuisance animals, and hunting predators, have more to do with human social issues than population biology, suggesting that one way our profession will continue to broaden is by drawing more on expertise outside the wildlife discipline.

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society has a shorter history than its parent group, but with some marked successes. Formed in 1968, 31 years after the parent society, it was reportedly the first state chapter in the Southeast, although Louisiana was close behind. The 97 charter members of the Florida Chapter included some renowned scientists such as the late Arthur R. Marshall, Bill Robertson (winner of the 2000 Herbert W. Kale Jr. Award), and Alexander Sprunt IV. The fledgling Chapter wasted no time in weighing in on conservation issues. The Lacy Act regulated interstate commerce of birds, but there was no protection for other taxonomic groups, such as alligators. The Chapter's first resolution was to support the creation of endangered species legislation that they believed would counter the poaching of alligators in Everglades National Park, which had become rampant. The Chapter capitalized on its stature as the voice of wildlife professionals and sent their position in a flurry of letters to legislators in the House and Senate. Within a year, the U.S. House and Senate passed the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969 that led to Endangered Species Act of 1973, which stands today.

It is hard to know what role the Chapter's support played in passage of the act, but written replies from legislators clearly showed that members of Congress heard their voice. Having a collective voice from the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society allowed 97 people to make a mark on conservation that reached far beyond what any one of them could likely have accomplished alone. The same is true today and I hope that members value that benefit. At this year's fall meeting, there will be a push to enlist regional Associate Conservation Chairs to help the Chapter become more effective at influencing conservation issues in the state. Regardless of whether you attend the fall meeting, please pay attention to the details of the retooled Chapter conservation enhancement strategy as it is developed and communicated to members. We welcome your input and hope you will help us execute the plan. Consider serving as an Associate Conservation Chair or assisting in other ways to help your Chapter live up to its potential as a real force in Florida wildlife conservation. 

The Florida Wildlifer is published biannually by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. *The Florida Wildlifer* is distributed free to Chapter members and other interested parties. Please send letters to the editor, inquiries, newsletter articles, etc. to Jodie Gless, *The Florida Wildlifer*, 700 Universe Blvd JES/JB, Juno Beach, FL 33408; e-mail: jodie.gless@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 2007 *The Florida Wildlifer*. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society and Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's 2012 Spring Conference

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society, in conjunction with the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, held their Spring Conference in Ocala, Florida from April 16-19, 2012. The Conference was packed full with events that included plenary, technical, and poster sessions, a vendor expo, a delicious beast feast, a concert put on by 'The Weeds', a banquet dinner with an awards ceremony, and field trips. This meeting provided an excellent opportunity for Florida's students and professionals working on wildlife research, management, and invasive species control to present results of recent studies, discuss works in progress, and share ideas. This year's plenary theme was "*Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers: Wildlife Invades!*" Managers, researchers, administrators, educators, students, and natural resource professionals benefited from the information exchange and networking opportunities that were available at this Spring Conference.

During the Awards Ceremony at the banquet dinner, several awards were presented.

- ◆ FLTWS, in conjunction with the Florida Wildlife Federation, sponsored the Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship for a university junior or senior interested in pursuing a career in wildlife ecology and/or management and supportive of the mission of TWS. This year's winner was **Stephen Harris** from the University of Florida.
- ◆ The award for best student presentation was given to **Jessica Klassen** from Florida Atlantic University.
- ◆ The Herbert Kale Award, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated an ability to balance effective wildlife advocacy with the practice of wildlife biology and who have made a significant contribution to the conservation of Florida's natural resources, was also presented. The FLTWS 2012 Herbert Kale Award winner was the late **Mr. John Ogden**.
- ◆ The **Executive Board of the FLTWS** was recognized by President Dale Gawlik for all of their hard work over the past year.
- ◆ Several deserving FLTWS members were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their service to the Chapter. The members recognized were **Larame Ferry, Erin Myers, Mike Milleson, Patrick Delaney, and Stefanie Nagid**. Without their dedication and hard work, FLTWS would not be what it is today.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

At the Spring Conference, FLTWS also held a Business Meeting. It was a great opportunity for the Chapter to discuss ongoing business and to strive for continuous improvement. As an added bonus, Darren Miller, the Southeastern Section Representative to the Governing Council of TWS, was the guest speaker. He reported on several TWS programs and activities and encouraged members to join the regional and national wildlife societies.

See pages 4 and 5 or visit the FLTWS Facebook page for pictures taken during the Spring Conference. If you missed the 2012 Spring Conference, we look forward to seeing you next year! ☺

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS



FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS



FLORIDA NEWS

Critical Wildlife Corridor Protected

Submitted by the Fish and Wildlife Service

A large and continuous piece of land critical for wildlife passage and the natural recovery of the Florida panther was purchased and protected by a collaborative public and private partnership in an outstanding effort to accomplish species conservation.



The conservation easements established on the 1,278-acre American Prime property along the Caloosahatchee River in Glades County is a key natural landscape through which Florida panthers can disperse from habitats farther south. This acquisition required a sequence of events involving multiple agencies and was accomplished just in time to prevent the land from going to foreclosure auction.

Protecting this land was made possible through the cooperative efforts of several partners including The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), The National Fish and

Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Walmart, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others. A portion of the protected land will continue in the rich ranching heritage of South Florida and another portion will have its wetlands restored to enhance wildlife habitat.

The purchase was covered by approximately \$2 million from TNC in private philanthropy, and \$1.5 million each from the USFWS and the private entity that purchased the property encumbered by conservation easements. NRCS provided \$1.5 million to purchase a conservation easement on 718 acres of the property. Another \$200,000 was provided through Acres for America, a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Walmart.



TNC collected the funding from the various sources and used those funds to buy the property. TNC also managed the transaction to closing and transferred the property to a private entity subject to a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement held by NRCS and conservation easements reserved by TNC over the balance of the property.

The new owner, Lone Ranger LLC, will utilize the property in accordance with the conservation easements secured in the transaction. TNC and NRCS will manage the easements. This acquisition will encourage the natural recovery of the Florida panther population by providing habitat where animals can den and stalk prey, and migrate from southern Florida to areas north of the river. Other species will benefit as well.

Through the WRP conservation easement, NRCS purchased the development rights to the property, saving the land from any future urban development. Completion of the restoration project will bring back the natural functions of the wetland to recharge groundwater, reduce flooding and protect biological diversity. The WRP program provides advice and funding to help landowners restore wetlands, establish long-term conservation actions and improve wildlife habitat on the land. 

STUDENT CHAPTER REPORT

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

Four regional Student Conclaves are hosted by TWS Student Chapters each year. They provide college students with valuable hands-on training in wildlife management and conservation, as well as networking opportunities with wildlife professionals. Conclave includes several activities, such as field trips, workshops, field competitions, local tours, game-calling competitions, quiz bowls, banquets, photography contests, and guest speakers.

The 2012 Southeastern Section Wildlife Conclave was hosted by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. The competition was held during March 15–17, 2012 at Fall Creek Falls State Park in Pikeville, Tennessee. Over 400 students, faculty, and staff from 25 colleges and universities in the region participated in this 3 day event. This year's competitions included a series of individual and team events and included archery, fly casting, canoeing, trap shooting, obstacle course, tree identification, radio-telemetry, orienteering, an art competition and more. The University of Florida's Student Chapter finished in the Top 10, by placing 9th in the overall standings. **Congratulations!!**

For more Student Chapter information, please visit their website: <http://www.wec.ufl.edu/tws/> 

2012 OFFICERS:

President: Sam Baraidan

Vice-Presidents: Jaclyn Colton & Gene Galke

Treasurer: Rebecca Atkins

Secretary: Danielle Salmon

Historian: Lindsay French

Webmaster: Katie Price

Environmental Education Coordinator:

Chanel Bird & Phil Rodgers

Conclave Coordinator:

Elizabeth Wells & Olivia Olin

Editor: Lindsay Ohlin

Sophomore Representative: Kaitlyn D'Angelo

Freshman Representative: Steve Tillis

MarineQuest 2012

The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) is hosting **MarineQuest** 2012 on Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the FWRI headquarters located at 100 8th Ave. S.E., in downtown St. Petersburg, FL. The 18th annual MarineQuest is a free event held in conjunction with the St. Petersburg Science Festival. There will be more than 50 exhibits for visitors of all ages to explore. Some of the main attractions for kids will include touch tanks, wildlife origami and face painting. Visitors will also have the opportunity to tour the facility, interact with some of Florida's top scientists and learn about current fish and wildlife research in Florida.

As the research division of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), FWRI provides important information to all levels of government, universities, private organizations and the public.

For additional information on **MarineQuest** 2012, including photographs and video from previous years, visit MyFWC.com/Research. 

FLORIDA NEWS

Partnership for Southeastern American Kestrel Population Monitoring and Recovery

Submitted by Karl Miller

The Partnership for Southeastern American Kestrel Population Monitoring and Recovery is three years old and going strong. The Southeastern American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius paulus*) is a non-migratory resident falcon listed as Threatened in Florida. Its populations have declined sharply and today number fewer than 2,000 breeding pairs in Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) launched this initiative in 2009 to accomplish four main goals:

- ◆ To provide standardized data collection protocols to monitor kestrels and a database to manage annual monitoring data.
- ◆ To establish population targets for Southeastern American Kestrels on public lands.
- ◆ To increase breeding populations by erecting additional nest boxes.
- ◆ To conduct research on habitat requirements of kestrels in different landscapes to better inform habitat management and to plan recovery efforts.



Two-day old kestrel nestlings

Photo submitted by Karl Miller, FWC



Adult male kestrel in flight

Photo submitted by Karl Miller, FWC

Workshop on Native Wildlife Plants

A workshop on native wildlife plants will be held on October 18, 2012 at the IFAS University of Florida Extension Office in Milton, FL. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The workshop is being conducted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), IFAS and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Topics to be covered:

- ◆ How to recognize common native plants that are food for wildlife
- ◆ The nutritional importance of these plants to certain wildlife species
- ◆ What land managers can do to manage for these plants

The course and lunch are provided at no cost to participants. If you wish to attend, you must register in advance by calling the FWC at 850-767-3634 or emailing Billie.Clayton@MyFWC.com. ☺

FLORIDA NEWS

On the lookout for the Everglades mink!

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologists are requesting the assistance of the public in locating a small, fast, and semi-aquatic creature, the mink. Biologists are interested in locating the mink and determining their density; however, because of their size and behavior, they are very rarely seen. Since mink are typically found in or near sources of water, fisherman and boaters are asked to keep an eye out for the mink and report any sightings. Since the Everglades mink is listed as a threatened species in Florida, the reports will assist biologists in identifying areas of importance and will pinpoint locations for future mink research.

If you see a mink in Florida, please file a report on the FWC online database: <https://public.myfwc.com/hsc/mink/>. It is encouraged that pictures be uploaded to the database.

What do mink look like?

- ◆ Long sleek body
- ◆ Thick tail
- ◆ Small ears and small eyes
- ◆ Between 1 and 2.5 feet long and weigh up to 4 pounds
- ◆ Dark-chocolate brown to black in color and sometimes have a patch of white along the chin and throat

**Don't confuse the mink with otters and weasels. Otters are much larger in size (10-30 pounds) and weasels are smaller with brown fur along their backs and yellow fur along the entire belly. 

Upcoming Amnesty Day Events

All exotic reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and invertebrates are accepted at Exotic Pet Amnesty events. Amnesty day events are free and everyone is welcome to attend. Kids and families can see exotic animals up close and learn about nonnative species issues. 

Saturday, October 20th, 2012

10:00 am until 2:00 pm

Tree Tops Park
3900 Southwest 100th Avenue
Davie, FL 33328

Sponsored by FWC and Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA)
Contact: Liz Barraco, 561-393-3287
Liz.Barraco@MyFWC.com

Saturday, November 3, 2012

10:00 am until 2:00 pm

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
370 Zoo Parkway
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Sponsored by FWC and the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
Contact: Jenny Novak, 850-617-9554
Jenny.Novak@MyFWC.com



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWS



19th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society Portland, Oregon October 13-17, 2012



The Wildlife Society will hold its 19th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon on October 13-17, 2012. The meeting will include workshops, symposia, panel discussions, breakfast roundtables, special poster sessions, contributed papers (oral presentations), and contributed posters. For those that attend, please forward any information that could be beneficial to the FLTWS Chapter to Jodie Gless at jodie.gless@fltws.org. 

20th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 4-9, 2013

The Wildlife Society's Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) is pleased to invite you to submit titles for oral presentations for the session, 'Indirect Effects of Invasive Species.'

Proposed Format: 20 minute presentation includes time for questions; ~8-10 speakers will be chosen

Contact: Erin Myers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, erin_myers@fws.gov

Process: Submitted titles will be evaluated by the ISWG and the top candidates will be asked to provide a 300 word abstract. Decisions will be made in January 2013.

Deadline for Titles: November 1, 2012

Statement of Purpose:

Invasive species adversely affect a wide variety of interacting native species but traditional management focuses on simple interactions only. It is unlikely that the correlation between species declines and invader presence are due only to direct factors such as predation or competition. In recognition of more complex relationships, researchers, managers and outreach specialists should consider the indirect effects caused by invasive species. Indirect effects involve more than two species and are defined as "how one species alters the effect that another species has on a third" (White and Wilson 2006).

Invaders include a diverse array of plants, pathogens, invertebrates, amphibians, fish, reptiles, mammals and birds, and management can either focus on the invader or on impacted species. Invasive species can transform habitats they invade, change fire regimes, cause altered movement and refuge behaviors and disrupt important interactions like competition or predation. Invaders can cause changes to the biotic or abiotic environment that cascade through an ecosystem to have far-reaching impacts on species removed from direct contact. We hope this symposium will inspire TWS members to implement concepts of indirect effects in research and management by exposure to the dynamic ways invasive species indirectly impact wildlife.

Description of Session:

This symposium focuses on the indirect effects of invasive species through complex interactions with other species, habitats, or ecosystems. Invaders can be anything from plants to pythons but invader effects should be indirect. Presentations will include novel ideas or studies on the indirect effects of invasive species with implications for management of invaders and/or impacted wildlife. Concepts presented in this symposium should attract a diverse group of researchers and managers that encounter invasive species in their work- either as a byproduct or the focus of the invasion.

For more information, visit the FLTWS homepage at www.fltws.org. 

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

2012

FL Chapter of The Wildlife Society: Fall Meeting
 October 4-5, 2012 in Santa Rosa Beach, FL
<http://fltws.org/>

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference
 October 13-17, 2012 in Portland, Oregon
<http://joomla.wildlife.org/>

6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration
 October 20-24, 2012 in Tampa, FL
<http://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

Audubon Assembly 2012
 October 25-27, 2012 in Sarasota Bay, FL
http://fl.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=20002.0&_ga=1.111111111.111111111.111111111.111111111

2013

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference
 January 21-23, 2013 in New Orleans, Louisiana
<http://gulfmexicoconference.org/>

33rd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology & Conservation
 February 2-8, 2013 in Baltimore, Maryland
<http://iconferences.seaturtle.org/>

Florida Marine Science Educators Assoc. 2013 Annual Conference
 March 2-5, 2013 in Ft. Pierce, FL
<http://fmsea.org/events/conferences/2013-changing-environments/>

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Assoc. 2013 Symposium
 March 5-9, 2013 in Portland, Oregon
<http://www.nwrawildlife.org/content/symposium-2013>

Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference
 May 16-19, 2013 in Jacksonville, FL
<http://www.fmps.org/conference>

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference
 October 4-9, 2013 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
<http://www.wildlife.org/conferences/future-conferences>

2012 FLTWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AUDIT: Alan Alshouse
 386-804-0964
alan.alshouse@fltws.org

PROGRAM: Maria Zondervan
 407-659-4872
maria.zondervan@fltws.org

NOMINATING & ELECTIONS:
 Steve Rockwood 386-758-0525
steve.rockwood@fltws.org

AWARDS REVIEW: Tim O'Meara
 850-488-3831
tim.omeara@fltws.org

CERTIFICATION: Bill Giuliano
 352-846-0552
bill.giuliano@fltws.org

SCHOLARSHIP: Holly Ober
 850-875-7150
holly.ober@ufl.edu

MEMBERSHIP: Phillip Bouse
 941-764-4333
phillip.bouse@fltws.org

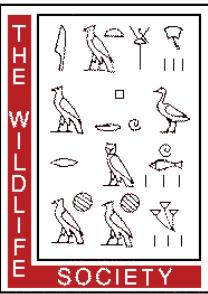
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION: Jodie Gless
 561-691-2801
jodie.gless@fltws.org

FUNDRAISING CO-CHAIRS:
 Larry Perrin 850-926-5077
larry.perrin@fltws.org

**CONSERVATION REVIEW;
 RESOLUTIONS & PUBLIC STATEMENTS:** Becky Bolt
 321-867-7330
becky.bolt@fltws.org

WEBSITE: Mike Milleson
 352-377-5556
patrick.delaney@fltws.org

AND
 Mark Ausley 407-760-9157
mark.ausley@fltws.org



Florida Chapter of The
Wildlife Society

Jodie Gless, Newsletter Editor
700 Universe Blvd
Juno Beach, Florida 33408

Place
Stamp
Here

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

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

Visit our website www.fltws.org to become a member.

