

FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA 2022 IMPACT REPORT

# WITH THE WILD WE STAND





**SINCE 1994, THE NONPROFIT FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA HAS WORKED WITH THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FWC) AND ITS PARTNERS TO ENSURE FLORIDA REMAINS A PLACE OF GREAT NATURAL DIVERSITY AND BEAUTY.**

We are deeply engaged in conserving Florida’s iconic wildlife and critical habitats, on land and sea. Thanks to our many donors, we are also Florida’s largest private funder of outdoor education for children and teens, and we help ensure continued public access to traditional outdoor recreation.

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CARLOS ALFONSO  
*Board Chair*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we publish this annual impact report, we're completing another winter of feeding manatees in the Indian River Lagoon. In 2022, the Foundation purchased 200,000 pounds of lettuce that fed nearly 1,000 manatees at the peak of winter. The total being purchased in 2023 will approach 400,000 pounds.

Nearly 60 percent of Indian River Lagoon seagrass — 46,000 acres — has been lost to nutrient pollution via multiple algal blooms and brown tides that block sunlight to the seagrass, the manatee's principal winter food. It's a sobering problem long in the making that, like red tide on the Gulf Coast, impacts Florida's economy as well as its ecology.

It's for both reasons the Florida Council of 100, business leaders who advise the Governor, has launched a task force on Florida water, on which I sit as Vice Chairman. We hope to improve the efficiency of water management

and ensure Florida has sufficient supplies for people and the environment for decades to come. Manatees offer instructive concern and optimism — concern because of what is transpiring in the lagoon, but optimism because of the overall success of manatee conservation. The manatee population statewide has increased more than five-fold in 30 years, thanks to the work of federal, state, and local agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and countless volunteers.

Water quantity and quality are attracting the same public-private resolve. Florida's Governor has authorized another \$3.5 billion for Everglades and water quality restoration, on top of the \$3.3 billion spent over the past four years. At least \$400 million of the new allocation will be devoted to the lagoon.

Feeding wintering manatees lettuce in the lagoon buys time to address underlying issues. Though the challenges are many — not least being Florida's rapid population growth — the state is well positioned to solve these problems and remain a place of rare beauty, bountiful waters, and remarkable wildlife.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Alfonso', written in a cursive style.



Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*), photo credit to David Schrichte



Top left: Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*), photo: Carlton Ward; bottom left: Looe Key Reef; right: Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*)



ANDREW WALKER  
*President & CEO*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

The Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida is our state's largest conservation foundation. Each year we distribute more than \$6 million to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and many other public and private partners for an array of programs, from helping Wounded Warriors access the outdoors to monitoring fish populations in the Gulf of Mexico.

In the grand scheme, it's not a lot of money. But we use it to leverage resources from others and are often first on the scene with the funds needed to tackle emerging issues. When FWC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) decided in the fall of 2021 to feed manatees in the Indian River Lagoon, we provided the funds to do so.

When scientists noticed some Florida panthers and bobcats were suffering from a debilitating neurological disease known as feline leukomyelopathy, we provided early funding to study the disorder and set up camera traps across the state.

Likewise, we co-manage with SeaWorld, Disney, FWC, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums the largest collection of corals rescued from stony coral tissue loss disease, a pathogen that has killed thousands of corals along Florida's 350 mile reef.

And when the global population of Florida grasshopper sparrows fell to just thirty nesting pairs, we worked with FWC, USFWS, and nonprofit White Oak Conservation to fund a successful conservation breeding program to boost the wild population. More than 500 sparrows have been released into the wild, preventing their certain extinction.

We also help ensure continued access to wild Florida. Our grants to the Florida Youth Conservation Center Network help FWC and its partners provide more than 284,000 children and teens annually with transformative outdoor experiences. We also collaborate with organizations teaching outdoor recreation skills to women, veterans, minorities, and youth from economically disadvantaged families.

And finally, we provide emergency financial assistance to FWC employees and their families, including 71 FWC staff whose homes were lost or badly damaged by Hurricane Ian.

I say "finally," but in fact, there's much more we do. If you have a passion when it comes to wildlife and the great outdoors, think of us. We're happy to connect you to biologists and educators who are on the front lines of conservation in this amazingly diverse and beautiful state.







**WHO WE ARE**

## OUR MISSION

The nonprofit Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida is dedicated to conserving Florida's iconic wildlife and the lands and waters they need to survive. We work closely with FWC, for which we are a citizen support organization, and its many public and private partners. Since 1994, we have raised more than \$60 million for conservation and youth outdoor education and recreation.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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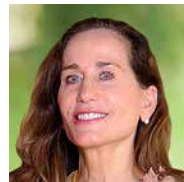
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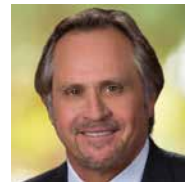
**John Pope**  
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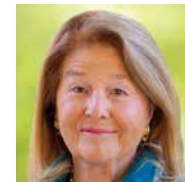
**Adam Putnam**  
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**Daphne Wood**  
Monticello

## ADVISORS

**John Lacy**  
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**E. Vann Middleton**  
Thomasville, GA

**C. Martin Wood III**  
Monticello

**Thank you to retiring Board Members Kathy Barco, Connie Parker, Boo Rawson, and Eric Sutton for your service!**

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# LAURA RUSSELL



Foundation Board Second Vice Chair and native Floridian Laura Russell is no stranger to the beauty and adventure of wild Florida. An avid angler and all-around outdoorswoman, Laura's love for conservation runs deep.

She frequently fishes the Palm Beach Inlet on Florida's east coast with her family. A wide variety of species are easily accessible from the popular fishing spot, but her favorite to target are Florida's billfish. Her time on the water with loved ones got her hooked on angling, but it was her competitive nature that got her involved in fishing tournaments.

"I actually used to get horribly seasick and found that when I was focused on what was going on around me and in the cockpit, I felt better," said Laura. "I truly fell in love with the sport when our family started competing in tournaments together."

When it comes to Foundation initiatives, Laura's focus on keeping Florida's waters healthy comes as no surprise. "I am truly passionate about all the

water quality issues facing our state," said Laura. "The trickle-down effect of how we address these growing issues will have a huge impact on the future."

Laura graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. in Recreation and Leisure Studies Administration and a Certificate in Special Event Planning. Upon graduation, she started her career in public service by working for Florida Senate President Jeff Atwater and State Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff.

Today, Laura lives in Jupiter with her family and works with their company, Cheney Brothers, an independent food distribution company. In addition to her role as the Foundation Board's Second Vice Chair, Laura is a Board Member of the Palm Beach County Food Bank, a Past President of the Junior League of the Palm Beaches, and serves on the National Board of Directors for the FSU Alumni Association.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# ANITA FORESTER



Anita Forester has always loved being outdoors. A nearby forest was part of her childhood, a place for adventure and to watch wildlife. And her mother was an excellent teacher about the natural world around them.

With a degree in Secondary Science and Mathematics Education from Florida State University, she taught middle school science in Englewood, Florida. Her passion for environmental education led to the job of rebuilding, managing, and teaching for eight years at the Outdoor Classroom and Environmental Learning Lab in DeSoto County after it was destroyed in 2004 by Hurricane Charley. In 2014 she earned a master's degree in Educational Leadership and Supervision from the University of South Florida.

She continued to express her love for wildlife education as FWC's state coordinator for Project WILD, the national K-12 interdisciplinary

conservation and environmental education program. In her spare time, Anita plays guitar and has written songs about animals and the wild landscape.

Anita joined the Foundation in 2020 as the Grant Programs Administrator, overseeing the majority of monetary grants the Foundation makes to FWC and other organizations and agencies. While working with groups that introduce non-traditional audiences to traditional outdoor pursuits, she herself learned to hunt for the first time and harvested several animals donated to food banks. "My job allows me to be part of an organization that supports wildlife conservation and values preserving our outdoor heritage," said Anita. "I enjoy visiting with project managers, scientists, and volunteer hunting mentors to better understand and appreciate conservation."

## STAFF



**Andrew Walker**  
*President & CEO*



**Will Bradford**  
*Chief Operating Officer*



**Michelle Ashton**  
*Director of Communications*



**Anita Forester**  
*Grant Programs Administrator*



**Cindy Fray**  
*Administrative Assistant*



**Dani Richter**  
*Director of Philanthropy*



**Rachael Schirmer**  
*Social Media Manager*



**Erin Smart**  
*Director of Finance*

**Tindi Rainey**  
*FWC Liaison to Foundation*

## FLORIDA SPRINGS GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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*Citizen Representative*

**Dan Pennington**  
*Citizen Representative*

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*FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity*

**Dr. James "Buddy" Powell**  
*Chair, Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute*

**Kent Smith**  
*FWC*

**Jim Stevenson**  
*Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute/Wakulla Springs Alliance*

## HUNTING & SHOOTING SPORTS LICENSE PLATE GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**Newton Cook**  
*United Waterfowlers Florida*

**Mike Elfenbein**  
*Citizen Representative*

**Lane Stephens**  
*Chair, The Future of Hunting in Florida*

**George Warthen**  
*FWC*





**WHERE WE WORK**

A man and two children are walking on a dirt path in a forest. The man is in the center, wearing a camouflage jacket and pants, and a bright orange safety vest. He is holding the hands of two children, one on either side. Both children are also wearing camouflage clothing and orange safety vests. The path is surrounded by lush green trees and foliage, creating a serene outdoor setting.

**IN 2022, THE FOUNDATION RAISED AND DISTRIBUTED \$9 MILLION STATEWIDE TO A VARIETY OF CONSERVATION, YOUTH EDUCATION, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS. THOUSANDS OF SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE THROUGH OUTRIGHT DONATIONS, BEQUESTS AND OTHER PLANNED GIFTS, PURCHASES OF OUR FOUR SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES, PARTICIPATION IN OUR RAFFLE, AND MORE.**

**WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SAMPLING OF OUR WORK AROUND THE STATE IN 2022 THAT YOU SUPPORTED.**



# NORTH FLORIDA



With its white sand beaches, red hills, ancient springs, longleaf pine forests, and grand live oaks, North Florida is an outdoor paradise. It's also a biological crossroads, where many northern and southern species overlap. Our Foundation has worked for years with FWC and other partners to conserve Florida black bears, reticulated salamanders, indigo snakes, and other threatened species and habitats in the region. We also support outdoor learning and recreation at the Joe Budd and Ocala youth conservation centers.

## FEMALE VETERANS FIND A NEW HOME IN THE OUTDOORS

With women accounting for 10% of the United States military, veteran organizations are finding creative ways to be more inclusive. One such organization is Operation Outdoor Freedom (OOF), thanks to a \$51,000 grant from our *Wildlife Foundation of Florida* license plate fund.

OOF helps wounded or disabled veterans reconnect with the outdoors through whitetail deer and turkey hunts. The participants used to be exclusively male, but five female veterans have joined recent hunts in Blackwater River State Forest. Army veteran Marna Tracy was visiting the Florida State Fair in 2016 when she saw OOF's booth promoting a gator hunt. "I did not grow up hunting, but I was immediately attracted to the thrill," said Tracy. After that first gator

hunt, she was hooked and has since participated in several other trips with OOF, including a bow hunt in which she was the only person to harvest a deer.

While it was not a barrier for Tracy, OOF did not have a separate housing facility for the female hunters during her trips. A grant from our Foundation helped OOF construct a women's dormitory for up to seven women in the state forest. "The dorm will provide more private accommodations as opposed to the bunkhouse-style, wide-open lodging we have now," said Joe Zwierzchowski, OOF coordinator for the Blackwater Forestry Center, which covers Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties in northwest Florida. "We're excited to be able to offer more opportunities to veterans, female veterans especially. There's a certain perspective they bring to the table that the guys just don't have. Whether they're brand new to hunting or have been across the country hunting everything, it's always fun, always an adventure."

## LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR TERRAPINS

The Sunshine State is home to an astonishing diversity of reptiles. These animals often compete with human interests for resources, including food and habitat. Diamondback terrapins, three subspecies of which can only be found in Florida, have been losing this fight in recent years.

Diamondback terrapin deaths in other states have been linked to drowning in crab traps. To determine the potential threat to terrapins in northeast Florida, we awarded FWC \$104,000 to document and release diamondback terrapins found in blue crab traps, examine commercial blue crab catch, and work with crabbers. The grant also considered crabbers' concern that modified traps could impact profits and their livelihoods. Researchers are currently examining the data to determine which traps best exclude terrapins while allowing the catch of large crabs.

"We're excited to fund this grant because it assesses impacts on both terrapins and the people involved in crabbing. Evaluating both gives us the best chance of minimizing conflicts and conserving terrapins over the very long term," said Foundation Grants Program Administrator Anita Forester.



Diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*)

Striped newt (*Notophthalmus perstriatus*)



## WHERE HAVE ALL THE NEWTS GONE?

Nearly one-third of the world's amphibian population is either threatened with extinction or already gone. In an effort to avoid that fate in Florida, we've partnered with FWC and Tall Timbers Research Station to better understand and protect the last known naturally occurring western population of striped newts (*Notophthalmus perstriatus*) in Florida.

Thanks to a \$27,185 grant from our *Conserve Wildlife* plate fund, biologists are using a variety of traditional and new ways of locating newts in Jefferson County, including employing minnow traps baited with lights that attract the newts. Already researchers have learned that the newts prefer ponds with a diversity of plants.

The study will also monitor for two diseases thought to contribute to the newt's decline. Better understanding of the size, health, and distribution of striped newts in Florida will help biologists ensure the newt's survival. And it will be one more step in preserving our state's rich biodiversity.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# GREATER GOOD CHARITIES

Asha was about a year old in March 2021, an age when manatees are still following their mom's every move. Instead, she was found by rescuers alone in the intracoastal waterway in Volusia County, underweight and with something wrong with the skin on her side, likely due to cold stress.

She was rushed to Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, where she received around-the-clock monitoring and extensive treatment for six months. After recovering from her immediate medical needs, she remained in their Manatee Critical Care Center maturing and growing, and will be ready for release in 2023 when the water temperature reaches a comfortable warmth.

Caring for manatees is expensive. An average adult manatee eats about \$200 per day in romaine lettuce during its six-plus months in rehab. "Our critical care facility is relatively small, but manatees are still the most expensive animal we feed," said Craig Miller, Curator of Manatee

Conservation at Jacksonville Zoo. "We had 13 animals move through our facility last year, our busiest year yet."

**THANKS TO THE GLOBAL NONPROFIT GREATER GOOD CHARITIES, THE LETTUCE GROCERY BILL WAS A LITTLE EASIER TO PAY AT THE JACKSONVILLE ZOO AND AT ZOOTAMPA ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STATE. "PROJECT PERIL," A PROGRAM OF GREATER GOOD CHARITIES, MADE AN EMERGENCY \$100,000 GRANT TO HELP US AND OUR PARTNERS REHABILITATE INJURED MANATEES.**

"Project Peril" is dedicated to the conservation of species identified as in peril, threatened, endangered, or close to extinction throughout the world," said Liz Baker, CEO of Greater Good

Charities. "When we saw a way to help vulnerable manatees who are at risk due to a loss of habitat and food, we mobilized to help immediately."

We used \$70,000 of Greater Good Charities' gift to feed rehabilitating manatees at ZooTampa and the Jacksonville Zoo. Since 1991, ZooTampa has treated more than 500 injured, sick, and orphaned manatees. "Manatees are an iconic species in Florida, and their conservation impacts all of us," said Tiffany Burns, Director of Marine Life & Animal Programs. "Caring and treating these majestic sea cows benefits the vital preservation of our state's beautiful treasures and resources. Hopefully we can all make a difference working together."

The Foundation is using the rest of Greater Good Charities' donation to help restore water quality in the Indian River Lagoon by replanting seagrass at eight sites with promising water quality.



Asha, Florida manatee

## ALL A-BAT FLORIDA'S BATS

Florida is home to at least 13 native bat species, including the critically endangered Florida bonneted bat. Sadly, their reputation does not reflect how beneficial bats are to the environment (we're looking at you, Dracula). They serve critical roles worldwide as insect pest controllers, pollinators, seed dispersers, and fertilizers. Across the United States, bats save the agriculture industry billions of dollars per year in reduced crop damage and lower pesticide use.

Florida's bats face many challenges, including the loss of natural roosting sites in trees and caves. With this in mind, we awarded the nonprofit Future of Hunting in Florida (FHF) a \$12,830 grant to construct bat condos in Levy and Liberty County to house Brazilian free-tailed and other Florida bats. The structures, built over two weekends by Boy Scouts, are capable of housing 3,000 individuals. A number of bats have already moved in.

The grant, courtesy of our Wildlife Foundation of Florida license plate fund, was also used to support hunts for first-time hunters, youth, and military veterans at these sites. FHF believes the condos will open a conversation with hunters about the ecological and economical importance of bats and inspire an appreciation for their species.



Seminole bat (*Lasiurus seminolus*)

## NORTH FLORIDA 2022 GRANTS LIST

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
Implementation of the Landscape Conservation Strategic Initiative Through Internal and External Engagement	CWT	\$94,500	FWC
Monitor Research Bears Over Time	CWT	\$9,750	FWC
Expand Social Media Bear Outreach Efforts	CWT	\$25,000	FWC
A Population Assessment of the Last Known Naturally Occurring Western Range Population of Striped Newts in Florida	Other Funds	\$27,185	FWC
Cherry Lake Angler and Resource Usage Survey	Other Funds	\$15,685	FWC
Altering Public Attitudes and Practices that Harm Florida Springs	PFS	\$8,400	Florida Springs Council
Is Your Water Well? Private Well Test Awareness and Nitrate Monitoring in the Suwannee Valley	PFS	\$20,000	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
"Freedom Lawns" Social Marketing Behavior Change Campaign	PFS	\$15,000	Alachua County
Springs Project Funding Analysis	PFS	\$4,000	Florida Springs Council
Florida Springsheds Cleanups	PFS	\$13,400	Current Problems
SpringsWatch Training Workshop	PFS	\$15,121	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute
Blackwater Operation Outdoor Freedom Food Plots 2023	WFF	\$6,000	Florida Forest Service
Proverbs 31 Outdoorsman Continuation	WFF	\$13,750	10 CAN
New Hunters Program for 2023-24 Hunting Season	WFF	\$14,817	The Future of Hunting in Florida
Tracks Over Wheels – North Florida	WFF	\$10,450	Lift Disability Network
4-H W.O.L.F. Camp (Wildlife Leadership Outdoor Focus)	WFF	\$3,000	UF/IFAS Extension
Gator Gobbler Youth, Women & Collegiate Outreach Hunts	WFF	\$7,500	National Wild Turkey Federation – Gator Gobblers
Gators, Gals, and Guns	WFF	\$2,500	University of Florida – The Wildlife Society
Access North Florida	WFF	\$11,350	Tri-State Christian Fellowship
59th Annual 2023 Blackwater Fox Hunters Association Field Trial & Bench Show	WFF	\$5,500	Blackwater Fox Hunters Association
7th Annual Rumble in the Swamp Youth Rabbit Hunt with Hounds and Outdoor Day	WFF	\$4,000	Southeastern Dog Hunters Association
Apalachicola National Forest Clean Up Day	WFF	\$1,000	Southeastern Dog Hunters Association
Youth Buck In Rut Hunt 2023	WFF	\$3,000	Southeastern Dog Hunters Association
9th Annual Dog Days Of Summer Youth One Day Field Trial	WFF	\$3,000	Southeastern Dog Hunters Association
Increasing Hunter Participation in Monitoring for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in High Introduction-Risk Counties	WFF	\$26,000	FWC
Hunt 4 Halee Youth Deer Hunt 2023	WFF	\$4,500	Seasons Of Hope Outdoors
Expanding/Continuing Archery	WFF	\$4,517	Eastside Elementary Bowbenders
Blackwater Operation Outdoor Freedom Kitchen	WFF	\$20,000	Florida Forest Service
Belmont Academy Archery Programs: Equipment Upgrades	WFF	\$1,224	Belmont Academy Charter School

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS 29 — TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT \$390,149**

*CWT: Conserve Wildlife plate, PFS: Protect Florida Springs plate, DFO: Discover Florida's Oceans plate, WWF: Wildlife Foundation of Florida plate.*

# CENTRAL FLORIDA



Rolling hills dotted with oaks give way to pine-palmetto flats and ephemeral wetlands in central Florida. Many species and subspecies are endemic to the region, from rare plants and insects on the Lake Wales Ridge — Florida’s ancient sand islands — to the Florida grasshopper sparrow, which depends on frequent fires to maintain its dry prairie habitat. With the explosive growth of the human-built landscape here, much of our work in the region focuses on protecting the finest remaining natural lands and waters, as well as safeguarding central Florida’s delicate rivers and estuaries.

## REVIVING THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

The starvation of hundreds of manatees in the 150-mile-long Indian River Lagoon (IRL) along Florida’s Atlantic coast made global headlines in 2021. To reduce the chances of it reoccurring in 2022, FWC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) decided to feed wild manatees in the northern IRL during the 2022 winter. No one knew if wild manatees would take to lettuce, and for the first few anxious weeks, they didn’t. But then they caught on quickly. From late December 2021 until the end of March 2022, IRL manatees ate 202,000 pounds of romaine and butter lettuce near Florida Power & Light’s (FPL) Clean Energy Center in Cape Canaveral, where manatees gather every winter in the warmed waters.

As our chairman notes in his welcoming letter (page 1), our Foundation purchased 200,000 of those pounds using donations from individuals, foundations, and businesses throughout the United States and abroad. We were able to stay two to three weeks ahead of the grocery bills, ensuring an unbroken daily diet of nutrient-rich veggies. Once spring came, the manatees dispersed to the open ocean and estuaries elsewhere.

Although it’s difficult to know how many manatees were saved, mortality rates dropped from 2021, and manatees in and around the IRL in the late fall looked better nourished than previously, according to Ron Mezich, FWC’s Imperiled Species Management Section Leader.

As we went to press in March 2023, IRL manatees had already consumed more than 300,000 pounds of lettuce this winter. Thankfully we have a new partner in DUDA, which agreed to sell us lettuce this year at a steep discount. In addition to allowing FWC and USFWS to stage the feeding at their Cape Canaveral plant, FPL jumpstarted purchases with a \$25,000 donation via their NextEra Energy Foundation, followed by donations from World of Beer Bar & Kitchen, Manatee Coffee, and individuals like you.

Feeding IRL manatees lettuce is a stop-gap; the long-term survival of the IRL ecosystem and its manatees depends on significantly reducing nutrient runoff and restoring its once-extensive eel- and seagrass beds. Thanks to a lead \$1 million gift from the Fox Rock Foundation (see page 29), we're investing \$2 million currently in restoring nine eelgrass sites within the IRL and elsewhere. Meanwhile, the state is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in upgrading IRL sewage treatment plants and converting thousands of septic systems in the watershed to centralized sewage treatment.

It will take decades to restore the Indian River Lagoon to its former glory, but many significant steps are being taken.



Left: Manatee feeding; top right: Goat Creek eel grass replanting; bottom right: eel grass replanting sites

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# WORLD OF BEER BAR & KITCHEN

Now when you enjoy a cold beer on a hot day, every sip you take could result in food for manatees. Thanks to a unique partnership with World of Beer Bar & Kitchen (WOB), \$1 from every purchase of “Secret Llama Oh The Hu-Manatee! Imperial Hazy IPA” at select Florida WOB locations is being donated to our manatee efforts.

WOB President & CEO Paul Avery, who is also a Foundation Board Member, suggested creating a new Secret Llama IPA to benefit manatees. In collaboration with Brew Hub in Lakeland FL, the Oh The Hu-Manatee! Imperial Hazy IPA was born. Brewed with 2-Row and Flaked Oats and dry-hopped with Cashmere and El Dorado hops, the IPA has a subtle herbal bouquet with hints of lemon, lime, and tropical fruits. WOB and Brew Hub held a social media contest to name the beer, and the overwhelming winner among 100+ entries was “Oh the Hu-Manatee!”



**“WE ARE HONORED TO PARTNER WITH THE FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA ON THEIR MANATEE CONSERVATION WORK,” SAID AVERY. “THE FOUNDATION’S DEDICATION TO ITS MISSION MAKES OUR ORGANIZATION PROUD TO ENTER THIS PARTNERSHIP AND RAISE FUNDS FOR THIS MEANINGFUL CAUSE.”**

## RESTORING WILD FLORIDA’S FILTER

Florida’s wetlands are diverse paradises for alligators, egrets, spoonbills, ducks, and hundreds of other native plant and animal species. Wetlands are also known as “nature’s kidneys,” filtering and purifying the water that passes through them.

Many are also alarmingly threatened by human alterations to their watersheds. Rolling Meadows, a 1,500-acre wetland in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, is a case in point. Water-control structures impede its historic flows of water, causing the northwest portion to be over-drained. A \$50,000 grant from our *Wildlife Foundation of Florida* plate has allowed FWC biologists to restore 100 acres of this northwest quadrant. The project required breaking down the overgrown woody vegetation, followed by a prescribed burn, and tilling of the soil. This soil disturbance mimics that done by rooting and grazing herbivores, which had been unable to reach the soil due to the heavy vegetation. It also promotes colonization by annual plants, which produce lots of seeds and vegetative forage for wildlife. Once the land was ready, the South Florida Water Management District opened the gates to flood the area, returning it to wetlands.

Since project completion, biologists have recorded deer, turkeys, and mottled ducks in the restored area.



## WHAT'S IN FLORIDA'S SPRINGS?

Microplastics are invisible to the eye but are everywhere — or so we suspect. While their presence in the oceans has been well documented, microplastics in Florida springs have not. Using a \$35,000 grant from our *Protect Florida Springs* license plate fund, researchers at the University of Central Florida are hoping to change that.

The research is occurring at some of Florida's best-known waters — Wekiwa Springs, Blue Springs, Rock Springs, Silver Springs, and De León Springs. The presence and concentration of microplastics will be documented and their composition analyzed to identify their sources. In an earlier study, the UCF scientists identified stormwater runoff as the major contributor of microplastics found in the Indian River Lagoon, particularly those that accumulated in oysters, crabs, and the birds that consume them.

The project will also test a membrane developed by UCF to capture microplastics; they hope that if successful it will greatly reduce the future cost and time of monitoring microplastics.

Dr. Lei Zhai believes the study will further raise public awareness of microplastics and their sources, including single-use plastics, and lead eventually to their reduction in the environment.

## TAKING AIM WITH THE FLORIDA FRONTIERSMEN

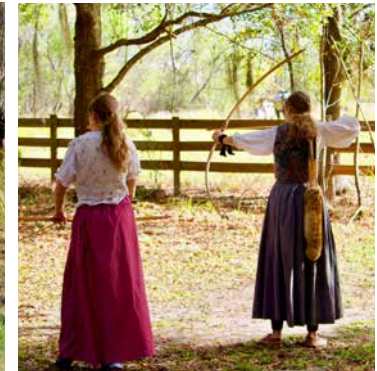
For thousands of years, the indigenous peoples of Florida relied on the bow and arrow to harvest game. Native American bowhunting was very accurate up to 40 yards, with some skilled hunters successfully hitting their intended targets from 100 yards away. Today’s high-tech compound bows are still used by Florida hunters for white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, non-native hogs, and other game animals.

The Florida Frontiersmen, Inc. is a nonprofit that aims to preserve the traditional outdoor skills honed in Florida’s past. It hosts monthly events on its 317-acre property in Homeland, FL. The Frontiersmen’s archery range winds through Florida swampland, and the group provides loaner bows for those who have never pulled a bowstring. The organization’s six USA Level Two archery coaches work with archers at all levels.

Our *Wildlife Foundation of Florida* license plate funds traditional outdoor recreation and the sustainable management of Florida’s game species. Florida Frontiersmen used a recent \$4,200 grant from the fund to buy 3D targets for its archery range. They included a few non-Florida species — a moose, red stag, and stegosaurus (not life-size) among them — to appeal especially to young beginners.

“The targets, bows, and arrows have elevated our program to a first-class operation,” said Archery Chief Scott Hofmeister. “Many young people have enjoyed archery through our bow loaner program and it inspires them to return month after month. We now often have 15 to 20 young people at our monthly meetings.”

The Florida Frontiersmen recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its biggest event, the Alafia River Rendezvous. More than 300 people attended, a 46 percent increase from the previous year, including 59 women, 33 youths ages 13-17, and 32 children ages 12 and younger. The Florida Frontiersmen pride themselves on providing opportunities to diverse age and gender groups to inspire appreciation for wild and historic Florida.



## CENTRAL FLORIDA 2022 GRANTS LIST

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
Support for Captive Breeding of Endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrows	CWT	\$63,354	FWC
Monitor Prevalence of Illegal Shooting of Bears	CWT	\$6,310	FWC

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
Crab Trap Bycatch Reduction Device Program	CWT	\$36,175	FWC
Marine Turtle Permit Holder Meeting	DFO	\$2,500	FWC
Nature for All - A Buddy Paddle Initiative	Other Funds	\$6,440	Removing the Barriers Initiative
Wildlife Disease Relational Database	Other Funds	\$25,000	FWC
The Ribbit Exhibit: Frogs and Toads of Florida	Other Funds	\$15,190	Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center
Monitoring Manatee Use and Developing a Manatee Observer Program in Salt and Silver Glen Springs	PFS	\$19,927	Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute
Swaying New Home Buyers Mindsets Towards Sustainable Landscapes	PFS	\$11,000	The Nature Conservancy
Ecological Health Assessment of the Silver Springs System	PFS	\$31,000	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute
The Introduction to Archery Experience	WFF	\$8,800	Shoot Straight Archery
Tracks Over Wheels	WFF	\$14,000	Removing the Barriers Initiative
Second Expansion of Pasco County Archery Program	WFF	\$3,079	Pasco County Board of County Commissioners
Mobile Summer Archery Camp(s)	WFF	\$7,000	Trinity Sportsman Ministries
Enhance Sonfishers Archery Program and Continue Wildlife Education - Phase III	WFF	\$6,000	SONFISHER Calvary Chapel Merritt Island
Project ARROW (Archery Recreation & Restoration of West Melbourne)	WFF	\$12,500	Grace Church Melbourne
Youth Archery Range Loaner Out Kit	WFF	\$4,761	Florida Bowhunters Association
Lakeland YHEC Youth Primitive Hunting, Shooting, and Marksmanship	WFF	\$4,000	FWC
Drawn by Grace Youth Outreach	WFF	\$5,300	Drawn by Grace
Title Sponsorship of the Florida NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) State Tournament	WFF	\$30,000	FWC
Introduction to Girls' Outdoor Archery	WFF	\$1,245	Lake Wales Breakfast Rotary Foundation
Outdoor Archery and Hunting Education	WFF	\$3,405	Cloud Nine Outdoors
ALLOUT EcoRover Adventures 2023	WFF	\$25,000	Sportsability Alliance (Florida Disabled Outdoors Association)
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS 23—TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT \$341,986</b>			

CWT: Conserve Wildlife plate, PFS: Protect Florida Springs plate, DFO: Discover Florida's Oceans plate, WFF: Wildlife Foundation of Florida plate.

# SOUTH FLORIDA

When people elsewhere think of Florida, they likely picture south Florida and its sparkling coastal cities and vast subtropical wetlands and woods. South Florida is home to the Everglades, Big Cypress, Lake Okeechobee, and the Florida Keys. Florida panthers, black bears, and Key deer wander its woods; crocodiles, goliath groupers, and tiger sharks prowl its waters.

## SUPPORTING FWC FOLLOWING HURRICANE IAN

Hurricane Ian was one of the most destructive storms to strike the United States in the last century. In the face of billions of dollars in damages to homes, property, and delicate natural habitats, FWC deployed 100+ officers to aid in community rescue efforts throughout southwest Florida. With their unique outdoor training, experience, and equipment, FWC officers are often the first to deploy when hurricanes strike.

Many FWC officers and biologists were not immune to the hurricane's impact. Many faced homelessness and extensive property damage in the wake of the storm. But thanks to donors like you, we gave away \$153,050 to 71 FWC employees, including its first responders, for relocation assistance, loss of personal property, and home repair.



*FWC Hurricane Ian responders*

“The financial help my family received from the Foundation’s FWC Employee Assistance Fund definitely took some of the sting out of the cost of repairing our damage,” said FWC marine mammal biologist Andrew Garrett, whose staff was deployed to Port Charlotte to help after the hurricane.

In addition to assisting FWC staff and their families, we supported FWC’s search and rescue operation, purchasing \$25,000 in food, generators, fuel, and other supplies for the first responders who worked tirelessly to help others in the immediate aftermath of the storm. A very generous donation from a St. Petersburg, FL couple allowed the Foundation to create two additional funds to assist in these and future efforts.

“Working in the aftermath of a major storm can be extremely challenging and takes a toll on our first responders. The Foundation played a key role in supporting this mission by generously purchasing food and supplies for those deployed,” said Major Jay Russel, FWC Northeast Regional Commander. “By providing consistent hot meals to our members, morale was higher than I have ever witnessed at a disaster response. This resulted in an incredible amount of work getting done for the communities that needed it the most.”



Top left: FWC Hurricane Ian responder; top right: Hurricane Ian damage to a SW FL neighborhood; bottom: Hurricane Ian road damage

## THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF

After stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) began to ravage Florida's Coral Reef in 2014, the protection of Florida stony corals became an immediate priority for our Foundation.

As opposed to "soft" corals (the ones that wave back and forth in ocean currents), stony corals are reef builders. They include the big brain and boulder corals, also the pillar corals that grow in long, beautiful columns, and staghorn corals that branch like the antlers of a deer. 45 species of stony corals are found in Florida; SCTLD attacks nearly half of them, killing most within days of infection.

**In 2018, FWC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists launched an unprecedented effort to save many of these corals before the disease spread to the lower Florida Keys. Some 2,000 coral samples were taken from the waters around Key West and transported to laboratories and aquariums across the United States for safekeeping.**

The largest collection is co-managed by our Foundation in collaboration with SeaWorld, Disney, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and FWC at the Florida Coral Rescue Center. Nearly 700 corals are thriving and contributing daily to our understanding of each species, several of which have not been previously in human care. Survival has been very high, and some of the rarest species have begun breeding on their own. Staff recently counted 40 new boulder star corals that have settled on small ceramic tiles to grow.



*Approximately 700 stony corals rescued from disease are cared for at the Florida Coral Rescue Center.*

We, FWC, and other partners are working to raise \$4.9 million to double the size of the facility and create new generations of corals better able to survive disease and rising water temperatures and salinity.

Meanwhile, our partners are identifying best practices for returning corals to the reef and testing for the continued presence of SCTLD. Donations to our Florida Coral Reef Conservation Fund are helping us experiment with best practices for returning healthy corals to the Eastern Dry Rocks, one of seven "Iconic Reefs" prioritized for restoration by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Over the course of four months in 2022, our restoration partner Reef Renewal USA completed six dive trips and outplanted 2,510 individual staghorn corals. Our Director of Philanthropy Dani Richter even donned her scuba gear to help!

## OUR WATERS, OUR FUTURE: THE FLORIDA CORAL REEF CONSERVATION FUND

Returning Florida's Coral Reef to its full health takes the work of many. To provide a reliable new stream of funding for this work, we have created the Florida Coral Reef Conservation Fund. In addition to seeking outright donations from committed conservationists like the Spottswoods, we are asking Florida hotels, marinas, manufacturers, dive shops, and other businesses to add \$1 to their customers' bills or donate a portion of sales to the fund. Thank you to the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel, The Islander Resort, and Green Pineapple for leading this effort.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# KAREN & ROBERT HALE

Fox Rock Foundation is a family charitable foundation overseen by philanthropists Karen and Rob Hale. The Hales, who live in Massachusetts and Naples, have long felt attached to Florida's gentle manatees. In response to the 2021 crisis in the Indian River Lagoon, they made a \$1 million gift to our Foundation to accelerate the restoration of seagrass on which manatees depend. They made an equal donation to the Save the Manatee Club.

"Our family feels called to manatee conservation not only because they are intelligent, curious creatures, but because of the critical role they play in aquatic ecosystems," said Karen Hale. "We are proud to partner with the Foundation to protect manatees and improve the health of our oceans and other waterways."

The Hales' gift allowed us to double the number of restoration projects being undertaken in 2022 in partnership with FWC and other public and private entities. These include eight sites in the Indian River Lagoon and Loxahatchee River, as well as one in the St. Johns River and soon, northern Biscayne Bay. We can't thank the Hales enough for their visionary philanthropy.

## GIVING BACK, FLORIDA STYLE

Florida Hunters for the Hungry (H4H) has found a very Florida way to help those in need. Working with the tight-knit Florida hunting community, they collect and donate surplus venison and other game meat to food banks. When hunters decide to donate their harvest, they alert a member of H4H who facilitates getting the animals to a nearby processing center. There the meat is butchered and prepared for use by food pantries.

*Thanks to a \$10,000 Wildlife Foundation of Florida plate grant, H4H was able to cover expenses for transporting and processing its donated game for their 2022 season. "Our goal for 2022 was to go out and feed more people than we did the previous year," said Tracy Grevert, Founder and Director of H4H. "This grant allowed us to do that."*

Most of the animals donated are white-tailed deer and wild hog, which is an invasive and destructive species in Florida. Their program also encourages sustainable hunting practices and land stewardship.

Since 2019, the organization has provided a staggering 29,000 pounds of food for the hungry. Operation Hope Florida, founded to assist migrant workers in and around Fellsmere, FL, is one food bank that receives such donations. "The pork from wild hogs is particularly appreciated by workers from Cuba and Honduras where pork is an important traditional source of protein," said Operation Hope Florida Founder Jesse Zermeno.

Injured wildlife also benefits from H4H donations. The Seaside Bird Sanctuary in Indian Shores has some stubborn rehab patients, including its turkey vulture, Lars. Lars sustained an injury that prevents him from flying, leading to his residence at the Sanctuary. Thanks to our grant, H4H was able to donate meat that food banks don't typically want, like venison ribs and hearts. These gifts are literally drooled over by avian patients and residents like Lars. They provide essential protein and variety to these birds' diets and save the Sanctuary money in the process. They also coax injured birds to eat in captivity and help stubborn ones like Lars learn to adapt to captivity and his new calling as a wildlife ambassador.



## SOUTH FLORIDA 2022 GRANTS LIST

Top: Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), Lars



Deer hunting

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
Investigating Potential Bacterial Reservoirs and Environmental Conditions Contributing to a Large Multi-year Mortality Event of State-threatened Black Skimmer Juveniles in Southwest Florida	CWT	\$33,200	FWC
Movements and Habitat Use by American Crocodiles Found in Urbanized Landscapes	CWT	\$41,614	FWC
Demographics of the Black Bear Subpopulation in Southwest Florida	CWT	\$13,000	FWC
Investigating the Origins and Potential Cross-species Transmission of Pathogenic Reptilian Ferlaviruses Between Exotic and Native Wildlife	CWT	\$30,130	University of Florida
American Association of Zoological Parks & Aquariums Coordinator Travel in 2022	DFO	\$10,000	American Association of Zoological Parks & Aquariums
Ladies, Let's Go Fishing	Other Funds	\$10,000	Ladies Lets Go Fishing Foundation
Eastern Dry Rocks Restoration	Other Funds	\$30,000	Reef Renewal USA
Assessing the Effect of <i>Diadema Antillarum</i> on Survival of Boulder Corals	Other Funds	\$24,494	FWC
Continued Research on Mussel Propagation Techniques and Stocking Native Mussels to Restore Populations in Lake Trafford and Improve Water Quality	Other Funds	\$60,418	FWC
Mission: Iconic Reefs Site Maintenance Pilot Program - Eastern Dry Rocks	Other Funds	\$17,000	The College of the Florida Keys
2022 Raptor Research/Florida Ornithology Conference	Other Funds	\$1,000	Raptor Research Foundation
Connecting Florida's Sportsmen and Women with a Healthy Springs Ecosystem	PFS	\$5,000	Florida Wildlife Federation
FWC/NWTF/FFS Wild Turkey Cost-share Program	WFF	\$25,000	National Wild Turkey Federation
Determining the Publics Attitudes and Opinions of Ebike Use on Wildlife Management Areas	WFF	\$10,000	FWC
Restock of Youth Hunting Program of Florida Equipment	WFF	\$30,300	FWC
Special Wounded Warrior and Youth Waterfowl Hunts	WFF	\$3,000	United Waterfowlers Florida
Gobbling and Nesting Chronology of Wild Turkeys in South Florida	WFF	\$24,000	FWC
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS 17— TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT \$368,156</b>			

CWT: Conserve Wildlife plate, PFS: Protect Florida Springs plate, DFO: Discover Florida's Oceans plate, WFF: Wildlife Foundation of Florida plate.





**LEAVE A WILD LEGACY**

**THE FLORIDA CONSERVATION LEGACY SOCIETY WAS CREATED TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE THE MOST PERSONAL AND THOUGHTFUL GIFT OF ALL, A COMMITMENT TO ENSURE FLORIDA REMAINS A PLACE OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY AND DIVERSITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

You can leave a wild legacy by naming the Foundation in your estate plans through a will, trust, prepaid life insurance policy, or other estate planning vehicles. **Thanks to our partnership with FreeWill, estate planning has never been easier. FreeWill is a free, online will-writing tool that guides you through the process of creating your will and legacy in 20 minutes or less.** For more information about leaving a legacy gift, please visit our website or contact Director of Philanthropy Mrs. Dani Richter at [drichter@wildlifeflorida.org](mailto:drichter@wildlifeflorida.org). All inquiries will be kept confidential.

Whether via a bequest or outright gift of cash, stocks, artwork, or real estate, please consider a contribution to our three permanent endowments.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# STACI DOUCETT

When you peruse Staci Doucett's photography portfolio, you may find it hard to believe she hasn't been behind a camera her entire life. Her striking portraits of Florida's shorebirds are not the typical work of someone with just 10 years of experience under her belt, but Staci's path to wildlife photography wasn't straightforward.

A Florida native hailing from Orlando, Staci found healing by pursuing photography, helping her cope with the devastating loss of her 18-year-old son Alex and her ADHD symptoms.

"The loss of a child is something you never get over, you just hope for a life that honors their memory," said Staci of her son, who passed away 15 years ago. "I realized that photography, especially of wildlife and wading birds, allowed me to practice mindfulness. When I was looking through the lens, my brain would quiet down."

**WHEN STACI CHOSE TO RECOGNIZE OUR FOUNDATION IN HER ESTATE PLANS AS PART OF OUR LEAVE A WILD LEGACY CAMPAIGN, WE WERE HONORED.**

"I want to support any organization that helps protect our environment and wildlife in their habitats," said Staci on her decision.

Today, Staci and her husband live in St. Augustine. The local wildlife scene keeps her photography efforts busy, and she enjoys working with Bay County Audubon in Panama City Beach to raise awareness of the importance of protecting nesting areas for shore and wading birds. She frequently donates prints of her beautiful shots to causes that support wildlife conservation, including our 2023 *A Night For Nature* gala.





Photo credit Casey Dunn

## DESIGNING THE NEXT GENERATION OF YOUTH CAMPS

In the past decade, the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network has supported more than 2,000,000 transformative nature experiences. Think about that. In an era when children spend less and less time outside, the FWC-managed network with its 350+ private and public partners are benefitting hundreds of thousands of Florida children and teens annually.

Our Foundation is Florida's largest private funder of this work. In 2022 we invited three nationally prominent architectural firms to submit their concepts for the next generation of camps in Florida. Lake|Flato Architects of San Antonio, Texas was selected and is beginning the master plan and architectural designs at FWC's Everglades Youth Conservation Camp in Loxahatchee and the Tenoroc Public Use Area in Lakeland. Tenoroc, an expansive area of woods and beautiful lakes, will conduct its first day camps this summer; Lake|Flato will design the buildings needed to transform it into a permanent year-round overnight camp.

New York- and West Palm Beach-based Zubatkin Owner Representation, a firm specializing in overseeing building projects for nonprofits, is managing the process on our behalf. We thank them and Lake|Flato and look forward to sharing more news in the future.



Richard A. Corbett  
*Board Chair Emeritus*

## THE CHILDREN AND NATURE ENDOWMENT

Remembering future generations in your estate plans is easy via a gift to the Children and Nature Endowment, which supports outdoor education programs for youth throughout Florida. Nearly 300,000 children and teenagers annually receive formative outdoor experiences via the programs we support, but many more Florida children have little connection to the outdoors and all of its physical and psychological benefits.



*Bee approaching a Scrub lupine (Lupinus aridorum)*

## RARE PLANT CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

Rare plants account for nearly 15% of the state's 2,864 native species, many of which are endemic to Florida. Some are rare due to their narrow biological niche, but most have become rare through human transformation of the landscape. By donating to the Rare Plant Conservation Endowment, you're helping safeguard these species for decades to come as we support the scientists who conduct the surveys, outplanting, reintroduction trials, pollination studies, and habitat protection essential to preventing their extinction.

## THE FLORIDA CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

The Florida Conservation Endowment is our general endowment, used to support a portion of our operations and the many conservation programs and projects we operate or sponsor. This permanent fund, to which donors can contribute via outright or planned gifts like bequests, annuities, or trusts, will help ensure a predictable stream of revenue for our conservation programs far into the future. Please leave a living legacy by supporting our work!







**OUR SUPPORTERS**



**THANK YOU!**

**THE FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA IS ONLY AS STRONG AS YOU, OUR SUPPORTERS, MAKE US. WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT MADE CHARITABLE GIFTS OF \$250 OR MORE IN 2022.**

**To continue supporting us, please visit [wildlifeflorida.org](http://wildlifeflorida.org). And if you're looking for a new way to support our work and get a little something for you, too, check out our new store at [wildlifeflorida.com](http://wildlifeflorida.com). You can "adopt" a plush panther, get a shirt for the perfect day on the water, or a mug to keep your coffee warm in the deer stand.**

### **HAMMERHEAD SHARK SOCIETY (\$100,000+)**

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### **FLORIDA PANTHER PARTNER (\$10,000 - \$24,999)**

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\* Conservation Champion (recurring donors)

\*\*A Night for Nature donor

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# THE GREAT FLORIDA OUTDOORS RAFFLE

Thanks to the generosity of Owner and President Joe Neber, Contender Boats donated a sportfishing boat to our inaugural Great Florida Outdoors Raffle. Our inaugural raffle generated more than \$245,000 from more than 23,000 entries to support FWC conservation efforts. We wish to thank Joe and everyone at Contender for their generosity, and thanks, too, to the FWC biologists who donated unique wildlife outings as prizes.



## TARPON SCHOOL (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

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 Mr. John Mason  
 Dr. Nicole Mayne\*

Mr. Rubin McGuire  
 Ms. Joan McKniff\*  
 Ms. Gwen McMichael\*  
 Ms. Ann McMillan\*  
 Ms. Susan McNally  
 Ms. Mary Meade\*  
 Mr. Tyler Means  
 Ms. Jenny Mendoza\*  
 Ms. Linda Milgate\*  
 Dr. Nina-Jo Moore  
 Ms. Kayla Mosley\*  
 Mr. Andrew Mouacdie\*  
 Ms. Jessica Muller\*  
 Mr. Adit Naik\*  
 Mr. Efrain Naranjo\*  
 Mr. Terry Nash\*  
 Mr. Dennis Nielsen

Mrs. & Mr. David Nolf  
 Mr. Todd Ochsner\*  
 Mr. Patrick Oliver\*  
 Mr. Adrian Ortiz  
 Ms. Rosemary Palau-Dunigan\*  
 Dr. Michael Pavletic\*  
 Ms. Michelle Pavlick\*  
 Ms. Linda Pinney\*  
 Ms. Nabilla Porbandarwalla  
 Power of Pizza Charities  
 Ms. Catherine Prats  
 Dr. Jennifer Pratt-Hyatt\*  
 Ms. Patricia Quinn\*  
 Mr. Michael Rada\*  
 Mr. Richard Richardson  
 Ms. Cynthia Robins\*  
 Mr. Christian Robyr\*

Ms. Allison Rouse  
 Mrs. & Dr. Harvey Rubin  
 Ms. Cynthia Salamon  
 Ms. Laura Salmon\*  
 Mr. Rodney Sanchez\*  
 Ms. Surbhi Sarma\*  
 Ms. Cheryl Schopf  
 Ms. Marilynne Schrader\*  
 Ms. Brandon Sklar\*  
 Mr. Kevin Smith\*  
 Ms. Debra Snyder  
 Ms. Pamela Spurrell\*  
 Ms. Diane Stayton\*  
 Dr. Peter Sygnator\*  
 Ms. Katharine Tamer\*  
 Mrs. & Mr. Richard Thivierge  
 Julie & Dan Tiede

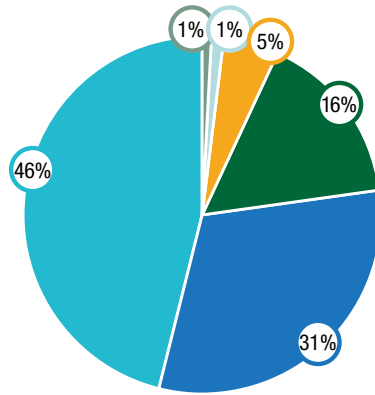
Mr. Maximillian Tower  
 Ms. Blaire Tittle\*  
 Ms. Melissa Tucker  
 Ms. Amy Unzueta\*  
 Mrs. Sharon Wagner\*  
 Mr. Larry Wallace\*  
 Ms. Patricia Welles\*  
 West Townson Elementary School  
 Mr. Barry White  
 Ms. Carl Wickman  
 Ms. Jodi Williams\*  
 Dr. Stephen Wilson  
 Mr. James Young  
 Ms. Susanne Zook\*



*a*  
 NIGHT  
*for* NATURE

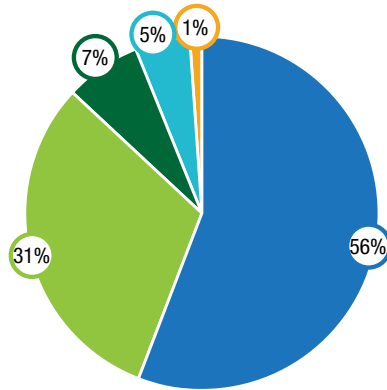
Our *A Night for Nature* gala on March 31st, 2023 at the Pelican Club in Jupiter will celebrate everything wild. The gala will honor the lifetime conservation efforts of country star Chris Janson and Florida Power & Light CEO Eric Silagy. One of Florida's premier conservation events, this is the second gala hosted by volunteer leaders Chuck Collins, Tucker Frederickson, Joshua Kellam, John Lacy, and Laura Russell. The 2021 event raised more than \$1 million for conservation via sponsorships, silent and live auctions, and more.

# FINANCES



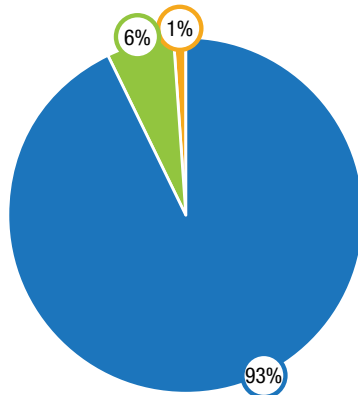
## 2022 REVENUE BY SOURCE

SOURCE	REVENUE
Endangered Species Mitigation	\$7,371,290
Program Fees and Services	\$3,807,737
Philanthropic Giving	\$11,289,428
Investments	(\$6,482,176)
License Plates	\$1,267,523
Government Grants	\$338,195
In-Kind	\$254,599



## 2022 PROGRAM EXPENSE BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	EXPENSE
Conserving Wildlife	\$4,893,516
Combatting Invasives	\$116,834
Preserving Our Outdoor Heritage	\$2,716,698
Getting Kids Back to Nature	\$647,058
Restoring Our Reefs	\$396,208



## 2022 PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY

CATEGORY	EXPENSE
Program	\$8,770,314
Administration	\$567,300
Fundraising	\$67,270



*White-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus)*

## CONSERVING NATURE AND OUR OUTDOOR HERITAGE

HELP SUPPORT OUR WORK BY DONATING TO THE FOUNDATION, BUYING A LICENSE PLATE, “ADOPTING” A PLUSH FLORIDA PANTHER, OR GETTING NEW GEAR IN OUR REVAMPED STORE. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [WILDLIFEFLORIDA.ORG](http://WILDLIFEFLORIDA.ORG).



Proud Citizen Support Organization for the Florida  
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



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