



WITH THE  
**WILD**  
WE STAND

FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF  
FLORIDA | **IMPACT REPORT 2020**



## CONTENTS

- 3 WHO WE ARE
- 7 WHAT WE DO
- 37 LEAVE A WILD LEGACY
- 43 OUR SUPPORTERS
- 49 AWARDS
- 51 FINANCES

THE YEAR 2020 IS ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS. A GLOBAL PANDEMIC VIVIDLY REMINDED US OF HOW CLOSELY OUR HEALTH IS TIED TO NATURE'S.

Nature also proved our refuge. The sale of boats, bicycles, fishing licenses, and camping and hiking gear all surged in 2020. A record 10 million people walked Florida's greenways and trails.

The Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida played its part, with continued strong support for coral reef restoration, endangered species conservation, outdoor youth education, hunting and fishing programs, and land protection.

If you are a Foundation supporter, thank you! Our success is your success. If you are new to us, please consider joining our work at [wildlifeflorida.org](http://wildlifeflorida.org). Together we can ensure Florida remains a place of clean air, clean water, vast beauty, and abundant wildlife.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



AS CHAIRMAN, I WANT TO THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING A MOST CHALLENGING YEAR. DESPITE THE PANDEMIC, WE CONTINUED TO ADVANCE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION IN 2020, RAISING AND DISTRIBUTING \$6 MILLION FOR A VARIETY OF CAUSES.

The following pages outline our progress on a range of conservation and outdoor recreation programs. These include adding 587 acres to the Apalachicola Wildlife and Environmental Area, reestablishing native mussels in Collier County's Lake Trafford, funding research into a mysterious condition afflicting some bobcats and Florida panthers, and finding a way for kids to safely attend summer camps. In hard times, it's easy to lose sight of the quiet successes on which our continued quality of life depends. Some of those successes are outlined in this report, and we thank you helping make them happen. Together we are a force for nature.

Carlos Alfonso  
Chair

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR EMERITUS



As outgoing Chair, I wanted to express my gratitude for your help not only during the past year, but my entire tenure. One of my main passions at the Foundation will continue to be introducing the next generation to outdoor recreation.

Despite the uptick in outdoor activity in 2020, we remain concerned about the decline in America's hunters and outdoor recreation generally. Excise taxes on hunting and fishing gear pay for the great majority of state wildlife programs across this country, and those revenues are in jeopardy as fewer and fewer people buy hunting licenses. We're working closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to attract new generations to hunting, and we donate more than \$250,000 a year for game management and to encourage women, returning veterans, and many others to take up archery, hunting, and competitive shooting sports. In the same spirit, we remain Florida's largest private funder of outdoor camps and programs for youth.

I look forward to growing this work in my new role, and to preserving our outdoor heritage for future generations.

Richard A. Corbett  
Chair Emeritus

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO




Conservation is a team sport. No single organization, no matter how large and well-funded, can hope to accomplish much in conservation without the help of many others, including the communities in which conservation happens.

I was reminded of that throughout the past year. In March, we and several other organizations opened the first facility created specifically to hold corals rescued from stony coral tissue loss disease (see page 22). Late in the year, we partnered with the University of Florida and Ducks Unlimited (DU) to help the DeLuca family donate a stunning 27,000-acre property in the Everglades headwaters in Osceola County. The \$200,000 we pledged to the project is enough to endow DU's permanent conservation easement over the land and to provide funds to manage the many rare and notable species and habitats found there. Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund, our partner in many conservation efforts, led the way with a \$100,000 gift, which customers nationwide support by rounding up the cost of their purchases to the next dollar. And Marty and Daphne Wood, whom we profile on page 32, also contributed generously to the effort.

Ultimately our greatest partner is YOU. Without your support, we could do little. So whether your passion runs to panthers, pompano, or points between, partnering with us provides an opportunity to make a difference in the natural world, and to open a child's eyes to that wonder.

Andrew Walker  
President & CEO



# WHO WE ARE

## OUR MISSION

THE 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 THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FWC), FOR WHICH WE ARE A CITIZENS SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, AND ITS MANY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS. SINCE 1994, WE HAVE RAISED \$50 MILLION FOR CONSERVATION AND YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND RECREATION.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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## STAFF



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*President & CEO*



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*Chief Operating Officer*



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*Director of Communications*



**Danielle Cummings**  
*Director of Institutional Giving*



**Anita Forester**  
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**Brandon Harris**  
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**Stefani Harrison**  
*Major Gifts & Database Manager*

**Kyle Grammatica**  
*Communications Intern*

**Tindl Rainey**  
*FWC Liaison to Foundation*

## FLORIDA SPRINGS GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**Annette Long**  
*Citizen Representative*

**Celeste Lyon**  
*FL Dept. of Environmental Protection*

**Dan Pennington**  
*Citizen Representative*

**Barbara Powell**  
*FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity*

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

**Dr. Eberhard Roeder**  
*FL Dept. of Health*

**Kent Smith**  
*FWC*

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

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*United Waterfowlers Florida*

**Tom Knight**  
*National Rifle Association*

**Jim McClellan**  
*Citizen Representative*

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

**George Warthen**  
*FWC*





Florida panther  
(*Puma concolor coryi*)

## OUR INITIATIVES

IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH FWC, WE ARE DEDICATED TO CONSERVING WILD FLORIDA, BE IT ENHANCING OUR FISHERIES, SUPPORTING REHABILITATION OF INJURED WILDLIFE, PROTECTING NESTING COLONIES OF SHOREBIRDS, COMBATTING THE SPREAD OF BURMESE PYTHONS, OR PROVIDING CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED YOUTH. **WE ARE FLORIDA'S COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR CONSERVATION, CONNECTING DONORS TO THE PROJECTS ABOUT WHICH THEY CARE MOST.**

In addition to being one of Florida's largest private funders of freshwater springs conservation, these five initiatives drive much of our work:

**CONSERVING WILDLIFE**  
**RESTORING OUR REEFS**  
**GETTING KIDS**  
**BACK TO NATURE**  
**COMBATTING INVASIVES**  
**PRESERVING OUR**  
**OUTDOOR HERITAGE**

*Each of these initiatives is outlined on the following pages.*

One way we fund these initiatives is via our specialty license plates: the "Wildlife Foundation of Florida" license plate that supports hunting, shooting sports, and management of habitat; the "Conserve Wildlife" plate that benefits endangered and other non-game species; and the "Protect Florida Springs" plate, which supports conservation of Florida's world-renowned freshwater springs. We also receive a portion of the proceeds from the "Discover Florida's Oceans" plate, which helps fund marine conservation and education programs.

Citizen input is an important part of our grant making. We are particularly indebted to the volunteer citizen committees that help review the many applications we receive for springs conservation, hunting and shooting sports programs, and game species management. Their input is invaluable in prioritizing the many laudable applications we receive.



# OUR IMPACT



**RAISED AND  
DONATED  
NEARLY  
\$50 MILLION**

TO HUNDREDS OF  
CONSERVATION, OUTDOOR  
RECREATION, AND EDUCATION  
PROJECTS SINCE 1994.



**HELPED  
CONSERVE  
35,000  
ACRES**

OF CRITICAL WILDLIFE  
HABITAT IN 2020.



PRESERVED OUR STATE'S  
WILDLIFE, OUTDOOR  
HERITAGE, SPRINGS, AND  
OCEANS THANKS TO OUR

**51,902  
SPECIALTY  
PLATE  
HOLDERS.**



**TWO-THIRDS  
OF ALL WILD  
FLORIDA  
GRASSHOPPER  
SPARROWS**

FLEDGED IN 2020 CAME FROM NESTS  
WITH AT LEAST ONE FOUNDATION-  
FUNDED, CAPTIVE-BRED PARENT.



**AWARDED  
15 GRANTS  
TOTALING  
\$239,690**

TO NINE ORGANIZATIONS  
FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION,  
AND RESTORATION OF FLORIDA'S  
FRESHWATER SPRINGS.



**ACCOMPLISHED  
ALL OF THIS  
THANKS TO OUR  
OVER 110,000  
SUPPORTERS,  
INCLUDING YOU.**





Red-spotted purple butterfly  
(*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)

## CONSERVING WILDLIFE

Ensuring future generations can experience Florida in all its biological diversity is a priority for our Foundation. This includes using controlled burns and mechanical removal of vegetation to maximize the value of lands and waters for Florida wildlife and the people who enjoy them.

One long-term project is our work to save North America's most endangered bird, the Florida grasshopper sparrow. We are a principal funder of White Oak Conservation's grasshopper sparrow captive breeding program, which is revitalizing the sparrow's wild population. Two-thirds of all wild sparrows fledged in 2020 came from nests in which at least one parent was a captive-reared and released bird. We thank our many donors from around the country who join us, FWC, White Oak Conservation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in securing the sparrow's future.



Florida grasshopper sparrow  
(*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*)

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Bill Cita has been an environmentalist for decades. He has always cared about the plight of endangered species and in 1982 became particularly interested in the thousands of sandhill cranes making a migratory rest stop

in the Platte River valley not far from his home in eastern Nebraska. He was an early supporter of the National Audubon Society's Rowe Sanctuary in Gibbon, NE, which provides front-row viewing for one of the great wildlife migrations on the planet. After reading about the plight of the Florida grasshopper sparrow, Bill was quick to act by becoming a donor to the sparrow program. **"I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF IF I DID NOTHING," HE SAID. "I'M IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL."** Our great thanks to Bill and the many other people across the United States who are helping the sparrow.

**For more information about our sparrow conservation work, visit [wildlifeflorida.org](http://wildlifeflorida.org) or email the Foundation at [info@wildlifeflorida.org](mailto:info@wildlifeflorida.org).**



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



### The Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund

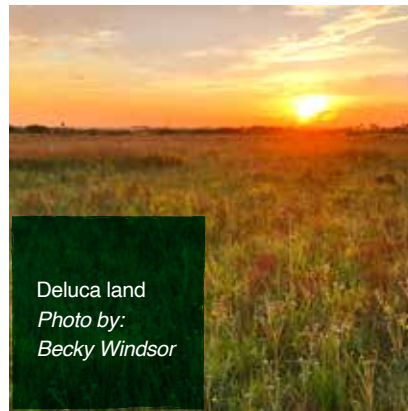
expanded its commitment to Florida conservation with two \$100,000 grants in 2020. One grant funded restoration projects in the Everglades ecosystems, including growing and planting sponges in Florida Bay. As recently as the 1980s, Florida Bay held the greatest concentration of sponges in North America. But algae blooms and lack of sufficient freshwater from the Everglades contributed to the death of 95 percent of the Bay's sponges. Without these sponges, Florida Bay cannot sustain its previous abundance of marine life. Projects underway in the Everglades are increasing the flow of clean, fresh water into the Bay, allowing FWC to begin



restoration of the sponge ecosystem. As a first step, FWC has grown 15,000 new sponges from cuttings of seven species and is planting them in four areas targeted for restoration. The Outdoor Fund grant will underwrite this work and help FWC grow and plant another 60,000 sponges. "We are proud to partner with the Foundation to advance these priority conservation efforts," said Bob Ziehmer, President of Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund.

**"WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN BETTER ENSURE THE HEALTH OF FLORIDA'S AMAZING AND DIVERSE AQUATIC RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS."**

As previously mentioned, their second gift helped endow a permanent conservation easement over 27,000 acres of iconic prairie and wetlands habitat in the Everglades headwaters. Elisabeth DeLuca and her family, founders of the Subway restaurant chain, donated the land to the University of Florida (UF) and asked Ducks Unlimited



Deluca land  
Photo by:  
Becky Windsor

(DU) to hold the conservation easement in perpetuity. UF will use property as an agricultural and ecological research station for faculty and students. In addition to endowing annual monitoring of the easement, we will help support conservation of endangered species and their habitats. The second largest population of imperiled Florida grasshopper sparrows in the world are located there, as are populations of red-cockaded woodpeckers, gopher tortoises, and other notable animals and plants.

## SO HOW DIVERSE IS FLORIDA?



## SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

The Foundation is committed to conserving threatened gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in Florida, often considered a keystone species for their considerable impacts on others in their habitats. Their populations have decreased across the state from increased land development. In response, we and FWC work with developers who pay for the relocation of tortoises to new territories, some of which are in the Apalachicola National Forest. The tortoises in Apalachicola are being studied to better understand how relocated tortoises fare over the long term.





## “CONSERVE WILDLIFE” PLATE

Part of our funding for conserving Florida’s iconic species comes from our “Conserve Wildlife” specialty license plate. Each plate sale generates \$25/year for our work, and in 2020, our Board of Directors approved ten grants totaling \$535,284 for nongame species conservation. These grants are made to FWC or its partners.



### “CONSERVE WILDLIFE” GRANTS

NAME	LOCATION	ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT
Training FWC personnel in non-lethal means of controlling problem bears	Ocala Youth Conservation Center	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$27,750.00
Assessment of the epidemiology of a neuromuscular disorder impacting bobcats and the endangered Florida panther	Statewide	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$150,000.00
Support for captive breeding of endangered Florida grasshopper sparrows	White Oak Conservation: Yulee, FL	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$140,000.00
Effects of outreach messages on landowner attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors related to Florida’s WMA’s	47 Wildlife Management Areas Statewide	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$31,350.00
Mussel Community and Water Quality Restoration in Lake Trafford	Lake Trafford: Corkskrew, FL	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$65,000.00
Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance, Wetland Ecosystem Support Team	Apalachicola National Forest	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$25,000.00
Implementing Predation Management for the Protection of Imperiled Beach Nesting Birds in Northeast Florida	Northeast Florida Shoreline	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$41,692.00
Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail - Guide Development and Distribution	Statewide	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$19,500.00
Investigating potential tropicalization of fishes and their cleaning stations found along hardbottom ledges of the West Florida	West Florida Shelf, Gulf of Mexico	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$28,483.00
Adult movement, pupae fire survival, and caterpillar identification of the frosted elfin ( <i>Callophrys irus</i> ) butterfly	Apalachicola National Forest	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$6,509.80
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$535,284.80</b>

## MEET THE NEW PLATE

The “Conserve Wildlife” plate has a new look. It still sports a Florida black bear, but in a new setting with other wildlife. We hope it proves another best seller and boosts revenues available for rare species conservation. We expect the plate to be available in spring 2021. Please check with your county tax collector or visit our website to learn when and how to purchase Florida’s newest license plate design.



## SEEKING CLUES TO A MYSTERY ILLNESS



Biologists first spotted Florida panthers and bobcats behaving strangely in 2018 near Corkscrew Swamp in Collier County. The animals were walking oddly, apparently unable to control their hind legs. Now known as feline leukomyelopathy (FLM), the condition impairs walking and running, limiting the animals’ ability to hunt. Extreme cases have led to the animal’s death. The Foundation donated \$150,000 in 2020 to FWC to research the debilitating neuromuscular disorder’s cause. Whether FLM is caused by a virus, bacteria, toxin, or is a nutritional problem is yet to be determined. It has the potential to jeopardize the conservation successes achieved for the endangered Florida panther. As of September 2020, there have been 10 confirmed cases and 32 probable cases.



## “PROTECT FLORIDA SPRINGS” GRANTS

Many of Florida’s 700+ freshwater springs have been degraded in recent decades by excessive nutrients, invasive non-native aquatic plants, and other stresses.

The protection and restoration of Florida’s springs, on which so much of the state’s aquatic diversity depends, is an ongoing, critical priority. In 2020, with input from our springs citizens advisory committee (see page 6), we awarded 15 grants totaling \$239,690 to nine organizations for research, education, and restoration of Florida’s freshwater springs.



### “PROTECT FLORIDA SPRINGS” GRANTS

NAME	LOCATION	ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT
All Accessible Glass Bottom Boat for Silver Springs State Park	Silver Springs State Park	Florida State Parks Foundation	\$20,000
Simple Things For Our Springs Phase II	Statewide	Alachua Conservation Trust	\$10,000
Springs Protection Behavior Change Videos	Statewide	Alachua County	\$12,000
Ecological Health Assessment at Seven Outstanding Florida Springs on the Suwannee River	North Central Florida	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute	\$40,000
Western Panhandle SPRINGSWATCH	Vortex, Ponce de Leon, and Morrison Springs	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute	\$10,200
Creating a Better Santa Fe BMAP	Santa Fe River Basin	Florida Springs Council	\$4,940
The Story of Florida Water: A permanent exhibition at the state’s natural history museum	University of Florida	University of Florida Foundation/Florida Museum of Natural History	\$20,000
Interactive Florida Springs Atlas	Statewide	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute	\$10,000
‘Healthy Underwater Forest’ signage at Ruth B. Kirby Gilchrist Blue Springs State Park	Blue Springs State Park	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute	\$3,500
Florida Springs Summit 2021	Statewide	Florida Springs Council	\$9,000
Jackson Blue Springswatch	Jackson Blue Springs	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute	\$10,200
Santa Fe River Springs Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Project	Santa Fe River Springs	Alachua County Environmental Protection Department	\$14,000
Year II: Evaluation of Thermal Refuge Habitat for Fish in Springs of the Lower Suwannee River	Springs of the Lower Suwannee River	University of Florida	\$35,880
Determining Habitat Preference, Seasonal Use Trends and the Resighting Frequency of Manatees in the Silver River	Silver River	Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute	\$16,351
Assessing Manatee Use of Regional Springs and Habitat Selection Utilizing GPS Telemetry in the Ocklawaha River System	Ocklawaha River System	Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute	\$23,619
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$239,690</b>

## MANATEE MYSTERY

Despite their popularity, Florida manatees’ movements remain a mystery, especially in the Ocklawaha and Silver rivers. The Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute (CMARI) is working on answers, thanks to two Foundation grants totaling \$39,970. The threatened Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) is extremely sensitive to cold water and depends on springs and manmade warm water for survival during the winter when ocean temperatures fall. Beyond our general understanding of manatees’ winter use of natural springs, our understanding of their travel and habitat needs within spring-fed rivers like the Silver and Ocklawaha falls short.

To close the knowledge gap, CMARI will conduct two projects with Foundation funding. One project takes a macro view by surveying the Silver River biweekly for a year. The study will provide trends on manatee behavior, habitat use, and human interaction. The second project uses a micro approach, tagging three manatees with satellite transmitters to collect data on their movements, disclosing unknown feeding and resting locations, use of the river’s manmade lock systems, and human interaction. The data from both studies will identify the most important manatee habitats in these rivers and what, if any, restoration is needed in the Silver and Ocklawaha rivers.





## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

2020 ALSO SAW INTERESTING RESULTS FROM PREVIOUS GRANTS.



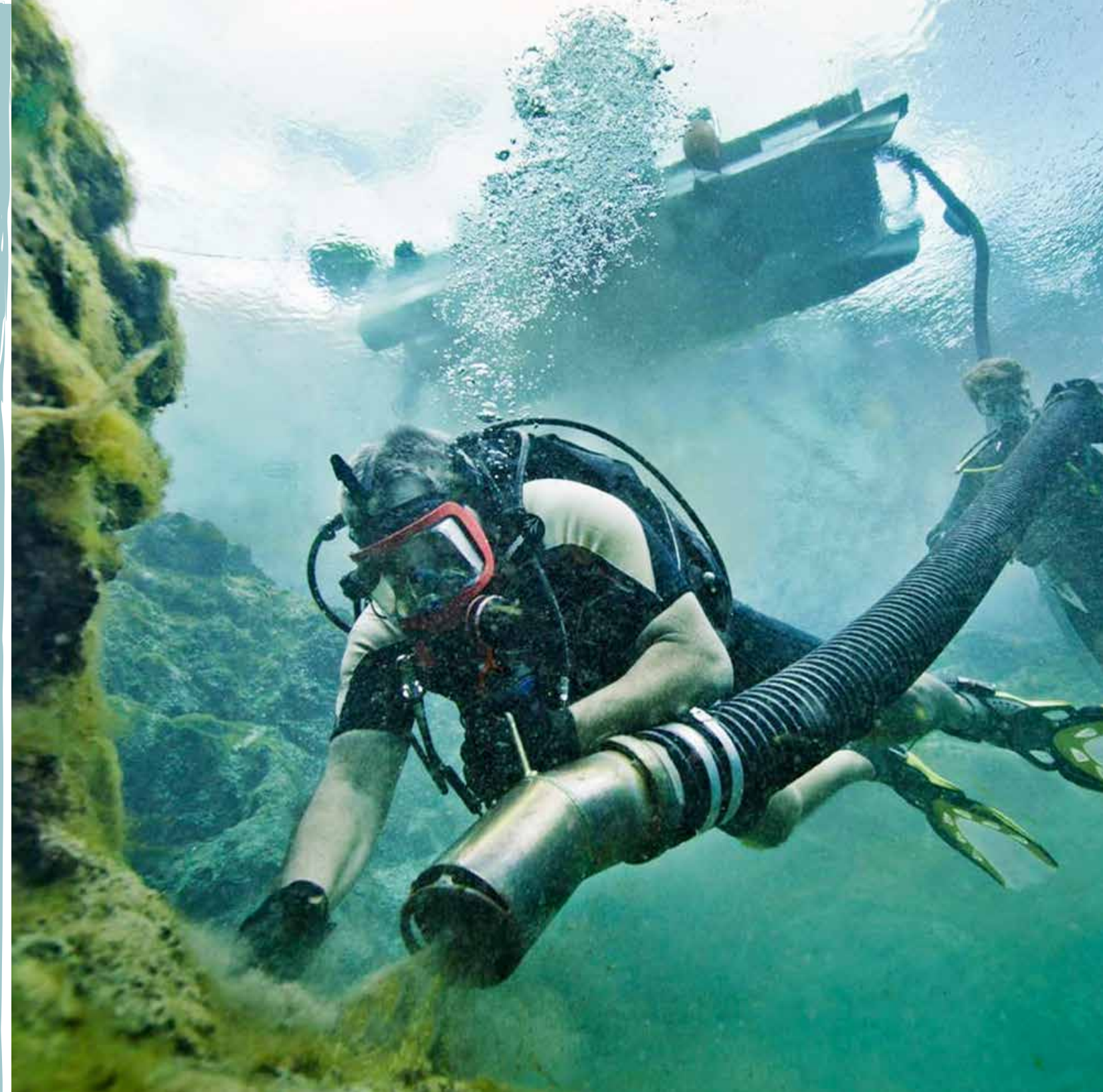
### TURTLES TRAVEL

Dr. John Enz and graduate student Tabitha Hootman at Jacksonville University have found that Florida red-bellied cooters (*Pseudemys nelson*) and peninsula cooters (*Pseudemys floridana peninsularis*) in Wekiwa Springs travel a lot further than expected. Little was previously known about the movements of these two species. Enz and Hootman's work shows cooters commonly travel up to six miles in a few weeks. One female went 22 miles. "People don't usually think of turtles as having extensive natural ranges, but this study reaffirms that some species do," said Enz. "This needs to be considered when protecting springs as natural ecosystems — their wildlife is intimately connected to the streams and rivers in the greater area."

### RESTORING MERMAID HABITAT

For years, volunteers and staff at Weeki Wachee Springs have been combatting an invasive algae, genus *Lyngbya*, threatening to take over the world-famous springs. It has no nutritional value for wildlife and smothers eelgrass and other native vegetation. It can choke a spring, and for tourists, it's lousy to look at.

The algae was being removed by underwater hand bagging — slow, difficult work. In October 2017, we awarded the Friends of Weeki Wachee Springs State Park \$40,000 to purchase a large vacuum system to remove *Lyngbya* thoroughly and efficiently. The device sucks algae up a 50-foot hose to a pontoon barge. This has accelerated *Lyngbya* removal, and the past buildup of algae throughout the main spring and adjacent swimming area has been eliminated. The vacuum system will be used to keep the springs virtually *Lyngbya*-free for fish and mermaids alike.







Balloonfish  
(*Diodon  
holocanthus*)

## RESTORING OUR REEFS

Coral reefs are central to the health and diversity of our oceans. In addition to providing a home for a quarter of marine life, reefs regulate carbon dioxide levels in the water and prevent shoreline erosion by mitigating the effects of offshore currents and hurricanes. Florida's Coral Reef, one of the longest in the world, runs from Martin County to the Dry Tortugas.

THE 360-MILE SYSTEM HAS SUFFERED MANY STRESSES IN RECENT YEARS, FROM EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE THAT CAN KILL CORAL, EXCESS SALINITY, INVASIVE LIONFISH, AND THE MASS DIE-OFF OF SEA URCHINS THAT KEEP THE REEF CLEAR OF ALGAE. In 2014 the worst threat yet appeared, stony coral tissue loss disease. It spread across the entire reef in five years, attacking 22 of the 45 species of stony corals. In many areas, mortality for some coral species approaches 100 percent. Once a coral is infected by this disease, the entire colony dies within a few weeks.

The severity of this situation has prompted innovative partnerships to save what is left of Florida's healthy coral stocks. Nearly 2,000 healthy stony corals have been rescued in advance of the disease and are being held in 20 facilities in 14 states, including one we have established in Florida with funding and in-kind support from Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund, the Edith and Curtis Munson Foundation, and several of Florida's largest corporations.



IN COMING MONTHS, OUR FOUNDATION WILL ENGAGE PARTNERS IN THE STUDY OF "CORAL CONNECTIVITY" – HOW CLOSELY TO SPACE CORALS ON A RESTORED REEF TO ENSURE NATURAL REPRODUCTION.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



One of the most exciting advances in 2020 was our partnership with the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel to create a new, perennial fund for coral reef conservation and restoration. Proposed by FWC Commissioner

Robert A. Spottswood Sr., the Florida Keys Coral Reef Conservation Fund will boost reef restoration efforts via agreements with tourism businesses throughout south Florida.

Spottswood Companies' Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel is our inaugural partner; each Beachside guest is asked to add a dollar to his or her hotel bill to be donated to the Fund. Virtually all guests are happy to help conserve our reefs. "Our Key West property has supported various environmental and community endeavors in the Florida Keys since opening in 2007," said Spottswood. "There is no more important conservation issue facing Florida today than taking care of our environment and recovery of the coral reef."

We hope to sign up 35 companies over the next 18 months, generating a projected \$1 million a year for the reef. Foundation President & CEO Andrew Walker said the Board and staff are delighted by this idea and the generosity of the Spottswood family. "We look forward to signing up other hotels, dive shops, marinas, and businesses in reaching our goal," he added.

### "DISCOVER FLORIDA'S OCEANS" GRANTS

Our Foundation receives a portion of proceeds from the "Discover Florida's Oceans" license plate, which is administered by the nonprofit Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute. Funds from the sale of this plate contributed to the \$302,000 the Foundation committed to reef conservation in 2020.



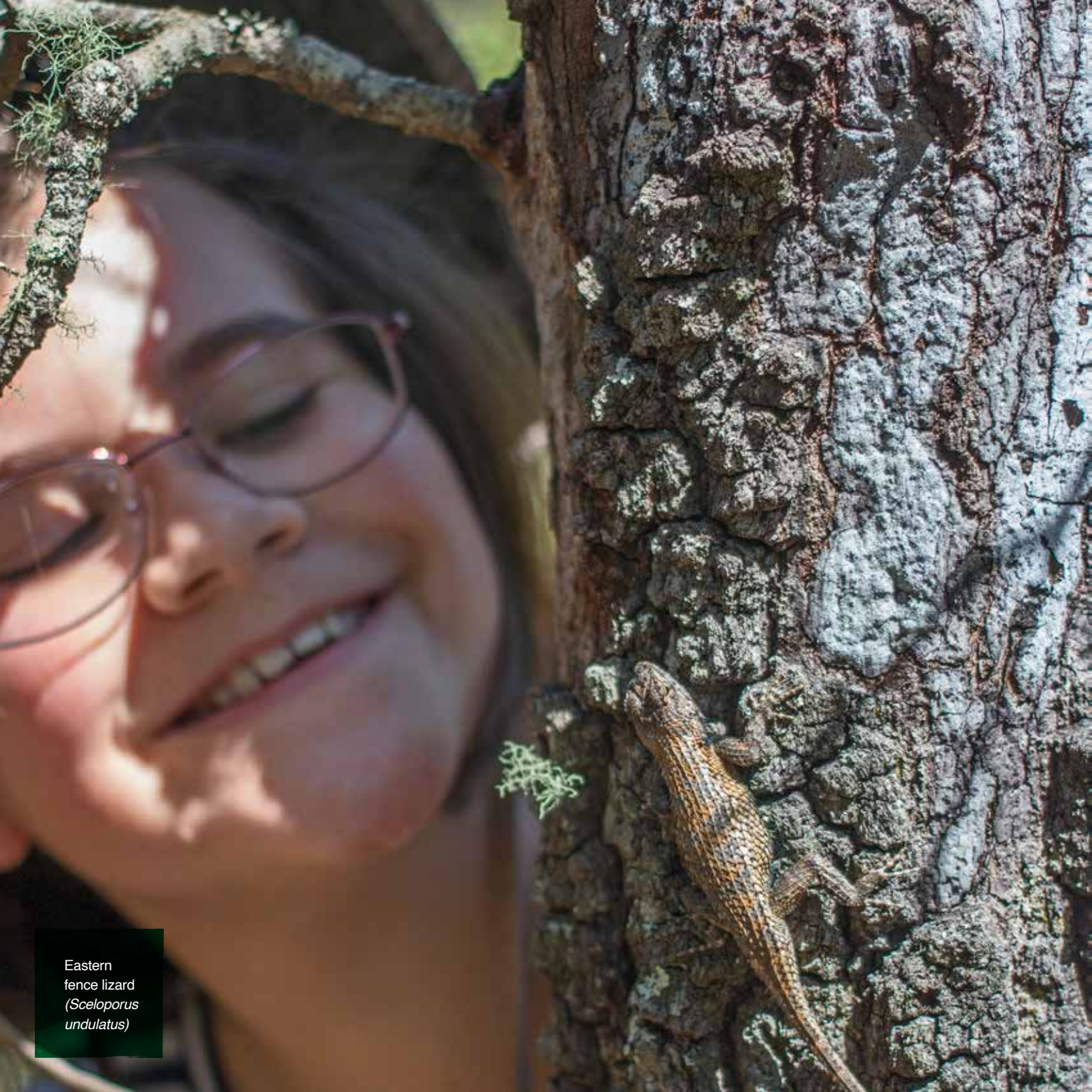
### "DISCOVER FLORIDA'S OCEANS" GRANTS

NAME	LOCATION	ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT
Equipment and operation of the Florida Coral Reef Center	Orlando	Multiple	\$33,982
Impact of Rising Sea Levels on Wildlife Species and Habitats in Florida Keys	Florida Keys	FWC	\$30,200
Association of Zoos and Aquariums Coral Husbandry Audit	Silver Spring, MA	AZA	\$750
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$64,932</b>

### FLORIDA CORALS ACROSS AMERICA

Thanks to support from the Foundation, the Association of Zoo and Aquariums (AZA) and its accredited facilities are housing corals rescued from Florida's Coral Reef. Since March 2019, nearly 2,000 corals have been placed in 20 AZA-accredited facilities across 14 states and 51 additional facilities are supporting our efforts to protect healthy corals. These corals are not only being kept out of harm's way, but they are acting as educational tools to teach visitors about the stresses afflicting the reefs. Beth Firchau of AZA has coordinated this work with financial support from our Foundation. "Collaboration has been a key to the success of this nationwide response. The AZA and its accredited facilities are incredibly grateful for the Foundation's support and partnership to bring hope to Florida's coral reefs," said Firchau.





Eastern fence lizard (Sceloporus undulatus)

## RECONNECTING CHILDREN TO NATURE

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

“Nature-Deficit Disorder” — the lack of quality outdoor play — is a serious problem in the United States, Western Europe, and beyond. The average child’s physical world is only half as large as it was 15 years ago, and in a typical week most children and teens spend a staggering 53 hours on electronic media. Only six percent of American nine- to 13-year-olds, in fact, regularly play outside on their own. Yet 90 percent of youth say if a friend got interested in fishing, camping, or other outdoor activities, they would too.

Our Foundation is attempting to meet this challenge in Florida. We’re the state’s largest private funder of outdoor education and recreation programs for children and teens, supporting FWC and some 350 partner organizations providing transformative outdoor experiences annually to more than 284,000 Florida youth.

It clearly pays. The physical, mental, and emotional benefits of time outdoors are well documented. Children and teens who spend significant time in nature more effectively cope with stress, anger, depression, hyperactivity, and feelings of aggression. Camp experiences have been shown to improve interpersonal and problem-solving skills. **ABOVE ALL, OUTDOOR EDUCATION TEACHES CHILDREN THAT NATURE IS ALWAYS THERE FOR THEM AS A REFUGE AND AS SOMETHING WORTH PROTECTING.**

In the coming year, we will be working with FWC’s Florida Youth Conservation Center Network on a vision and plan for taking this nation-leading program to new levels of impact and effectiveness.



The Mosaic Company is helping keep kids afloat! Thanks to their support, children at FWC’s Suncoast Youth Conservation

Center in Apollo Beach recently received a new fleet of kayaks to explore Tampa Bay’s rich Gulf Coast ecosystem. Suncoast annually provides thousands of children opportunities to paddle, fish, and study the region’s coastal ecology, and its equipment showed their loving use. **“WE’RE VERY EXCITED**

**TO CONTINUE TO PARTNER WITH THE FOUNDATION AND FWC,” SAID CALLIE NESLUND, MOSAIC’S DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. “TOGETHER WE’RE BETTER AND THAT’S ESPECIALLY TRUE WORKING ALONGSIDE THESE PARTNERS.”**

The Suncoast Youth Conservation Center is located on Tampa Electric Company’s (TECO) 20-acre Center for Conservation campus, which includes an FWC fish hatchery and the Florida Aquarium’s coral propagation and sea turtle rehabilitation facilities. TECO has invested millions in creating the campus, which will become an increasingly important marine conservation, education, and research hub as new facilities are added.

In 2020 Mosaic also funded research into a disease affecting Florida panthers, thermal imaging cameras for Florida bonneted bats, and the eradication of invasive plants.



## PIVOTING FOR KIDS IN A PANDEMIC

*Suncoast Youth Conservation Center was ready to host their highest number of children and teens in 2020; they had recently opened their new boardwalk and pier for science experiments and fishing. The Foundation contributed more than \$300,000 toward the project along with in-kind support from the Union Sportsmen's Alliance and Ben Hur Construction. But like most plans in 2020, Suncoast had to pivot to serve children safely.*

*They were unable to hold summer camps, but still served over 750 youth thanks to creatively using virtual events and video production. And with fewer kids on site, they were able to finish several projects by November, including new signage, a freshwater turtle habitat, and several garden with native plants selected for pollinators. The year ended with a socially distanced family fishing clinic in celebration of FYCCN's 10th birthday. "COVID put a severe damper on all*

*programming this year but we were able to keep the doors open and still serve hundreds of youth," said Center Director Dr. Kathy Guindon. "We're looking forward to 2021 bringing more fishing fun for everyone!"*

*The Everglades Youth Conservation Camp also had to adapt to a completely new world. In March 2020 Camp Director Janice Kerber walked the property with her Assistant Director Devyn Higgs to decide how they could safely host hundreds of kids and 46 young adult staff members. They decided residential camps weren't possible, but committed to week-long day camps to give kids a chance to play outside with others after being cooped up for three months. The staff completed a month-long training session in June to incorporate COVID safety procedures, like disinfecting surfaces on canoes without harming the water, doing oxygen readings and*

*checking for sounds of chest congestion at drop off, and staying in groups of 10 staff and children to create camp "bubbles." "The staff were happy to have a job and the kids were so thankful to be outside, we did not encounter any issues with keeping on masks, washing hands, and practicing social distancing," said Kerber.*

*The camp was able to safely serve 260 kids total over four weeks without any COVID infections. "It was the most stressful summer of my decades running camps," said Kerber. "But being able to not only give the kids and staff some normalcy, but seeing them have fun, was worth it. I'm especially proud of my young staff who took responsibility for the safety and fun of the kids. And we learned some lessons that will help us in future years even with full camps!" For more information on FWC youth camps, visit [fyccn.org](http://fyccn.org)*





## COMBATting INVASIVES

With our subtropical climate, Florida is an unfortunately ideal place for many non-native species to become established. THE SUNSHINE STATE IS PLAGUED BY MORE THAN 500 NON-NATIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES, A HANDFUL OF WHICH HAVE BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR OUR ICONIC ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING THE EVERGLADES AND FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF. The cost of managing Florida's invasive plants alone is estimated at \$100 million each year; the cost of invasive animal management is hundreds of millions. In 2020 the Foundation supported FWC and others in controlling Burmese pythons, lionfish, Brazilian pepper, *Lyngbya* algae (see page 19), and other invasives.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

THANKS AGAIN TO A GRANT FROM THE MOSAIC COMPANY, FWC IS REMOVING BRAZILIAN PEPPER AND OTHER INVASIVE PLANTS from a new 70-acre addition to the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area east of Ft. Myers, a vast landscape of pine flatwoods and wetlands.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### HUNTING PYTHONS WITH SCIENCE AND SPEED

In 2019 the Foundation made a \$65,000 grant to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, allowing them to double the size of their promising work radio tagging male pythons that lead to other snakes in the wild. 2020 was the most successful year yet; the Conservancy used radio tagging to remove 86 pythons with a combined weight of 3,000 pounds. 53 were females capable of breeding; some were pregnant and contained 2,500 developing eggs.

It began with Elvis – all 50 pounds of muscle and 11 feet of him. Conservancy biologist Ian Bartoszek first met Elvis in January 2013 on the swampy outskirts of Naples. Although not exactly the “Love Me Tender” type, Elvis became the Conservancy's first scout snake, an unwitting spy that has led Bartoszek and other Conservancy biologists to many other pythons. These snakes were caught and humanely euthanized. “After we caught, tagged, and released him, he just took off into the brush,” said Bartoszek. “Elvis had truly left the building.”

## PYTHON BOWL

With Florida hosting the Super Bowl in 2020 and 2021, FWC's annual Python Challenge got a new name in 2020: Python Bowl. The Foundation helped fund the event as in previous years. Participants competed to see who could capture the most Burmese pythons, as well as the longest and heaviest. The 10-day snake-snatching frenzy resulted in the removal of 80 pythons, one of them clocking in at a whopping 62 pounds.







## PRESERVING OUR OUTDOOR HERITAGE

Too few Americans fully appreciate the importance of hunting and fishing to conservation. In 1937, a national coalition of hunters concerned about the long-term fate of America's natural lands and wildlife supported passage of a federal tax on hunting gear to fund wildlife conservation at state and federal levels. Known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, this landmark legislation has generated more than \$21 billion — yes, billion — for the conservation of wildlife and habitat across the United States. But the number of Americans who hunt has dropped sharply as older generations of hunters retire from the sport. Today five percent of Americans identify as hunters, half of what it was 50 year ago. In Florida the trend is even more dramatic, with only one percent holding hunting licenses. We're working with FWC to attract a new generation of men and women to traditional outdoor recreation, from hunting and fishing to birding and boating.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Daphne and C. Martin "Marty" Wood III share a lifelong passion for traditional outdoor sports and are determined to pass it on to new generations. "He'd rather fish than breathe," jokes Daphne. Their own early experiences at summer camps inspired the Woods to become long-time supporters of the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, including Everglades Youth Camp in Palm Beach County, the Tenoroc Youth Conservation Center in Lakeland, the Ocala Youth Conservation Center in the Ocala National Forest, Joe Budd Conservation Center near Tallahassee, and the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center near Tampa. The Woods have helped construct or renovate camp buildings, outfit camps with fishing gear, and much more. In fact, the Daphne Flowers Wood and Charles Martin Wood III Education Center at Tenoroc is named in their honor. They've also provided scholarships to children and teens from economically disadvantaged families. "IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN TO HAVE THESE EXPERIENCES," DAPHNE SAID. "YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT AND ADVOCATE FOR WHAT YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!"



## OLYMPIC-CALIBER SHOOTING RANGE NOW OPEN

The Palm Beach County Shooting Sports Complex, one of the largest in the state, is now open with limited access to rifle and handgun ranges on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays from 8am to 5pm by appointment only. This facility is operating at 50% capacity in early 2021 with a one-hour time limit per participant and only one person per lane due to the pandemic.

The complex helps meet the growing interest in target shooting. When fully complete, it will have an archery range, five rifle and handgun ranges, five Olympic (international) trap fields, six American trap fields, nine skeet fields, and a 14-station sporting clays course. Foundation Board members Tucker Frederickson and Laura Russell and Foundation Advisor John Lacy were successful in asking Palm Beach County for a \$1 million matching grant to help FWC pave the road leading to the Complex, the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp, and the 60,000-acre J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. The road will be paved in 2021.

## “WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA” GRANTS



The “Wildlife Foundation of Florida” license plate, with its image of a deer, has become one of the most popular conservation plates in Florida. Proceeds from plate sales support the

management of deer, turkey, and other game species, as well as acquisition and stewardship of their habitats across the state. Plate funds are also used to increase public access to huntable lands, teach hunting safety, and introduce new audiences to archery and shooting.

Our Foundation, with input from our deer tag citizens advisory committee (see page 6), awarded 24 grants totaling \$152,911 to 17 organizations.

### WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA GRANTS

NAME	LOCATION	ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT
Operation Outdoor Freedom Blackwater Food Plots	Northwest Florida	Operation Outdoor Freedom	\$5,000
Expanding Belmont Academy's Archery Program	North central Florida	Belmont Academy Charter School	\$1,250
Florida Frontiersmen Archery Big Game	Southwest Florida	Florida Frontiersmen Inc.	\$2,695
Ft. DeFuniak Archery and Conservation Center	Northwest Florida	Tri-State Christian Fellowship	\$14,070
Bowhunters Jamboree Range supplies	Statewide	Florida Bowhunters Association Inc	\$3,113
IACP — Inclusive Archery and Conservation Program	Southwest Florida	Lake Aurora Christian Assembly (Camp)	\$9,312
Lakeland Youth Hunter Education Challenge Muzzle Loading Matches and Hunts	Northeast, Southwest, and South Florida	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$2,900
FHF's 2021-22 New Hunters Program	Northwest and North central Florida	The Future of Hunting in Florida, Inc.	\$12,830
Expand Archery (w/ Social Distancing)	North central Florida	Eastside Elementary Bowbenders	\$2,300
Youth Dove, Quail, Squirrel, Turkey and Wild Hog Hunting	Northwest Florida	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	\$1,485
Introduction to youth archery competitive shooting	Statewide	Florida Bowhunters Association Inc	\$4,538
Archery Equipment Upgrades	Southwest Florida	Trinity Sportsman Ministries	\$13,220
7th Annual SEDHA Dog Days of Summer Field Trial & banquet	Northwest, Northeast, North central Florida	South Eastern Dog Hunters Association	\$6,000
ALLOUT Adventure Program	Statewide	Florida Disabled Outdoors Association	\$20,000
2021 Rumble In The Swamp Youth Small Game Rabbit Hunt With Hounds and Skeet Shooting Outdoor Day	Northwest Florida	Southeastern Dog Hunters Association	\$4,000
Cloud Nine Outdoors 3R's Urban Hunting Program	Southwest Florida	CLOUD NINE OUTDOORS INC.	\$4,920
2021 Blackwater Fox Hunters Association Field Trial & Bench Show	Statewide	Blackwater Fox Hunters Association	\$5,000
3rd Annual Buck In Rut Youth Deer Hunt	Northwest	South Eastern Dog Hunters Association	\$2,000
Pasco County Expanded Archery Supplies	Southwest Florida: Pasco County	Pasco County Board of County Commissioners	\$4,578
Hunt 4 Halee	Northwest Florida	Seasons Of Hope Outdoors, Inc	\$3,000
Operation Outdoor Freedom - Blackwater female dorm construction	Northwest Florida	Operation Outdoor Freedom	\$26,700
Apalachicola National Forest Clean Up Day	Northwest Florida	Southeastern Dog Hunters Association	\$1,000
4-H Shotgun Shooting Sports	North central Florida	Alachua County 4-H	\$2,000
Quarterly Lake Clean Ups	Northeast Florida	Osceola Airboat Association, Inc.	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$152,911</b>

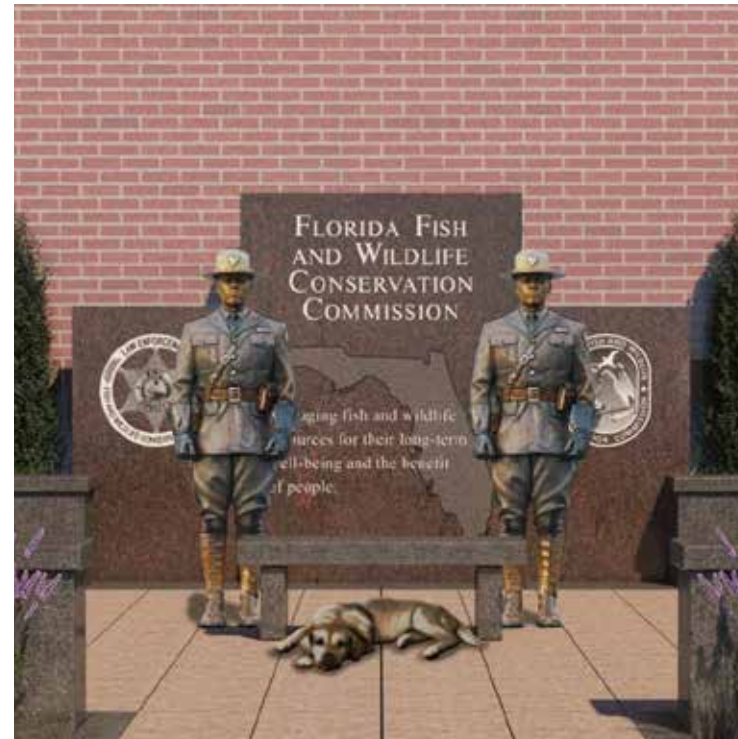


## FEMALE VETERANS FIND A NEW HOME IN THE OUTDOORS

*With women accounting for 10% of the United States' military, veteran organizations are increasingly co-ed. Nonprofit Operation Outdoor Freedom (OOF), which helps wounded or disabled veterans reconnect with the outdoors through hunting, was rewarded a \$26,700 grant from the Foundation to create a separate housing facility for female vets participating in OOF hunts. Once finished, the women's dormitory in Blackwater River State Forest in Florida's western panhandle will allow OOF to include more women in its programs. Previous Foundation grants to OOF at Blackwater helped create food plots for deer, turkey, migrating waterfowl, and other species.*



## HELPING THOSE IN NEED



The Foundation offers FWC support beyond conservation and outdoor recreation. Our **FWC Employee Emergency Assistance Fund** raises money for employees affected by natural disasters, like hurricanes. To date, we've raised \$237,036 to FWC employees in need.

And we're currently raising funds for a **FWC Law Enforcement Memorial**. FWC and its predecessor agencies have lost 20 officers to line of duty deaths. Over the last few years, FWC has worked with a sculptor and contractor to design a memorial at the Florida Public Safety Institute. We're working to make their vision a reality.

**For more information, please go to [wildlifeflorida.org/fwc-law-enforcement-memorial](http://wildlifeflorida.org/fwc-law-enforcement-memorial).**






# LEAVE A WILD LEGACY

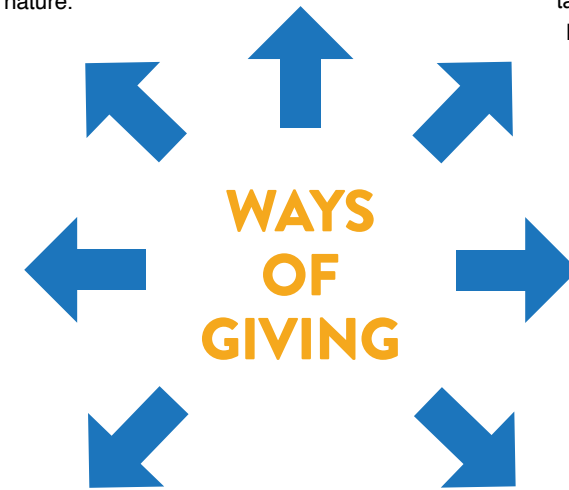
Sandhill cranes  
(*Grus canadensis*)

  
**REAL ESTATE**  
Let us turn your real estate or other tangible assets into a gift for nature.


  
**ESTATE PLAN**  
Name the Foundation in your estate plan. You can designate an amount or a percentage of your estate. It has no impact on your current lifestyle and can be updated at any time.

  
**STOCK**  
Protect nature and save on taxes with a gift of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds.

  
**LIFE INSURANCE POLICY**  
Name the Foundation as a full, partial, or contingent beneficiary of your policy.



  
**CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY**  
We partner with the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay to provide our supporters with CGA and charitable remainder trust and charitable lead trust options.

  
**IRA**  
Taxpayers age 70-1/2 and older can transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to the Foundation without first having to recognize the distribution as income.

  
**DONOR ADVISED FUND**  
Create a fund or utilize a donor-advised fund or field-of-interest-endowment to maximize your conservation impact. We can help you decide which is right for you.



**CONSERVATION IS FOREVER. WE WANT TO PROTECT SPECIES AND HABITATS FOR THE LONG TERM, HELPING ENSURE FLORIDA REMAINS A PLACE OF OUTSTANDING BEAUTY AND DIVERSITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

You can leave a lasting, living legacy by naming the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida in your estate plans. Most of our planned giving supporters make unrestricted gifts that allow us to use their funds for our most pressing needs and opportunities. We are happy, however, to discuss specific wishes you may have for your gift.

Individuals making gifts via their estate plans are vital to our future effectiveness and are honored as members of the Foundation's **Conservation Legacy Society**. If you plan to include the Foundation in your estate plans or already have done so, please let us know! Your information will be kept confidential unless you wish to be listed as a member. The Foundation always encourages donors to consult their financial and tax advisors before making a planned gift.

It's also possible to create a donor-advised fund with the Foundation, or establish a charitable gift annuity or charitable lead or remainder trust with us.

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY JOINED THE CONSERVATION LEGACY SOCIETY:**

**MR. MICHAEL M. & MRS. BARBARA COONEY**

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More information can be found at [wildlifeflorida.org](http://wildlifeflorida.org) or by emailing or calling Foundation CEO Andrew Walker at [awalker@wildlifeflorida.org](mailto:awalker@wildlifeflorida.org) or 941.809.7805. *All inquiries will be kept confidential.*



Endangered  
Florida scrub jay  
(*Aphelocoma  
coerulescens*)



## WHETHER VIA A BEQUEST OR OUTRIGHT GIFT, PLEASE CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR THREE PERMANENT ENDOWMENTS BELOW.

### 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 youth programs throughout Florida. “We want to be sure Florida’s outstanding programs for children and teens are financially secure for generations to come,” says Foundation Board Chair Emeritus Dick Corbett. “There are so many kids from economically disadvantaged families that would never be able to attend outdoor camps without reliable year-to-year funding provided by the Foundation and this endowment.”



### RARE PLANT CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

Rare plants account for nearly 15% of the state’s 2,864 native species, many of which can only be found in Florida. Some species have declined due to a long history of negative human impacts, while other species are rare due to biological constraints. Donate to our endowment to fund surveys, outplanting, reintroductions trials, and studies that help understand and improve knowledge of species biology, current distribution, and their present endangerment. Several important conservation projects are already underway, including the augmentation and introduction of *Ziziphus celata*; propagation, introduction, and habitat management of *Torreya taxifolia*; and reintroduction of *Jacquemontia reclinata*.

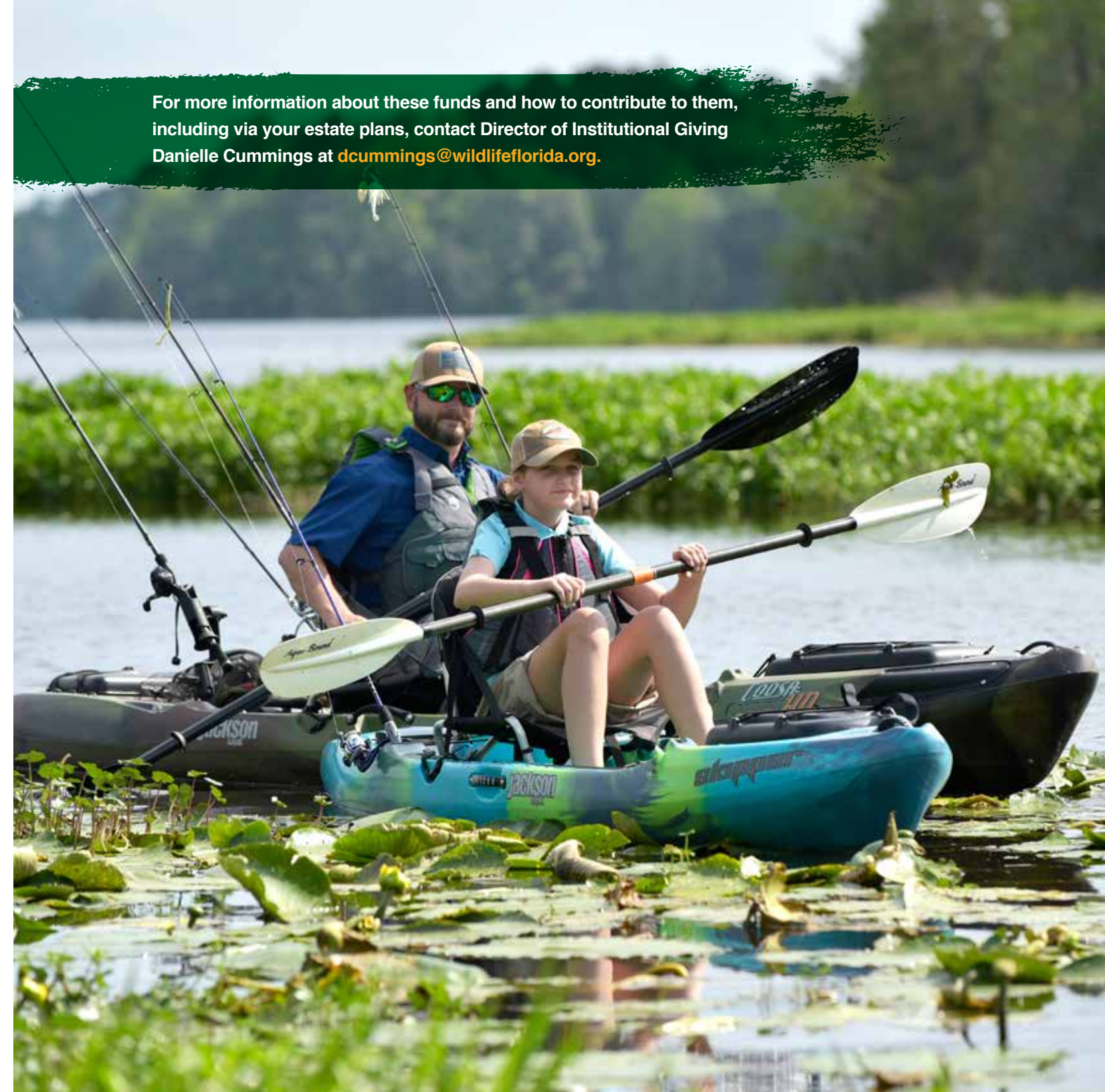


### THE FLORIDA CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

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.



For more information about these funds and how to contribute to them, including via your estate plans, contact Director of Institutional Giving Danielle Cummings at [dcummings@wildlifeflorida.org](mailto:dcummings@wildlifeflorida.org).







# 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 \$100 OR MORE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2019 AND NOVEMBER 1, 2020.

To continue supporting us, please visit [wildlifeflorida.org](http://wildlifeflorida.org).

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Mr. Alan Maltz+  
Native Visions Galleries+  
Mrs. Barbara and Mr. Jack Nicklaus+  
Mr. Michael Patrick O'Neill+  
Ocean Properties+  
The Palm Beach Yacht Club+  
Pelagic Gear+  
Mr. John Pope+  
Mr. Michel Sabourin+  
Mr. K.C. Scott+  
The Scuba Club+  
Scuba Works+  
Mr. Geoffrey C Smith+  
Square Grouper Tiki Bar+  
Stuart Scuba+  
Chef Allen Susser+  
Sweet Endings Desserts+  
Total Wine & More+  
Trickey Jennus  
White Oak Conservation, Inc.+  
World of Beer+  
Ximena Kavalekas, Inc.+

**THIS REPORT WAS  
DESIGNED BY  
TRICKEY JENNUS**



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Andreas Wagner and his family started visiting Florida 20 years ago from Bavaria. They particularly enjoyed fishing, marveling at the abundance of life in the state's waters. Andreas was struck by

big predators like alligators and bull sharks that are not found in Europe. The wilds of the state hooked them, and they continued to return year after year. Andreas became a donor to the Foundation's Restoring Our Reefs fund to protect the natural wonders in our waters, especially the reefs. Florida's Coral Reef is the cornerstone of biodiversity and health in our oceans, and Andreas is committed to supporting their restoration. "FLORIDA HAS MANY THINGS TO OFFER, BUT THE MAIN ATTRACTION FOR ME ARE THE REEFS, THE MANGROVES, THE SEA GRASS FLATS, AND ALL THE ANIMALS THAT ARE LIVING THERE," HE SAID. "WITHOUT THEM, FLORIDA IS ANOTHER WARM AND SUNNY PLACE TO SPEND THE WINTER, BUT NOTHING SPECIAL."



### A NIGHT FOR NATURE CONTINUES



*A Night for Nature, our recurring celebration for conservation, was postponed in April 2020 due to the pandemic. The Foundation held an online auction in the fall and a small, Covid-cautious gala in Jupiter on Friday, April 9, 2021. The evening honored the lifetime conservation efforts of Jack Nicklaus and Paul Tudor Jones II. Contender Boats and CEO Joe Neber were honored as Corporate Partner of the Year. Our sincere thanks to our planning Committee, our event sponsors, and auction donors for making A Night for Nature a record-breaking success.*



Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*)





Burrowing owl  
(*Athene cunicularia*)

## ANNUALLY WE RECOGNIZE SEVERAL OF THE MOST DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE FOLLOWING AWARDS.

### LOUISE IRELAND HUMPHREY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD : COLONEL CURTIS BROWN



The Foundation annually honors the late conservationist and former Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Member Louise Ireland Humphrey by recognizing a FWC employee for their dedication to the protection of Florida's wildlife over the course of their career. The 2020 awardee was Colonel Curtis Brown, Director of FWC's Division of Law Enforcement. Col. Brown began his career in 1991 in Hendry County. He earned the Officer of the Year Award, worked on covert operations, and inspired the passage of the Kelly Johnson Act, which tightened restrictions on boating and drinking. As Director of Law Enforcement, he has been a strong advocate for boating safety, working with the legislature on establishing laws to help protect the lives of Florida boaters. He is also dedicated to developing the next generation of conservation leaders within FWC Law Enforcement through professional development.

### RODNEY BARRETO FWC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD : GLENDA ATKINSON



The Foundation also recognizes outstanding annual performance via the Rodney Barreto FWC Employee of the Year Award, named in honor of the current FWC Commissioner and former Foundation Board Member. The 2020 awardee was FWC Chief Information Officer Glenda Atkinson. She is known for her success at improving efficiency within her department, but she outdid herself in 2020, planning the relocation of multiple staff with minimal disruption early in the year. And when the pandemic rapidly forced employees to work from home, she was a trailblazer in ensuring business as usual. Thanks to her, FWC resources remained available to staff, and communications with the public continued uninterrupted throughout the lockdown.

### CORPORATE CONSERVATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR : CONTENDER BOATS

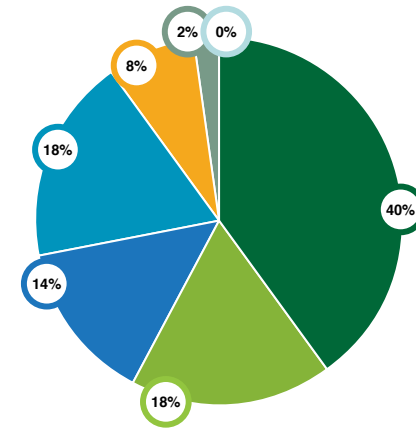


The Foundation also recognizes organizations for their outstanding contribution and leadership in conservation. 2020's winner was Contender Boats, a long-time supporter of the Foundation. Contender Boats, founded and run by Joe Neber, sets the bar not only in boat manufacturing but also philanthropy. Neber and Contender have been a leading voice for boating, conservation, and recreational fishing on Capitol Hill, while long supporting conservation initiatives and organizations in Florida, like us and the Coastal Conservation Association.



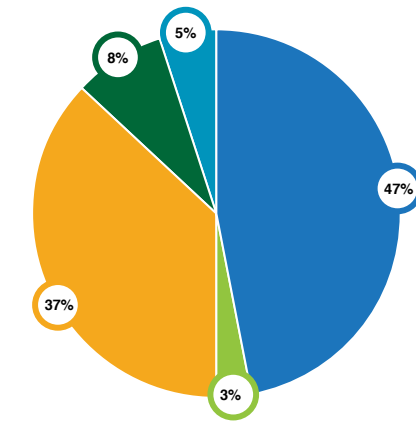
# FINANCES

Southern  
fox squirrel  
(*Sciurus niger*)



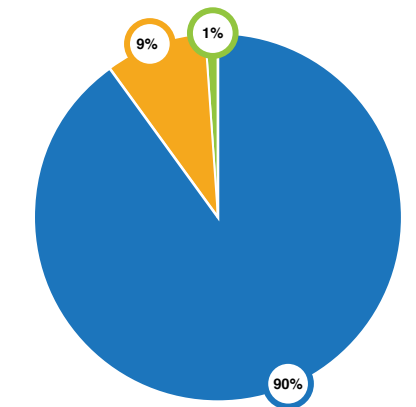
## 2020 REVENUE BY SOURCE

SOURCE	REVENUE
Endangered Species Mitigation	5,089,136
Program Fees and Services	2,291,235
Philanthropic Giving	1,792,380
Investments	2,270,162
License Plates	1,036,510
Government Grants	248,805
In-Kind	40,402



## 2020 PROGRAM EXPENSE BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	EXPENSE
Conserving Wildlife	2,852,907
Combatting Invasives	177,239
Preserving Our Outdoor Heritage	2,213,563
Getting Kids Back to Nature	477,563
Restoring Our Reefs	301,838



## 2020 PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY

CATEGORY	EXPENSE
Program	6,023,110
Administration	569,719
Fundraising	94,839





# CONSERVING NATURE AND OUR OUTDOOR HERITAGE

HELP SUPPORT OUR WORK BY DONATING TO THE FOUNDATION, BUYING A LICENSE PLATE, OR VOLUNTEERING. 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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