

WITH
**THE
WILD**
WE
STAND

FISH & WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA



2023 IMPACT REPORT

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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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), for which we are a citizen support organization, and its many public and private partners. Since 1994, we have raised and donated more than \$71 million for conservation. We are also Florida's largest private funder of outdoor education for children and teens, and we help ensure continued public access for traditional outdoor recreation.



LAURA RUSSELL
Board Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we reflect on the achievements detailed in this report, I am reminded of the steadfast commitment and resilience that define our efforts at the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida. This past year, we have seen significant strides in our conservation efforts, especially in our ongoing mission to protect Florida's cherished manatee population.

In 2023, we expanded our manatee feeding initiative in the Indian River Lagoon, doubling our efforts from the previous year by purchasing 400,000 pounds of lettuce. This provided crucial nourishment for hundreds of manatees throughout the winter. We also addressed the alarming decline of the lagoon's seagrass beds, a vital food source for manatees and other marine life.

We planted 82,000 eel- and seagrass seedlings at eight sites in the lagoon where water conditions best support their growth. Thanks to regular monitoring and upkeep, we're learning vital lessons about large-scale aquatic habitat restoration.

Another pressing concern in 2023 was the marine heatwave that killed vast tracts of Florida's Coral Reef. Water temperatures in the Keys last summer far exceeded the tolerable limit for most corals. In response to the widespread bleaching and loss, we funded the travel, food, and lodging for the country's leading coral aquarists to spend several weeks in the Keys, overseeing the care of thousands of corals rescued from the water. And we're funding novel research to help develop more innovative and responsive methods for coral care and propagation. Coral reefs are biodiversity hotspots and vital to the health of our oceans, coasts, and the economic well-being of Florida.

The state's increased focus on environmental restoration, with significant funding for improving the health of our waterways and ecosystems, is a major step forward. I'm confident this progress will continue.

Laura Russell

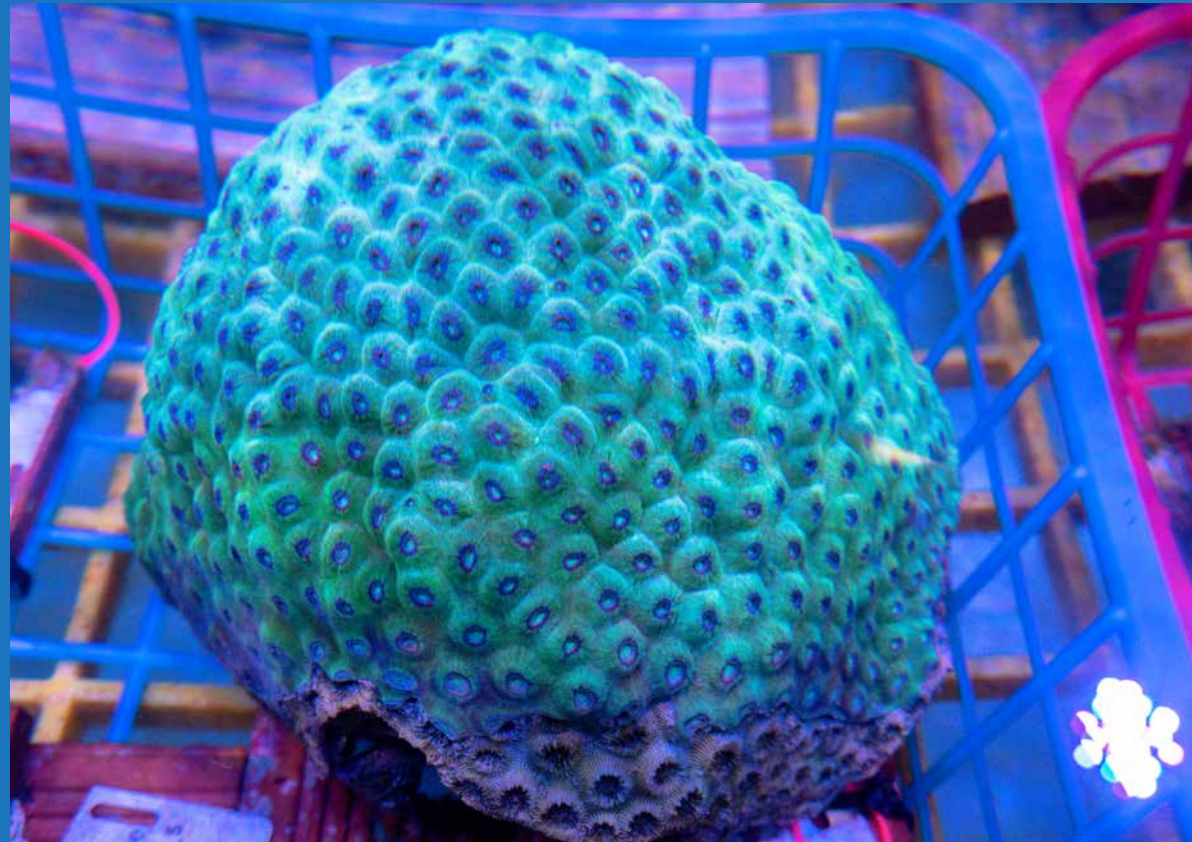




CARLOS ALFONSO
Outgoing Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR

As I conclude my tenure as Chairman, I have reflected on the vital role the Foundation plays in addressing our state's most urgent conservation needs. Throughout my time on the Board, I have been continuously inspired by our ability to be the first on the scene in times of crisis, acting as an emergency funder for wild Florida. Whether responding to sudden environmental threats or stepping in to fill critical funding gaps, the Foundation is both proactive and responsive, ensuring that our state remains a haven for wildlife and a place of natural beauty. I am proud of what we have achieved together and am confident that the Foundation will continue to lead the way in safeguarding Florida's precious natural resources for years to come. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this great organization.



Top photo: Looe Key reef snorkling, photo by Tim Donovan; bottom photo: Florida Coral Rescue Center, photo by SeaWorld



ANDREW WALKER
President & CEO

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Rethinking Coral Conservation

2023 will be remembered as a year of worldwide climatic extremes. No continent was immune. Millions of acres of normally cool and wet Canadian boreal forest burned; the Amazon rainforest experienced extreme drought. Here in Florida, ocean water temperatures reached 101 degrees in the Florida Keys, far above the temperature at which elkhorn, staghorn, and other branching corals can live.

Branching coral nurseries were pulled out of the water and, in a few cases, moved to deeper, cooler waters. Most of these 18,000 corals survived, their care overseen by a dozen coral experts whose travel to Florida was underwritten by our Foundation.

It was a different story for thousands of elkhorn and staghorn corals growing on the reef itself. Virtually all branching corals throughout the Keys died, including hundreds our Foundation and Reef Renewal USA had outplanted onto the Eastern Dry Rocks, one of seven "Iconic Reefs" slated for restoration by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The wholesale loss of branching corals raises fundamental questions about further restoration work. Decades of painstaking restoration have been erased. Many scientists think it would be folly to continue in this way. We reluctantly agree. We will have more years like 2023. Fundamental new approaches to reef restoration are needed, using species more tolerant of heat that can also be bred for even greater resilience.

Brain, boulder, and other stony coral species did much better than branching corals last summer. Our Foundation holds the largest collection of such corals at the Florida Coral Rescue Center in Orlando in collaboration with SeaWorld, Disney Conservation Fund, FWC, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

We are raising \$5 million to transform the rescue center into a coral propagation facility. We and our partners hope to breed thousands of stony corals able to survive disease, high ocean temperatures, and other stresses.

We've also launched seven new grantmaking programs to speed innovation in coral restoration and marine fisheries management, including a "Freedom to Fail" Coral Restoration Fund designed to stimulate higher-risk, out-of-the-box thinking. Thanks to a wonderful donor, we will also be investing \$3 million to create new **artificial reefs** from Martin County to Key West in deeper waters less prone to temperature extremes.

These are small steps in the grand scheme of coral reef conservation; not every funded idea will pan out. But we will learn from every success and failure, continually innovating and adapting to our changing world.

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WHO WE ARE

KEENAN BALDWIN BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Keenan Baldwin is a fifth-generation Tampa native with a diverse range of experience in investment management, real estate, hospitality, and technology. Keenan oversees all of the investment opportunities, estate and tax planning, and recreational assets for Shibumi Capital Partners, the family office for the Baldwin family. Keenan’s passion for technology led him to co-found SiteZeus, a location intelligence technology platform used by major restaurant and retail brands in the US. He served as the co-CEO for the initial five years of the company and now serves on the Board.

Apart from his professional pursuits, Keenan and his family own Stolen Saddle Ranch, an 11,441-acre working ranch in south-central Florida, which he manages. Stolen Saddle Ranch is a showcase for the restoration of Florida wetlands and native grasslands and has become a haven for wildlife. The Baldwin family also recently acquired 2,765 acres near Hawthorne with the intent to place it under a conservation easement and plant native long-leaf pines.

Keenan joined the Foundation’s Board in 2023, contributing immediately to conservation and fundraising efforts.

“I JOINED THE FOUNDATION BOARD TO PAY IT FORWARD FOR THE NEXT GENERATION. FLORIDA HAS SUCH A UNIQUE AND DIVERSE SET OF ECOSYSTEMS THAT CAN’T BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE COUNTRY. WE NEED TO ENSURE THE NEXT GENERATION HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE ALL THAT FLORIDA HAS TO OFFER.”

Keenan has served on the Zoo Tampa Board & Executive Committee for four years; his family was integral to its founding in Lowry Park. He, his wife Sara, and two sons spend as much time outdoors as possible, fishing, hunting, and golfing.

Photo by Tim Donovan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Daphne Wood
Monticello



FWC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Roger A. Young

ADVISORS

John Lacy
West Palm Beach

E. Vann Middleton
Thomasville, GA

C. Martin Wood III
Monticello

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Carlos Alfonso, Steve Crisafulli, Preston Farris, Tucker Frederickson, Adam Putnam, and Steve Swindal for your service.

STAFF



Andrew Walker
President & CEO



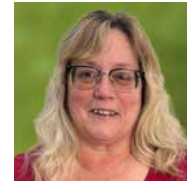
Will Bradford
Chief Operating Officer



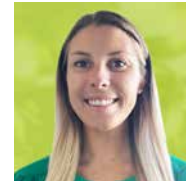
Michelle Ashton
Director of Communications & Events



Anita Forester
Grant Programs Administrator



Cindy Fray
Administrative Assistant



Francesca Klypchak
Philanthropy Coordinator



Paula Pack
Events Coordinator



Tindl Rainey
Director of Conservation & External Relations



Dani Richter
Director of Philanthropy



Rachael Schirmer
Digital Marketing Manager



Erin Smart
Director of Finance

PFS COMMITTEE

Dr. James “Buddy” Powell
Chair, Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute

Jason Guley
Citizen Representative

Barbara Powell
FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity

Dana C. Bryan
Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute/Wakulla Springs Alliance

Chandler Keenan
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Kent Smith
FWC

WFF COMMITTEE

Lane Stephens
Chair, The Future of Hunting in Florida

Newton Cook
United Waterfowlers — Florida

Chad Rischer
Citizen Representative

Elizabeth Bland
American Daughters of Conservation

Mike Eifenbein
Citizen Representative

George Warthen
FWC

RACHAEL SCHIRMER STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Rachael joined the Foundation in 2021 as our first Social Media Manager, skillfully using social media to engage and educate the public about conservation. "I love making the connection between nature and our daily lives," Rachael said. Her expert use of humor and trends resulted this year in the Foundation's first viral post, about invasive plants of all things. She recently expanded her role to Digital Marketing Manager, flexing her creative muscles in all things digital and design.

Rachael spends her spare time biking Florida's scenic trails, kayaking amidst our tranquil mangrove forests, and birdwatching. She embodies the spirit of the Foundation to conserve and celebrate nature.

Rachael Schirmer's connection with wild Florida is deeply rooted in her childhood, instilling in her a deep appreciation for the state's diversity of landscapes. And with wildlife encounters ripped from the pages of Snow White (she had raccoon friends!), she developed an equally deep love for Florida animals. She is a proud Gator with a degree in journalism and years of experience working in veterinary medicine at the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital.

"EVERY DAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND DO MORE FOR WILD FLORIDA. I'M NOT JUST DOING A JOB; I'M LIVING MY PASSION FOR CONSERVATION."

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WHERE WE WORK



Photo by Tim Donovan

IN 2023, THE FOUNDATION RAISED AND DISTRIBUTED A RECORD \$9.2 MILLION STATEWIDE TO A VARIETY OF CONSERVATION, YOUTH EDUCATION, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS. THOUSANDS OF SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE THROUGH OUTRIGHT AND PLANNED CHARITABLE GIFTS, PURCHASES OF OUR FOUR SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES, AND MORE.

WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SAMPLING OF OUR WORK AROUND THE STATE IN 2023 THAT YOU SUPPORTED.

Photo by Tim Donovan



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.

PROTECTING A RARE FLORIDA CRAYFISH

One of our largest Conserve Wildlife license plate grants in 2023 went to one of Florida's smallest animals! The Foundation made a grant of \$171,000 to protect Florida's last-remaining populations of Black Creek crayfish (*Procambarus pictus*). The Black Creek crayfish are limited in Florida to a few tannin-stained streams in St. Johns, Duval, Clay, and Putnam counties.

Another species of crayfish not native to the area, the white-tubercled crayfish, is rapidly outcompeting its Black Creek cousin and may be spreading a disease. This grant allowed FWC biologists to erect barriers to prevent the invading crayfish from traveling upstream to the last Black Creek crayfish populations. Scientists are monitoring these barriers and may use them to create new refuges for the Black Creek crayfish.



Black Creek crayfish (*Procambarus pictus*)

The Black Creek crayfish reaches a length of three inches. It has a black back with yellow and white marks and a dark red abdomen with black bands.

CWD REACHES FLORIDA

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a neurological disorder that affects white-tailed deer and other members of the deer family. Until recently, CWD had been recorded in 30 states and four Canadian provinces, but not in Florida. That changed on June 15, 2023 when a road-killed deer in Holmes County tested positive for the disease.

The discovery was made possible via an ongoing series of grants — now totaling \$348,000 — from our Foundation to routinely check deer populations throughout Florida for CWD. Most of this funding came from purchases of our Wildlife Foundation of Florida specialty license plate. Critical funding also came from the NextEra Energy Foundation, one of the Foundation's principal partners on many conservation initiatives.

CWD is highly contagious and always fatal. It spreads from animal to animal via bodily fluids, contaminated environments, and ingestion of contaminated plants or soil. Infected animals experience severe weight loss and behavioral changes that affect their ability to escape predators or reproduce. Their physical deterioration eventually leads to death.

FWC has been monitoring free-ranging deer since 2002 to detect CWD, testing 17,500 hunter-killed, road-killed, and sick or diseased deer. Only one deer so far has been found to have the disease, though it's suspected there are others. Hunters can support FWC's efforts by voluntarily submitting their deer heads for testing (skull caps and antlers can be removed and kept by the hunter).



White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), photo by FWC

ANYONE WHO SEES A SICK OR ABNORMALLY THIN DEER OR DEER DEAD OF UNKNOWN CAUSES IS ASKED TO REPORT ITS LOCATION TO THE CWD HOTLINE, (866) CWD-WATCH (293-9282).

EcoRovers on a hunting trip, photo by Avery Bristol



ENSURING ALL HAVE ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS

We are dedicated to helping all find freedom in the wild. In 2023 we funded six organizations that ensure those with limited mobility enjoy the outdoors, including wounded warriors. One long-time partner, SportsAbility Alliance, received a \$25,000 Wildlife Foundation of Florida grant to purchase an EcoRover that can handle all terrain, allowing anyone to experience the thrill of hunting and the peace of fishing. “The generosity of the Foundation has allowed SportsAbility Alliance to research, develop, and establish our ALLOUT EcoRover Adventure Programs,” said Executive Director Fran Gilbert. “We look forward to continuing to work together to provide advocacy, education, and motivation for people of all abilities to participate in hunting, shooting, archery, and other outdoor activities.”

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

DAZZLING CONSERVATION AMBASSADOR MEGHAN WHITE



As part of her coursework, Meghan learned the importance of prescribed burns to Florida ecology.

In the heart of north Florida lives a passionate advocate for Florida's wildlife: Meghan White, a student at the University of Florida majoring in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation and the newest member of our Conservation Ambassador Program. As a member of the Florida Gator Dazzlers, the University of Florida's official dance team, Meghan has a large platform. Luckily for wild Florida, she uses it to inspire the next generation of conservationists.

As an ambassador, Meghan encourages her social media followers to purchase our Foundation's Conserve Wildlife license plate. Revenue from this specialty plate funds the conservation of Florida's nongame species, including the endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow and eastern indigo snake. The Foundation also uses these funds to underwrite research and restore sensitive habitats.

“AS A SIXTH-GENERATION FLORIDIAN, HELPING SAVE OUR STATE’S NATURAL WORLD IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. NOW THAT THIS PASSION IS PAIRED WITH AN EDUCATION ON CONSERVATION, I FEEL MORE EMPOWERED AND EAGER TO DO MY PART TO SAVE WILDLIFE, HABITAT, AND ECOSYSTEMS IN FLORIDA AND BEYOND.”

We're grateful Meghan has decided to share her voice and talents on behalf of the Foundation and nature.

NORTH FLORIDA 2023 GRANTS LIST

| PROJECT NAME | PLATE | AMOUNT AWARDED | RECIPIENT |
|--|-------|----------------|--|
| Creating Ark Sites for Black Creek Crayfish | CWT | \$170,950 | FWC |
| A Drainage-Wide Population Assessment and the Identification of Critical Nesting Habitats of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle (<i>Macrochelys Suwanniensis</i>) in Florida | CWT | \$60,571 | FWC |
| Division of Marine Fisheries Management Leadership Training for 2023 | DFO | \$8,500 | FWC |
| Is Your Water Well? Private Well Test Awareness and Nitrate Monitoring in the Springs Heartland | PFS | \$23,716 | AquiferWatch |
| Lower Santa Fe River Basin Groundwater Nitrate Assessment | PFS | \$8,140 | Alachua County |
| Lower Santa Fe River Springs Herbicide and Pesticide Study | PFS | \$20,000 | Alachua County |
| Springs Celebration and Longleaf Pine Restoration Project | PFS | \$5,000 | Alachua County |
| ALLOUT EcoRover Adventures 24 | WFF | \$24,000 | Sportsability Alliance |
| Annual Apalachicola Forest Clean Up Day | WFF | \$1,000 | Southeastern Dog Hunters Association |
| Belmont Archery Program Equipment Update | WFF | \$1,396 | Belmont Academy Charter School |
| Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Following First Detection in White-tailed Deer in Florida | WFF | \$150,000 | FWC |
| 8th Annual Jakes Day | WFF | \$2,500 | NWTF Heart of the Dixie Purrs and Spurs |
| 8th Annual Rumble In The Swamp Youth Small Game Hunt and Outdoors Day | WFF | \$4,500 | Southeastern Dog Hunters Association |
| FHF 2024-25 New Hunter Program | WFF | \$25,967 | The Future of Hunting in Florida |
| Habitat Heroes: Inspiring Youth to Build and Conserve Habitats through Education and Responsible Hunting | WFF | \$5,000 | Holmes County 4-H Association |
| Hunt 4 Halee Youth Deer Hunt 2024 | WFF | \$4,500 | Seasons Of Hope Outdoors |
| NWTF Gator Gobbler Outreach Hunts | WFF | \$8,000 | National Wild Turkey Federation – Gator Gobblers |
| Operation Outdoor Freedom Food Plots 2024 - Blackwater | WFF | \$6,000 | Florida Forest Service |
| 60th Annual Blackwater Fox Hunters Association Field Trial & Bench Show | WFF | \$6,000 | Blackwater Fox Hunters Association |
| 10th Annual Dog Days Of Summer Youth Field Trial and Family Outdoors Day | WFF | \$3,000 | Southeastern Dog Hunters Association |
| Youth Buck In Rut Hunt 2024 | WFF | \$3,000 | Southeastern Dog Hunters Association |

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS 21 — TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT \$541,740

CWT: Conserve Wildlife plate, PFS: Protect Florida Springs plate, DFO: Discover Florida's Oceans plate, WFF: 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 call the region home, from rare plants and insects on the Lake Wales Ridge — Florida's ancient sand islands — to the Florida grasshopper sparrow in its dry prairie habitat. With the explosive growth of development, 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.

(RE)PLANTING THE ST. LUCIE RIVER

In a continuation of our habitat restoration work in the Indian River Lagoon, we joined FWC, Sea & Shoreline Inc., and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) in May for a day of replanting eelgrass in the North Fork of St. Lucie River. The project was funded in part by Karen and Rob Hale via a \$1 million donation from their Fox Rock Foundation to restore manatee forage areas.

CCA volunteers and FWC and Sea & Shoreline staff planted 540 eelgrass plants in the river bottom, covering them with large metal cages to protect

them from herbivores like turtles and manatees. Once the grasses are well established, the cages will be removed.

Eelgrass (*Vallisneria americana*) is a keystone species, providing food and habitat for a diverse range of freshwater and estuarine species. It has suffered from widespread nutrient pollution that creates harmful algal blooms, shutting off sunlight to aquatic grasses. The Foundation has launched a statewide program to restore Florida's once-dense meadows of eel- and seagrass and is currently at work in the Indian River Lagoon, the St. John's River, and Biscayne Bay.



CCA volunteers and FWC and Sea & Shoreline staff placing metal cages over eelgrass.

MICROPLASTICS STUDY YIELDS SURPRISING RESULTS

Microplastics are plastic particles that are smaller than five millimeters in size. They come from various sources, including the breakdown of larger plastic items like bottles and bags, and microbeads in personal care products like exfoliating scrubs and toothpaste. Microplastics can also originate from synthetic fibers shed during the washing of clothes made from polyester and nylon.

Microplastics are nearly invisible to the eye but are everywhere, or so we suspected. While their presence in the oceans has been well documented, microplastics in Florida springs have not. We made a \$35,000 grant from the Protect Florida Springs plate fund to researchers at the University of Central Florida (UCF) to look for microplastics at Wekiwa, Blue, Rock, Silver, and De León Springs. In addition to checking for the presence of plastic, UCF scientists wanted to know where they came from. They tested a new technology that greatly reduced the time and cost of monitoring environmental microplastics.

The results of the study were happily surprising — zero microplastics were found in these springs. However, researchers did find the presence of heavy metals, which is concerning for humans and wildlife. They plan to continue their research using the new technology to test for microplastics further along the watershed.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

PARTNERS IN CORAL RECOVERY WITH SEAWORLD



SeaWorld Coral Rescue Center, photo by SeaWorld

In continuation of our partnership with SeaWorld, we again joined forces with the iconic conservation giant to preserve and protect Florida's fragile corals. SeaWorld celebrated the grand opening of its public-facing Coral Rescue Center in their Orlando park in mid-June.

The part-exhibition, part-coral kindergarten is an extension of the work being done at the Florida Coral Rescue Center (FCRC), located off-site in Orlando. FCRC is a state-of-the-art facility established for the gene banking and care of Florida corals rescued from reefs not affected by stony coral tissue loss disease. Under the guidance of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, FCRC is operated by SeaWorld, Disney Conservation Fund, FWC, and our Foundation. The corals at FCRC are thriving and repopulating, allowing the SeaWorld center to act as a second home for the growing population.

The center opening followed on the heels of the inauguration of SeaWorld Orlando's new roller coaster, Pipeline: The Surf Coaster. Pipeline features an innovative surfboard-style design, making it one of the first stand-up coasters in America. While waiting in line, guests are greeted by colorful signage explaining stony coral tissue loss disease and how SeaWorld, our Foundation, FWC, and others are working to preserve and restore Florida's 350-mile coral reef, the world's third longest.

"SeaWorld and Disney have been outstanding partners in the conservation of Florida's reefs," said Foundation President & CEO Andrew Walker. "SeaWorld's new Coral Rescue Center and the Pipeline will bring millions of visitors into direct contact with coral conservation, giving them the opportunity to interact with scientists and watch their work."

"SEAWORLD GUESTS HAVE THE EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE RESCUE CENTER AND ENGAGE WITH CORAL EXPERTS, WITNESSING FIRSTHAND THE VITAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS TAKING PLACE AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT THESE REMARKABLE ANIMALS AND THEIR CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.

-Dr. Joseph Gaspard, Vice President of Zoo at SeaWorld Orlando



Brain coral at the Florida Coral Rescue Center, photo by SeaWorld



THE TECHNOLOGY OF CORAL CARE

Raising corals spawned at FCRC requires a lot of technology. When you walk in, the most obvious are the lights, timed to match the color and intensity the corals would experience in the Florida Keys. The water in the rows of tanks is also monitored and controlled for temperature (24°C to 27°C, depending on the season) and salinity (34 ppt to 36 ppt), down to the exact decimal. There are extensive alarms and backup systems, ready for power failures and hurricane damage.

But coral care also involves low-tech solutions, like Jerry, an unassuming butterfly fish that cares for sick corals by cleaning algae (as long as the corals are not the species he finds delicious). Toothbrushes join Jerry’s efforts, scrubbing baby corals free of algae. And takeout containers have the perfect blend of curves and materials the baby corals need right after spawning to settle and grow. At FCRC, we’re helping advance the science of coral care with both high and low tech.

Florida Coral Rescue Center, photo by SeaWorld

CENTRAL FLORIDA 2023 GRANTS LIST

| PROJECT NAME | PLATE | AMOUNT AWARDED | RECIPIENT |
|---|-------|----------------|---|
| Keystone Wildflowers for Pollinator Habitat Conservation in Longleaf Pine Sandhills: Phase III of the Sandhill Plant-Pollinator Network Project | CWT | \$51,086 | FWC |
| Supporting Skyway Fishing Pier Anglers With Entangled Seabird Rescue Information and Equipment That Will Reduce Harm and Injury to Brown Pelicans | CWT | \$20,635 | FWC |
| Acquisition of Spectrofluorometer to Support Florida Springs Dye Tracing and Other Research | PFS | \$25,009 | University of South Florida |
| Ecological Model for Effective Restoration of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation: A Mesocosm-Based Approach | PFS | \$12,100 | University of Florida Ecohydrology Lab |
| Enhance and Monitor Habitat Restoration Efforts in Silver Glen Springs to Increase Foraging Resources | PFS | \$22,440 | Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute |
| Evaluation of Bull Shark Movement and Habitat Use in Crystal River/Kings Bay: Categorizing Critical Nursery Habitat, Effective Juvenile Habitat and Thermal Refugia | PFS | \$10,000 | Minorities in Shark Science |
| Filling the Data Gaps: Purchasing New SpringsWatch Equipment | PFS | \$6,120 | Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute |
| 2024 Florida Springs Summit | PFS | \$10,000 | Florida Springs Council |
| Expedite Life Adaptive Wild Hog Hunt | WFF | \$2,000 | Expedite Life |
| The Florida Bowhunters Jamboree | WFF | \$8,530 | Florida Bowhunters Association |
| Florida Hunters for the Hungry | WFF | \$10,000 | Florida Hunters and Community Who Care |
| Freedom Trax Florida | WFF | \$7,455 | Removing the Barriers Initiative |
| Hunting for Disabled Veterans in Central Florida | WFF | \$22,750 | American Disability Adventures |
| L.O.S.T “Ladies Outdoor Skills Training” | WFF | \$4,000 | American Daughters of Conservation |
| Manatee County Hunt Program and Archery Education Improvements | WFF | \$40,000 | Manatee County Natural Resources |
| Next Level Homegrown Archery | WFF | \$4,000 | Homegrown 4-H |
| Project ARROW | WFF | \$7,500 | Grace Church Melbourne |
| Suncoast Youth Conservation Center Archery Range | WFF | \$55,000 | FWC |
| Tenoroc Youth Conservation Center Archery Range | WFF | \$55,000 | FWC |
| Title sponsorship of the Florida NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) State Tournament | WFF | \$30,000 | FWC |

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS 20 — TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT \$403,625

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, the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, the Big Cypress Preserve, 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.

SANDSPURS VS. BLACK SKIMMERS

Sandspurs are the bane of beachgoers' existence. These multi-pointed seeds abound in dune habitats and blow onto the sand to the dismay of the shoeless.

An FWC study conducted in collaboration with the National Audubon Society and Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve may prove these stickers are more than an annoyance; they may play a role in black skimmer mortality. Using a \$33,200 grant from our Conserve Wildlife license plate fund, researchers are investigating the possibility these fatal bacterial infections began with puncture wounds from sandspurs. Biologists also hope to identify the bacterial pathogen responsible for these deaths.

Black skimmers are a state-threatened beach-nesting bird that gathers in a few large colonies (Lido Key Beach in Sarasota harbors one of Florida's largest). Their nesting season lasts from early May through September. In 2020, a high rate of mortality attributed to bacterial sepsis was observed in juvenile black skimmers in one southwest Florida colony. The disease spread to a second colony in 2021. The young birds had one thing in common: they suffered from sandspur punctures. Many had swollen feet that made it difficult to walk.

Ultimately, we hope to develop a strategy for reducing such deaths, which could involve control of the sandspur plant near important black skimmer colonies.



Sandspur



Black skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

CORALS IN CRISIS

As noted in our CEO's letter (page 4), Florida ocean temperatures surpassed 101 degrees in July, devastating Florida's branching coral species. 18,000 staghorn and elkhorn corals in nurseries were removed from the ocean and housed in makeshift labs, largely surviving. Corals living on the reef itself could not escape, many dying so quickly they had no time to expel their algae and bleach.

Branching corals, so characteristic of Florida's coral reef, are now effectively gone from the Florida Keys. This includes decades of coral restoration work by many organizations, including work funded by our Foundation in the Eastern Dry Rocks near Key West, where our partner

Reef Renewal USA outplanted 2,510 staghorn corals as recently as 2022 under a \$30,000 grant from our Foundation. Reef Renewal USA, however, was able to save its *in situ* nursery corals.

“WE MOVED OUR CORALS INTO TANKS ON LAND AND TO COOLER, DEEPER WATER WHERE THEY WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE WORST OF THE HEAT”.

-Mike Echevarria, Reef Renewal USA President

The corals were returned to their ocean nurseries in the late fall when water temperatures fell.

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

Many of our commitments to restoring Florida's Coral Reef are funded by the Florida **Coral Reef Conservation Fund**. In addition to seeking outright donations from committed conservationists, 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 The Green Pineapple for leading this effort.

Staghorn corals (*Acropora cervicornis*), photo by FWC



Brooke White caring for rescued corals in the Keys, photo by Jennifer Rawlings

Once corals were relocated to land-based facilities, aquarists were needed to oversee their care. Enter **HeaRT: the Heat Response Team**. A united public-private partnership among the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), FWC, and our Foundation lent a helping hand to coral care centers like the Keys Marine Laboratory. Coral aquarists arrived in waves (pun-intended) to assess the state of rescued corals and determine the care needed to keep them healthy.

Thanks to us funding their travel and lodging, the first team arrived in the Keys quickly, led by Justin Zimmerman, Zoological Supervisor of Aquariums at SeaWorld Orlando and Supervisor of the Florida Coral Rescue Center, which is co-managed by our Foundation. Justin and his colleagues found the overall health of these rescued nursery corals better than anticipated, with most surviving in human care before being returned to the ocean in late fall. The response required to combat this thermal crisis was unique, and we were honored to play a part.

Extreme heat events are likely to increase in frequency. We've launched several funds to spark the development of new techniques and technologies that take climatic extremes into account for corals and fish. Our new **Freedom-to-Fail** grant program, a joint effort with NOAA, will allow scientists to advance coral science without fear of failure. Our three initial Freedom-to-Fail grant recipients, which include the University of Miami, are developing methods for faster coral outplanting, boosting beneficial sea urchin populations, and determining more accurately how much coral is eaten by various fish species.

We are also launching new grants to foster innovation in protecting spawning aggregations of fish, including gray and mutton snapper and other economically important species. And we're in it for the long haul: donors Garner and Connie Koons are funding a permanent fisheries conservation endowment named in honor of their great friend, the late FWC fisheries biologist Oscar "Butch" Ayala. We'll be awarding the first Koons-Ayala grants in 2024.



Oscar "Butch" Ayala

SOUTH FLORIDA 2023 GRANTS LIST

| PROJECT NAME | PLATE | AMOUNT AWARDED | RECIPIENT |
|---|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Evaluating the Ecological Role of Solution Holes in Changing Florida Keys Hardbottom Habitats | CWT | \$16,576 | FWC |
| Genetic Analysis of Hair Samples from the Highlands/Glades Bear Subpopulation, Part of a Larger Study "Updated Abundance and Genetic Diversity of Black Bears in Florida" | CWT | \$20,000 | FWC |
| Incision Recovery Rate of Grey Snapper (<i>Lutjanus Griseus</i>) from Internal Acoustic Tag Implantation | CWT | \$8,729 | FWC |
| Updating the Florida Unified Reef Map in the Lower Florida Keys, the Marquesas, and the Dry Tortugas | CWT | \$31,452 | FWC |
| Amberjack Tagging | DFO | \$10,000 | Gray FishTag Research |
| Developing a Coral-Baited Remote Video Survey Method to Document Fish Predation on Outplanted Corals | Other Funds | \$33,000 | University of Miami |
| Eastern Dry Rocks Coral Reef Restoration 2023 | Other Funds | \$38,000 | Reef Renewal USA |
| Exploring Expedited Coral Outplant Techniques | Other Funds | \$21,225 | Reef Renewal USA |
| I CARE Coral Camp | Other Funds | \$10,000 | I CARE |
| Increase Populations of Diadema Antillarum Around Coral Outplant Sites | Other Funds | \$25,330 | Sustainable Oceans and Reefs |
| Partnering to Save the Rare Florida Bonneted Bat | Other Funds | \$10,000 | Bat Conservation International |
| Florida Trappers Association Women and Youth Training 2024 | WFF | \$2,500 | Florida Trappers Association |
| FWC/NWTF/FFS Florida Wild Turkey Cost-Share Program | WFF | \$20,000 | National Wild Turkey Federation |
| Gobbling and Nesting Chronology of Wild Turkeys in South Florida | WFF | \$25,000 | FWC |
| The Introduction to Archery Experience Part II | WFF | \$3,100 | Shoot Straight Archery |
| Project EDHS: Education & Diversity in Hunting and Shooting Sports | WFF | \$10,000 | 10 CAN |
| United Waterfowlers-FL Wounded Warrior Waterfowl Hunts and Youth Hunts | WFF | \$6,200 | United Waterfowlers Florida |

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS 17 — TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT \$291,112

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

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

INNOVATION AT THE ISLANDER RESORT



The Islander Resort in Islamorada isn't only a beautiful, historic getaway in the Middle Keys, it's also a champion of coral reef conservation. They've stirred things up by supporting our Florida Coral Reef Conservation Fund via the sale of their spectacular Reef Relief Cocktail. A healthy portion of the sale of this popular drink goes straight to conserving our corals.

But it's not all about the cocktails. The Islander's gift shop also sells an adorable sea turtle plushy to guests. The sale of these tasty cocktails and cuddly turtles generated \$2,000 for coral conservation in the first year.

Partners like the Islander Resort are making a difference by investing in the future of wild Florida. If you're in Islamorada, please drop by to enjoy a Reef Relief Cocktail and maybe pick up a turtle plushy!

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 WILD FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

You can leave a lasting 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 Dani Richter at 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 listed on page 36.

FLORIDA CONSERVATION LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ms. Anna Barbara Bennett | Ms. Staci Doucett | Mr. Darin O'Neal |
| Ms. Amanda Breault | Ms. Rebecca Falmlen | Ms. Michelle J. Pavlick |
| Ms. Dana Clare & Mr. Leif Burhans | Ms. Vanessa Galloway | Ms. Kimberly Phillips |
| Ms. Gina Mariani Chastain | Mr. Kenneth Garry | Ms. Roberta A. Speer |
| Mrs. Barbara J. & Mr. Michael M. Cooney | Ms. Katie Kimball | Mrs. Daphne & Mr. C. Martin Wood III |
| Ms. Georgianna Darst | Mr. Glenn Eric Lewis | |
| Mrs. Kim & Mr. Jack Diede | Mr. John Morrison | |

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

DAPHNE & C. MARTIN WOOD III



From the woodlands of Connecticut to the rolling hills of north Florida, the lives of Daphne and C. Martin “Marty” Wood III have always intertwined with the great outdoors. Their story, spanning 57 years of marriage, is a testament to a shared commitment to conservation, education, and the spirit of adventure in nature.

The summer camps they attended, Daphne in North Carolina and Marty in Maine, solidified their love for the outdoors. From canoeing to archery, these camps offered a sanctuary where their spirits thrived, nurturing a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship. The Woods’ support of the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network embodies their dedication to fostering similar experiences for Florida’s children and teens. They have been instrumental in enhancing outdoor education centers across the state, ensuring young people from all backgrounds can explore and fall in love with the natural world.

Beyond their tangible contributions, Daphne and Marty’s leadership roles in organizations like our Foundation and Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy reflect their deep commitment to ecological research and land protection.

Daphne’s work in securing conservation easements has protected vast tracts of land in north Florida, while Marty’s expertise has been vital in guiding financial strategies for these efforts. Their own property in the Red Hills is protected by a permanent conservation easement. “In 2009 the Foundation awarded Marty and me The Private Landowner Legacy Award for our commitment to conserving wild Florida,” said Daphne. “The bronze award sits in pride of place on the coffee table in our living room.”

Daphne and Marty have pledged a significant legacy gift to the Foundation. Their \$1 million donation, earmarked for the eradication of invasive species, is not just a contribution but a clarion call for others to join in safeguarding Florida’s unique ecosystems.

“WE HOPE OUR GIFT WILL INSPIRE OTHERS IN FLORIDA TO INCLUDE THE FOUNDATION IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS SO THIS INCREDIBLY UNIQUE PART OF THE PLANET CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUITABLE HABITAT FOR ONLY NATIVE SPECIES,” DAPHNE SAID.



CELEBRATING A LIFETIME OF CONSERVATION AT EYCC

On November 8th at the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp, we honored Dick and Cornelia Corbett, who have dedicated their lives to the welfare of young people in Florida and beyond. The event celebrated a lifetime commitment to conservation over lunch, followed by a clay shoot at the Palm Beach County Shooting Sports Complex. Dick and Cornelia Corbett's passion extends generously to conservation efforts and empowering young minds through enriching summer camp experiences. The Corbetts actively champion the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, striving to reconnect the state's youth with outdoor activities, fostering an appreciation for nature among the younger generation.



RICHARD A. CORBETT
Chair Emeritus

A MESSAGE FROM DICK

My wife Cornelia and I were deeply moved by the event in November. We have been committed to the well-being of children throughout our lives. Cornie's family pioneered child welfare laws in the United States in the 19th century and she herself served as a child welfare caseworker in New York. In the years since she has been a leading figure in childhood education and welfare in Tampa. I have focused on providing children and teens with unforgettable outdoor experiences at FWC's many youth camps and statewide school outdoor programs.

Our event was held at FWC's Everglades Youth Conservation Camp in Loxahatchee. This historic camp is undergoing a major restoration, beginning with improvements to its cabins, which date from the 1970s. Working with

Lake Flato Architects and StudioOutside, we hope to improve the camp experience for all children and make the surrounding lakes and woods even more accessible.

In Lakeland, the Foundation is also working with FWC to build a new overnight youth conservation camp at the Tenoroc Public Use Area. Already a prime fishing spot — 31 lakes! — Tenoroc has become a mecca for teaching hunting safety and has three new clay pigeon shooting courses. We have identified a beautiful area on the 8,000-acre property for a large youth camp. With Orlando and Tampa less than an hour away, the Tenoroc camp is sure to become one of Florida's most popular camps.

We are working now to develop our final designs and budgets for these two camps and estimate the Foundation will need to raise between \$8 and \$12 million. But these facilities offer priceless, transformative experiences to our youth, who have fewer and fewer opportunities to experience nature in its fullest. I hope each of you will consider joining this effort as our plans and needs are finalized.

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.

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 threatened by the human transformation of the landscape. By donating to the Rare Plant Conservation Endowment, you're helping safeguard these species by supporting 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 2023.

To continue supporting us, you can scan the QR code or make an online donation at wildlifeflorida.org. And if you're looking for a new way to support our work and get a little something for yourself or a friend or child, please check out our online store. You can "adopt" a plush burrowing owl, buy a UV-protected shirt for a perfect day on the water, or a mug to keep your coffee warm in the deer stand.



HAMMERHEAD SHARK SOCIETY (\$100,000+)

Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund**
The Estate of Ms. Joy A. Best
Contender Boats**
Disney Conservation Fund
Informa Markets
The Jacarlene Foundation
Mrs. Connie & Mr. Garner Koons
Mr. Ken Langone
SeaWorld
Mrs. Daphne & Mr. C. Martin Wood III

FLORIDA BLACK BEAR CREW (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Board of County Commissioners, Columbia County
The Garcia Companies**
Mrs. Sonia & Mr. Paul Tudor Jones II**
The NextEra Energy Foundation, Inc.
Pike Electric**
Pollinator Fund
Seminole Tribe of Florida**

MANATEE LEAGUE (\$25,000 - \$49,000)

Mrs. Dorothy & Mr. Carlos Alfonso**
The Batchelor Family Foundation
Mr. Ron Bergeron**
Cheney Brothers, Inc.**
Coastal Conservation Association**
Florida Crystals**
Florida Power and Light**
Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel**
The Knopf Family Foundation
The Lacy Wealth Management Group**
Ocean Properties**
Nancy P. and Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation
Sager Electrical Supply Company
Sea & Shoreline**
Mrs. & Mr. Kent Shoemaker
World of Beer**

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

Association of Zoos & Aquariums
The Barco Family Foundation**
City of Lake City

Ducks Unlimited**
DUDA**
Ferman Motor Car Co.**
Florida Drilling**
Florida Foundation of Responsible Angling
Forest Development**
Gilchrist Club**
Mrs. Candance Hamm
Ms. Annie Holcombe**
Inversa**
Jerry Pate Company**
Lipman Family Farms**
Mrs. Ruth & Mr. Fred Lynch**
Mrs. Ellen & Mr. Michael Merriman**
The National Recreation Foundation
Ocean Reef Conservation Association
Mr. O. Griffith Sexton
Taylor Family Foundation **
U.S. Sugar Corporation**
Withum**
Ximena Kavalekas, Inc.**

ALLIGATOR AMBASSADOR (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Alfonso Architects**
Alliant Partners**
The American Sportfishing Association*
Mrs. Suzanne & Mr. Paul Avery **
Mr. Mark M. Barber, Esquire **
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust**
Mrs. Letty & Mr. Ignacio Borbolla & BIA & Co.**
Edison National Bank and Bank of the Islands
Erhart Family Foundation
Everglades Equipment Group**
Flor de Caña**
Mr. Tucker Frederickson, Jr.**
GL Homes**
Gray FishTag Research**
The John A. & Joan M. Dietze Charitable Foundation
Kitson & Partners**
Ms. Valerie LaHart
Mrs. Stacy Lester
Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County**
Palmdale Oil Company**
Mr. John Pope**
The Radiant Group, LLC.**

Mrs. Boo & Mr. Cody Rawson**
Rock the Ocean Foundation Inc.
Mr. Rainer Schael

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

Mrs. Rebecca Allen
Ardeidae Group
Atlas Engineering and Consulting
Bass Fishing Hall of Fame, Inc.
Bergeron Everglades Foundation
The Bernard Lewis Charitable Foundation
Board of County Commissioners, Charlotte & Punta Gorda Counties
The Brynton Family Foundation*
The Burton Foundation
Capital Tacos
Carol and Barney Barnett Family Foundation
Ms. Elizabeth Carrano*
Mrs. Ana Castillo-Ruiz
Ms. Jenny Cordina
Ms. Robin Covello
Ms. Ainsley Crean
Dailey Janssen Architects
Dakota Matting & Environmental Solutions
Mr. Steve Dalessandro
Ms. Jennifer Dove
Mr. Robert Doyle*
Mr. George Ferris
Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation
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Ms. Vivienne Handy
Mr. Jeff Harkavy
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Ms. Karen Henschel
Ms. Tasha Herner*
Mr. Thomas Higgins
Hispanic Access Foundation
History Class Brewing Company
Ms. Marie Holland
Ms. Tara Hottenstein*
Mr. Tim Houghtaling
Islander Resort
Mrs. Alexandra & Mr. Zachary Kavanaugh **
Kenjam Holdings LLC.
Mr. Tom Kibler
The Kuebler Family Foundation
Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center**

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Mrs. Ruth Martin
The McKenzie Artists and Animals Fund
Ms. Margaret Miller
Mirabay Anglers Club
Navico
Dr. Joanne C Nelson*
Officer Down Memorial Page
Outerbanks Family Fund
Ms. Audrey Putman
Mr. Justin Ryan
S&D Real Estate
Mr. Nathan Smith*
Swarovski Optik North America Limited
Ms. Mary Thompson
Mrs. Karen Tisch
Waldo Photo
Mr. Andrew Walker
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Ms. Leah Whirtley
Ms. Stephanie White
White Oak Conservation**
Ms. Beverly Young*
Mr. James Young

OSCEOLA TURKEY (\$500 - \$999)

Mr. Tony Aaron*
Mr. Clifford Alexander*
Mr. Alejandro Fernandez Alonso
Anonymous
Ms. Teresa Ayala
Ms. Jan Bachrach
Mr. Donald Barney
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Ms. Bridget Blake
Mr. Barry Blaxberg
Mr. Ronald Borgio
Ms. Alexandra Brennan*
Ms. Christine Cadigan
Mr. Jerry Camera*
Mr. Miguel Antonio Castro Hernandez
Mrs. Jane & Mr. Cook**
Mrs. Veronica Cummings
Mr. Robert Doyle*
Eagle Audubon Society
Ms. Christine Eddings
Mrs. Anita Fairbanks

Mr. Christopher Finseth
 Ms. Diane Fleming*
 Ms. Kari Floren
 Ms. Melissa Fowler
 Ms. Dana Garcia
 Ms. Mary Gerding
 Ms. Cathy Giordano
 GoKo Kayaks
 Green Pineapple Key West
 Mr. Dennis Heaton
 Ms. Tasha Herner*
 Ms. Marie Holland
 Mr. Chris Hudyma
 Ms. Sierra Inks*
 Ms. Sandra Jarmuth*
 Mr. Tom Jennis
 Mr. Blaine John
 Mr. Tom Kay
 Mr. Richard Keyser
 Ms. Kelly Kolb
 Mr. Nelson Long*
 Mrs. Jane Marquet*
 Mr. Esteban Marro
 Mr. Joshua Merritt
 Mr. Richard Miranda Gonzalez*
 Mrs. Hannah Mooney*
 Mr. Robert Morris
 Petter Neidecker
 Mr. Ben Pardue*
 Mr. James "Jay" Parker*
 Mr. David Peeples*
 Mrs. Pam & Mr. Dennis Polite-Fisco
 Mr. Aaron Pressel*
 Ms. Linda Rey*
 S&D Real Estate
 Ms. May Ellen Schad
 Mr. Cody Senn
 Siesta Key Harbor Fishing Club
 Southwick Associates
 Ms. Linda Stark

Mr. Tanner Strohmeier
 Mrs. Nancy Szabo
 Tallahassee Area Association of
 Environmental Professionals
 Mr. Tommy Thompson Jr.
 Mr. Todd Totin*
 Universal Orlando Foundation
 Ms. Patricia Welles*
 Mr. Scott Westfahl
 Ms. J. Whitton
 Ms. Linda Willis
 Dr. Stephen Wilson

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 Ms. Pamela Anwyll*
 Mr. Larry Arnold
 Mr. Mark Ashman
 Mr. Borden J. Austin*
 Dr. Ania-Ariadna Baetica*
 Mr. Robert E. Banker
 Mr. Alejandro Barrero*
 Mr. Keith Bartholomew
 Ms. Sherrie Bassignani
 Mrs. Julie Boyd
 Ms. Kayla Brady*
 The Brian and Julie Ginsburg Fund
 Ms. Amanda Brooks
 Mr. Cole Bryson*
 Ms. Carrie Burke
 Ms. Deborah Bury*
 Ms. Barbara Buys*
 Ms. Kathleen Byrd*
 Mr. Jerry Camera*
 Ms. May Ellen Schad
 Mr. Douglas Carastro
 Ms. Barbara Cason
 Mr. Mike Chiado*
 Ms. Susan Cimino*

Ms. Michelle Close*
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 Mr. Leslie Cross*
 Ms. Laura Cruz-Hinson
 Ms. Katy Cummings
 Mr. Kevin Dailey*
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 Ms. Diane Despard
 Mr. John Drake
 Ms. Debbie Durham Cissna*
 Mr. Jeb Fields
 Ms. Amy Filson*
 Mr. Austin Flickstein*
 Ms. Margaret Floyd*
 Ms. Cynthia Fuller
 Mr. Peixuan Gao
 Ms. Lisa Glunt*
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 Ms. Caroline Guhde*
 Ms. Janet Hampton
 Ms. Pamela Hansard*
 Ms. Oscar Hernandez*
 Mr. William Higgins*
 Dr. George Housley
 Mr. John Kemper
 L3Harris Technologies
 Ms. Lola Langner
 Mr. Joe Lavore*
 Mr. Alfred Leon
 Ms. Liz Levitan*
 Mr. Steven John Lindsay*
 Mr. Nelson Long*
 Ms. Laura Lourdes*
 Ms. Judith Lutvack

Ms. Kim Lydick*
 Ms. Crista Lyn*
 Mrs. Shiree Magee*
 Mr. Richard Mahle*
 Ms. Valentin Martinez Ortiz
 Dr. Nicole Mayne*
 Mrs. Mary McCarty
 Mrs. Yong McDonald
 Ms. Joan McKniff*
 Ms. Ann McMillan*
 Ms. Susan McNally
 Ms. Jenny Mendoza*
 Mr. Dail Mengelkoch*
 Mrs. Jean & Mr. Wayne Middleton
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 Ms. Amy Filson*
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 Mr. Andrew Mouacdie*
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 Dr. Joanne C. Nelson*
 Mr. Dennis Nielsen
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 Mr. Robert Ostrenga
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 Ms. Marilynne Schrader*
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 Ms. Amy Unzueta*
 Ms. Brittany Waddell*
 Ms. Sharon Wagner*
 Mr. Larry Wallace*
 Ms. Marilyn Weinberg*
 Ms. Patricia Welles*
 Ms. Phoebe Weseley
 Ms. Mary Beth Whittaker
 Ms. Diana Wilcox*
 Mrs. Virginia & Mr. Arthur Wycoff

CAMPFIRE CONCERT 2024

Building on the fun and success of A Night for Nature in 2023, the Foundation is hosting a party back at Jupiter's Pelican Club in early 2024. Guests will meet Florida wildlife, be transported back to their days at camp, and experience an intimate campfire concert by country star Chris Janson. A Night for Nature 2023 raised more than \$750,000 to support our mission. Campfire Concert will raise funds to support renovations at the nearby Everglades Youth Conservation Camp.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT



When we received a donation to our Florida Panther Fund with an Oklahoma return address, we had to know who was behind it. Luckily, 11-year-old Lillie and her friends Cooper (11) and Archer (8) were more than happy to chat with us.

It started with a makeshift bookmark sale on the corner in Lillie's neighborhood. But with the rush of Cleveland Elementary school students letting out for the day, the ragtag group quickly pivoted to selling friendship bracelets, lemonade,

and snowcones, the latter being the biggest seller in the August heat. They attracted a huge crowd, thanks in large part to their creative signs advertising that proceeds would be donated to support Florida's dwindling panther population.

“WE CHOSE THE FLORIDA PANTHER BECAUSE ONE: THEY’RE SO CUTE AND ADORABLE,” CHIRPED LILLIE. “AND ALSO BECAUSE THEY’RE REALLY, REALLY ENDANGERED.”

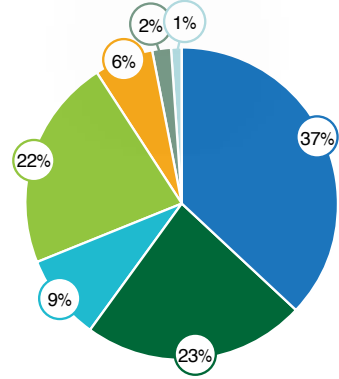
The passionate homeschooler is right; with an estimated 120-230 adults remaining, the iconic big cat population suffers from urban sprawl, disease, and vehicular collisions. Donations to our Florida Panther Fund support research on feline leukomyelopathy and the rehabilitation of injured panthers.

Lillie's interest in the species grew from watching one of her favorite TV shows, “Secrets of the Zoo.” In one episode, a Florida panther is rushed to an emergency veterinarian and then follows his recovery. Once stable, the panther is able to jump for a piece of meat, leaving Lillie in awe of the big cat's strength. “That was super cool because they jump really high,” Lillie said.

When asked about their future aspirations, Lillie confidently declared that she will be a zookeeper. Archer said he wants to work for the Oklahoma Wildlife Department to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors. His older sister donned a shirt with the words “Go Science!” and mentioned she was working on her math while Archer caught a Dekay's brownsnake earlier in the day.

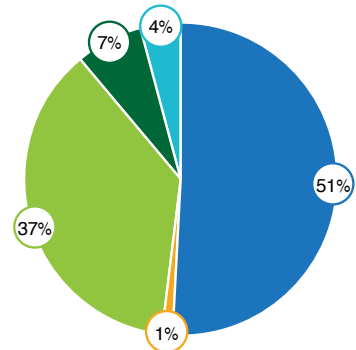
Whether in their home state or supporting causes 1,300 miles away, there is no doubt the trio will be leading the charge for future conservationists.

FINANCES



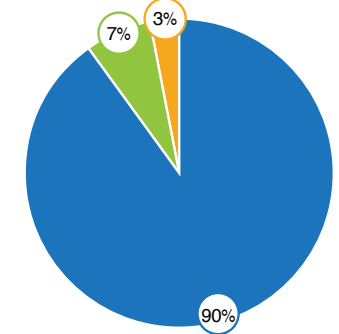
2023 REVENUE BY SOURCE

| SOURCE | REVENUE |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Endangered Species Mitigation | \$8,700,916 |
| Program Fees and Services | \$5,517,722 |
| Philanthropic Giving | \$2,033,081 |
| Investments | \$5,348,231 |
| License Plates | \$1,450,238 |
| Government Grants | \$443,301 |
| In-Kind | \$317,974 |



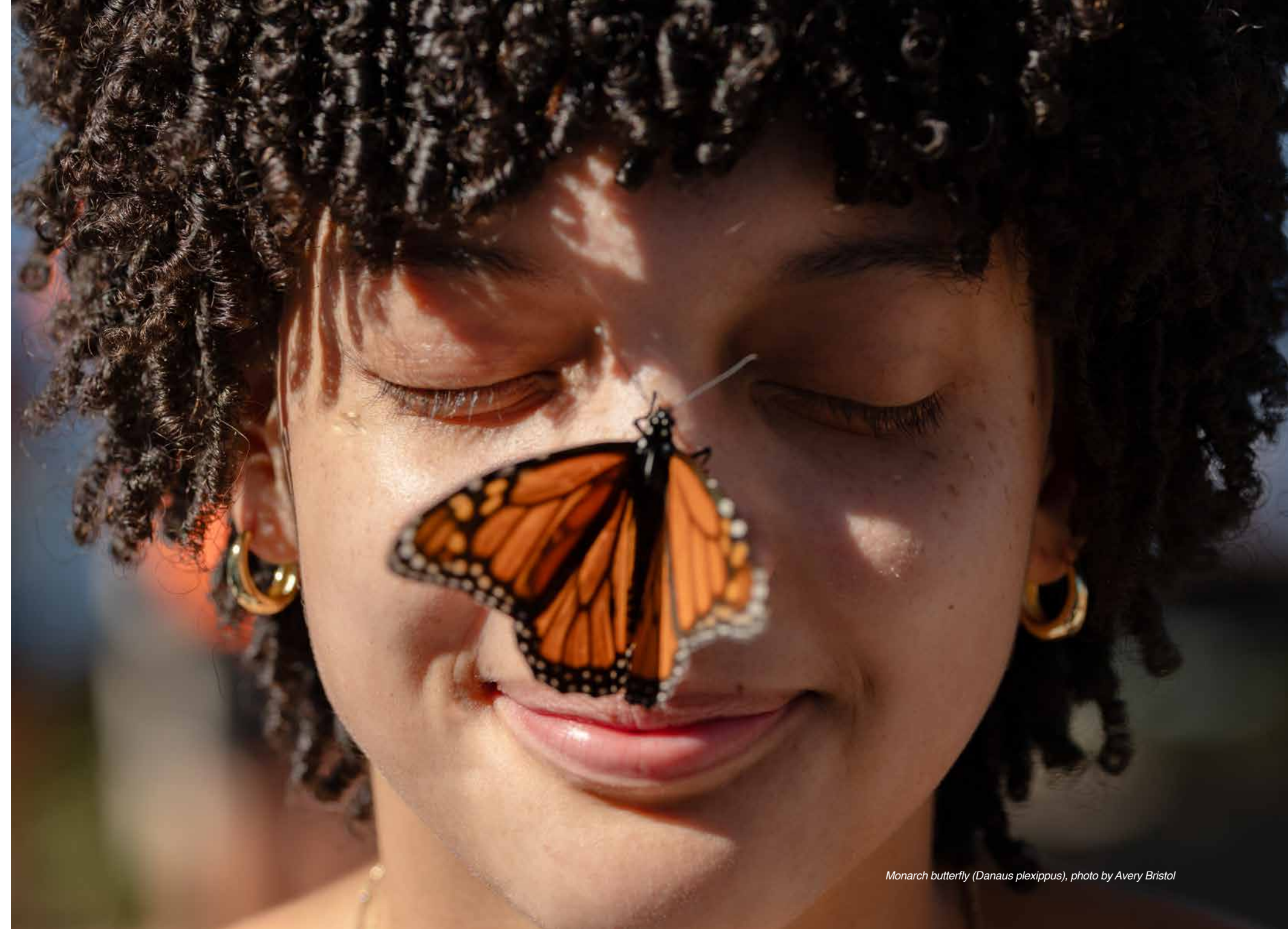
2023 PROGRAM EXPENSE BY CATEGORY

| CATEGORY | EXPENSE |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Conserving Wildlife | \$5,019,952 |
| Combating Invasives | \$99,700 |
| Preserving Our Outdoor Heritage | \$3,719,723 |
| Getting Kids Back to Nature | \$744,925 |
| Restoring Our Reefs | \$441,486 |



2023 PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY

| CATEGORY | EXPENSE |
|----------------|--------------|
| Program | \$10,025,786 |
| Administration | \$742,158 |
| Fundraising | \$324,697 |



Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), photo by Avery Bristol



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



CONSERVING NATURE AND OUR OUTDOOR HERITAGE

Help support our work by donating to the Foundation, buying a license plate, “adopting” a plush burrowing owl, or getting new gear in our revamped store. More information can be found by scanning the QR code.



P.O. Box 11010 | Tallahassee, FL 32302 | 100 Eighth Avenue SE | St. Petersburg, FL 33701 | 850.922.1066 | 800.988.4889 | info@wildlifeflorida.org

Burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia), photo by Andy Wraithmell