



November 2010

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Arnold Brunell

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FLTWS) is no more relevant than its members. Fortunately, this is a good thing, as our members possess a vast array of skills, knowledge, experience, and talent. In fact, every one of our members has something unique that he or she can bring to the table. Whether you have knowledge of plants, animals, a single species, or communities, the information is of interest to others and important to share. We've all benefited from the sharing of knowledge – from the structured settings of formal education to the less formal, but just as effective, settings of social networking. Herein lies the real value of our Chapter. It serves as a melting pot for professionals with a diversity of backgrounds and provides the opportunities and venues to gather and pool our knowledge for the benefit of wildlife and natural resource management.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of our Chapter and the benefits we accrue as members, we must strive to maintain a strong membership base. This is the reason we have initiated a membership drive that will last until the 2011 Spring Conference. The membership drive is designed as a friendly competition of sorts – one in which the “winner” will receive a \$200 gift certificate from one of our good sponsors, TravelCountry.com. But there won't be just one winner with this drive. In fact, any member who recruits at least one new member will receive a free FLTWS t-shirt and a 15% discount card from TravelCountry.com. The hope is that each of you will be motivated, and even challenge each other, to recruit new members to our Chapter. We all know colleagues who are not members, but would likely consider becoming a member if they were informed, or maybe just reminded, of FLTWS and its benefits. Share our website and Facebook links and tell them about the workshops, conferences, and networking opportunities. With everyone's help, we can bring together even more professionals to share experiences and expertise. For more information regarding the membership drive, please visit our website (www.fltws.org).

Let's continue to work together to keep FLTWS relevant. Whether you decide to recruit a new member, attend our next conference, get involved with one of the committees, or simply maintain your membership, you will be promoting higher standards and a higher quality professional for conservation and management in our state.



Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society President



STUDENT CHAPTER REPORT

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

The University of Florida Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is affiliated with The Wildlife Society (TWS), The Southeastern Section, Florida Wildlife Federation, and the State Chapter, which are part of the network for the professional society for wildlife biologists. Student Chapter evening meetings are held bi-monthly throughout the school year.

TWS Chapter events and proceedings are diverse and provide professional and fun opportunities for every member involved. Activities include inviting professionals to speak on a wildlife topic at meetings, attending State Chapter meetings, participating in the Southeastern Section Student Wildlife Conclave in the spring, and getting involved in political issues that affect wildlife resources. Career-building skills are also acquired, such as writing resumes and applying to graduate school. The Chapter also hosts an annual "Wild Game Dinner" in the spring, cleans up an adopted section of road adjacent to a state natural area, provides any assistance at a local wildlife rehabilitation center when necessary, and organizes other social gatherings. Some events the Student Chapter of TWS participated in are highlighted in the images (right, below). Participation in the Student Chapter of TWS is an excellent way to begin a student's wildlife career.

Highlights and events taken from the Student Chapter's most recent newsletter are as follows:

- The annual wild game dinner for the Student Chapter is in February. This is their biggest fundraising event of the year and is always a big hit. Please let Eric Phares (eric.r.phares@gmail.com) know if you would like to make a tax-deductable donation of meat, gift cards, raffle items, hunting/fishing trips, etc.
- On November 6, the Student Chapter participated in the Great Suwannee River Cleanup East of Trenton, Florida. On November 13, they participated in the Lube Bat Festival where they assisted in games and wildlife outreach while having the unique opportunity to see fruit bats. November 20-21 was Survival Weekend.
- The Student Chapter is also volunteering to participate, for the fourth year, in manatee research in the greater Crystal River to get baseline health information of manatees; they will be aiding in the physical examinations.

For more Student Chapter information, please visit their website

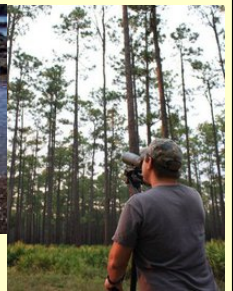
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Editor, Angela Mulligan
(above)



President, Derrick Thrasher



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FLORIDA NEWS

Record Alligator Harvested in Brevard County

Submitted by Jason Waller

On November 1, 2010, Mr. Robert Ammerman of Orlando, Florida harvested a male alligator measuring 14 feet 3^{1/2} inches in Lake Washington (Brevard County) during the statewide alligator hunt. This is currently recognized as the longest harvested alligator on record in the State of Florida. Mr. Ammerman's alligator eclipsed Florida's previous length record (14 feet ⁵/₈ inch) by nearly three inches. For Mr. Ammerman and his agents (Sam White and T.J. Schaus), it was a once in a lifetime adventure, and for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologists, it was further evidence that the sustainable harvest model for the alligator resource in Florida is working! For more information, and to check out the lengths and weights of some of Florida's other most notable alligators visit the table of officially-measured large Florida alligators (http://myfwc.com/docs/WildlifeHabitats/Alligator_Record_Table.pdf).



Operation Oak 2010-11

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) Regional Program

Submitted by Brian Zielinski

The NWTf's Operation Oak program is dedicated to restoring and creating wildlife habitat throughout the southeast. Last year alone, this program provided over 14,000 oak trees for planting on private lands throughout Florida. The NWTf has once again shown its commitment to this program in Florida by having 14,000 trees available to private landowners including white oak, swamp chestnut oak, live oak, and persimmon. All trees will be shipped to pre-determined, centralized locations within the panhandle and peninsular Florida for pick up in early February 2011. A minimum request of 100 trees will be required per species, and landowners interested in participating in this **FREE** program must be or become a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The NWTf will send a letter to all interested landowners along with an application for completion, and completed applications must be received no later than December 17th, 2010 to be considered for the program. If you are interested in participating in this program for 2010-11, please contact Mr. Brian M. Zielinski, NWTf Regional Biologist, at (386) 804-6691 or via email: bzielinski@nwtf.net to receive the Operation Oak program materials.



FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society Reaches Out to Recognize Citizens

By Arnold Brunell

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society has added yet another facet to its approach to promoting conservation and wise natural resource management in Florida. The Awards Committee (**Tim O'Meara** [Chair], **Marty Main**, **Rosi Mulholland**, and **Ron Masters**) recently submitted a proposal for a new award – the Citizen Conservation Award. The intent of this award is to recognize an individual or group of individuals who have made significant contributions to wildlife conservation efforts in Florida. Eligible candidates would be non-professionals and small, grassroots groups that have worked to achieve local or statewide conservation impacts in wildlife or habitat management, restoration, or protection, or conservation education. Members at the Fall Meeting approved the proposal and the inaugural announcement was recently sent out.

In addition to recognizing accomplishments in the private sector, this award increases the Chapter's collaboration with other organizations. Although the application, review, and selection processes will be solely the responsibility of our Chapter, the award is sponsored by the [Florida Master Naturalist Program](#), University of Florida/IFAS, which will cover the cost of the plaque, engraving, and shipping. Kudos to the Awards Committee for this innovative initiative!



Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society Fall Meeting Review

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society's (FLTWS) fall meeting was a success. The meeting was held at the Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Ft. Lauderdale, October 26-27. The first day consisted of the business meeting, which included revisiting the strategic plan, hearing reports from the various committees, and discussing other old and new business. Following the meetings, a barbeque social was held. The next day, Miami-Dade County and the Institute for Regional Conservation offered unique workshops for participants. One workshop was a Python Patrol training and the other was an Exotic Plants training. The Python Patrol taught attendees how to properly identify, catch, and collect pythons. The Exotic Plants taught attendees how to identify and effectively treat southeast Florida invasive exotic plants. Continuing education credits for herbicide applicator certification were offered to those who attended the exotic plants workshop.

This fall meeting was a great opportunity to network with other wildlife professionals from across the state. Over 50 attendees were trained at these workshops, many of whom were not members or have only recently become members, and belong to various organizations the Florida Chapter has not worked with in the past. In addition to the expanded contacts and learning opportunities, this was a great opportunity for the Chapter to discuss our ongoing business so that we can continuously improve as a chapter.



Python Workshop (above). Hugh Taylor Birch State Park gopher tortoise (below).



FLORIDA NEWS

Florida's New Threatened Species Rules

By Elsa Haubold

In September, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission passed new rules for conserving Florida's Threatened species. The listing process for imperiled species has been controversial since the early 1990s and this represents the third major revision to the rules since 1999. The new rules are the result of almost three years of work by FWC staff and stakeholders. They provide several solutions for minimizing controversy surrounding Florida's listed species and, most importantly, to ensure effective conservation for Florida's species at risk of extinction.

First, all species that are federally listed will be on Florida's list as federally-designated Endangered or Threatened. Although we will continue to conserve these species, FWC will not conduct an additional listing evaluation for federal species.

Species at risk of extinction that are not federally listed will be evaluated under Florida's listing process. Florida's listing criteria are based on the IUCN red list criteria that have been used on more than 20,000 species in more than 30 countries.

The second solution for minimizing controversy about Florida's Threatened list, is that rather than having multiple listing categories of endangered, threatened, and species of special concern, Florida now has one category called state-designated Threatened. FWC and its stakeholders believe that these changes will help get us out of the box we were in which was resulting in a lot of time being concerned about what you call a species rather than what we do to conserve it. Other improvements to the rules include a provision for streamlining permitting for federal species, creation of species-specific permitting standards, and creation of management plans for conserving all listed species.

The first course of action under the new process is to evaluate the 61 state listed species that haven't been evaluated in the past decade to see if they meet our listing criteria. Commission appointed biological review groups comprised of recognized experts and led by an FWC staff member are now conducting the status reviews which will be complete in early December. The status reports by staff include the findings of the biological review groups and a listing recommendation by staff will then be peer-reviewed before being finalized and sent to the Commission for consideration. Before any changes to listing status can occur, the Commission must approve a management plan for the species.

FWC is forming an internal steering committee and will begin developing a process for creating management plans to conserve all of our state listed species. The plans will require extensive public input and work with all interested stakeholders. In order to create the most effective conservation plans for Florida's wildlife we will need your help. If you are interested in participating in the management planning process, send an email to imperiled@myfwc.com and we will add you to our stakeholder email distribution list. We expect to begin soliciting stakeholder input about the management plans in early to mid-2011.

For more information about Florida's threatened species management system, a copy of the new rules, and a list of Florida's Endangered and Threatened species, go to http://myfwc.com/WILDLIFEHABITATS/imperiledSpp_listingprocess.htm.

We appreciate the tremendous help of all of the biological review group members and those who have agreed to assist with peer reviews of the biological status reports. All your efforts will result in improved conservation for Florida's most imperiled species. We hope all of you will participate in the upcoming management planning processes. Work on the biological status reviews is supported by a Conserve Wildlife Tag grant from the Wildlife Foundation of Florida.



Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)



NEWS



The Wildlife Society Online Mentoring Program

TWS' Online Mentoring program is a great way to build professional relationships that will help advance a student's or young professional's career, while gaining knowledge from a wildlife professional. Already a professional? We are always looking for mentors to volunteer. It is easy to sign up, just go online to our [Online Mentoring Program](http://mentor.wildlife.org) with your TWS Member ID number and register.

Want to help but don't have the time to contribute? TWS' Online Mentoring Program is the focus for TWS' 2010 Investor's Campaign. If you are interested in being a donor, please send your donations to The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814 with Investor's Campaign in the memo field. Contributions are tax-deductible.



The Longleaf Ecology and Forestry Society

Submitted by John Winn

The Longleaf Ecology and Forestry Society (LEAFS), one of the exhibitors in the poster session at this year's spring Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society conference in Tallahassee, has advised that their website is now complete. The website, at longleafs.info, was still under construction and unfinished at the time of the conference.

LEAFS is a non-profit land trust founded in 1993 for the purpose of promoting the study of the ecology of longleaf pines and their use in reforestation by small private landowners who produce timber. LEAFS hopes to encourage these landowners to reforest with longleaf pines and use prescribed burning to establish and maintain something approaching a naturally functioning ecosystem. To do this, LEAFS maintains two demonstration tracts in eastern Alachua County. The website now includes a virtual tour of the sites.

The sites were once occupied by virgin longleaf pines, but having been used for a variety of purposes in the past 100 years, are now much altered. Most of the longleaf pines were cut years ago. Through the use of prescribed burning, selective harvesting, and replanting with desired species, LEAFS is restoring the sites to a more natural condition that will show how--once re-established--the longleaf pine ecosystem can be maintained and utilized for the sustainable production of forestry products on a commercial basis.

The sites are open to the general public for non-consumptive recreational uses and interpretive trails are maintained to show the management practices utilized in the LEAFS demonstration project. The virtual tour on the website follows the routes of these trails.

LEAFS makes the sites available to students and wildlife professionals for research projects. To utilize the sites, contact the LEAFS trustee, John Winn, at (352) 468-1669.



NEWS



Florida's Frogs

By Steve Johnson, Ph.D.

The University of Florida now has a new web page devoted to Florida's Frogs. You can find it by visiting the web at <http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/> and then click on the Florida's Frogs link under the Extension heading at the left side of the main page.

There are accounts for each of Florida species organized according to three general regions of the state. For some species there are multiple images. Also included, are range maps, a bit about each species' ecology, and guidance on finding the calls for each frog online.



Barley Barber Swamp Open to the Public

Submitted by Rich Piper

Florida Power & Light has reopened their Barley Barber Swamp in Martin County to the public. Tours of this 455-acre old-growth cypress swamp can be arranged by calling the Seminole Inn in Indiantown at (772) 597-3777 or by accessing the Barley Barber website: <http://www.barleybarber.org/>



Conservation Committee Comments on Black Bear Management Plan

By Brian Scheick

In the fall of 2010 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) released a draft of the Black Bear Management Plan for Florida, written with guidance from a 14-member advisory group of agency biologists and both conservation and hunting advocates. The Florida Chapter's Conservation Committee solicited three reviewers from the Chapter membership, collated their inputs, and submitted almost two dozen comments on the draft plan. FWC is still accepting public comments, so if you would like to read the plan and submit your own individual comments, go to: <http://share2.myfwc.com/BearMP/default.aspx>. Several public meetings were held in north and central Florida and more are planned. The date and location of future meetings will also be posted to this web link so return later for updates.

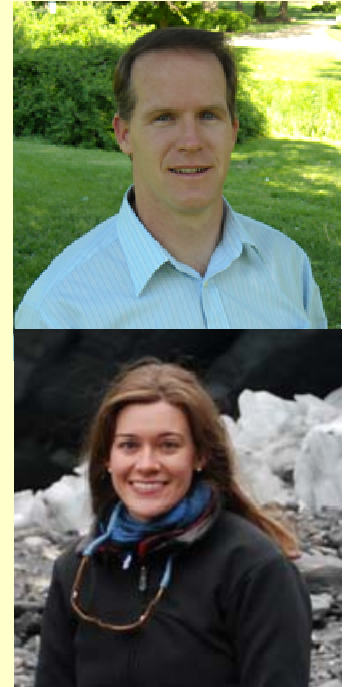


FLORIDA NEWS

University of Florida's New Faculty

Submitted by Bill Giuliano

The University of Florida Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation is pleased to announce that two new faculty joined its program this fall. Dr. Robert McCleery is joining the Department as a new Assistant Professor in Conservation Science. Dr. McCleery is joining the department from Western Illinois University, where he has been serving as an Assistant Professor. Dr. McCleery's work spans a variety of important issues in wildlife conservation, including population structure of imperiled species, species response to urban-rural gradients, habitat ecology, influences of habitat management on distribution of wildlife, and other questions. He received his B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Cornell University and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M University. Dr. McCleery will be teaching graduate and undergraduate courses at the University of Florida. Dr. Susan Cameron will be joining the Department this fall to fill the position of Assistant Professor in Climate Change Ecology. Dr. Cameron is coming to Florida from Harvard University, where she has been serving as a post-doctoral associate investigating how bird distributions respond to changes in climate using correlative and mechanistic modeling approaches. She received her PhD in Ecology from UC Davis and her BS in Biology from the University of Texas. Dr. Cameron has had a diverse suite of experiences, having conducted research on climate change modeling, conservation planning, use of novel approaches to prioritize selection of sites for conservation, broad-scale assessment of biodiversity, and other topics. Dr. Cameron is will also be offering a graduate and undergraduate course at UF.



McCleery (top) and
Cameron (below).



Coastal Wildlife Conservation Initiative

Submitted by Bill Giuliano

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is working to implement a new initiative for coastal wildlife conservation. The Coastal Wildlife Conservation Initiative is an FWC-led multi-agency strategy to address threats to native wildlife and their habitats in coastal ecosystems, while considering human interests. The goal is a statewide cooperative process to provide for greater consistency to: protect coastal wildlife populations, conserve and manage coastal ecosystems, and achieve a balance between conservation and opportunities for recreation and responsible commercial activities and development. With the numerous regulations and programs—at the federal, state, regional, and local level—that in some way address coastal conservation in Florida, establishment of a partnership network is an important component of this initiative. A series of outreach forums are being held around the state to introduce it and discuss strategies to address coastal issues of concern. The next forum planned is for December 1-2, 2010, at the Sirata Beach Resort in St. Petersburg Beach hosted by Florida Sea Grant. For more information contact: Laura DiGruttolo, at (386)758-0525 or e-mail Laura.DiGruttolo@MyFWC.com or visit website http://www.myfwc.com/CONSERVATION/CWCI_index.htm.



FLORIDA NEWS

Announcing NEWTFEST 2011!

Submitted by Carrie Sekerak

WHAT IT IS:

NEWTFEST 2011! is a biennial gathering of newtists and wannabees who wish to learn first-hand about seasonal and resident amphibians dwelling in prairie ponds of Ocala National Forest. Fame for those who find a new striped newt pond is guaranteed! The data are important for global-ranking of rare amphibians, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) tracking of species of concern, and are important for the Ocala National Forest to insure best management of newt ponds while meeting the needs of scrub species that require early seral conditions. This year, we also will seek to identify denizens of swamps, flatwoods, and ponds along the soon-to-be four-laned SR 40 corridor.



WHERE IT IS:

Doe Lake, Ocala National Forest, Marion County. Free camping is provided courtesy US Forest Service -- DO NOT REGISTER ON-LINE. Amenities include heated showers, a fire circle, grills, a large lodge for primitive food preparation (no stove, no oven) and to secure your food from ever-present black bears, and most importantly to hold herp lessons. Bring your own everything. Wading is mandatory. Heavy duty dip nets are in short supply, but a limited amount of extras will be available. Access will require 4WD or lots of hiking. Whiners will be sent home immediately. The rest of you will have a gloriously good time tromping and newting and seeing a piece of the world as you've never seen it before.

WHEN IT IS:

Sunday March 20th NEWTFEST 2011! commences with a training session and group excursion to a known newt site. March 21-23 will be spent newting at priority locations (the region between Farles Prairie and SR 40; the region around Church Lake and SR 40; and if there is time -- between Alexander Springs and Astor). Evening frog call excursions will be held to gain needed highway planning information in the buffer along SR 40 near Church Lake.

WHO DOES IT:

NEWTFEST 2011! is a partnership of sorts among the U.S. Forest Service, FWC, and University of Florida. Anyone not representing an agency or university in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service must register as a volunteer with FWC through Kevin Enge (Kevin.Enge@MyFWC.com).

For additional information contact, please contact Carrie Sekerak at (352) 669-3153 x5521 or by e-mail at csekerak@fs.fed.us.



The Wildlife Society Conference

The Wildlife Society Conference in Snowbird, Utah Hugh Boyter's Perspective

The weather was great, the aspens were turning to Fall color, and the subalpine fir lined the hillsides. The Wildlife Society (TWS) National Conference in Snowbird was a decided success this year, from several perspectives (almost as good as the one we hosted here). It gave Hugh Boyter an opportunity to attend a national TWS meeting in the West and to visit some old Florida friends in the bargain. Hugh saw a familiar face or two from the Florida Chapter, notably President-Elect Dale Gawlik. While he was there, Hugh stayed in Mountain Green, Utah with one of the Florida Chapter's former "brew guys," Rog Vanderhoof (oh for the good ole days!). Rog works for Pacific Power Company's Forestry Division, supervising right-of-way management crews in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. Rog volunteered at the five-day TWS conference, thus enabling Hugh and Rog to travel together each morning and evening to and from the meetings, catching up on changes in Florida for Rog, and learning about Utah for Hugh. Hugh also ran into former Chapter member Jimi Gragg, who now serves with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, working as the Wildlife Action Plan Project Leader (he was on the Action Plan Team at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission when he was in Florida).

Hugh reports that the Plenary theme for the Conference was "There's More to Diversity Than Just the Wildlife." It was very interesting, with a parade of Women, African American, Hispanic, and Native American biologists as speakers, wrapped up by our own Dr. Ron Labisky from the University of Florida. The banquet was well attended on Sunday night, with a majority of the 1,500 registrants on hand. Papers were presented at various locations in the resort complex on Monday through Wednesday. If there was anything to find disconcerting it was the sheer volume of presentations (nearly 700 during the three days), making it hard to decide where to be at a given time. Hugh made an effort to attend some "western paper sessions" in addition to those dealing with his own expertise (Human dimensions, conflict management, working with stakeholders, etc.).

Rog and Hugh played "hooky" from the paper sessions long enough to go over the top of the Wasatch Range, through Big Cottonwood Canyon to Park City, one of the locations of movie screenings for the Sundance Film Festival. That was a beautiful trip, up high through the firs and aspens. They also visited Antelope Island, a mountainous Utah State Park in the middle of Great Salt Lake. They were able to see the native bison herd on the island, plus pronghorn, chukkar partridges, and stalking coyotes, as well as many species of waterfowl on the Lake itself.

It was announced at Snowbird that next year's national meeting will be held on the "Big Island" in Hawaii. Hugh has decided he is going to try to attend that one too, assuming his work-in-retirement is adequate to support such a financial venture. Though the prospects look bleak for it right now, he and Dale hope travel budgets will support at least a few fellow Florida Chapter members for the trip to Hawaii. It will be interesting to see how that state deals with some of the same wildlife problems that are common to our state, such as exotic species invasion.



Few pictures taken from Hugh's trip to Snowbird, Utah.



MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

26th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference

January 6-9, 2011 in Weston, Florida

evergladescoalition.org

10th National Wild Turkey Symposium Shepherdstown, West Virginia

January 11-13, 2011

WildturkeySymposium.org

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Conference

February 9-11, 2011 in St. Petersburg, Florida

<http://www.oilspill.usf.edu/>

Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference

March 22-24, 2011 in Safety Harbor, Florida

Details will be posted to [our website](#) in the near future.

Florida Native Plant Society Conference

May 19-22, 2011 in Maitland, Florida Fnps.org

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

August 1-5, 2011 in Baltimore, MD

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NCER2011/>

9th International Global Summit on Coastal Seas

August 28-31, 2011 in Baltimore, Maryland

<http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/emecs9/>

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference

November 5-10, 2011 in Waikoloa, Hawaii

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/>

8th International William R. and Lenore Mote Symposium

November 8-10, 2011 in Sarasota, Florida

<http://www.marinelab.fsu.edu/mote/>

Venomous Spiders in Florida

In Florida, only two main types of venomous spiders occur: [widow spiders](#) and [recluse spiders](#).

Three species of widow spiders are native to Florida, and a fourth species has been introduced. No species of recluse spiders are native to Florida. Visit the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services website for additional information:

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/venomousspiders.html>.



Brown recluse
(*Loxosceles reclusa*)



The Southern black widow
(*Latrodectus mactans*)

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NEWS

FLORIDA CHAPTER TWS **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

WIN a **\$200** gift certificate for **TravelCountry.com!**

Get a **FREE** fltws t-shirt!

Get a **15% discount** card from **TravelCountry.com!**

HOW???

**It's EASY and FUN – just help us recruit new Chapter members
in our first MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.**

For more information, please visit our website at:

<http://www.fltws.org/MembershipDrive.php>

Support the Chapter – get your colleagues involved and we all win!



NEWS

Larry D. Harris

September 20, 1942—August 15, 2010

By Ken Dodd

Larry Harris was born and raised on the Missouri and Platte River bottoms where annual floods and bird migrations once dominated the landscape. Dr. Harris received his BS in Wildlife Biology at Iowa State University in 1964 and went on to become a natural historian and worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service on forest management issues, with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Agency focused on Gulf coastal ecology, and with the Tanzania Game Division implementing conservation reserves. In 1968, he enrolled in graduate studies at Michigan State University, where he completed his MS in 1968 and PhD in 1970, working on issues concerning the ecology of elephants and African ecosystems.



In 1972, Dr. Harris joined the faculty at the University of Florida and has helped guide departmental programs in the following decades with his vision of UF as an international leader in biodiversity science and management. At a national level, in 1984, Dr. Harris stimulated new conservation thinking and practice with pioneering application of island biogeographic theory in his book, "The Fragmented Forest." He presented an alternative to timber harvesting practices that often isolated forest stands and was awarded The Wildlife Society's 1986 Publications Award. Dr. Harris has published hundreds of articles for both scientific and lay audiences on many issues including habitat fragmentation, wildlife corridors, landscape ecology, biodiversity, and global climate change.

Dr. Harris was well known for his entertaining public speaking skills and creative teaching skills. On campus, he taught literally thousands of UF students about "Wildlife Issues in a Changing World." Despite the large class sizes due to his popularity, Dr. Harris managed to engage hundreds of non-majors every semester in thinking more deeply about the environment. As one business major remarked: "Dr. Harris changed my life."

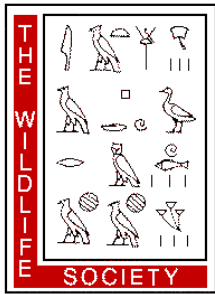
Dr. Harris mentored many graduate students who have gone on to make valuable contributions in the field of wildlife and conservation biology. He was an active advisor and always happy to argue about theory, volunteer his front yard for an experimental prescribed burn, or critique a manuscript. Among colleagues, his thought-provoking questions, broad expertise, and colorful sense of humor made him a valued collaborator.

Dr. Harris was an internationally respected scientist in the field of biodiversity. He served in an advisory capacity to governments in Botswana, Costa Rica, Sweden, and the United States. He served on numerous advisory councils on behalf of The Wildlife Society, the National Academy of Sciences, Defenders of Wildlife, the Society for Conservation Biology, and the U.S. National Park Service. He has been recognized and honored by the Society for Conservation Biology, the University of Florida, The Nature Conservancy, and The Wildlife Society.

In Florida, Dr. Harris applied his research findings on the impacts of forest and landscape fragmentation as a basis for his advocacy of wildlife corridors while working with programs for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Pinhook Swamp management, and Florida Greenways. He served on the Governor's Council on Florida Greenways, the UF President's Council, the Florida Audubon Society's board of directors, the Florida Wildlife Federation's board of directors, and the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Dr. Harris always strived to understand "the big picture" and relate his understanding, his ideas, and his hopes to fellow professionals, citizens, and our global community. Dr. Harris serves as an example of the role that wildlife scientists can play in taking their knowledge to action. His efforts to promote natural resource conservation have consistently been based on, and strengthened by, a foundation of sound scientific principles. Through his professionalism, integrity, and commitment to natural resource conservation, Dr. Harris will continue to inspire the many people whose lives he has touched both directly and indirectly. As we mourn his passing, remembrance of his achievements stirs us all to greater dedication to the science, practice, and enjoyment of biodiversity conservation.





**Florida Chapter of The
Wildlife Society**

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