

# FWC VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Annual Report 2013-2014





*On the cover: Volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 111 plant a bald cypress tree on Pleasure Island, one of the FWC's created wildlife islands in Lake Okeechobee.*



**Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission**

**MyFWC.com**

**FWC Volunteer Program**

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“Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr., an American pastor, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King strove to ensure environmental and social justice for all people.

**Top:** Volunteers removed debris from shallow areas of Lake Munson during the FYCCN's Paddling Pickup. This event is designed to demonstrate how paddling enthusiasts of all ages can facilitate restoration of Florida's scenic waterways.

**Middle:** Volunteers perform maintenance on historical arthropods that are housed in the FWRI's Invertebrate Collection.

**Bottom:** Volunteers from the Full Track Conservation Club of Dade County remove invasive Brazilian Pepper from a tree island within the Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMA.



# Value in Volunteers



*Photos left to right: Volunteer Jovan McNeil assists staff with electrofishing and taking stream flow data on Cypress Creek in Pasco and Hillsborough counties. Volunteers assist FWC biologist Mary Dowdell (center) with Red-cockaded Woodpecker surveys, banding, translocation, removing oaks from cluster areas and preparing these areas for prescribed fire at the Citrus WMA. Volunteer Jim Willing assists FWC staff with checking the survival status of invasive vegetation chemically treated by contractors at the Everglades WMA.*

FWC volunteers continue to make a positive impact, by increasing project capacity, as well as expanding public knowledge and awareness of the **FWC mission: Manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.**

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) believes volunteers are essential partners to meet the conservation challenges we face in Florida. This annual report highlights many accomplishments volunteers have helped us achieve. Volunteers work throughout the agency in many functional areas bringing additional effort, experience, skills, diverse ideas and perspectives to the FWC team. They also help us enlist broad community support for the agency's mission. I want each volunteer to know how much we appreciate their efforts. To those who might want to join us as a volunteer, please see our contact page in this annual report or visit our volunteer webpage for more information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Wiley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

*Director Nick Wiley releases one of 19 gopher tortoises on Ted Turner's Avalon property in Jefferson County. This is an inspiring effort led by the Turner Endangered Species Fund and the FWC to help restore and protect threatened gopher tortoise populations in Florida.*

Since 2007, **more than 27,000 volunteers** of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities and skills **have donated their time to FWC volunteer projects.**

# EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT

“John Starkey helped monitor 135 Southeastern American Kestrel nest boxes from April through July in rural Levy and Marion counties. These are long-term study sites that would not have been monitored this year without his help. John’s enthusiasm and excitement were contagious, and I was often reminded of the value of why I do the work I do!”

“Gerri Conn completed her third season of assisting our Florida Scrub-Jay research project on the Ocala National Forest. Gerri has helped my seasonal staff monitor jay family groups during the breeding season. One or two days per week she drives almost an hour to help us. Her cumulative memory about scrub-jays at certain forest stands is now benefitting our program beyond my expectations.”

– Karl Miller, Upland Nongame Bird Lead for the FWC’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI).



*Left: Volunteer John Starkey holds a kestrel nestling in Marion County.*

*Right: Volunteer Geri Conn assists with Florida Scrub-Jay research on the Ocala National Forest.*

# EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT



“Each bass tournament team has the training and experience to independently attend a tournament weigh-in, interact with the tournament directors, take length measurements of the fish during weigh-ins, help with TrophyCatch documentation and monitor the overall conduct of the tournament. This has been particularly helpful in keeping tournament directors informed on the correct release methods for lakes in Highlands County. These tournament teams have their own assigned equipment and can operate without the presence of FWC staff.”

– James Reed, Volunteer Coordinator for the FWC’s Highlands Lakes Volunteers.

The North Bass Tournament Team (Mike Elter, Joe Fairfield, Joe Webb, Virginia Greene, Jennifer Swain and Ed Hardy (not pictured) display their Volunteers of the Year plaque awarded by the FWC’s Division of Habitat and Species Conservation. This plaque was awarded to the Highlands Lakes Volunteers; and the North Bass Tournament Team is part of this volunteer group.

# HOW IT ALL ADDED UP

<b>Fiscal Year 2013-2014</b>	<b>Agency Totals</b>
Volunteer Hours	104,433
Volunteer Count	5,267 <sup>1</sup>
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$2,354,963 <sup>2</sup>
Full-time Equivalent (FTE)	~ 50 Positions

<b>Division/Office/Institute</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours</b>
Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management	3,204
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation	19,903
Division of Hunting and Game Management	31,471
Division of Law Enforcement	12,741
Division of Marine Fisheries Management	2,477
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute	20,253
Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network	7,088
Office of Public Access and Wildlife Viewing Services	7,296

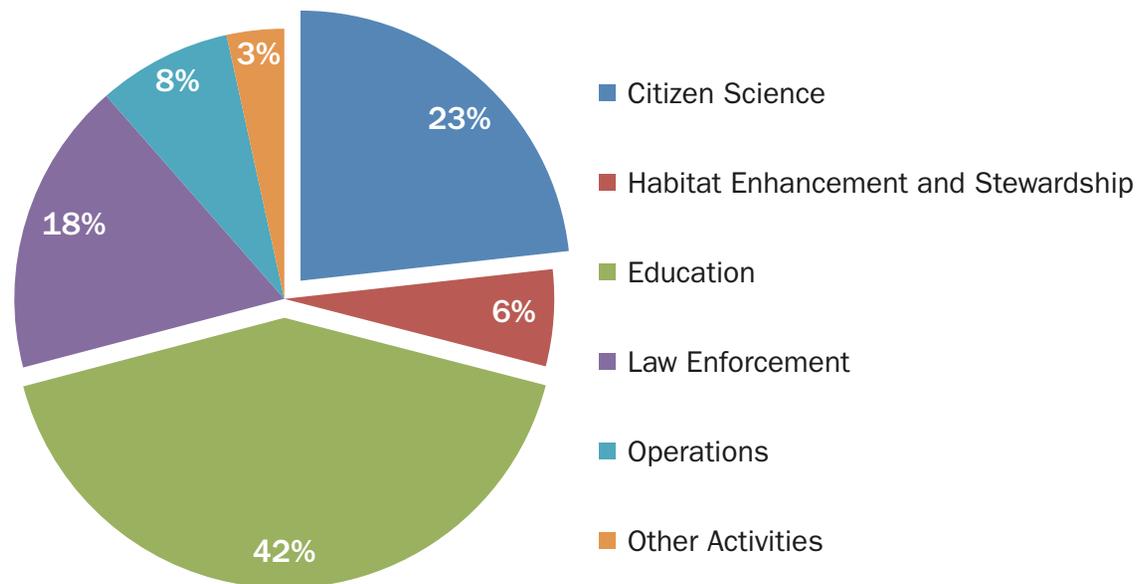
Fiscal Year 2013-2014 was another active, productive and successful year for the FWC Volunteer Program (Figure 1). More than 100,000 hours were donated to agency efforts, equivalent to approximately 50 full-time staff.

Figure 1

<sup>1</sup> Volunteer Count includes both active Regular Service Volunteers and Occasional Service Volunteers during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

<sup>2</sup> Value calculated using Independent Sector 2013 national estimate on value of a volunteer hour: \$22.55 ([http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)).

# HOW IT ALL ADDED UP



Since 2007, volunteers have donated effort to 171 projects, with most of their effort centering on education and citizen science activities (Figure 2). Total volunteer retention has also increased from 56% to 60%<sup>2</sup> over that same period. Volunteer retention is an important indicator of satisfaction with the volunteer experience. The FWC retains volunteers on average for two years. The average age of a volunteer is 45 years.

Figure 2<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Figure 2 displays the percentage of volunteer effort (based on volunteer hours) from fiscal years 2007-2008 to 2013-2014: Citizen Science activities include scientific research, data collection and analysis; Habitat Enhancement and Stewardship activities include habitat enhancement and management as well as rescue and recovery; Educational activities include public outreach; Law Enforcement includes law enforcement activities; Operational activities include facility and ground maintenance, friends group activities, office management and volunteer training; Other Activities include volunteer effort that does not fit within the categories identified above.

<sup>2</sup> In past volunteer annual reports, total retention did not include hunter safety and reserve officer volunteers, because these volunteers are not individually tracked within the agency database. Data for individual hunter safety and reserve officer volunteers was incorporated into the total retention analysis for the 13-14 fiscal year. This resulted in an increase in the retention range compared to retention ranges from past volunteer annual reports.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Citizen Science and Research

The FWC provides many levels of public participation in scientific research from recording sightings and information about a particular species to participation in hands-on field or laboratory activities.

- Alligator gar research on rivers in the Panhandle of Florida determines abundance and the level of protection needed for this species. Volunteers assisted FWC biologists with an intensive, two-month long sampling event in the Escambia River. Gill nets were set in the river each day and captured fish were measured, weighed, tagged and released. Recaptured fish gave biologists information about the percent of the population sampled. For many volunteers, this was a rare opportunity to work with a prehistoric freshwater fish species.
- Volunteer interns assisted the Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program with a variety of projects, including field sampling to collect, identify, measure and count fish and invertebrate species; life-history work-ups of Florida fishes; processing data; dietary studies; and new technology to map reef fish habitat along the West Florida shelf.



*Volunteer Anthony Crowe and FWC biologist Kathleen Mahoney hold an alligator gar.*

“Each day that I volunteer is a learning experience. The opportunity to be hands on with FIM allows me to see the importance of fisheries resource management. I couldn’t be more thankful and appreciative of the staff that continues to educate me along the way.”

*– Jessica Tromer, FWC volunteer with FIM. Jessica graduated with a B.S. in Biology from the University of South Florida in 2012.*

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Volunteers Don Corbin and Tim O'Neill, of the FWC's Tegu Task Force, train to trap tegus in Hillsborough County.

## Citizen Science and Research

- Volunteers on the Tegu Task Force participated in a range of field activities to help monitor and remove the nonnative invasive Argentine black and white tegu.
  - The Tegu Task Force monitored and maintained tegu traps, identified suitable location sites, maintained cameras, analyzed gut contents, assisted with tegu euthanasia and necropsies, conducted surveys, burrow scoping and provided assistance to homeowners.
  - Volunteers have allowed the tegu biologist to increase the number, frequency and speed of deploying traps and other equipment in the field as well as the number and type of field surveys completed.
- Volunteers assisted FWC biologists with estimating Florida black bear numbers, beginning with the Ocala-St Johns and Osceola bear subpopulations. Volunteer crews helped place 273 hair snares installed in an 11-county area stretching from the Wekiva River basin to the Georgia border. The FWC staff completed hair snare installations a week earlier than planned with the help of volunteers.

“Volunteers will help shape the future for some of the toughest wildlife issues we face today. Together we have been able to overcome formidable challenges that alone would have been daunting.”

– Tessie Offner, FWC biologist for the Nonnative Program.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Citizen Science and Research

- Volunteers also assisted FWC staff with...
  - Marine mammal research;
  - Data collection of harvested deer, hogs and turkeys;
  - White-tailed deer distance sampling;
  - Monitoring, trap-training and banding Florida Scrub-Jays;
  - Monitoring Southeastern American Kestrels;
  - Monitoring Red-cockaded Woodpeckers;
  - Painted Bunting surveys;
  - Gopher tortoise surveys;
  - Herpetological surveys;
  - Wading and beach-nesting bird surveys;
  - Tarpon genetic recapture studies;
  - Propagating and rearing red drum, common snook, spotted seatrout, zooplankton and phytoplankton as well as moving and harvesting fish from ponds for the Stock Enhancement Research Facility;
  - Inspecting, oversight and mapping of Florida's artificial reef deployments; and
  - Specimen collection, preservation and inventory for the Specimens Information Services at the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.



*Volunteer Jenell Larsen assists with a humpback whale necropsy in Ponte Vedra Beach.*

“I think in many ways your support and encouragement has changed their lives. I am not exaggerating. They have to make some firm choices in the next two years about their careers and they are so elated right now...you have hooked two giant advocates! I send you so many thanks, as a parent, as a parent rep for Maret, and as an environmentalist. What you do, your willingness, your enthusiasm, it counts and changes the future.”

*– Amy Stephan, parent of Danny Rodríguez. Danny Rodríguez is one of two high school student volunteers from the Maret School in Washington, D.C., that participated in the FWC's Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study.*

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Volunteer Marilyn Blair, as part of an FWC Ridge Rangers project, prepares to cut down a sand pine within the Lake Placid Scrub Tract of the Lake Wales Ridge WEA.

## Management, Restoration and Public Access

Volunteers help the FWC restore and manage the land for habitat.

- Scrub and Sandhill are two priority habitats that provide breeding and foraging habitat for many endemic wildlife species.
  - Volunteers planted 2,400 containerized long leaf pine seedlings on restoration plots at the Triple N Ranch and Three Lakes WMAs.
  - In September 2013, the FWC's Ridge Rangers began a 10-month effort to gather scrub oak acorns and then engage community festival attendees to pot the acorns in trays. Volunteers maintained sprouts from the potted acorns in a native plant nursery over the winter and spring, resulting in 2,400 scrub oaks ready for planting. A goal of Project Acorn is to restore scrub habitat within the Lake Wales Ridge WEA.
  - Volunteers, trained to safely use chain saws, eliminated thousands of unwanted sand pines from 114 acres of scrub oak habitat on FWC and partner conservation lands to increase habitat for the Florida Scrub-Jay, as part of an FWC Ridge Rangers project.

“Volunteers help the FWC reach goals for habitat management, acres burned and fire return intervals. Due to the nature of prescribed fire, a set schedule is hard to develop. With 12 hours notice, volunteer Wayne Mihlebach has almost never turned me down. He has been a volunteer with us since 2010, and his skill and experience really make him a top notch volunteer.”

– Justin Ellenberger, FWC biologist at the Guana River WMA.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Management, Restoration and Public Access

- Many animal and plant communities in Florida depend on the regular occurrence of fire to restore and maintain wildlife habitat, especially scrub and sandhill communities.
  - Volunteers provided prescribed burn assistance on more than 5,600 acres on the Everglades, Rotenberger, J.W. Corbett, and Guana River WMAs.
  - Volunteers assisted with scouting to assess and review areas that may need a fire treatment.
  - Volunteers restored 500 feet of wildfire plow line in the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest.
  - Volunteers prepared habitat for prescribed fire around 75 active Red-cockaded Woodpecker clusters at the Citrus WMA within the Citrus Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest.
- Invasive plants disrupt Florida's natural environment by altering ecological processes that permit native plants and animals to survive.
  - Volunteers hand-pulled and conducted chemical treatment of invasive plants over numerous invasive plant removal workdays on FWC and partner conservation lands throughout central and south Florida, including a series of workdays on National Public lands Day.
  - Volunteers used GPS and plant identification skills to check the survival status of invasive vegetation chemically treated by contractors, making contracted spraying projects more cost effective.
  - Volunteers, trained to use chainsaws and other large equipment, removed invasive trees such as Chinese Tallow, Melaleuca and Brazilian Pepper on FWC and partner conservation lands throughout central and south Florida.



Volunteer Nico Bakomilhalis prepares a Red-cockaded Woodpecker cluster for prescribed fire at the Citrus WMA.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*Volunteer Mike Kelley helps restore a native plant garden at the Chinsegut Conservation Center.*

**“The forest is a quiet place if only the best birds sing.”**

*– Kay Johnson, film and stage actress during the 1930s and early 1940s.*

## Management, Restoration and Public Access

- Habitat enhancements like native tree plantings, fish attractors and wildlife food plots provide a boost for many species.
  - Volunteers planted trees on tree islands and surveyed tree survival at the Rotenberger and Everglades WMAs.
  - Volunteers spread lime prior to tree planting on Tin House Island in Lake Okeechobee.
  - Volunteers built 100 fish attractor units in a record time of four hours for the fish attractor project on Lake Griffin in Lake County.
  - Volunteers established over 150 acres of wildlife food plots at the J.W. Corbett WMA.
  - Volunteers removed barb wire fence and debris on FWC and partner conservation lands.
- Visitors to our wildlife management areas benefit from a variety of projects completed with the assistance of volunteers.
  - Built a 120 foot bridge for hikers within the Lake Placid Scrub Tract of the Lake Wales Ridge WEA.
  - Restored a native plant garden at the Chinsegut Conservation Center.
  - Maintained over 10 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails at the Tenoroc FMA.
  - Mowed wildlife openings at J.W. Corbett WMA.
  - Built a wildlife viewing blind for the general public to observe birds at Jennings State Forest.
  - Built a bird perch, often used by ospreys, hawks and bald eagles, on Pleasure Island, one of the FWC-created wildlife islands in Lake Okeechobee.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Education and Outreach

Youth, adults, families and educators experience and learn about Florida's fish and wildlife resources through a variety of FWC's educational and outreach programs, such as fishing derbies and nature festivals. Volunteers assist staff with many aspects of these programs from preparation to instruction.

- Volunteers assisted the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network with public outreach events and educated youth about traditional outdoor recreation, wildlife discovery, paddlesports, fishing and archery.
- Volunteers assisted the Stock Enhancement Research Facility with summer fish camps at the FWC's marine hatchery, FWRI's Marine Quest, the Florida State Fair, Florida Sportsman Fishing Expos and the Tampa Tribune Outdoor Expo.
- Volunteers assisted with Women's and Youth Saltwater Fishing Clinics, teaching fundamental saltwater fishing skills and the vulnerability of Florida's marine ecosystems.
- Volunteer instructors hosted 582 Hunter Safety classes resulting in 13,612 graduates as well as 38 hunts for 321 youth and parents for the Youth Hunting Program of Florida. These volunteer instructors also hosted Bowhunter Education, Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) and many Beyond BOW events that included hog hunts, trapping, first steps-firearms and backpacking.



*Volunteer Chuck Weir helps a camper catch a black drum during a fish camp at the FWC's Stock Enhancement Research Facility. Chuck Weir has been volunteering with the FWC's marine hatchery for more than 11 years.*

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Volunteers helped organize a boating and fishing safety program with the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and the Division of Law Enforcement at the Chinsegut Conservation Center.

“Betsy Sullivan, Florida’s Facilitator of the Year, embraced Project WILD from the beginning and began implementing it in her classroom. She has been a facilitator for 27 years, facilitating Project WILD Outdoor Adventure weekend workshops, facilitator trainings and one-day workshops.”

– Lori Haynes, former Project WILD Coordinator.

## Education and Outreach

- Volunteers presented 39 educational programs for the Chinsegut Conservation Center, including Children in the Wild, Archery, Geocaching, Wild Wednesday Cast Iron Cooking, Camping, Ancient Rocks, Wildflower Hikes at the Big Pine Tract, the Hernando County 4-H Bug Camp and the Conservation Adventure Day Camps. Volunteers also represented Chinsegut at special events, including Earth Day at Crystal River, Chinsegut Hill, USDA Earth Day, Mystery of the Sandhill and the Nature Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival.
- Fifty-five volunteer facilitators maintained a large network of educators around the state. These facilitators offered eight Project Wild, six Aquatic Wild, 23 Project/Aquatic Wild, 26 Growing Up Wild, six Flying Wild, three Science and Civics, eight Schoolyard Wildlife, four Florida Black Bear and one Conservation Education workshop for 1,657 participants.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Education and Outreach

- Volunteer interns participated in a variety of education and outreach projects for the Bear Management Program, including speaking with approximately 9,000 people at more than 200 events. Their projects also included conducting surveys of Floridians, developing an online document to aid residents on how to create a bear-resistant trash can caddy; launching and oversight of a contest to ‘bear-proof’ wildlife feeders; and creating a cub rehabilitation protocol.
- Volunteers also participated in Florida black bear and Argentine black and white tegu canvassing events for the Bear Management and the Nonnative Programs in the FWC’s Northeast and Southwest Regions, respectively. Volunteers dropped off information or directly communicated with residents, educating them on ways to reduce human-bear conflicts as well as ways to reduce the spread of the nonnative invasive tegu.



*Black bear Management Technician Cathy Connolly educates volunteers about the Florida black bear at a bear canvassing training in Seminole County.*

“As an FWC volunteer, I am able to combine my love for the outdoors with healthy physical work, sharing my interests with likeminded people and, most of all helping preserve the flora and fauna. I am privileged to go to areas not typically open to the general public and I work with many wonderfully dedicated staff and volunteers. FWC volunteering is an incredible program and the dedicated staff that supports it is amazing!”

– Connie Sweet, FWC volunteer and a retired zoologist.



## Operations

Volunteers donate their time and skills to a variety of administrative and operational projects. Volunteers are a valuable, cost-saving resource.

- Volunteers repair buildings, check stations, fences and gates as well as operate hunter check stations on many of the FWC's Wildlife Management Areas.
- Volunteers provide administrative assistance as well as help to maintain fishing equipment, heavy equipment, vehicles and boats.

“Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”

– Louis Leo “Lou” Holtz, current college football analyst for ESPN, author and former college football coach.

*Volunteer Bruce Seguin repairs old reels for youth fishing camps at the Stock Enhancement Research Facility.*

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Protection

Reserve Officers volunteer their time as sworn Law Enforcement Officers, purchase all associated equipment, and work under the direct supervision of the FWC Law Enforcement personnel. Throughout the course of the year, Reserve Officers are required to attend the same training and recertification courses as full-time officers. They are instrumental in filling in when needed, from community outreach to search and rescue operations.

- During 2013-2014, seventy-seven Reserve Officers throughout the state assisted the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement with its core missions: natural resource and environmental protection, boating and waterways and public safety. They are excellent force multipliers, patrolling day or night, on land, on the water or in the air.

Volunteer interns gain valuable hands-on experience working with administrative staff and with officers in the field. They can participate in law enforcement details as well as provide needed assistance during criminal investigations.

- During 2013-2014, students from the University of North Florida (UNF) completed internships with the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement as part of the UNF Criminal Justice Internship Placement Program. A student from the University of South Florida also completed an internship with the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement in Collier County.



*Volunteer reservists train to work as field officers for the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement.*

**“Protecting Florida’s natural resources and people through proactive and responsive law enforcement services.”**

*– Mission Statement for the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement.*

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Partnerships

The FWC partners with more than 50 conservation agencies and organizations on citizen science and stewardship efforts. Partner highlights this year include a wide range of programmatic and financial support for species and habitat projects.

- Florida Trail Association volunteers donated 1,429 hours to maintain 175.98 miles of the Florida National Scenic Trail on the FWC's lead WMAs.
- The FWC partnered with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, a Corporation for National and Community Service organization, to maintain trails on the Chinsegut WEA.
- The Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) are an alliance of stakeholders addressing invasive species management in geographical regions within Florida. In partnership with local CISMAs, FWC volunteers continue to fight the ongoing battle to control invasive plants on conservation areas in the central and south regions of Florida.
- The FWC partnered with the United States Forest Service to coordinate volunteer projects for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and invasive plant surveys in the Ocala National Forest.
- FWC volunteers monitor the Florida Scrub-Jay for Jay Watch, a statewide project coordinated by Audubon, that uses citizen science to better manage habitat for this species.

*Top: The Central Florida Chapter of the Florida Trail Association maintains the Florida National Scenic Trail at the Seminole Ranch WMA, managed in cooperation with the St. Johns River Water Management District.*

*Bottom: The FWC's Northeast Volunteer Coordinator, Jess Rodriguez along with partner staff, train volunteers to conduct Florida Scrub-Jay surveys for the Jay Watch Program.*

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Partnerships

- The Florida Shorebird Alliance (FSA) is a statewide partnership of government and nongovernment organizations committed to advancing shorebird and seabird conservation in Florida. The FSA partners collect data in accordance with the FWC's monitoring protocols and input data into the Florida Shorebird Database.
- A Disney VolunTEars grant to purchase field equipment for projects on the Lake Wales Ridge was awarded to the FWC's Ridge Rangers.
- The Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund donated \$25,000 to the FWC's Habitat & Species Conservation (HSC) Division to start Project Acorn. The HSC enlisted the Ridge Rangers to engage the community to gather, pot and plant scrub oak acorns to enhance gopher tortoise habitat.

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.”

—Steve Jobs was co-founder, chairman and CEO of Apple Inc.

**Top:** Disney's Mickey Mouse joins volunteers from the Lake Placid High School JROTC on National Public Lands Day to gather acorns at the FWC's Royce Unit within the Lake Wales Ridge WEA. On September 28, 2013, 130 volunteers participated in this event, held at nine sites throughout the Lake Wales Ridge.

**Bottom:** Volunteers help festival attendees pot acorns for the FWC's Project Acorn at the Civilian Conservation Corps Days in Highlands Hammock State Park.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*Left: Volunteer Ashlynn Skeen pulls an air potato for an invasive workday at the Osprey Unit within the Hilochee WMA.*

*Right: Volunteer Jessica Tromer assists FWC staff with a rare deepwater shark species that will be catalogued, preserved and added to the vast collection of scientific reference specimens at FWRI.*

## Get Involved

Are you interested in:

- Becoming a conservation volunteer?
- Obtaining volunteers to help with your FWC program?

We welcome your help:

- Donate money or equipment to support FWC volunteer programs.
- Partner with FWC on current or new volunteer programs.

Contact:

Sharon Tatem  
FWC Volunteer Program Manager  
Public Access and Wildlife Viewing Services  
(850) 921-1047  
Sharon.Tatem@MyFWC.com

The Office of Public Access and Wildlife Viewing Services (PAWV) facilitates volunteer efforts throughout the agency by providing volunteer coordination, placement and management. The PAWV staff also develop external partnerships and support for FWC volunteer programs.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Photos left to right:** Volunteer instructor Roz Kilcollins teaches outdoor skills to women, as part of the FWC's *Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program*. Volunteer Dennis Winterringer releases catch from marine fisheries research for the FWRI's *Appalachicola Field Lab*. The North Bass Tournament Team, as part of the FWC's *Highlands Lakes Volunteers*, measures eligible bass for the *TrophyCatch Angler Recognition Program* at a tournament coordinated by the *Po' Boys Bass Club* from Lake Wales.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 111 plant 215 native trees on Pleasure Island, one of the FWC's created wildlife islands in Lake Okeechobee.



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