



Mission of the Northeast Florida Office:

- 1) Protecting the rural areas of Northeast Florida from sprawling growth
- 2) Protecting the habitats of native wildlife with the Florida black bear as the guiding species
- 3) Promoting sound coastal policy reform
- 4) Promoting land conservation through acquisition and landowner incentives

What We Do

The Federation recognizes that in the coming decades Northeast Florida's wildlife will be seriously threatened by urban sprawl. To replicate the Federation's success in Southwest Florida, the regional office opened in 2004 and supports state and local growth management laws. These provisions offer multiple opportunities for public input; protect both wetland and upland habitats; are comprehensive in application; and establish land use patterns on the macro-scale.

The office is also engaged in a plan to develop coastal policies which will increase protection and restoration of coastal habitats.



Florida Wildlife Federation

Affiliated With National Wildlife Federation

Northeast Florida Office Summer 2013 Update

Sarah Owen Gledhill, AICP
Northeast Florida Planning Advocate
 201 Owens Ave.
 St. Augustine, FL 32080
 Office: (904) 461-1160 Cell: (904) 347-6490



Protecting our Public Conservation Lands

In 2012 the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board directed staff to analyze the District's conservation lands to measure their conservation and recreational values as well as management plans. Public workshops were held to assess both the public's sentiment regarding possible surplus of land and to identify parcels that were subject to an Implementation Plan (2013). In sum, the process resulted in:

- Retaining 569,779 acres, which represents 92 percent of District-owned lands.
- Donating 25,091 acres to local governments and retaining conservation easements on those lands.
- Selling 6,574 acres and retaining easements to protect the lands' conservation values.
- Surplus via sale/exchange 3,591 acres of land that have lower conservation value, have land management issues, or are no longer needed for the original purpose of the acquisition.
- Converting 13,388 acres to alternative uses, such as leases allowing for forestry activities or peat removal.

The Federation along with its conservation partners and the community spoke at these public meetings and worked with District staff. We all did a great job mo-

bilizing to make sure the District heard us. Although the Federation generally does not support the surplus of our public lands, the outcome here was positive. Future plans for some of those identified parcels include strategies that will promote ecotourism and getting more people into the outdoors to enjoy natural Florida: truly a win-win situation for all of Northeast Florida.

The Federation is engaged with other water management districts as they undergo similar processes. We continue to use the lessons learned from previous surplus exercises to ensure protection of our existing public lands.



Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area © St. Johns River Water Management District

If you would like to make a donation to support Florida Wildlife Federation's Northeast Florida Office, please use the form on the reverse side.

Northeast Florida Successes

Partnering with Author, Illustrator and Educator Peter Stone

We continue to build upon the success we had in 2012 with our partnership with author, illustrator and educator Peter Stone. We are bringing Mr. Stone back to Northeast Florida to help kick-off the 2013 North Atlantic Right Whale season. This continuing partnership is two-fold, to educate the public and incorporate the conservation message into our schools' curriculum. We continue to raise funds to donate copies of Mr. Stone's book, *Waltzes with Giants*, for teachers to incorporate the art, science and journalism behind the right whales journey to our waters. Stay tuned as we nail down a November date so you can meet Mr. Stone at the University of Florida's Whitney Laboratory.

Coastal Preservation Package is Law

The Federation spent significant time during the 2013 Legislative session supporting our Coastal Preservation Package (CCP). In an effort to harmonize state and federal policy and prevent future development of our coastal habitats at taxpayers' expense, CCP was created to prevent state subsidies, through Citizens Insurance, from incentivizing development seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line and within the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS).



The bill we supported was passed and signed into law by the Governor on May 29, 2013. This is a significant coastal development victory. This law will help us preserve coastal areas, including wetlands, barrier islands and other low-lying coastal areas which serve as natural buffers against storms and sea level rise.

The CBRS, created under federal law, protected approximately 700,000 acres of coastal habitat in Florida and has saved the American taxpayer over a billion dollars since 1982 by prohibiting federal flood insurance. The CCP aligned Florida's state-run Citizens Insurance with CBRS by prohibiting future insurance coverage in these high hazard and sensitive conservation areas.

Save the Date

North Atlantic Right Whale Festival November 23rd at the Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach. Peter Stone will be signing copies of his beautiful work *Waltzes With Giants* at our table. Come out for family fun. If you would like to volunteer for the Federation and join in on the excitement, please let me know.



Every Dollar Matters

The Northeast Florida Office continues to achieve significant successes for Florida black bears and other native wildlife. The total budget for the local office is under \$100,000. No funds are accepted from developers or government agencies.

To achieve the optimum value from every dollar donated, staff and operational expenses have been refined to the bare essentials. Every dollar earmarked for the Northeast Florida Office is dedicated to protecting native wildlife living in our beautiful part of the state.

The Federation is recognized across Northeast Florida as an effective advocate of conservation. **Please help the Northeast Florida Office to continue moving conservation forward by sending a generous donation today.**

Sincerely,

Monkey Fuller

President

Sarah Owen Gledhill

Planning Advocate

Please Support the Northeast Florida Office

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Federation's Northeast Florida Office, please use the form below and envelope provided.

For more information about local campaigns and goals, please contact

Sarah Owen Gledhill at (904) 461-1160 and (904) 347-6490; or northeastfwf@fwfonline.org

All monies raised through this appeal will be used exclusively to protect Northeast Florida's wildlife and wild places.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR THE DIVISION IS 1-800-HELPFLA (435-7352)(FLORIDA ONLY). THE REGISTRATION NUMBER ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION IS CH499.

A Big Green YES, I will! Here is my donation to help Florida Wildlife Federation protect and conserve Northeast Florida's wildlife and wildplaces.

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$1000 \$5000 Other \$ _____

Check enclosed VISA MasterCard Amex Discover

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Signature: _____

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