

FSCA Newsletter

September 2023



From the Board

FSCA Congratulates our annual award winners

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Horizon Award – Pet Lumb
Male Conservationist – Tommy McGouldrick
Woman Conservationist – Kim Stanley
Youth Award – Austin Burnsed
Non-Member Award – Newton Cook
Tree for Marjory – Murry Powell
Ethical Sportsman – Louis Harveck
Board Member – Mary Tobiassen
Agency – James Harbaugh SFWMD
President's Award – James Urskin

MISSION STATEMENT

FSCA started in 1994 by a small group of like-minded individuals with one goal:
Work to Increase Public Recreation in Florida.
From that simple goal we have branched into many areas, but our focus has never changed.

We are Florida Sportsmen

UPCOMING EVENTS

FSCA/Turkey Banquet
8/19/23

Gladesmen Reunion
8/20/23

YOUTH HUNTS
Grassy Island
10/27/23-10/29/23

Arthur Marshal
12/1/23-12/3/23

STA 2
3/1/24-3/3/24

Dupris
3/1/24-3/3/24

STA 5
3/15/24-3/17/24

STA 1
3/22/24-3/24/24



This article is from Mike Elfenbein

The conservation conversation is often riddled with meetings in buildings. Meetings where we discuss previous meetings, future meetings, and schedule more meetings in more buildings. So, when our new FWC Executive Director Roger Young approached me at one of those meeting and asked if he could meet the Everglades and her people, I jumped at the opportunity.

This week Director Young brought his team with him and joined a few added guests on an educational airboat trip through the River of Grass. Joining Roger was FWC Commissioner Preston Farrior, South Region Director Tom Reinert, Everglades Coordinator James Erskine, Director of Hunting and Game Management George Warthen and his Law Enforcement team including Lt Col Alfredo Escanio and Major Albert Maza. We were joined by a menagerie of people, including Senators Erin Grall and Jonathan Martin, Representatives Lindsay Cross and Thad Altman. Representatives from Congressman Byron Donalds office, Congresswoman Maria Salazars office, and Senator Rick Scotts office. SFWMD Executive Director Drew Bartlett, DOI - Everglades Restoration Director Adam Gelber, Big Cypress Superintendent Tom Forsyth and so many others. In addition to representation from dozens of NGO's, stakeholders, elected officials and the sportsmen community.



We visited a tree island in the Everglades, used for multiple generations by Houston Cypress and his family. We listened to Betty Osceola share her Miccosukee heritage with everyone, while discussing some of the trials and tribulations of Everglades restoration.

We visited the "swimming hole" where many generations have brought their children to learn about and connect with the Everglades. Fostering the relationship one must have with the landscape in order to love it and fight for it. Ending our day with a visit to G's General for some Pub Subs with our host Ron Selvia, at a traditional Gladesmen camp.



We didn't solve the worlds problems in one day, but we're definitely one step closer to making the Everglades a better place for the critters that call it home.
A GIANT THANK YOU to everyone that made this trip so successful. Could not have done this without you! Teamwork makes the dream work!

2023 Gladesmen Reunion



The 2023 Gladesmen Reunion was a wonderful event that brought together individuals who share a deep appreciation for the Gladesmen culture and the outdoor lifestyle that is integral to Florida's heritage. It's heartening to hear that despite light participation, the event was a success in terms of fostering camaraderie, storytelling, and celebrating the unique history and natural heritage of the region.

The fact that the event was hosted by the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA) and the Lake Okeechobee Airboat Association (LOAA) highlights the importance of these organizations in preserving and promoting the outdoor traditions and lifestyles that are part of the Florida experience.

The focus on sharing memories, stories, and recollections of the Gladesmen culture is a fantastic way to keep the spirit of this heritage alive. Allowing attendees to bring along photos and mementos from the past helps to create a sense of connection and nostalgia.

The "Paraphernalia Display" aspect of the event is also a great way to engage attendees. This provides an opportunity for individuals to showcase their collections of gear, tools, and memorabilia related to the Gladesmen lifestyle. It's a visual representation of the history and evolution of this way of life, allowing participants to learn from each other's collections.





Overall, the 2023 Gladesmen Reunion seems to have successfully achieved its goal of bringing together individuals who share a passion for Florida's rich history, natural heritage, and outdoor traditions. Such events play a crucial role in preserving and passing down these cultural elements to future generations.

Please gather up your old photos for this upcoming February 2024 for the next Gladesmen reunion more information to come on the time and place. Hope you can share your memories and photos with others who have the same passion!!!

Bishop Wright Jr

WINNERS NEVER QUIT is back in the Marsh

Front Yard Airboat rebuild, the airboat is constructed using Hickman templates of a Palm Beach riveted open hull with side boards, hunt style metal works. The engine is a Lycoming Upstack I0540 Aircraft Engine 300hp built by Tom Schmidt, and it is paired with a brand new new 72" NGQ Sensenich Propeller. Fuel and oil lines along with the push pull cables were designed and put on at Mako Hose & Rubber. Single front and rear seats with matching cushions and rain slips by Outdoor Creative Designs. The entire process has been a labor of love, and I'm grateful for the support of my friends and their dedication to the Gladesmen culture.



The hull of this airboat is constructed using 6061-T6 Aluminum Sheet and aluminum T-bar 2 x 2 x 1/4 inches. It is heavily riveted, and the bottom surface is coated with black Polymer using old-school steel flex technology. The seat structure is made of aluminum with air ride functionality, and there are fiberglass seat shells with conduit guards, a steel motor stand is included in the construction.

My dad "Bishop Sr." built a single airfoil rubber using his own templates. This custom-made rubber hold special value and sentimental meaning. I can certainly appreciate the sentiment behind my dad's creation. It's fantastic that I have something so distinctive and cherishable, and I hope it brings me joy of the memory working with him on this project for years to come.

The project began in June of 2020 when the previous airboat, which was built in 1997, started showing signs of wear and tear. Instead of rebuilding it for the third time, so I decided to start from scratch. Disassembled the old boat, salvaged the usable parts, and used them to create this new airboat.

The Gladesmen culture is a unique and cherished part of American heritage, particularly in the Florida Everglades region. Gladesmen are known for their deep connection to the natural environment and their self-reliant way of life. The tradition of American craftsmanship and

WINNERS NEVER QUIT is back in the Marsh continued...

community support is evident in the boats and vehicles they use and the way they assist each other.

Palm Beach style boats are specially designed to navigate the shallow waters and marshy terrain of the Everglades. They typically feature a flat bottom and rounded sides, allowing them to glide through the water and vegetation with ease. These boats have become an iconic symbol of the Gladesmen culture and are essential for their way of life, enabling them to explore, hunt, fish, and navigate the unique ecosystem of the Everglades.



The sense of community and mutual support among Gladesmen is a core aspect of their culture. They come together to help each other with various tasks, whether it's repairing boats, sharing knowledge and techniques, or assisting during challenging situations in the wilderness. This camaraderie allows them to preserve their way of life and ensure that future generations can also experience and appreciate the Gladesmen culture.

For those who embrace the Gladesmen lifestyle, it becomes an integral part of their identity. It represents a deep connection to nature, self-sufficiency, and a sense of belonging to a tight-knit community. A old friend of mine, Frank Dienager, who is a true Gladesmen, shared some wisdom with me about the airboat community. He mentioned that the problem arose when people started building airboats for profit, rather than as a hobby in their own yards. According to him, this shift in motivation led to a lack of understanding and appreciation for the Gladesmen culture. I agree with this sentiment, as I find it true in many aspects of Air boating today.

Overall my friend and family have poured a lot of effort, time, and dedication into this Airboat rebuild, and Caroll and I are grateful for the support of your friends throughout the process.

Bishop

Bishop's Gator Fritters Recipe

Here's a recipe for Gator Fritters using Uncle Buck's Hush Puppy Mix and Uncle Buck's Cornbread Mix: (purchased from Bass Pro Shops)

Ingredients:

- 1 container of Uncle Buck's Hush Puppy Mix
- 1 container of Uncle Buck's Cornbread Mix
- 1 pound of ground gator meat
- 3 zucchini squash, chopped
- 3 yellow squash, chopped
- Everglades seasoning (or seasoning of your choice)
- Vegetable oil for frying

Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the Uncle Buck's Hush Puppy Mix and Uncle Buck's Cornbread Mix in equal parts, following the instructions on the packages. This should give you a 50-50 mix.
2. Cook the ground gator meat in a skillet over medium heat until thoroughly cooked. Drain any excess grease from the meat.
3. Season the cooked gator meat with Everglades seasoning or any seasoning of your choice. Mix well to coat the meat evenly.
4. Add the chopped zucchini squash and yellow squash to the bowl with the hush puppy and cornbread mix.
5. Add the seasoned gator meat to the bowl as well. Mix all the ingredients together until well combined.
6. Place the mixture in the refrigerator and let it chill for at least one hour. Chilling the mixture helps it hold together better when frying.
7. After chilling, heat vegetable oil in a deep skillet or pot for frying. Make sure there is enough oil to fully submerge the fritters.
8. Use a spoon or an ice cream scoop to portion out the chilled mixture into small balls or patties.
9. Carefully drop the fritters into the hot oil and fry them until they turn golden brown and crispy. This should take about 3-4 minutes per batch.
10. Once cooked, remove the fritters from the oil and place them on a paper towel-lined plate to drain any excess oil.
11. Serve the gator fritters hot as an appetizer or main dish. They can be enjoyed plain or with a dipping sauce of your choice.

Note: Be cautious when working with hot oil and frying. Make sure to follow safety guidelines and use proper equipment.

Enjoy your homemade Gator Fritters!



NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Please share this job opportunity with anyone who might be interested.

Rolf E. Olson

Project Leader

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Phone:561-735-6022

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR is currently advertising for a permanent full-time WG-8 Maintenance Worker. If you are interested in working with a dynamic staff to support Everglades restoration and a vibrant urban-focused visitor services program, we invite you to apply. Applications are being accepted through USAJobs from 8/29 through 9/12/2023. Please contact Project Leader Rolf Olson or Deputy Project Leader Steve Henry for further information.

[Maintenance Mechanic - DE](#) (public)

[Maintenance Mechanic - MP](#) (status and special authority candidates)

Links & Information



If your child would like to join us on a hunt, check out the [Youth Hunt Calendar](#) and get signed up. All youth need to have completed their [Florida Hunter Safety Course](#) prior to their hunt.



Hunting - [License & Permits](#), [Season Dates & Species](#),
Fishing - [Freshwater](#), [Saltwater](#)



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[Calendar](#), [Recreation](#),