

FSCA Newsletter

October 2023



From the Board

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As temperatures cool, it's our time of year.

FSCA volunteers work diligently through the year to complete projects before hunting season. The time is here for us to spend time with family & friends to pursue our favorite pastime.

Florida is a diverse state with multiple zones, so savvy hunters can travel & hunt multiple opening days throughout the state or stay close to home and focus on their favorite area.

Either way, it's time to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

A huge thank you to each member that took the time to volunteer for the many projects this year.

Hope your season is safe and successful.

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

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

FSCA Christmas Party
12/17/23 5:00 pm

Youth Day
2/3/24

Gladesmen Reunion
2/24/24

Corbett Cleanup
4/21/24

Earth Day on Kissimmee River
5/4/24

NWTF/FSCA Banquet
5/11/24

FSCA 30th Reunion
6/22/24

Kissimmee River Cleanup

It's great to hear about the collaboration between the Florida Sportsmen Conservation Association (FSCA), volunteers from the Lake Okeechobee Airboat Associations, and the Paddling Trail Association area groups in helping the South Florida Water Management District create two new campsites and a day-use area on the Kissimmee River. This kind of teamwork and community involvement can have a positive impact on the recreational users of the river.

The volunteers' efforts in getting picnic tables, signs, fire rings, and benches to various locations along the river demonstrate their dedication to improving the recreational facilities for everyone. It's also heartwarming to see different clubs with different objectives come together for a common cause, showing the power of community collaboration.

It's important to acknowledge the individuals like Matt, Ricky, Steve, Stephen, and Bishop Sr who took the time out of their busy schedules to make this project happen. Their contributions, along with the support from FSCA and other organizations, will undoubtedly enhance the experience of those enjoying the Kissimmee River. This kind of community engagement is a testament to the value of conservation and recreational efforts in preserving our natural resources.

Recreational Public Forum Meeting

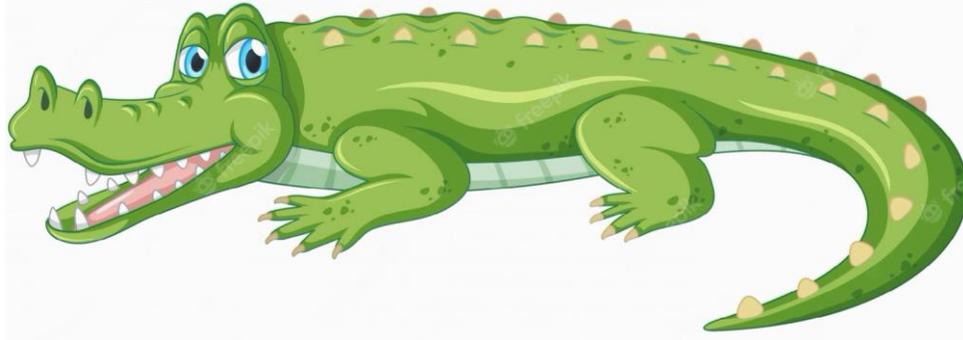
The Recreational Public Forum meeting on September 25, 2023, regarding public recreational issues and opportunities within the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) was informative and productive. Here's a summary of what happened during the meeting:

- **Opening Remarks:** Drew Bartlett, Executive Director of SFWMD, and Newton Cook, the Facilitator, welcomed everyone and provided their opening remarks. It's great to see the executive Director involved when the top man in charge sits at the table with pen and paper. You know everybody is listening and brainstorming.
- **Roundtable Introduction:** Participants at the meeting, mainly recreational users of South Florida's water management land, as well as staff members from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and SFWMD, introduced themselves.
- **Veronica Kelly - Visitor Services Plan Initiatives:** Veronica Kelly, a Park Ranger from Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, presented an update on the Refuge's Visitor Services Plan Initiatives and Hunt Program. She discussed user statistics and harvest data over the last five years and provided insights into their plans for the following year.
- **Ayounga Riddick - Upper Chain of Lakes Land Management:** Ayounga Riddick, Science Supervisor at SFWMD, gave an overview of the management practices on water management properties within Osceola, Polk, and Orange County. He recognized the efforts of volunteers from organizations like the Kissimmee River Valley Sportsman's Association and Osceola County Airboat Association for their contributions.
- **Mike Kirkland - Python Management:** Mike Kirkland, a Senior Invasive Animal Biologist at SFWMD, provided a recap and overview

of the 2023 Florida Python Challenge. He updated the attendees on the SFWMD Python Management Program and highlighted the collaboration between SFWMD, the Park Service, and FWC to address the issue of invasive pythons.

- Greg Nolte - Central Everglades Planning Project: Greg Nolte, Project Manager at SFWMD, discussed the Central Everglades Planning Project North Overview, specifically the L-5 Canal Improvements. He mentioned construction plans that would impact traffic patterns on the levee but emphasized that the changes were well thought out to benefit Sportsmen and Recreational Users.
- Mike Cheek - Recreation Facility Design & Project Updates: Mike Cheek, Recreation Project Manager at SFWMD, provided updates on Recreation Facility Design and Projects. He highlighted the district's commitment to improving recreational facilities, such as cutting trails for duck hunters, building new roads, and adding campsites and a potential pavilion.
- Positive Roundtable Discussion: The meeting was characterized as a productive roundtable discussion involving users and employees from multiple agencies. The focus on recreation and the collaborative efforts of these agencies were appreciated, with a clear commitment to making recreation a top priority.

Overall, it seems like the meeting successfully addressed important recreational and conservation issues in the South Florida Water Management District, with a commitment to enhancing the recreational experience for users.



K-Man's Gator Cowder

- 3 lbs. ground gator
- 1 large sweet onion
- ½ stalk celery
- 1 lb. butter
- 2 cups carrots
- 2 quarts heavy cream
- 1 quart half & half
- 6-8 potatoes – dice then 1/2" pieces

Directions

- Sauté gator with some butter
- Boil potatoes and carrots together
- Drain off water
- Sauté celery, onion, gator and fresh parsley
- Add everything as it's done into a big soup pot
- Let simmer on medium heat for about 45 minutes
- Add salt and pepper to taste
- Before serving, add corn starch to thicken up
- Buy some sour dough bread and enjoy

Volunteer/Support Opportunities

Throughout the year, there are numerous events held in cooperation with the FSCA.

Volunteer and monetary support are always appreciated.

Please visit the website for more information.

HELP US CONSERVE OUR BEAUTIFUL LANDS:

<https://floridasportsmenconservation.com/make-a-donation-to-fsca/>

Visit our Club Calendar here:

<https://floridasportsmenconservation.com>.

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



Meetings, News Releases,
Calendar, Recreation,