

# FSCA Newsletter



As spring turkey season winds to an end I hope everyone had a memorable and successful season. Last year we worked with other conservation clubs and FWC to make some much needed changes to turkey hunting rules for the benefit of Florida residents and youth hunters. We still have a few more things we are working on related to turkey hunting but so far the changes made will make next year's turkey season better for Florida residents.

Make sure to sign up any kids you know for they're Hunters Safety Course this summer. We will be adding dates and location to our club calendar on our web site [fzca1994.com](http://fzca1994.com). These dates fill up fast so get registered asap prior to hunting season. And don't forget any youth between 12 and 17 years old can sign up for youth hunts through FWC Youth Hunt Program as long as they have they're Hunters Safety Course completed. The link can be found on our web site as well.

Matt Nelson  
President



KRVSA Freedom Ride 2025

## Upcoming Events

- \*
- 4/27/2025  
J.W. Corbett Clean Up
- \*
- 5/3/2025  
Kissimmee River Clean Up
- \*
- 5/17/2025  
NWTF/FSCA Awards Banquet
- \*
- 6/14/2025  
FSCA Fathers Day Shoot
- \*
- 7/11-7/12  
Florida Airboat Association  
Unity Weekend at KOA
- \*
- 5/2/25-5/4/25  
Florida Outdoor Expo
- \*

FSCA calendar updated weekly on [FSCA1994.com](http://FSCA1994.com)

# FSCA Kicks Off 2025 Youth Hunting Season

The Florida Sportsmen Conservation Association (FSCA) has officially launched its 2025 Youth Hunting Program, providing young outdoor enthusiasts with unforgettable experiences in Florida's wilderness. So far, FSCA has hosted three youth alligator hunts and one turkey hunt, introducing 18 young sportsmen to the excitement and challenges of hunting.

These hunts are made possible through a collaboration between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Youth Hunting Program of Florida, FSCA, and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), which provides access to the land. By working together, these organizations ensure that future generations can experience and appreciate Florida's hunting heritage.

In February, Huntmaster Kerry Garceau led an FSCA youth gator hunt team at the **DuPuis Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA) Annual Youth Gator Hunt**. All three participating kids had the opportunity to harvest an alligator, and each was successful.

The first weekend of March saw another successful youth alligator hunt at **Stormwater Treatment Area #2 (STA #2)**, led by Huntmaster Lauresa Musgrove. Five young hunters participated, and once again, all five successfully harvested an alligator.

March also marked the beginning of turkey season. Huntmaster Steve Stroh and his team of guides organized a **youth turkey hunting weekend at Grassy Island**. Out of five participants, two hunters successfully harvested a turkey, while two others had opportunities but could not seal the deal. The fifth young hunter enjoyed the thrill of hearing gobblers in the wild, experiencing firsthand the excitement of turkey hunting.

To close out March, Huntmaster Billy Boatwright led another youth gator hunt, this time at **STA #5 (STA #5)**. Once again, all five young hunters had the chance to harvest an alligator, and each succeeded.

In addition to the hunts, a dedicated group of FSCA volunteers worked to retrieve tree stands from **Grassy Island**. A total of 10 stands were removed and stored for the summer, protecting them from potential damage caused by wildfires or hurricanes.

Each FSCA youth hunt begins with a Friday night dinner and orientation, where participants and their parents learn what to expect for the weekend. Every youth hunter is paired with an experienced guide, providing both the hunter and their parent with firsthand knowledge of hunting in Florida. These hunts also offer a primitive camping experience, allowing participants to set up camp, prepare meals, and fully immerse themselves in the great outdoors.

Through these efforts, FSCA, FWC Youth Hunting Program of Florida, and SFWMD work together to create meaningful opportunities for young hunters, ensuring the next generation develops a deep appreciation for conservation and Florida's outdoor heritage.

By Bishop Wright

## 2024-2025 YOUTH HUNTS

\*

Holiday Park Youth Python  
Hunt

July 25-27

To learn more about our youth hunts or how to sign up please visit

<https://myfwc.com/education/programs/youth-hunting-program/>

Please like follow and share us on social media!



By Nikki McGoldrick, FSCA, All Rights Reserved

# Freedom Ride 2025

It was great to spend time with a partner club at their main fundraising event of the year. The event was held under the oaks at Shady Oaks at Colemans Landing on the banks of Lake Kissimmee. This event brings airboaters and supporters from all over the state and we are thankful to the leadership of KRVSA for the invitation to display FCSA literature and promotional materials. Our Ebike raffle tickets and hats sold well as well as picking up some memberships. Special thanks to Dan King for accompanying myself and Ezra for the day. We look forward to attending KRVSA Freedom Ride 2026!

By Matt Nelson and Dan King



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# Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Primitive Camping Enhancement

By Bishop Wright

On March 15, members of the FSCA volunteered to assist the Kissimmee River Valley Sportsmen's Association (KRVSA) in enhancing the primitive campsites throughout the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes. This initiative aimed to improve existing campsites and add new ones, bringing the total to 19 designated primitive camping areas.

Eight FSCA volunteers participated in the effort, bringing five airboats to support the project. The club was assigned two camping areas, one on the North Shore, located on the west side of Lake Kissimmee just north of Thomas Landing, and another at Otter Slough, also on Lake Kissimmee, near the Polluted Waters Pavilion.

The day began with a breakfast provided by KRVSA team. Around 9:00 AM, a short Captain's Meeting was held to discuss the plan for the day. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) supplied maps, signs, posts, and hardware for the project. The signs, similar to speed limit signs, consisted of 8-foot galvanized poles with pre-drilled holes, secured with bolts and nuts. Thanks to the strong volunteer turnout, the installation process was efficient, allowing everyone to enjoy the camaraderie and the beauty of the lakes.

FSCA specific task was to install two signs marking the boundaries of the designated camping areas. Each campsite is set to receive two fire rings and two picnic tables in the future, and FSCA members hope to contribute to that effort as well. To streamline the process, volunteers brought power tools, which made securing the signs quick and easy. However, the pole driver we had planned to use wasn't compatible with the post size, so we had to rely on traditional post-hole diggers, which still got the job done.

The project was more about enjoying the experience than heavy labor. After setting up the signs, we took an airboat ride from Camp Tiger to Camp Mack, where volunteers from other camps gathered to pick up their signs and maps. Later, we headed south to Shady Oaks, where we met with conservation-minded folks, including Mike Elfenbein, to discuss the past and future of these outdoor spaces. We wrapped up the day with a scenic ride around Brahma Island before returning to Camp Tiger.

Overall, FSCA played its part in a much needed project, and KRVSA successfully completed an important improvement for the area. It was inspiring to see multiple clubs come together to enhance these camping areas, ensuring outdoor enthusiasts can continue to enjoy the beauty of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes for years to come.



By Nikki McGoldrick, FSCA, All Rights Reserved

# Primitive Camping Enhancement on KCOL



The leadership of FSCA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out and participated in our April general meeting last night.

Communication is key, and the voices of those who use our local wildlife management areas are incredibly important to us. Your involvement in protecting and preserving traditional access has never been more critical than it is now.

Please stay engaged, the next generation is counting on all of us to keep these lands and traditions alive.

The main topics discussed were...

1. ORV use in J.W Corbett Wildlife Management Area.
2. New camping rules in Corbett.
3. J.W Corbett clean up April 27th.
4. Kissimmee River work day May 3rd.
5. FWC Commission meeting in Ocala May 21-22.



# Important Announcement

## TAKE OFF WORK & GO TO THE FWC MEETING IN OCALA



The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission [FWC] is meeting to decide on a proposed Spring Protection Zone {SPZ} for Silver Glen Springs - and your boating privileges to anchor or enjoy the springs could be **TAKEN AWAY**.



**These restrictions are based on ZERO scientific proof** that responsible boaters are causing eelgrass damage - not in Silver Glen, not in Weeki Wachee or **ANYWHERE IN THE STATE**

Closures like these have already happened....

➔ And the eelgrass **STILL ISN'T COMING BACK**.  
But public access? **That's disappearing fast**.  
This isn't just about Silver Glen.

This is about **EVERY WATERWAY** in **FLORIDA**

**SHOW UP. STAND TOGETHER. WEAR ORANGE.**

**THURSDAY, MAY 22 at 8:30am**

**College of Central Florida, Ewers Century Center,  
3001 SW College Rd, Ocala FL**

### [CLICKABLE WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS:](#)

[Several Lake Okeechobee Boat Locks May Close Due to Lake Levels](#)

[Links to Other Organizations and Areas of Interest](#)



National  
Wild Turkey  
Federation



Palm Beach Chapter, FL

# Hunting Heritage Banquet

**Location:**

Local Union 630

**Date & Time:**

May 17, 5:30 PM

**Address:**

1900 N Florida Mango Rd  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

**For More Information:**

Contact Tommy McGoldrick at 561-420-3752

Spend an evening out with friends while helping to preserve our hunting heritage.



Healthy Habitats. Healthy Harvests.™



So recently elected board director, Andrew Bernet, took the initiative to write about the importance of joining the FSCA. After some revisioning that piece made it's way to Bishop and Bishop does one of the things he does best, Write!

## **Why Join the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA)?**

If you're passionate about the outdoors and believe in protecting recreational access for future generations, there's no better organization to support than the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association.

For over 30 years, FSCA has played a key role in ensuring Floridians have the freedom to enjoy the state's public lands and waters. Whether it's hunting, fishing, camping, airboating, horseback riding, or just exploring the wild, FSCA has been there to review every new and existing piece of land available to the public and work to make sure it remains accessible for everyone.

Since its founding, the association has monitored how public lands are acquired and used, ensuring the funding used to purchase these lands allows for traditional outdoor activities like those enjoyed by sportsmen and women. Not all funding sources permit such uses, and FSCA works to ensure compatibility and access wherever possible.

FSCA is also deeply involved in the rule-making process with agencies like the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the state's five water management districts, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Their motto: *"If you don't like a rule, write a rule change. Lobby to fix it. But don't break it just because you disagree with it."*

Take the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, for example. It's one of the few places in Florida where time-honored Gladesmen traditions are still alive, traditions passed down for centuries. That didn't happen by chance. It's thanks to FSCA members who live, eat, and breathe this way of life, fighting to keep it alive for the next generation.

If you value Florida's outdoor heritage and want to help protect access for all users, now is the time to get involved.

**Join FSCA today and be a part of keeping the tradition alive.**

[LINK TO JOIN](#)