

FSCA Newsletter

As we move closer to summer I hope everyone is making plans for some fun family time. We have some exciting events planned as well as some other clubs. make sure to follow our social media and check our website for info on all of them. FSCA has hired a bus to take us to the FWC Commission meeting in Ocala 5/21. Please consider joining us. The big topic of this meeting is the proposed bear hunt. We are supporting this plan as the science proves that the bear population provides for a sustainable harvest. This natural resource is one that us sportsmen look forward to using all while contributing dollars to the continued conservation of this and all wildlife species. This is the beauty of the North American Model of Conservation which has contributed to the countless success stories of wildlife populations and habitat.

MATT NELSON, PRESIDENT



Corbett Clean Up 2025



Upcoming Events

*

6/14/2025

FSCA Fathers Day
Shoot

*

7/11-7/12

Florida Airboat As-
sociation

Unity Weekend at
KOA

FSCA calendar up-
dated

weekly on
FSCA1994.com

FSCA Supports Everglades Youth Camp with Remote Island Cleanup

The Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA) is always committed to ensuring that future generations have the opportunity to experience and enjoy the great outdoors. One of the most cherished programs we support is the Everglades Youth Camp a place that holds a special spot in the hearts of many, especially because of the life changing experiences it offers to kids each summer.

For some of these children, attending this camp is their only chance to connect with nature in ways many of us take for granted. One of the most unique parts of the camp experience is a remote camping island just behind the main camp. Here, kids hike in, spend the night in tents under an oak tree hammock, use a rustic outhouse, cook over a fire pit, and sleep on raised platforms that keep their tents off the ground. It's a raw, back-to basics camping experience and it's unforgettable.

This year, FSCA was asked to help prepare the remote island for the upcoming campers. Without hesitation, we took on the task. Our mission was to mow the grass, trim back overgrown branches, and replace sections of rotting wood on the tent platforms to ensure the area was safe and ready for new memories to be made.

With our weekends already full of fun events and club commitments, we decided to turn our May board meeting into a workday at the camp. So, on a Tuesday evening, FSCA board members gathered at the island and got to work.

Everything came together perfectly. Despite the season's evening showers, the weather cooperated long enough for us to complete the job. We cleared the paths, cleaned up the site, and made necessary repairs all while sharing laughter, stories, and a strong sense of purpose.

Thanks to the dedication and leadership of FSCA, the remote camping island is ready once again for a new group of kids to experience the magic of nature. We're proud of the work we've done and even more excited about the memories these young campers will make this summer.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this effort possible your commitment helps ensure the outdoors remain a place of learning, growth, and adventure for generations to come.

2024-2025 YOUTH HUNTS

*

Holiday Park Youth
Python Hunt

July 25-27

*

Arthur Marshall
Deer/Hog Hunt

Oct 24-26

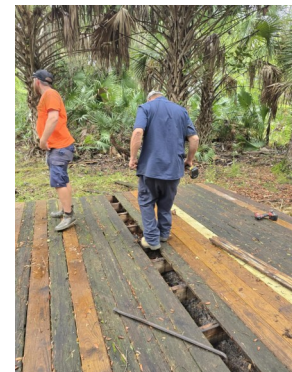
To learn more about our youth hunts or how to sign up please visit
<https://myfwc.com/education/programs/youth-hunting-program/>

Please like follow and share us on social media!



By Nikki McGoldrick, FSCA, All Rights Reserved

FSCA Supports Everglades Youth Camp with Remote Island Cleanup Continued



Proposed FSCA Rule Changes for 2025

Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area

Submitted by: John C. and Mariana Jones

We recommend ending the current limited quota permit system and replacing it with a daily “quota-style” system. Under this new system, a set number of hunters would be allowed access each day. Once the daily limit is reached, no additional hunters would be permitted to enter for hunting. Each hunter would be required to check in daily at the Chuck station before entering the area. This change would better manage hunting pressure on the land while still ensuring fair access for everyone.

Kissimmee River Public Use Area and Lake Kissimmee Chain of Lakes

We propose limiting the first nine days of the spring turkey season in the Kissimmee River Public Use Area and Lake Kissimmee Chain of Lakes to **Florida residents only**.

This rule would mirror similar changes made last year in other Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Without this protection, these areas risk being overwhelmed, as other areas have been. We believe this area was overlooked and should receive the same resident first consideration.

Request for Change:

The FSCA leadership has recognized the high demand from non-residents to hunt the Osceola turkey, which is making it harder for Florida residents to hunt in their own state. By limiting the first nine days to residents only, it would ensure that local hunters have a fair chance to enjoy their public lands.

Proposed Rule Changes for JW Corbett Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

Vehicle Use During Deer Dog Training Season

• Proposed Rule Change:

Allow vehicle use during deer dog training season, but only in the area south and east of Stumper’s Grade.

• Request for Change:

FSCA leadership believes that limited access has made it difficult for hunters to fully participate in deer dog training season.

Extended Camping After Gun Season

• Proposed Rule Change:

Extend camping in JW Corbett WMA for seven days after the end of the gun season.

• Request for Change:

FSCA leadership believes that allowing campers to stay an extra week would give hunters the chance to enjoy the final weekend without having to break down camp immediately.

Use of Electronic Calls and Thermals for Predator Hunting

• Proposed Rule Change:

Allow the use of electronic calls and thermal imaging equipment for predator hunting during the last two weekends of small game season. Additionally, allow night hunting for coyotes and bobcats during this time.

• Request for Change:

FSCA leadership believes that JW Corbett is overrun with predators. Allowing better tools for hunting them will help control their population and support the health of other wildlife.

Vehicle Restrictions on Roads

• Proposed Rule Change:

Allow registered vehicles only on named roads and in camping areas. Disallow vehicle use on dispersed areas and numbered roads.

• Request for Change:

FSCA leadership believes this change will reduce environmental impacts, both during hunting season and year-round, by preventing nontraditional vehicle use.

Use of Dogs to Pursue Hogs

• Proposed Rule Change:

Allow hunters to use dogs to pursue hogs during the last four weeks of small game season.

• Request for Change:

FSCA leadership believes that banning the use of dogs was an oversight that has limited hunters’ ability to manage hog populations traditionally.

Proposed FSCA Rule Changes for 2025 Continued

Restoration of Traditional Swamp Buggy Use by Removing Still Hunt Areas

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

Remove the still hunt areas in JW Corbett to allow the continued use of swamp buggies across the WMA. (The Archery-Only Still Hunt Area near the Youth Camp would remain for safety reasons.)

- **Request for Change:**

FSCA leadership believes that JW Corbett has a long history of swamp buggy use, which is a vital part of the local Gladesman culture.

Details and Benefits:

Cultural Preservation: Restores an important traditional hunting method for future generations.

Accessibility: Enables youth, elderly, and hunters with mobility challenges to reach remote hunting areas.

Economic Support: Boosts local businesses tied to swamp buggy manufacturing and maintenance.

Environmental Impact: Swamp buggies have been used at JW Corbett since 1947 without causing major environmental harm.

Conclusion:

Removing the still hunt areas will restore traditional access, preserve Gladesman cultural heritage, and maintain a balance with wildlife conservation.

Proposed Statewide Rule Changes

Extend Youth Definition from Age 16 to 18

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

Redefine “youth” in hunting regulations to include individuals up to 18 years old.

- **Request for Change:**

FSCA leadership believes that with today’s busy lifestyles and activities, many young people are starting their hunting journey later. Extending the youth age gives them more time to get involved before adulthood. This change would also align with current state law, which prohibits the purchase of a hunting rifle until age 21.

Allow Crossbow Use for Youths and Seniors During Archery Season

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

Permit youth hunters and adults over 65 to use crossbows during archery season on public lands.

- **Request for Change:**

FSCA leadership believes that allowing crossbows would help both younger and older hunters who may face physical challenges, improving recruitment and retention of hunters. This rule would not impact the current crossbow allowance for hunters with disabilities.

Close WMAs to Non-Participants During Youth Turkey Weekend

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

During Youth Turkey Weekend, only individuals actively participating in the hunt would be allowed access to Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

- **Request for Change:**

FSCA leadership believes that youth hunters already face challenges harvesting a turkey. Unnecessary interference from non hunters scouting or using the area during this special weekend makes it even harder. Closing access to non-participants would create a better experience for young hunters.

Increase Youth Turkey Hunt Quotas on South Florida Water Management District and USFWS Lands

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

Increase the number of youth turkey hunting permits available on South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lands.

- **Request for Change:**

FSCA leadership believes that the current number of youth turkey hunting permits is too low. In most areas, the number of available permits could be doubled to offer more opportunity for young hunters.

Goal of These Changes:

To improve access, fairness, and enjoyment of hunting opportunities for Florida residents, while promoting sustainable wildlife and land management.

31st Annual J W Corbett Clean Up

The 31st Annual J W Corbett Clean Up showcased the remarkable impact of community involvement in preserving the J W Corbett Wildlife Management Area. Thanks to the dedication of volunteers and organizations like the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA), our natural spaces are thriving. This year, FSCA coordinated the cleanup with Earth Day, drawing over 75 enthusiastic volunteers who brought positivity to the task at hand. While some were dismayed by the amount of trash removed by conservationists on April 27th, it's significantly less than what was present 30 years ago.

Initiated by FSCA nearly three decades ago, the cleanup has transformed the landscape through education and the tireless efforts of volunteers. Today, JW Corbett WMA stands as a clean and inviting environment for outdoor recreation. FSCA expresses gratitude to all volunteers by offering a complimentary lunch for those who contribute by collecting at least one bag of trash. This year, the cleanup effort will utilize 10 yards of debris, a significant reduction from the four 30-yard dumpsters filled to capacity in previous years a testament to the success of education and community involvement.

We would like to acknowledge FSCA President Matt Nelson for his outstanding leadership in coordinating with various agencies to secure essential resources, including dumpsters and permission to use swamp buggies out of season. Special thanks also go to Tommy McGoldrick, our event chairman, for organizing such a strong turnout. A heartfelt thanks to his parents, Sherry and Benny, who, along with family and board members, prepared lunch for everyone. Most importantly, we want to recognize the true heroes of the event the dedicated volunteers whose hard work and spirit made it a tremendous success.

A special thanks to Eric Goss with A&E Land Clearing for picking up the debris from the Corbett Clean Up at no cost to the club!



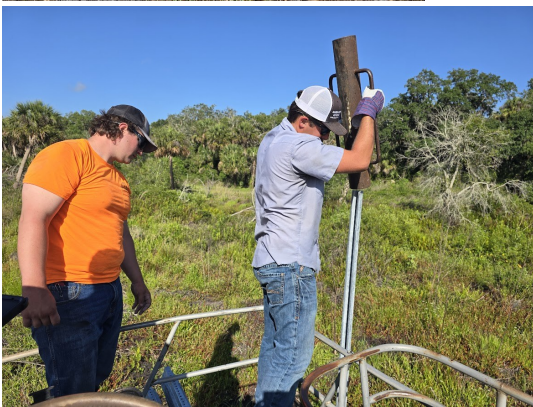
By Nikki McGoldrick, FSCA, All Rights Reserved

31st Annual J W Corbett Clean Up Continued



By Nikki McGoldrick, FSCA, All Rights Reserved

2025 River Clean Up



By Nikki McGoldrick, FSCA, All Rights Reserved