

# FSCA Newsletter

January 2023



## Presidents Letter

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Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a great holiday and a successful hunting season. May the New Year be all that you wish for!

February brings our biggest event of the year, our annual Youth Day. Please try to find sponsors and promote this event. It is the big fundraiser for our club.

Also, we will start to take nominations for club positions. Please put serious consideration for nominations and for accepting the nominations.

Sincerely,  
Mike Prince  
President

## 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

Outdoor Youth Day  
2/4/23

JW Corbett Cleanup  
2/19/23

Alligator Youth Hunt  
STA 2  
3/3/23-3/5/23

Alligator Youth Hunt  
DuPuis  
3/3/23-3/5/23

Grassy Island  
Turkey/Hog Youth  
Hunt  
3/10/23-3/12/23

STA 5  
Alligator Youth Hunt  
3/17/23-3/19/23

STA 1 E  
Alligator Youth Hunt  
3/24/23-3/26/23



\*\*\* **SAVE THE DATE** \*\*\*

*February 4th, 2023*  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### ***Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association's Annual Outdoor Youth Day***

At the Everglades Youth Camp  
12100 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road  
\$10.00 Entrance Fee includes all Activities  
Food & Refreshments Available

**Outdoor Youth Day is designed to introduce children of all ages to the many activities available in the great outdoors through hands on experience.**

#### **\*\*\* Activities Offered \*\*\***

Swamp buggy rides, canoeing, wildlife demonstrations, Archery, .22 shoot, shot gun shoot, fishing, airboat rides, pony rides, muzzle-loading shooting, FWC demonstration's and conservation exhibits.

For further Information and a calendar of events:  
Follow us on facebook @ FloridaSportsmenConservationAssociation  
Website WWW. FloridaSportsmenConservationAssociation

## Past Events

We had a great time at our annual Christmas Party.  
The gift exchange was a huge hit as always.



## 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](#),  
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February 2023



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Well, it is that time again! Youth Day 2023 – February 4 is the big day!

Tell all your friends and family. Also, don't forget your honey on Valentine's Day.

Hope everyone had a great hunting season. Love the cooler weather we have been enjoying. There are a lot of events coming up. Look on the website to get all the information.

We are taking nominations for the 2023 board members. If you are interested in being on the board, please contact a current board member.

Sincerely,  
Mike Prince  
President

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SCI Banquet

2/11/23

JW Corbett Cleanup

2/19/23

### Alligator Youth Hunt STA 2

3/3/23-3/5/23

### Alligator Youth Hunt

DuPuis

3/3/23-3/5/23

### Grassy Island Turkey/Hog

Youth Hunt

3/10/23-3/12/23

STA 5

### Alligator Youth Hunt

3/17/23-3/19/23

STA 1 E

### Alligator Youth Hunt

3/24/23-3/26/23

Broward Airboat Show

3/25/23-3/26/23

Airboaters for Autism

4/1/23

Coleman Landing

Lake Okeechobee Airboat

Show

4/15/23

Outdoor Expo

4/22-4/24/23

Earth Day on the Kissimmee

River

4/29/23

FSCA/Turkey Banquet

May



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**Website WWW. FloridaSportsmenConservationAssociation**

# J W CORBETT CLEAN UP

February 19, 2023

8:00 AM to Noon

Lunch served at Camp Site B

**Public is  
Invited to  
Participate**



**FLORIDA SPORTSMEN**  
CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

WWW.FSCA1994.com  
FSCA@FSCA1994.com



**Due to Valentines Day, the next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> at the club property. We will be voting so please be sure to attend.**

### Nominations for Board

President - Mike Prince

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Billy Boatright

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Matt Nelson

Treasurer – Mark Dombroski

Secretary – Mary Tobiassen

Publication Director – Joe Rabena

Board Member – Kerry, Marc, Rachel, Randy, Bruce, Jessica, Pete,

Alternate – Pete, Lucky

### 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](#),



February

Jan 29	Jan 30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
						10 AM Outdoor Youth Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Moved to the 15th because of Valentines Day	6 PM FSCA General meeting at the Club 1			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 AM JW Corbett Cleanup 2/19/23						
26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4
		6 PM FSCA Board Meeting at the Club Pro			Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County/STA 2 (14-17 Only)	
					Youth Hunt- Alligator -Palm Beach/DuPuis WEA (14-17 Only)	

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4
		6 PM FSCA Board Meeting at the Club Pro			Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County/STA 2 (14-17 Only)	
					Youth Hunt- Alligator -Palm Beach/DuPuis WEA (14-17 Only)	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
-Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County!					Youth Hunt - Turkey/Hog - Okeechobee County/Grassy Island (12-15 Only)	
-Youth Hunt- Alligator -Palm Beach/DuPuis I!						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
-Youth Hunt - Turkey/Hog - Okeechobee Co!		6 PM FSCA General meeting at the Club 1			Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County/STA 5 (14-17 Only)	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
-Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County!					Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County/STA 1E (14-17 Only)	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1
-Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County!		6 PM FSCA Board Meeting at the Club Pro				



**March 25th & 26th 2023**

**Saturday March 25th 11am - 11pm \$15 Per Person**

**Sunday March 26th 10am - 5pm \$10 Per Person**

**Children 12 and under are Free**



**Bergeron Rodeo Grounds \* 4271 Davie Road**

**Raffles ★ Live Music ★ Kids Zone  
★ RC Play Area ★ And Much More!**

**Sponsorship Opportunities & Vendor space available**

**For More Information Visit our Website**

**[WWW.BrowardAirboat.org](http://WWW.BrowardAirboat.org)**

# FSCA Newsletter

March 2023



## Presidents Letter

## Inside this Issue

### Presidents Letter

### Past Events

 Youth Day

 Corbett  
Cleanup

### Upcoming Events

### Links & Information

### Get Involved

 Join

 Donate

 Youth Hunts

### Catch Up (past newsletters)

This month is very busy with youth hunts and numerous events from other clubs as well. After living here in PB County all my life, I have decided to move to Lake City FL. I am resigning from FSCA but leaving you in good hands. Billy Boatwright will be your new president.

It has been a privilege to be a member of this club and I am very proud to have belonged for over 25 years, having held most of the positions in the club. I think we are the premier club in the state, but perhaps I am bias.

Mike Prince

Hello fellow club members as you heard from Mike's president letter, the club leader ship has changed. We all are wishing Mike happiness in this new chapter of life and thank him for his leadership. I'm sure many of you already know my background and all the time and Events I've helped with over the years if you're not familiar with me, you're welcome to come to the next club event and meet me in person. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next FSCA events.

First of all, I would just like to say thank you to all the volunteers who made outdoor youth day 2023 another huge success! After 25 years, you know what you're supposed to do and how you're supposed to do it. It was nice to see some new faces volunteering this year and of course the old ones as well. This year FSCA had somewhere around 1150 participants along with 100 volunteers that make this event successful, thank you everyone. A big thanks to all the sponsors, without them this would not be possible. Would also like to thank Devyn and the staff from Everglades Youth Camp for providing FSCA the only facility in the state of Florida, that would host an event of this kind.

A big thanks to Lauresa and Kerry for taking time out of their busy schedules to put on a few successful youth Gator hunts. I would also like to thank all the volunteers that make these hunts happen. I'd like to wish Steve and all his volunteers success in their turkey hunt this weekend at Grassy Island. A big shout out to SFWM for allowing us to hunt these great spots and hope to keep doing this for many years to come. Just would like to mention don't forget the board meeting will be at SFWM recreation meeting March 20th 5:00 pm please be there. We have a lot of great events coming up and I'm looking forward to working with everyone to make them successful.

Would also like to take the time to thank Randy for chairing the Corbett Area cleanup.

Jessica we would like to thank you for the time you gave the club and wish you the best of luck in your new endeavors.

Billy Boatwright  
President

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3/10/23-3/12/23

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Airboaters for Autism  
4/1/23  
Coleman Landing

Lake Okeechobee Airboat  
Show  
4/15/23

Outdoor Expo  
4/22-4/24/23

Earth Day on the Kissimmee  
River  
4/29/23

FSCA/Turkey Banquet  
May

Unity Weekend KOA  
Okeechobee  
7/15/23



This is a busy month for the members of the FSCA. We have 5 youth hunts scheduled! Looking forward to all the happy hunters as some will be harvesting game for the first time





## Past Events

### Youth Day

Another spectacular Youth Day is in the books!

25 years of getting kids out into the great outdoors!

1150 guests through the gate and over 150 volunteers!

Thank you to all the sponsors, attendees, and volunteers for your support.



## **Youth Day Sponsors**

**Without you this would not be possible**

**THANK YOU!!**

F Dirty Work LLC

Douglas Batton

Local 630

Hubbs Tire & Service Inc

Wallace Chevrolet

Broward Motorsports

Todd & Melissa Barth

Amoto's Pizza

Atlantis Pharmacy

Impact Electric

Wire Products

Safari Club International

Gary Laux

Kevin & Esther Kirn Charitable Fund

B&B Shutters, Windows & Doors

## 2023 Board of Directors

President – Billy Boatwright

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Matt Nelson

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Kerry Garceau

Treasurer – Mark Dombroski

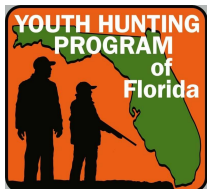
Secretary – Mary Tobiassen

Publication Director – Joe Rabena

Board Members – Terry Lynn Boatwright, Marc Rivard, Rachel Stroh, Steve Stroh, Bruce Tobiassen, Pete Lumb, Tommy McGoldrick, Lauresa Musgrove

Alternate – Lucky, Kim Stanley

### Links & Information



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Fishing - [Freshwater](#), [Saltwater](#)



[Meetings](#), [News Releases](#),  
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Feb 26	27	28 6 PM FSCA Board Mee ↻	Mar 1	2	3 Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County/STA 2 (14-17 C Youth Hunt- Alligator -Palm Beach/DuPuis WEA (14-17 On	4
5 —Youth Hunt - Alligator - FI —Youth Hunt- Alligator -Pal	6	7	8	9	Mar 10 Youth Hunt - Turkey/Hog - Okeechobee County/Grassy Isl	11
12 —Youth Hunt - Turkey/HogI	13	14 6 PM FSCA General me ↻	15	16	17 Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County/STA 5 (14-17 C	18
19 —Youth Hunt - Alligator - FI	20	21	22	23	24 Youth Hunt - Alligator - Palm Beach County/STA 1E (14-17 Air Boat show .....	25
26 —Youth Hunt - Alligator - FI —Air Boat show .....I	27	28 6 PM FSCA Board Mee ↻	29	30	31	Apr 1

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 26 —Youth Hunt - Alligator - FI —Air Boat show .....I	27	28 6 PM FSCA Board Mee ↻	29	30	31	Apr 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 6 PM FSCA General me ↻	12	13	14	15
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30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6





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# 15TH ANNUAL UNITY BANQUET DINNER

## Saturday • July 15, 2023

**\$45.00 PER INDIVIDUAL SEAT**  
**\$360.00 PER TABLE OF 8 SEATS**



Visit us at [floridaairboat.org](http://floridaairboat.org)

**DOORS  
OPEN  
AT 6PM!**

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT  
[WWW.FLORIDAAIRBOAT.ORG](http://WWW.FLORIDAAIRBOAT.ORG)

OR

CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

TOM SCHMIDT, FAA PRESIDENT

EMAIL: [PRESIDENT@FLORIDAAIRBOAT.ORG](mailto:PRESIDENT@FLORIDAAIRBOAT.ORG)

SHANNON PARKS, FAA TREASURER

EMAIL: [TREASURER@FLORIDAAIRBOAT.ORG](mailto:TREASURER@FLORIDAAIRBOAT.ORG)

LARRY DANIELS, FAA SECRETARY

EMAIL: [SECRETARY@FLORIDAAIRBOAT.ORG](mailto:SECRETARY@FLORIDAAIRBOAT.ORG)

**STEAK DINNER**

**CASH BAR**

**RAFFLES**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**GAMES**



Okeechobee KOA Resort  
4276 US Highway 441 South  
Okeechobee, FL 34974  
863-763-0231



# FSCA Newsletter

April 2023



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March was a busy month for the FSCA members. There were numerous alligator youth hunts, a turkey youth hunt, and the Broward Airboat show.

April is not quite so hectic, but we are busy preparing for the upcoming Father's Day shoot in June. Teams will be handed out to sponsors first and they always fill up fast. Check out the flyer for more information.

Hope you have a great Easter, and we look forward to seeing you at the general meeting on Tuesday the 11th at the club property (15245 99<sup>th</sup> Street N, WPB FL 33412). Meeting starts @ 7, come early if you want to join us for dinner.

Billy Boatwright  
President

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Airboaters for Autism

4/1/23

Coleman Landing

Lake Okeechobee Airboat  
Show

4/15/23

### Outdoor Expo

4/21/23 Thru 4/23/23

Earth Day on the  
Kissimmee River

5/06/23

FSCA/Turkey Banquet  
May

### Unity Weekend KOA

Okeechobee

7/15/23



**Airboaters for Autism Awareness**

**APRIL 1ST, 2023**

**12 P.M.-4 P.M. @ Coleman Landings**

- Visit the Raffles & Auctions Tables
- Eat amazing BBQ
- Airboating!!!

**6 P.M.-10 P.M. @ Guy Harvey Camp Mack**

- Rock out to Southbound Band
- Light Up the Puzzle at 8 P.M.

**#LIUB2023**

- Hang out and have a good time!

**Light It Up Blue**

**GUY HARVEY CAMP MACK**

AIRBOATERS FOR AUTISM AWARENESS



**THE FLORIDA  
OUTDOOR EXPO**

April 21-23, 2023

[BUY TICKETS](#)



## Past Events

Happy to share that the 2023 Youth Gator Hunt in Dupuis WMA is a wrap. All of our youth were able to successfully harvest their first alligators. We had two at 7'4" and one at 7'9". Thank you to our Hunt master, guides, youth and parents for a great hunt. Many memories were made, and a great time had by all. Look at those smiles.



The STA 1 E Alligator Youth Hunt was a huge success. We had a retired FWC officer join us and speak with the kids and tell a few stories about his time as an officer. The youths and their parents learned a lot and look forward to their next youth hunt.





### Grassy Island Turkey/Hog Youth Hunt



### STA 5 Alligator Youth Hunt



## Links & Information



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# WANTED!

SPONSOR Pre-Registration

Our 3rd Annual FSCA Sporting Clays Invitational

When: June 17, 2023

Where: Palm Beach County  
Shooting Sports Park

11730 Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd,  
WPB, FL 33412



**PLATINUM SPONSOR ~ \$1,500**

- \* 4 Person shooting team (\$500 value) 400 rounds of ammo, 4 T-Shirts & 4 person golf cart.
- \* Top-tier company logo on Gate Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on Tent Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on all T-Shirts
- \* Lunch Banner Sponsor
- \* Top-tier company logo on award Cup

For More Information:  
Visit [www.FSCA1994.com](http://www.FSCA1994.com)

**GOLD SPONSOR ~ \$1,000**

- \* 4 Person shooting team (\$500 value) 400 rounds of ammo, 4 T-Shirts & 4 person golf cart.
- \* Top-tier company logo on Gate Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on Tent Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on all T-Shirts
- \* Top-tier company logo on award Cup

For Info Via Text Message:  
**TEXT: 844-414-1994**

**STATION SPONSOR ~ \$800**

- \* 4 Person shooting team (\$500 value) 400 rounds of ammo, 4 T-Shirts & 4 person golf cart.
- \* Top-tier company logo on Gate Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on Tent Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on 1 of 15 station Signs

Please Mail Checks and Completed forms to:

Florida Sportsman's Conservation Association

PO Box 20051, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-0051

or/ Email to [Steven.Stroh@comcast.net](mailto:Steven.Stroh@comcast.net)

For more information call: Steve 772-370-9451

By the authority of..



Join the posse,  
**SUPPORT FSCA!!**



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**STEAK DINNER**

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**RAFFLES**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**GAMES**



Okeechobee KOA Resort  
4276 US Highway 441 South  
Okeechobee, FL 34974  
863-763-0231



Okeechobee County



Tourist Development Council

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May 2023



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With Turkey hunting winding down and deer season a distant memory, I can't help but reflect on how far FSCA has come since it's humble beginning.

Our members should take pride in knowing their efforts are paying off for future generations of outdoorsmen.

Spring always brings the airboat and buggy shows where friends can gather to tell stories of past successes or future endeavors.

I'm looking forward to Earthday, May 6th along the beautiful Kissimmee River, come out and join other members create a safe environment for recreational activity.

Don't forget to take a kid fishing this summer.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

FSCA/Turkey Banquet  
June

Unity Weekend KOA  
Okeechobee  
7/15/23

## **Earth Day on the Kissimmee River**

**May 6**

Members from both (FSCA) Florida Sportsman's Conservation Association & (LOAA) Lake Okeechobee Airboat Association will work with the South Florida Water Management District to perform various cleanup tasks at Kissimmee River Boney Marsh pool A unit.

This event has 50+ volunteers, 15 swamp buggies, skid steer loaders, and a mini excavator.

**Bring your lunch and drinks.**

**Volunteers will meet at 7:00 am Hwy 98 and the Kissimmee River.**

**If you need more information, contact committee chairman Matt Nelson at 561-307-1336**



# WANTED!

TEAM SPONSOR Pre-Registration

Our 3rd Annual FSCA Sporting Clays Invitational

When: June 17, 2023

Where: Palm Beach County  
Shooting Sports Park

11730 Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd,  
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- \* Top-tier company logo on Gate Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on Tent Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on all T-Shirts
- \* Top-tier company logo on award Cup

Registration Form go to  
[www.fscal994.com](http://www.fscal994.com)  
on Calendar Page June 17th!

## STATION SPONSOR ~ \$800

- \* 4 Person shooting team (\$500 value) 400 rounds of ammo, 4 T-Shirts & 4 person golf cart.
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- \* Top-tier company logo on Tent Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on 1 of 15 station Signs

Please Mail Checks and Completed forms to:

Florida Sportsman's Conservation Association

PO Box 20051, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-0051

or/ Email to [Steven.Stroh@comcast.net](mailto:Steven.Stroh@comcast.net)

For more information call: Steve 772-370-9451

By the authority of..

Join the posse,  
SUPPORT FSCA!!





# REGISTRATION FORM

**3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL FSCA SPORTING CLAY INVITATIONAL JUNE 17, 2023**

**Shoot Location:**

**Palm Beach County Shooting Sports Park  
11730 Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd. WPB FL 33412**

**Questions? Text or Call Steve at 772-370-9451**

**Our E-mail: [fsca@fsca1994.com](mailto:fsca@fsca1994.com)**

<b>Sponsor with 4 Team</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Platinum \$1500</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold \$1000</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Station \$800</b>
<b>Sponsor with No Team</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Platinum \$1000</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold \$500</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Station \$300</b>

**Enter Team Members if applicable ([Captain First or name on payment check](#))**

Title	First name	Last Name	SHIRT SIZE
			<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL
E-mail		Cell Phone	
		GAUGE <input type="checkbox"/> 12 or <input type="checkbox"/> 20	

Title	First name	Last Name	SHIRT SIZE
			<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL
E-mail		Cell Phone	
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Title	First name	Last Name	SHIRT SIZE
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E-mail		Cell Phone	
		GAUGE <input type="checkbox"/> 12 or <input type="checkbox"/> 20	

**Please return this Registration Form with a check made payable to:  
Florida Sportsmen Conservation Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 20051, West Palm Beach, Florida 33416  
(Payment Must Accompany This Registration Form)**

**Because of Shirt Size Orders & Shotshell Orders  
ALL Registration Forms Must Be in By May 15<sup>th</sup> 2023**

# **15TH ANNUAL UNITY BANQUET DINNER**

## **Saturday • July 15, 2023**

**\$45.00 PER INDIVIDUAL SEAT**  
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**DOORS  
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**STEAK DINNER**

**CASH BAR**

**RAFFLES**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**GAMES**



Okeechobee KOA Resort  
4276 US Highway 441 South  
Okeechobee, FL 34974  
863-763-0231



## 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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# FSCA Newsletter

June 2023



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Happy Birthday to FSCA!

This month we celebrate 29yrs of conservation. FSCA members should be proud of our history and excited for our future.

On a darker note, we lost one of our life members, Bob Kline. Bob was a guiding light for our founding members. His contributions and inspiration helped us build the foundation we stand for today. He will be missed by many.

Thank you to the members that attended the recent Earthday and Youth Camp clean-up events.

### MISSION STATEMENT

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We are Florida Sportsmen



# Earth Day, 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FSCA/Turkey Banquet  
6/10/23

Unity Weekend KOA  
Okeechobee  
7/15/23

Gladesmen Reunion  
8/20/23



It's great to see another successful Earth Day volunteer project organized by the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA) and Lake Okeechobee Airboat Association (LOAA) in 2023. The project was aimed at improving the Kissimmee River Public Use Area by removing obstacles and debris and removing 723 feet of boardwalk.

The volunteers used a range of equipment and tools to complete the job, including eight swamp buggy's, two with trailers, a skid steer, and an excavator. Hand tools such as battery-powered saws, drills, impact guns, chainsaws, hammers, and pry bars were also used.

It's important to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who contributed 375 man hours to the project without any financial compensation. Special thanks were given to Matt Nelson, Jamie Mellette, Ricky Burnsed, and everyone who traveled a long way to bring their equipment to the project site. A big thanks to the land managers of the South Florida Water Management District for hosting this year

Overall, the FSCA and LOAA's Earth Day event was a huge success, and it's inspiring to see people come together to improve public areas and make them safer for everyone to use. Looking forward to next year's Earth Day event in 2024!





# Youth Camp Cleanup

The leadership of Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA) Appreciation for Your Support in Managing the Everglades Youth Camp

On behalf of the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA), we express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your valuable contribution to the landscape management of the Everglades Youth Camp.

Your commitment and dedication to helping preserve the flora and fauna of the camp have been truly remarkable. The tasks like, mowing the grass around the lake, and trimming trees around the camp, have enhanced the area's safety and showcased its natural beauty for all to see.

I would also like to thank those who dedicated their time and effort to trim and clean the remote island, providing a pristine environment for the children to enjoy tent camping in the wilderness. Your hard work and attention to detail have undoubtedly created a memorable experience for the young campers.

While we may not have had an army of volunteers, the impact each one of you made was significant. Your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute have shown the true spirit of community and conservation. The Everglades Youth Camp is now prepared to welcome children from all walks of life, thanks to the tireless efforts of FSCA members like you.

For those who have not yet had the opportunity to join our dedicated team, I invite you to get involved and become a part of the FSCA volunteer community. You can contact us directly or visit our website for more information on registration and specifics about upcoming events. Together, we can ensure that the Everglades Youth Camp remains a haven for outdoor recreation, where generations of youth can connect with nature and create lasting memories.

Once again, we extend my heartfelt appreciation for your selfless contributions. Your support has played an integral role in preserving the natural beauty of the Everglades and fostering a love for the great outdoors among our younger generation. We look forward to your continued involvement and partnership in our conservation efforts.

FSCA leadership team



# **NWTF Annual Banquet**

Stay tuned for information regarding the upcoming NWTF banquet

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Florida Sportsmen Conservation Association & Lake  
Okeechobee Airboat Association invite you to the annual

## **Gladesmen Reunion**

Please come out and celebrate this culture and lifestyle you  
grew up in or are growing up in, so you can share with others.

We invite you to bring your photos, memories, and stories  
from the past and share them with others. We will be having a  
potluck lunch, so bring a dish.

Please share with others and help us fill the room.  
We had a great turnout last year and hope to do the same this  
year!

**Save the Date!**

We want to see you there!

Gladesmen Reunion  
August 20, 2023  
Okeechobee Civic Center



# WANTED!

TEAM SPONSOR Pre-Registration

Our 3rd Annual FSCA Sporting Clays Invitational

When: June 17, 2023

Where: Palm Beach County  
Shooting Sports Park

11730 Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd,  
WPB, FL 33412



## PLATINUM SPONSOR ~ \$1,500

- \* 4 Person shooting team (\$500 value) 400 rounds of ammo, 4 T-Shirts & 4 person golf cart.
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- \* Top-tier company logo on Tent Banner
- \* Top-tier company logo on all T-Shirts
- \* Lunch Banner Sponsor
- \* Top-tier company logo on award Cup

For More Information:  
Visit [www.FSCA1994.com](http://www.FSCA1994.com)

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- \* Top-tier company logo on award Cup

For Info Via Text Message:  
**TEXT: 844-414-1994**

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**STEAK DINNER**

**CASH BAR**

**RAFFLES**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**GAMES**



## 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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# FSCA Newsletter

July 2023



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July is the best time of year to reflect on seasons past and prepare for the season that's fast approaching.

It's time to get the bow target out so you can re-tune the draw muscles, it's also a great time to head to the range to make sure your favorite rifle hits what you're aiming at.

If you haven't visited our newest and only outdoor public range in Palm Beach County, Palm Beach Shooting Sports Park, is open daily.

Summer is also one of the best times of year to find a mature buck on trail cam. Bucks can be predictable this time of year so don't wait until season starts to put out cameras.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual sporting clay invitational was a huge success, thanks to our sponsors and shoot teams.

**Next General Meeting: 7.11.23**

### MISSION STATEMENT

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From that simple goal we have branched into many areas, but our focus has never changed.

We are Florida Sportsmen

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# WTF Annual Banquet

August 19, 2023

National Wild Turkey Federation. (NWTF) at 5pm. Moose Lodge 3600  
RCA Blvd Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

FSCA/Turkey Banquet  
8/19/23

Unity Weekend KOA  
Okeechobee  
7/15/23

Python Roundup  
7/28/23-7/30/23

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

29th Annual Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA) Banquet is hosting National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt fundraiser on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, FSCA has teamed up with (NWTF) to support Conservation.

The FSCA & NWTF are dedicated to wildlife conservation to preservation of our hunting heritage so please join us on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6pm. Moose Lodge 3600 RCA Blvd Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

FSCA is planning to use some of the money raised from this event within local WMA. Planting trees and creating food plots in local wildlife management areas can have significant benefits for both the environment and the wildlife that inhabits those areas. Trees provide essential habitat, improve air quality, and contribute to overall biodiversity. Food plots can enhance the availability of food resources for wildlife, helping to support their populations.

Supporting these efforts can contribute to the conservation and preservation of local ecosystems, making the wildlife management areas in Martin and Palm Beach County more vibrant and attractive. It's commendable that FSCA is planning to utilize the funds raised from the event for such a meaningful cause.

To further support your cause and make the wildlife management areas the talk of the state, you can consider engaging the local community and volunteers in the planting and maintenance activities. Promoting awareness through educational programs, workshops, and community events can also help generate more interest and support for the initiative.

Additionally, collaborating with local FWC managers, conservation groups, and experts can provide valuable guidance and resources for maximizing the impact of your efforts. By working together, you can create a positive and lasting change for the local wildlife and their habitats.

Overall, FSCA plan to plant trees and establish food plots in the local wildlife management areas is a commendable endeavor. It aligns with the goal of enhancing habitat and promoting wildlife habitat. I encourage you to help with the initiative and success in making your wildlife management areas shine within the state.

FSCA leadership

# Thank you

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sporting Clay Invitational Sponsors

### **Platinum Sponsors**

Sommer Outdoors  
Local 630  
CR Dunn  
Gator Guns and Archery  
Top Guns Ammo

### **Gold Sponsor**

Larry Daniels  
Legacy Roofing  
Impact Electric

### **Station Sponsor**

M Nelson Enterprises  
The Trailer Dr  
Interstate Underground  
Indian River Co Airboat Assoc  
Lox Momma Creations  
Performance Napa  
Shotshells FL LLC  
Stat Promo Solutions  
Butler Construction  
Ryzach Consulting  
Eagle Roofing

### **Team Only**

Local 630



Florida Sportsmen Conservation Association & Lake Okeechobee Airboat Association invite you to the annual

## Gladesmen Reunion

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Share with others and help us fill the room.

We had a great turnout last year and we're hoping to do the same this year!

Save the Date! We want to see you there!

Gladesmen Reunion

August 20, 2023

Okeechobee Civic Center

1750 US Highway 98 N Okeechobee FL 34972

### 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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**STEAK DINNER**

**CASH BAR**

**RAFFLES**

**SILENT AUCTION**

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Okeechobee KOA Resort  
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Okeechobee County



Tourist Development Council

# FSCA Newsletter

August 2023



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August starts deer season in the south, so if you're able to handle the swarms of mosquito's and humid S Fl heat, opening day is almost here. Stay hydrated and be safe out there.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Fl Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission hosted a Huntmaster awards banquet in Vero. Huntmasters from around the state gathered for comradery and to accept a plaque for their commitment to the program. Thank you to all the huntmasters, whether in attendance or not.

Special thanks to Bishop for having a vision to start this program almost 20yrs ago. Gator season starts this month as well, so good luck to anyone fortunate enough to draw a tag.

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8/19/23

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3/1/24-3/3/24

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STA 1  
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## **WTF/FSCA Annual Banquet**

**August 19, 2023**

National Wild Turkey Federation. (NWTF) at  
5pm. Moose Lodge 3600 RCA Blvd Palm Beach  
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August 20, 2023

Okeechobee Civic Center

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## 2023 Youth Python Roundup

2023 Youth Python Roundup was a successful and enjoyable event in the Everglades, organized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWM) in collaboration with the Youth Hunting Program of Florida (YHPF) and the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA).

The event began with an educational program led by McKayla Spencer, a member of the FWC Python Team, who provided valuable information about Burmese pythons and their impact on the Everglades ecosystem. The participants, including the youth hunters, were then given live capture training by the FWC before heading out into the Everglades to remove the invasive pythons.

Throughout the event, the youth hunters and other participants had a chance to experience the beauty of the Everglades while engaging in activities such as fishing for Peacock Bass and observing native wildlife, including a female alligator on her nest.

In total, four Burmese pythons were harvested during the hunt, with the largest snake measuring 10'2" and the smallest measuring 27". Removing these harmful invaders is crucial for the conservation of the Everglades ecosystem and the protection of native Florida wildlife.

The success of the event was attributed to the collaboration of various organizations and individuals, including Python Contractors, SFWMD Staff, and the FWC Python Management Team. The Youth Hunt Program was commended for its role in teaching young generations to be ethical sportsmen and stewards of the land.

Big thanks to python contractors from SFWMD Ozzie Gonzalez, Bayo Hernandez and FWC contractors Anne Vega, Matthew Kogo and Tom Rahill. FWC youth hunting guide from (YHPF) Billy Boatwright, Steve Stroh, Lauresa Musgrove, Kyle Shaffer, and Justin Lovellette

As the Huntmaster and a volunteer for the Youth Hunting Program of Florida for 19 years, Bishop Wright Jr. expressed gratitude to all involved and looked forward to another successful hunt in the following year.

Overall, the 2023 Youth Python Roundup was a meaningful and impactful event that contributed to the preservation of the Everglades and educated the youth about responsible wildlife conservation

## 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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# 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

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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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# 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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:

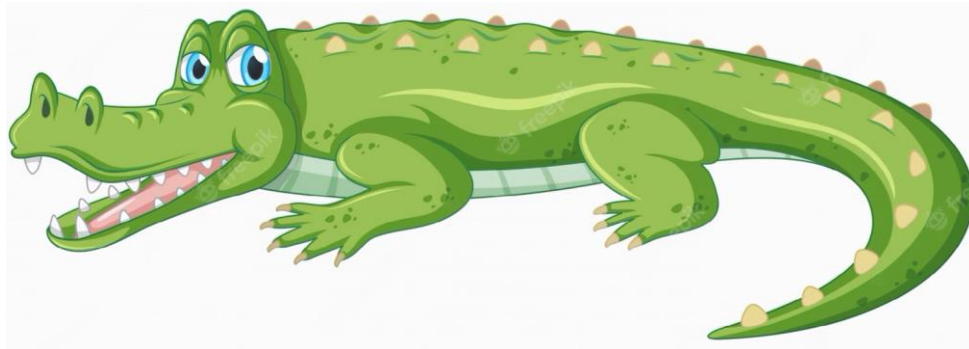
- **Opening Remarks:** Drew Bartlett, Executive Director of SFWMD, and Newton Cook, the Facilitator, welcomed everyone and provided their opening remarks. It's great to see the executive Director involved when the top man in charge sits at the table with pen and paper. You know everybody is listening 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,