



FSCA Newsletter March, April and May, 2024

The leadership of your association hopes this newsletter finds you well. As the weather changes and summertime approaches, we're all starting to feel it. FSCA has been moving at a fast pace during the first quarter of 2024. This newsletter will update you on our accomplishments so far this year. We apologize for its length, but we felt it was important to share all the news with you. Our Website has gone through major changes to help you find what you are most interested in. Current and Upcoming Events, right on the home page!

Presidents Letter

First of all, I want to congratulate the 2024 Officers and Board members of FSCA. It is an honor to have been elected President and I hope and plan to live up to the expectations of the job. Hopefully, everyone had a successful and memorable hunting season.

As always FSCA has a busy schedule this year from Youth hunts, fundraisers, banquets, social events, and work projects all to conserve, protect, and promote our traditional heritage and traditional gladesmen way of recreating. Please make a point to follow our website FSCA1994.com and our social media to stay informed about all the happenings and events.

A big thank you to all of our members, sponsors, and volunteers who have helped make all of our events a success so far this year!

If you are interested in finding out more about us or to get involved with any of the many events upcoming please come to our general meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Location is always posted on our website. We look forward to seeing you at one!

Matt Nelson

President

FSCA News March 2024, Events Recap

FSCA 26th Annual Outdoor Youth Day On February 3rd

The Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association has always been on the front line for youth outdoor activities. They're always finding ways that attract youth out of the city to enjoy the Outdoors. The Everglades Youth Conservation Camp (EYCC) is an essential resource that FSCA uses to educate and immerse the public in outdoor adventure and conservation education.

FSCA has been a highly engaged partner of EYCC for many years. Words cannot express how successful and well-run this event is after 26 years, and it's a must-see for children and adults of all ages. You need to put the event on your calendar for the first Saturday in February 2025. (February 1st, 2025)

Our annual youth day identifies the value of strong relationships between different stakeholders of EYCC to promote an essential agenda of reconnecting children and families with our unique ecosystem and Florida's outdoor recreation activities. Kids and their families enjoy a whirlwind of outdoor activities in a short period.

This year FAA brought 5 Airboats that gave all participants and volunteers a nice ride around the Airboat Pond. 11 buggy's gave a 1-mile buggy ride through the Pineywoods and sloughs behind the Airboat Pond. Everyone had a chance to shoot a bow, 22 rifles, muzzleloader, and shotgun, along with a brief discussion on the safe handling of firearms. Some enjoyed the primitive style of getting around, by canoeing in the lake or taking a pony ride. They even had a chance to bait a hook to catch fish; like most fishing trips, fish were biting, and the opportunity was there.

The Outdoor Youth Day Event occurs at the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. FSCA is glad to see boys and girls involved in nature-related activities instead of plugged into the electronic world of games and the Internet. This year, the essential part of the event was a diverse crowd as this was their only chance to break loose from our concrete jungle to enjoy the great outdoors.

The Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA) works to open public land for outdoor recreation. Our club has bloomed into a one-day outdoor fest in which kids and their families can sample a variety of outdoor activities for a \$10 admission fee.

FSCA had 1,392 participants attend Saturday's event, based at the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp in the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area in northern Palm Beach County. Terry Lynn Boatwright, event chair of FSCA, worked with other outdoor recreation groups to produce this year's event. Big thanks to Lewis Prime Grill for preparing lunches for the volunteers at this year's Youth Day everyone enjoyed the brisket sandwich. Thanks to its corporate sponsors who helped pay for expensive items such as fuel for the airboats and swamp buggies, about 150 volunteers worked this year to bring the activities to kids and their families. Special thanks to vendors like the providers of the animal petting area and the pony rides! The combination of sponsors, contributing vendors, and volunteer labor makes Outdoor Youth Day affordable and successful!

Youth Hunting Program Update

March is typically alligator hunting season for the youth hunting program in Florida. FSCA is fortunate to hold four alligator hunts in the Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA) STA 1 East, STA 2, STA 5, and at Dupuis WEA. Between the alligator hunts and the youth turkey hunt on Grassy Island, March is a busy month for FSCA Members.

We would like to take the time to thank the Hunt Masters, all of their volunteers, and the parents for supporting a great youth hunting program. A big shout-out goes to Hunt Masters Lauresa, Kerry, Billy, Steve, Bruce, and Mary for putting together a successful team effort.

On **March 25th SFWMD Recreation Forum** We had Matt, Joe, Lauresa, and Bishop attend the Recreational Forum in Naples, working on public access, conservation, and networking. Thank you to all who attended, your efforts to expand public access and experiences on SFWMD lands do not go unnoticed.

FSCA News April 2024 Events Recap

On April 6th FAA Quarterly Meeting

A few members of our association attended the FAA quarterly meeting at the Camp Mack Club House. Many airboat and sportsman's clubs from all over the state participated, sharing their events, issues, and concerns. The meeting was very informative, and we encourage you to attend one if you get the chance. On the same day as the FAA quarterly meeting, Billy and Bishop brought the electric bike to the 2024 Light It Up Blue/Airboaters for Autism event at Camp Mack to sell raffle tickets. This event was very successful.

On April 13th Black Gold Jubilee

Tommy and Justin did a fantastic job managing our booth and selling E-bike raffle tickets. This year's event was a huge success! The weather was perfect, the food was delicious, the vendors were excellent, and the entertainment was exceptional.

Belle Glade's annual Black Gold Jubilee, a much-anticipated festival, originated from the 1976 Bi-Centennial celebration sponsored by the City of Belle Glade to commemorate our nation's 200th birthday. Inspired by that memorable event, a group of citizens organized a similar festival the following year, shifting the focus to the area's rich soil, nicknamed "Black Gold" for its ability to produce bountiful harvests. In 1978, the first official Black Gold Jubilee kicked off in McDonald Park, next to the Belle Glade Branch Library. Since then, the Jubilee has become the best-attended festival in the area, drawing thousands of residents and visitors from across South Florida.

This year, the festivities took place on Torry Island, offering a full day of fun, food, and entertainment. The variety of food ranged from Greek to Cajun, and from down-home barbecue to soul food. The child-friendly atmosphere brought families out for a day of free games and kids' rides, while adults enjoyed music under a covered stage and a wide array of vendor wares. In the evening, activities moved to the amphitheater stage for musical performances, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display over the lake.

On April 21st 30th Annual J W Corbett Clean Up.

The 30th 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 21st, it's significantly less than what was present 29 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 30-yard dumpsters, a significant reduction from the four 30-yard dumpsters filled in previous years a testament to the success of education and community involvement.

Acknowledging FSCA President Matt Nelson for his exemplary leadership in coordinating with agencies to secure resources such as dumpsters and permission to utilize swamp buggies out of season is crucial. Special thanks are also due to Tommy McGoldrick, the event chairman, who not only organized the turnout but also personally cooked lunch alongside family and board members. However, the true heroes of this event are the dedicated volunteers whose participation made it a resounding success.

On April 26th Lake Okeechobee Educational Tour

FSCA was invited to participate in an educational event focused on raising awareness about Lake Okeechobee. Led by Mike Elfenbein, the tour brought together leaders from diverse backgrounds to discuss crucial issues and share concerns. Several club members joined with their airboats, spending the day in fellowship and guiding the participants.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. Your participation in events like these is crucial for fostering positive relationships with the decision-makers in our state. The tour provided an enriching experience for FAA members, allowing them to engage in meaningful discussions about the lake's significance. Collaborating with skilled professionals who share our appreciation for Lake Okeechobee's beauty was truly inspiring. Events like today's educational tour with Mike Elfenbein's group are invaluable for increasing awareness about the lake's importance. It has been a fulfilling week indeed, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to promote and protect this vital ecosystem.

FSCA News May 2024 Events Recap

On May 4th Chandler Slough Project Earth Day, 2024

Celebrating another successful Earth Day venture, the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA) and Lake Okeechobee Airboat Association (LOAA) joined forces once again in 2024. Their mission? To enhance the Kissimmee River Public Use Area by clearing obstacles and debris. This year's focus was on Chandler Slough, south of Highway 98 on the east side of the Kissimmee River.

Equipped with (10) ten swamp buggies, (6) six side-by-sides, and (2) two mini excavators, volunteers tackled the task with an array of hand tools, including battery-powered saws, drills, impact guns, chainsaws, hammers, and pry bars.

A heartfelt salute to the 58 dedicated volunteers who generously contributed 480 hours of their time to this cause, without expecting any financial reward. Special appreciation goes out to Matt Nelson, Jamie Mellette, Ricky Burnsed, and all those who traveled far to bring their equipment to the project site. Gratitude also extends to the South Florida Water Management District for hosting this event, with a special nod to SFWMD Board of Director Ben Butler for his active participation.

The collaborative efforts of FSCA and LOAA made this Earth Day initiative a resounding success, demonstrating the power of community in enhancing public spaces for the benefit of all. Here's to another impactful Earth Day event in 2025!

On May 3~5th The Florida Outdoor Expo 2024

The three-day Florida Outdoor Expo 2024, hosted by Allsports Production at the South Florida Fairgrounds in the Palm Beach Expo building, was a hit. Activities also took place outside, with a focus on promoting the right to hunt and fish by the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA). Surprisingly, many attendees were unaware of the upcoming ballot amendment regarding this right.

Participants who checked in and scanned the QR code supporting hunting and fishing rights received a raffle ticket for a Sensenich Propeller worth \$3600, generously donated by Sensenich. Congratulations to Landen Hall, the lucky winner of the propeller. The event also featured Jerry Bridges' race boat number 22, drawing attention to the cause amidst the bustling foot traffic.

Outside, FSCA members showcased two full tracks, four swamp buggies, and the raffle bike, while also promoting Florida's youth hunting program.

As the expo concluded, the FSCA expressed gratitude to all involved, especially Sensenich Propeller and Jerry Bridges, for their significant contributions. Chairman, Billy Boatwright, also thanked volunteers for their dedication and attendees for making the event a record-breaking success. Plans are already in motion for the 5th annual Florida Outdoor Expo in 2025.

On May 11th FSCA/NWTF Banquet 2024

FSCA leadership extends its gratitude to Luke Davis and the NWTF for another successful fundraiser, acknowledging the generous support despite a smaller turnout. Teaming up with NWTF aligns with FSCA's goal to benefit local wildlife management areas, preserving habitats and fostering hunting opportunities.

During its annual awards banquet, FSCA recognized individuals and organizations for their contributions to conservation. Awards ranged from the Horizon Award for emerging leaders to the Ethical Sportsman Award for combating land misuse. Notably, the "Tree for Marjory" award honors retirees or deceased members, symbolizing their legacy.

The NWTF's "Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt." initiative embodies its commitment to conserving wild turkeys and preserving hunting traditions. Over the years, NWTF's efforts have conserved millions of acres of habitat, recruited hunters, and opened access to public hunting grounds. Facing declining turkey populations and hunting participation, NWTF devised innovative strategies, including habitat restoration and community engagement.

NWTF focus on local wildlife management areas has revitalized turkey populations and enhanced overall wildlife habitats. Collaborative efforts such as food plots, native tree planting, prescribed burns, and habitat preservation have yielded significant results.

FSCA News May 2024 Events Recap continued

Despite recent challenges, FSCA remains dedicated to its mission and is actively seeking passionate volunteers to support its initiatives. Efforts are underway to regain representation on the NWTf state board, aiming to secure more funding for local wildlife management areas, particularly in South Florida.

FSCA has its annual awards banquet where we recognize members, non-members, agencies, and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Leadership would like to also thank everybody who was nominated for their contribution congratulations on their efforts and dedication to conservation.

- **Horizon Award:** A member who has only belonged to the FSCA for 3 years or less and has made significant contributions toward being part of the leadership, and congratulations to Justin Lovellette
- **Conservationist:** This award honors a man who has exemplified the highest principles of good sportsmanship and whose leadership abilities have made a significant impact on conservation, congratulations to Bo Moyer
- **Woman Conservationist:** This award honors a woman who has exemplified the highest principles of good sportsmanship and whose leadership abilities have made a significant impact on conservation, congratulations to Nikki McGoldrick
- **Youth Award:** Can be anyone under the age of 21 or a Youth Organization that has contributed to improving sportsmanship or the cause of conservation, and congratulations to Tyler Lukens
- **Agency Award:** Should be employed by the state, city or federal resource agency that has demonstrated dedication to protecting Florida's fish and wildlife resources, and congratulations to James Erskine
- **Non-Member Award:** A member of another club or council that has had a significant sportsmen achievement in the past, and congratulations to Paige Anderson
- **Tree for Marjory:** This award honors the recipient with an oak tree to be planted in a special place in the woods, accompanied by an engraved plaque. This award should be presented to someone that has retired or is deceased, to memorialize them in addition to dignifying their past achievements, and congratulations to John Halverson
- **John C. Jones:** The recipient of this award has extended an extraordinary amount of time and effort towards the impact of conservation and sportsmen. This award is solely chosen by the President, and congratulations to Brad Weihrauch
- **Board:** A member of the Board, chosen by the Board that has given extra effort as a member, and congratulations to Tommy McGoldrick
- **Ethical Sportsman:** Someone who has been instrumental towards the arrest and/or conviction of an individual who has mistreated the land and/or its resources, ie. Littered, poached, land destruction, etc., and congratulations to Todd Hogle

FSCA leadership attributes the success of the event to Chairmen Billy Boatwright and Steve Stroh, alongside their dedicated committee members including Marc Rivard, Tommy McGoldrick, Mark Dombroski, and Bishop Wright Jr. Special recognition is given to Brynn Summerlin for his vibrant presence and ability to make the evening enjoyable for all attendees. Additionally, the leadership of Matt Nelson inspired everyone to contribute to the event's success, making it a memorable occasion for all involved.

FSCA News June 2024 upcoming events

Our club has several upcoming events. As the dates approach, we will provide more details. In the meantime, please check the flyers. For more information and updates, contact the person in charge listed on the flyers.

Lastly, we need to be aware of Amendment 2 – protecting your right to fish and hunt. Our Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson has donated \$100K toward the importance of this campaign. The amendment will need 60% of votes to be sure this passes in November 2024. Please check our website for more information.

<https://www.fsca1994.com>

FSCA

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope this letter finds you well. June is another busy month for FSCA. Our Fathers day clay shoot is June 15th at the Palm Beach Shooting Sports Complex and we hope to see you there. We thank all of our sponsors and participants and even if you're not shooting stop by at noon and have lunch with us. There will be awards for the day and some pretty cool raffle items to be won that day. June 22nd is FSCA 30th reunion in west palm beach and is sure to be a great time! Its remarkable what this club has accomplished in the last 30 years so come out have dinner and see what all has been done. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer. Remember to take a kid fishing or scouting this summer. The impression you make could last a lifetime. Please continue to follow our social media and website to stay up to date with all we have going on. We look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events!

Matt Nelson
President



*Annual Corbett Area Clean-up
Picture by Sandra Effertz Photography*



Upcoming Events

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June 15, 2024 - 4th Annual FSCA
Sporting Clay

Invitational

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June 24, 2024 - Meeting at
SFMWD Headquarters B-1 Building,
Auditorium 3301 Gun Club
Road West Palm Beach, FL
33406.

*

June 22, 2024 - FSCA 30th Year
Reunion

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July 13, 2024 - FAA Banquet held
at Okeechobee KOA

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July 9, 2024 - Next FSCA
General Meeting

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FSCA calendar updated weekly
on FSCA1994.com

CELEBRATE THE FLORIDA SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION 30TH REUNION WITH PAST PRESIDENTS AND FOUNDING FATHERS

WHEN: JUNE 22, 2024 AT 5:30 PM

WHERE: LOCAL UNION 630

1900 N FLORIDA MANGO RD WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33409

The Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association 30th Reunion is a memorable event for past presidents, founding fathers, and other attendees. You can ensure a successful and enjoyable gathering celebrating the association's achievements over the past 30 years.



6 Presidents from 1994 through 2024

2024-2025 YOUTH HUNTS

Python Hunt

July 26-28th Everglades

Holiday Park

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Grassy Island

Muzzleloader

Oct 25-27th

*

Arthur Marshall Youth Hunt

Nov 1-3rd

*

Dupree WMA Youth Gator
Hunt Feb 21-22nd

*

Youth Gator Hunt

STA 2

Feb 28th - March 2nd

*

Grassy Island Youth Hunt

Mar 7-9th

*

Gator Youth Hunt

STA 5

Mar 21-23rd

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!



Other exciting events coming up:

SFWM WRAC and REC meeting

June 24, 2024 at 5 PM

SFWMD Headquarters

B-1 Building, Auditorium

3301 Gun Club Road

West Palm Beach, FL 33406


GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED:

The Recreational Public Forum is a public meeting regarding the public recreational issues and opportunities within the South Florida Water Management District.

FAA Unity Weekend

July 12-14, 2024

FAA Airboaters Unity Weekend FAA Airboaters Unity Weekend at Okeechobee KOA will be yet another great weekend for air boaters from around the state! Friday July 12th Will be the FAA meeting; Saturday will be a fun-filled day riding, shooting, and a pool party, Saturday evening, July 13th, will be FAA annual Banquet.



FLORIDA SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (FSCA)
30th Reunion with past presidents and founding fathers.

1994-2024 30 Years
FLORIDA SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE
Come join us to celebrate 30 years of FSCA
When: June 22, 2024 at 5:30 PM
Were: Plumbers Air Conditioning, Mechanical Steamfitters Union No 630 located at 1900 N Florida Mango Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33409.
Atmosphere: Casual attire with a BBQ dinner
Entertainment: A visit down memory lane with 11 different presidents to hear their stories.
Entry fee \$30 per person



WANTED!

TEAM SPONSOR Pre-Registration
Our 4th Annual FSCA Sporting Clays Invitational
When: June 15, 2024
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

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

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

For More Information:
Visit <https://FSCA1994.com>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO TEXT OR CALL STEVE AT 772-370-9451

Join the posse, SUPPORT FSCA!!

By the authority of..

FLORIDA SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
PROTECTING FLORIDA SPORTSMEN'S FUTURE TODAY

WWW.FSCA1994.COM



We are Florida Sportsmen

Advocacy for Public Access to Florida Lands

YOUTH HUNTS, CLEAN UP & CONSERVATION

[Click Here for the Club Calendar](#)

June 15th 2024 Our 4th Annual FSCA Sporting Clay Invitational

June 24th 2024 Meeting at SFMWD Headquarters B-1 Building, Auditorium 3301 Gun Club Road West Palm Beach, FL 33406. Replaces Board meeting scheduled for June 25th 2024

FSCA 30th Year Reunion June 22nd 2024

[Click Here for our Official Facebook Page](#)

[Click Here to Read Newsletters](#)

[Click Here for Newsletter Signup](#)

FWC Division of Law Enforcement Weekly Report



FSCA Newsletter



June was a busy month for FSCA. On the 8th we attended the Lake Okeechobee Association of Airboaters Trash Fish tournament at the Okeetantie airboat launch area. A total of 18 teams removed 458 invasive fish species from the lake. FSCA is proud to be a sponsor of this event. Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers and participants. On the 15th we held our 4th annual Fathers Day Fun Shoot which was a huge success! Thanks to all of our sponsors, volunteers and shooters! We look forward to seeing you at next years event. On the 22nd we held the 30th reunion of FSCA. We had a spectacular evening with 9 of the 12 past presidents and over 100 guests. It was great to hear all of the history of the club! The club also awarded Bishop Wright Jr the Lifetime achievement award. Special thanks to Nick Wiley for moderating the evening for us. And thank you to the past presidents in attendance who helped make the evening the success that it was. Looking forward we will be attending the FAA Unity Weekend Banquet 7/13 at the KOA in Okeechobee. This is a great event for a worthy cause and I hope to see you there. In closing I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer spending time with family. Please continue to follow our social media and website for all upcoming events.

Matt Nelson
President



*FSCA 30th Reunion
Pictures by Sandra Effertz Photography*

Upcoming Events

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[10 Year Management Plan for
the JWD Corbett Manage-
ment Area](#)

[July 24, 2024](#)

[6:30 PM](#)

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[FSCA calendar updated week-
ly on FSCA1994.com](#)

Amendement #2

The Right to Fish and Hunt

Matt, Joe, and Bishop joined a group of ranchers, conservationists, and sportsmen at an event with Travis and Mike. This gathering led them to Marco Island to support the Right to Fish and Hunt Amendment #2. Lauren Melo, a state representative, has been a champion for this amendment and other conservation efforts like WERP and Lake Okeechobee. Lauren's commitment to Florida's sportsmen makes supporting her and the amendment an easy choice for many.

While most outdoor enthusiasts are wary of constitutional amendments, it's crucial to spread the word and vote yes on Amendment 2 this year. Many people don't realize the threats to hunting and fishing, but these activities are under attack in at least 12 other states. It's essential to get informed, vote, and encourage others to vote yes on Amendment 2.

Wes Bates, founder and CEO of Stanley Steemer, hosted the event. He is a dedicated sportsman and member of the International Order of T. Roosevelt (IOTR). Luke Hilgemann, the Executive Director of IOTR, both of them encouraged Lauren to champion the right to hunt and fish.

President Theodore Roosevelt pioneered the North American Model of Conservation, emphasizing the importance of hunters in conservation efforts. Now, the right to hunt and fish in America is under threat. Some politicians and activists aim to eradicate hunting, jeopardizing Roosevelt's conservation vision. Hunting funds 75% of conservation efforts, but restrictions and bans threaten this funding.

A constitutional amendment provides the strongest legal protection against anti-hunting efforts. Currently, 23 states have established a right to hunt and fish, with Vermont being the first in 1777 and Utah the most recent in 2020. Establishing this right preemptively defends against anti-hunting legislation and litigation.

Conservationist in Florida are stepping up to protect this legacy, pushing back against those who don't understand the sport and upholding the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Securing the right to hunt and fish in every state will help grow the sport, welcome new hunters, and protect the lands set aside by our founding fathers.

2024-2025 YOUTH HUNTS

Python Hunt

July 26-28th Everglades

Holiday Park

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Grassy Island

Muzzleloader

Oct 25-27th

*

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Youth Gator Hunt

STA 2

Feb 28th - March 2nd

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Grassy Island Youth Hunt

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Gator Youth Hunt

STA 5

Mar 21-23rd

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!



Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association 30th Reunion

Thank you, Matt Nelson, for your leadership and wisdom in guiding us through the night. This event provided a wonderful opportunity to bring together not only our founding fathers but also the next generation that will carry FSCA forward. It was inspiring to see three generations of FSCA members gathered to share their accomplishments over the years. FSCA was honored to welcome everyone to the 30th reunion of the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association.

The evening was a journey through the past 30 years, highlighting the many achievements of this club, the tireless efforts of its founding fathers, presidents, and members, and the invaluable relationships built with staff from local, state, and federal agencies. From courtrooms to the thickest mud in the glades, this club has faced every challenge to public access with the goal of protecting and preserving traditional access and recreation on public land in Florida.

FSCA extends its gratitude to all who attended, hoping you not only enjoyed the evening but also gained insight into the hard work that has made our current access possible. The leadership would like to thank Nick Wiley for traveling from Tennessee to be our moderator, and Jamie and Velve Mellette from Swamp Cracker Barbecue for providing dinner. They are one of the hardest-working families in conservation, and we were honored to have them at the event.

A special thank you to Mike Elfenbein and Travis Thompson for discussing Amendment 2, which will be on our ballot this November. They answered questions and provided guidance on how to help spread the word to ensure this amendment passes. We also applaud Nikki and Tommy McGoldrick for managing the front door and checking everyone in, along with Bo Moyer, who donated the .308 Browning rifle won by Daniel King. Thanks to Daniel King for recording the event and to Sandra Shoemate for capturing photos that will last a lifetime.



*Current and past presidents of FSCA
Pictures by Sandra Effertz Photography*

FSCA's Achievements Over the Past 30 Years

FSCA started in 1994 by a small group of like minded individuals with one goal. Work to increase public recreation in Florida that's simple goal has branched into many areas, but FSCA focus has never changed.

Accomplishments & Projects

- Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association members enthusiastically answer the call for help when volunteer help is needed throughout the year to assist with various conservation efforts. Members have spent countless hours and have removed tons of trash from various public lands. Projects such as this only emphasize the need for more public awareness into a growing problem that faces Florida. Projects include, Northlake blvd, Corbett WMA, Multi-turf, Conservation area 2, Lake Kissimmee. Our latest project, on Earth Day 2014, we gathered 32 airboats with 80 volunteers to remove two abandoned Duke University research stations in WCA2. Several clubs and camp owners took part in this massive cleanup, but the most impressive thing was the innovative ideas, tools and techniques demonstrated by the Gladesmen to get the job done. This is an example of what volunteers can do and save the district thousands of dollars.
- When the Everglades Youth Camp at the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area was threatened with closure due to the condemnation of the camps obsolete waste water discharge system, F.S.C.A. volunteers donated 1404 man hours of labor and heavy equipment to truck in 2,340 yards of fill material and construct a modern drain field and filtration marsh. This allowed the summer youth camp program to open on schedule and saved the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) \$50,000.00 during a time of crucial budget shortfall. Years later, we returned, in the new pavilion to build a BBQ for outdoor grilling.
- Annual "Outdoor Youth Day" program is specifically designed to educate our children to the many different recreational activities available on our natural areas. Events include pony rides, canoeing, wildlife show, fishing, airboat & buggy rides, archery, K-9 show and rifle range. Each year we host over 1000 children for this unique experience. This event also helps us sponsor underprivileged children to attend the Everglades Youth Camp each summer.
- In January 1995, members helped convert an old horse stable into the Conservation Pavilion at the South Florida Fair and every year since we set up a booth to help educate the public on S Fl conservation issues.
- Our representatives have consulted with FWC and SFWMD to facilitate opening and establishing responsible regulation of new lands for recreational use. To date these lands include Nicodemus Slough, Fort Drum Swamp, Browns Farm, Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Frog Pond, West Jupiter Wetlands, Dinner Island, Spirit of the Wild WMA, John and Mariana Jones WEA, all 5 STA's, Okalawacochee and Allapatha Flats
- In 2011 we purchased 2.5 acres of property in Royal Palm Beach for our future Conservation headquarters. The property is instrumental in the growth of our organization by allowing us to have a footprint in S Fl.

FSCA's Achievements Over the Past 30 Years

- FSCA was instrumental in establishing the Youth Hunt program of FL. We held the 1st non agency personnel youth hunt in our state, we hosted 15 different hunts for over 75 children. Twenty-nine of our members are certified Hunt Masters with the state of Florida Youth Hunt program
NRA Youth Hunter Ed challenge tournament is an awesome program in which FSCA had three boys from region five qualify for Pennsylvania to represent the state of Florida in 2008.
- In cooperation with the Everglades Coordinating Council (ECC) and the Florida Conservation Council, F.S.C.A. has helped organize and host events designed to educate our state legislators of environmental programs facing South Florida's unique ecosystem, as well as the recreational opportunities and economic enhancements a healthy ecosystem can provide. These events have included three legislative tours of the Everglades and Legislative Day family outings at the Everglades Youth Camp.
- Assisted in the construction of a park in the City of West Palm Beach in the Water Catchment Area, allowing public access for wildlife viewing opportunities in an area that had been closed to the public since the early 1980s. F.S.C.A. volunteers returned to provide maintenance for the park trail system.
- October 27, 1994 F.S.C.A. volunteers participated in "Operation Deer Feed" in Water Conservation Area III, taking native vegetation to starving deer stranded on islands during flood conditions. An important component of this project involved transporting elected officials and the news media into flooded areas to educate them as to the plight of the wildlife in the area. Additionally, uncovering the flaws in the water management system that contributed to the devastation.
- In cooperation with SFMD, we build a 20x30 foul weather shelters on DuPuis, and 2 along the Kissimmee River PUA we moved posted signs back for more public access along with making a campground for all user groups.
- Designed and built the 1st horse paddock for Dupuis WMA before they would open to equestrian use. Volunteers also installed a fence at the public campground on the Dupuis Reserve.
- The Florida Trails Association has an Ocean to Lake Hiking Trail that runs for approximately 63 miles, west from Hobe Sound Beach to Lake Okeechobee. The trail starts at the ocean, entering Jonathan Dickinson State Park at US 1, traveling through the park, Palm Beach County Natural Areas, Corbett Wildlife Management Area and Dupuis Management Area, and ends at the lake. This trail was enhanced when the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association placed a bridge over the game canal in the JW Corbett wildlife management
- Designed, built and installed Wood Duck Boxes at Dupuis Reserve, on Lake Okeechobee, John and Mariana Jones WEA, and the Kissimmee River in cooperation with SFWMD, FWC, and Delta Waterfowl. Programs such as these have enabled wood duck populations to rebound from near extinction throughout the nation.
- We participated in the Vessel Sound Ordinance Testing in cooperation with FWC.
- May 23, 1995 the F.S.C.A. was appointed to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Environmental Advisory Committee.

FSCA's Achievements Over the Past 30 Years

- Adopted a “White Tailed Deer” in June 1997 as a participant in the Dreher Park Zoo Adopt-an-Animal program.
- Repaired 11 miles of vandalized fence on Cecil Webb Wildlife Management Area (WMA), enabling continued public enjoyment of this area. F.S.C.A. established a peer pressure education program to urge ethical conduct on public lands.
- We have treated youth groups to fun-filled environmental education field trips via swamp buggies and airboats. These groups include Girl Scouts, 4H kids, summer youth camp attendees, Boy Scouts and Indian Princesses.
- F.S.C.A. members lend a hand to members of our community in need. In June 1994, held a benefit barbecue for a single mother who had been seriously injured in an automobile accident. In July 1997 FSCA held a benefit for two-year-old Cody Freshwater, diagnosed with Acute Lymphocyte Leukemia, then years later he was a one of our Youth hunters.
- Developed and coordinated youth education programs in local schools and the Everglades Youth Camp.
- Participated in habitat enhancement prescribed burning program with FWC within the J.W. Corbett Management Area.
- On three separate occasions F.S.C.A. donated and installed culverts to improve hydrology under backcountry trails on public lands and to provide for continued public use during periods of flooding.
- We have hosted numerous Wounded Warrior events to include turkey, deer/hog and alligator hunts

Volunteers improved visitor safety and aesthetics on SFWMD lands by removing over 2450 fence posts and over 170,000 ft of barbed wire from Nicodemus Slough, Gardner Marsh and Kissimmee River.

- Re-roofed the storage building at the Everglades Youth Camp rifle range where young people as well as adults are trained in firearms safety.
- “Mangrove Marathon” on Jupiter Waterways Park, a project to replace harmful exotic trees with native mangroves which are essential in restoring inshore islands and marine nurseries along Florida’s east coast.
- Worked in conjunction with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to count and mark existing Red Cockaded Woodpecker colonies.
- Volunteers have frequently participated in annual exotic tree eradication programs on various management areas.

FSCA's Achievements Over the Past 30 Years

- We promote conservation and environmental education in annual “Earth Fest” and “Earth Fest for Educators” events at the Palm Beach Mall.
- Hosted Bass Tournaments to promote catch-and-release fishing opportunities and to raise funds to further our conservation efforts.
- Developed and managed a “Dolphin Fishing Tournament” to promote fishing opportunities and to raise funds to further our conservation efforts.
- Volunteers provide swamp buggy rides in the Ft. Pierce Cattlemen’s parade and the Belle Glade Black Gold parade.
- In conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) F.S.C.A. volunteers participated in real Florida naturescaping in John D. MacArthur State Park.
- F.S.C.A. volunteers have participated in the annual Kids Fishing Day event sponsored by the West Palm Beach Fishing Club.
- Held our first annual alligator hunt kickoff party at Belle Glade Marina on Lake Okeechobee.
- Helped the FWC set rules for three new land acquisitions.
- Helped SFWMD form WRAC Rec committee making sure all their lands have all the recreational opportunities possible.
- Every year prior to the peak period in which native wildlife is expected to produce offspring, F.S.C.A. volunteers work with members of other conservation organizations to plant over 600 lb. of seed to enhance wildlife habitat.
- We annually host a Treasure Coast Wildlife Management area summit to allow user groups to coordinate on problems in our local WMA’s
- Each July F.S.C.A. celebrates Plant a Tree for Marjorie Day. By planting a tree in honor of a person who, like Marjory Stoneman Douglas, has dedicated his or her life to promoting conservation and environmental responsibility.
- F.S.C.A. participates in the FWC’s Adopt-a Boat Ramp program.
- In 1997 joined “Adopt a Highway” program, providing ongoing litter control over a 4-mile stretch of Northlake Blvd. In the Royal Palm Beach Acreage. Volunteer work details are scheduled to coincide with peak rush hour traffic in order to promote environmental responsibility through example.

FSCA's Achievements Over the Past 30 Years

- F.S.C.A. volunteers lend a hand in cleaning up local lakes and waterways during the FWC's annual Project Eagle environmental cleanup.
- Help Santa collect toys for underprivileged children every Christmas by participating in the US Marines Toys for Tots program.

If you're not a part of this association, feel free to get involved we welcome everyone aboard. This is by far not a one-man show as you can see.



*FSCA 30th Reunion
Pictures by Sandra Effertz Photography*

By Nikki McGoldrick, FSCA, All Rights Reserved

4th Annual Father's Day Fun Shoot 2024

On behalf of the Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association (FSCA), we extend a heartfelt thank you for your generous support as a sponsor for our annual clay shoot. Your contribution has been instrumental in making this event possible, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to our cause. We extend special thanks to Steve and Rachel Stroh, who have supported this event from the beginning. We also want to acknowledge Native Boyz and Chris Duque for helping us promote this event, along with Terry Garceau and his cooking team for providing lunch and delivering essential supplies. Additionally, we appreciate all the board members who ensured every detail was meticulously handled. This event would not have been possible without the Palm Beach County Shooting Sports Complex and their staff, who provided all the necessary support, making it an enjoyable day for families to come out and participate in shooting sports. We thank the 22 teams who joined us, spending the day with FSCA members to celebrate Father's Day in a fun and engaging way. Congratulations to all the winners! Here is the list of winners: Ericka Lambert (Conservationist), Keeley Lima (Youth Female), Layton Fogleman (Youth Male), Nikki McGoldrick (Top Female), Kyle Barrett (Top Male), and Treasure Coast Hospice (Top Team). Each received a trophy from Lox Momma Creations. Congratulations to Kerry Garceau on winning the card game for the Savage rifle donated by Scott Sommer. Additionally, congratulations to Muck King Enterprises, the winner of the sponsors' double-barrel shotgun. Through your sponsorship, you have demonstrated dedication not only to the sport but also to the community. Your investment has enabled us to provide a memorable experience for all participants, fostering camaraderie and a passion for conservation.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing partnership and the positive impact it has on our organization and the broader community. Your support allows us to continue promoting conservation and organizing events that bring people together. Once again, thank you for your invaluable sponsorship. We look forward to seeing you at the 2025 clay shoot and celebrating the success of this event together.

With sincere gratitude,
FSCA Leadership

****Platinum Sponsors****

- Sommer Outdoors
- Local 630
- CR Dunn
- Larry Daniels
- Top Guns Ammo

****Gold Sponsor****

- Indian River Co Airboat Association

****Station Sponsors****

- Muck King Enterprises
- The Trailer Dr
- Lox Momma Creations
- Loxahatchee Napa
- Shotshells FL LLC
- Place of Hope
- Treasure Coast Hospice

****Station Sponsors****

- Expert Elevator
- Fox Brown Outfitters
- Stat Promo Solutions
- Butler Construction
- EZ Removal Services
- Foundation Chiropractor
- Hayes Welding

Congratulations to Bishop Wright for Recieving the Lifetime Achievment Award

I am honored and humbled to receive this Lifetime Achievement Award. To say I was caught off guard would be an understatement. Throughout my tenure with FSCA, my wife Caroll has been by my side, making me a better person every step of the way.

In the 90s, I was fortunate to have some amazing mentors who played a significant role in shaping FSCA into the club it is today. People like John and Mariana Jones, Barbara Jean Powell, Tom Shirley, Jack Moller, Freddy Fisikelli, Walt Branden, Frank Dienager, and Jack Stanley, among others, opened doors and showed us the boundaries of what we could achieve.

I have always strived to be a mentor to anyone within our conservation circle. As many of you know, I've been part of FSCA for 30 years. I attribute the success of this organization to its founding fathers and every president who has guided FSCA through the years.

I have been blessed to work alongside dedicated conservationists who not only possessed great common sense but also a Gladesman background. They were always willing to put the club's momentum ahead of their personal opinions when necessary. We have always lived by the 80/20 rule, which has kept our club healthy. (The 80/20 rule means that 80% of the time, the majority of the group is on the same page. When you find yourself in the 20% minority, you learn that you can't always change the outcome, but you don't quit. You stay focused with the majority.)

Thank you, everyone, for this award. It is deeply appreciated. One person can't do everything alone; it requires support and a strong team behind him. Thank you for standing by me and for this incredible honor.

Sincerely,
WINNERS NEVER QUIT
Bishop Wright Jr.
Honorary Board Member
Life Member of FSCA



Pictures by Sandra Effertz Photography

FSCA Newsletter

Summer is coming to an end and hopefully everyone is making memories with friends and family. The weekend of July 13th we participated in The FAA Unity weekend and banquet which was a successful fundraiser for the FAA and a great event uniting airboaters and sportsmen from around the state. Keynote speakers were Mike Elfenbein, Travis Thompson and Betty Osceola. Drew Bartlett and Betty Osceola both received awards from the FAA. Members of FSCA participated in a clay shoot Saturday morning at Ok Corral while others joined the LOAA airboat ride which had over 35 airboats riding from Okeetantie to Harney pond. Lunch was provided by the board members of LOAA then all rode back to Okeetantie. July 27th we held our Youth Python Hunt. 9 youth participated and 5 snakes were harvested. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this hunt the success that it was! Archery season opens this month in Zone A and we wish everyone luck enjoying time in the stand and hopefully success in harvesting. Unfortunately July ended on a very sad note for us.

The passing of any member is a tragic loss but this one is especially tough. Caroll Wright, the wife of founding member Bishop Wright was more than just a member. She has been an instrumental part of this club since its founding 30 years ago. She was a welcoming presence to new members, a dedicated chairman of Outdoor Youth Day, and a constant support and advisor to anyone who had questions on anything FSCA related. She will be dearly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with Bishop.

Matt Nelson
President



Upcoming Events

*

9/5/2024 7:30 PM

FSCA General Meeting

8535 Northlake BLVD,

West Palm Beach, FL

33412

*

9/24/2024 7:00 PM

FSCA Board Meeting

8535 Northlake BLVD,

West Palm Beach, FL

33412

FSCA calendar updated
weekly on FSCA1994.com



Bishop and Caroll Wright

Annual Youth Day 2025



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

February 1st, 2025
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
on Our Official Website: <https://fsca1994.com/>
Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/floridasportsmenconservation/>*

2024-2025 YOUTH HUNTS

Grassy Island

Muzzleloader

Oct 25-27th

*

Arthur Marshall Youth Hunt Nov 1-3rd

*

Dupree WMA Youth Gator Hunt Feb 21-22nd

*

Youth Gator Hunt

STA 2

Feb 28th - March 2nd

*

Grassy Island Youth Hunt

Mar 7-9th

*

Gator Youth Hunt

STA 5

Mar 21-23rd

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!



JW Corbett 10 Year Management Plan

By Bishop Wright



FSCA would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend this meeting. It was great to see users engaged in the discussion of the 10-year plan. While the process was lengthy and sometimes tedious, the information shared was essential.

So, what changes are coming in the next 10 years? They plan to conduct controlled burns during hunting season to increase the window of opportunity for land management. There is also a plan to eradicate all wild hogs in the area, which is concerning due to their role in the food chain.

Camping was mentioned, but not discussed in detail. However, it appears there will be new additions, such as a dump station and ADA-compliant campsites. The specifics of other changes to camping were not clarified.

There is a high level of concern regarding off-road vehicle (ORV) use. While the focus is on responsible recreational use, we must monitor and pay attention to this issue closely.

Hydrology and its impact on the connecting wildlife management areas were also discussed. A significant plan is to remove the blacktop on the north grade and revert it to a graded road.

Overall, the meeting was informative. Thanks to everyone who attended and asked questions. It's encouraging to see sportsmen engaged in these discussions

FSCA Pre Hunt Discussion Meeting

The Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association appreciates all of the your participation in the pre-hunt discussion meeting for the upcoming season. Effective communication and staying informed helps everyone in the community understand the surroundings and logistics.

Topics of conversation:

Upcoming season rule enforcements/changes and violations/issues

Social media discussion

Percentage of population hunters/antihunters

Orv usage and perception

FSCA ORV committee proposal

WMA deer dog registration

Outdoor Youth Day 2/1/2025

Vote Yes on 2

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EXCITING NEWS!

Multiple members from FSCA and LOAA have come together to become hunter safety course instructors to expand the Florida youth hunting program and educate our youth on safe and ethical hunting practices.

VOTE YES ON 2

PRESERVE THE RIGHT TO FISH + HUNT IN FLORIDA

What's on the Ballot this November 5, 2024?

RIGHT TO FISH AND HUNT. — Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to preserve forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. Specifies that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section 9 of Article IV of the State Constitution.

Protect

Amendment 2 definitively protects our right to fish and hunt in the state of Florida. While bans were considered in at least a dozen states last year, including a push to criminalize hunting, fishing and farming, Amendment 2 will prevent extremists from taking away our rights.

Preserve

Amendment 2 preserves Florida's rich traditions, conservation practices, outdoor lifestyle and economic opportunities. As the Fishing Capital of the World, anglers come to chase everything from tarpon to red snapper, while hunters flock to Florida to chase waterfowl, and Osceola turkeys.



Promote

Amendment 2 provides the fundamentals of conservation — enhancing ecosystems and promoting game populations which provide opportunities for Floridians and visitors alike to experience the unmatched natural resources of Florida's fishing and hunting adventures.



LEARN MORE:
YESon2Florida.com

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Youth Python Hunt

July 27, 2024



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