



Gator Gazette



Introducing Our New Logo

Like most organizations dedicated to a common purpose, our name is our brand — representing the image, philosophy and purpose of the organization. The SWA brand has come to be known in Solivita as the primary subject matter expert and advocacy group on the subject of local wildlife. That brand name is represented in print by a recognizable font type and icon — commonly referred to as a logo.



We invented our initial logo several years ago, and it has served us well. However, as we invest more time and effort in promoting our group we found that we needed a new logo, one that was more powerful and flexible — reflecting the subject matter to which we are all dedicated.

So, we went back to the drawing board and created the new one that you see affixed at the top of this page. It will be used on our new website and wherever we represent ourselves in print. We consider it more striking and representative of a nature oriented organization.

Club Members Photo

Each year, as our club grows, we take a picture of membership at a meeting with outstanding attendance. This time we did it at the October meeting when we had 65 member present. We all enjoyed the delicious potluck dinner followed by our usual lively monthly meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the December 2nd meeting — our annual Holiday Potluck Dinner Bash.



OCTOBER MEETING — POT LUCK — ANNUAL MEETING

Our October meeting was a blast! We gathered in the Palms Meeting Room on October 24th with sixty-five (65) engaged members in attendance. The food was great and the tableside conversation even better. Our Program Director, Barbara McDonald, assisted by her hubby Gary Seiffer and compadres Vivian and Ken Aber, organized and orchestrated another great event.

The Board presented a review of past year's activities as well as its goals for 2025 and beyond. Agenda notes are available on page

Here are some pictures from the party-



I-4 WILDLIFE CROSSING—USER REPORT

We have some great news courtesy of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and our friends at Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation. The **I-4 State Road 557 Wildlife Underpass** which was completed in June 2024 has been seeing lots of animal traffic, and is doing a great job in ushering wildlife through a crucial corridor connection point.

“It is absolutely incredible how quickly the animals have adapted to the crossing in such a short period of time,” said Brent Setchell of FDOT. *“There was nothing there before, so I was expecting it to take several months for wildlife to start fully utilizing the crossing. But we have thousands of pictures and videos that we are going through, but I want to share a couple that I really believe portrays the initial success of the crossing.”*

Your SWA is highly supportive of this project and is hoping for the installation of additional crossings as soon as possible. “Death by automobile” is the number one killer of the Florida Panther and many other migratory mammals.





MINUTES FROM OCTOBER CLUB MEETING

Bob Monica called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at Palms Amenity Room. Board members present: Bob Monica, Leo Mills, Dorothy Schwartz and Barbara McDonald. Bruce Allen was absent as he was caring for his wife, Debbie who recently had surgery.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Treasurer Leo Mills gave his report.
 - Membership dues - \$1440.00
 - YTD income - \$3076.09
 - Total club funds YTD - \$5701.44
 - Total YTD expenses - \$2114.57
 - Net club funds - \$3586.87
 - We have 188 members.
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- Minutes of October Meeting were accepted by the group.
 - Future meeting dates are - Holiday Party December 2nd, January 20, 2025 and February 17, 2025. Future dates are always available on the SWA Solivita website page.
 - The gator report for the end of September 2024 indicates no gators has been removed. The annual count remains at a total of three.
 - Program Director, Barbara McDonald, presented a report detailing the social and educational events the club has scheduled in the immediate upcoming months.
 - Bob reviewed the club's 2025 Annual Plan. The plan includes the inclusion of a new logo which the attending membership voted to adopt. Bob said he hopes that the new website will be ready by January 2025.
 - Bob reviewed the contents of the Bear Safety Presentation that had to be cancelled due to the hurricane.
 - Bob also provided an update on the hog situation.

AUDUBON'S BIRDS OF AMERICA AND BIRDS OF FLORIDA EXHIBIT



OCTOBER 12, 2024 THROUGH FEBRUARY 16, 2025

The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg is thrilled to bring *Audubon's Birds of America* to St. Petersburg. Produced by National Museums Scotland, this exhibition celebrates the extraordinary legacy of John James Audubon (1785 –1851). It tells the story of this iconic artist, naturalist, and ornithologist, as well as the evolution of one of the world's rarest, largest, and possibly most coveted books, *The Birds of America*.

Printed almost two hundred years ago, its epic scale and spectacular life-sized bird illustrations caused a sensation. The exhibition features over 40 of these splendid hand-colored prints, as well as additional illustrations, books, letters, photographs, and ephemera. The majority of these delicate pieces have never been shown in public and have undergone years of conservation treatment in preparation for their inaugural display and tour.



Audubon's Birds of America brings new interpretations of the creation and significance of this incredible body of work. It explores this work's historical context with fresh viewpoints and new research and considers why Audubon's artistic style was so ground-breaking—and how, even today, his artistic vision is both comfortingly traditional and yet edgily modern.

For more information go to: https://mfastpete.org/exhibition/audubons-birds-of-america/?mc_cid=eb8a5133ef&mc_eid=8986f6d647

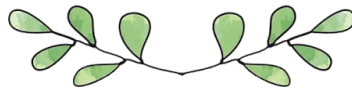
NOVEMBER'S FEATURED WILDLIFE RESCUE PROVIDER



4560 N US Highway 1, Palm Shores, FL, Florida

FWH is dedicated to providing compassionate and expert care to sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife. Our advanced veterinary hospital has a full-time veterinarian, as well as many other experienced staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to treat over 200 species. Animals in need are rescued, rehabilitated, and released back into their natural habitats, ensuring they have a second chance at life.

We believe in the importance of education and community involvement. Through our outreach programs, we aim to inspire and educate the public about wildlife conservation and the critical role each of us plays in protecting our planet's biodiversity. Join us in our mission to keep wildlife wild. Whether through helping an animal in need, donating, or simply spreading the word, your support makes a difference. Together, we can be wildlife heroes.



**NEW CLUB T-SHIRTS
NOW AVAILABLE
FEATURING V-NECKLINE
PEACH — \$20**

