



# Gator Gazette

[solivitawildlife.com](http://solivitawildlife.com)



## Pot Luck For The Irish

Our March Membership Meeting was a celebration of all things Irish, with a fabulous pot luck dinner featuring delicious corned beef and cabbage prepared by Chef Gary Seiffer and his talented wife Barbara McDonald. Attended by 75 members (the most ever) the food offerings were superb and plentiful. The dessert table alone was bursting with tasty treats. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the feast.

Bob Monica began the formal festivities with a tale about Irish Honey Wine (Meade) in Medieval Times and its natural relationship to the flourishing of the population. All in fun, and followed by the monthly meeting (minutes available on page four).



We are all anxiously awaiting the repeat performance of Gatorland in the Starlite Ballroom on April 23rd. If you missed the last event (see advertisement below) mark your calendar for this one. It's free to paid SWA members and kids, and

only \$5.00 for other residents and guests. Be sure to bring your grandkids, it's a family friendly event.

**COMING TO SOLIVITA**  
**APRIL 23 ~ 10 AM**  
**STARLITE BALLROOM**  
**ADMISSION \$5.00**

**Kids go free!**

**GATORLAND will have several "reptilian visitors" on hand. Bring your grandkids!**  
**Open to ALL RESIDENTS. FREE for SWA Members, Non-Members only \$5.00.**  
 SWA Membership fee \$15 per year. Tell your friends... Don't miss out.

**DUES  
 PAST  
 DUE  
 \$15.00  
 01/01/25**

## CENTRAL FLORIDA ANIMAL RESERVE VISIT — MARCH 2025

Our club made a second visit to CFAR last month on a beautiful sun filled day. The reserve cannot host groups of more than 25, restricting how many folks from SWA can attend simultaneously. If you missed the last one and will to go with a group, let us know and we will make the arrangements.

A speaking presentation with the reserve's boss, known to all simply as Simba, is planned for the near future. Unfortunately, the "kitties" are restricted from local travel.

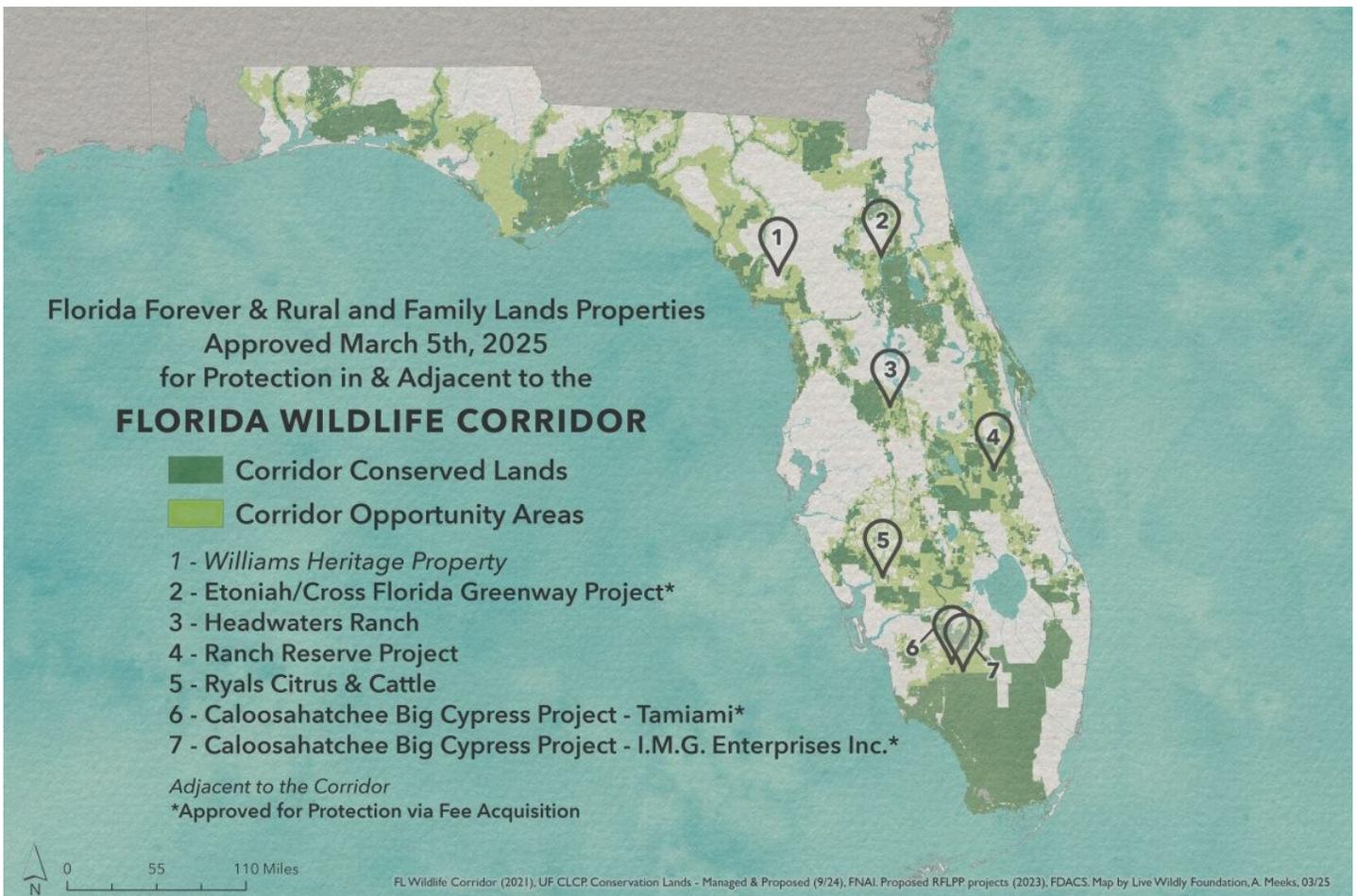


## FLORIDA ADDS 34,595 ACRES TO THE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

In a momentous decision on March 5, Governor Ron Desantis approved groundbreaking funding for the permanent conservation of an extensive 34,595 acres spanning eight properties within and adjacent to the existing **Florida Wildlife Corridor**. This **\$84.9 million** investment strengthens the Corridor by closing critical gaps while safeguarding the state’s wildlife, water resources, and working lands. The approved properties span Osceola, Putnam, Hendry, Collier, Charlotte, Levy, and Lake counties.

The acquisitions or conservation easements are funded by the **Florida Forever Program** at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the **Rural and Family Lands Protection Program** at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). The action marks a milestone for the Rural and Family Lands Protection program which has now protected over 200,000 acres since its creation in 2001.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor is a critical ecological network of 18 million acres connecting existing conservation lands to private working lands, providing a pathway for wildlife to roam and thrive. Nearly 10 million acres are already under permanent protection .





## MINUTES FROM MARCH CLUB MEETING

President, Bob Monica called meeting to order at 5:00 pm at Palms. BOD members present:

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Minutes of March Meeting were accepted by the group. We have 220 members.
- Future meeting date is - April 21, 2025. Future dates are available on the SWA website.
- The gator report for the end of February 2025 indicates no gators has been removed.
- Leo Mills, Treasurer gave a complete review of finances for the year 2024. Monthly income was \$405 and expenses \$226.89. Cash on hand currently is \$5,115.92.
- Program Director, Barbara McDonald, presented a report detailing the social and educational events the club has scheduled: 3/29—Central Florida Animal Reserve for big cats -\$25 per person for a tour (SOLD OUT), 4/23—Gatorland presentation . Great for the grandkids. Free to dues paid members, \$5.00 all other adults, kids – no charge.
- Members may make payments thru the website (dues, activity fees, donations).
- Rick McKelvey provided information regarding areas of responsibility of the CDD. Discussion followed.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm



## FLORIDA TO OPEN NEW STATE PARK - WALTON COUNTY

### Trust for Public Land Helps Protect Upper Shoal River for Community and Conservation

Trust for Public Land (TPL) has announced the Upper Shoal River Project, an effort to protect 2,491 acres of critical riverfront and woodlands along the Shoal River and Gum Creek. This acquisition, will be funded through the Florida Forever program, Atira Conservation, EJK Foundation, and the Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation, ensures long-term conservation of the river's headwaters while creating new opportunities for recreation and community connection with nature.



The Shoal River is a vital resource for Northwest Florida, supporting local water quality and feeding into the Choctawhatchee Bay. Preserving this segment safeguards clean water, prevents habitat loss, and protects the region's natural resilience. The land's sandhills and steep riverbanks provide a unique landscape where visitors can hike, paddle, camp, and fish while enjoying the scenic beauty of the river corridor.

Recreational opportunities at the park, managed by the Florida Park Service, will boost regional tourism and provide a lasting resource for residents to explore and appreciate their local environment.

The project's conservation value is immense, protecting habitat for rare and listed species like the gopher tortoise and Florida black bear. It also strengthens regional conservation efforts through partnerships with Walton County, Eglin Air Force Base, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. These collaborations not only enhance wildlife corridors but also support the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape, which balances environmental stewardship with military readiness.

# MARCH'S FEATURED WILDLIFE RESCUE PROVIDER



1386 Cook Road, Lamont, FL 32336 850-327-0921 info@northfloridawildlife.com

## Our Mission

Wildlife conservation through public educational outreach, propagation of rare and endangered species and habitat restoration projects.



### Wildlife of Solivita

"Wildlife is something which man cannot construct. Once it's gone, it is gone forever."



### Solivita's Backyard

"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere."



### The Amazing Wildlife of Solivita

Waterfowl, Shorebirds, Alligators, Turtles, Raptors, Butterflies, Small Birds, Cranes

## -EARTH DAY-

SAVE THE PLANET AND THE FUTURE



APRIL 22ND 4 PM-7PM

EXPO, MUSIC, SPEAKERS, CASH BAR

VILLAGE CENTER

VIVIAN'S WILDLIFE PHOTO BOOKS  
FOR SALE AT ALL SWA EVENTS