



Gator Gazette

solivitawildlife.com



WINE & WILD THING! FUNDRAISER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Plans for our first official fundraiser are coming along swimmingly. And all to support our wildlife, primarily Central Florida Animal Reserve. All expenses are being paid by our friends at **The Accurate Advisory Group** - so all ticket proceeds go directly to our cause.

SWA members and friends are asked to help by collecting donations from area merchants for the silent auction. Just ask to see the store, restaurant, or service manager when you normally visit. Please don't go when the facility is busy. Just tell them that you are with Solvita Wildlife Advocates and ask for a gift certificate or a product donation for the auction.



Tell them the SWA is a 501(c)3 organization, and all proceeds go to charity. Bring your donation to the next meeting, or call a board member to arrange a drop off. Big or small they're all appreciated and go to support CFAR. Ask your local McDonalds or any restaurant, dry cleaners, Publix, pet grooming, Jiffy Lube, hotels (weekend getaways) CPAs, grocery, spas, hairdressers, and vets. All stores at Poinciana Lakes Plaza, and at the new Publix center south of Solivita should be contacted.

Area theme parks, entertainment centers and resorts are ready to take advantage of these opportunities, often limiting their offer to off-season time periods. All merchants are accustomed to requests of this kind and very interested in getting their promotional material before a viable market like ours. **Joanne Bodziony already got one from the new Outback Steakhouse. She says, "It's really easy - and fun!"**



Pricey donations will be offered individually, while small ones will be bundled together. Then they will be placed on a table for bidding. And here's an additional incentive -



Wine Guy Bob will give a bottle of wine recognizing the person bringing in the highest valued prize at the tasting. So roll up your sleeves and get out there!

Florida Wildlife Federation Annual Photo Contest Winners

Every year the Florida Wildlife Federation conducts a statewide photo contest featuring the best conservation photos submitted by Florida residents. Here are this year's winners.

Beautiful - don't you think?



RESEARCHERS INBREEDING FLORIDA PANTHERS AS AN INTERVENTION

ABRIDGED FROM UCLA MAGAZINE - JULY 2025

In the 1990s, the Florida panther population was made up of fewer than 30 cats. At the time, they had already been on the endangered species list for nearly two decades, and scientists predicted possible extinction for the species. But, in 1995, a handful of panthers from Texas were introduced to try to save the population from inbreeding, which can hasten extinction. Over the years, the Florida panther population has risen to around 200, but the effect of adding the new genetic variation was not known.



The collaboration between several institutions, including UCLA, UC Berkeley and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to study the Florida panther genome, and published this week in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, has found that local ancestry and genetic variation of Florida panthers have not been replaced by genes introduced from Texas.

“One of the big concerns with bringing in individuals from Texas was that Florida’s local genetic variation might get completely replaced,” said Diana Aguilar-Gómez, lead author of the study and researcher at UCLA. “That would be a problem if we are trying to preserve the subspecies that’s unique to Florida. Our results show that Florida’s genetics are still very much present.”

What’s more, the influx of new genetic variation reduced the influence of harmful mutations that were making it harder for the panthers to survive and reproduce, which is also known as improving the species’ fitness. The findings highlight the success of the genetic rescue, but also that its effects might be transient and that continued management of the panthers is needed.

“Our modeling revealed another reason for careful monitoring of the Florida panther populations — namely, the effects of translocating individuals can be highly variable and subject to chance, especially looking into the future. The increase in fitness is not guaranteed to be long-lasting,” said Kirk Lohmueller, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at UCLA, who is co-corresponding author of the study along with Rasmus Nielsen at UC Berkeley.

For more info: <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/florida-panther-conservation-success>

Key takeaways

- In 1995, panthers from Texas were introduced to the Sunshine State in an attempt to preserve the Florida panther population from inbreeding leading toward extinction.
- A new study shows that inbreeding has been reduced without replacing the original local ancestry and genetic variation with genes introduced from Texas.

The findings highlight the success of the genetic rescue, but also that its effects might be transient and continued management of the panthers is needed.



MINUTES FROM AUGUST CLUB MEETING

President, Bob Monica called meeting to order at 5:00 pm at Palms. BOD present: Leo Mills, Vivian Aber, Barbara McDonald, Joanne Bodziony. Rick McKelvey absent.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- Minutes of last meeting were approved. Bob Welcomed new members Chris Mason, Marjorie and Doug Sarvipinto
- Next meeting date is - September 15, 2025. Future dates on the SWA website.
- The gator report for the end of July 2025 indicates no gators have been removed.
- Leo Mills, Treasurer gave a review of finances.

Income	\$30.35	YTD	\$2,400.00
Expenses	\$18.99	YTD	\$2,768.19
Balance	\$11.36	YTD	\$2,373.19
Cash on Hand			\$5,348.68
- Program Committee - September 10th at 10 am Lori Lindsay will speak on the topic of Living Safely with Bears in the Ballroom. All residents are invited. September 15th meeting will feature Alaina Morrol, a bat specialist, with a talk about bats. October Meeting is our Halloween Pot Luck Dinner.
- Working on additional trips to Central Florida Animal Preserve. Cost will be \$25 per person, woodland Wonder a preserve for birds and Back To Nature a small animal preserve.
- Discussion about promotional materials and efforts pertaining to the Wine & Wild Thing Fund Raiser on February 2nd. Joanne had obtained an item for the blind auction - a gift certificate for a free dinner at the new Outback restaurant. All she had to do was ask the manager politely and tell her it was for Solivita’s wildlife. All members are asked to do the same at their local retail stores (see article).
- Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.



ALICE MORROW - SPEAKING AT THE NEXT SWA MEETING

Aline Morrow serves as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s “Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.” In this role, she works at the intersection of science and human dimensions, encouraging conservation of natural resources. Her passion is helping people who want to do the right thing for the environment be better informed and equipped for the task.

To date, she has leveraged over \$500,000 of USFWS funding to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on privately owned properties. Her work supports connecting lands and waters to sustain wildlife, plants, and their habitats with a focus on those that are rare or imperiled. She is a recipient of the USFWS Regional Director’s Honor Award for work preserving habitat for the critically endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow.

Aline started with the Service in 2015 as a Pathways Intern at the Avon Park Air Force Range in Central Florida, kicking off the installation’s first acoustic monitoring and roost searching effort for the endangered Florida bonneted bat. In 2019 she accepted her dream job, the position that supervises partnerships in 18 counties across central Florida.

Aline has a B.S. Wildlife Science with a minor in Leadership from Oregon State University. She is also certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist through The Wildlife Society. Prior to joining the Service, she worked over 10 years in customer service, retail management, and dog training.

MONTHLY SWA MEETING

DATE: September 15, 2025
TIME: 5:00 PM
PLACE: Palms Meeting Room
PRICE: Admission FREE

OPEN TO ALL

SOLIVITA RESIDENTS

Seating limited to 100 guests



Wine GUY BOB



WINE & WILD THING!
You make my heart sing!



- February 2, 2026
- 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Solivita Ballroom

"Love, love, love Wine Guy Bob! He makes a wine tasting so educational and fun, all without being a wine snob!" Joy Aronson, Solivita Guest

Wine · Charcuterie · Music · Dancing · Cash Bar



SIP, SNACK, CHAT & BOOGIE TO THE "OLDIES!"



**First Annual Wildlife Fund Raiser
Purchase Tickets Online For A Donation**

www.solivitawildlife.com

(minimum donation only \$35 per person)



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The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Central Florida admits more than 1,000 orphaned or injured native wild animals per year, operating 365 days per year. We provide shelter, food, and medical treatment to our patients, & release them back into the wild.

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**Bats Fly By Night
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