



2024
IMPACT
REPORT



TOGETHER,
WE
CONNECT





OUR MISSION

We champion a collaborative campaign to permanently connect, protect, and restore the Florida Wildlife Corridor



ACCELERATING MOMENTUM, SCALING IMPACT

This past year has been a testament to what's possible when vision, strategy, and collaboration align. As we continue our mission to champion a collaborative campaign to **connect, protect, and restore** the Florida Wildlife Corridor, we are moving faster and with greater purpose than ever before.

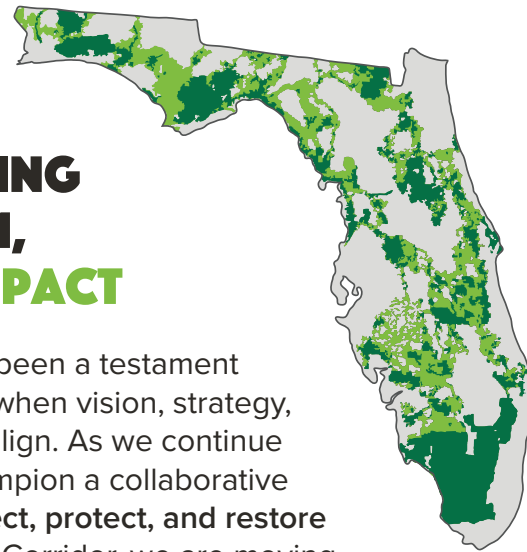
In this 2024 impact report, you will see how we've sharpened our focus—identifying the most **urgent and vulnerable** connections that demand immediate action. Guided by science and strengthened by our board of directors and on-staff experts, our refined strategy accelerates conservation for the Corridor where it matters most.

At the same time, our team has **grown exponentially**, equipping us to scale our work and better support our partners. Through new tools, convenings, and targeted action, we're uniting a diverse network of stakeholders to safeguard Florida's irreplaceable landscapes for wildlife, water, and future generations.

Thanks to your support, we're turning momentum into lasting impact. The progress detailed in this report is not just a reflection of what we've achieved—it's a promise of what's to come.

Together, we are keeping Florida wild.

In connection,
Mallory Dimmitt
CEO, Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation



DIGITAL IMPACT REPORT

This report is available as an online experience. Scan the QR code, or visit FloridaWildlifeCorridor.org

FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS

Keep up with us on social media by following our Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn accounts | @FloridaWildlifeCorridor



A LOOK INSIDE

- 4. 2024 Corridor Progress
- 10. Corridor Foundation
- 12. Wild Space Gallery
- 14. Urgent Conservation
- 18. Convenings
- 20. Impact Campaigns
- 22. 2024 Expedition
- 28. Amplifying Our Message
- 30. Development
- 32. Our Donors
- 34. Fundraising Success

2024 PROGRESS:

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

2024 was an incredible year for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, marked by remarkable progress in conservation, policy, and public engagement.

RECORD ACRES APPROVED

The Florida Governor and Cabinet approved a total of **128,047 acres** for conservation in the Corridor through Florida Forever and Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.

\$215 MILLION STATE FUNDING FOR LAND CONSERVATION

In the Florida Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget, the Florida Forever program, administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, received an allocation of \$100 million. The Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP), managed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, was also allocated \$100 million in recurring funding, while the Florida Communities Trust received \$15 million. Although these allocations are lower compared to the historic funding levels of recent years, it is important to note that these program funds are not subject to a “use it or lose it” provision. Instead, the allocated funds are deposited into a trust, allowing the programs to utilize the resources as properties are approved, irrespective of the annual allocation.

Roseate spoonbill by Ana G. Hidalgo



\$348 MILLION COUNTY REFERENDUMS

Voters in Osceola, Lake, Clay, and Marion counties took action to overwhelmingly pass local land conservation initiatives in the November election. Together they have secured \$348 million dedicated to conserving the Corridor over the next 20 years. This incredible commitment not only guarantees local conservation funding but also brilliantly positions these counties to receive additional matching grants at both the state and federal levels.

PANTHER PES REPORT SUPPORTS CONSERVATION FUNDING

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) launched a Panther Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) Pilot Program, inviting private landowners who maintain habitat and landscape connectivity for panthers to apply for financial incentives. There were 70 applicants across 14 counties and 172,000+ acres, demonstrating strong landowner interest in conservation initiatives that recognize the habitat value of private lands. This program was influenced by the PES Corridor Collaboration Team’s report following the 2022 Florida Wildlife Corridor Summit.



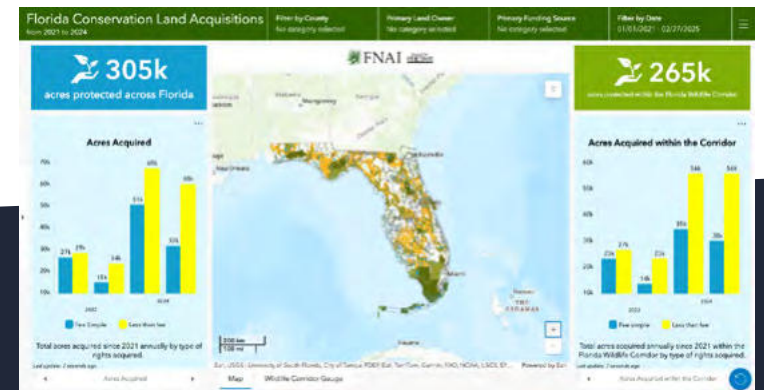
Florida Panther by FStop Foundation



TOOLS & EDUCATION

A New Dashboard

A new dashboard has been launched to track the progress of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, featuring a statewide parcel-based database dating back to 2021, with Florida Forever data available as far back as 2001. The dashboard was created by **Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI)** with support from **Archbold Biological Station** and made possible through funding from the **Live Wildly Foundation**.



Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) Map Viewer

The University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation Planning received legislative funding to increase staff and projects for monitoring Corridor protection progress and conducting other analysis and modeling to benefit the Corridor.

Planning to Protect the Corridor Webinars

1000 Friends of Florida hosted a four-part webinar series featuring experts from the Corridor movement. They shared insights on vision, collaboration, tools, and best practices, attracting thousands of key stakeholders and offering Professional Certification Credits to eligible attendees.



Morning fog by Nick Conzone, 2025 Calendar Photo Contest

LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT THE CORRIDOR

Florida Senate Bill 1638 directs Seminole gaming revenue to natural resources. From the amount the state will receive, \$100 million annually will support Florida Wildlife Corridor land or conservation easement acquisition, with additional revenue annually to support land management. Governor DeSantis invited Corridor Foundation CEO Mallory Dimmitt to speak about this significance to the Corridor during his press announcement.



(Left to right) Carlton Ward Jr., Traci Deen, Secretary of Environmental Protection Shawn Hamilton, Representative Keith Truenow, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Mallory Dimmitt, Senator Jason Brodeur, Representative David Smith. Photo by Alex Freeze.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR DAY 2/12/24

Senate Resolution 1818 (Brodeur) recognized February 12, 2024 as Florida Wildlife Corridor Day — a day to celebrate and reaffirm the importance of the Florida Wildlife Corridor and its significant environmental, cultural, economic, and tourism value. In partnership with **Wildpath** and **Conservation Florida**, we hosted Florida Wildlife Corridor Day at the Capitol. The day was marked by 20 partner organizations tabling in the Capitol Rotunda and ended with a special reception for legislators.

Tabling Partners Included:

1000 Friends of Florida, Archbold Biological Station, UF Center for Landscape Conservation and Planning, Conservation Florida, Ducks Unlimited, FDEP Division of State Lands / Florida Forever, FDEP Florida State Parks, FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Florida State Parks Foundation, Florida Trail Association, Live Wildly Foundation, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, and Wildpath.



CORRIDOR SIGN UNVEILED

Before the launch of the 2024 Strand to Slough Expedition, the Corridor Foundation was joined by Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson, Senate President Passidomo, and Florida State Parks Director Chuck Hatcher at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park to unveil a new marker for the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Soon to roll out statewide, the sign intends to signal a major step in helping residents and travelers alike understand, appreciate, and protect the state's 18-million-acre connected landscape. "The Florida Wildlife Corridor holds a special place in my heart, and I am incredibly proud to join Commissioner Simpson and so many other valuable partners to help launch this new marker that will ensure all Floridians and visitors recognize this entrance to our iconic Wildlife Corridor. Fifty years from now, our children and grandchildren will say that the greatest thing our state government did in the 2020s was the expansion of the Wildlife Corridor and the preservation of millions of acres of farmland and ranch land for conservation. It will be our Central Park," said Senator Passidomo.

Unveiling the Florida Wildlife Corridor sign by Keira Gilmore



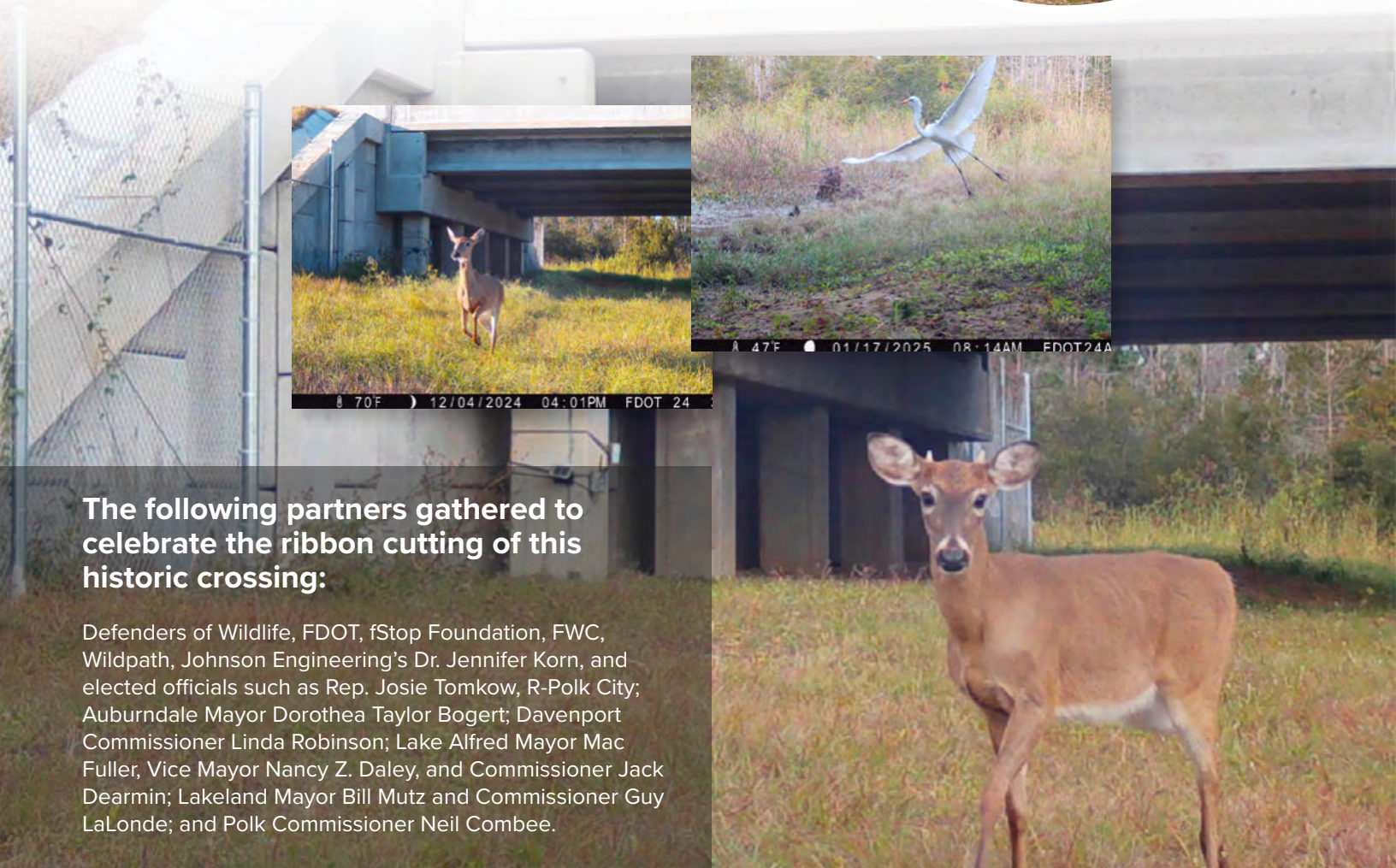
"This marker is a milestone for the Corridor, giving hikers, bikers, paddlers, and drivers a tangible symbol of where they are within these protected lands. It's not only for recreation but serves as a reminder to watch for wildlife who share these spaces. Leaders like Senate President Passidomo and Commissioner Simpson have been instrumental in supporting this long-awaited visibility that will strengthen connections for the Florida Wildlife Corridor." added Mallory Dimmitt, CEO of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation.



I-4 Wildlife Crossing Ribbon Cutting

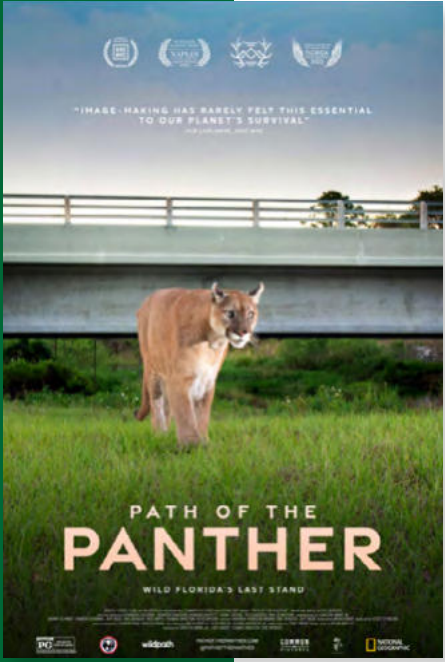


THE OPENING of the I-4 wildlife underpass in Polk County marks a historic milestone for conservation, providing a safe passage for wildlife to move freely north and south of the interstate for the first time in over 50 years. This critical connection is already documenting regular use from a variety of species, showcasing the success of efforts to reconnect vital habitats and ensure the safe coexistence of Florida’s flora and fauna.



The following partners gathered to celebrate the ribbon cutting of this historic crossing:

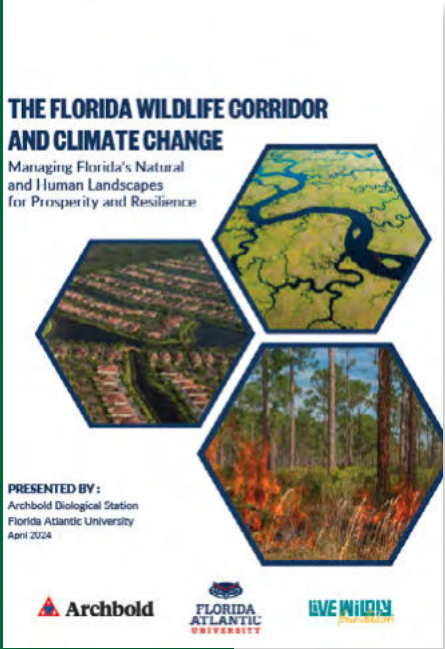
Defenders of Wildlife, FDOT, iStop Foundation, FWC, Wildpath, Johnson Engineering’s Dr. Jennifer Korn, and elected officials such as Rep. Josie Tomkow, R-Polk City; Auburndale Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert; Davenport Commissioner Linda Robinson; Lake Alfred Mayor Mac Fuller, Vice Mayor Nancy Z. Daley, and Commissioner Jack Dearmin; Lakeland Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioner Guy LaLonde; and Polk Commissioner Neil Combee.



CORRIDOR ON THE BIG SCREEN

The feature film *Path of the Panther*, produced by Wildpath CEO Carlton Ward Jr. and directed by Grizzly Creek Films’ Eric Bendick, won the Emmy for Outstanding Nature Documentary during the 2024 Emmy Awards. This film brings global attention to the Corridor as a solution for the endangered Florida panther and is currently available on Disney+.

In Florida, Crawford Entertainment and Conservation Florida’s docuseries *Protect Our Paradise* received a Suncoast Emmy Award.



THE CORRIDOR AND CLIMATE CHANGE: NEW REPORT

Archbold Biological Station published a new report that identifies the Florida Wildlife Corridor as an important climate adaptation strategy and resilience tool, offering flood protection and wildfire risk reduction by preserving connected landscapes. Achieving statewide resilience requires active land management and smart, politically supported development to balance conservation with Florida’s growing population.



AGENCY COLLABORATION

The Corridor Foundation’s Chief Conservation Officer Jason Lauritsen served on two planning committees this year, representing the voice of the Corridor and statewide conservation.

Florida Greenways & Trails Council: Represented the “Greenways” side of this planning committee by sharing the Corridor perspective through education about the urgent and vulnerable areas and how to consider Corridor compatibility for growth.

Florida Transportation Plan Steering Committee: As the sole conservation organization on the steering committee, this need was filled by working with conservation partners to share and elevate the conservation challenges, needs and opportunities that come with transportation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Amanda Moore

Arnie Bellini

Blake Poole (Treasurer)

Elizabeth Moore (NEW!)

Kim Davis Reyher

Lynn Cherry

Maurice “Mo” Pearson (Secretary)
- Oscar Anderson

Paul “PJ” Marinelli (Chairman)

Robert D. McLean

Scott Nolan

Thomas Eason, Ph.D. (NEW!)

Tiffany Busby (Vice Chairman)

Zak Gezon, Ph.D.

NEW!

Chairman’s Advisory Council

This year, Board Chair PJ Marinell created the Chairman’s Advisory Council to help raise awareness in their geographic locations and leverage their business acumen and connections to enhance the Corridor Foundation mission. In 2024 the inaugural council included:

- James Cascone

Deloitte & Touche LLP, Partner
- Sheff Crowder

Conn Memorial Foundation, CEO
- Kathryn Fuller

World Wildlife Fund, Board Director Emerita
- Jay Hartington

Marissa Collections, Co-owner & CEO
- Stan Vukmer

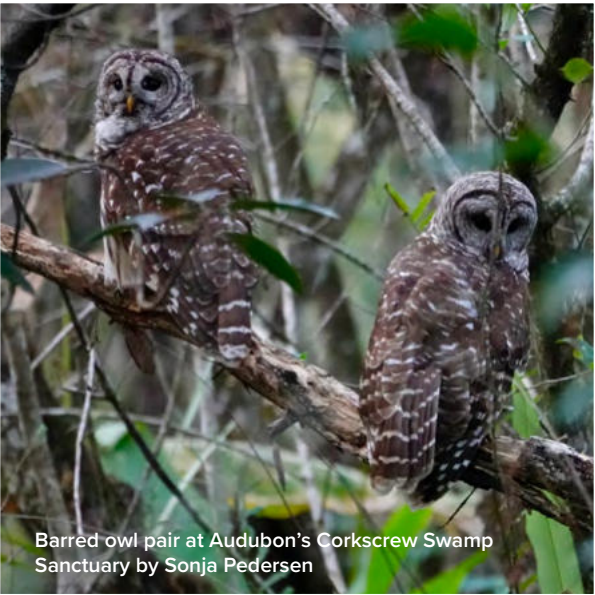
Haversine Funding, Founder & CEO

Board retreat to Crystal Springs Preserve by Alex Freeze



FINAL TERM COMPLETION
AMANDA MOORE

Amanda Moore served on the Board of Directors from 2015 to 2024, contributing to the organization’s growth through her leadership on the Philanthropy, Governance, and Executive Committees. She played a key role in shaping strategic planning efforts, serving as Interim Chair in 2022 and Vice Chair in 2023, and provided valuable regional and national perspectives to strengthen collaborative approaches, ensuring continued progress in protecting the Florida Wildlife Corridor.



Barred owl pair at Audubon’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary by Sonja Pedersen

BOARD APPROVES NEW STRATEGY

As the champion and the guidepost for the Corridor movement, we unite leaders and changemakers to elevate the Corridor and accelerate protection for its most urgent, vulnerable, and irreplaceable connections.

In 2024, the Board of Directors approved a new strategy focusing on urgent, vulnerable, and irreplaceable gaps, leading to the creation of two new departments (Conservation & Impact Campaigns) and expanded staff, interns, and volunteer program to scale our efforts.

INTERNS:
11

STAFF GROWTH
+9

INTERNS TO FTES:
2

INTERN PROGRAM

In 2024, interns joined us from Eckerd College, University of Central Florida, and University of South Florida working on projects for conservation and community engagement, photography, storytelling, the expedition, VR, and Wild Space Gallery.

“As an intern at the Corridor Foundation I enjoyed working alongside a passionate, knowledgeable, and supportive team that constantly pushed me to grow. This experience deepened my connection to wild Florida and strengthened my ability to inspire others.”

Kailanee Reid,
University of South Florida

Kailanee Reid at Audubon’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary by Alex Freeze



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The *Corridor Connector Volunteer Program* aims to scale our mission by providing meaningful opportunities for people eager to support the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

17 total Corridor Connectors, 70% above 2023
Volunteer Hours: 1,258.5
Time Value: \$39,781.19



WILD SPACE GALLERY

The gallery showcased six diverse exhibitions and welcomed a new gallery manager. Each exhibit brought unique opportunities for engaging events, including Author Talks, Artist Conversations, and even a Crystal Singing Bowls sound bath experience.

The space was activated this year thanks to the generous support of our donors: Bradley S. and Marta E. Pollitt and Family and The Ruth and J O Stone Foundation.

FOLLOW WILD SPACE GALLERY
ON SOCIAL MEDIA | @WILDSPACESTPETE



2024 EXHIBITIONS & GALLERY PROGRAMS

Timeless: Art, Science and Nature with Archbold Biological Station: Children's Workshop with Archbold Education Director Dustin Angell, Kirsten Hines Author Talk, Conversation with Archbold CEO Hilary Swain, Presentation from Archbold Emeritus Research Biologist Mark Deyrup

The Nature of Healing: Florence Williams Author Talk and Forest Bathing Event, Artists Conversation with Genevieve Lykes Dimmitt and David Price, Sound Bath with Master Sound Healer Lindy Romez

Connect & Protect: Our largest Second Saturday ArtWalk opening, Photographer Tour from Wildpath's Lauren Yoho, Leslie Poole Author Talk, Landowner & Photographer Panel Discussion

Open Air: Multimedia works by Scott Fisher, Babs Reingold, and David Waterman: Artists remarks with guest curator Raheem Fitzgerald

Breaking Barriers: Nature in Focus | USF Contemporary Arts Museum Breaking Barriers Program: Panel Discussion with 5 Photographers, Cathy Salustri Author Talk, Eckerd College Tour, First Grade Tours



Lori Grubb at Grubb Ranch



MEET LORI GRUBB Landowner & Conservationist

Lori Grubb and her father Brantley Schirard joined us for a panel discussion in Wild Space Gallery during the Connect & Protect exhibit. Get inspired by her vision as a multigenerational landowner.

Lori Grubb was born into a Florida family with a deep appreciation for land. Her father, Brantley Schirard, is a living legend in the citrus and agricultural community. The Schirard family is emblematic of the importance of working land in Florida. Not only do they provide for our community, but they also contribute to saving indispensable ecosystems for flora and fauna.

Brantley Schirard created working lands in St. Lucie and Okeechobee County with his family, where Lori has fond memories of growing up alongside her brothers helping on their citrus farm. Over the years, the Schirard family has had to adapt to best utilize their acreage. When some of their citrus couldn't be saved due to greening, they turned part of their land into an operating cattle area. Today they still grow citrus, raise cattle, and maintain a relatively natural landscape for native Florida species.

"With development, I know it's a balance of people wanting to live in Florida and enjoy Florida, but it's also a balance of protecting natural Florida too."

Lori now has her own ranch in Hardee County near Highlands Hammock State Park. Grubb Ranch is located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor and is protected by a conservation easement through Rural and Family Lands Protection Program. An easement permits landowners to continue to use their land as a working property, forfeiting any development rights. These agreements help to protect wild Florida while providing monetary benefit for landowners.

"It's tempting sometimes when you have land and people come along and offer you big prices, but we must tell our story, and tell how important it is in the memories that have been made on those lands," said Lori.

Her ranch is located within the Florida black bear range and Lori surmises that she has seen an increase in wildlife sightings on her property in recent years with the sudden rise of development in surrounding areas.

"With development, I know it's a balance of people wanting to live in Florida and enjoy Florida, but it's also a balance of protecting natural Florida too," she said.

Lori believes there are so many things that can be done with land like hers. Grubb Ranch supports a working cattle operation, and her pastures have even provided her with the opportunity to pursue her passion project: The Sanctuary at Horse Hammock. Through this sanctuary, she cares for over 45 horses that have been abandoned, injured, or simply need extra attention. Beyond maintaining valuable open space, Lori says that this kind of land can provide so much good through different opportunities. In her situation, these horses would have nowhere else to go.

Lori urges other landowners to use their voices in an effort to keep Florida, Florida, for generations to come. She says it's important to make yourself available, share your own unique stories, and network whenever possible. Affectionately recalling her own memories of growing up in her family's citrus groves, she knows that Florida's wild and working lands can provide future generations with their own memories, hopefully inspiring them to protect our beautiful state.



URGENT CONSERVATION

FOR THE LAST 15 YEARS, the Corridor Foundation has been a leader in the campaign to raise awareness about the Florida Wildlife Corridor and the need to protect the remaining 8 million acres. Today, as Florida grows by 1,000 new residents per day, there are critical links that need urgent action.

Ten counties are especially at risk with critical connections that could be lost to development. If we don't act now, 500,000 acres could be gone by 2030, and another 400,000 ecologically signif-

icant acres by 2050. We've focused our conservation efforts within and around Citrus, Collier, Hernando, Osceola, Marion, Polk, Lake, Leon, Orange, and Volusia counties. Within the opportunity areas, we're also focused on 14 narrow gaps, some less than a mile wide, that are irreplaceable. If these areas are developed, those critical links for the Corridor will be permanently lost. Our efforts to accelerate the pace of conservation and keep the Corridor connected in these focus areas can be seen in our work.



CRITICAL LINKAGES CATALYST FUND

The Florida Wildlife Corridor faces significant challenges due to highly parcelized gaps— multiple small tracts necessitating transactions with numerous owners to protect critical connections between large natural areas. These fragmented parcels are essential because they serve as critical linkages that allow wildlife room to roam, ensuring genetic diversity, access to resources, and resilience against environmental changes.

However, securing these lands is challenging due to their divided ownership. Each parcel may have different land uses, values, and owners with varying interests, making it

difficult to negotiate conservation efforts. Additionally, development pressure and rising land costs further complicate efforts to protect these areas. Overcoming these challenges requires collaboration with landowners, strategic conservation planning, and creative solutions such as conservation easements or incentive programs to ensure these critical connections remain intact. As one solution, we created the Critical Linkages Catalyst Fund, thanks to the generosity of the **Stu Sjouwerman and Rebecca Weiss Sjouwerman Foundation**.

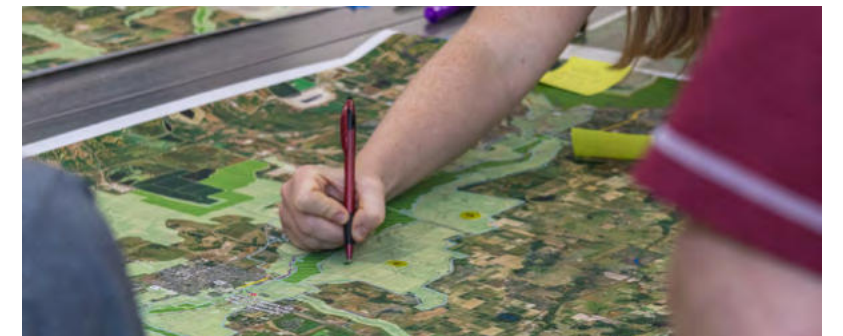
In 2024 we signed an MOU with Conservation Collier to accelerate permanent protection in a highly-parcelized area known as Panther Walk. With this partnership, we matched Conservation Collier dollar-for-dollar to help them acquire 12 properties, or 22 total acres, to expand this preserve.

All photos captured by staff during the Mind The Gaps Workshops

MIND THE GAPS WORKSHOPS

These collaborative local engagements are a full-day workshop that gathers landowners, agriculture representatives, land trusts, planners, developers, and city, county, state, and federal staff from relevant agencies and departments to advance and accelerate conservation solutions aimed at closing urgent, vulnerable, and irreplaceable gaps in the Corridor. We hosted two workshops in 2024 in Polk and Marion counties, where we introduced Corridor planning tools, provided guidance on boundary interpretation, and mapped out models for gap coverage.

Mind The Gaps reached more than 100 individuals, including municipal and county planners, regional planning councils, transportation planning organizations, state land acquisition programs staff, land trusts, science organizations, developers, and private landowners.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

TABITHA BIEHL

TABITHA BIEHL is Polk County's Land & Water Natural Areas Manager and because of a recent collaboration with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation, she has a new title: Gap Minder.



The Florida Wildlife Corridor Water Benefits report by Archbold Biological Station found that permanently conserving the remaining parts of the Corridor can nearly double the protection of key water benefits, including springsheds, lake shorelines, and groundwater recharge. Biehl explains that the Corridor improves water quality and flood mitigation by allowing water to move through vegetation and wetlands, unlike urban storm drains and pipes. This natural process results in cleaner water. Additionally, wetlands within the Corridor help mitigate floods from heavy rainfall and recharge aquifers, benefiting both the community and wildlife.

Tabitha reminds us that these natural lands must be conserved to ensure the best quality of life possible for our local communities. Beyond being a Gap Minder and working towards more sustainable land and water usage, Biehl hopes that we don't lose sight of Polk County and Florida's culture. She thinks it's important that we maintain those agricultural and natural roots so that citizens can continue to enjoy visiting strawberry fields, cattle farms, or jumping in the lake on a hot day.

Thanks to her passion for landscape conservation planning and management, she was a key participant in Polk County's Mind the Gaps Workshop. The event brought partners together in an effort to have conversations about critical pinch points within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The group focused their attention on local irreplaceable gaps that are critical connections for their corner of the Corridor.

"The 'Mind the Gaps' workshop is the catalyst to identify and move forward together," said Tabitha.

She noted that while many may associate the Florida Wildlife Corridor with big landscapes and state forests, the reality is these smaller pieces are essential in preventing breakage of the Corridor's connectivity. If these connections were to be severed, it would disrupt the range of native wildlife, making it nearly impossible for them to move between protected natural areas.

"We're protecting existing conservation areas to be sustainable long-term and these corridors really help strengthen that and give a place of refuge, not just for the wildlife, but also for humans," said Tabitha. She feels a responsibility to leave healthy green spaces and clear waters for future generations to enjoy, so that they too can feel connected to the earth.

Participants in the Polk County Mind the Gaps Workshop



Late at night, a juvenile alligator floats at the surface of a wet prairie surrounded by lily pads in Ocala National Forest by Nick Conzone, 2025 Calendar Photo Contest

CONVENINGS

We create inspirational spaces and experiences to unite collaboration across the Corridor by championing a big tent that elevates and celebrates the good work of partners. These curated moments for meaningful conservation community connection help drive innovative conservation action through events like our signature Corridor Connect Summit, the Corridor Collaboration Teams, our online Corridor Connect platform, and our LEAD partner convenings. These gatherings build and strengthen the vital relationships needed to realize a connected and protected Corridor.

CORRIDOR COLLABORATION TEAMS

2024 CORRIDOR COLLABORATION TEAMS BY THE NUMBERS:



VIRTUAL CORRIDOR TOWN HALLS

We can't always be together in person, but thanks to Zoom webinars, we can still gather to discuss the most important things happening for the Corridor. Twice a year we bring together professionals working to protect the Corridor to hear from topic experts and to ask them questions.

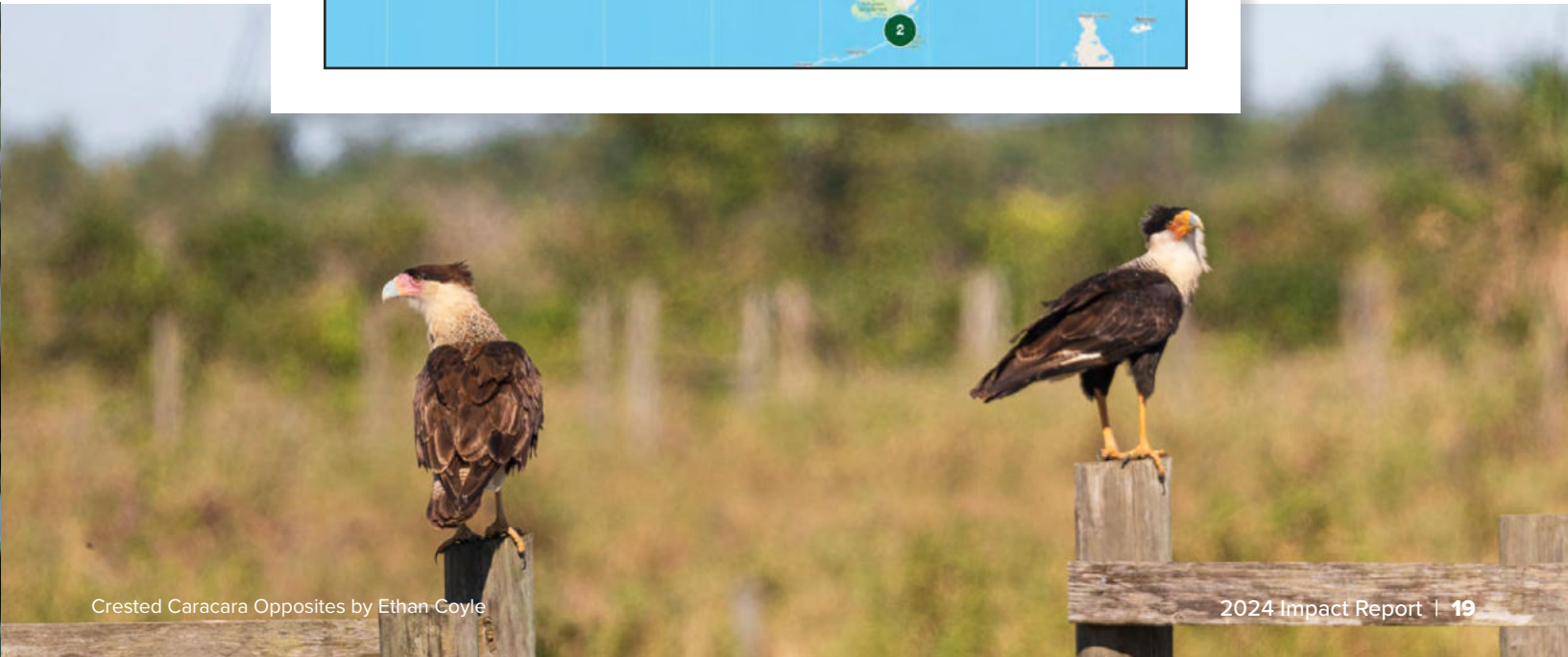
In February presenters from **Polk County, FDEP Greenways and Trails, Cadence Living, Defenders of Wildlife, and FNAI (FSU)** gathered with 171 others for the Town Hall.

October welcomed presenters from **FLDEP, North Florida Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, Archbold, Camp Blanding, Lake County, and All Florida** who convened with 177 professionals.

Following the 2023 Corridor Connect Summit, there were four Corridor Collaboration Teams developed to continue solutions-building: Corridor Compatible Communities, Corridor Compatible Solar, Corridor Compatible Trails, and Strategic Corridor Communications Platform Content Committee. These working groups comprise organizations or entities across state, local and federal government, private sector, industry, NGO, landowners, artists, scientists, advocates, and elected officials. Their products and outcomes will be presented at the upcoming **2025 Corridor Connect Summit**.



Photo by Alex Freeze



Crested Caracara Opposites by Ethan Coyle

LAUNCHING CORRIDOR CONNECT PLATFORM

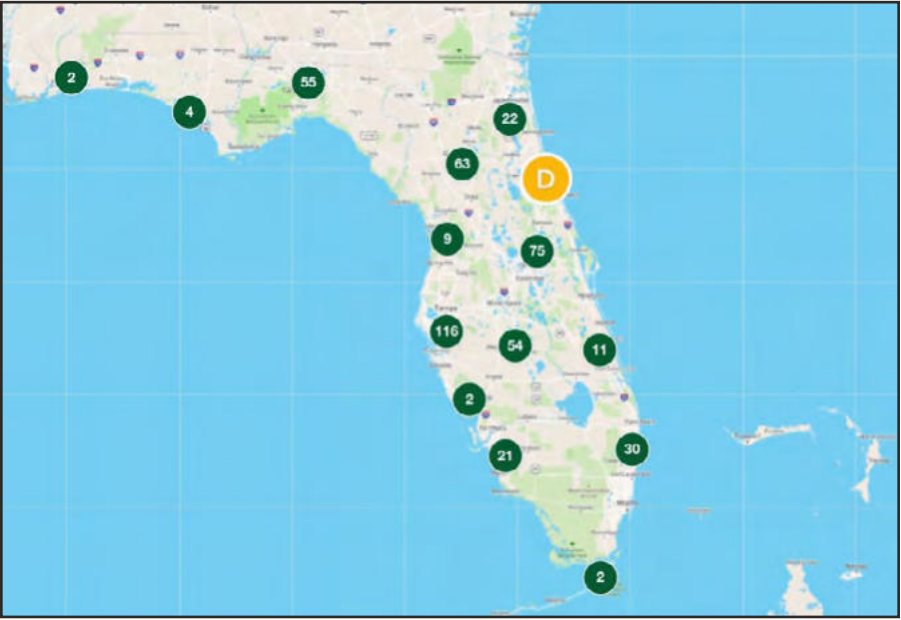
The Corridor Connect Ecosystem Platform is a virtual collaboration space, designed to connect conservationists, landowners, planners, and others united by the collective mission of connecting, protecting and restoring the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Members can share content, such as news, career opportunities and reports, as well as collaborate on projects and stay informed on the latest developments in Corridor conservation across the state.

It also serves as the official app for the 2025 Corridor Connect Summit to ensure that the discussions don't end when the summit concludes but evolve into sustained partnerships.

Thanks to the Wanda & Jim Moran Foundation, we launched this platform in March and had 425 conservation professionals join to collaborate, share knowledge, and inspire action for the Corridor.

PLATFORM MEMBERS AROUND THE STATE



IMPACT CAMPAIGNS

Our impact campaigns have made significant strides in connecting Corridor Gateway Communities by helping create a sense of place within their corner of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. By organizing events, leveraging technology, and forming strategic partnerships, we have successfully engaged conservation professionals, landowners, and communities in meaningful dialogue and action.

Ocala Mural & Photos by Christian Stanley



O2O FILM PREMIERE & ATTENDANCE

In partnership with Camp Blanding and North Florida Land Trust, we hosted the official premiere of *O2O: Path to Connection* at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center alongside **35 partner organizations** and **111 attendees**. We also presented the Virtual Premiere and discussion panel with North Florida Land Trust, Camp Blanding Joint Training Base, Florida Trail Association, and trekkers Brandi Dziegiel and Joe Howard. In 2024, the film traveled across the state and was amplified by partners to nearly **500 viewers**.



CORRIDOR MURAL CAMPAIGN

A New Model

The mural campaign model was updated this year which streamlined the process, strengthened connections, enhanced collaboration and built Corridor community pride. Funded by Disney, Saint Bernard Foundation, and Rayonier, this shift resulted in six awarded applications with completion slated for 2025.

Ocala Mural

The City of Ocala hired artists Christian & Jessica Stanley to place a new mural on the water tank near the Downtown Farmers Market. The “Marion Flow” mural features native plants and animals from Ocala National Forest. Partners included the City of Ocala, Fine Arts of Ocala, and Ocala Main Street. A Mural Kick-off & Brush Bash opened the 2024 Ocala Arts Festival with 30+ attendees, media, and key decision-makers.

2024 STRAND TO SLOUGH CORRIDOR EXPEDITION

This expedition spotlighted the southwestern edge of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, an area facing rapid growth and urgent conservation challenges. Traveling through key sites like Picayune Strand, Audubon’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, and the Okaloacoochee Slough, the journey highlighted the region’s family heritage, community ties, and agricultural significance amidst development pressures.



A FEMALE-LED FILM TEAM FROM DAYS EDGE PRODUCTIONS CAPTURED THE ADVENTURE

The crew followed three local trekkers and documented the urgent need for conservation in a short film slated to be released in 2025. Key partners and decision makers in Southwest Florida were engaged through impactful events, discussions on land stewardship, and showcasing the region's rich biodiversity, emphasizing the importance of connecting private and public lands and the role of active landowner stewardship. Local partners and experts were celebrated for their contributions to the conservation effort. This expedition was made possible by the Wanda & Jim Moran Foundation, J.W. Couch Foundation, Lowry Murphey Family Foundation, and Rising Tide Explorers. Gear support was provided by: Bill Jackson's, Pinky Gravley & Sons Painting, Sunshine State Goods, and Naples Outfitters & Kayak Company.

MEET THE FILM MAKERS FROM DAYS EDGE PRODUCTIONS

DIRECTOR
Page Buono

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY/DRONE
Sara Matasick

SECOND CAMERA/SOUND
Lia Nydes



MEET THE EXPEDITION GUIDE



RYAN YOUNG
RISING TIDE
EXPLORERS

MEET THE TREKKERS



EM KLESS



KENTON BEAL



LAURA FOHT

TREK HIGHLIGHTS

► 56 MILES BIKED,
HIKED, AND PADDLED

► 7 PUBLIC LANDS CROSSED

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park
Picayune Strand State Forest
FL Panther Nat Wildlife Refuge
Panther Walk Preserve
Caracara Prairie Preserve
CREW Wildlife and Environmental Area
Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest

► 8 PRIVATE LANDS TRAVERSED

Baron Collier
Collier Enterprise
Gargulio
Audubon
Bar None Ranch
King Ranch
Alico
Lone Ranger Forge

► IDENTIFIED SPECIES

81 plant/animal species
6 endangered, vulnerable or threatened species
American bittern
Clamshell orchid
Crested caracara
Florida panther
Snail kite
Wood stork

► KEY EVENT PARTNERS

Florida State Parks
Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
CREW Land and Water Trust
Big Cypress National Preserve
National Parks Service
Naples Botanical Garden

► TOTAL PARTNERS

Alico, Inc.
Archbold Biological Station
Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
Bar None Ranch
Barron Collier Companies
Collier Enterprises/Tarpon Blue
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Conservation Collier
Caracara Prairie Preserve
Panther Walk Preserve
Camp Keais Strand Preserve
Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area
Florida Forest Service
Caloosahatchee Forestry Center
Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest
Picayune Strand Preserve State Forest
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge
Florida State Parks Foundation
Friends of Big Cypress
Friends of Fakahatchee
fStop Foundation
King Ranch
Lone Ranger Forge
Noda's Ranch
Sonja Pedersen Photography
South Florida Water Management District
The Nature Conservancy
Wildpath

► STATE OFFICIALS

Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson
Senate President Kathleen Passidomo
State Parks Director Chuck Hatcher

STRAND TO SLOUGH EVENTS

75 Strand to Slough Soiree—
Naples Botanical Gardens

45 Kick-Off—Big Cypress
National Preserve

47 Restoration Roundtable Kapnick
Center—Naples Botanical Garden

13 Spirituality Campfire—Audubon's
Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

25 CREW Marsh Trail Mixer—
Crew Land & Water Trust

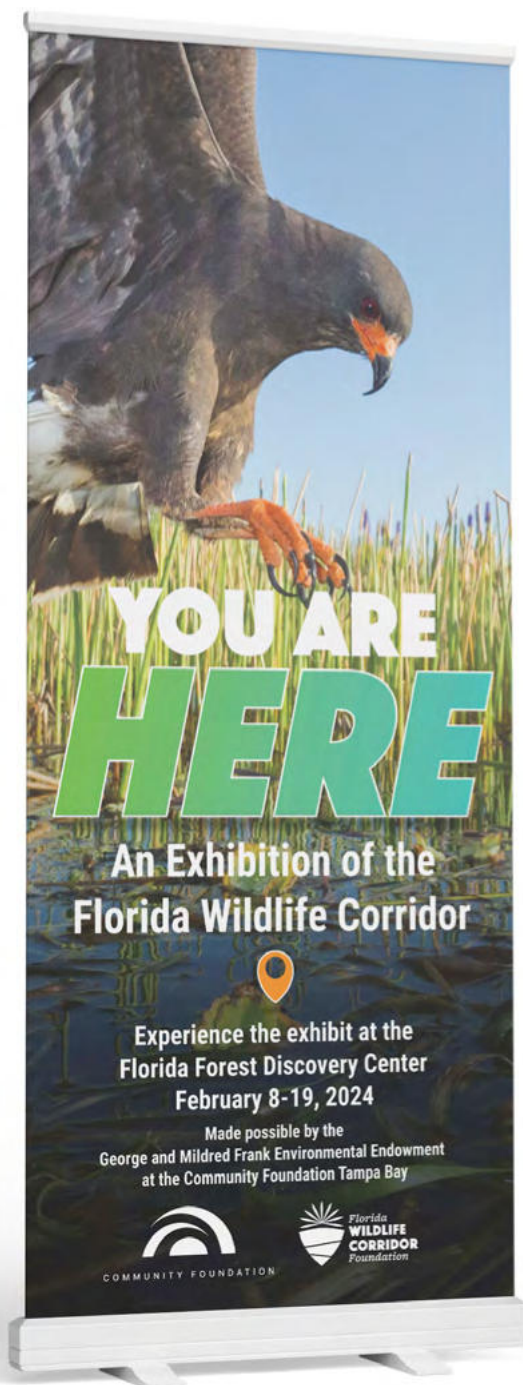
109 Finale Celebration—Audubon's
Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

**“Audubon’s
Corkscrew Swamp
Sanctuary plays
a vital part of the
Florida Wildlife
Corridor for birds,
panthers, and
so much more.
We were thrilled
to share the
part we play in
Southwest Florida
conservation
with the newest
Foundation
expedition.”**

**DIRECTOR
KEITH LAAKKONEN**
AUDUBON’S CORKSCREW
SWAMP SANCTUARY

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary boardwalk by Sonja Pedersen





PRESENTATIONS

Presenting on behalf of the Corridor is an opportunity to champion and raise awareness of the 18 million-connected-acres, helping people understand the ecological, cultural, and economic significance of this vast landscape. Our presentations allowed us to advocate for its protection, sustainability, and permanent connection to more than **1,400 people**, supporting our goal to accelerate the pace of conservation and to elevate urgent, vulnerable areas with irreplaceable gaps.

INSTALLATIONS & TRAVELING EXHIBITS

The Corridor Foundation was awarded a 4-year grant from the Community Foundation Broward for Corridor education and signage to be incorporated into designs for three Broward nonprofit attractions: the Museum of Design & Science (MODS), Flamingo Gardens, and Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. Mallory Dimmitt spoke at their Legacy Society Luncheon alongside MODS Executive Director Joe Cox, where they shared inspiration for the 2025 installation. Additional installations are planned in 2026 (Flamingo Gardens) and 2027 (Hugh Taylor Birch State Park).

YOU ARE HERE:

The “You Are Here” exhibit is on the move! In 2024, it captivated over 500,000 visitors at the Florida State Fair’s Forest Discovery Center and Cattleman’s Museum. Showcasing stunning Corridor landscapes, from the Everglades to Florida’s springs and forests, the exhibit featured work by eight renowned conservation photographers, including Carlton Ward Jr. It then journeyed to the Lyonia Environmental Center in Volusia County, one of 10 strategic-focus counties experiencing rapid growth in the state. This traveling exhibit was made possible thanks to the **George and Mildred Frank Environmental Endowment and Community Foundation Tampa Bay**.




JUNE 3RD-5TH, 2025
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DISNEY'S CORONADO SPRINGS RESORT

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DISNEY

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OPPORTUNITIES**



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at Danna@floridawildlifecorridor.org

Corridor Connect Isn't
Possible Without the Generous
Support of Our Partners

CHAMPION

The Jacarlene Foundation

CATALYST

Wanda & Jim Moran Foundation

Live Wildly

Subaru South Tampa | Subaru
Lakeland | Subaru North Orlando

CONNECTER

OUTSIDE Sustainable Landscape Collaborative

CONVENER

Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida

Community Foundation Tampa Bay

The Conservation Fund

The Nature Conservancy—Florida Chapter

Trust for Public Land

STEWARD

Family Lands Remembered

Rayonier

Paul “PJ” Marinelli | RiverGlades Family Offices

PROTECTOR

Blake Poole | Bernstein Private
Wealth Management

Common Ground Ecology

Defenders of Wildlife

Ducks Unlimited

Florida Climate Institute

Kimley-Horn

Lykes Bros. Inc.

National Association of Environmental
Professionals and Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals

STEWARD

Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Lynn Cherry

AMPLIFYING OUR MESSAGE

Our mission to permanently connect and protect the Corridor is only as strong as the voices that support it. By amplifying our message, we ensure that the critical importance of conservation reaches a broader audience, inspiring action and engagement. Whether through social media campaigns, strategic partnerships, or media coverage, our efforts to raise awareness are vital to the Corridor movement.

USPS PARTNERSHIP

USPS commissioned us as promotional partners for the launch of their Save the Manatees stamp, recognizing the importance of raising awareness for manatee conservation. To support the campaign, we teamed up with renowned Florida wildlife photographers Kyle Soto and Joseph Ricketts, leveraging their stunning imagery to capture the beauty and urgency of manatee protection. Our social media campaign, featuring a compelling reel, garnered significant engagement, with 794K views and 5.6K likes, helping to amplify the message and encourage support for this critical cause.

IN THE MEDIA

151 Articles were published about or featuring the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation in 2024. In alignment with our urgent, vulnerable and irreplaceable gaps focus, we had extensive coverage in these key areas with regional or local publications, especially in Collier County for the Strand to Slough expedition.



Wild Space Gallery Curator Noel Smith
feature on WEDU's Arts Plus



OK Slough by Alex Freeze



“One of the things that strikes me so much in the conversation we’ve heard is there’s a chance to do this here. There’s actually connectivity, and it’s pinched and its patchwork in ways, but it’s here, and there’s a chance to keep it, and there are so many places where it’s gone, it’s lost, it’s gray,” said Buono, tearing a bit as her voice wavered. “I didn’t expect to get emotional, but I think for me, the idea that this could be one area that stays green and that hopefully inspires other places.”

Days Edge Productions
Film Director Page Buono

Excerpt from Coastal Breeze News article: Newest Wildlife Corridor Expedition Connects with Original Trailblazers By Kelly J. Farrell

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT & GROWTH

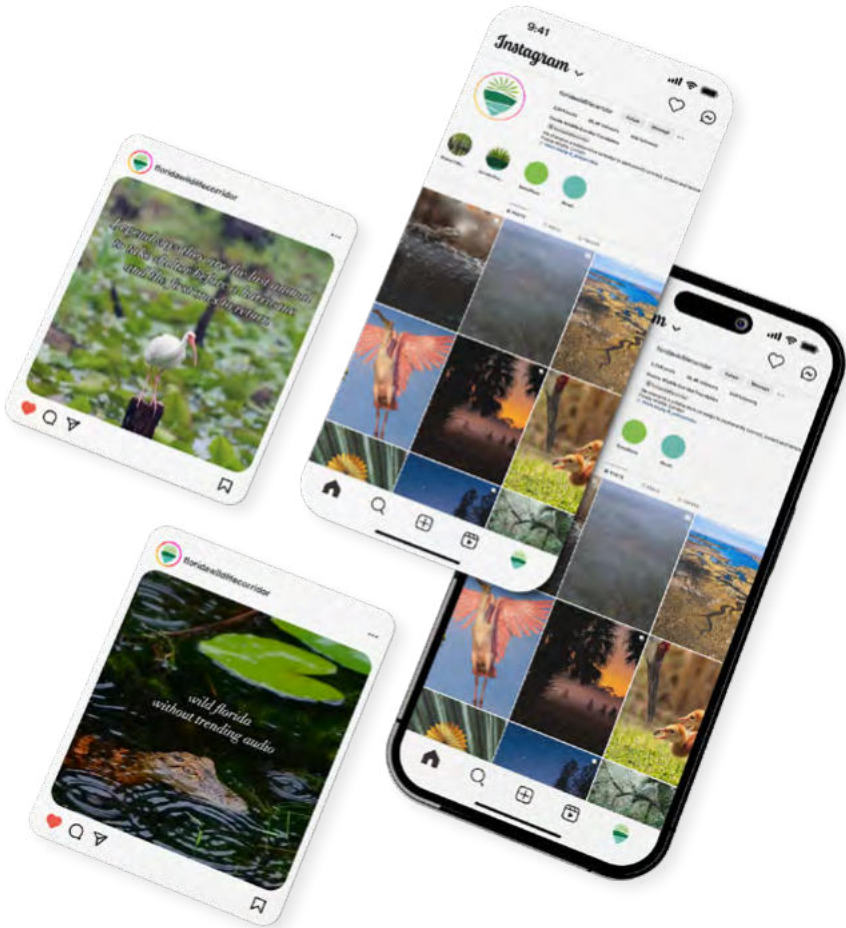
INSTAGRAM
62.9k
Followers

FACEBOOK
51.1k
Followers

LINKEDIN
3.9k
Followers

HIGHEST PERFORMING ORGANIC POST:
Wild Florida Without Trending Audio
by Ethan Coyle

2ND HIGHEST PERFORMING ORGANIC POST:
Florida’s Hurricane Bird — White Ibis
Video by Ethan Coyle.



WHAT OUR FOLLOWERS ARE SAYING

INSTAGRAM COMMENTS FROM 2024

“THIS site/profile is one of the reasons I have an Instagram acct. Love this!”
@karmabeadsbykaren

“Recently moved out of FL a few years ago—didn’t realize hearing this would feel so good. Thank you!”
@badxtude

“This is a perfect video. How I wish we could keep all of Florida like this.”
@sunflower.socials

“We need more videos like this. I would watch forever.”
@amorvitae93

“The reason I stay where I was born, real Florida.”
@tre-gatti-farms

“Hope to see more posts like this where instead of music we’re hearing the Florida nature.”
@kneenoh

CELEBRATING THE WANDA & JIM MORAN FOUNDATION



THE WANDA & JIM MORAN FOUNDATION, established in 2017, has become a significant supporter of various community-based organizations. The Foundation’s focus spans multiple sectors, addressing issues such as hunger, homelessness, animal welfare, disaster relief, environmental protection, and education. This flexible approach allows the Foundation to respond swiftly to the needs of individuals and families, often based on personal relationships within the community.

Tom Blanton, the Executive Director, brings a wealth of personal and professional experience to his role. Born in Fort Lauderdale in the mid-1950s, Tom’s roots in the region run deep. His family’s history in Florida dates to 1918, when his grandfather moved to Miami from Georgia along what was then a one-lane dirt road, US1.

Growing up, Tom witnessed firsthand the dramatic changes in Florida’s natural environment. One of his cherished childhood memories includes traveling by ferry to Sanibel Island for a family camping trip. These early experiences kindled his love for the outdoors and instilled in him a deep concern for the future of wild Florida.

This passion ultimately led him to form a close relationship with the team at the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation.

As Executive Director, Tom is responsible for developing relationships with various organizations and reviewing programs that the Foundation is interested in funding. His connection with the Corridor Foundation began in November 2015, when he attended the premiere of “The Forgotten Coast: Return to Wild Florida” at the Tampa Theatre. It was at this event that Tom met Mallory Dimmitt and Carlton Ward Jr., sparking his interest in the organization’s mission.

In early 2024, Tom attended an exhibit at the Corridor Foundation’s Wild Space Gallery, where he had a pivotal discussion about the possibility of funding our next expedition and participating behind the scenes. This led to his involvement in the Strand to Slough Expedition, an experience that proved to be both enlightening and transformative.

“My participation in the expedition was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that significantly deepened my understanding of the Florida Wildlife Corridor and the challenges it faces.”



Image Left and Above: Tom Blanton exploring Audubon’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary by Alex Freeze

Despite traversing seemingly remote areas, Tom quickly realized how closely these natural habitats are intertwined with developed areas and busy highways. He also gained insights into the crucial role agricultural lands play in protecting the Corridor.

Through continued education and public outreach, Tom believes there is still hope for protecting the critical links of the Florida Wildlife Corridor that are at risk of being lost to development. By encouraging the public to explore and appreciate the remaining beauty and tranquility of wild Florida, Tom hopes to inspire greater conservation efforts.

SCALING IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

NEW CORRIDOR FOUNDATION CHAMPION

Jay Hartington, the **CEO of Marissa Collections**, shares our commitment to preserving Florida’s natural environment and therefore extended his support in a variety of ways to the Corridor Foundation this year.

Beyond hosting Corridor mixers at his retail locations in Naples and West Palm Beach, Jay also serves on the Chairman’s Advisory Council for the Corridor Foundation. He believes that leading through active participation enhances the impact of our initiatives. He says it is a privilege to contribute to an organization known for its significant achievements and vision for the future.

Jay encourages other foundations and individuals to support the Corridor Foundation as well. He highlights the incredible accomplishments already made and the powerful impact future funding will have on protecting this vital Corridor. Often sending people to our website, he also suggests attending in-person events to meet the dedicated team driving this mission forward.

As a resolute advocate, recognizing the critical importance of these landscapes, Jay aims to protect them for future generations and we’re so grateful for his ongoing support.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

The 2025 Florida Wildlife Corridor calendar features landscapes and wildlife from 18-million acres of connected habitat, highlighting a snapshot of the diverse partnerships that protect the Corridor through awareness, advocacy, science, maintenance, restoration, and land conservancy. Featured photographers included: Reed Bowman, Douglas Bond, Elma Garcia Cannavino, Nick Conzone, Anna Crocitto, William Freund, Joel Neagles, Sonja Pedersen, Jane Pollack, Marshall Smith, Parks Marilla, Alexander Wallace. Participating partners included Archbold Biological Station, Conservation Florida, Florida Trail Association, fStop Foundation, and Horse Farms Forever. Thanks to a generous gift from **C&D Printing and Packaging**, this was an impactful fundraising tool that was offered for Giving Tuesday and as a retail product in our gallery and online.



SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE, TAKE 2

For the second year in a row, we were selected as the Hometown Charity for **Subaru South Tampa, Subaru Lakeland, and Subaru North Orlando** during their annual Share the Love event. This special campaign encouraged those who purchased a new or used Subaru from November 16, 2024-January 2, 2025 to select the Corridor Foundation as their charity of choice to receive \$250, which would then be matched by Myers Auto Group (MAG) for a total of \$500 per vehicle.



COMMUNITY HARVEST

For nearly a decade, the **1905 Family of Restaurants** has generously supported the Corridor Foundation through Community Harvest, their month-long celebration of local nonprofits. This initiative allows restaurant patrons to designate 5% of their bill—at no extra cost—to one of the pre-selected nonprofits. In 2024, diners helped raise \$11,750 in restaurant gift certificates for the Corridor Foundation. Over the years, these contributions have significantly offset event costs, allowing us to serve food from Columbia Restaurant at gallery openings, donor gatherings, and other special occasions. These gift certificates are more than just a donation—they are an investment in bringing people together to celebrate and support our work to keep Florida wild.



Annual Giving

OUR DONORS

INNOVATOR | \$100,000+

The Spurlino Foundation • Genevieve Lykes Dimmitt and Lawrence Dimmitt • Bellini Better World—Arnie Bellini • The Ferman Families and Ferman Motor Car Company • Judy and Jeff Mitchell

INNOVATOR | \$25,000-\$99,999

Burton Family Foundation • Lowry Murphey Family Foundation • Janice and Doug Birch • Nancy and Alan Bomstein • Lindsay and Josh Bomstein

TRAILBLAZER | \$10,000-\$24,999

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EXPLORER | \$5,000-\$9,999

The Perkins Charitable Foundation • The Kidder Conservation/Rescue Fund at The Boston Foundation • Judy and Tom Maish • Corporate Creations Giving Inc • Willow Branch Foundation • Gross Charitable Fund • Culbreath Family Foundation, Inc • The Baker Foundation • Deborah Mast • Heidi and Brian Miller • Upacala Mapatuna and Quinn Morgan • The Anne and Leigh Perkins Foundation • The Sexton Family Foundation

TREKKER | \$2,500-\$4,999

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Recurring Giving

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Planned Giving

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CORRIDOR EXPEDITION

Wanda & Jim Moran Foundation
J.W. Couch Foundation
Lowry Murphey Family Foundation

CORRIDOR MURAL CAMPAIGN

Disney
Saint Bernard Foundation
Rayonier

WILD SPACE GALLERY

Ruth & J O Stone Foundation
Bradley S. and Marta Pollitt and Family
Frank E. Duckwall Foundation

OTHER PROGRAM

Wanda & Jim Moran Foundation
Felburn Foundation
The Bolger Foundation
Saint Bernard Foundation

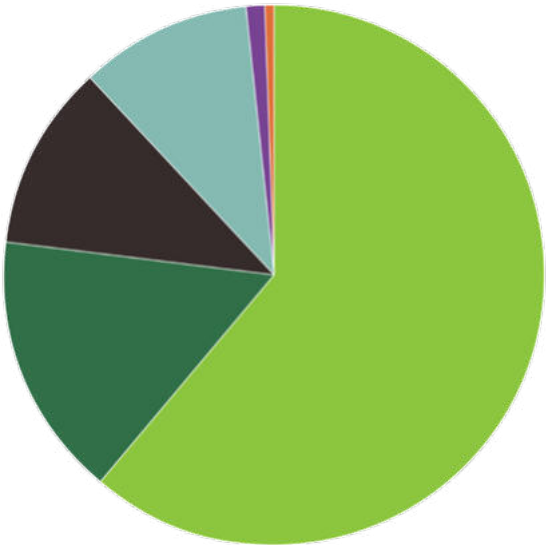
SCAN HERE TO SEE THE FULL LIST OF 600+ DONORS WHO SUPPORTED THE CORRIDOR FOUNDATION IN 2024.



FUNDRAISING
SUCCESS

2024 REVENUE:

- INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS: \$2,340,666.73
- SPONSORSHIPS: \$600,620.86
- INVESTMENT REVENUE: \$425,189.58
- GRANTS: \$390,500.00
- IN-KIND REVENUE: \$38,433.83
- EARNED REVENUE: \$17,642.15



TOTAL REVENUE:
\$3,813,053.15

Eastern screech owl by Parks Marilla



Expenses

- TOTAL EXPENSES
\$3,112,411.01
- LIABILITIES
\$1,106,626.74
- ASSETS
\$8,467,191.21



CONNECTING
PUBLIC ART

to at-risk & ecologically
significant ecosystems

WITHIN THE
FLORIDA
WILDLIFE
CORRIDOR



OUR MURAL CAMPAIGN
CREATES A SENSE OF PLACE

that connects communities and their link
within the Corridor, inspiring its protection.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Discover artists and mural locations,
including along the Florida Trail,
at FloridaWildlifeCorridor.org/murals.

