



FLORIDA LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Volume 14 No. 2

Summer/Fall 2001

Officers

President

Mike Coveney

Vice President

Rick Baird

Secretary

Erich Marzolf

Treasurer

Julie McCrystal

Past President

Pam Leasure

Board of Directors

Carlos Fernandes

Jim Griffin

Chuck Hanlon

Patricia Hardy

Harvey Harper

Sean McGlynn

Mike Perry

Lucee Price

Shailesh Patel

Letter from the President

I want to welcome FLMS members to our 2001 - 02 year and, on behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued interest and support for the Society. The program for this year promises to be active and interesting, and I want to highlight here some of the events and issues that your Board is working on.

The 2002 Annual Conference will be held at the Naples Beach Hotel, a 318-room, ocean-front hotel, spa and golf resort that will be an excellent venue for both our program activities and after-hours relaxation. We decided to hold the 2002 conference a little later than usual (June 10 – 13) to enable members to bring their families at low off-season conference rates. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. You can examine the hotel facilities at www.naplesbeachhotel.com.

The Board has already started working on the 2003 Annual Conference – more about these plans in later editions of the FLMS Newsletter.

For the third consecutive year, FLMS will offer financial support for lake enhancement projects through our "Love Your Lake" cost-share grant program. Thanks in part to a second, generous \$10,000 gift from the Free Family Foundation, our Society will again award up to \$12,000 in grants for "Love Your Lake" shoreline improvement projects in 2002.

In This Issue

- **2001 Conference Wrap-Up**
- **2001 FLMS Individual Award Recipients**
- **FLMS Awards Two Shoreline Grants**
- **Mottled Ducks in FL**

Some issues that your Board is grappling with include broadening funding sources for FLMS, expanding FLMS membership and sponsorship, and making greater use of electronic communications. You may see concrete proposals regarding one or more of these issues on the agenda for discussion at the 2002 Annual Conference.

Finally, I want to highlight the continued active programs organized by our two local chapters. Both the Northwest Chapter and the Central Florida Chapter hold regular meetings and special events that are informative and well attended. Board member Jim Griffin is working this year to form a third local chapter in the Tampa area. Your Board strongly supports local chapters, and we recognize that programs at the local level have the potential to involve even more FLMS members than our statewide events.

Mike Coveney

Note from the Publisher

If you would like to receive your newsletter sometime in the future by email, send an email to flmshome@aol.com. Then just before the newsletter actually gets snail-mailed, an email will be sent to out

containing a link to the Adobe Acrobat file on the FLMS webpage. You benefit by seeing the newsletter sooner and in color. FLMS will benefit by being able to reduce postage costs, making more money available for other projects.

FLMS 2002 Conference Information – Call For Papers

Annual Conference will be held June 10 – 14, 2002 at the [Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club](#). The Board is looking forward to another productive conference. The sessions currently being developed include: Hazardous and Toxic Algae, Bacteria Problems in Lakes, Fish and Wildlife Studies, Effect of Water Level Fluctuation on Submersed and Emergent Macrophytes, Sediments, TMDLs, Managing Water Resources for Competing Needs, Adaptive Management - Taking Advantage of the Drought, Innovative Methods of Lake Restoration, Lake Restoration Case Studies, Exotic and Invasive Species (plants and animals) in Florida Waters, Agricultural/Industrial Chemical Effects on Flora and Fauna, and Water Quality / Water Quality Modeling, Watershed Action for Lake Remediation. Check your calendar and start thinking about your presentation. Papers that are fresh,

contain timely or valuable information, properly formatted, and in tune with the final agenda will have the best chance for selection. Initial 250 word abstracts will be due March 1, with extended abstracts for the proceedings to follow. See the FLMS website for abstract submission details.

Board of Directors' Meetings

The FLMS Board of Directors has established the following schedule of meetings for 2001-2002. The meetings are open to all FLMS members. Any FLMS member is invited to attend to view the Society in action or provide input on current issues.

Meetings are held at the Reedy Creek Improvement District office at Disney and begin at 11 am. For specific directions, contact any Board member.

- November 16, 2001 (Gainesville, Thomas Center)
- Jan 11, 2002
- Feb 22, 2002
- April 5, 2002
- May 17, 2002

2001 Conference Wrap-Up

The workshops in Tallahassee were a success and the Board

wants to offer them again. The workshops offered introductions to a variety of issues, including: Stormwater BMPs, STORET Training, Aquatic Plant Identification, Volunteer Monitoring, Sediment & Erosion Control, Bioassessment Training, Environmental Statistics, Characterization of Algae Blooms, Aquascaping for Improved Water Quality and Habitat. What type of workshops would you like to see at next year's conference? If you have ideas contact Jim Griffin at griffinjc@aol.com or Mike Perry at mperry@lcwa.org.

Individuals Award Recipients at 2001 Conference

This year the Marjorie Carr Award is being granted to Mike Kasha, Ph.D.

Mike Kasha has been a resident of Tallahassee for the past twenty-five years. Dr. Kasha is a member of the faculty at Florida State University and has been a professor of Physics since 1975.

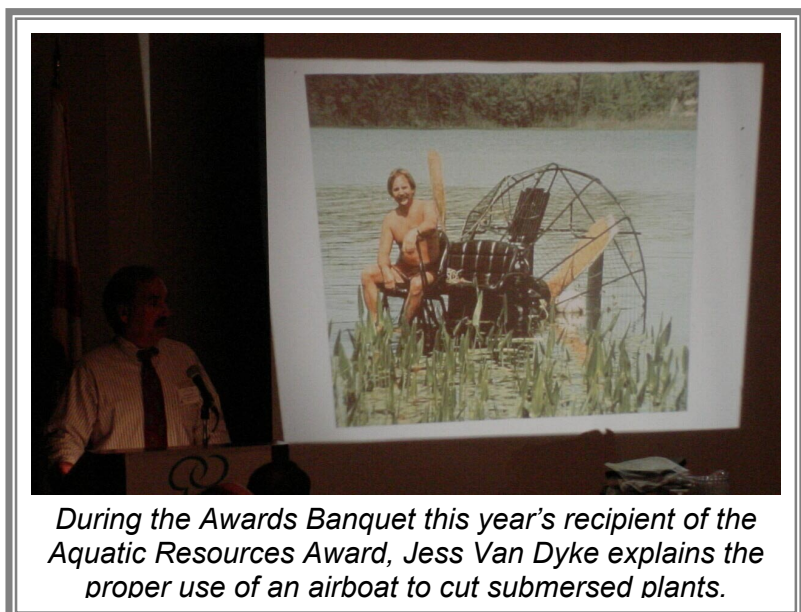
This year's recipient of the Scott Driver Award is Mary Carter.

Mary Carter's tireless efforts toward the preservation and wise management of Florida Lakes began in 1992 when she joined the Highlands County Lakes Association.

This organization was founded in 1991 by a group of fishermen because of their concerns for Lake Istokpoga, a 28,000 acre lake located in Highlands County. Things really began to happen when Mary joined the group. For instance, as a result of her tenacity, and with the assistance of volunteers and then State Representative, Bert Harris, the group was able to obtain funding for a multi-million dollar, 20,000 acre hydrilla eradication program for the lake in 1996. Mary feels that State Legislators and Government Agency representatives were "charmed" into agreement by a TAME THE GORILLA HYDRILLA presentation made at their Aquatic Plant budget session in Kissimmee. Mary, of course was the Gorilla, much to the enjoyment of the attendees.

This year's recipient of the Aquatic Resources Award is Jess Van Dyke.

Jess Van Dyke is a 4th generation Floridian who grew up swimming and fishing in Florida lakes and has worked for the State of Florida in lake management for the past 28 years. As part of his job, he has provided on-site extension service in 16 counties to over 7,000 lakefront property owners emphasizing education over regulation to protect aquatic habitat. Jess has contributed greatly to conserving and restoring aquatic resources in northwest Florida. During his career, he has served on numerous lake management committees. He created a simple, effective method for reaching consensus and producing lake management plans. This technique is now used throughout the State. Jess is currently employed by the Bureau of Invasive



During the Awards Banquet this year's recipient of the Aquatic Resources Award, Jess Van Dyke explains the proper use of an airboat to cut submersed plants.

Plant Management at FDEP.

This year's recipient of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Award is Georgia Davis.

Georgia Davis began her broadcasting career in 1987. While still in high school she became a producer for the Armed Forces Radio Network in Weurzberg, Germany, where her father was stationed. After moving back to the United States to attend Florida State University, she worked as a radio producer at WTAL 1450 AM here in Tallahassee. She also worked as a reporter, producer and eventually news director for the FSU campus station WVFS.

Georgia is currently an Emmy award nominated producer for Florida Crossroads and senior producer/reporter for Capitol Update, which are broadcast through out Florida. While at WFSU-TV she has produced numerous environmental specials on Florida public television.

Perhaps her best known production titled "Troubled Waters" is a documentary about the Fenholloway River. The documentary is about this polluted Florida river and the battle that has raged between local residents and the local pulp and paper mill. Her latest production on Florida Crossroads titled "Loosing Ground" focused

on the Sinkholes and Vanishing Lakes of North Florida. This documentary included Lake Jackson and the sinkhole that formed last year.

This year the Bob Graham Award is being granted to two recipients. The first recipient of this award is Debbie Lightsey.

Debbie Lightsey is a City Commissioner who is in her third term with the City of Tallahassee. Commissioner Lightsey has been supportive of lake and aquatic resource issues for more than a decade. Before becoming a Commissioner, she was a vocal advocate in the community for the preservation of the Cascade Chain of Lakes. During the 1980's, a developer was interested in commercially developing the southern bank of Lake Bradford, which is located in the Appalachicola National Forest. Realizing development would forever change the serenity of this lake, Commissioner Lightsey joined with other local residents to actively fight against the development. During this endeavor, she became President of the Lake Bradford & Lake Cascades Neighborhood Association that is comprised of Leon County and City of Tallahassee homeowners. Through these efforts she become known as a lake and water quality activist. Eventually

this led environmental activists in the community to encourage her to run for City Commission. The rest as they say, is history.

Robert B. Rackleff is currently a Leon County Commissioner and is a graduate of Florida State University with a BA, MA and PhD. Prior to being a County Commissioner, Bob has been a Public Relations Consultant, a speechwriter, and is a retired United States Navy officer.

Bob has been a leading proponent of lake management and aquatic resource issues. As a Leon County Commissioner his advocacy of lake management issues and his interest in protecting the environment stretches back several decades. This advocacy in aquatic resource and environmental issues is exemplified in the book that he authored in 1972 titled "Close to Crisis: Florida's Environmental Problems". The book is about the natural beauty of Florida that is being scared by the developer, the farmer, the industrialist and the ordinary citizen. Chapters in this book of special interest include "Saving South Florida" and "Eco-pornography: Or how I Stopped Worrying and learned to Love Pollution".

Science Fair Awards from 46th State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida

Junior Category

John C. Hinchee, "Effects of a Lake's Trophic State Index on Aquatic Macro Invertebrates." Eustis Middle School, Eustis, Lake Co.

Senior Category

Matthew T. Anderson, "Environmental Impact on the Fish & Waterfowl Population on Lake Howell After an Integrated Hydrilla Treatment - Phase IV." Lake Highland Preparatory School, Orlando, Orange Co.

For more information on this years individual award recipients go the [FLMS website](#). If you would like to nominate someone, contact any Board member.

Two Shoreline Improvement Projects Receive FLMS Grants

The Florida Lake Management Society has selected two municipalities to receive Love-Your-Lake cost-share awards in 2001. This year because of the generous contribution of \$10,000 by Free Family Foundation to the Love-Your-Lake Program FLMS has selected projects in Hollywood and Windermere.

Windermere's Johnson Park project will receive up to \$8,000 while Hollywood's Oak Lake Park project will receive up to \$4,000 as cost-share funding for native plant aquascaping, landscaping, and educational signs. The signs will be used for labeling native plants, explaining the benefits to the environment of the project and to describe any Best Management Practices within the project. Each year FLMS looks to award Love-Your-Lake funds to projects which benefit lakes and the environment. For more information on applying for the awards check out the [FLMS website](#).

Don't forget to check out the FLMS website at www.nalms.org/flms.

Calendar of Events

- ◆ **December 6-8, 2001**
The [Florida Association of Benthologists](#) annual meeting will be held at the Cedar Key Marine Field Lab, Levy County, Florida. Contact our Program Chair, David Karlen, at 813-272-5955 ext. 1202 if you'd like to give a presentation.
- ◆ **March 18-20, 2002**
[NALMS SE Regional](#)

[Conference](#)
Winston-Salem, N.C.

- ◆ **June 10-14, 2002**
[Florida Lake Management Society Annual Conference](#)
Naples, FL

Chapter News

Central Florida Chapter Take advantage of a great opportunity to share information and keep up with the latest lake management issues throughout the year with your Central Florida colleagues. Come out and support the Central Florida Chapter. We look forward to seeing some old FLMS faces as well as lots of new members. The meetings are held at the County Administrative Center which is located at 201 S. Rosalind between Jackson and Church Streets. There's a parking garage across from the County Building on Jackson St. Everyone is Welcome!!!!

FLMS & EFF Need Your Help

Julie McCrystal along with being FLMS Treasurer is also FLMS's [Environmental Fund for Florida \(EFF\)](#) representative again this year. There is a lot happening with EFF and Julie anticipates a greater need for outreach efforts on the local level around

the state. With continued and hopefully increased funding from EFF to FLMS, the Board hopes to expand grants for aquatic restoration projects. To help Julie keep up with the increased activities, an alternate representative for FLMS is needed to help coordinate volunteer activity for work place campaigns and possibly attend quarterly meetings. The quarterly meetings are held at the Orlando library so an Orlando FLMS member familiar with FLMS operations would be ideal. Are you that person? If so, contact [Julie](mailto:julie_mccrystal@rcid.dst.fl.us) at julie_mccrystal@rcid.dst.fl.us or at (407) 824-7301.

Election Results

FLMS Officers

The results of this springs elections are in, FLMS President is Mike Coveney, the Vice-President is Rick Baird, the Treasurer is Julie McCrystal and the Secretary is Erich Marzolf.

FLMS Board

The Board members for the upcoming year are: Carlos Fernandes, Jim Griffin, Chuck Hanlon, Patricia Hardy, Harvey Harper, Pam Leasure, Sean McGlynn, Mike Perry, Lucee Price, and Shailesh Patel. Feel free to contact any officer or board member to express your ideas.



The 2001-2002 FLMS Officers and Board of Directors. Shown from upper left to lower right are: Shailesh Patel, Mike Coveney, Lucee Price, Mike Perry, Chuck Hanlon, Patricia Hardy, Erich Marzolf, Carlos Fernandes, Julie McCrystal, Pam Leasure, Rick Baird and Jim Griffin. Missing are Harvey Harper and Sean McGlynn.

Mottled Duck vs. Mallard Update - The Fight to Save the Florida Native from Hybridization

*Diane Roth Eggeman,
Waterfowl Biologist,
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission*

The Florida mottled duck is one of approximately 25 closely related, mallard-type species worldwide and is one of only a few nonmigratory ducks in North America. Hunters favor this bird because of its large size and palatability. The conservative, one-bird daily bag limit reflects biologists' concern for this species' population status. Mottled ducks in Florida probably never were extremely abundant. Rapid changes in Florida's

landscape during the past 50 years, mostly resulting from agricultural and urban development, raise concerns about the status of mottled duck habitats. However, probably the biggest immediate threat to the conservation of Florida's mottled duck is hybridization with introduced mallards. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is attacking this problem on several fronts. There are ways that every concerned citizen, duck hunter or not, can help.

Background

The conservation of Florida's mottled duck is important for a number of reasons. The range of Florida's mottled duck is restricted to peninsular Florida. Information from several decades of banding studies combined

with recent information from a radio-telemetry study indicate no movement of birds out of this range. Furthermore, Florida mottled ducks are genetically distinct from mottled ducks that occur in Louisiana and Texas. This is confirmed by genetic studies of birds in the three states. Therefore, Florida's mottled duck is unique and occurs nowhere else in the world. Additionally, the breeding population of Florida's mottled ducks is relatively small, our best estimate being 30 to 40 thousand birds. The mottled duck is a defining member of the unique suite of species characteristic of the prairie wetlands of southern Florida. These birds are highly valued by wildlife observers and are one of only four species of waterfowl that regularly breed in the state.

Mallards, a species that is closely related to mottled ducks, occur naturally in Florida only as a winter resident. They migrate north to breed in the spring, and thus are reproductively isolated from mottled ducks. However, captive-reared mallards are being released by humans in large numbers in Florida, and these feral birds remain in Florida year-round. These year-round resident mallards are not part of Florida's native wildlife, and, like most exotic species, are causing problems. Released mallards inter-

mix with mottled ducks, and the two species interbreed. FWC biologists frequently observe mixed flocks and pairs and the resulting hybrid offspring. The hybrid offspring are fertile.

Every mallard released in Florida can potentially contribute to the hybridization problem. Because of the relatively small size of the Florida mottled duck population, complete hybridization of the population is a serious concern. Of a sample of 228 mottled ducks collected near Lake Okeechobee, an estimated

5% showed hybrid characteristics. we can reduce mallard releases Florida, attrition will gradually reduce the feral mallard population, and hybridizations and the abundance of mallard genes in the mottled duck population also should decrease.

hunting stock. Now, approximately 95% of the population of gray ducks are hybrids. The Hawaiian duck is another example. This endangered bird is probably 100% hybridized on the island of Oahu, and likely only exists, genetically intact, on the island of Kauai. Meller's duck in Madagascar is also highly endangered, and the remaining birds are being hybridized by introduced mallards. The situation in Florida is comparable to these examples in that we have a small, isolated population of a close relative of the mallard. If



From left to right, male mallard, hybrid and mottled duck.

5% showed hybrid characteristics.

Mallard releases in other parts of the world have devastated local populations of closely related species. The New Zealand grey duck is an example. Mallards did not occur in New Zealand naturally, but were released to provide

we can reduce mallard releases Florida, attrition will gradually reduce the feral mallard population, and hybridizations and the abundance of mallard genes in the mottled duck population also should decrease.

What is Being Done About It?

The release of mallards other than on licensed hunting preserves is prohibited in Florida. In its March 2001 meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) prohibited the release of mallards on licensed hunting preserves, effective July 1, 2001. An exception is that commercial operations involved in this activity within the past three years (four preserves) would be allowed to continue mallard releases until 2008. Despite these prohibitions, mallard releases will continue, likely by well-intentioned individuals releasing small

public information /education campaign. FWC is distributing a new brochure about this problem and is planning other educational efforts to spread the word. FWC is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ease permitting requirements for directly controlling feral mallard populations. Biologists are working to develop a genetic method to monitor the extent of hybridization. Once equipped with a reliable genetic technique, FWC biologists hope to periodically sample the mottled duck population in Florida to better assess the proportion and distribution of hybrids. This genetics work can be completed only if

effective, efficient strategy for reducing the problems, information is needed on where the mallards are coming from for example, who is buying them, from whom, for what purpose, in what quantities, where, and when.

How Can You Help?

The obvious way to help is to not release mallards and not support existing feral mallards by feeding or sheltering them. Most importantly, spread the word to your friends and neighbors that releasing and supporting feral mallards threaten Florida's mottled duck population. If your golf course or neighborhood association's lake or pond



A flock with a pair of mallards (on the right) swimming among several mottled ducks.

numbers of ducks at a time on private ponds or community lakes for aesthetic purposes. FWC biologists believe that the best way to reduce these releases is a through a

additional funds are secured. FWC biologists also are seeking funding to conduct a study of the sale and trade of captive-reared mallards in Florida. In order to develop an

has mallards, notify the managers of the problems and your concerns and ask for their commitment to not release any more mallards in the future. Most people do not realize

the problems or the fact that releasing mallards is illegal. You can contact one of FWC's waterfowl offices (850-488-5878, 321-726-2862) for more information or for brochures.

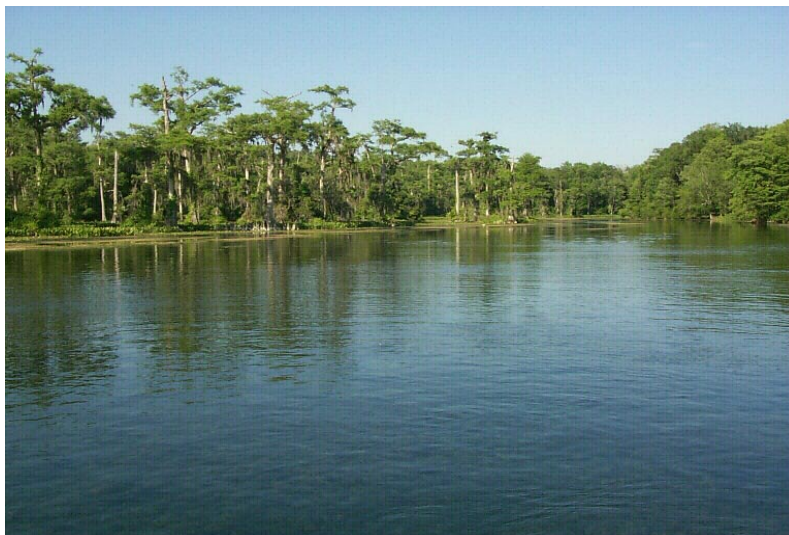
All mallards, wild and feral, are protected by federal law and cannot be touched without the proper permits. If ponds or canals near you have mallards during the summer, these are feral introduced mallards. These birds can be removed by Department of Agriculture--Wildlife Services officials who

have the proper permits (call 352-377-5556).

For more information on the biology and conservation of mottled ducks and other Florida waterfowl, visit <http://wld.fwc.state.fl.us/duck/>.

FLMS is a proud member of the Environmental Fund for Florida (EFF) and hopes you will consider making a payroll deduction to

support EFF and Florida's environmental groups. Check with your employer and EFF to see how easy it is to support EFF.



Monday's field trip during the conference culminated in a boat trip around Wakulla Springs. Prior to seeing this jewel of NW Florida, participants saw how various efforts were being made to protect these special places. Along Wakulla River we saw a variety of birds and wildlife, including this male anhinga. Nice eyeliner!

FLMS is a 501c (3) Tax Exempt Organization – Donations are Tax Deductible

Florida Chapter of the North American
Lake Management Society (NALMS)
Florida Lake Management Society
P. O. Box 950701
Lake Mary, FL
32795-0701

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 62
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

FLMS Membership Form
Florida Lake Management Society

(A Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society)
P.O. Box 950701, Lake Mary, FL 32795-0701

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home: () _____ Email: _____

Work: () _____ Fax: _____

Areas of Shareable Knowledge _____

Annual Dues (Includes Newsletter)

- Individual \$15
- Non-Profit Organization \$35
- Business/Corporate \$65
- Contributor \$100
- Sponsor \$250

Please make checks payable to: The Florida Lake Management Society and return to the above address.