

We must not let Florida slip away



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F “Florida is like no other place on earth. Our goal is to ensure that Florida’s wildlife survives and thrives for future generations of Florida residents and visitors.” So reads the mission statement for the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. Those are more than pretty words. They reflect an extremely lofty goal that encompasses all the people and all the other living things that compose Florida, now and forever.

The foundation is not a governmental agency. It is a non-profit organization, created by the Florida Legislature to support the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s research and management of fish and wildlife. It relies on contributions from the people, organizations and businesses that see the magnificence in the natural heritage we have here and believe, “We must not let this slip away, because it doesn’t belong just to us; there are yet-unborn generations who own it as well.”

By supporting the foundation, residents and visitors can help fund the resources it takes to live up to that goal. It takes

habitat conservation, fish and wildlife management and research, and it takes an informed and motivated public to maintain and nurture Florida’s unique fish and wildlife communities.

When you make a contribution to the foundation, you can require that it goes to the specific projects or species you care about most. You can remain anonymous if you wish, and your contribution still will be tax-deductible.

Corporations and individuals can make contributions to the foundation by mailing in the printable donation form – available at wildlifefoundationofflorida.com – with a check or by making a secure online donation.

The foundation offers a variety of planned-giving options, including charitable gift annuities and the donation of appreciated property or other assets. Through these options, potential donors can get the most from tax benefits and even generate extra income for retirement, elder care and other needs. They can add special meaning to a gift by honoring a friend or loved one.

Many companies will match their employees’ contributions to organizations such as the foundation. Your company’s human resources department is the place to check on that.

The important thing is that once you make a contribution to the foundation, you can take pride in seeing the fish and wildlife that share Florida with us, knowing you had a part in making it possible for those living creatures to be there.

Those of us who live here and love this state share a common identity in that we are driven by a spirit that tells us, “We want to be in Florida – a place like no other place on earth.”

Let’s band together and preserve that spirit and the unique features that make Florida what it is, including the ecological systems that exist here, unmatched anywhere else in the world.

If you share that spirit, and if you can, I hope you will help support the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. Visit the Web site to learn more.



JACK ROGERS