

# Florida

# LAKEWATCH



Dedicated to Sharing Information About Water Management and the Florida LAKEWATCH Program Volume 44 (2009)

## Mary Stonceipher is Retiring!



*LAKEWATCH Head Chemist Mary Stonceipher receives her retirement plaque for 36 years of service from LAKEWATCH founder and Director Dan Canfield.*

After 36 years of service to the State of Florida, Florida LAKEWATCH Head Chemist Mary Stonceipher is ready to spend more time with her grandchild, kids and flowers in her yard. There is no way to calculate exactly how many water chemistry analyses Mary has conducted and/or supervised over

the years because she has helped with hundreds of projects for several professors and hundreds of graduate students. To put things in perspective, just since 1986 when LAKEWATCH started, Mary has been involved in the analyses of over 250,000 total phosphorus and 250,000 total nitrogen samples.

If each phosphorus and nitrogen analysis was a penny and you

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stacked them on top of each other, the stack would be approximately 2,438 feet high; the Empire State Building is only 1,453 feet tall. That is a lot of chemistry numbers and a record that any English Teacher (Mary was not trained as a chemist) can be proud of!

It will be hard to replace Mary's diligent and meticulous service. There have been many cases over the years where other laboratories were getting different numbers for water chemistry analyses that they

conducted on LAKEWATCH lakes. When samples were split for comparison, it was always Mary's analyses that were correct. The "professional/high priced" laboratories were in error. Why? Because Mary cared enough not to accept outputs from machines as gospel and always questioned suspicious results.

Yes, Mary really was not trained as a chemist. Her work ethic and caring for others in the aquatics

family including the thousands of LAKEWATCH volunteers will be missed. Mary Stonecipher is retiring, but she shall not be forgotten! As a UF retiree, Mary shall get her plaques and other tokens, but the highest praise any of us can give her is:

**A JOB WELL DONE!!!!!!!!!!**



*Mary enjoying her retirement party with her daughter and granddaughter.*

# The Florida Manatee



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

A West Indian Manatee in Florida waters.

## The Manatee Still Needs Your Help

The Florida Manatee, a subspecies of the West Indian manatee, is a large grayish-brown aquatic mammal. Its sausage-like body tapers to a flat, paddle-shaped tail. The upper part of the body has two flippers with three to four “fingernails” on each flipper. The head and face are wrinkled, and the snout has stiff whiskers. Adults have been known to reach lengths over 13 feet and weights over 3,000 pounds. Calves are three to four feet long and 60 to 70 pounds at birth.

Manatees spend most of their time feeding and resting. They graze for food along rivers, coastal areas and at the water’s surface. Manatees may hold their breath for as long as 20 minutes, but they usually surface about every five minutes to breathe.

## Manatees Are Native to Florida

A fossil skeleton of a manatee was found that inhabited the shallow bays and rivers of Florida 15 million years ago. It was discovered in a quarry in northwest Florida and donated to the state in 1929. The “urban myth” that says

manatees were brought to Florida for weed control is not true. A study conducted during the 1960’s, which used test animals from Florida’s existing manatee population, tried to determine if manatees could help with weed control. It was not an effective way to do this job; it was too hard to catch manatees or keep them in targeted areas.

Manatees are considered one of Florida’s true native species – a Florida treasure we all can enjoy. Please do your part to protect Florida’s manatees.

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As a wildlife watcher you are encouraged to use common sense when watching manatees. Observe all boating signs and keep a watchful eye on the waters in front of your boat. When diving, keep your distance from manatees and never disturb them.

### Boating Speed Zones

To alert the boater and protect the manatee in its sanctuaries, the law provides regulatory zones on waterways. Here are typical signs found on Florida's waterways:

### **IDLE SPEED ZONE-**

A protected area where boats are not permitted to go any faster than necessary to maintain steerage and make headway.

### **SLOW SPEED ZONE-**

A protected area where boats must be fully off plane and completely settled and level in the water while moving.

### **NO ENTRY ZONE-**

A protected area that prohibits all entry, including boating,

swimming and diving activities.

### **SAFE OPERATING ZONE-**

A sign indicating that you may resume safe boating speed; visible as you leave a protected area.

### **CAUTION SIGN-**

A sign posted by individuals in areas frequently inhabited by manatees. Requests caution on the part of boaters to avoid disturbing or injuring the animals.

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Quantum Conservation

As a wildlife watcher you are encouraged to use common sense when watching manatees.

## Look Out For Manatees

Manatees are mammals. They are expected to live in their environment until old age (over 40 years). Based on age data collected over a five-year period the average age of the manatees that were killed by watercraft was 7.2 years. Researchers have found that female manatees mature sexually at 3 years of age and that most females breed successfully by 6 to 10 years of age. After breeding starts, females usually produce one calf every 2 to 5 years, which denotes a low reproductive cycle. The loss of viable female manatees in the breeding phase

of their life cycle further impacts the overall manatee population. Please follow the guidelines in this article to reduce impacts to manatees from watercraft-related deaths.

## Manatee Harassment

Manatee harassment is defined as, “any intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of causing an injury to a manatee by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include breeding, feeding or sheltering. The intentional provision of any

type of food to manatees not in captivity shall be considered harassment under this definition, unless authorized by a valid federal or state permit.” (68C-22.022 FAC)

## Manatees and the Law

Manatees are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978. It is illegal to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, annoy or molest manatees.

The State of Florida has also established regulatory speed zones to protect the manatee and its habitat.

Anyone convicted of violating state law faces maximum fines of \$500 and/or imprisonment of up to 60 days. Conviction for violating federal protection laws is punishable by fines up to \$100,000 and/or one year in prison.



Natures Resort

A manatee with her calf in Crystal River in Citrus County.

This article was modified from a FWC pamphlet titled The Florida Manatee- A Florida Treasure. For more information contact: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Imperiled Species Management Section, 620 South Meridian Street, MS 6-A, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600. 850-922-4330

To report manatee deaths, injuries, harassment, accidents or orphaned manatees, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Law Enforcement.  
1-888-404-FWCC  
(1-888-404-3922)

# Florida's Fisheries are the Destination of Choice



Outdoor.com

A "nice one" hanging out on the bottom of a lake.

Anglers throughout the United States and from numerous other countries flock to Florida for its diverse fisheries. Many of these anglers are being attracted to the freshwater catfish species. When summer comes around and vacations are in full swing and gas prices may restrict long-distance travel, more than ever we will likely see anglers from neighboring states coming to wet a line in our prolific waters. Moreover, more Floridians are likely to stay within the state borders to

conserve fuel and avoid nonresident fishing license fees. No matter which group (resident or nonresident) you are from, there are several species to target.

Top largemouth bass and bream destinations remain plenty hot, but the heat of the summer changes the fishing patterns. So, fish for bass early or late in the day, look for structure in deep water and check out areas that have shading such as around piers or under overhanging trees.

Topwater lures on a moonlit night, especially with a little noise or scent thrown in, create some alternative action to attract the "ole bucketmouths." But most of all in the summer, consider the variety of catfish species that can be caught. Below are a few ways to fish for catfish species, places to catch them, and ways to increase your chances for coming home with a stringer full of fish.

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Channel cats (Florida's record 44.5 pounds) with their deeply forked tails, whiskered faces and spotted sides are the most common of our catfish and found everywhere (except the Keys) in rivers, ponds or lakes that are often stocked by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Channel catfish typically school where the bottom drops off sharply to deeper water. They usually do not hide within vegetation but can be found outside on the deepwater side of weed beds. Stink baits fished on the bottom are popular for channels.

White catfish (Florida's record 18.9 pounds) share some similarities. However, the tail isn't as deeply forked and the lobes of the tail fin are more rounded. White catfish prefer live bait, such as a minnow or worm.

Blue catfish (Florida's record 61.5 pounds) are bigger than either channels or whites. Not only does their coloring distinguish them, but also the long flat anal fin on their belly and hump in front of the back fin give them a distinct look.

Blues are river fish found in Northwest Florida and among the strongest of our freshwater fishes. Typically, they are taken with cut or live fish baits by using heavy sinkers and bottom rigs.

Flathead catfish (Florida's



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

*Happy Florida anglers holding up flatheads in North Florida.*

record 49.4 pounds) like blues, are not native to Florida. As a result, intense harvest of them is encouraged. It is important that they not be moved and live released into other waters. They are solitary fish that are more difficult to catch in the warmer months, but these fish can be caught year-round. While fishing can be good throughout the day, catfish are usually most active in the morning and evening.

Fishing at night can reward

anglers with outstanding fishing. Fishing on the bottom using a wide variety of baits (chicken livers to commercial stink baits) will help in catching these fish. Catfish can also be caught on live baits such as small shiners and minnows fished near the bottom. Catfish in lakes and ponds that have been enhanced with automatic fish feeders concentrate near these feeders and can be caught on small

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# Volunteer Bulletin Board

## LAKEWATCH helps the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS)

Recently Mark Hoyer the Assistant Director of Florida LAKEWATCH was elected as the president of NALMS. He will serve a three year term on the executive board as President Elect, President and then finally Past President. NALMS is a society of scientists, professionals and citizen scientists dedicated to the stewardship of all aquatic resources for future generations. The mission statement and goals of NALMS are as follows:

**Mission:** The purpose of the Society is to forge partnerships among citizens, scientists, and professionals to foster the management and protection of lakes and reservoirs for today and tomorrow.

**Societal Goals (from Constitution and Bylaws):**

1. To facilitate the exchange of information on the technical and administrative aspects of managing lakes and their watersheds.
2. To promote public awareness of lake ecosystems.
3. To encourage public support for national, state or provincial, and local programs promoting management of lakes and their watersheds.
4. To provide guidance to public and private agencies involved in or planning management activities for lakes and their watersheds.
5. To improve the professional status of all persons engaged in any aspect of managing lakes and their watersheds.
6. To identify needs and encourage research on lake ecology and watershed management.

The mission and goals of Florida LAKEWATCH and its volunteers overlap with those of NALMS considerably. With these overlapping interests please consider becoming a NALMS member or just supporting the society in any way you can. For more information about NALMS feel free to contact Mark directly or visit the NALMS web site (<http://www.nalms.org/>). For those interested in supporting lake management programs closer to home, there is a state chapter of NALMS appropriately called the Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS) (<http://flms.net/>). In either case, please try to support one or both of these groups and their missions of managing our precious aquatic resources for future generations.

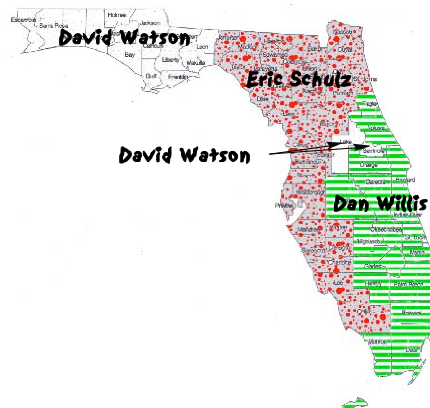
## New Chemist/Seasoned LAKEWATCH Staffer

While the responsibilities will be new, Claude Brown who will now be LAKEWATCH's Chemist has been with the program since its inception. Claude has been a regional Coordinator for several years and I know the volunteers that have worked with him will be sad that he is no longer their contact for LAKEWATCH. However, our long-time Chemist Mary Stonecipher is retiring after 36 years with the State and Claude has agreed to take over Mary's responsibilities. This will be like riding a bike for Claude because he was originally trained in water chemistry and that was his first job with LAKEWATCH. Please welcome Claude in his new responsibilities and now all LAKEWATCH volunteers will benefit from Claude's talents.

I am sure that everyone reading this has been impacted in some way by the recent economic problems happening throughout the world and LAKEWATCH is no exception. Because of this down turn in the economy and statewide budget cuts we will probably not be able to fill Claude's Regional Coordinator position and the remaining coordinators will be splitting up those responsibilities. The map now shows the new division of labor and the individual counties that Dan Willis, David Watson and Eric Schulz will be working with. When the economy turns, and I am sure it will, we will hopefully expand LAKEWATCH again.



David Watson    Dan Willis    Eric Schulz    Claude Brown



New Florida LAKEWATCH Regions



# LAKEWATCH NEEDS YOU!

*These lakes have been inactive for over one year. If you know of anyone who might want to sample any of these lakes please have them call us at 1-800-525-3928 or e-mail us at [fl-lakewatch@ufl.edu](mailto:fl-lakewatch@ufl.edu).*

## Hillsborough County

Alice	Allen
Buck	Calm
Carlton	Carlton 2
Carroll Cove	Chapman
Chapman South	Charles
Crenshaw	Crescent
Crystal	Deer
Dorothy	Dosson
Edna	Egypt
Elizabeth	Fantasia
Fleur de Lis	Gass
George	Glass
Gornto	Grace
Grady	Hammock
Hanna	Heather
Hog Island	Hickory Manor
Horse	Holly
Island Ford	Hunter
Jeanette	Jackson
Keene	Juanita
Little Bass	Kell
Little Halfmoon	Little Jewel
Lords	Little Moon
Martha	Mango
Mill	Mead
Morley	Mirror
Mound	Morris
Pine Pond	New Ryan
Platt	Place
Roberta	Rainbow
Roget	Rogers
Taylor	Russell
Silver	Shangri-La
Taylor 2	Snake
Sinclair	South

## Hillsborough County

Stall	Stemper
Stillwater	Swan
Silver	Sinclair
Snake	South
Ten Mile	Turtle
Twin	Valrico Middle
Wastena	Weeks
Wilford	Wood

## Leon County

Tom John	Gannett Pond
Munson	Harriman Pond
Silver	McCord Pond
Overstreet	Coolview Pond
Elizabeth	Jane
Hall	Spring Pond
Erie	Windermere
Carr	Weeks
Eel	Alford Arm
Moore	Anna
Fisher	Campground Pond
Trout Pond	Heritage
Iamonia	Jean
Orchard Pond	Sheelin
Little Jackson	Mattie
Piney Z	Goose Pond
Ochlockonee	Mitchell Arm
River	Duck
Chapman Pond	Lee
Carolyn	
Moore 2	
Clear	Horne Springs

## Leon County

Andrew	Cascade
Lofton Pond	Grassy
Belmont	Meginnis Arm

## Lake County

Minnehaha	Nellie
Wash	Crescent (Umatilla)
Idamere	Nettie
Bear (near Deltona)	Placida
Crescent (Clermont)	Dixie West
Winona	South Twin
David	Pearl
Denham	Akron
Egret	Little Nellie
Aphawa	Norris
Silver	Arthur
Blue	Jack's
Lucy	Arlene
Cook	Haines
Pine Island	Grassy
Owen	Zephyr
Middle Bear	Purdum Pond
Loch Leven	Black
Eagle	Dixie East
Evert	North Twin
Heron	Silver Paisley
Glon	CR Big
Shady Nook	CR Small
Desire	Umatilla
Idlewild	Mill Stream Swamp
Dolls	Nettie
Dixie West	Placida

The following good sites for catching catfish occur all over the state and more information on these spots can be found at [myfwc.com](http://myfwc.com):

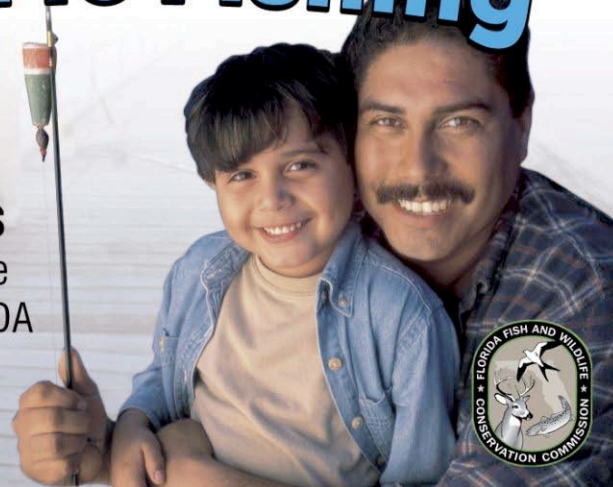
- ❖ The Apalachicola River
- ❖ The Choctawhatchee River
- ❖ The Escambia River
- ❖ The St. Johns River and Dunn's Creek
- ❖ The Ochlocknee River
- ❖ Clermont Chain of Lakes Haines Creek
- ❖ Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes
- ❖ Southwest Florida Lakes
- ❖ Joe Budd Pond (Gadsden County)

# Take Me Fishing

**LEARN MORE**  
[FishingCapital.org](http://FishingCapital.org)

**INSTANT LICENSES**  
[MyFWC.com/license](http://MyFWC.com/license)  
or 1-888-FISH FLORIDA  
1-888-347-4356

Florida  
**FISHING CAPITAL**  
of the **WORLD**



pieces of dog food, bread and hot dogs.

Finally, Florida earned the title "Fishing Capital of the World" by coupling its great resources with responsible management of those resources by the FWC. Anglers will be coming to test

their skills, but now you have some insider knowledge to expand your horizons and try out some new fishing opportunities. Help keep Florida the Fishing Capital by following sound conservation practices.



Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

By: Bob Wattendorf,  
Florida Fish and  
Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission, with  
special thanks to  
Andy Strickland,  
FWC (edited by  
LAKEWATCH)

You can visit  
them at:  
[http://  
myfwc.com](http://myfwc.com)

## Outstanding LAKEWATCH Volunteers

Lake Powell is located in Walton and Bay County. Lake Powell is sampled by Chris Forman and Emily Ellis. They began sampling Lake Powell monthly as Florida LAKEWATCH volunteers through the Resource Management Association (RMA). RMA had four sampling sites located in the Bay County portion of the lake. When the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) began coordinating volunteer water quality monitoring in Walton County, Chris and Emily took on the Walton County portion of the lake as well. They also collect data and samples for the Aqualab program, which is organized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. They have been sampling Lake Powell monthly for eight years now for three different non-profit organizations. When Lake Powell's total phosphorus concentrations spiked to extremely high values as compared to baseline values determined for the lake, Chris and Emily enlisted the help of Richard Bryan to organize what is now known as the Lake Powell Community Alliance (LPCA). LPCA is made up of individuals "dedicated to preserving the water quality and biodiversity of the Lake Powell ecosystem through education, habitat restoration, watershed-based planning and community partnerships." Under the

guidance of Chris, Emily, Richard, and other members of the LPCA board, this organization created a comprehensive management plan, wrote and received grants to support research on the lake, and recently obtained 501(c)(3)/Non-Profit status. LPCA also provides a mechanism for the promotion and exchange of scientifically sound information about the lake for the local community.

They publish a quarterly newsletter, they host monthly meetings and/or events, they also talk, visit, and field phone calls about the lake with anyone and

record all construction activities on the lake. Violations are recorded, attempts are made to correct each violation, and ultimately violators are reported. The LPCA works closely with the CBA. CBA is a partnership of the Mattie M. Kelly Cultural & Environmental Institute at North West Florida College (NWFC). The CBA holds meetings and workshops in both Bay and Walton counties. This helps the group to stay apprised of municipal actions affecting coastal dune lakes and focused public attention for the protection of Lake Powell.

The LPCA represented by Chris Forman, Emily Ellis, and Richard Bryan also received the Scott Driver Award from the Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS) in 2008. The Scott Driver Award is given to an "activist" or group who has promoted the restoration, protection and/or appreciation of Florida's aquatic resources.



The Scott Driver Award being given to the LPCA (represented by Chris Forman, Emily Ellis, and Richard Bryan) by FLMS president Clell Ford.


everyone they meet.

Chris and Richard have been certified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as Stormwater Management Inspectors. In addition to Chris and Emily's monthly water chemistry monitoring, Chris and Richard patrol the shoreline of Lake Powell regularly to monitor and

The LPCA epitomizes the power of what a few dedicated citizens can do to make a difference in their watershed. LPCA has created a comprehensive management plan for Lake Powell, and they have secured funding for biodiversity surveys, aquatic vegetation surveys, and publish quarterly newsletters to keep everyone living around the lake

Chris Mitchell

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*Florida*   
**LAKEWATCH**

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Florida LAKEWATCH  
Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences  
School of Forestry Resource Conservation  
7922NW71stStreet  
Gainesville,FL 32653  
or call  
1-800-LAKEWATCH(800-525-3928)  
(352)392-4817  
E-mail: [fl-lakewatch@ufl.edu](mailto:fl-lakewatch@ufl.edu)  
<http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/>

All unsolicited articles, photographs, artwork or other written material must include contributor's name, address and phone number. Opinions expressed are solely those of the individual contributor and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Florida LAKEWATCH program.

**Outstanding Volunteer (Continued from page 11)**

informed about the activities around Lake Powell. We cannot think of any other individual or group more dedicated to the aquatic resources in their area.

It has been a pleasure working with Chris and Emily because their dedication to Lake Powell goes above and beyond anything we could have hoped for from volunteers. We commend them for their time, energy and continued service to LAKEWATCH, RMA, CBA and most importantly, to Lake Powell.



*A view of Lake Powell from the Camp Helen State Park in Bay County Florida*

Camp Helen State Park

This article was written by Julie Terrell, Director of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance and a former Florida LAKEWATCH Regional Coordinator