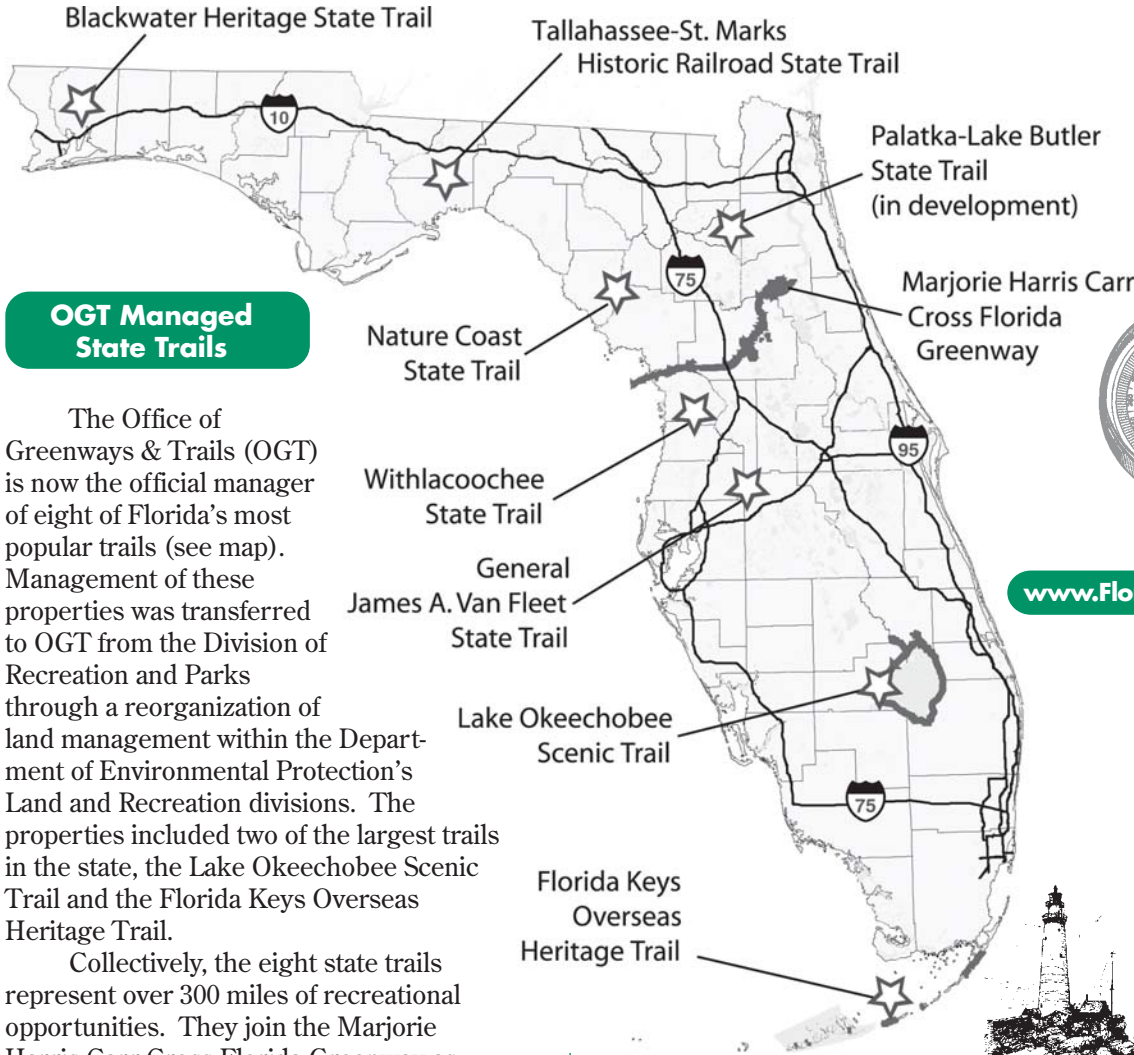


Connections

www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com



OGT Takes On State Trails



OGT Managed State Trails

The Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) is now the official manager of eight of Florida's most popular trails (see map). Management of these properties was transferred to OGT from the Division of Recreation and Parks through a reorganization of land management within the Department of Environmental Protection's Land and Recreation divisions. The properties included two of the largest trails in the state, the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail and the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail.

Collectively, the eight state trails represent over 300 miles of recreational opportunities. They join the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway as important components of the statewide system of greenways and trails being managed by OGT.

"It is a natural transition for OGT to take the lead role in managing these outstanding state trails," said Jena Brooks, Director of the Office of Greenways & Trails. "We look forward to working with the communities connected by these properties which are all vital segments of the statewide greenways and trails system."

Referring to the previous management of these trails as part of the State Parks system, Brooks added, "The Division of Recreation and Parks has set a high standard of management for these trails. We look forward to continuing that tradition."

For further information about these trails or other lands managed by OGT, please call 877-822-5208 or visit our website at www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com.

Eight of Florida's most popular trails (marked by stars on the map at left) have been transferred to the Office of Greenways & Trails.



www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com

Inside Connections

More Lands Added to System/page 2

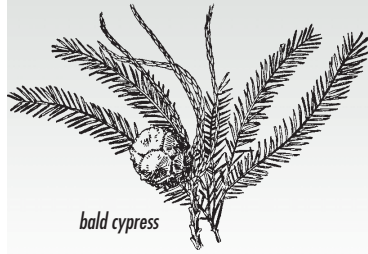
Long Ride into Tallahassee/page 5

Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail/page 6



Land Acquisition Update

To learn more about land acquisition, visit www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com



bald cypress

More Lands Added to the Statewide System of Greenways and Trails

The Parkland Greenway Enhancement project, located within the City of Parkland now has an additional 6.08 acres to add to the existing 10-mile trail system. This parcel closed in January 2004 at a cost of \$975,000. Thanks to the fifty percent contribution made by Broward County, OGT was able to acquire the property for \$487,500.

This parcel will be managed by Broward County as an addition to the Parkland Greenway and will provide an area of open space that will offer such recreational activities as hiking, running, bicycling, horseback riding and could include picnic facilities and covered pavilions.

A key parcel has been added to the South Brevard Linear Trail. In October 2003, 14.72 acres were acquired within the South Brevard Trail Connector project at a cost of \$300,000. Thanks to the fifty percent contribution made by Broward County and the City of Palm Bay, the long-term managers, OGT was able to purchase the property for \$150,000.

This acquisition will preserve land that has historically been used for off-road bicycling, hiking, and canoeing. This project will

provide open space, nature trails and scenic overlooks for hiking, bicycling, canoeing, running, historical study, and birding. The trails will be part of a larger system that will also support equestrian uses.

The 94.89-acre parcel within the West Jacksonville Greenway Connector project was acquired in January 2004. At a cost of \$381,628, once again, a fifty percent match was provided so that OGT was able to acquire the property for \$190,814. Many thanks to the City of Jacksonville, the long-term managers, that has further committed to provide the fifty percent match for the remaining parcels yet to be acquired.

This particular parcel will provide an area for a trailhead with restroom facilities and a parking area. Recreational opportunities will include biking, hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing.

Should you have any questions about these projects or OGT's Land Acquisition program, please contact Cindy Radford at Cynthia.Radford@dep.state.fl.us or by calling 850-245-2052.

Connections

is published quarterly by:

Department of
Environmental Protection
Office of
Greenways & Trails
DEP MS 795
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Telephone:
850-245-2052

Toll Free:
1-877-822-5208

www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com

Jena Brooks,
Director

Jim M. Wood,
Assistant Director

Mickey Thomason,
Cross Florida Greenway Manager

Field Office Location:
8282 SE Highway 314
Ocala, FL 34470
Phone: 352-236-7143

New Appointees to FGTC

FRED DAVIS has been appointed to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council (Council) to represent the Water Management Districts. Davis holds an MS in Environmental Chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and in 1972 began his employment with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) based in West Palm Beach. Since 1989 he has directed the District's Land Stewardship Division, which encompasses a diverse program based on adaptive ecosystem principles. In partnership with federal, state, local and private organizations, SFWMD's Land Stewardship program manages over 300,000 acres of land, ranging from deep-water habitat to upland scrub, with

the objective of restoring these lands to their natural state and function.

KATHY BAUGHMAN MCLEOD has been appointed to the Council as the representative for the Florida Department of Community Affairs, replacing Janice Browning. Baughman McLeod has a long history in land conservation. Her career began at the Department of Environmental Protection, working on an Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act grant while in graduate school in geography at Florida State University. She then joined The Nature Conservancy in Government Relations, and later joined The Trust for Public Land in the Government Affairs department.

FGTC Appointees, page 4



Florida Greenways and Trails Council Update

November

The Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC) met on November 20-21 at the Starkey Environmental Education Center in New Port Richey. Prior to the business meeting, Gene Kelley from the South West Florida Water Management District presented an introductory overview of the Starkey Wilderness Park and hosted hiking and biking field trips through the Park. Council member Kathryn Starkey also arranged for the group to participate in a special "Eco-tour" of the Anclote River Ranch conducted by J. B. Starkey, Jr. Starkey shared the history of his family's ranch and its development, as he guided Council members through a variety of ecosystems and pointed out native plant and animal habitats.

The business meeting of the FGTC focused on a preliminary review of proposed changes to the Trail Network Opportunity Maps. OGT's Assistant Director Jim Wood outlined the interactive online process developed by the University of Florida's Geoplan Center to receive input on changes to the maps from user groups, local governments, regional and state agency representatives. The FGTC gave approval to OGT staff to move forward into the public comment phase of the revision process. The public comment period took place in January/February, 2004 and included three public workshops around the state as well as an opportunity for online comment.

The FGTC elected new officers for 2004. Ken Bryan was re-elected as Chair and Marty Black was elected as Vice Chair. Ken Bryan, of the Rails to Trails Conservancy in Tallahassee, was appointed to the FGTC by the Florida House of Representatives to represent trail users. Marty Black is Deputy City Manager of the City of Venice and was appointed to the

FGTC by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a local government representative.

May

The Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC) met in Tallahassee on March 8-9, 2004, and reviewed updates to the Trail Network Opportunity Maps. These maps identify corridors of statewide and regional significance to which local trails can be linked. The maps serve both as a statewide vision for a system of connected trails and a tool for determining eligibility for funding under the Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program. There are three types of maps: hiking (which follows the Florida National Scenic Trail vision), paddling, and multi-use. The maps were originally approved in 1999 when the legislature adopted the greenways and trails implementation plan. During the past few months the Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) has conducted the process of updating these maps. Through an interactive web-based application, representatives of user groups, local and regional governments and the general public have submitted proposed changes and additions to the map. In addition, three regional public workshops were well attended and generated useful feedback. On March 9, the FGTC voted to approve the maps as revised and to allow OGT to proceed with the prioritization phase of ranking each trail segment.

The March meeting also featured a presentation by Dennis Scott, State Pedestrian/Bicycle coordinator for the Florida Department of Transportation. Scott gave an overview of Florida's pedestrian/bicycle safety program,

FGTC Meetings, page 7



Heads Up!

May
May is Clean Air Month

May 8-16
National Tourism Week

May 20
Florida Greenways and Trails Council Meeting
850-245-2052

May 28-30
52nd Annual Florida Folk Festival
877-635-3655

June

June 5
National Trails Day
Withlacoochee Bay Trail Grand Opening



southern blueberry

The next FGTC meeting is scheduled for **May 20 in Tallahassee.** Want more information? www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com



And the Addy Goes To...



Everglades Radio Network

The Department's Office of Public Outreach for Land and Recreation took home three Gold and four Silver Addy Awards, presented by The Greater Tallahassee Advertising Federation, on Saturday, February 21.

The Annual Addy Awards are the nation's largest advertising competition, honoring excellence and creative standards. Award categories include print, public service, broadcast, and multimedia.

Over 4,000 miles of trails cross Florida's diverse landscape



Take one as needed for Mind, Body and Spirit. Unlimited refills. (Toll free) 877-822-5208. FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com

You Should Be Here magazine ad

Four Department Addy winners will advance to the regional competition: postcards from Florida's Greenways & Trails; You Should Be Here (OGT ad in *Undiscovered Magazine*); Everglades Radio Network logo and October is Florida Greenways & Trails Month poster (see last issue of *Connections*).

Step Up, Florida!

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) partnered with the Department of Health for "Step Up, Florida - on our way to healthy living!" a statewide event promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles that showcased the numerous opportunities Florida offers citizens and visitors to be physically active. "Our quality of life depends on a clean environment and healthy



living," said DEP Secretary Castille. "Florida's award winning state park system and over 4,000 miles of trails offer countless ways for our families to be physically active while enjoying the state's natural beauty."

FGTC Appointees, from 2

She left the Trust for Public Land as its Southeast Director of Government Affairs after working for several years on the creation of the Florida Forever Program. McLeod has appeared before several state legislatures and environmental coalitions in an effort to help create other states' environmental land acquisition programs. She now heads Florida Communities Trust at the Department of Community Affairs where she puts her expertise in land conservation, program design, public finance, legislative strategy, and public affairs to work.

LEROY IRWIN has served as the agency representative to the Council for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) since the inception of the FGTC. After 33 years of service with the FDOT, Irwin retired on

Horses for Hospice



4TH Annual Trail Ride Saturday, February 21, 2004

On Saturday, February 21, 211 riders took to the sunshine drenched trails on the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway in Ocala for the 4th annual Horses for Hospice Trail Ride. In the year 2004, it proved to be the most successful ride to date, raising over \$13,400.

Lynn Palm joined the ride and conducted an hour-long workshop for riders. A nationally known competitor, trainer, instructor, and one of the top competitors in American Quarter Horse Association history, Lynn has a consistent record of World Championship titles in both English and Western disciplines.

March 1. His wealth of experience with DOT projects such as Efficient Transportation Decision Making, Community Impact Assessment and Wildlife Habitat Preservation/Protection and Habitat Crossings made Irwin a valuable member of the FGTC.

BOB CRIM will replace Irwin as the new agency representative to the FGTC for the FDOT. Crim's current responsibilities with the FDOT include Project Development, Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Highways and Roadside Landscaping/Highway Beautification. Having worked with the FDOT since 1987, as well as having served as Irwin's FGTC alternate, Crim brings substantial experience to his role on the Council. We look forward to a smooth transition and continued valuable support from the FDOT.

Gene Glasscock's Long Ride into Tallahassee

On January 7, 2004, Gene Glasscock, an equestrian explorer, arrived at Florida's Capitol. Glasscock's mission is to ride 20,000 miles on a three-year continual journey taking him to all 48 state capitals in the continental United States. Glasscock left Denver in September 2002 as he set out to recreate the Overland Westerners' equestrian journey of the early 20th century.

At 69, Glasscock is the oldest person known to set out on a journey of this magnitude. The Office of Greenways & Trails assisted Glasscock on the Florida portion of his ride by locating housing for Glasscock and his two Tennessee Walkers, Frank and George, and locating an appropriate route for the trio. In addition, OGT staff arranged the January 7 ride to the capitol.

The brisk winter morning's ride began at the Thornton Trailhead on the Miccosukee Greenway where Glasscock was joined by long time riding companions from North Carolina and a local rider. Along the route, other local riders, including representatives of the Wakulla 4H Horsemasters, joined him. The group then crossed over US 90 and followed the Goose Pond Trail into Tom Brown Park. Once on surface streets, the Tallahassee Police Department escorted the entourage on its 8-mile ride to the capitol.

Governor Jeb Bush greeted Glasscock on the steps of the Old Capitol and presented him with a letter commending his generosity of time, energy, caring attitude and compassion. The two discussed Glasscock's primary purpose of the ride-to secure donations for The Phillips Fund, a scholarship program designed to educate under-privileged young adults from Paraguay.

Secretary Terry White, Elder Affairs, and staff from the Office of Greenways & Trails were also in attendance as Governor Bush welcomed Glasscock. Secretary White recognized Glasscock's message to senior citizens that you "don't have to just sit on the porch and do nothing" while in retirement. OGT staff noted that Glasscock's most pleasurable riding moments have occurred on the Greenways & Trails he has had the opportunity to enjoy during this trip. They thanked Glasscock for having as one of his expedition's purposes, that

of increasing the awareness of Greenways & Trails. Glasscock gladly exchanged his normal riding hat for the Greenways & Trails hat presented to him.

After the fanfare and media attention ended, the group rode south to Glasscock's next overnight stop. The end of the 18-mile day found everyone happy, yet tired. Glasscock and his horses are accustomed to the 15 to 20 mile days.

The Office of Greenways & Trails wishes Glasscock the best of luck in completing his epic journey and hopes he continues to enjoy America's greenways and trails as his primary route.



Glasscock left Denver in September 2002 as he set out to recreate the Overland Westerners' equestrian journey of the early 20th century.

Glasscock and Governor Bush.

Thanks to those who helped with logistics and food for Frank and George

- *Ochlockonee River Pony Club*
- *Goethe Trail, Inc.*
- *Southern Trail Riders*
- *Florida Wild Horse and Burro Association*



Implementing the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

This recreational greenway will include an integrated system of educational kiosks, roadside



Garbage can art project.

picnic areas, scenic overlooks, fishing piers, water access points, and bicycle and jogging paths.

The Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail (FKOHT) is being developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Monroe County as a world-class, multi-use bicycle and pedestrian facility that will traverse the Florida Keys from Key Largo to Key West. Upon completion, this recreational greenway will include an integrated system of educational kiosks, roadside picnic areas, scenic overlooks, fishing piers, water access points, and bicycle and jogging paths serving both residents and visitors to the Florida Keys.

As the new manager, the Office of Greenways & Trails will maintain 35 miles of existing trail along with the 23 historical Flagler Railroad Bridges throughout Monroe County. An additional twenty-four miles of existing trail are managed by the municipalities. The design and construction of 40 miles of new trail is currently under development and funded by local and statewide FDOT Enhancement Funds, Monroe County Impact Fees and other grant sources.

Some of the key components in implementing the FKOHT have been developing a funding strategy, identifying the current conditions and needs of the trail and establishing and maintaining strong partnerships. The construction of safety upgrades will begin in 2004 to address some of the deteriorated conditions identified early in the implementation process. Our partnership with the National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) has produced an interpretive plan working document that outlines the stories of the Keys along the trail corridor. Components of this document will be incorporated into a Signage Plan



that will produce a “look” for wayside and interpretive signage. The RTCA program has prepared the National Registry application for the remaining Keys Bridges and is also developing a paddling trail with assistance from local businesses, OGT, Florida State Parks, the National Park System, and Monroe County. Our continued relationship with Monroe County and collaborative efforts with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner has provided opportunities to participate in municipal planning projects under development throughout the Keys and made trail development a priority. The Rails to Trails Conservancy was initially involved in the master planning process and again will be taking part in the development of public information workshops on fishing platforms and trail development. The Scenic Highway Advisory Group, supported by FDOT and the County is preparing an Interpretive Master Plan that will address the needs of the corridor and how to implement beautification and interpretation projects along US 1. There have been several community-based projects developed to encourage participation in the trail project, such as monofilament recycling, garbage can art and events.

Much attention has been paid to developing projects that address some of the environmental concerns presented along the right-of-way corridor. Florida State Park biologists have conducted corridor surveys to identify the specific native vegetation appropriate for use at each segment under design. These appropriate native species are being incorporated into the landscape design of the Trail. The Trail will also begin a corridor enhancement endeavor with the Nature Conservancy and FDOT in April to remove exotics along 33 miles of FDOT right-of-way through the upper and middle

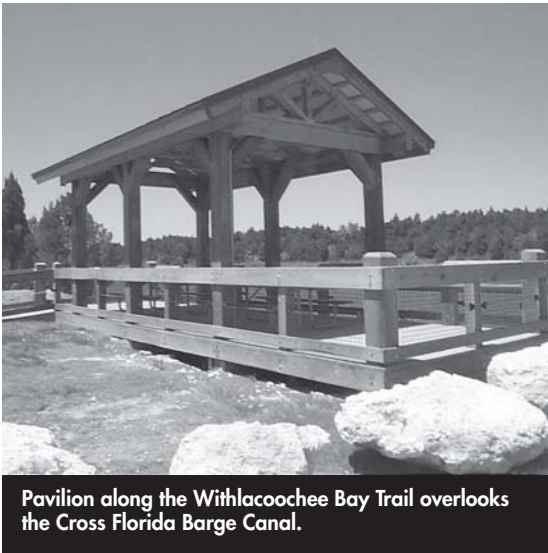
Heritage Trail, page 7

TEAM GREEN

The Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway was the learning ground for a group of hearing-impaired students from the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. The Visitor Center's Team Green environmental education program introduced the students to country, water, motorized and rail-trails, highlighting their wildlife and recreational features. Students enjoyed a hayride, up-close encounters with a horse, newts, and salamanders, saw an alligator on the move, and made plaster imprints of animal tracks.



Make plans to attend the grand opening of the Withlacoochee Bay Trail on the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway on National Trails Day on June 5, 2004.



Pavilion along the Withlacoochee Bay Trail overlooks the Cross Florida Barge Canal.

8TH Annual Clean Air Bike Ride

Approximately 875 riders participated in the 8th Annual Clean Air Bike Ride on March 6 on the Withlacoochee State Trail that winds through Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus counties. OGT, the Withlacoochee State Trail Citizen Support Organization, the Citrus County Chronicle, Hernando Today and Action Wheel Sport sponsored the event. Proceeds from the ride benefit the American Lung Association.



Heritage Trail, from 6

Keys. These environmental enhancements are being incorporated into new and existing trail segments where feasible, in addition to the required storm-water improvements and other mandatory criteria.

The FKOHT is well on its way to becoming the kind of facility envisioned in the master planning process. The project has received much needed support from its many constituents, partners and sister agencies. The Office of Greenways & Trails looks forward to the continued support during the implementation of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail.

FGTC, from 3

which is highly regarded as a model for other states. He discussed the program's mission and its efforts to improve the safety of Florida's pedestrians and cyclists through such avenues as traffic safety education in schools and the training of school crossing guards. In addition to public safety, issues of mobility and access are also integral to the work of this valuable DOT program and of significant interest to the FGTC members.

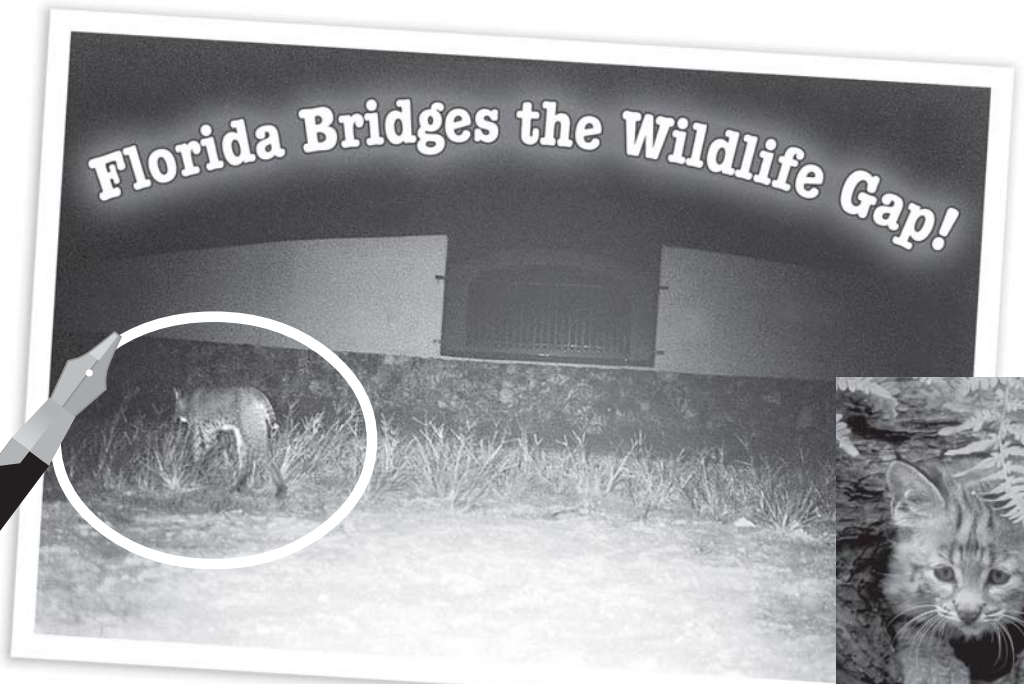


Post Cards

A R O U N D • T H E • S T A T E

A bobcat crosses the Land Bridge that connects the east and west trails within the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greeway.

Opened in 2000, the Land Bridge is 52 feet wide, 200 feet long and landscaped with native vegetation. The structure provides wildlife and trail users safe passage over Interstate 75 just south of Ocala.



A bobcat kitten (right) peeks from the safety of a hole in a log. Bobcats are one of many wild animals that make Florida their home.



Prst Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tallahassee, FL
Permit No. 1092

OFFICE OF GREENWAYS & TRAILS
 DEP MS 795
 3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

