

## Speakers

**Thomas Floyd** is a Wildlife Biologist (herpetology) within the Nongame Conservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Thomas leads Georgia's efforts to identify and restore mountain bog habitat for the bog turtle, identify new populations of the flatwoods salamander in the State, and in the development of strategies to implement the Safe Harbor Policy for the flatwoods salamander. He received a BSFR in environmental resources from the University of Georgia in 1998 and an MS in wildlife management from Clemson University 2003. His MS research assessed the effects of prescribed fire on herpetofauna in hardwood forest ecosystems. Thomas is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in natural resources policy at the University of Georgia. His interests include wetland and upland habitat restoration, management for rare amphibian and reptile species and the development of endangered species conservation incentive strategies for private landowners. Thomas is happily married and a proud father of two girls.

**Roy Lima** is a 1978 graduate of the University of Florida with a BS degree in Forestry. He served as the Florida Division of Forestry Putnam County Forester from 1978 to 1983, followed by careers with St. Regis Paper Company as a wood procurement forester, St. John River Water Management District as Land Manager and Real Estate Review Appraiser, Field Appraiser with the Putnam County Property Appraiser's Office, and Stone Container Corporation as an Area Manager. Roy is a registered forester in both Georgia and South Carolina. He returned to the Florida DOF in September 2000 and has been involved with the Florida Silviculture BMP Program as Watershed Forester in Tallahassee. Roy is currently responsible for coordinating the Division's biennial BMP Compliance Survey and conducting BMP workshops for loggers, landowners, and consultants. He has been happily married for 28 years with two children, and one grandchild.

**Bruce Means** is President and Executive Director of the Coastal Plains Institute, a nonprofit organization he co-founded in 1984 that is dedicated to conserving the rich biodiversity of the Southeastern Coastal Plain through research and education. He is an Adjunct Professor of Biological Science at Florida State University and also teaches classes on upland and wetland ecosystems through the City of Tallahassee. His research includes a wide variety of topics ranging from ecosystems of the southeastern U. S. to fire ecology, the natural history of South American tepuis, biogeography, conservation, endangered species, and the evolution and natural history of amphibians and reptiles. He received his BS in Biology and MS and PhD in Ecology from Florida State University. Bruce Means lives in Tallahassee and relishes his time in the woodlands, swamps, and bogs of the Florida Panhandle—and making expeditions into the vast wilderness of northeastern South America.

**Rebecca Meegan** is a wildlife biologist for Coastal Plains Institute, a nonprofit organization. Since starting at CPI in 2001, she has been the principle investigator of two projects, including a current three-year study developing management strategies for ephemeral ponds and pond-breeding amphibians. She was also a co-principle investigator on a project assessing amphibian response to wetlands augmentation. Before her current position, Rebecca worked for the Florida Geological Survey on springs-related issues. Rebecca's expertise is in pond-breeding amphibians, landscape ecology, environmental education and GIS. She received her MS in Forestry from Texas A&M University in 2000 and a BS in both Fisheries and Wildlife Resources and in Biology from Virginia Tech in 1996. Rebecca is a member of the Florida Wildlife Society, the Native Plant Society and the Society of Conservation Biology and serves as chair or co-chair of committees in several organizations including Concerned Citizens of Wakulla and Slow Food Tallahassee.

**Lora L. Smith** received her BS from Eckerd College and her MS and Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida. Her MS research focused on the ecology of the gopher tortoise in north-central Florida. Her Ph.D. research was on the ecology and conservation of the ploughshare tortoise, a species endemic to Madagascar. After completing her Ph.D. in 1999, she worked for the U.S. Geological Survey as a research wildlife biologist for 1.5 years, conducting an amphibian inventory and monitoring project at Okefenokee Swamp. She has been an assistant scientist at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center since 2001. Her work at the Center includes a long term study of the effects of mammalian predators on gopher tortoises, upland snake ecology, and habitat predictors of pond-breeding amphibians. Her research interests also include the effects of habitat restoration and management on amphibian and reptiles.

**Kris Thomas** graduated from the University of Florida in 2006 with a BS in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and a minor in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. She works with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Habitat and Species Conservation delivering technical assistance to private landowners in the North Central Region of Florida. She is a member of The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society and worked previously as a reservist with FWC in both law enforcement and biological sciences. While at the University of Florida, Kris volunteered as a student research assistant at the Florida Museum of Natural History's Ichthyology Department and worked as a student assistant in the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department and School of Natural Resources and Environment on projects including the Forest Stewardship Program, Small Farms Alternative Enterprises and IFAS extension, and on recreational user group studies on the Florida National Scenic Trail.

## **Panel Participants**

**Kevin Enge** received his MS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida in 1984. He has worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Tallahassee since 1989 as a nongame wildlife biologist and Herp Taxa Coordinator, and he is now a herpetologist in the Wildlife Research Section in Gainesville. He has published ca. 50 peer-reviewed papers and 25 reports, primarily on the results of herpetofaunal surveys. He maintains an online database on Florida herpetofauna containing more than 8,400 citations, and his areas of expertise include drift fencing, exotic species, and the conservation and management of amphibians and reptiles.

**Margaret Gunzburger** received her BS from Auburn University in 1997 in Marine Biology. She then attended Florida State University where she earned her PhD in 2004. Her areas of research include the ecology and natural history of reptiles and amphibians, and her dissertation research focused on the habitat distribution of treefrogs across aquatic habitats. She completed a two year post-doc at the US Geological Survey in Gainesville, FL, where she co-directed the Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative. A major project she conducted during her time there was an evaluation of the effects of hurricane storm surge overwash on isolated wetlands at the St Marks National Wildlife Refuge. She is now an ecologist at Nokuse Plantation, a 48,000 acre privately-owned nature preserve in the western Florida panhandle, where she is conducting an inventory of reptile and amphibian species occurrence on the preserve as well as monitoring the effects of the habitat restoration on these species.

**Chuck Hess** is currently a wildlife biologist on the Apalachicola National Forest. He completed his BS (1987) and MS (1997) at Florida State University, and is currently working on a doctoral degree, studying the conversion of slash pine plantations back to native longleaf pine. He has been working and studying the red-cockaded woodpeckers of the Apalachicola National Forest since 1989 and was instrumental in the development of the translocation program for this woodpecker. His primary areas of interest are forest management and the importance of fire on the landscape.

**Joe McGlincy** joined Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc. in February 1995 as Director of Wildlife and Environmental Services. Joe became a partner in the firm in 1997 and The Wildlife Company, a division of Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc. was formed in 2001. He specializes in project management, wildlife resource management, aquatic and terrestrial ecological assessments, endangered species management, surveys, marking and monitoring, environmental permitting, environmental assessments, environmental auditing, Sustainable Forestry Initiative guidance, workshops and training seminars, and outdoor recreation market analysis. Joe is a graduate of Auburn University with a BS degree in Wildlife Management. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and a member of The Wildlife Society.

**Bruce Means** see Speakers section

**Beth Mizell** graduated from DePauw University in 1998 with a BA in biological sciences. Before joining The Nature Conservancy in 2002, she started her career working in public conservation for various state agencies in Indiana and Kentucky. She is the Restoration Specialist for The Nature Conservancy's Northwest Florida Program, a unique cooperative partnership with USFS Apalachicola National Forest. Elizabeth's specialties include Southeast ecosystem restoration, invasive species management, and fire management.

**Jim Moyers** has served as a wildlife biologist and naturalist for the Ecological Services Division of the St. Joe Company since 2000. He has 18 years of experience as a professional wildlife biologist in Northwest Florida. Jim is an alumnus of Auburn University where he earned BS and MS degrees in Wildlife Biology and Ecology. His main professional emphasis has been threatened and endangered species and management and restoration of their habitats. The list of protected species he helps manage for St. Joe numbers over 30 plants and animals. Additionally, he is heavily involved in ecological restoration of Company conservation and wetland mitigation areas. He is a Florida Certified Prescribed Fire Applicator. Jim assists in natural resource management within St. Joe's WaterColor and WaterSound Beach resorts, and River Camps at Crooked Creek communities and educates homeowners and visitors about the varied natural resources protected within these developments.

**Rick Owen** is currently a Florida Park Service District 2 Biologist in Gainesville, Florida where he specializes in water resource and prescribed fire management. Previously, Rick spent three years as park biologist at Wekiwa River Basin State Parks and two years as Park biologist at Guana River State Park. Rick has a strong background in vertebrate biology and endangered species management, having worked with marine turtles, least terns, manatees, gopher tortoises, striped newts and Sherman's fox squirrels. His past research has included work on Florida amphibian ecology, wetland community characterization and vertebrate monitoring and conservation. He received Biological Science degrees from the University of Central Florida (BS and MS) and spent 2 1/2 years as a PhD student in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida.

**Bill Palmer** is the Director of the Game Bird Research Program at Tall Timbers Research Station. His research covers a broad range of topics including genetic structure of bobwhite quails, bobwhite reproductive strategies, predator-prey dynamics, and effects of forest structure and the scale and frequency of prescribed fire on wildlife communities. He advises on land management on private uplands from North Carolina to south Florida and enjoys managing the Upland Ecosystem Restoration Project on public lands in Florida. As an adjunct professor at Auburn University, University of Georgia, and Mississippi State

University Bill co-advises five or so graduate students each year. He received his BS in Wildlife Ecology from Virginia Tech, MS in Wildlife Ecology from Mississippi State, and his PhD in Zoology from North Carolina State.

**Charlie Pedersen** is the state lands biologist for the Waccasassa District of the Florida Division of Forestry and has worked for DOF since 1997. His work centers on prescribed fire planning, operations and evaluations, land management planning, GIS, and rare species monitoring. Species of interest include Etonia rosemary, gopher tortoises, striped newts, bald eagles, black bears, and clasping warea. Charlie has a M.Ag. in Botany from the University of Florida, and a B.S. in Genetics from Iowa State University. Prior employers include the Florida Defenders of the Environment in Gainesville, Florida and The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas. He was raised on a medium-sized farm in northwest Iowa that grew cattle, corn, soybeans, alfalfa, oats and also did custom-work. He is married to Maura and has a distressed old pick-up, two cats, three garden gnomes, and a Martin 00-16.

**Kimberli Ponzio** is an Environmental Scientist at the St. Johns River Water Management District in Palatka, Florida. She has worked at both the South Florida and St. Johns River Water Management District as an Environmental Scientist and in the state of Florida for over 20 years. During that time, she has been involved in wetland research and restoration in the upper St. Johns River basin, the Kissimmee River Basin, and the Florida Everglades. She has been a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists since 1989 and was certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist in 1995. She is the current chair of the South Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists. Her areas of interest are ecosystem restoration, applied ecology and botanical responses to wetland management activities. She earned her BS in zoology at Florida Atlantic University in 1987 and her MS in wetlands ecology from the University of Florida in 1997.

**Dan Roach** currently directs Forest Environmental Systems, including third party certification under the Sustainable Forest Initiative, for the Eastern Forest Resources division of Rayonier Inc. Over the past 29 years, Dan has held positions responsible for land management, wood procurement, forest research and development, forest tree nurseries, new business development, alternative income sources, taxes, land acquisitions and sales, as well as managing a subsidiary that constructed and operated sewer and water plants in four locations in FL. He also is responsible for monitoring and shaping of environmental issues internally and regulations at the local, state and federal level. Dan is an active member of the several state Forestry Associations, the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, the American Forest and Paper Association and the Society of American Foresters. He holds a BS in Forest Management from Auburn University and an MBA from the University of North Florida.

**Lora L. Smith** see Speakers section

**Brian Zielinski** completed his BS in Environmental Science at SUNY Plattsburgh in 1996 and his MS in Wildlife Science at Louisiana State University in 1999. He worked for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and was responsible for developing and completing habitat restoration projects throughout coastal Louisiana. In 2000, he took a position with the FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a Wildlife Management Area Biologist. In 2005, Brian began working for the National Wild Turkey Federation as a Regional Wildlife Biologist, responsible for regional programs and partnering on habitat projects with various federal and state agencies. He currently works in a cooperative biologist position between the USFS, FWC, and the NWTF. Brian attained his TWS Wildlife Certification in 2005, served on the FL State Chapter of NWTF Board of Directors, is Chapter President of a local NWTF Chapter, and is a Hunter Education Instructor for FWC.