

FRIENDS OF  
THE LOWER  
SUWANNEE &  
CEDAR KEYS  
NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGES

Debbie Meeks  
President  
(Outgoing)



Annual Meeting  
2023



# Directors 2023-2024



Denise  
President-Elect



Ginessa  
President



Debbie M.  
Past-President



Linda  
Treasurer



Paul  
Secretary



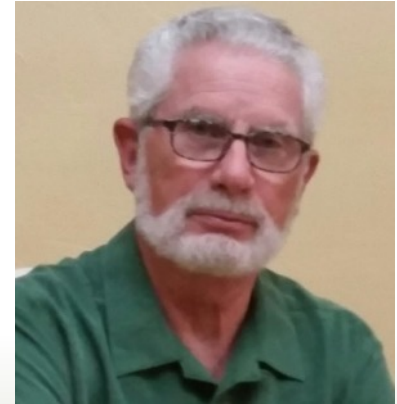
# Stepping Back



Travis



Joe



Ed

# Joining the Board



Pete



Ron



Scott

# Signing On for Another Term



Bill



Peg



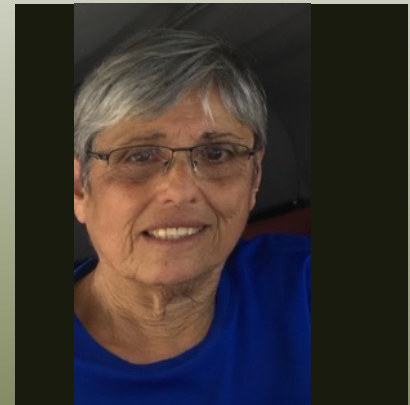
Debbie J.



Dan



John T.



Jeri

# Mid-Term Board Members



John M.

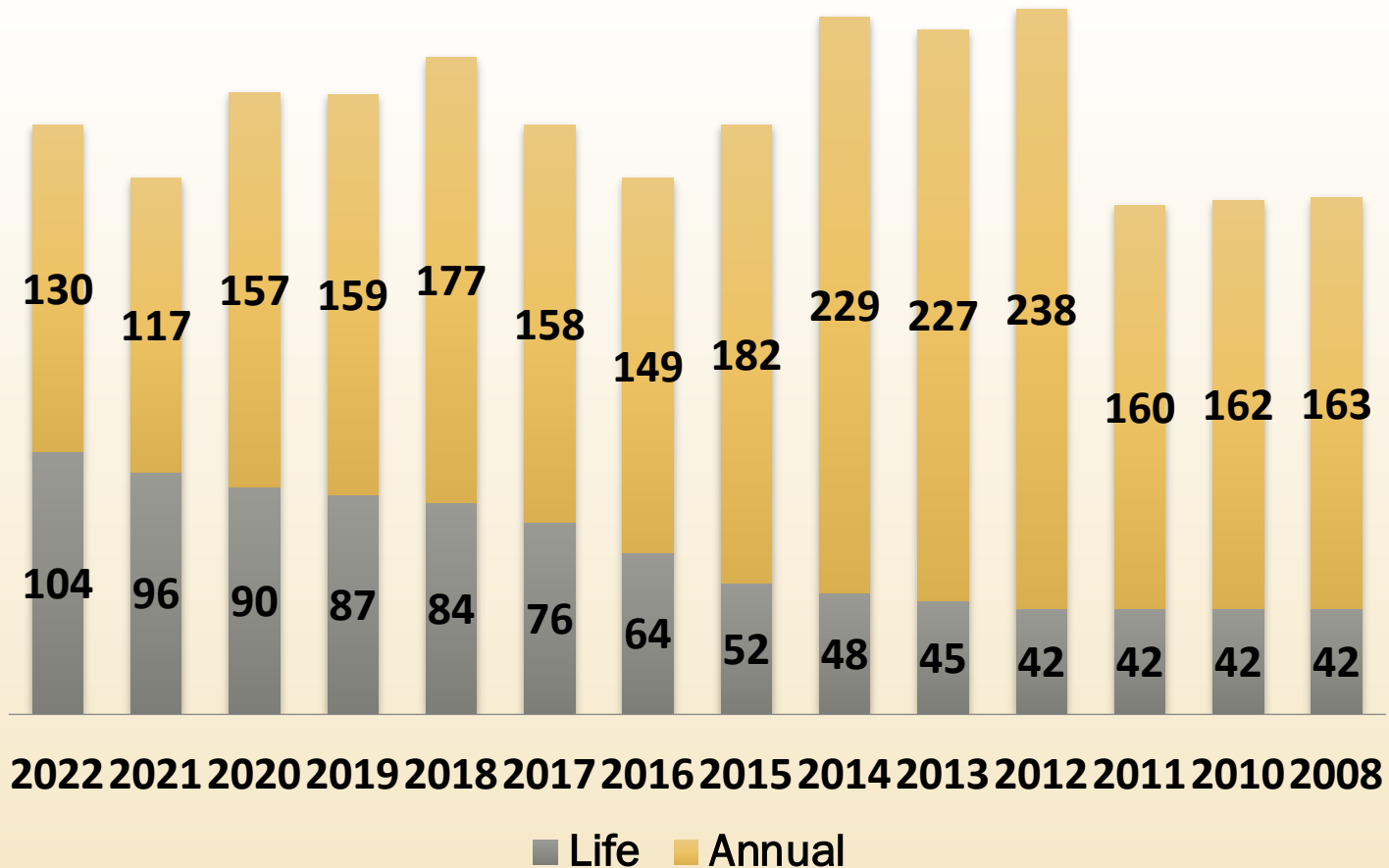


Boyd



Barbara

# Memberships



- Overall numbers are rising again post-pandemic.
- Life memberships increased.

# HOW'S THE MONEY?

	2022	2021
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$28,411</b>	<b>\$23,897</b>
General Income	\$26,153	\$11,091
Grant Income	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$26,153</b>	<b>\$11,091</b>
General Expenditures	\$14,416	\$6,672
Grant Expenditures	0	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$14,416</b>	<b>\$6,672</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$40,161</b>	<b>\$28,411</b>

Boat sale caused bin increase in income and is earmarked for Vista.  
Getting back to normal expenditures, post-pandemic.





Friends wrote elected representatives for better Refuge broadband

Friends joined forces with other Friends groups to ask congress for funding



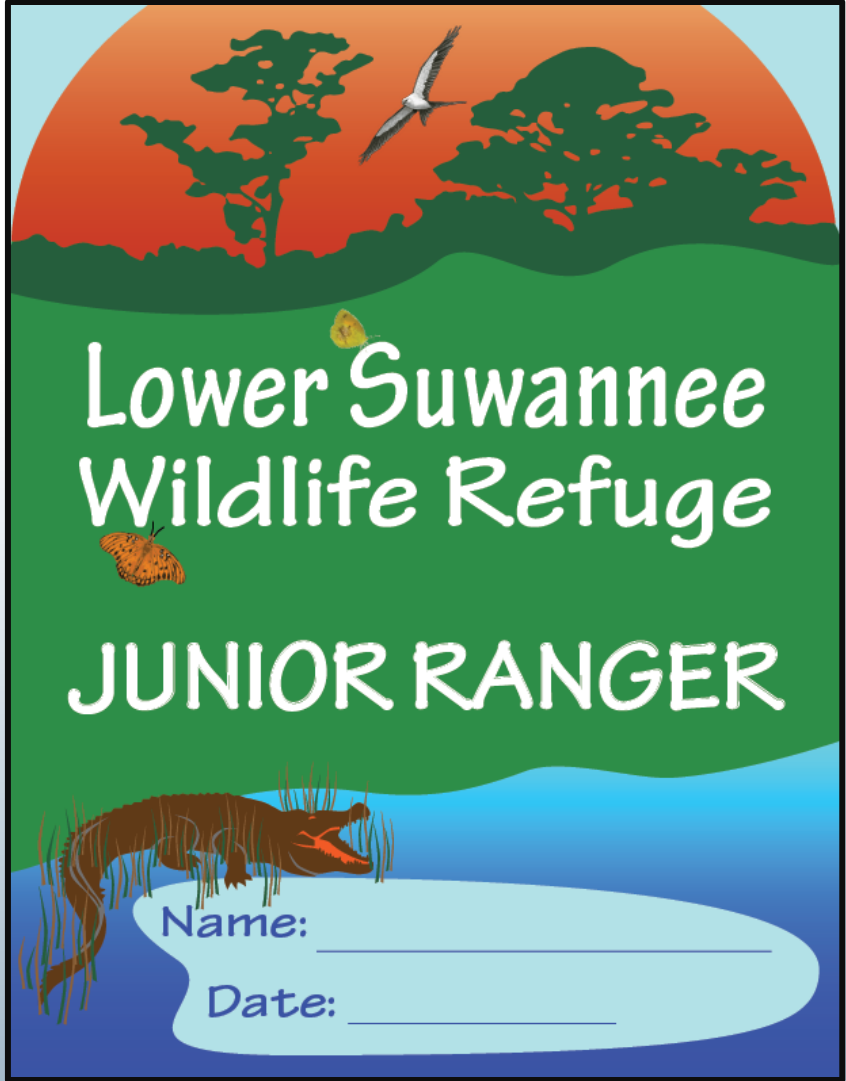
# Advocate





# Governance





Lower Suwannee  
Wildlife Refuge

JUNIOR RANGER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

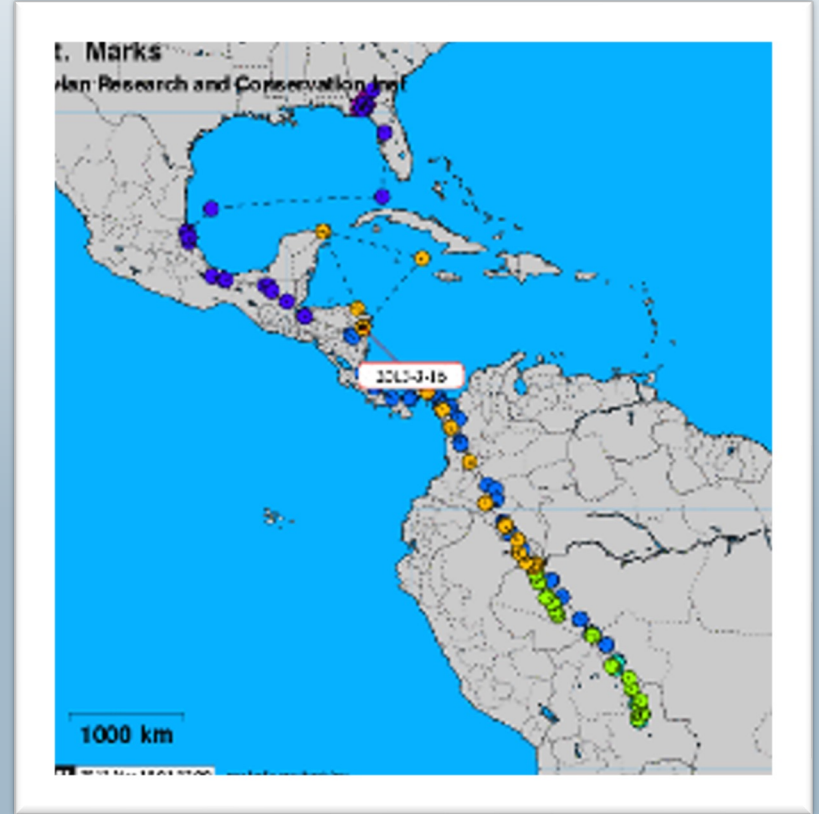
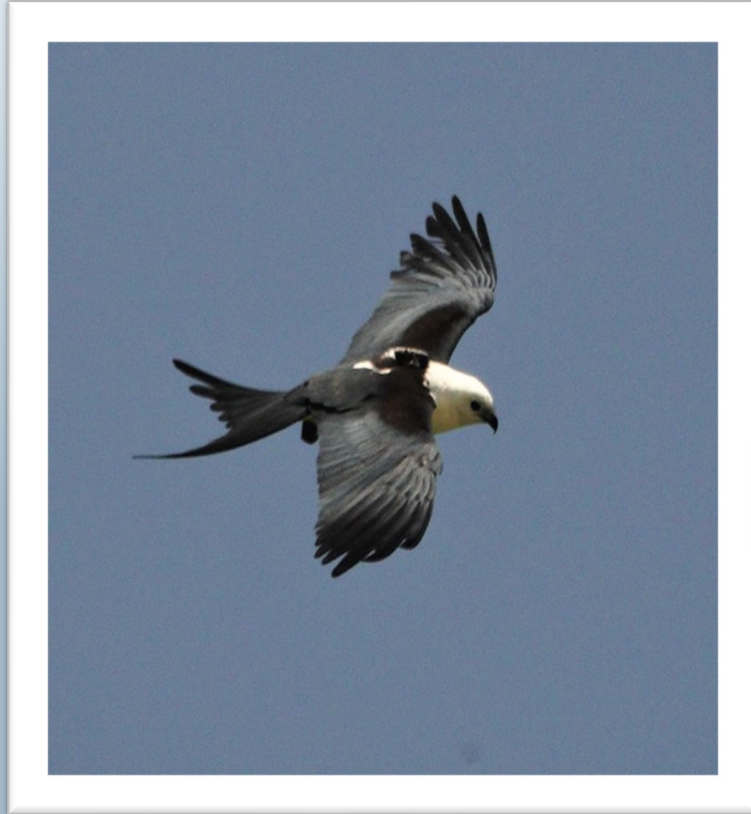
The badge template features a green background with a sunset scene at the top showing a bird in flight and silhouettes of trees. Below the text, there are illustrations of a butterfly and a crocodile in a pond. The bottom section contains two lines for a name and date.



# Educate



# Partner



Avian Research and Conservation Institute  
Swallow-tail Kite Tracking



# Communicate

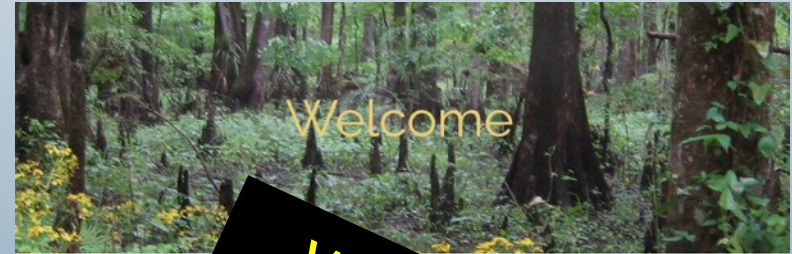
## Friends of Refuges February News Brief



Monthly  
News Brief

- 9:30 - ...ession and
- 10:00 - ...entations. Tables close
- 11:00 - ...en Sulak, *Finding Florida - Crossing the Lower Suwannee 1800s: Early Ferries, Bridges, and Trestles.*
- 11:45 - Dis...es Reopen. Set up for lunch. Lunch.
- 12:45 - Walk...ata. See the Cook's House and grounds. The main house will be open to walk through. Or, take a guided walk along the River Trail.

[Click here for more details](#)



Welcome

Website

We are the Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Our mission is to support the work of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys Refuges protecting wildlife and the habitat needed for them to thrive.

### Upcoming Events

FRIENDS OF THE LOWER SUWANNEE & CEDAR KEYS WILDLIFE REFUGES

### 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 21, 2025

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

REFUGES HEADQUARTERS  
LOCATED OFF OF 817 NEAR  
FOULDER'S MILLS

MEMBERS: FREE  
NON-MEMBERS: \$10

BARBECUE LUNCHEON BY  
KERRY MCCOY PRELIMED

DRINKS, HATS, BOOKS,  
FABRICES, SWAPS

**KEN SULAK**  
FINDING FLORIDA - CROSSING THE LOWER  
SUWANNEE RIVER IN THE 1800S  
EARLY FERRIES, BRIDGES, AND TRESTLES

MORE INFORMATION: [FRIENDSOFREFUGES.ORG](http://FRIENDSOFREFUGES.ORG)

Historic Camp on  
the Suwannee River

River Walk with  
John Thalacker

Tours included at the  
Annual Meeting

Where:  
Friends of Lower Suwannee & Cedar  
Keys Wildlife Refuges' Annual  
Meeting at Refuge Headquarters

When:  
Saturday, Feb. 21,  
9:30am-2pm

Memo: [info@friendsofrefuges.org](mailto:info@friendsofrefuges.org)

[Click here for more information](#)



# Explore

**10 Great Adventures on the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges**

**Gravel Riding in the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge**

Refuge roads are scenic rides suitable for any fat-tire bicycle. Hiking these routes is a good option.

Free maps and brochures at: [FriendsOfRefuges.org/maps](http://FriendsOfRefuges.org/maps)

Visit us at: [friendsofrefuges.org](http://friendsofrefuges.org)  
 More free maps at: [friendsofrefuges.org/maps](http://friendsofrefuges.org/maps)  
 Email us at: [friends@friendsofrefuges.org](mailto:friends@friendsofrefuges.org)

Friends of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys  
 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Visit us at: [friendsofrefuges.org](http://friendsofrefuges.org)  
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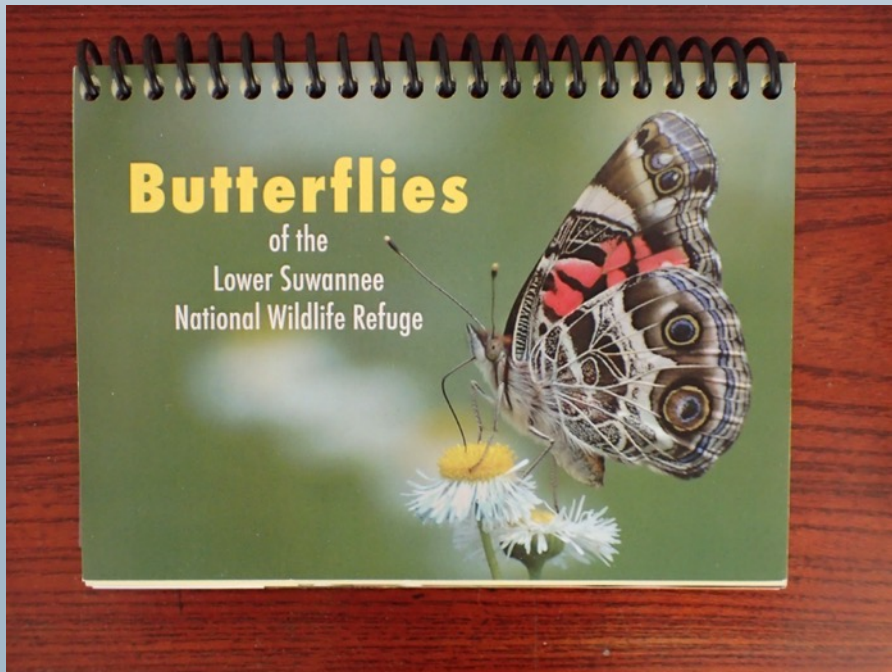
There are no gravel roads.

\*Ask your cell provider for Refuge coverage\*



# Document

Over 90 butterfly species  
photographed on the Refuge





# Volunteer



Festival Information



Guide



Visitor Welcome

# Fundraise



\$75,000 State of Florida Historical Resources Grant in 2022

\$50,000 State of Florida Historical Resources Grant in 2018

# Leaders and Staff of our Refuges!

Their hard work enables us to enjoy the Refuges



Andrew Gude  
Refuge Manager

Dan Frisk  
N. Florida Complex Manager

John Stark  
Deputy Manager

George Pelt  
Engineering Equipment Officer

Daniel Barrand  
Refuge Forester

Jason Coates  
Engineering Equipment Officer

Johnny Mendoza  
Administrative Officer

Sterling Valentine  
Law Enforcement Officer