

&gt;&gt;&gt; NEWSLETTER &lt;&lt;&lt;

# FYCCN PARTNER NEWS

Please read for important updates and spotlights!



## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT: ARCHERY

### FYCCN IN THE FIELD

### >>> ARCHERY IS FOR EVERYONE EVENT

On September 26th, the FYCCN crew headed to the Ocala National Forest to host an Archery is for Everyone event! Located at the Ocala Youth Conservation Center and Adventure Camp, the team hosted 25 adults and 27 youth who had never shot a bow before. The event, in partner with USA Archery and Marvel, had four stations where the participants shot at ground targets, from a raised platform (photo above), at a moving target, and walked a 3D archery trail. Fun was had by all! If your location would like to do a similar event, please reach out to your partner coordinator for tips and tricks!

### BUSCH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IS MOVING <<<

Busch Wildlife has closed where it has called home for 40 years. The location in Jupiter reached it's capacity, and the sanctuary made the decision to move to a new state-of-the-art facility just down the road. The new facility will be on 19.4 acres on the Jupiter Farms Property. It will include an open-air amphitheater, larger enclosures for the animals, and a larger hospital for the patients. The grand opening of the new facility is scheduled for October 14th.

Link: <https://www.buschwildlife.org/>



### PARTNER HIGHLIGHT







# UPCOMING EVENTS:

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## UPCOMING EVENT: RURAL FOLKLIFE DAY

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park;  
Thursday, November 2, 2023

Demonstrators will be on hand showcasing Florida traditions of yesterday and today during this event. Rural Folklife Days celebrates the region's rural past with demonstrations and hands-on learning activities. Visitors can taste jellies, play traditional games, churn butter, sing songs, square dancing, quilt on a frame, assist a blacksmith, learn about lye soap, watch demonstrations and learn to fish!

This event is a long-standing tradition at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, for decades' students have enjoyed field trips to the park to experience this event. Contact the park for more information. Admission is \$5 per person.

More Info Here: <https://stephenfostercso.org/event-3830362>



## UPCOMING EVENT: FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

Apollo Beach, FL; October 12-15

In partnership with Tampa- Electric Company, FWC's Suncoast Youth Conservation Center and Hillsborough County's Conservation Center and Environmental Lands Management/Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program - come celebrate the wonders of the birds, wildlife, and natural lands that we enjoy in West Central Florida.



Link: <https://www.floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org/>

## SCREEN FREE WEEK



National Screen Free week is May 6-12, 2024! We hope to increase partner participation even more in 2024 - it is never too early to start planning! Let your Partner Coordinator know of any planned outdoor events during that week for free advertising!

## UPCOMING EVENT: FIREFEST



Jonathan Dickinson State Park; Saturday, October 21, 2023

Learn about the importance of prescribed fire (controlled burns), safety awareness, and how important fire truly is to our local wildlife and community. The day is filled with live fire demos, hayrides, swamp buggy tours through the park, pumpkin patches, campfires, food and drinks, ghost tours, and much more!

More Info Here: <https://friendsofjdsp.org/Fire-Fest>



# FYCCN STAFF QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS:

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## >>> TEACHER TRAINING AT THE SUNCOAST YOUTH CONSERVATION CENTER

Teacher training continues to be an important aspect of FYCCN outreach and education activities. On Tuesday, August 8th, 2023, the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center hosted a professional development day for 25 Hillsborough County High School marine science teachers. Upon finishing their activities in the classroom, 16 folks from the group joined the SYCC staff for a typical kayaking field trip down Newman's Branch creek to the 50-foot-tall observation tower overlooking TECO's Conservation and Technology Center campus. On this field trip, Faye Johnston instructed the teachers to locate and present one leaf from each native mangrove species, one critter, and a shark's tooth, if they were lucky.



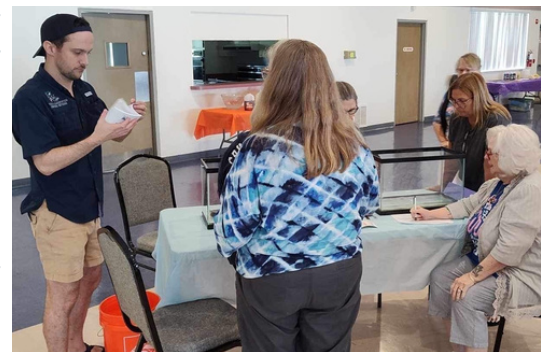
## >>> CAMP FRONTIER PREPARES FOR SUMMER CAMP



On Wednesday, June 6th 2023, FYCCN's East Central Partnership Coordinator, Keaton Fish, visited Camp Frontier to certify their summer camp staff as archery and fishing instructors. Camp Frontier uses the FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City to host kids from all over the world at their summer camps. They offer kayaking, fishing, archery, and many other outdoor activities. To support the needs of the partner, Keaton spent the entire day training staff with a USA Archery Level 1 Instructor Training (4 hours) and then the FWC's Basic Fishing Instructor Training (2.5 hours). Many times, these are summer instructors first experiences with conservation related training. Not only does this train the trainer initiative help them with their personal and professional goals, but it helps to safely introduce the next generation to shooting sports and ethical angling in Florida!

## >>> CITRUS COUNTY PARKS & REC WOMEN'S FISHING WORKSHOP

In July, North Central Partnership Coordinator Ben Hines traveled to Beverly Hills, Florida to assist FYCCN partner Citrus County Parks & Rec with their newest angling education program- the Women's Fishing Workshop. While this program did not directly serve Florida's youth, FYCCN supports partner programs geared towards families and encourages lifelong learning towards conservation, similar to our Outdoor Weekend Learning Seminar (OWLS) initiative focused on families. Hines discussed freshwater aquatic habitats, stewardship practices, and water quality assessments with program participants. This was part of a 5-day workshop geared towards women of all ages and limited experience interested in learning about freshwater and saltwater recreational fishing.



## >>> READING WITH A RANGER IN OCALA



The City of Ocala Parks and Recreation is an FYCCN partner and asked NE Regional Coordinator Stacey Lamborn to participate in their program "Reading with a Ranger." Over 30 kids and family members gathered at a city park to hear Stacey and partner representatives read from nature-based books. The City Park Ranger finished up the program with a surprise presentation using FYCCN's Florida Black Bear education kit, which gives kids the opportunity to learn with hands-on materials and grow their interest in Florida wildlife.



# FYCCN STAFF QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS:

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## >>> VISION FOR EXCELLENCE ADDING FISHING TO SUMMER CAMP

On Thursday, 6/29, Ben Hines traveled to Jacksonville to conduct a Freshwater Fishing Instructor Clinic for staff and volunteers with Vision for Excellence. This summer camp's mission is "to provide young people with educational resources, interaction with positive role models, self-esteem enhancing activities and community building opportunities which will result in good decision making skills and a desire to produce positive contributions to the community." Four staff, including Program Coordinator Sheila Heath, attended the training and have already begun using FYCCN's and FWC's fishing resources to incorporate ethical angling into their summer camp activities with campers at McGirts Creek Park and community center. The FYCCN partnership model supports conservation-based outreach via training and equipment to under-represented groups. This gives more youth the opportunity for new habits and experiences in the outdoors they may normally not experience.



## >>> NATURE'S CLASSROOM BRUSHES UP ON ARCHERY & FISHING



Fourteen teachers and educators came out to the Tenoroc Public Use Area in Lakeland to participate in some group training before summer camps begin. As part of Nature's Classroom, an FYCCN Partner, they have been previously certified as level 1 USA Archery instructors. Along with Tenoroc YCC Director Callie Shaffer and FYCCN Coordinator Jake FitzRoy, the teachers participated in fishing and practiced on the archery range. Nature's Classroom is part of Hillsborough County Public schools, and during the school year all 6th graders from the county visit for field trips. In the summer time, like FYCCN, they transition to summer camp programs. Training teachers on outdoor skills and supporting them with outdoor-based lessons and education kits is one of the many ways FWC supports conservation stewardship and helps to create the next generation that cares.

## >>> CITRUS COUNTY HOSTS OUTDOOR EXPO

On September 16th, 2023 FWC staff attended the 1st Annual Outdoors Expo hosted by Citrus County Parks and Recreation. The event was held at the Citrus County Community Center in Citrus Springs. Attendees were greeted by more than 20 exhibitors representing non-profit institutions and government agencies—all with interactive and informational activities or booths. Parks and Recreation staff did a great job coordinating the event with numerous games, professional presentations, and food vendors in addition to booth displays. FWC was represented by both FYCCN and Law Enforcement staff, with the latter also providing a special question and answer session with attendees later in the afternoon. Attendees were treated to regulations discussion and educational materials from officers, and handouts such as Fishing Florida, freshwater fish posters, and Take Me Fishing stock cards were provided by FYCCN. Citrus County Parks and Recreation continues to be a great FYCCN partner with their sustained success reaching youth with partner programming year after year. All in all, this was a successful first-time event, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration into the future!

