

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I am willing to serve on the committee for two years: yes

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person. I am available to attend in-person meetings: yes

Please provide a brief overview AND resume of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements:

In 2007 I graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and in 2013 I graduated with an M.S. in Interdisciplinary Ecology. During my time as a student, I worked on a wide array of projects as a field technician, and as such I gained perspective on just about every ecosystem in Florida. After school (and during) I worked for Florida Fish and Wildlife as an alligator researcher, a biologist on a management area, and a waterfowl biologist. In 2015 I moved back to Brevard County with my family and have been a stay-at-home mom since.

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques.

Freshwater wetlands have always been my favorite, and since most of my career was spent in the study of alligators and ducks, I think that is where most of my expertise lies. I have participated in drawdowns, muck removals, burns, toxicology monitoring and nutrient sequestration projects as well as wildlife surveys of all kinds. Most of my flatwoods and scrub management knowledge was gained at Carrabelle Ranch WMA. There I conducted burns, exotic plant removal, mechanical and chemical brush reduction, timber thinning, wiregrass restoration and imperiled species monitoring. Most of my knowledge of coastal ecosystems has been gained through play, though I have participated in oyster, fiddler crab, marsh bird, shorebird, horseshoe crab, and scallop surveys. Additionally, I have all the typical knowledge of shoreline best management practices.

Rio Throm Bonds

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EDUCATION

Master of Science, University of Florida, December 2013

Interdisciplinary Ecology

Advisors: H. Franklin Percival and Kenneth G. Rice

Thesis: Movements and Habitat Selection of Juvenile Alligators in a Restored Wetland

Bachelor of Science, University of Florida, August 2007

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Associate of Arts, Brevard Community College, August 2005

Diploma, Cocoa High School, May 2004

EXPERIENCE

Wildlife Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

January 2013– January 2014

Waterfowl and Small Game Management Program Tallahassee, FL

Supervisor: Andrew Fanning

Wildlife Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

December 2011– December 2012

Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area, Palatka, FL

Supervisor: Jason Slater

Teaching Assistant, University of Florida

January 2011- April 2011

Instructor for 'Wildlife of Florida' course lab and 'Wildlife Techniques' lab

Supervisor: Bob McCleery

Biological Scientist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

May 2007- December 2010

Reptile and Amphibian Research Section, Gainesville, FL

Supervisor: Cameron Carter

Fisheries Technician, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

January 2008– May 2008

Creel Clerk for Freshwater Fisheries Research, Gainesville, FL

Supervisor: Eric Nagid

Biological Field Technician, University of Florida
May 2007– October 2007
Lake Apopka Restoration Project, Gainesville FL
Supervisor: Hardin Waddle

Check Station Operator, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
September 2006- December 2006
Small game program, Gainesville, FL
Supervisor: Kurt Hodges

Biological Field Technician, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
September 2007- January 2008
Shorebird Research, Avian Research Section, Gainesville, FL
Supervisor: Kurt Hodges

Wildlife Instructor, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
May 2007- August 2007
Ocala Youth Camp, Ocala FL
Supervisor: Greg Workman

PUBLICATIONS

Throm, R. W.D. 2013. Movements and Habitat Selection of Juvenile Alligators in a Restored Wetland in Florida. Thesis, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.

Carter, C.B., R.W.D. Throm, A.R. Woodward. 2010. Alligator and Amphibian monitoring on the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area: Assessing Organochlorine Pesticide Levels and Potential Biomonitoring. Final Report. St. Johns River Water Management District. Special Publication Sj2010-sp8.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Southeastern Furbearer Working group member 2014.

Volunteer for Levy county Extension; 4-H wild-about-wildlife summer camp, master naturalist program, Bronson FL. Supervisor: Emma Wilcox (UF) 2011.

Developed a bi-annual, wetlands lab for UF undergraduates to gain experience collecting data on wetland flora and fauna while collecting useful information for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Supervisor: Franklin Percival (UF) 2011.

Developed a bi-annual, wetlands lab for UF undergraduates to gain experience on alligator capture techniques while collecting useful information for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Supervisor: Bob McCleery (UF) 2011.

Volunteer for North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, Alachua County, FL. Supervisor: Anna Farmer (FWC) 2010.

Volunteer for FWC landowner assistance workshop, Newberry FL. Supervisor: Courtney Hooker (FWC) 2009.

Volunteer for UF private lands bobwhite quail management workshop, Monticello, FL. Supervisor: Bill Giuliano (UF) 2007.

DIRECT EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

- Habitat evaluations
- Multi-agency collaboration
- Prescribed burning
- Endangered species monitoring
- Brevard County ecosystems and their user groups
- Urban planning
- Human-wildland interface issues
- Wildland best management practices
- Wetland restoration