Florida Museum Volunteers Recognized at the Museum and Beyond

By Julie Crosby

During April, the Museum took several opportunities to recognize its faithful, hard-working volunteers. The recognition efforts were also expanded beyond the Museum, with great success!

The recognition began with the annual volunteer reception April 1 at Powell Hall. Over 100 volunteers and staff enjoyed the beautiful decorations, catered food and relaxed mood set by the lovely guitar music of Mike Boulware. Group photos were also taken and later distributed to everyone who participated.

Forty-six volunteers received the first “years of service” pins, including: 20 years - Albert Caracausa, Betty Haeseker, Jerry Hespals, Pat Hybton, William Keeler, Marion Kissam, Barbara Muschlitz, Annette Perry, Pat Smart, Barbara Toomey; 25 years - Evelyn Hemp, 30 years - Bronia Lowenstein; 35 years - Libby Furlow, Leslie Klein.

The James Pope Cheney Volunteer of the Year 35 years - Libby Furlow, Leslie Klein.

Annette Perry, Pat Smart, Barbara Toomey; 25 years - Evelyn Hemp, 30 years - Bronia Lowenstein; 35 years - Libby Furlow, Leslie Klein.

The James Pope Cheney Volunteer of the Year Award presentation had an exciting addition this year. For the first time, awards were presented to two volunteers in separate categories - Exhibits and Public Programs and Research and Collections.

Martha Cade was recognized as the research and collections volunteer of the year for her work in the natural history and anthropology divisions, where she has served more than 3,000 hours over the past 13 years. Libby Furlow was honored as the exhibits and public programs volunteer of the year. She has volunteered for 38 years in at least a dozen positions, including the Museum Associates Board. Happily, two volunteers also received recognition beyond the Museum level. Maureen Anderson, public programs assistant, was honored as the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Arts and Culture Volunteer of the Year at an awards luncheon on April 22. Twelve Florida Museum volunteers belong to RSVP, which is a federal program managed by Alachua County. Maureen has been an invaluable clerical assistant for public programs.

In another exciting recognition program addition, our volunteers of the year were nominated for the Work of Heart volunteer awards program for the first time. Work of Heart is a local recognition event co-sponsored by community organizations. To our delight, Libby Furlow won the Work of Heart award for Arts and Recreation Volunteer of the Year! It was exciting and gratifying to see Libby and Maureen recognized by the whole county with the presentation of these well-deserved awards.

Volunteers help ensure that exhibits are educational and enjoyable. Exhibit docents demonstrate the interactive components of the “Amazing Butterflies” exhibit; horticultural assistants ready the Butterfly Rainforest for daily opening; greeters prepare visitors to enter the exhibit; interpreters answer their questions; and plant sale assistants sell lots of butterfly plants. Behind the scenes, 20 volunteers pin, catalog or research butterfly specimens in the Lepidoptera collections of the McGuire Center.

Thanks to our volunteers, summer is a great time to “hover around” the Museum.

Mark Your Calendar!

June 22 – Discovery Room Opens 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. through Aug. 23 Call 352-273-2064

July 4 – Independence Holiday – Museum OPEN Bring your friends and family in to enjoy the Museum!

Aug. 14 – Junior Volunteer Party 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Call 352-273-2055

Aug. 24 – First Day of School, Alachua County Schools

Sept. 3 – New Volunteer Orientation 10:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. New volunteers may register online, www.flmnh.ufl.edu/volunteers, or call 352-273-2055

Sept. 7 – “Amazing Butterflies” Exhibit Closes

Sept. 7 – Labor Day Holiday – Museum OPEN

Sept. 17 – Butterfly Rainforest Advisory Council Meeting 1:30 – 3 p.m. All interested Butterfly Rainforest volunteers are welcome. For information, call Mike Boulware, 352-273-2043.

Oct. 3 – “Amazon Voyage: Vicious Fishes and Other Riches” Exhibit Opens Through Jan. 17, 2010
Happy Birthday!

JULY
07 Jim Merker
04 Maureen Anderson
05 Darrell Hartman
06 Annette Perry
06 Mary Rhodes
07 David Auth
07 Shirley Biville
07 Jan Graf
08 Frances Sellei
12 Darica Kemper
13 Suzanne Leathy
15 Jackie Ford
16 Melanie Kemper
19 Mary White
21 Emily Asman
29 Jane Blanchard
31 Arnie Nasset
31 Rayna Wallbrun

AUGUST
01 Adriana Moldebski
02 Fred Perry
03 James Biville
04 Jerry Young
07 Jeta Goodisy
08 Stacy Viigh
10 Alexandra Gspanova
11 Ginaalonzi
11 Ronnie Ogle
14 Gerrell Bond
14 Michael Kramotolsky
16 Lynn Trudac
18 Sharon Castner
21 Camilla Aluma
23 Sara Schmuck
23 Julie Angspach
23 Martin Kipp
23 Daniel Parker
25 Elizabeth Nix
25 Stephanie Norman
26 Jon Anderson
27 Erin Ives
30 Pat Brown
30 Jennifer Lundgren

SEPTEMBER
01 Frances Combs
02 Haley Welcer
03 Virginia Smith
04 Barbara Monry
05 John Elschard
08 Pat Adrian
08 Chelsai Smith
09 John Bramdage
11 Josh Alexander Hall
12 Emma Segal
14 Viveka
14 Derek Johnson
15 Meggan Maxwell
15 Eric Garcia
17 Ellen Walker
17 Autumn Brown
18 Anne Lott
18 Craig Samuel
18 Margaret Pathway
19 Claudia Brown
20 Mitchell Johnson
20 Carol West
21 Jackie McQueen
24 Anthony Lai
24 Alicia Melson
25 Travis Thomas
26 Emily Hanby
27 Elizabeth Schmidt
27 Marion Kossiam

Volunteering at the Florida Museum...

How the Museum Saved My Life
By Colby Lowe, Exhibit Docent

Retirement makes me think of the phrase “be careful what you wish for.” I got to move to Florida right and bought a sweet little house. Now what? I don’t play bridge or golf. There are only so many hours one can spend at the pool. I investigated volunteering for a political party and found out more of what I don’t like to do than what I like.

Someone suggested the Florida Museum of Natural History. Perfect, I thought. As a retired teacher this would restore some contact with children that I missed and I might learn something. The traveling exhibit of “MacGill” was just about to open and I took the exhibit training. Then I had a “lucky break” in my hip that meant missing school tours training. I say “lucky break” because I have stayed with the traveling exhibits and I love it.

First, as an exhibit docent, there is something new every few months so there’s no chance to get bored. There are plenty of children. Whether it is “Nigel Nose a Lot” in “Grossology” with his nose balloon, or Regina the Burmese python in “ForEverglades,” it is fun to watch the children’s reactions. There is also the fellowship with fellow docents. Where else would I meet college students? And folks who have been at this 38 years, ready to share their experience?

There are docent trips! I have been on a hay ride at Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. We took a three-day journey to the Everglades, an event filled trip with boat and swamp buggy rides and even an airboat ride. These trips are good for laughter and learning. Speaking of learning, I have accumulated quite an array of ‘new to me’ facts. I learned that the Tuareg are more than a Volkswagen model. They are a tribe renowned for being nomads who crisscrossed the Sahara desert with camel caravans of salt. Salt is so valuable as the only food preservative they knew that they can’t travel without it and even use it as currency. The word salary comes from salt.

In “Grossology” I learned that my nose is a miracle, not only breathing and smelling but connecting to the tear ducts to channel overflow tears. On your own you breathe first out of one nostril, then the other. Not to mention the advantages and disadvantages of mucus production. I could do five minutes on “the nose.”

Recently I remarked to a ranger on Payne Prairie Preserve State Park, “learn something new every day.” He responded, “I think you are supposed to.” If that sounds right to you, come on down and check out volunteering at the Florida Museum. You will love it. It saved my life!

Fishing for a Research and Collections Opportunity? A New Volunteer Position is Available in Ichthyology
By Julie Crosby
Are you fascinated with fish, curious about collections or overcome with organizational skills? Our fish collection needs your attention! This is a rare and unique opportunity for a retired person with an interest in science and 20 hours per week available.

You will help preserve, maintain and catalogue important scientific specimens in the Ichthyology (Fishes) Collection of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

• Work with the collections manager and curator!
• Hands-on work with species from around the globe!

Applicants should have the ability to lift, carry and open a 10-pound specimen jar, and must be comfortable with basic computer skills including e-mail and word processing and be capable of learning and using a simple database program. This is a long-term position. We are seeking non-student volunteers who do not plan to move or seek full-time employment. Permanent local residents who are looking for a volunteer commitment of at least one year or more are preferred. Retirees and active seniors are encouraged to apply.

Please share this opportunity with your friends and family. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Julie Crosby, volunteer coordinator, 352-279-2055 or jcrosby@flmnh.ufl.edu.

Volunteer Profile:
Barbara Muschlitz, Ornithology
By Trudy McDonald

Barbara Muschlitz came to Gainesville in 1953. That same year, she became interested in birding, which eventually led her to the Museum in 1986. She has been a volunteer in the ornithology department and bird range in Dickinson Hall ever since. Most recently, she has been entering the vast amount of data on eggs and nest collection into a database.

If you venture out to Paynes Prairie on a Sunday morning, you would be highly likely to see Barbara because she also volunteers at the Paynes Prairie Visitor Center. Paynes Prairie is at the top of her list for favorite parks due to the diversity of wildlife, great people, ranges and volunteers.

Before marrying and moving to Gainesville, Barbara received her bachelor’s degree from Penn State University and her Master’s degree from Ohio State University. With degrees and knowledge in hand, she moved to the Berkeley, Calif., area and worked as a literature chemist.

Staff Profile:
Brittany Snipes, Visitor Services Supervisor
By Trudy McDonald

Brittany Snipes began working at the Museum in August 2008 as the Visitor Services Supervisor. Visitor services is located in the reception area for Powell Hall and the McGuire Center. Brittany welcomes visitors, sells exhibit tickets, schedules and coordinates visitor services volunteers, and provides information about the Museum, the Gainesville area and the University of Florida.

A Florida native, Brittany hails from Tampa. She moved to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida, majoring in English, and has plans to become a high school English teacher. Her favorite book is “The World According to Garp” by John Irving, and she also enjoys listening to audio books.

One of Brittany’s favorite aspects of working at the Museum is having a front row seat when children see the mammoth in the Central Gallery for the first time. She explains that “just one look at the complete awe on a child’s face” makes every day a little brighter. One of her favorite experiences with volunteers has been working with junior volunteers, particularly Alexander “Josh” Hull and the Discovery Cart he created for the “Grossology” exhibit. She likes the fact that the volunteer program provides a unique experience for the community to get involved with the Museum.

Brittany has a dog, Orin, who is a chocolate lab mix. She also lives with four male roommates. “Naturally,” Brittany says, “I am the boss!”

Barbara Muschlitz, Ornithology Volunteer
Photo by Mary Warrick

Brittany Snipes, Visitor Services Supervisor
Photo by Mary Warrick

Barbara is a proud mother of two grown children, Robert and Karl. Also, she is the owner and friend to two dogs, Sierra and Sheba. Since 2000, Barbara has volunteered over 1,370 hours at the Museum and remains a dedicated and outstanding volunteer.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities or to request an application, call 352-279-3086.

Volunteer Reception Photos

Kath Sherwood, Cathy Laos and Taddy Warrer
Photo by Mary Warrick

Barbara Muschlitz, Ornithology Volunteer
Photo by Mary Warrick
Volunteering at the Florida Museum…

How the Museum Saved My Life

By Colby Lowe, Exhibit Docent

Retirement makes me think of the phrase “be careful what you wish for.” I got to move to Florida right and bought a sweet little house. Now what? I don’t play bridge or golf. There are only so many hours one can spend at the pool. I investigated volunteering for a political party and found out more of what I don’t like to do than what I like.

Someone suggested the Florida Museum of Natural History. Perfect, I thought. As a retired teacher this would restore some contact with children that I missed and I might learn something. The traveling exhibit of “Marine Mallards” was just about to open and I got to exhibit the training. Then I had a “lucky break” in my hip that meant missing school tours training. I say “lucky break” because I have stayed with the traveling exhibits and I love it.

First, as an exhibit docent, there is something new every few months so there’s no chance to get bored. There are plenty of children. Whether it is “Nigel Nose a Lot” in “Grossology” with his snot balloon, or “Never Go Fishing” of mucus production. I could do five minutes on “Nose.”

Recently I remarked to a ranger on Payne’s Prairie Preserve State Park, “learn something new every day.” He responded, “I think you are supposed to.” If that sounds right to you, come on down and check out volunteering at the Florida Museum. You will love it. It saved my life!

Fishing for a Research and Collections Opportunity? A New Volunteer Position is Available in Ichthyology

By Julie Crosby

Are you fascinated with fish, curious about collections or overcome with organizational skills? Our fish collection needs your attention! This is a rare and unique opportunity for a retired person with an interest in science and 20 hours per week available.

You will help preserve, maintain and catalogue important scientific specimens in the Ichthyology (Fishes) Collection of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

• Work with the collections manager and curator!
• Have a hand on work with species from around the globe!
• Comfortable with basic computer skills including e-mail and word processing and be capable of learning and using a simple database program.

This is a long-term position. We are seeking non-student volunteers who do not plan to move or seek full-time employment. Permanent local residents who are looking for a volunteer commitment of at least one year or more are preferred. Retirees and active seniors are encouraged to apply.

Please share this opportunity with your friends and family. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Julie Crosby, volunteer coordinator, 352-273-2055 or jcrosby@flmnh.ufl.edu.

Volunteer Profile:

Barbara Muschlitz, Ornithology

By Trudy McDonald

Barbara Muschlitz came to Gainesville in 1953. That same year, she became interested in birds, which eventually led her to the Museum in 1986. She has been a volunteer in the ornithology department and bird range in Dickinson Hall ever since. Most recently, she has been enter a vast amount of eggs and nest collection into a database.

If you venture out to Payne’s Prairie on a Sunday morning, you would be highly likely to see Barbara because she also volunteers at the Payne’s Prairie Visitor Center. Payne’s Prairie is at the top of her list for favorite parks due to the diversity of wildlife, great people, ranges and volunteers.

Before marrying and moving to Gainesville, Barbara received her bachelor’s degree from Penn State University and her master’s degree from Ohio State University. With degrees and knowledge in hand, she moved to the Berkeley, Calif., area and worked as a literature chemist.

Staff Profile:

Brittany Snipes, Visitor Services Supervisor

By Trudy McDonald

Brittany Snipes began working at the Museum in August 2008 as the Visitor Services Supervisor. Visitor services is located in the reception area for Powell Hall and the McGuire Center. Brittany welcomes visitors, sells exhibit tickets, schedules and答案 volunteers, and provides information about the Museum, the Gainesville area and the University of Florida.

A Florida native, Brittany hails from Tampa. She moved to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida, majoring in English, and has plans to become a high school English teacher. Her favorite book is “The World According to Garp” by John Irving, and she also enjoys listening to audio books.

One of Brittany’s favorite aspects of working at the Museum is having a front row seat when children see the mammath in the Central Gallery for the first time. She explains that “just one look at the complete awe on a child’s face” makes every day a little brighter. One of her favorite experiences with volunteers has been working with junior volunteers, particularly Alexander “Josh” Hull and the Discovery Cart he created for the “Grossology” exhibit. She likes the fact that the volunteer program provides a unique experience to the community to get involved with the Museum.

Brittany has a dog, Orin, who is a chocolate lab mix. She also lives with four male roommates. “Naturally,” Brittany says, “I am the boss!”. 
Welcome These New Volunteers!

O = Dickinson Hall
M = McGuire Center
P = Powell Hall

Albury, Donald (D)
Amy, Jennifer (P)
Audi, David (D)
Aubin, Kelsoy (M, P)
Baker, Stephanie (D)

Cattaneo-Hobbs, Joshua (M)
Cheney, Eric (D)
Carlton, Katie (M)
DeRosa, Bonnie (D)
Dornboswijk, Diane (D)
Ferreira, Luigia (D)
Ferns, Shannon (P)
Fishwick, Laura (P)
Gentile, Connie (M, P)
Hixson, Arien (M, P)
Hughes, Charles ‘Chaddy’ (D)
Hyson, Christina (D)
Lane, Katrina (M)
LePage, Heather (P)
Lock, Sandra (M)
Lumay, Conny (M)

Lugue-Plentzas, Riona (D)
Malone, John (P)
Mendosa, Fernando (D)
Palm, Thomson (M)

Perry, Heidi (P)
Raven, Larry (M)
Rodriguez, Lantia (P)
Rosen, Katie (P)
Sobotin, Mardi (D, P)
Smith, Chelsea (M)

Spurrier, Cheboy (D)
Spwy, Amy (M)

Stegeman,西班 (P)
Steele, Nicole (P)
Sussen, Eric (D)

Thomas, Town (D)

Tryckoch, Laura (M)
Adkins, Ashley (P)

Amsden, Alan (P)

Wilson, Kristina (M, P)

Flower, Libby (D, P)
Gof, Jan (D)

Battista, Anita (100)
Berger, Joyce (100)
Beauje, James (9,100)
Blanchard, June (100)
Boros, Stephanie (100)
Cade, Martha (100)
Dreiker, Ignatia (100)
Edinger, Marie (100)
Flanagan, Anthony (900)
Fortune, Libby (600)
Gof, Jan (100)

Grassotek, Michael (200)
Guyot, Greg (100)
Hundert, Paul (200)
Homer, Andrew (100)
Hung, Carol (200)
Hybota, Pat (1,100)
Kartveli, Galina (100)
Lau, Anthony (100)
Lychn, Mary (400)
McCallough, Judy (200)
McCowan, Mike (400)

Miretta, Jo (100)
Miy, Sydney (100)
Norio, Susan (400)
Nguyen, Katherine (100)
Pick, Amanda (100)
Sieder, Frances (900)
Smiet, Pat (200)
Smith, Joan (100)
Stanibe, Margaret (200)
Tarnazier, Robert (900)
Thomas, Travis (900)

M = McGuire Center
D = Dickinson Hall

New Volunteers!
Welcome These

of 2009. Each volunteer received four coupons for free entrance into fee-based exhibits. The total number of hours (rounded) served since 4/1/05 is listed in parentheses. Junior volunteers are indicated by "JV". Florida Museum volunteers contributed 5,429 hours during this quarter.

Volunteers recognized for 100 hours or more of service

Events & Public Programs (Powell Hall)
(352) 846-2000

Assistant Director of Education and Visitor Services
Jamie Creola, 273-2057

Volunteer Program
June Crosby, 273-2055

School Programs
Jeanette Carlisle, 273-2026

Public Programs
Kendra Lanaza Kaduce, 273-2064

Butterfly Rainforest
Jeff Hansen, 273-1898
Mikke Boulware, 273-2043

McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity
(352) 392-5894

Research & Collections
(Dickinson Hall)
(352) 392-1721

Mark Your Calendar!

June 22 – Discovery Room Opens
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. through Aug. 23
Call 352-273-2064

July 4 – Independence Holiday – Museum OPEN
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. 
Call 352-273-2055

Aug. 14 – Junior Volunteer Party
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Aug. 24 – First Day of School,
Alachua County Schools

Sept. 3 – New Volunteer Orientation
10:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
New volunteers may register online, www.flmnh.ufl.edu/volunteers, or call 352-273-2055.

Sept. 7 – “Amazing Butterflies” Exhibit Closes

Sept. 7 – Labor Day Holiday – Museum OPEN
Bring your friends and family in to enjoy the Museum!

Sept. 17 – Butterfly Rainforest Advisory Council Meeting
1:30 – 3 p.m.
All interested Butterfly Rainforest volunteers are welcome. For information, call Mike Boulware, 352-273-2043.

Oct. 3 – “Amazon Voyage: Vicious Fishes and Other Riches” Exhibit Opens
Through Jan. 17, 2010

Letter from the Coordinator

The Museum is full of butterflies this summer, and not just the insect variety! Junior volunteers fit about assisting staff and visitors, and camp children flutter everywhere. Hundreds of butterflies in the Butterfly Rainforest exhibit attract thousands of visitors and the newest temporary exhibit, “Amazing Butterflies”, opens June 13.

Volunteers help ensure that exhibits are educational and enjoyable. Exhibit docents demonstrate the interactive components of the “Amazing Butterflies” exhibit; horticultural assistants ready the Butterfly Rainforest for daily opening; greeters prepare visitors to enter the exhibit; interpreters answer their questions; and plant sale assistants sell lots of butterfly plants. Behind the scenes, 20 volunteers pin, catalog or research butterfly specimens in the Lepidoptera collections of the McGuire Center.

Thanks to our volunteers, summer is a great time to “hover around” the Museum.

Julie Crosby and Director Doug Noble with the Volunteers of the Year Libby Furlow (center left) and Martha Cade (center right). Photo by Jeff Gage.

Florida Museum Volunteers Recognized at the Museum and Beyond
By Julie Crosby

During April, the Museum took several opportunities to recognize its faithful, hard-working volunteers. The recognition efforts were also expanded beyond the Museum, with great success!

The recognition began with the annual volunteer reception April 1 at Powell Hall. Over 100 volunteers and staff enjoyed the beautiful decorations, catered food and relaxed mood set by the lovely guitar music of Mike Boulware. Group photos were also taken and later distributed to everyone who participated.

Forty-six volunteers received the first “years of service” pins, including: 20 years - Albert Caracassu, Betty Haeseker, Jerry Hessels, Pat Hybton, William Keeler, Marion Kissam, Barbara Muschlitz, Annette Perry, Pat Smart, Barbara Toomey, 25 years - Evelyn Hemph, 30 years - Bronia Lowenstein; 35 years - Libby Furlow, Leslie Klein.

The James Pope Cheney Volunteer of the Year Award presentation had an exciting addition this year. For the first time, awards were presented to two volunteers in separate categories - Exhibits and Public Programs and Research and Collections. Martha Cade was recognized as the research and collections volunteer of the year for her work in the natural history and anthropology divisions, where she has served more than 3,000 hours over the past 13 years. Libby Furlow was honored as the exhibits and public programs volunteer of the year. She has volunteered for 38 years in at least a dozen positions, including the Museum Associates Board. Happily, two volunteers also received recognition beyond the Museum level. Maureen Anderson, public programs assistant, was honored as the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Arts and Culture Volunteer of the Year at an awards luncheon on April 22. Twelve Florida Museum volunteers belong to RSVP, which is a federal program managed by Alachua County. Maureen has been an invaluable clerical assistant for public programs.

In another exciting recognition program addition, our volunteers of the year were nominated for the Work of Heart Volunteer award program for the first time. Work of Heart is a local recognition event co-sponsored by community organizations. To our delight, Libby Furlow won the Work of Heart award for Arts and Recreation Volunteer of the Year! It was exciting and gratifying to see Libby and Maureen recognized by the whole county with the presentation of these well-deserved awards.

The Museum is full of butterflies this summer, and not just the insect variety! Junior volunteers fit about assisting staff and visitors, and camp children flutter everywhere. Hundreds of butterflies in the Butterfly Rainforest exhibit attract thousands of visitors and the newest temporary exhibit, “Amazing Butterflies”, opens June 13.

Volunteers help ensure that exhibits are educational and enjoyable. Exhibit docents demonstrate the interactive components of the “Amazing Butterflies” exhibit; horticultural assistants ready the Butterfly Rainforest for daily opening; greeters prepare visitors to enter the exhibit, interpreters answer their questions; and plant sale assistants sell lots of butterfly plants. Behind the scenes, 20 volunteers pin, catalog or research butterfly specimens in the Lepidoptera collections of the McGuire Center.

Thanks to our volunteers, summer is a great time to “hover around” the Museum.

Julie Crosby and Director Doug Noble with the Volunteers of the Year Libby Furlow (center left) and Martha Cade (center right). Photo by Jeff Gage.

Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida Cultural Plaza
P.O. Box 11270
Gainesville, FL 32611-2710
www.flmnh.ufl.edu

The fl ora, FAUNA, & FOSSIL Flash
The Volunteer Newsletter of the Florida Museum of Natural History • SUMMER 2009