



NRLI Class 26 Bios



Corey Anderson

Biological Administrator, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Corey Anderson is a Biological Administrator with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Division of Habitat and Species Conservation. He leads the statewide Aquatic Habitat Restoration & Enhancement program that manages, enhances and preserves aquatic habitat for the benefit of wildlife, aquatic life and the people of Florida. At FWC he implements policies advancing landscape-scale wildlife habitat management, advances aquatic connectivity initiatives, and guides habitat

restoration for some of Florida's major aquatic resources.

Corey earned his B.S. in Fisheries Biology from Cal Poly Humboldt, M.S. in Coastal Sciences from The University of Southern Mississippi, and Master of Public Administration degree from Florida Gulf Coast University. He has fifteen years of experience in fisheries and wildlife management, environmental monitoring, and wetland restoration, and is passionate about realizing partnerships to conserve Florida's unique natural resources.

Originally from southern California, Corey felt the pull to move to Florida over a decade ago, eventually settling in Lake City. His previous job roles have taken him around the state, from Pensacola to Key West, always working to understand and enhance the diverse aquatic ecosystems Florida holds. When not at work, Corey can be found spending time with his wife and their dog, hiking, kayaking, travelling to new places, or just floating the local springs in north central Florida.



Donna Arnold

FAMU Small Farm and Residential Horticulture Agent, Gadsden County

Donna Arnold serves as the Small Farm and Residential Horticulture Agent for Gadsden County, a role she has held since January 2022. She provides educational programs focused on sustainable agriculture for farmers across north Florida. Her programming in small farms and residential horticulture emphasizes best management practices, crop production, harvesting, marketing, and long-term sustainability. She also offers leadership and direction for the Gadsden County Master Gardener Program. She holds a Master of Science degree in

Entomology from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU).



Ryan Ashley

Natural Resources Coordinator, Okaloosa County Natural Resources Program

Ryan is a Natural Resources Coordinator in Destin-Fort Walton Beach for the Okaloosa County Natural Resources program. As a local to the area, Ryan grew up interacting and working within the area's fishing community. In this time, he developed a firsthand understanding of the region's unique marine ecosystems and their importance to the community. These experiences are what encouraged him to enter the natural resources field, where he can implement projects that not only benefit the natural world, but also the community that relies on it.

He went on to receive his bachelor's degree in biology and ecology from Vanderbilt University before returning to northwest Florida in 2025, where he joined the Destin-Fort Walton Beach team full time. In his current role, he is responsible for managing a collaborative fish tagging program with local charter captains, as well as maintaining research partnerships, lionfish removal efforts, restoration projects, and an acoustic telemetry array. Ryan is also a part of the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Sea Turtle Patrol, where he works to protect the area's marine turtles.

Outside of work, Ryan enjoys doing anything that gets him outdoors, including fishing, hunting, and diving.



Stephanie Cadaval

Extension Program Coordinator, Urban Forestry, UF/IFAS

Dr. Stephanie Cadaval is the UF/IFAS Urban Forestry Extension Coordinator within the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences. She leads statewide efforts to build capacity, collaboration, and shared messaging around urban forestry through the UF/IFAS Urban Forestry Extension Council. Her work emphasizes community engagement, stewardship, and the human dimensions of urban forest management, helping translate research into accessible, action-oriented Extension programming.



Terri Calleson

Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Terri Calleson is currently the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Florida Manatee Recovery Lead, based out of the Florida Ecological Services Field Office in Jacksonville, Florida. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Valdosta State University and her Master of Science degree in Ecology from the Florida Institute of Technology with an emphasis on Marine Biology. Terri has over 30 years of research and wildlife management experience with state and federal wildlife agencies, mostly with Florida manatees. Prior to joining the USFWS, she worked on manatee conservation issues at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as the lead

for listed species issues (including marine mammals, sea turtles, red wolves, and shorebirds) at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, and also held a summer job at SeaWorld, where she realized that she had a passion for manatees after seeing first-hand the threats they face. She lives in St. Augustine with her husband, Scott (also a wildlife biologist for the USFWS and a NRLI grad) and their Labrador Retriever, Indie. They have two daughters, Savannah is a doctor in residency at UNC-Chapel Hill, and Sierra is in veterinary school at the University of Florida.



Samantha Cook

Program Manager, National Coral Reef Institute, Nova Southeastern University

Samantha (Sam) Cook is the program manager for the National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI) at Nova Southeastern University. In her current role, she handles NCRI's day-to-day running and coordinates the Institute's collaborative efforts with academic institutions, non-profits, natural resource management agencies, and coral reef stakeholders in Florida and across the Western Atlantic region. She works to bridge the communication gap between coral reef researchers, natural resource managers, and policymakers by facilitating conversation and creating spaces for

information sharing and collaboration. Sam also acts as the technical coordinator for Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team, a working group of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Taskforce.

Sam received her MSc in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University, studying the histopathological effects of stony coral tissue loss disease on western Atlantic corals. She then served as the Susan L. Williams National Coral Reef Management Fellow for Florida for two years, housed within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, where she managed the selection and funding allocation for coral disease and disturbance research projects across the state.

Outside of work, she enjoys reading, crochet, and traveling to new places.



Erin Cover

Senior Education and Engagement Manager, Miami Waterkeeper

Erin works to inspire environmental action as Miami Waterkeeper's Senior Education and Engagement Manager. A Michigan native, Erin followed her passion for marine science to sunny Florida, where she earned her Bachelor's in Environmental Studies from Rollins College and Master's in Marine Conservation from the University of Miami's prestigious Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. With over eight years of experience, Erin brings a wealth of knowledge about marine ecosystems and a contagious enthusiasm for protecting our blue planet. She develops and leads Miami Waterkeeper's hands-on education and community engagement initiatives, equipping students of all ages to become advocates for South Florida's treasured waterways.



Rachael Curran

Staff Attorney, Jacobs Public Interest Law Clinic for Democracy and the Environment, Stetson University College of Law

Rachael Curran is the Staff Attorney at the Jacobs Public Interest Law Clinic for Democracy and the Environment at Stetson University College of Law, where she represents community and conservation groups in federal and state environmental litigation, including appellate and administrative proceedings. Her practice includes federal Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and National Environmental Policy Act claims against federal agencies such as the Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as well as state environmental statutory claims and Florida land use matters. Prior to her role at the clinic, she worked in the Center for Biological Diversity's Florida program, litigating to protect species large and small threatened with extinction, and leading a coalition of nonprofit organizations working to stop the harms of the phosphate fertilizer industry.

At Stetson, she also mentors law students through the clinic's direct representation of public interest clients, helping to train the next generation of environmental advocates.



Courtney Darling

Landowner Assistance Coordinator, FL Conservation Group

As Florida Conservation Group's Landowner Assistance Coordinator, Courtney Darling conducts outreach and provides technical assistance to landowners throughout the state. She has extensive knowledge in plant-livestock interactions, including plant identification and management, as well as cost share and conservation easement programs.

She has both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agronomy with a specialization in Weed Science from the University of Florida. Courtney began her career as the UF/IFAS Suwannee County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent,

where she concentrated on livestock, forages, and natural resource management. She later joined the Florida Farm Bureau Federation as Communications Manager, where she led the statewide County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) program. In this role, she championed farmers and ranchers who protect the state's natural resources through best management practices.

As a native Floridian and agriculturalist, she is motivated to support FCG's initiatives focused on the conservation of natural and working lands. In her role she develops prescribed management plans for producers that incorporate practices such as rotational grazing, silvopasture systems, herbaceous weed control, prescribed fire, and nutrient management. Courtney also provides outreach and education to landowners interested in learning about cost-share and conservation easements.

Courtney lives in Suwannee County with her husband and two daughters on their perennial peanut hay farm, Darling Farms, that they started together in 2017. She is a proud member of Florida Farm Bureau Federation, having served on the Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership team. When she is not on the farm you will find her on the water, riding ATVs, or exploring Florida's natural beauty on hiking trails and through photography. Her work and lifestyle reflect a deep commitment to sustainable agriculture, environmental stewardship, and rural community development.



Letuzia DeOliveira

Regional Projects Coordinator, Office of Agricultural Water Policy, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

As Regional Projects Coordinator for FDACS's Office of Agricultural Water Policy, Letuzia leads the Agricultural Regional Projects Program, overseeing a statewide portfolio of regional water-quality projects that collect and treat impaired waters to reduce nutrient loading, enhance water retention, and support conservation outcomes aligned with Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs). She sets project selection criteria, manages the online intake process, develops funding strategies and annual

legislative budget requests, and oversees solicitation, technical review, and contracting. She works closely with GIS and data teams to maintain tracking dashboards that map project progress, budgets, and outcomes, and manage projects end-to-end—from initial solicitation through closeout.

Letuzia collaborates with agricultural producers, Water Management Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences to advance water-quality, conservation, and nutrient-reduction efforts across BMAP areas.

Originally from Brazil, Letuzia has lived in Florida since 2013. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from the Federal University of Lavras, a B.S. in Agronomy from the Federal Rural University of the Semi-Arid Region, and a Graduate Certificate in Wetland & Water Resource Management from the University of Florida. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Razieh Farzad

Associate Professor and Seafood Safety Extension Specialist, UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant

Dr. Razieh Farzad is an Associate Professor and Seafood Safety Extension Specialist with UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant. Her Extension and research programs focus on seafood safety, aquaculture, food safety regulations, seafood quality, sustainable aquafeeds, and cellular agriculture. She develops and delivers training, technical assistance, and educational resources for seafood and aquaculture stakeholders, including Seafood HACCP and Sanitation Control Procedures trainings. Her work supports safe, sustainable, and innovative seafood production systems and helps industry stakeholders navigate emerging technologies,

production practices, and regulatory requirements.



Rory Feeney

Land Resources Bureau Chief, South Florida Water Management District

Rory Feeney is the Land Resources Bureau Chief for the South Florida Water Management District, where he leads multidisciplinary programs focused on land stewardship, invasive species management, wildlife conservation, public recreation, prescribed fire, and ecosystem restoration across more than one million acres of public lands. His work brings together scientists, land managers, law enforcement, elected officials, and local, state, Tribal, and federal partners to address complex natural resource challenges throughout South Florida. Before joining the District in 2015, Rory spent 15 years with the

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, serving as Water Resources Manager and then as their Fish and Wildlife Director. There, he helped advance Everglades restoration, developed innovative conservation programs, and built lasting partnerships among Tribal, state, and federal agencies.

He received his bachelor's degree in marine biology from Roger Williams University and outside of work, Rory enjoys traveling and exploring Florida's natural areas with his wife and daughter.



Francesca Fourney

Senior Project Manager and Dive Safety Officer, Cummins Cederberg

My lifelong connection to the ocean began while growing up in New Jersey and surfing at the "Jersey Shore". I continued to build on that passion through my undergraduate and graduate studies at Nova Southeastern University, where I earned a Bachelor and Master of Science degree in Marine Biology and focused my thesis research on coral impacts. During that time, I earned my SCUBA certification and worked my way up to Divemaster. Professionally, I am a Senior Project Manager and Dive Safety Officer at Cummins Cederberg. I have more than 10 years of experience in environmental consulting, marine and coastal habitat assessments,

environmental permitting, and regulatory compliance. My role includes managing complex coastal and marine construction projects; leading biological field assessments; reviewing technical reports and permit applications for local, state, and federal agencies; coordinating with clients, engineers, and regulatory agencies, and overseeing the company-wide dive program. I specialize in coral, seagrass, hardbottom, mangrove, wetland, listed species, shorebird, and wildlife surveys, as well as environmental impact assessments and habitat mitigation throughout South Florida. In my free time I enjoy working out, kayaking, mountain biking, seeing live music, practicing guitar, and reading.



Zach Franco

Conservation Partnerships Coordinator, Archbold Biological Station

Zach Franco works as the Conservation Partnerships Coordinator at Archbold Biological Station. In his role, he works with scientists, landowners, elected officials, agencies, and other partners to turn science and research into conservation action. Issues where people and place meet is where he is most passionate — working to understand the intersection of culture, ecology, and community, and how we may be able to create a future in which those collectively thrive. Originally from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, Zach came to Florida to attend Eckerd College, ultimately graduating with a degree in

Anthropology. Before working in conservation, he was a photojournalist, harnessing the power of storytelling to shine light on community issues and needs. As storytelling took him closer to the environment and the stories of those working to protect it, he found himself wanting to be more involved in the stories taking place — leading him to his role now at Archbold. Understanding the need to see, learn, and understand the places we work to protect, Zach enjoys spending his free time paddling Florida's waterways, running its trails, enjoying local farmers' markets, and getting to know its people and stories.



Nicholas Gonzalez

Project Coordinator, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Growing up in South Florida, I spent my weekends outdoors hunting with my dad in the fall and winter and fishing/spearfishing in the spring and summer. The time I spent with my grandfather on his farm also left a lasting impression, helping to shape my early view of what it means to be a steward of the land. I built my career around that passion, graduating from FIU in 2019 with a degree in Environmental Studies and Natural Resources, while continuing my education with aviation and earning my Commercial Pilot Certificate with an instrument rating. Since 2021, I've worked for the Miccosukee Tribe's Fish & Wildlife Department. In this role, I've had the incredible opportunity to work directly with our wildlife team, capturing and GPS-tracking white-tailed deer, black bears, and Osceola turkeys, and removing invasive pythons, iguanas, and exotic fish from the reservation. Today, I'm still an active hunter and fisherman, and between raising cattle, farming fruit trees, and managing the land, my ultimate focus is passing these deep stewardship values down to my children and continuing to develop my career. I'm excited to connect with everyone in NRLI and work together on the future of Florida's wild spaces.



Korey Griner

Vice President, Usher Land & Timber

John Korey Griner is a sixth-generation Levy County resident with deep roots in the local agricultural community. He attended Florida Southern College and Kansas State University, building on a lifelong connection to ranching, land management, and Florida agriculture.

Griner is a past president and the current state representative of the Levy County Cattlemen's Association. He has also served on the boards of the Florida Farm Bureau and Levy County Farm Bureau. As vice president of Usher Land & Timber, he manages the company's ranch division, helping carry forward its commitment to responsible land stewardship and agricultural

excellence, as evidenced through its recognitions and awards for environmental stewardship. The ranch is multifaceted participating in cow-calf, backgrounding, and seedstock in addition to practicing silvapasture through their timber operation.



Travis Kirk

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Specialist,
External Environmental Compliance Department, Seminole
Tribe of Florida**

My name is Travis Kirk and I am the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Specialist for the Seminole Tribe of Florida within the External Environmental Compliance Department. In my current role, I review environmental projects to identify potential impacts on the Tribe's legally protected natural resources. I work closely with a variety of external agencies to ensure that the Tribe's water rights and resources are protected throughout project planning and development. Additionally, I monitor the federal and state regulatory landscape for changes

that may affect the review and commenting periods on such environmental projects.

Prior to working for the Seminole Tribe, I worked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as an Environmental Specialist on the Environmental Resource Permitting team. I earned my Master of Science from Nova Southeastern University in 2024, where my thesis project focused on trophic ecology in the deep-pelagic Gulf of Mexico. My research analyzed the diet of a deep-sea genus of fishes known as *Chaismodon*. Outside of my career, I am an avid sports fan, geography enthusiast, and a passionate metalhead.



Mark Manning

Land Manager, North Florida Land Trust

Mark Manning is a native Floridian who was born and raised in the small historic town of Melrose, FL. He enjoys all forms of outdoor recreation, including camping, kayaking, and hiking to name a few. Mark has dedicated his career to the restoration and enhancement of Florida's irreplaceable natural habitats, as well as interpreting the message of conservation and preservation over the last 11 years in his time with the Florida Park Service and now in his role with the North Florida Land Trust. He is a prescribed fire manager and works alongside other partner organizations in the area to return natural processes to the landscape to create better conditions for wildlife. Mark has

participated in more than 200 prescribed fires throughout his career, burning many of Florida's fire-dependent natural communities, and is deeply committed to groundcover restoration in the preserves he manages.



Jenna May

Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Jenna May is a biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District. She primarily serves as the team lead for REStoration COordination VERification (RECOVER), an interdisciplinary collaboration of agencies, tribes, and institutions that provides scientific and technical support to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). She received her B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida and her M.S. in Environmental Science from Florida Atlantic University. Jenna has two children, Jade and Damian, who take up most of her time. She also has a cat named Taco. She enjoys running, spending time with friends and family, and

being outdoors.



Raulie Raulerson

Assistant Director of Government and Community Affairs, Florida Farm Bureau Federation

Raulie Raulerson is a government affairs and environmental policy professional with more than 20 years of experience in agriculture, water resources, and natural resource management. Currently serving as Assistant Director of Government and Community Affairs for the Florida Farm Bureau Federation, he represents agricultural interests in government and public forums, advocates for private property rights, and works closely with Farm Bureau members, producers, policymakers, and community stakeholders on water and land-use issues.

Prior to joining Florida Farm Bureau, Raulie held positions with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the South Florida Water Management District, where he worked in and managed environmental programs associated with agricultural best management practices, supervised multidisciplinary teams, oversaw multimillion-dollar agricultural cost-share projects, and contributed to statewide water quality and conservation initiatives. He holds a Master of Science in Software Engineering from the University of West Florida and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Florida State University.



Kate Rose

Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent, UF/IFAS

Kate Rose is a UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent working in southwest Florida. Her work focuses on coastal conservation, community science, environmental education, and stakeholder engagement, with a particular interest in seagrass ecosystems and water quality. She works with community members, researchers, nonprofit organizations, and resource managers on projects that support the stewardship of Florida's coastal resources. Kate enjoys bringing people together around shared conservation challenges and helping communities better understand and care for the places they value.



Courtney Shadik

Environmental Scientist IV, Minimum Flows and Levels, St. Johns River Water Management District

Courtney Shadik is an Environmental Scientist IV in the Minimum Flows and Levels group at the St. Johns River Water Management District. There, she completes environmental assessments that determine the limits to water withdrawal that prevent significant harm to Florida's aquatic resources. Originally from Michigan, Courtney moved to Florida to pursue a B.S. in Marine Biology from Florida Institute of Technology. She then stayed to complete a PhD in Biology where she was trained as a paleoecologist in high-elevation, Andean landscapes. Courtney now applies her experience in community ecology and

timeseries analysis to modern resource management problems. In her free time, she enjoys crafting, baking, and spending time outdoors with her family and dogs.



Paul Thurman

Chief for the Water Resource Evaluation Bureau, Northwest Florida Water Management District

Currently, Dr. Thurman works as the Chief for the Water Resource Evaluation bureau at the NFWFMD. His group is responsible for statistical evaluation, hydrologic modeling, and resource assessment/evaluation for water resources in the Florida panhandle. Dr. Thurman also serves as the District's senior ecologist working on a variety of projects requiring wetland, freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecological expertise.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Thurman worked at several ecological consulting firms in south Florida where his work

focused on aquatic ecology and wetland habitat restoration. Prior to this, nearly a decade was spent working at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) studying the biology and ecology of various commercially, recreationally, and ecologically important fish species.



Tyler Winburn

Legislative and Government Affairs Coordinator, Suwannee River Water Management District

Tyler Winburn is a 5th generation Floridian who lives and grew up in Live Oak, Florida. In 2010, Tyler moved to Gainesville, FL to pursue a bachelor's degree in food and resource economics, specializing in environmental economics and policy at the University of Florida. After graduation Tyler continued his time at UF and graduated with a Masters in Agribusiness and a law degree from the Levin College of Law.

After graduation Tyler spent three years in the classroom as a middle school teacher before practicing law. For the past 2 and a half years Tyler has worked at the Suwannee River Water Management District in Legislative and Government Affairs.

In his current role, Tyler analyzes legislation related to water resources and natural systems to determine its impact on District operations, while coordinating closely with local and regional governments on emerging water and natural-resource issues. Tyler serves as the District's primary point of contact for government inquiries, feedback, and concerns, and supports communication strategies for high-visibility topics. Tyler also assists with targeted outreach efforts, collaborates across District divisions and partner agencies, and represents the organization at key community events to strengthen understanding of District programs and priorities.

Tyler and his wife Sarah Beth enjoy the North Florida Region by visiting the Suwannee River and parks, gardening, and working at the farm with their cows. Tyler and Sarah Beth also enjoy traveling adventures whenever they get a chance.