



Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings and welcome to the Florida Museum of Natural History's annual report for fiscal year 2023. It's been an exciting year with many changes for both the University of Florida and the museum. UF said goodbye to former President Kent Fuchs and longtime Provost Joe Glover and in the spring welcomed to campus its 13th president, former U.S. Senator Dr. Ben Sasse. The museum had its share of changes as well. Perhaps the most significant of these was the completion and opening of our new [Special Collections Building](#) just south of Powell Hall.

Our fourth major building on the UF campus (in addition to Dickinson, Powell and McGuire halls), this 23,500-square-foot, purpose-built facility, funded by UF, will house the museum's more than 4 million specimens preserved in alcohol (approximately 60,000 gallons of primarily ethanol). These specimens were collected from more than 300,000 localities worldwide and represent a major biological research resource for the scientific community. Each year approximately 18,000 specimens are loaned to researchers and institutions worldwide who use them to make new discoveries. The "wet collections," as they're known, involve large portions of our [herpetology](#) (reptiles and amphibians) and [invertebrate zoology](#) collections as well as the entire collection of [ichthyology](#) (fishes) — the second-largest collection in the United States, after the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History — which is the largest component.

The building was completed in a little over one year by [The Haskell Co.](#) of Jacksonville, and the move-in of collections began in September 2022. So far, all the specimens from herpetology and invertebrate zoology have been transferred from Dickinson Hall. The move of fishes, however, is a massive undertaking and ongoing but should finish within the next year.

Some of the building's state-of-the-art features include specialized climate controls to keep temperatures cool and relative humidity low; spark-free lighting fixtures; a sprinkler system; floor drains and underground storage tanks in case of spills; large-scale fume hoods; temperature and air-quality sensors; a backup power generator; and systems designed to provide the highest level of life safety and fire suppression. Offices for curatorial faculty and collection staff are located adjacent to large laboratory spaces outfitted for researcher and student use.

The museum's senior associate director, Beverly Sensbach, oversaw the construction process along with Jim Vignola of UF's Planning, Design and Construction Division and the curators and collection managers. They did a fabulous job managing all the moving parts involved in this complex process. Remarkably, Beverly also edited our award-winning book, "[All Things Beautiful: Wonders from the Collections of the Florida Museum of Natural History](#)" with text by Heather Dewar, and photos and design by Kristen Grace and Hollis Wooley, respectively, both on the museum's staff. The book is an outgrowth of our 100th anniversary celebration and exhibition in 2017. And as if that wasn't enough, Beverly also oversaw the process of [museum reaccreditation](#) from the American Alliance of Museums, which we were awarded in March. This is quite an accomplishment for the Florida Museum, as only about 3% of museums nationwide achieve this distinction. Without question, Beverly was an essential ingredient in the museum's signature accomplishments this year.

And finally, I'm pleased to report that the museum witnessed its highest annual attendance ever, a quarter million visitors! As the director, I couldn't be prouder of the museum's faculty, staff and students as they continue to perform at a very high level. I hope you enjoy the rest of this report and thank you for your continued support of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Douglas S. Jones
Director



Cover image: Detail, [slate pencil urchin](#)
Heterocentrotus trigonarius





ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL: WONDERS FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Created to commemorate the Florida Museum's 100th anniversary as the state museum, "[All Things Beautiful: Wonders from the Collections of the Florida Museum of Natural History](#)" was published in December 2022. Winner of [ten national and international awards](#) to date, "All Things Beautiful" highlights the remarkable animals, plants, fossils, and cultural heritage materials that make up the forty million specimens and objects of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Focusing on rare, beautiful, and fascinating examples, this volume is a celebration of the beauty and significance of natural history collections. Florida Museum photographer Kristen B. Grace reveals extraordinary color, form, pattern, and texture in stunning images. Environmental journalist Heather Dewar captures the vast scope of the museum's activities to document and discover all forms of life on Earth. Its ten chapters explore diverse themes including the collector's impulse, fields of adventure, remembering the lost, and saving the imperiled; profiles of pathbreaking curators document the excitement of exploration and generating new knowledge, from living in the field with Komodo dragons to discovering new species and using cutting-edge technologies to see and share collections worldwide.

The images, along with their compelling stories, will inspire those who love nature, science, museums, and the thrill of discovery.





SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BUILDING

Construction of the Florida Museum's new collections building officially complete

The museum celebrated the completion of its long-awaited [Special Collections Building](#) this year. The 23,500-square-foot facility will house the entirety of the museum's wet collections, which consist of roughly 4 million specimens stored in 60,000 gallons of ethanol or isopropanol. The project cost approximately \$13 million and took just under two years to complete.

The building was designed and constructed by [The Haskell Co.](#), an architectural, engineering and construction firm based in Jacksonville, Florida. The two-story floorplan includes mobile, compact high-density shelving systems; research laboratories; and office space, giving ample room for the continued expansion of the wet collections.

The new space was designed to provide the highest level of safety and fire suppression. These features include specialized air handling, spark-free lighting fixtures, sprinklers, floor drains and storage tanks, large-scale fume hoods, and temperature and air-quality sensors that meet stringent modern building codes for storing materials preserved in alcohol. Sustainability and environmental stewardship were also a top priority, and in 2023, the building was awarded the highest-level sustainable building Platinum Certification by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC).



Organisms are similarly studied by researchers the world over. Each year, the Florida Museum's wet collections loan approximately 18,000 specimens to researchers and institutions that use them to make new discoveries. The wet collections figure prominently in the museum and the University of Florida's science and education-based programs and generate millions of dollars each year in grant-funded research. The expanded space will create additional opportunities for students to have hands-on experiences with specimens that are critical to the study of biodiversity, climate change and environmental health. [Read more.](#)

Watch the Move in Action!



Collections Move Progress

(as of June 30, 2023)

Ichthyology | 30% complete

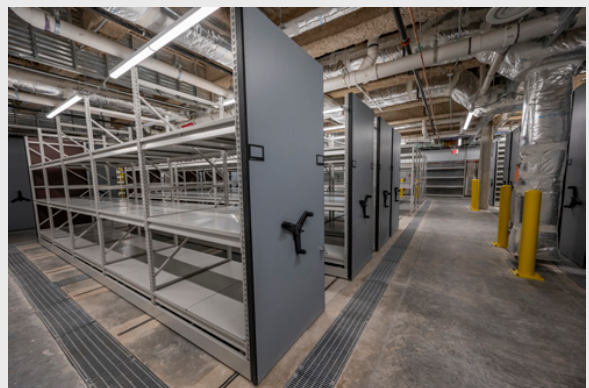


Invertebrate Zoology | 100% complete



Herpetology | 100% complete



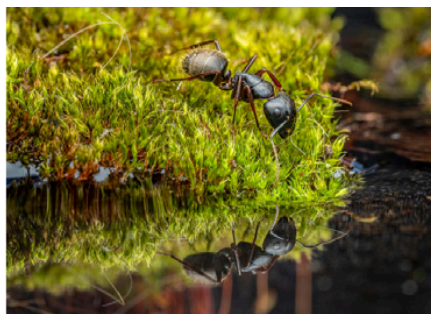




RESEARCH & COLLECTIONS

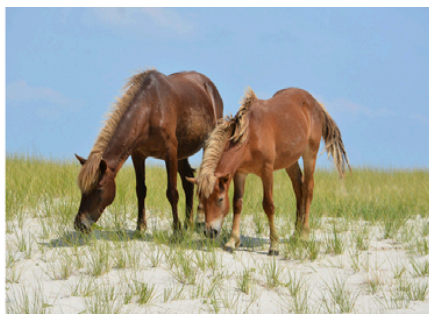
Department of Natural History Highlights

The [Department of Natural History](#)'s faculty, staff, postdocs, and students had yet another exceptional year. This included many high-impact publications, substantial success attracting external funding in support of collections and research and significant contributions to teaching and mentoring. Important new collections were made and curated from all corners of the world. Cutting edge research took place on everything from the [origin of butterflies](#) to the [oldest DNA](#) sequenced from a domesticated American horse, which received considerable media attention and reached a broad audience. This was also a transformational year, with three new faculty curators hired in mammalogy, ornithology and the first focused on [artificial intelligence for natural history and biodiversity](#). The museum opened and began moving into a new state-of-the-art building housing fluid-preserved specimens. And finally, the very popular "Fantastic Fossils" exhibition in collaboration with the Exhibits and Public Programs teams was completed. This exciting project featured an in-person preparation lab staffed with researchers from Dickinson Hall and interactive "live-from-the-field" broadcasts at fossil localities in Florida and Wyoming.



Big data and biodiversity

Never in our history have humans had access to so much information, but making sense of it often requires sophisticated tools. This year, Florida Museum researchers [analyzed](#) a global repository of natural history data, which showed that extreme weather events have significantly extended the active period of moths and butterflies over the last several decades. In a separate study, researchers amassed troves of data to create a [treasure map](#) of global ant diversity; the Venn diagram of regions with the highest ant diversity and those with environmental protection laws is alarmingly slim, with only a 15% overlap between the two. Scientists also made the [surprising discovery](#) that plants with the special ability to absorb atmospheric nitrogen are most diverse in arid regions and not — as might be expected — where soil nitrogen is in short supply.



Old specimens, new discoveries

Until this year, armadillos were considered to be the only living mammals that produce bony plates; that changed when researchers conducting routine CT scans for the [openVertebrate project](#) unexpectedly [discovered](#) that a group of rodents have the same plates hidden beneath the skin of their tails. Museum specimens also helped settle a long-standing mystery of frog anatomy. Unlike humans, frogs have fused bones in their forearms, which are thought to absorb the impact of landing after a jump. But all frogs have fused forearm bones, whether or not they're jumpers, and an [analysis](#) modeled on specimens revealed why. And the [oldest DNA](#) sequenced from a domesticated American horse indicated that a popular legend about shipwrecked ponies on the island of Assateague is more fact than fiction.



Advances in genetics

The field of genomics has rapidly developed over the last two decades, and it reached a major milestone this year with the completion of the first homosporous fern genomes. The group contains more than 10,000 species and occupies a pivotal juncture in the history of land plant evolution. Douglas and Pamela Soltis [helped organize and host](#) the first cross-disciplinary international conference on [polyploidy](#), a genetic phenomenon that has influenced the evolution of organisms across the tree of life in ways we're only now beginning to understand. And in two separate studies, scientists determined that crab diversity in the world's largest marine ecosystem has been [drastically underestimated](#), and the origin of rare and endangered scrub mints is [intimately tied](#) to the history of sea level change in Florida.



Paleobiology and conservation

With species currently disappearing at 1,000 times the normal rate of extinction, many paleontologists have turned to the fossil record to help inform modern conservation goals. Michal Kowalewski helped assemble the world's leading conservation paleobiologists this year at an [international conference](#) devoted to the subject. Paleontologists and volunteers working at the Montbrook fossil dig site made a once-in-a-lifetime [discovery](#) when they unearthed the remains of several gomphotheres, extinct elephant relatives once common in North and South America. Finding multiple individuals preserved together is unusual and offers researchers an unparalleled glimpse into the development of these ancient animals. Scientists also used the fossil record to document a flurry of [rodent extinctions](#) in the Caribbean, which began with the arrival of Indigenous people and accelerated during European colonization.



Community outreach and education research

Museum scientists regularly engage in outreach and education efforts at the University of Florida and in the wider community. A [case study](#) from a paleontology field course in Panama shows these efforts benefit not only the people learning about natural history but also the scientists who teach it. Megan Ennes published the results of a [yearlong study](#), which demonstrates that community is often essential to instilling a passion for science and the natural world among children. The [same study](#) also revealed children aren't aware they have access to formative science tools around their house, such as rulers and magnifying glasses, further underscoring the need for engagement between children and their community of family members.



Backyard biology in Florida

Florida's wildlife diversity was on full display this year. A [specimen](#) of North America's rarest snake, *Tantilla oolitca*, was sent to the Florida Museum for study. The snake died while trying to consume a giant centipede, marking the first time scientists have directly observed its eating habits. Scientists also [documented the spread](#) of the non-native goldline snakehead (*Channa aurolineata*). The fish species was formerly thought to be restricted to southeast Florida, where it was introduced around the turn of the century, but it can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions and was recently spotted in central Florida. And after concluding an [extensive marine survey](#) off the Florida Keys, researchers were pleased to find that Florida's sea urchins seem to be faring relatively well, despite the poor condition of the surrounding seagrass meadows and coral reefs.

Collections & Research Data



218

Peer-reviewed publications



41

Grants & contracts worth \$26.9 million



206

Undergraduates & postdoctoral fellows working in the collections



40+

Million specimens & artifacts



80,261

New accessions to collections



139,887

New specimens & artifacts cataloged



45,253

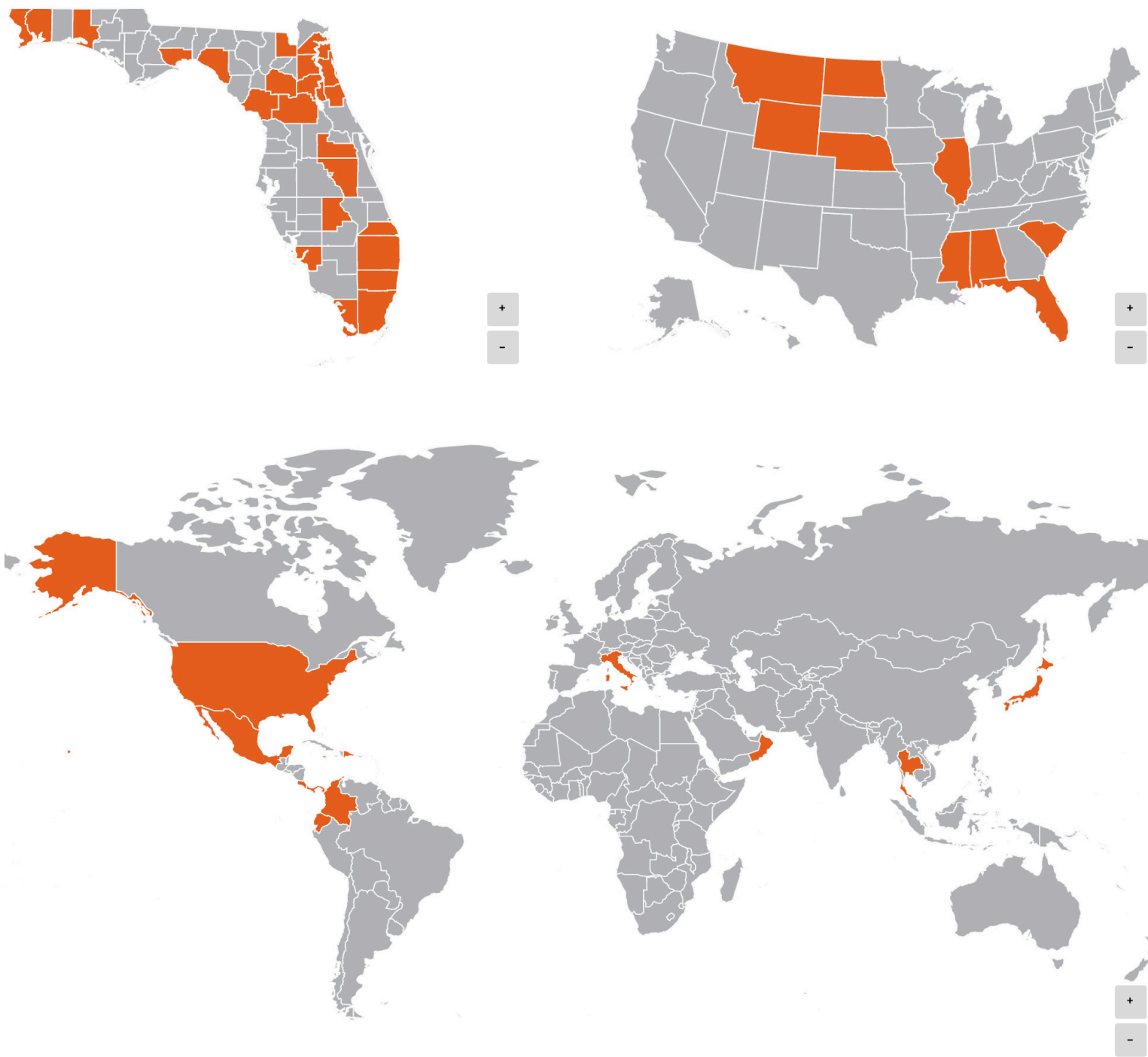
Specimens & artifacts loaned via 1,482 loans



7,200

News articles about museum research with potential readership of 43.5 billion

Research Locations



Staff & Faculty Teaching

93
Graduate
committees chaired

144
Graduate
committees served

118
Independent
studies supervised

42
Courses taught by
Museum faculty

McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity

Curators, staff and students at the [McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity](#) pursued a broad range of projects relating to the conservation, diversity, ecology and evolution of moths, butterflies and other insects.



Butterfly origin and patterns

McGuire Center Director Akito Kawahara led a massive international collaboration of nearly 100 researchers to create a new [butterfly tree of life](#) with data from over 2,000 species. This groundbreaking study traced the movements and diet of butterflies over the last 100 million years and revealed the first butterflies likely originated in Central America and western North America, where they fed almost exclusively on bean plants. Researchers also completed a [massive tree of life](#) for one of the most abundant and least studied groups of tropical butterflies, the euptychiines. Previously overlooked because of their drab colors, the study shows euptychiine butterflies are incredibly diverse, with more than 100 species that have yet to be scientifically described.



Function of Luna moth tails

Luna [moths have long extensions on their hind wings](#) ("tails") that were thought to have many different evolutionary advantages. As part of her doctoral research at the McGuire Center, graduate student Juliette Rubin studied luna moth behavior and found that their tails are in fact only beneficial for a single purpose: misdirecting bat attacks. Despite being visually stunning, their long, streaming tails do not appear to help luna moths attract mates nor do they make it harder for them to hide from predatory birds during the day.



Brewing beer for butterflies

Since 2016, McGuire Center curator Jaret Daniels has collaborated with First Magnitude Brewing Co. to [release a series of butterfly-themed beers as fundraisers](#) for butterfly conservation. This past year, three new beers were added: [Frosted Elfin Session Hazy IPA](#), [Calamintha Hibiscus Wit](#) and [Reign Imperial Stout](#). Proceeds from sales of Reign specifically go to preserving and rebuilding imperiled Monarch butterfly habitats to ["restore the reign of the Monarch."](#)



New species of extremely small hawk moths

Hawk moths are some of the largest butterflies on Earth, with wingspans that are often comparable to those of birds. But in the Caribbean, some hawk moth species have downsized, as discovered this year by a team of McGuire Center researchers, including curator Jacqueline Miller, Deborah Matthews and Riley Gott. They describe three new species of [miniature hawk moths](#) native to the Bahamas, each about the size of a vitamin pill. It is likely that their small body size makes them better equipped to survive hurricanes and tropical storms that frequent the region.



Ancient foundations of butterfly wing diversity

Butterfly wings have a wide variety of colorful patterns, eyespots and other markings. In the brush-footed butterfly family (Nymphalidae), these variations are derived from a basic blueprint or "ground plan," but it was unclear if this same ground plan was present in other butterfly families. McGuire Center Collections Coordinator Andrei Sourakov and curator Jaret Daniels studied the [wing-pattern elements of the Atala hairstreak butterfly](#) and discovered many similarities with the brush-footed butterfly wing ground plan. This suggests that the underlying processes shaping butterfly wing patterns have remained fundamentally unchanged for the entire evolutionary history of butterflies.



Identity of mezcal worms

The agave plants used to make mezcal and tequila are also an important source of food for multiple insect species, and many distilleries intentionally put these insect larvae, or "mezcal worms," in the bottle. A team of McGuire Center researchers led by Jose Martinez and Akito Kawahara sequenced the DNA of mezcal worms from 18 different distilleries in Mexico and unexpectedly [discovered that all the worms found in mezcal bottles are the same species](#).



OUTREACH

Exhibits & Public Programs

The year finished strong, with visitation exceeding pre-pandemic numbers, programs returning to a robust schedule and grant funding supporting exciting new initiatives. Nearly a quarter of a million people visited from all 67 Florida counties, all 50 states and 55 countries. They were treated to the always spectacular "Butterfly Rainforest" and other permanent exhibits, plus a roster of changing exhibits and educational programs. "Science Up Close: Fantastic Fossils" deeply engaged visitors with real-time science, and "Spiders Alive!" invaded the museum, [thrilling spider lovers](#) and turning arachnophobes into spider friends. Other changing exhibits, such as "Mosquitoes: Friend or Foe," "Inner Beauty" and "Colorful Dancing Spiders," provided extra engagement.

Educational programs entered a new era, thanks to grant and endowment funds, with more outreach programs than ever and on-site programs for a wide range of audiences. Funds from the Institute for Museum and Library Services expanded the [Museum in the Parks](#) program to community youth organizations, with educators and scientists taking kids into parks to explore the wonders of the natural world. The Children's Trust of Alachua County supported [Science Surprises](#) programs at community partner locations. Endowment funds helped expand early childhood initiatives, including Tot Trots and the Head Start "Discovery Time" collaboration. Funds from the Florida Division of Arts and Culture supported numerous public programs, such as the popular Can You Dig It geology extravaganza, the Latin American cultural celebration Viva Museum and Girls Do Science, which highlights women scientists from across the university and region. Truly a great year for the museum!

Attendance & Outreach Data



242,871

Annual visitation



6,617

Public program
participants



1,122,495

Visitors to Museum
traveling exhibits at
other venues



6,679

Youth program
participants



12,464

Youth field trip
participants



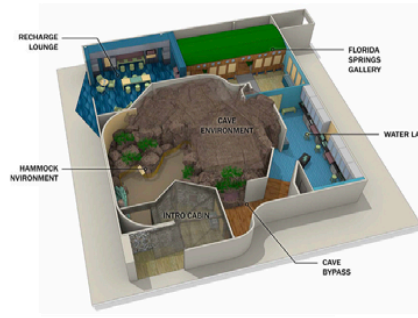
1,567

Community outreach
participants



Spiders Alive! and Ta-RUN-tula 5K

The "[Spiders Alive!](#)" exhibit took an eight-legged walk on the wild side, diving into the world of spiders, scorpions and their relatives, with more than a dozen live species on display. Then, the [seventh annual 5K run](#) got the community's legs moving with a race through the nature trails and roads on UF's campus.



Water Shapes Florida

The permanent exhibit "Northwest Florida: Waterways and Wildlife" closed to prepare the way for "[Water Shapes Florida](#)," a new permanent exhibition exploring Florida's most important resource, now under construction. "Northwest Florida" was the first permanent exhibit to open in Powell Hall more than 20 years ago in 2000. Some of its most iconic elements will live on and be incorporated into the upcoming exhibit with new refurbishments and technology.



Exploration backpacks

With generous funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Museum in the Parks program [expanded its partnership with the Alachua County Library District](#) to bring this experience to all library card holders. The new backpacks contain tools and objects used by scientists when doing fieldwork, giving community members a new way to experience parks in the area.



Junior volunteers

Students [ages 14 to 17 returned to the museum](#) for a summer of interactions, helping visitors deeply engage with the exhibits and natural history stories to enrich their museum experience while also developing the teens' leadership skills.



Spring plant sale

This year's plant sale, organized by the museum's "Butterfly Rainforest" team, was [the largest ever, attracting thousands of visitors from around the state](#) to celebrate and support gardening for pollinators. Staff members sold more than 10,000 plants featuring over 100 species of Florida- and pollinator-friendly plants with proceeds benefiting the exhibit.



Museum for Me

This special event offered early opening hours for guests on the autism spectrum and their families and caregivers, providing a [sensory-friendly experience](#) in the museum's exhibits.

Thompson Earth Systems Institute

The [University of Florida Thompson Earth Systems Institute \(TESI\)](#) celebrated its five-year anniversary in 2023. The institute continues its mission to advance communication and education about Earth systems science through [Scientist in Every Florida School \(SEFS\)](#) professional development programs, [environmental leadership initiatives](#), [education and outreach research](#), and [collaboration with UF faculty](#) members on outreach projects. At the end of the year, TESI founding director [Bruce MacFadden](#) stepped down and returned to the faculty, and [Megan Ennes](#) was named as the new director. She plans to build upon TESI's trusted reputation by fostering new collaborations with researchers at UF and across the state.

TESI Outreach Data



852

Scientist in Every Florida School (SEFS) scientist visits



37,000

K-12 students, representing 423 schools, engage with SEFS



3,500

Lifelong learners attended 8 public outreach events



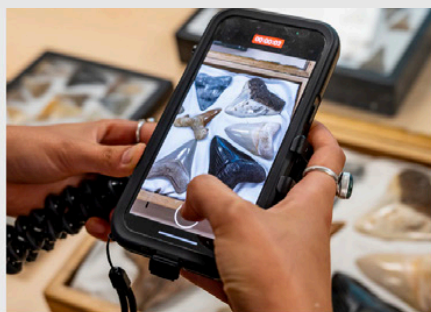
250

Undergraduates gain experience through TESI internships and fellowships



\$138K

In private funding acquired for SEFS and outreach



Shark AI workshop

The first of three teacher cohorts for the National Science Foundation-funded Scientist in Every Florida School [Shark AI professional development program kicked off with a weeklong summer workshop](#) on UF's main campus. During the workshop, 12 teachers learned how to train computers to identify the teeth of the extinct megalodon. By the end of the week, teachers developed hands-on, standards-based lesson plans to bring to their classrooms in the fall.



Environmental Leaders Network

With funding from the Henry David Thoreau Foundation, four former TESI Environmental Leaders Fellows launched the [UF TESI Environmental Leaders Network](#), a centralized platform for students to explore their interests, skills and passions through environmental research, education and civic engagement opportunities on campus and throughout the community. In its first year, the network boasted 230 members, representing 68 majors from aerospace engineering to English.



Marion County scientist-in-residence

Matthew Stanley, a former combat medic in the U.S. Army who studied agriculture and horticulture, has been named the Scientist in Every Florida School K-12 education and outreach specialist for Marion County. In his role, [Stanley will serve as the county's "scientist-in-residence,"](#) and he will teach the area's schoolchildren about environmental issues ranging from water quality to sustainable agriculture.





Digital science outreach

Through online platforms, TESI's [digital outreach](#) team curated and shared information about Florida's environment and natural resources. During the 2022-23 year, TESI social media channels earned 340,000 impressions and 13,290 likes, comments and shares. Educational videos on the TESI YouTube channel received 71,500 views.



Immersive environmental education fellowship

For the first time, SEFS brought one of its renowned hands-on professional development programs on the road. Thanks to funding from The Batchelor Foundation, scientists from a range of disciplines guided a [cohort of 10 Miami-Dade County middle and high school teachers](#) through an immersive, weeklong environmental education fellowship in Miami.



Annual Celebration

TESI hosted its first [Annual Celebration and Awards Ceremony](#) to highlight the work of collaborators — teachers, scientists, organizations and community members — who have excelled in Earth systems education, outreach and communication.

Museum-wide Digital Engagement Data



8,827,807

Website pageviews



4,122,919

Website visitors



20,300,176

Social impressions



735,949

Social interactions



21,930

Email subscribers



5,890

YouTube subscribers



43,828

Main Facebook likes



3,979

Science Facebook likes



13,279

Instagram followers



13,020

Twitter followers



1,922

LinkedIn followers



216,041

Pinterest followers



SUPPORT

Dedicated photographer commits to a brighter future for students studying Neotropical butterflies

It was the 1990s when Kim Garwood spotted her first starry night cracker (*Hamadryas laodamia*) on a hawk-watching trip to Veracruz, Mexico. It was close – about 3 feet up on a pale tree trunk – and much easier to photograph than the hawks, which looked like specks up in the sky.

A friend suggested that she purchase a butterfly identification guide. She was able to find and identify the insects she had photographed and has been hooked on Neotropical butterflies ever since.

While living in Los Angeles, Garwood and a flock of butterfly-loving friends took frequent trips to western Mexico around Puerto Vallarta, and they gradually learned to identify what they saw.

By the time digital cameras were developed in the early 2000s, she had moved to the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. She met some locals who were frequently driving into northeast Mexico to photograph the amazing butterflies found there. They spent quite a bit of time wandering back roads in Mexico, photographing whatever they found, and Garwood would help identify the species.

Things snowballed as she met more people, collected more images, did more traveling in South and Central America, spent time in other collections, and continued to learn.

Garwood made many birding trips to South America in the 1980s and 1990s, so she was familiar with many of the continent's birding lodges. She assumed that a good habitat for birds would also be good for butterflies, so she started organizing photography trips to those locations, asking friends to join and share expenses. All they had to promise was that they would give her copies of their photos for her collection.

Faculty and staff members in the Florida Museum of Natural History's McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity proved a helpful resource to Garwood, granting her access to its remarkable collection. And Garwood's photos were of great interest to Neotropical butterfly researchers, including McGuire Center curator Keith Willmott, who helped identify the species in the images.

Garwood was the first person to document a new species of glasswing butterfly in western Ecuador, which led to the eventual capture of the first specimens. The species now bears her name: *Napeogenes garwoodae*.

When Garwood started considering where she could leave her scientific photos, the McGuire Center was the first place to come to mind.

"Kim's contributions to expanding knowledge and appreciation of Neotropical lepidoptera have been extraordinary," Willmott said.

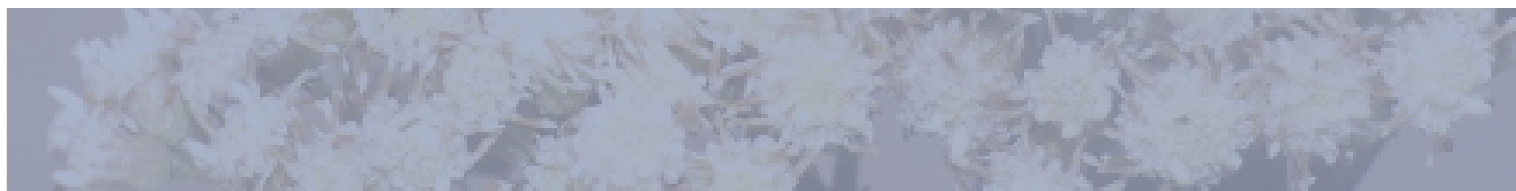
"From a scientific viewpoint, the hundreds of thousands of images she has compiled over a lifetime are a rich resource of information on lepidoptera distribution and behavior. Her commitment to supporting research on Neotropical butterflies and moths should have a profound and lasting impact on our understanding of these incredibly diverse and charismatic insects, and on the lives of future lepidopterists."

Garwood has also been very impressed with the McGuire Center's efforts to help students from Neotropical countries obtain graduate degrees, and she wanted to contribute to those efforts. In addition to the photo collection donation and a bequest commitment, Garwood created the Mariposa Endowment, which will support students and researchers studying Neotropical lepidoptera, fieldwork in Latin America, and efforts to curate images of live lepidoptera and make them available online to all.

Download Neotropical butterfly guides at: <https://www.butterflycatalogs.com>



Kim Garwood in the field in Oaxaca, Mexico. Photo courtesy of Willie Sekula.





Prepona praeneste buckleyana
photo by Kim Garwood



Napeogenes garwoodae
photo by Kim Garwood



Mysoria cosinga
photo by Kim Garwood

Volunteer Hours

20340

Hours donated

340

Total volunteers

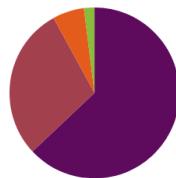
Fundraising Data

\$6,031,693

Total Gifts FY 22-23

\$35,212,044

Total Endowment Value



- Bequests
- Cash Gifts
- Gifts in Kind
- Other Pledges

Bequests \$3,848,467 63.80%

Cash Gifts \$1,626,739 26.97%

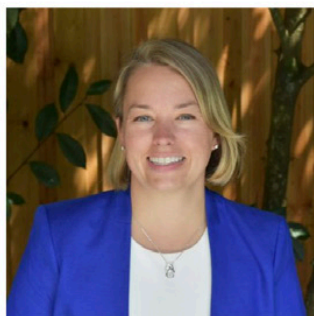
Gifts in Kind \$396,486 6.57%

Other Pledges \$160,000 2.66%



PEOPLE

Leadership Changes



Megan Ennes

Thompson Earth Systems Institute

Megan Ennes, assistant curator of museum education, has been named the new director of the University of Florida Thompson Earth Systems Institute. [Read announcement](#)



Akito Kawahara

McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity

Akito Kawahara, curator of lepidoptera, has been named the new director of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity. [Read announcement](#)

Faculty & Staff Changes

New Hires

Nicholas Anders

Security Guard II

Lauren Cohen

Project Manager I, iDigBio

Shyla Davison

Education/Training Specialist II, iDigBio

Jessica Grosso

Project Manager I, iDigBio

Paulina Lopez

Fiscal Assistant II

[Rachel Narducci](#)

Collections Manager II, Vertebrate Paleontology

Gary Sansone

Application Developer Analyst I, OMT

Shengchen Shan

Biological Scientist II, Molecular Systematics

[Catherine Smith](#)

NAGPRA Coordinator

[Matthew Stanley](#)

Education/Training Specialist I, TESI

[Andrea Torvinen](#)

Collections Manager II, Ceramic Technology Laboratory

Gabriella Williams

Laboratory Technician I, Ichthyology

Retirements

Richard Hulbert

Collection Manager, Vertebrate Paleontology

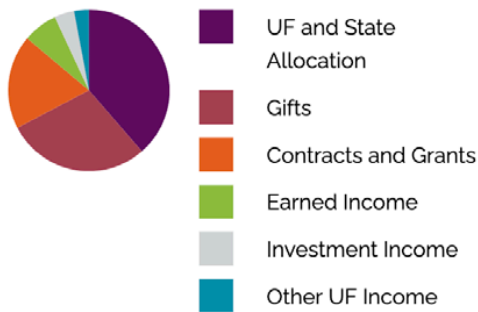
Donna Ruhl

Collection Manager, Florida Archaeology



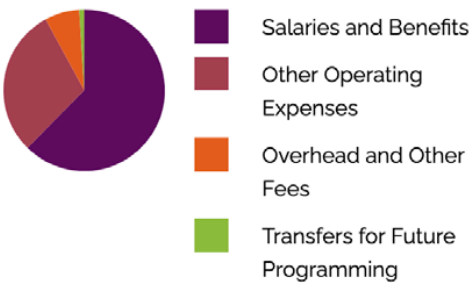
FINANCIALS

Revenue \$38.28M



UF/State Allocation	\$14.96M	39.08%
Gifts	\$11.05M	28.88%
Contracts and Grants	\$7.18M	18.75%
Earned Income	\$2.59M	6.76%
Investment Income	\$1.43M	3.73%
Other UF Income	\$1.07M	2.79%

Expenses \$28.20M



Salaries & Benefits	\$17.83M	63.22%
Other Operating Expenses	\$8.39M	29.77%
Overhead/Other Fees	\$1.87M	6.62%
Transfers for Future Programming	\$0.11M	0.38%



AWARDS & HONORS



Micheal Belitz



David Blackburn



Maria Cortez



Megan Ennes



Indah Huegele



Kristen Grace



Stephanie Killingsworth



Alisa Luthra



Lucas Majure



Larry Page



Mariela Pajuelo Rubina



Jeanette Pirlo



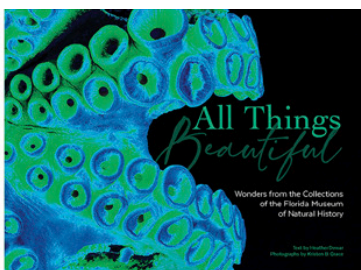
Pamela Soltis



Maria Vallejo-Pareja



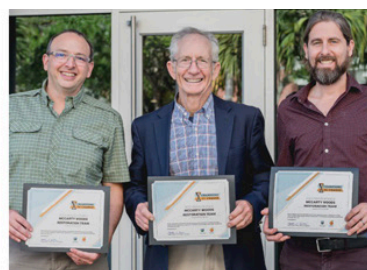
Keith Willmott



"All Things Beautiful" book



Communications Team



McCarty Woods Restoration Team



PUBLICATIONS

1. Abbott, J.C., C.A. Bota-Sierra, **R.P. Guralnick**, V. Kalkman, E. Gonzalez-Soriano, R. Novelo-Gutierrez, S. Bybee, J. Ware, and **M.W. Belitz**. 2022. Diversity of Nearctic dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata). *Diversity* 14:575. <https://doi.org/10.3390/d14070575>.
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