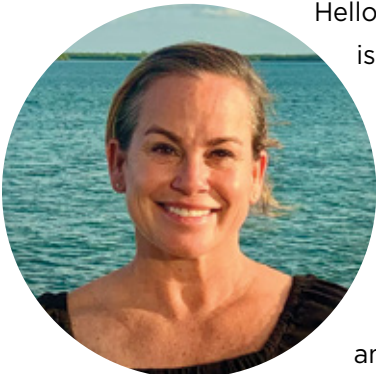




DIRECTOR'S BLOG



Hello Nature Lovers! My name is **Dr. Jill Griffin**, and I am the Hobe Sound Nature Center's new **Executive Director**. I hail from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science, where I was a faculty member for

16 years. I moved to Hobe Sound two years ago to provide my young sons with access to better educational opportunities, and although leaving my position at "The U" was bittersweet, the transition to the Hobe Sound Nature Center has been a dream come true.

I spent part of my childhood living on a boat with my family, which is where my love for nature was born.

The passion and profound sense of respect I felt for the ocean led me to pursue my Ph.D. in Marine Biology. I have studied everything from coral reefs to bottlenose dolphins. My most recent publication is entitled "**Fence fishing**: The use of algae by bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) to attract fish".




While conducting research at natural seawater zoological facility in Key Largo, my colleagues and I noticed the resident dolphins picking up small pieces of macroalgae and strategically inserting the algae through the openings of a fence. This would incite a "flash mob" of mangrove snapper, who rushed towards the fence line in droves, much to the apparent delight of the dolphins. Some of these fish became a tasty meal as they passed into the dolphins' lagoon. These crafty anglers blew us away with their intelligence and ingenuity!

I cannot wait to share more of my love for all our planet's creatures, big and small, with the greater Hobe Sound community. I am blessed to be working with exceptional staff and the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound Wildlife Refuge team. Please stop by anytime to say hello! 🌿



OUR MISSION
To increase awareness of man's relationship with the natural environment through educational programs while encouraging stewardship.

Follow Us

To learn more about the Nature Center, scan our QR code.

MEET THE STAFF:

DEMI BECKER

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Q&A

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT THE CENTER?

I'm the new girl on the block at the Nature Center. I've only been here a few months.

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?

I have my Bachelor's in Conservation Biology & Ecology from Arizona State University.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Some people have preconceived notions about certain animals, such as snakes and opossums, thinking they are dangerous, dirty, or gross. I love witnessing a genuine change of heart and a positive reaction when our guests discover that those are common misconceptions. Seeing a child who was deathly afraid of snakes before their visit leave with a stuffed snake from the gift shop is one of the many reasons why we do the work we do.

WHAT SHOULD EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT THE NATURE CENTER?

Everyone should know we have live animals!

We offer the rare opportunity to touch and feel what is living around us and improve our guests' understanding of Florida's native species.



Please feel free to reach out to me if you questions about the HSNC or our resident animal ambassadors.

dbecker@hobesoundnaturecenter.com

OWL'S ROOST Is In Full Swing

Come Visit and Explore



The iconic gift shop at the Nature Center, known as the "Owl's Roost", has officially been remodeled, with the help of dedicated nature center and refuge staff, interns, volunteers, and our Board of Directors. The new space is bright and beautiful,

with soft tones and a coastal aesthetic. Please stop by for a visit and explore our new inventory of environmentally themed toys, stuffed animals, stickers, books, jewelry, artwork, and more. We can't wait to share this incredible new space with our community of nature enthusiasts!

THANK YOU!

We have much to be thankful for this year. From the bottom of our hearts, we'd like to thank and acknowledge:

Jeff Biege - Artwork donation for office

Gary Fouts - Continental Painting for renovating our cabinetry

Kate Fratalia & Kate Fraser - Loggerhead Marine Life Center for providing invaluable gift shop renovation assistance and guidance

Melanie Hill - Anthropologie's Display Coordinator for donating a custom, 3-D mangrove art piece for our new office space

Ken Johnson - FWC for assisting us with an endless array of handyman projects

Robbie Nolan - Chambers Electric for donating new office lighting

Ed Villevik - Installing new sinks in our animal care kitchen



Meet Our New Intern

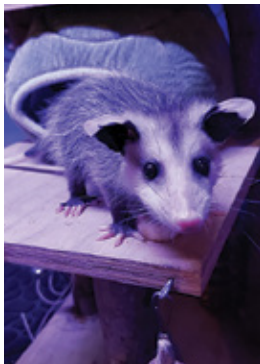


NATASHA LUCE

Natasha graduated from Rollins College in May with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and a B.A. in Music. Apart from college, she's been a resident of Martin County her whole life and feels strongly about preserving the unique wild spaces that remain. She's been volunteering as a turtle scout this summer

and is excited to continue being a part of the Nature Center's activities. Natasha hopes to gain experience caring for animals, educating the public about our local ecosystems, and to further her own knowledge about coastal habitats and wildlife. In her free time, she likes to read books and write music and is hoping to integrate her love for songwriting into the educational programming at the Nature Center! This six month internship is generously funded through the Loblolly Community Foundation.

Newest Member of the Family



About a month ago, we welcomed the most adorable baby opossum "**Bean**" to the Nature Center! He was found abandoned by his mother and had become quite fond of humans, which, unfortunately, meant he could not be returned to the wild. So, he was evaluated by the veterinary team at the

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and, after being given a clean bill of health, joined our nature center family with open arms. He loves to snuggle with our team and will be a great ambassador for his wild counterparts. Despite some tall "tails" (pun intended!), opossums don't carry rabies, consume up to 5,000 ticks per season, and also like to eat cockroaches, mice, and rats. In fact, our little guy has quite the appetite! His diet at the Nature Center consists of fruits, insects, salmon, chicken, and the occasional dollop of unsweetened yogurt.

SAVE THE DATES

Teaching Programs & Celebrations

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN SCIENCE

DR. LAUREN SIMONITIS, FAU

MONDAY JULY 17, 6:00 p.m.

Celebrating Latino Conservation Week. Join us in the Center's classroom to hear from Dr. Lauren Simonitis, who studies one of the most unique whales in the world!

GATORS ALIVE

HOKE LIBRARY

SATURDAY JULY 22, 10:30 a.m.

Please join our wildlife education team at the Hoke Library for this all ages program.

WINGED WARRIORS: OWLS

PALM CITY LIBRARY

HOBE SOUND LIBRARY

SATURDAY JULY 29

SATURDAY JULY 29

11:00 a.m.

2:00 p.m.

Please join our wildlife education team at the Palm City Library or the Hobe Sound Library for this all ages program.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

FISHING CLINIC & 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 9:00 a.m.

Join us, as we kick off National Wildlife Refuge Week with our annual "Hook Kids on Fishing" clinic, ages 6-14 with a parent, hosted in collaboration with Anglers for Conservation. Then, join us at noon to celebrate our 50 year partnership with the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound Wildlife Refuge! Games, food trucks, prizes, and hands-on science activities will be provided!

CREEPY CREATURE FEATURE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Join us for our creepy but wildly popular Halloween program.

2024 "GOLDEN GALA"

THURSDAY APRIL 4, 2024

Join us for our "Golden Gala" to celebrate our 50 year partnership with the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge.

Checkout the Nature Center's latest happenings!

Scan our **SOCIAL MEDIA** QR code.



REFUGE UPDATE:

From Bill Miller, Refuge Manager



The Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) conserves and manages one of the last remaining landscapes of our unique Florida sand pine scrub community and one of the largest, contiguous sections of undeveloped beach in Southeast Florida.

SEA TURTLE NESTING

Sea turtles nesting is in full swing! Loggerheads are halfway through their season, with approximately 1,089 nests identified to date. Green sea turtles just started nesting, including 326 nests, and will continue to do so until September.

SCRUB MANAGEMENT: Improving Habitats and Reducing Threats of Unwanted Fire

Scrub management improves scrub species habitat and reduces the possibility of unwanted fires. Our desired scrub management tool is prescribed fire. However, in our case, we have many critical logistical challenges, including proximity to neighborhoods, roads, and rail infrastructure, that greatly challenge our ability to conduct safe and effective burns. Lack of fire perpetuates an overgrown scrub ecosystem, one that fails supporting a diversity of species and increases the likelihood of catastrophic unwanted fire in our community.

Mechanical control of scrub vegetation, utilizing heavy equipment, is a very effective alternative, particularly in urban areas. Scrub species rely on open patches of scrub for foraging, burrowing, and as refugia. Mechanical control reduces overgrown vegetative structures to ground conditions in targeted areas, thus reestablishing the ‘patchiness’ that helps native wildlife thrive. Native plants recover quickly and become an important source of food for gopher tortoises and other wildlife.

The images below capture the results of our recent mechanical control efforts across 141 acres. Our next mechanical control project will address an additional 65-acres, planned for this fall/winter.

BEACH CLEANUPS

The Refuge hosts monthly beach cleanups. Volunteers have picked up countless trash items, while our UTV is used to remove large items. Keeping the beach clean is important for human visitors and wildlife, such as shorebirds and nesting sea turtles.



RAIL SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

We replaced our failing north beach crossover railing system this spring. Materials were acquired with funding from the Great American Outdoor Act (GAOA), a landmark conservation law that authorizes funding to maintain critical facilities and infrastructure on wildlife refuges, natural parks, forests, recreation areas, and American Indian schools.



NEW REFUGE TEAM MEMBER



Jack Lipman was recently hired as a fee collector through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Experienced Service Program (ESP). Jack is a Veteran, serving four years with the Coast Guard, where he was part of base operations in the Alaska and Gulf of Mexico maritime areas.

For more information about the **Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge**, please visit our website at www.fws.gov/refuge/hobe_sound/. If you ever have any questions regarding our ongoing projects, please contact us at **(772) 546-6141** or come to our visitor center any time from Tuesday-Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM.



Images of scrub habitat taken at the same location over different times. Note the emergence of vegetation in treated areas ~16 months post treatment.

2023 TURTLE WALKS

Going "Swimmingly" Well

Our seasonal turtle walks start on May 25th and run through July 21st. Though we are fully booked for the season, we welcome the addition of interested participants to our wait list. We have been exceptionally lucky this year, **thanks** to the dedication of our "turtle scouts", who are trained to spot a female emerging from the sea and minimize disturbing her as she slowly maneuvers up the beach to select a nesting location. The goal of these guided, FWC permitted walks is to educate our guests about sea turtle biology and conservation and, ideally, awaken a deeper appreciation for these majestic creatures who call Florida's beaches home. Sea turtles have been on our planet for over 120 million years, and it's our job to ensure they are around for at least another million!



SHOUT OUT TO OUR SCOUTS Thank you for your time and thoughtful participation in our mission to inspire a deep sense of appreciation for Florida's sea turtles.

Mark Belli, Sherrill Brown, Kevin Canney, Michele Canney, Linn Ditzler, Sharon Ferris, Betty Haase, Natalie Howard, Colleen Kelley, Joelle Leali, Natasha Luce, Dave Nadeau, Joan Pasioneck, Tom Renna, Darby Thomas and Mabel Vogel

SNAPSHOTS Around the Center Summer Camps, School Programs, and our Volunteers



We Celebrate You! Thank you for your support.

We are a small, non-profit organization that survives and thrives on the generosity of our donors. If you would like to support us in caring for our resident animal ambassadors, please email **Candi** at cholzsager@hobesoundnaturecenter.com. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in the past.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

We invite you to join **Friends of the Nature Center.**

Your membership will help support and promote the mission of the **Hobe Sound Nature Center** by taking an active role in our educational efforts.



To learn more about **Friends of the Nature Center**, scan our QR code.

Hobe Sound Nature Center, Inc. is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education.

HSNC STAFF

Jill Griffin, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Candice Holzsager
Director of Operations

Tracy Boothby
Naturalist Instructor

Crissy Page
Naturalist Instructor

Demi Becker
Administrative Assistant

USFWS

William Miller
Refuge Manager
Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound
National Wildlife Refuge

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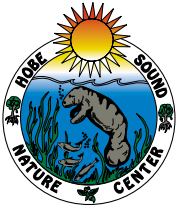
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How You Can Make A Difference

\$25 PAYS FOR TWO WEEKS
OF FOOD FOR OUR OPOSSUM

\$50 PAYS FOR ONE MONTH OF
MEDICATION FOR OUR RESIDENT
ANIMALS

\$150 PAYS FOR A CHILD IN NEED
TO ATTEND OUR SUMMER CAMP

\$300 PAYS FOR A BUS TO BRING
AT-RISK CHILDREN TO OUR CENTER

\$550 PAYS FOR THE CARE OF OUR
RESIDENT BIRDS FOR ONE MONTH

\$1000 PAYS FOR EDUCATION
SUPPLIES FOR OUR CENTER

\$2500 PAYS FOR ENRICHMENT TO
ENSURE OPTIMAL ANIMAL WELFARE

\$5000 PAYS FOR TWO SUMMER
INTERNS TO SUPPORT OUR
PROGRAMS

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and DONATE Today!



Celebrate Nature!



August 14th - World Lizard Day

Did you know that Florida is home to over 60 lizard species? Even more surprising is that only 15 of these are native to Florida. Many of the common lizards we see are invasive species, such as brown anoles, green iguanas, and geckos. These species have the potential to cause significant harm to native habitats and species.



August 20th - World Mosquito Day

While mosquitoes are irritating to humans, they play an important role in our ecosystem, specifically as a source of food for many species, such as bats, which, in turn, are important pollinators. There are approximately 80 species of mosquitos in Florida, and only a quarter of them are considered a threat to humans in terms of their potential to transmit diseases.



September 16th - International Coastal Cleanup Day

Every 3rd Saturday in September, join a local beach cleanup effort to celebrate International Coastal Cleanup Day. **Join the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge** at the Hobe Sound Public Beach from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. to help keep our beaches clean for our wildlife!



October 8th - World Octopus Day

Did you know that octopuses have not one but three hearts! Octopuses are remarkably intelligent and adaptable. They can perform complex tasks, ranging from opening jars to using tools. They are also incredibly flexible and good at hiding, using camouflage, and are found in every ocean in the world.

Visit Us Today for Our Calendar of Events!

HOBESOUNDNATURECENTER.com