

ECISMA Outreach 2013 – 2014

Erica Skolte, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Jenny Novak, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



EVERGLADES CISMA

New Outreach Committee Chair

- Erica Skolte
- Public Affairs Specialist
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, West Palm Beach
- 561-472-8893
- Erica.A.Skolte@usace.army.mil

Innovations and Successes

- Fabulous new handouts
- Python Patrol grant for snake boxes
- Direct door mailing for Gambian pouched rats
- Snazzy skin for Exotic Pet Amnesty trailer
- Plans to create Python Patrol responders, complete with Google map
- Plans to automate exotic pet adoption process

Publications and Products

Outreach postcard created mainly for dispatch and call centers, with information on how to make useful and credible exotic species reports



**Seen something exotic?
Report your sighting!**

- 1. Take a picture**
- 2. Note the location**
- 3. Report your sighting**

By phone: 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681) **Online:** IveGot1.org
or download the IveGot1 reporting app.

Knowing the distribution of nonnative species in Florida helps wildlife biologists plan more effective management strategies.

MyFWC.com/Nonnatives



WANTED

FOR EATING BIRD
AND REPTILE EGGS

INVASIVE



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID G. BARKASY

ARGENTINE BLACK AND WHITE TEGU

If you see a tegu:

1. Take a picture
2. Note the location
3. Report your sighting

By phone: 1-888-IVE-GOT1

Online: IveGot1.org

Or download the **IveGot1** reporting app



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA



Tegu poster designed to be posted in areas where tegus are established, with information on making useful tegu reports

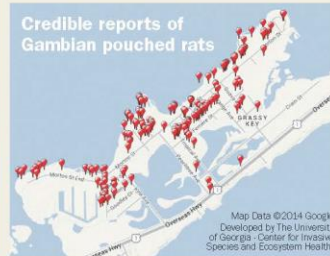
Have you seen a Gambian pouched rat?



These rats have been sighted on Grassy Key.

Gambian pouched rats are gray to brown in color with a paler belly and feet that are off-white. Most of the tail is dark gray while the final third is off-white.

This rat can be 20-35 inches in length and weigh 3 lbs. on average, which is much larger than other rat species.



Efforts to remove this invasive animal are ongoing and information regarding the presence of these animals can greatly assist wildlife managers in directing trapping efforts.

If you see a Gambian pouched rat:

1. Take a picture
2. Note the location
3. Report your sighting:
 - **Online** at IveGot1.org
 - **By phone** at 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681)
 - **Download the IveGot1 reporting app**



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Please DO NOT report sightings of these common species:



Black rat



Opossum



Raccoon

Photos © Tim Heiseck



MyFWC.com

Gambian rat poster designed for an Every Door Direct Mailing on Grassy Key that was used to raise awareness and increase verifiable reports

Burmese python brochure that consolidates information into one handout

Burmese python fast facts

- Can grow up to 20 feet in length.
- Average size removed in Florida: 8—10 feet. Longest: 18 feet 8 inches.
- Native to South Asia.
- In cool months, active during the day.
- In warm months, seen at night on roads.
- Females lay about 30-40 eggs per year.
- Can live past 20 years in captivity.
- Skin pattern provides effective camouflage in landscape, making snakes difficult to see in the wild.
- “Sit and wait” predators that prey on birds, mammals and reptiles.
- In Florida they can no longer be acquired as personal pets.
- Federal law prohibits transport across state lines or import into the country without a federal permit.



FWC officer Dave Weis with Burmese python caught off Alligator Alley. FWC photo by David Bingham.

If you see a python:

The FWC does not recommend that you attempt to capture the animal!

1. Take a picture
2. Note the location
3. Report the sighting

In addition to Burmese pythons, the FWC would like reports of all nonnative species in Florida.

How to report a sighting:

1. Call the Exotic Species Hotline
888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681)
2. Report online
www.IveGot1.org
3. Download the IveGot1 app
Free for smart phones and tablets



If you live near affected areas, you can make your yard less attractive to Burmese pythons by removing excess debris and maintaining landscaping.



Burmese pythons can hide in overgrown vegetation. Kevin Enge, FWC.

It is illegal to release any animal into the wild that is not native to Florida!

Follow us on:



 printed on recycled paper

5/2014

Burmese Pythons in Florida



Help Stop the Spread of an Invasive Snake



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

Burmese Pythons in Florida

Help Stop the Spread of this Invasive Species



What is a Burmese python?

The Burmese python is a large, nonvenomous constrictor snake that has been introduced to Florida. These snakes threaten the Everglades ecosystem, including native wildlife. They can reproduce in great numbers and eat a wide variety of food items ranging from eggs to small deer.

How to identify a Burmese python

Burmese pythons are tan in color with dark "giraffe" blotches on the back and sides that are irregularly shaped and fit together tightly like puzzle pieces. Burmese pythons have a dark arrowhead shape on top of their head and a dark wedge behind the eye.



Burmese pythons can hide in overgrown vegetation. Kevin Engle, FWC.

Some common native snakes that are confused with Burmese pythons:



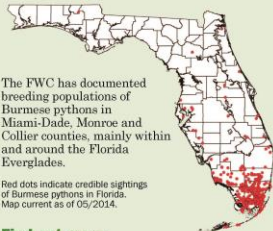
Corn snake



Brown water snake, © Edward Mercer

Burmese python fast facts

- Can grow up to 20 feet in length.
- Average size removed in Florida: 8-10 feet.
- Native to South Asia.
- Females lay about 30-40 eggs per year.
- Can live past 20 years in captivity.
- Skin pattern provides effective camouflage in landscape, making snakes difficult to see.
- "Sit and wait" predators that prey on birds, mammals and reptiles.
- In Florida they can no longer be acquired as personal pets.
- Federal law prohibits transport across state lines or import into the country without a federal permit.



The FWC has documented breeding populations of Burmese pythons in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier counties, mainly within and around the Florida Everglades.

Red dots indicate credible sightings of Burmese pythons in Florida. Map current as of 05/2014.

Find out more:

Burmese pythons in Florida, management efforts and how you help at MyFWC.com/Python.

If you see a python:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) does not recommend that you attempt to capture the animal!

1. Take a picture
2. Note the location
3. Report the sighting

How to report a sighting:

1. Call the Exotic Species Hotline: 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681)
2. Report online: www.IveGot1.org
3. Download the free I'veGot1 app

Please put this poster up!

Help inform others about Burmese pythons.

Burmese python poster, developed from the brochure, designed as an 11" x 17" newsletter poster and available to print from the FWC web site

Help Us Find Great Homes for These Exotic Pets!



It is illegal to release any animal into the wild that is not native to Florida!

The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program provides pet owners the option of turning in exotic pets they no longer can keep—an alternative to releasing pets into the wild.

The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program also increases awareness of the challenges with nonnative wildlife through outreach and education. More than 500 nonnative species have been observed in Florida, and more than 130 are thought to be reproducing.

A schedule of upcoming Exotic Pet Amnesty Day events can be found online at MyFWC.com/Nonnatives.



Exotic Pet Amnesty Program
Great pets. Great homes.

For more information, visit MyFWC.com/Nonnatives or call the Exotic Species Hotline:

888-4ve-Got1
(888-483-4681)

Follow us on:



printed on recycled paper

8/20

We Need You.
Become an Exotic Pet Amnesty Adopter!



Great Pets. Great Homes.



Tim Donovan, FWC



Tim Donovan, FWC



The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program gives pet owners the option of turning in exotic pets they can no longer keep—an alternative to releasing pets into the wild.

The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program also increases awareness of the challenges with nonnative wildlife through outreach and education. More than 500 nonnative species have been observed in Florida, and 130 of these are thought to be reproducing.



Exotic Pet Amnesty Program
Great pets. Great homes.

For more information, see MyFWC.com/Nonnatives or call the Exotic Species Hotline:

888-4ve-Got1
(888-483-4681)

Follow us on:



printed on recycled paper

8/2013

Exotic Pet Amnesty Program



Finding Great Homes for Exotic Pets in Need



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

Exotic Pet Amnesty Program brochures to promote the program and help recruit adopters

Python Patrol



Since November 2013, 20 training workshops have been held for over 350 participants

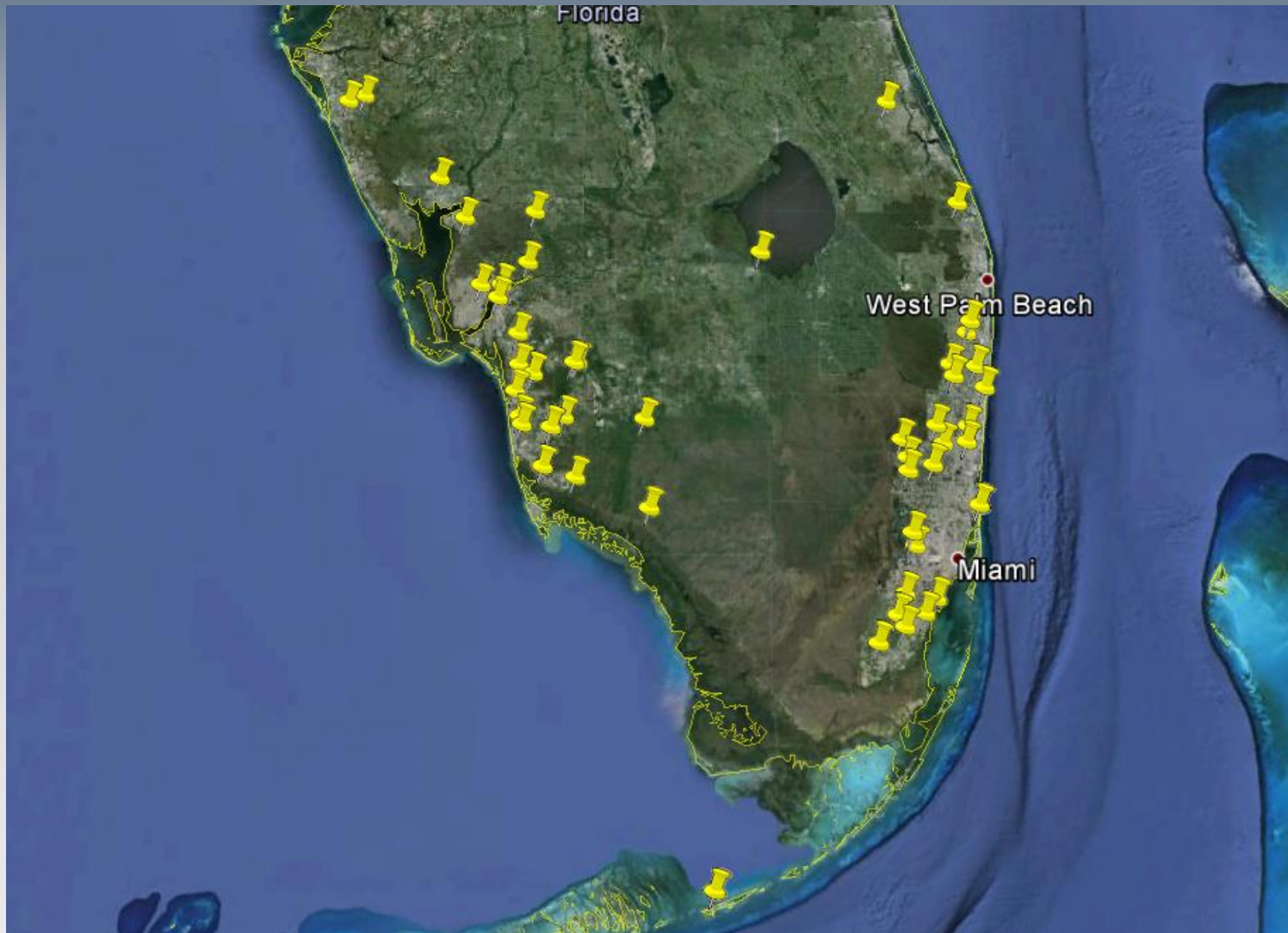
EVERGLADES CISMA

Python Patrol is building an EDRR network of trained participants throughout south Florida



EVERGLADES CISMA

Python Patrol is also working to create a subgroup of trained FWC Hotline responders



EVERGLADES CISMA

Python Patrol has received a grant from the MN Zoo;
funds will be used to purchase transport boxes for pythons



MINNESOTA ZOO[®]
Foundation

Alexandria Tasa
Zoomobile
Minnesota Zoo

July 14, 2014

Dear Alex,

Congratulations! The project, “Python Patrol Project”, has been approved to receive a grant of \$2,136 from the Minnesota Zoo Foundation’s Ulysses S. Seal Conservation Grant Program. We will be providing you with a check for the grant amount so that you may purchase the requested the supplies for the organization for their Everglades python control work.

EVERGLADES CISMA

Exotic Pet Amnesty Day Events

Year	Month	County	Animals Surrendered
2013	September	Broward	70
2014	January	Broward	32
2014	March	Miami	40
		Total =	142 animals



Year	Month	County	Location
2014	October	Broward	Palm Beach Zoo
2014	November	Palm Beach	Flamingo Gardens
2015	March	Miami	TBD



The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program is working to schedule repeating events in certain counties, automate the adoption process, and recruit new adopters



EVERGLADES CISMA

ECISMA Outreach Events

- **Everglades Coalition Conference** Jan. 2014 in Naples by South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (*SFERTF*) Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) (Carrie Beeler)
- **Career Day at Oliver Hoover Elementary School** on Invasive Exotic Species (Carrie Beeler)

ECISMA Outreach Events

- **Zoo Miami Pet Amnesty Day** (Carrie Beeler)
- **American Farm Bureau** (presentations in Everglades and Everglades Agricultural Area by LeRoy Rodgers)
- **WRAC** (presentation to Water Resources Advisory Commission by Dan Thayer)
- **2014 Educational Forum at Olsen Middle School** in Dania Beach May 8, 2014

ECISMA Outreach Events

- **Party for the Planet at Zoo Miami** April 26 and 27, 2014 (Dustin Smith, Sara Williams, Andrew Derksen)
- **Parkland Environmental Expo** July 19, 2014 (Liz Barraco, Brenda Garza, Jake Edwards)
- **“Working together to combat invasive species”** by Erica Skolte highlighting CISMAS was published in April 2014 JaxStrong newsletter by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

ECISMA Outreach Events

- **Miami-Dade County** Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, Natural Areas Management Division
- Outreach is conducted through the **Volunteer Workday program**, which engages citizens in projects at our nature preserves, such as invasive plant removal, native plantings, and litter removal
- Everyone is welcome, school-age kids are the target audience
- During this year's volunteer season, they conducted **26 events** at various nature preserves, with **833 volunteers** who logged a total of **2,600 hours**
- In addition, Dallas Hazelton assisted in one of the Pet Amnesty days in Broward.

ECISMA Outreach Events

2014



**Everglades Non-Native Fish
Round Up**


EVERGLADES CISMA

ECISMA Outreach Events

- **5th Annual Non-Native Fish Round Up** on May 17, 2014 was the most successful year ever.
- **55 people** registered across three counties
- **580 pounds of invasive fish** were caught
- A new exotic fish called the Marbled-Pin Catfish (*Leiarius marmoratus*) was caught by Nick Valderrama.

ECISMA Website

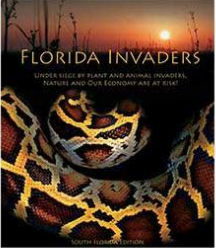

<http://evergladescisma.org>



Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

Home | FISP | Apps | Contact

About Us Meetings Distribution Maps Report Sightings Species Information Educational Resources News Partners




A Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area is a formal partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals and various interested groups that manage invasive species and is defined by a geographic boundary. Florida has a long history of invasive species organization cooperation such as the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, Noxious Exotic Weed Task Team, Florida Invasive Animal Task Team and Invasive Species Working Group. Everglades restoration poses new challenges for invasive species management and has created a need for a more defined commitment to cooperation among agencies and organizations at higher levels of policy and management.



What's New

- 5th Annual Everglades Cisma Non-Native Fish Round Up
- 2014 South Florida Environmental Report - Chapter 7: Status of Nonindigenous Species
- Digital Aerial Sketchmapping 2012-2013 shapefiles
- Wanted Poster: Argentine Black and White Tegu
- Native and Nonnative Crocodilians of Florida
- Necropsies of Reptiles: Recommendations & Techniques for Examining Invasive
- 2013 Everglades Cisma Newsletter
- Pest Alert - Chrysopogon aciculatus
- Eyes & Ears Presentation, Speaker Notes and Handouts
- Ecological correlates of invasion impact for Burmese pythons in Florida
- Tegus in Florida brochure 2012

Location



Signatories



EVERGLADES CISMA

ECISMA Website

- University of Florida received \$5,000 from the University of Georgia and a \$7,500 grant from the Munson Foundation to **redesign and develop content for the Everglades CISMA website**
<http://evergladescisma.org>
- UF (Rebecca Harvey) is working on the redesign
- UF will seek input from the ECISMA steering committee on the revised website this fall, with the aim of **launching the new site in early 2015**
- UF continuing to look for **funds** to develop additional products, including a Traveling Trunk of outreach materials.

ECISMA Website

- The website and other materials produced by UF will be organized around the concept of the "**Everglades Dangerous Dozen**," a list of 12 invasive animal and plant species on which we will focus outreach.
- The list will be developed with your input and updated on a yearly basis.
- Criteria for inclusion in the "Dangerous Dozen" and nominations will be one of the topics for discussed during the outreach breakout session tomorrow.

Social Media



Follow us on Twitter @ECISMA
<https://twitter.com/ECISMA>

"Like" Everglades CISMA
on Facebook
<http://bit.ly/ECISMAFB>



Social Media

Twitter

•380 followers



The screenshot shows the Twitter profile for Everglades Cisma (@ECISMA). The profile header includes the Cisma logo, which features a bird and a hand holding a leaf, and the text "Everglades Cisma @ECISMA". Below the header, the bio reads: "Working to protect the Everglades from Invasive Species", "South Florida", "evergladescisma.org", and "Joined September 2009". The navigation bar shows 459 tweets, 1 photo/video, 32 following, 380 followers, and 1 favorite. The main content area displays a list of tweets, including a tweet about the Parkland Environmental Expo, a link to a Time article about invasive species, a tweet about pythons in the Everglades, a tweet about illegal snails, and a tweet about Burmese python eggs. A retweet from USACE Jax District is also visible.

Everglades Cisma
@ECISMA
Working to protect the Everglades from Invasive Species
South Florida
evergladescisma.org
Joined September 2009

TWEETS 459 PHOTOS/VIDEOS 1 FOLLOWING 32 FOLLOWERS 380 FAVORITES 1 More

Tweets Tweets and replies

Everglades Cisma @ECISMA · 1h
Join ECISMA at the Parkland Environmental Expo tomorrow!
Saturday, July 19, 2014
10:00am to 2:00pm
Pine Trails... fb.me/2Kager4IC

Everglades Cisma @ECISMA · 19h
time.com/#3000963/invas... fb.me/1s1FTpXrd

Everglades Cisma @ECISMA · 22h
150,000 Pythons in Everglades of Florida Should Not Put Off Visitors, Say Park Officials - Science World Report -... fb.me/192a0EB83

Everglades Cisma @ECISMA · Jul 15
Illegal giant African land snails that grow up to eight inches long seized at LA airport - the Independent -... fb.me/1feKgdhvL

Everglades Cisma @ECISMA · Jul 15
Burmese python eggs hatch in SWFL, report sightings - (view video)... fb.me/2qrmUvbvN

Retweeted by Everglades Cisma
USACE Jax District @JaxStrong · Jul 11
Video of invasive tegu stealing gator eggs bit.ly/teguacam Report invasive species at 1-888-IVE-GOT-1 #Ivegot1

EVERGLADES CISMA

Social Media

facebook

Email or Phone _____ Pass _____
Keep me logged in _____ Forg

Everglades Cisma
Organization

Timeline About Photos Likes Events

PEOPLE

222 likes

ABOUT

ECISMA formalizes cooperation among land management agencies: Improves effectiveness of exotic species control by sharing information, innovation and...

READ MORE

<http://www.evergladescisma.org/>

PHOTOS

POSTS TO PAGE

Everglades Cisma
about an hour ago · Edited

Join ECISMA at the Parkland Environmental Expo tomorrow!
Saturday, July 19, 2014
10:00am to 2:00pm
Pine Trails Park Amphitheater
10555 Trails End
Parkland, Florida
Learn more about ECISMA at <http://www.evergladescisma.org/>

The City of Parkland Parks and Recreation Department Presents

Parkland Environmental Expo

THINK GREEN

Saturday, July 19, 2014
10:00am to 2:00pm
Pine Trails Park Amphitheater
10555 Trails End

Activities include:

- Tree Giveaway
- Music
- Wild Life Show
- Petting Zoo
- Vendors
- Food Trucks
- Craft Project
- Face Painter
- Bounce House

"Bring your used Cell Phones, Toner or Ink Cartridges and receive a FREE gift, while supplies last"

For more information about this event please contact
Melissa Soto at 954-757-4105 or visit our website at

Facebook

- 222 followers

- Looking for suggestions for a good cover photo

2014 ECISMA Newsletter

- 17 outstanding articles!

- download the whole newsletter OR

- download individual articles

- <http://bit.ly/ECIS14>

Newsletter VOLUME 5 JULY 2014

The total width of a brightly colored poison dart frog from a Broward County site is one of this year's success stories. Photo courtesy of Matt Hovell, Broward County Parks.

Rapid Response success for nonnative wildlife

by Jennifer Ketterlin Eckles

FWSF puts the hammer down

The Florida Invasive Species Strike Team (FWSST), the field team under the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Action Plan (ECISMA) Rapid Response Subcommittee that is deployed to respond to new sightings of primarily nonnative wildlife within ECISMA's footprint, has been successful in a number of ECISMA partners with response capabilities and is directed by the affected land management agency for site-level response.

The team has had a number of rapid response successes over the past year. Two significant rapid responses were the removal of a Nile crocodile from Everglades National Park (ENP) and the discovery and possible eradication of panther chameleons on a Broward County property.

Nile crocodile

In February of this year, while searching for burrows in thorns, members of the Seagrass Apes, a volunteer group with ENP, spotted and photographed an odd crocodile in the Cheeka area of the park. The animal was identified as a Nile crocodile based on the photo and the identification was later confirmed by FWSST. With permission from ENP, the University of Florida (UF) led an interagency team comprised of FWSST, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff and members of the Seagrass Apes to remove the animal. On Sunday, March 16, 2014, the FWSST team began the operation to remove the animal alive or dead. After several hours of using nets to corral the crocodile into a small section of a canal, the animal was harpooned and captured alive. Based on physical markings, the crocodile was identified as the same individual that exhibited FWC and UF after it had been sighted two years earlier. The animal grew

over two and a half feet since it was last seen and due to the rapid response efforts of the FWSST interagency team, the five and a half foot long Nile crocodile was successfully identified and removed.

Panther chameleon

Last July, a Broward County employee reported removing an adult panther chameleon from a county owned property on the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) website www.eddmaps.org/. After receiving the report, staff from UF and FWC searched the property the following night and found a juvenile panther chameleon. Subsequent surveys over the next few weeks resulted in the removal of a third juvenile chameleon. During this time, the group also received reports of three more animals from different residents of the neighborhood, including one adult that was removed and two of unknown age found dead on the road. It is not known whether this represents a breeding population or the release of multiple age classes. The team has since conducted follow-up surveys to determine if there is a breeding population established in the area, but no chameleons have been found or reported since late July. More follow-up surveys will be conducted in 2014 but the team is hopeful that this population has been eradicated. ▶

This Nile crocodile was spotted and harpooned for two years, but was finally identified and removed from Everglades National Park this year (photo courtesy of Matt Hovell, University of Florida).

2014 ECISMA Newsletter

Topics include:

- Rapid Response Success
- Luminitzera Update
- IveGot1 App
- Redwing EDRR
- Exotic Pet Amnesty Program
- Exotic Mangrove at Kampong
- Python Patrol and FWC
- Giant Brake Fern

2014 ECISMA Newsletter

- Strategic Action Framework
- *Dalechampia* EDRR
- Island Apple Snail Eggs
- Psyllids for *Schinus* Biocontrol
- Nonnative Reptile EDRR Update
- *Mikania micrantha* Update
- *Rotala*: New Canal Invader
- *Hydrilla* IPM
- Friends of ECISMA

What Can I Do to Help?

SOCIAL MEDIA

- “Like” ECISMA Facebook page
- Follow ECISMA on Twitter
- Share ECISMA Facebook posts and retweet to publicize the event on agency and personal social media
- Send photos and items to outreach chair, Erica Skolte at erica.a.skolte@usace.army.mil for various uses

What Can I Do to Help?

EVENTS

- Volunteer to help out at the event
- Share ECISMA Facebook posts and retweet to publicize the event on agency and personal social media
- Take photos at the event
- Send photos to outreach chair, Erica Skolte at erica.a.skolte@usace.army.mil

Thank you!

ECISMA Outreach Volunteers and Collaborators