

## Sandy Beck

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www.wildclassroom.net

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### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

1989-Present: **Director, The Wild Classroom**  
www.wildclassroom.net

#### Educator

Presents environmental education programs featuring disabled wildlife for school groups, organizations and special events; conducts inservice workshops.

#### Free-lance Writer

*Florida Wildlife Magazine*, writer and photographer; "Wild Classroom," a monthly environmental column, the *Tallahassee Democrat* (1997- present); publications on invasive exotics, wildlife and environmental education for the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission; bi-monthly column for the *Natural Times* (2004-present);

#### Grant Writer

Funded by a grant from the Florida Advisory Council on Environmental Education published *Conserving Florida Wildlife*, an interdisciplinary middle school curriculum guide. Funded by grants from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation , created *Wild Words for Wild Wings*, a program for economically disadvantaged children in Leon County that combines bird watching, poetry and technology. Funded by a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) grant from the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), created an after-school science program for fourth and fifth grade girls.

#### Editor

Quarterly newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*, print and on-line editions:  
www.stfranciswildlife.org/wildlifematters.html.

#### Webmistress

The Wild Classroom: www.wildclassroom.net.  
The St. Francis Wildlife Association: www.stfranciswildlife.org.

2003-Present: **Teacher, Gifted and Talented Students**  
Astoria Park Elementary School  
2465 Atlas Road  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32303

Teaches content-based enrichment classes for gifted and talented students, grades 1 - 5, with a focus on writing and science. Part-time position.

For curriculum, please log on to:  
<http://www.wildclassroom.net/AstoriaPark/giftedclasses.html>

1994-2001: **Teacher, Gifted Students**  
Academic Resource Center  
526 N. Appleyard Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Taught content-based enrichment classes for gifted students, grades 3 - 8, with a focus on writing and science.

1992-1994: **Adjunct Instructor, English**  
English Department  
Tallahassee Community College  
444 Appleyard Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304-2895

Taught ENC 1101, Freshman Composition.

- 1988-1991: **Graduate Assistant, English Education**  
 Florida State University  
 College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
 205 Stone Building  
 Tallahassee, FL 32306  
 Supervised English Education student teachers in Leon, Bay, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.
- 1987-1988: **Teacher, English and ESOL**  
 Adult and Community Education Program  
 at Lively Campus  
 500 North Appleyard Drive  
 Tallahassee, Florida 32304
- 1985-1987: **Teacher, Middle School Language Arts**  
 Thomas Jefferson Middle School  
 Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
 525 N.W. 147 Street  
 Miami, FL 33168  
 Taught language arts and journalism, sixth, seventh and eighth grade; faculty advisor, student newspaper and literary magazine.

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- "Bird Watching 101," Pinewoods Bird Festival, Thomasville, GA, April 12, 2008.
- "Teaching Critical Thinking Skills with Birds of Prey," Thomas University Elementary Education classes, Thomas University, Thomasville, GA, March 25, 2008.
- "Bird Watching 101," Pinewoods Bird Festival, Thomasville, GA, April 8, 2006.
- "Teaching Critical Thinking Skills with Birds of Prey," Thomas University Elementary Education classes, Thomas University, Thomasville, GA, February 19, 2007.
- "Tigers of the Sky," a program on native owls, *Wakulla Wildlife Festival*, Wakulla Springs, FL, April 20, 2005.
- "Lunch and Learn with Birds of Prey," Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL, July 20, 2004.
- "Teaching Critical Thinking Skills with Birds of Prey," Thomas University Elementary Education classes, Thomas University, Thomasville, GA, March 10, 2003.
- "Raptor Rap," a program on birds of prey, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's *Welcome Back Songbirds Festival*, Wakulla Springs, FL, April 27, 2002.
- "Tigers of the Sky," a program on native owls, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's *Welcome Back Songbirds Festival*, Wakulla Springs, FL, April 15, 2001.
- "A Compassionate Curriculum," Shattered Lives: Stopping Violence to Pets and People conference, Tallahassee, FL, August 11, 2000.
- "Teaching About Native Owls, an Interdisciplinary Curriculum," League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF), State Conference, Wakulla Springs, FL, April 1, 2000.
- "Conserving Florida Wildlife, an Interdisciplinary Curriculum," Birdsong Nature Center Teacher Inservice Workshop, Thomasville, GA, January 31, 1998.
- "Teaching About Native Owls," Thomasville Public Schools Summer Teacher Inservice Program, Thomasville, GA, June 17, 1994.
- "Conserving Florida Wildlife, an Interdisciplinary Curriculum," Community Classroom Consortium, Tallahassee, FL, February 26, 1994
- "Integrating Language Arts," Southwest Florida Teacher Education Consortium summer institute, Ft. Myers, FL, June 21 - July 1, 1993.
- "Conserving Florida Wildlife," League of Environmental Educators in Florida, 1993 State Conference, High Springs, FL, April 3, 1993.

"Conserving Florida Wildlife," Orange County Public Schools Teacher Inservice Workshop, Orlando, FL, January 19, 1993.

"What Can We Do to Help Florida Wildlife?" Florida Trail Association 1992 Conference. Quincy, FL, October 24, 1992.

"Conserving Florida Wildlife," Florida League of Middle Schools 1992 Conference, Daytona Beach, FL, October 17, 1992.

"Birds of Prey." Apalachee Audubon, Tallahassee, FL, September 22, 1992.

"Taking Flight: Experiencing Whole Language," Southwest Florida Teacher Education Consortium summer program, Ft. Myers, FL, June 18-July 1, 1992.

"The New Conserving Florida Wildlife Middle School Curriculum," Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Annual Symposium, Miami Museum of Science, Miami, FL, January 25, 1992.

"Writing Across the Curriculum About Florida Wildlife," Marion County Schools Teacher Inservice Workshop, Ocala, FL, August 21, 1991.

"Wild Writing," Florida Writing Project, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, July 10, 1991.

"Wild Writing." Florida Writing Project, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, July 8, 1991.

"Wild Writing." Marion County Schools' Young Authors' Conference, Ocala, FL, May 4, 1991.

"Nature Notes: the Connection Between Observing Nature and Writing About It." Florida Council of Teachers of English Fall Conference, Tampa, FL, October 19, 1990.

"Wild Poetry," Florida State University Child Development and Whole Language Symposium, Florida State Conference Center, Tallahassee, FL, April 1990.

"Motivational Techniques for Language Arts Drop-Out Prevention," Bay County Schools, Panama City, FL, February 1990.

"Poetry on the Wild Side," Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee, FL, January 1990.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

2009: "Nature's Beautiful Bug Zappers Live in Our Chimneys," May/June issue, *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

2009: "Think Before You Toss that Trash," March/April issue, *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

2008: "A New Breed of Wildlife Officer Patrols Florida's Airports," November/December issue, *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

2008: "High on Kites," July/August issue, *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

2008: "Oh, Possum," May/June issue, *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

2008: "Bald Eagle Guardian Angels," March/April issue, *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

2007: "Answering the Call of the Wild," September/October issue, *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

2007: "In Defense of Vultures" and "Protecting Florida from Invaders," May/June issue, *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

2006: "Florida's Invaders," an eight-page insert on invasive exotic species, *Orlando Sentinel*, <http://myfwc.com/creature/invdrs.pdf>

2005 - present: "The Wild Classroom" environmental column, *Tallahassee Democrat Chronicle*.

1989 - present: The St. Francis Wildlife Association's quarterly newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*.

2003 - present: Bi-monthly column, *The Natural Times*.

1998 - 2000, "Wild Ideas," monthly environmental column for the *Tallahassee Democrat*.

1997 - 1998, "Nature Notes," monthly environmental column, *Tallahassee Democrat*.

"Toward a Rebirth of Wonder in Two Egg, Florida" (poem), *Florida Wildlife Rehabilitation Quarterly*, Fall 1993.

"From Awareness to Action" (article), *The Skimmer*, Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission publication, Spring 1993.

"Windows on a Wild Soul" (article), *Florida Wildlife Magazine*, May-June 1993.

"Paddling the Wakulla" (poem), *Journeys Magazine*, Spring 1993.

"Night is Black Saucer Eyes"(poem), *Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Assoc. Quarterly*, Spring 1993.

"Windows on a Wild Soul" (essay), *Journeys Magazine*, Fall 1992.

"Conserving Wildlife, an Interdisciplinary Middle School Curriculum," *Wildlife Rehabilitation Today*, April 1992.

"All Wildlife is In Danger, Not Just the En-dangered," *Journeys Magazine*, Spring 1992.

"Life Expectancy" and "Turning Darkness Into Light" (poems), *Journeys Magazine*, Spring 1992.

*Conserving Florida Wildlife, an Interdisciplinary Middle School Curriculum Guide*, Florida Advisory Council on Environmental Education, December 1991.

"Saving the Earth begins in our backyards," (article) *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 3, 1991.

"Going Wild With Writing," *Successful Practices: Whole Language Approaches to Teaching in Florida Classrooms*, Florida Writing Project at FSU / Florida Department of Education, 1991.

"Integrating Language Fluency," *Writing Sparks the Power to Learn*, Leon County Schools, 1989.

"Middle Schools Take a Walk on the Wild Side," *Magic Markings*, Florida Writing Project at FSU, May 1989.

"Wild Poetry," *Florida Game and Fish*, Florida Wildlife Federation, September 1989.

"On the Wild Side," *Big Bend Sierra Club*, July 1989.

## **DEGREES**

1991, M.S. English Education, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

1976, B.S. Childhood Education, Florida International University, Miami, Florida.

## **PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

1997: Academic Resource Center Teacher of the Year

1998: Leon Association for Science Teaching Middle School Teacher of the Year

2001: Academic Resource Center Teacher of the Year

2008: Florida Magazine Association "Charlie Award for Writing Excellence"

2009: Tallahassee Community College Annual Women's History Month Award

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

2008 Operation Filmmaker Educator Style, The Character & Heritage Institute

2007 Magazine Article Writing, FAMU

2007 Panhandle Habitat Series Classes, Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

1995 Gifted certificate endorsement classes

1991 Ecosystems of the Big Bend classes, FSU

1989 Florida Writing Project Summer Institute, Florida State University.

1986 Miami-Dade County Writing Project Summer Institute, University of Miami.

## **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION**

**State of Florida Department of Education**, Valid through: June 2011

Professional Certificate, DOE #: 294987

Subject Coverages: Elementary Education (grades 1-6), English (grades 6-12)

Professional Endorsement: Gifted

### **Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission**

Permit to Possess Wildlife for Exhibition or Public Sale, License Number: EPA 12260

### **Department of the Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife**

Special Purpose Possession Permit, License Number: MB085917-0

### **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

Wildlife Exhibition License, #17157

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF), Leon Association of Science Teachers (LAST), Community Classroom Consortium (CCC), Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (FWRA)

## **SPECIAL SKILLS**

Writer, articles and poetry; editor; desktop publisher; webmistress; photographer; filmmaker; wildlife caretaker and naturalist.

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request.