



# Florida SEE Grapevine

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## SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL MEETING SEPT 23

FLORIDA SEE will host their annual meeting on SEPT 23 from 10am-11:30am at the SIX MILE CYPRESS Slough Preserve in Fort Myers.

Please consider attending in person or virtually to hear more about:

- FL SEE Board of Directors nomination/approval
- Re-Launch of the ON-LINE FL SEE Certification application
- Assessor training
- State of tourism in SWFL
- Optional post meeting site visits:

CLICK for more info on Annual meeting!

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## SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: SAWFISH

*Jason Calleri & Pete Corradino*



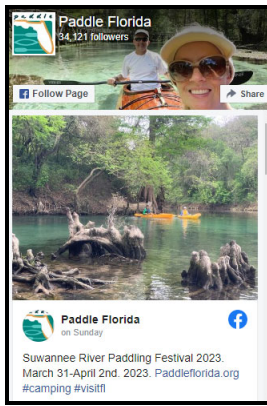
Sawfish are cartoonish looking fish that resemble a shark but with a saw for a nose also known as their rostrum.

The smalltooth sawfish are found in tropical and subtropical areas of the Atlantic Ocean including the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. They are mostly found in coastal marine and estuarine waters near mangroves. Individuals of the species have been found up to 18 feet long.

Their elongated rostrum has around 20-30 teeth on each side that are used for sensing, hunting, and defense. They are in the order Rajiformes which are flattened cartilaginous fishes related to sharks such as skates and rays.

Sawfish were hunted nearly to extinction in the late 1800's to the early 1900's. They were captured for their unusual appearance and their saw-like rostrums were used as trophies.

Today they are listed as critically endangered as their range has greatly reduced in size. Scientists estimate that the smalltooth sawfish population in the United



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*The Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism is a nonprofit educational organization established in 2000. It is a state-wide Certification/ Recognition Program which maintains a professional code of ecotourism ethics in order to encourage an awareness of and stewardship for Florida's natural and cultural history. For more info visit [FloridaSEE.org](http://FloridaSEE.org).*

States now equals less than 5% of the historical population in this country.

Sawfish are often seen on boat rides through the Everglades National Park with Everglades Day Safari. The boat captains for the National Park Service make a point to ensure that observing the sawfish does not disturb foraging or mating behavior and that guests understand the importance of protecting this unusual and endangered species.

***Thanks to Everglades Day Safari for contributing this article.***

## How to be a more Ethical Traveler

*Dr. Carolin Lusby*

Florida SEE director Dr. Carolin Lusby shares her recently released article on Ethical Travel. Here are the Key Points:

1. **Mass tourism has negative impacts on people and the planet.** Travelling has many potential benefits, but travel-as-usual comes with environmental, economic and social drawbacks.
2. **You can still enjoy the rewards of travel in a more ethical way.** Making thoughtful travel choices not only enhances your trips but could help encourage change in the industry.
3. **Select your destination with care.** Think twice about choosing the most crowded places. Seek accommodation that is locally owned and that has been recognised for its sustainable practices.
4. **Weigh your options for how to get there.** Flying is costly to the climate. Try to minimise your emissions from flights – or, better yet, take buses or trains, or carpool instead.

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