

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Robert M. Kobza

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Office:

South Florida Water Management District

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

(561) 686-8800

rkobza@sfwmd.gov

EDUCATION:

Florida International University, Miami, Florida, 33181, Biology Major, M.Sc. 2001

Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, 43403, Biology Major, B.Sc. 1998

Vermillion High School, Vermillion, Ohio, 44089, Diploma 1994

WORK EXPERIENCE:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST II (Fish and Wildlife Ecology)

- Serve as a wildlife biologist writing, planning, administering, conducting and coordinating fishery and wildlife research projects throughout the Everglades ecosystem. Experienced working in a team environment on complex environmental issues.
- Prepare multi-agency reports and peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts used for policy development and threatened or endangered species resource management.
- Collaborate with multi-agency working groups in comprehensive natural resource management initiatives (i.e. FWS, USGS, ACoE, DOI). Serve as the agencies non-native fish species expert.
- Provide expert technological services regarding information technology (computer network expert), data analysis and presentation (i.e. SAS v9.1, Excel, Sigmaplot), as well as spatial data collection and ArcGIS v9.0 mapping products (i.e. Habitat Suitability Models and Maps).
- Conduct aerial and ground-based telemetry tracking of wildlife (i.e. threatened White Ibis movement); monthly helicopter-based species surveys (i.e. endangered species nest and flock counts); backpack and boat-mounted electrofishing; automated water quality instrumentation programming and deployment (i.e. Hydrolab) and other fish, wildlife and environmental sampling.
- Serve as a scientific field logistics coordinator, field data collection and database manager, DOI certified motorboat operator and airboat training instructor.
- Write, plan, implement and manage university and agency contracts, budgets and purchase orders for wildlife research studies.
- Provide training and oversight to technical or volunteer staff as needed.
- Provide public information presentations and participate in education and community outreach on wildlife issues. Coordinate volunteers on field excursions.

50+ hours per week

South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Supervisor: Mark Cook, Ph.D., mcook@sfwmd.gov, (561) 686-8800 x4539. Contact: Yes

September 2004 – Current

OWNER (Cloud Nine Computer Services)

- Provide high-quality information technology solutions for companies and home users.
- Specializing in installation of server systems, workstation administration, wireless networking, data backup, hardware upgrades, website SEO and creation and technical troubleshooting.

10 hours per week – 7 years of business

Self-employed, 11280 SW Barton Way, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987

September 2005 – Current

BIOLOGY INSTRUCTOR

- Lectured two courses in general and advanced biology, and one laboratory section.
- Responsibility for condensed curriculum that consists of 32 contact hours per week.
- Served student body by academic advising and writing recommendations.

38 hours per week

Keiser University, 1500 West Commercial Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Dean of Academics, (954) 776-4456

February 2004 – September 2004

BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN (Fish Ecology) (series GS-0404-07)

- Served as a biological technician conducting freshwater fish restoration studies in Everglades National Park; exotic fish population monitoring.
- Conducted sampling of wetland fish communities in wilderness using a variety of standard techniques, including electrofishing and trap netting and developing new techniques. Access to wilderness was by foot navigation, 4x4 truck and float helicopter.
- Conducted surgical implantation and aerial telemetry tracking of predatory fishes throughout the ENP wetlands.
- Assisted describing a new species of troglobitic crayfish.
- Conducted data management, storage and analysis for reporting.
- Conducted distribution survey of threatened tropical peripheral fishes on National Park land in St. John, USVI.
- Assisted in project development and reporting to agency stakeholders and collaborators (DOI, FWS, SFWMD, EPA).
- Received DOI Aircraft Certification and MOCC Boating Certification.
- Received training on automated water quality instrumentation (i.e. Hydrolab) and electrofishing.

50+ hours per week

United States Geological Survey, SESC, 2201 NW 40 Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32605

Dr. William F. Loftus, arc_wfl@bellsouth.net, (352) 378-8181

June 2002 – February 2004

FACULTY (BIOLOGY)

- Instructed general biology to 7 sections, 150 students.
- Invited to develop of advanced placement environmental science program.
- Developed use of technology in the classroom.

40 hours per week

Felix Varela Senior High, 15255 SW 96th St, Miami, FL 33196

Dean of Science Education, (305) 752-7900

October 2001 – June 2002

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

- Conducted data analysis and ecological field research.
- Produced a peer-reviewed scientific manuscript concerning hydrological restoration of Everglades karstic wetlands wildlife communities.

40 hours per week

Aquatic ecology laboratory, FIU, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33199

Dr. Joel C. Trexler, (305) 348-1966

August 2001 – September 2001

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Fish & Primate Conservation Research, Uganda, Africa.

- Traveled to Uganda, assisted with fish and primate conservation research.
- Assisted in field collections of fishes at Lake Nabugabo and primate data from within Kibale National Forest.

40 hours per week

University of Florida, Department of Zoology, Gainesville, FL 32611

Dr. Lauren J. Chapman, (514) 398-6431

June 2001 – August 2001

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Conducted wildlife field research throughout the Everglades National Park wilderness by airboat, helicopter and 4x4 vehicles.
- Collected population and community data about aquatic flora and fauna for ecosystem restoration progress reporting.
- Assisted in water quality data collection and analysis.
- Assisted in preparation of reports and training staff. Supervised one temporary field biologist.

20 hours per week

Aquatic ecology laboratory, FIU, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33199

Dr. Joel C. Trexler, (305) 348-1966

December 1998 – June 2001

TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Conducted 3 undergraduate laboratory courses in human biology.
- Utilized a variety of information technology resources in the classroom.

20 hours per week

Florida International University, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33199

Dr. Joel C. Trexler, (305) 348-1966

August 1998 – December 1998

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

- Conducted field sampling from restored wetlands in Crane Creek National Wildlife Refuge.
- Conducted aquatic insect survey of northwest Ohio streams; processed and analyzed data.

5 hours per week

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, OH

Dr. B.J. Armitage (Retired)

December 1997 – August 1998

LABORATORY ASSISTANT

- Designed and conducted impact study of exotic zebra mussel invasion into freshwater estuary.
- Conducted field data collection, analytical water quality analysis, ecological data analysis and produced the technical report to ODNR.

20 hours per week

NOAA Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, Huron, OH

Dr. David Klarer, david.klarer@dnr.state.oh.us, (419) 433-4601

May 1996 – August 1998

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

- Conducted comprehensive aquatic insect survey of the NOAA Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- Collected field samples, completed taxonomic identifications and procured data.
- Published technical paper to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

10 hours per week

Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

Dr. Marty Harvill, mharvill@muw.edu, 662-329-7106

June 1997 – May 1998

SUPERVISOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY II

- Supervised 20 computer help desk employees across 5 university computer labs.
- Conducted network and computer infrastructure repairs, upgrades and maintenance.
- Received training in computer facility and personnel management.

25 hours per week

Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

Patricia Douglas, IT Director (Retired)

September 1996 – May 1998

LABORATORY ASSISTANT

- Conducted laboratory inventory and serviced wildlife and aquatic sampling equipment.
- Installed, networked and maintained the computer laboratory.
- Assisted with public relations and general communications with the mainland.

20 hours per week

F-T Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University, Put-In-Bay, OH

Mr. John R. Hageman, hageman.2@osu.edu, (419) 285-1800

June 1996 – August 1996

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE TECHNICIAN

- Collected and processed environmental water samples according to EPA QA/QC procedures.
- Maintained onsite water and wastewater treatment systems.

35 hours per week

Eastwood Environmental, Inc., Huron, OH

Derrick Shinault

May 1994 – June 1995

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:

JOB-RELATED TRAINING & CERTIFICATES

- ESRI ArcMap Geographic Information Systems Training Course (3/10)
- SFWMD Ethics and Data Integrity training (5/10)
- American Red Cross CPR/AED - Adult Certification (11/09)
- SFWMD/FEMA Emergency Operations Center Overview Course (5/07)
- SFWMD Airboat Operator and Instructor Certification (11/05)
- National Safety Council 4-hour Defensive Driving Course (Bi-Annual, starting 1/05)
- US-DOI, MOCC - Motorboat Operator Certification Course (9/02)
- US-DOI, Office of Aircraft Services, Basic Aviation Safety Course (7/02)
- US-DOI, SFWMD Telemetry and Wildlife Tracking training
- US-DOI, SFWMD Water Quality Instrumentation training
- SFWMD Wading Bird Habitat Suitability Modeling and Mapping training
- PADI Advanced Open Water Diver certification (6/05)
- SFWMD field structure construction and carpentry training

JOB-RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND SOCIETIES

- LILA/Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Research Steering Committee
- American Fisheries Society (AFS) Member
- Florida Chapter, AFS, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor
- The Wildlife Society Member
- SFWMD Outreach and Education Service

JOB-RELATED HONORS, AWARDS, AND SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- SFWMD Team of the Month Award, EPA Rulemaking, September 2010
- South Florida Environmental Report Contribution Award, 2006-2010
- SFWMD Instant Cash Award and Recognition for Outstanding Performance, 2009
- Graduate Student Association Conference Award, FIU, 2000 & 2001.
- Tropical Biology Travel Award, FIU, 2000 & 2001.
- Deans Travel Grant, FIU, 2000.
- Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Travel Grant, 2000.
- F-T. Stone Laboratory Scholarship, Polish Fisherman's Club, 1996.
- The Leon and Susan Cross Book Scholarship, BGSU, 1995.

JOB-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Cook, M.I. and **M. Kobza** (Eds.). 2010. South Florida Wading Bird Report, Volume 16. South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, Florida.

Schofield, P.J.; W.F. Loftus; **R.M. Kobza**; M.I. Cook, and D.H. Slone. 2010. Tolerance of nonindigenous cichlid fishes (*Cichlasoma urophthalmus*, *Hemichromis letourneuxi*) to low temperature: laboratory and field experiments in south Florida. Biological Invasions. DOI: 10.1007/s10530-009-9654-6. [\[Link\]](#)

Cook, M., N. Dorn, R. Shuford and **R.M. Kobza**. 2010. Wildlife Ecology. Chapter 6: Ecology of the Everglades Protection Area. Sklar, F., T. Dreschel and K. Warren, eds. In: 2010 South Florida Environmental Report – Volume I. South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL.

Cook, M., D. Gawlik, **M. Kobza**, S. Lantz, W. Loftus, and P. Schofield. 2009. Wildlife Ecology. Chapter 6: Ecology of the Everglades Protection Area. Sklar, F., T. Dreschel and K. Warren, eds. In: 2010 South Florida Environmental Report – Volume I. South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL.

Cook, M.I. and **M. Kobza** (Eds.). 2009. South Florida Wading Bird Report, Volume 15. South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, Florida.

Cook, M.I. and **M. Kobza** (Eds.). 2008. South Florida Wading Bird Report, Volume 14. South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, Florida.

- Ferriter, A., Doren, B., Thayer, D., Miller, B., Pernas, T., Hardin, S., Lane, J., **Kobza, M.**, Schmitz, D., Bodle, M., Toth, L, Rodgers, L., Pratts, P., Snow, S. and Goodyear, C. 2008. South Florida Environmental Report: Chapter 9—The Status of Nonindigenous Species in the South Florida Environment, South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL, USA.
- Sklar, F., P. Balci, E. Cline, M. Cook, B. Cooper, C. Coronado, C. Edelstein, M. Ferree, C. Fitz, M.A. Furedi, B. Garrett, D. Gawlik, B. Gu, S. Hagerthey, **M. Kobza**, S. Miao, S. Newman, B. Orem, J. Palmer, K. Rutchey, E. Sindhoj, C. Thomas, J. Volin and N. Wang. 2007. Chapter 6: Ecology of the Everglades Protection Area. In: 2007 South Florida Environmental Report – Volume I. South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL.
- Sklar, F., M. Cook, E. Call, R. Shuford, **M. Kobza**, R. Johnson, S. Miao, M. Korvela, C. Coronado, L. Bauman, J. Leeds, B. Garrett, J. Newman, E. Cline, S. Newman, K. Rutchey and C. McVoy. 2006. Chapter 6: Ecology of the Everglades Protection Area. In: 2006 South Florida Environmental Report Volume I. South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL.
- Kobza, R. M.**, J. C. Trexler, W. F. Loftus, and S. A. Perry. 2004. Community structure of fishes inhabiting aquatic refuges in a threatened karstic wetland and its implication for ecosystem management. *Biological Conservation*, 116:153-165 [\[Link\]](#)
- Magoulick D.D. & **Kobza R.M.** 2003. The role of refugia for fishes during drought: a review and synthesis. *Freshwater Biology*, 48, 1186–1198. [\[Link\]](#)
- Trexler, J. C., W. F. Loftus, F. Jordan, J. Lorenz, J. Chick, and **R. M. Kobza**. 2001. Empirical assessment of fish introductions in a subtropical wetland: an evaluation of contrasting views. *Biological Invasions* 2:265-277. [\[Link\]](#)
- Kobza, R. M.** and M. L. Harvill. 2000. Aquatic Insects of Old Woman Creek Estuary: Preliminary Taxonomic Listing of Species. Research report submitted to Ohio Dept. Natural Resources, Div. Natural Areas and Preserves, Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve, Huron, OH. 17 pp.
- Kobza, R. M.** 1997. A Study of Zebra Mussel Influx in the Old Woman Creek Estuarine Research Reserve, Huron County, Ohio. Bowling Green State University, Biology Report, Bowling Green, OH. 7 pp.

JOB-RELATED PRESENTATIONS

- The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Miami, 2008: Oral presentation, Low temperature tolerance of two non-native fish species in south Florida (African Jewelfish & Mayan Cichlid): Laboratory and field experiments.
- The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Altoona, FL, 2006: Oral presentation, Nonindigenous fish in the central Everglades: A preliminary survey.
- American Society of Ichthyology and Herpetology, Tampa, FL, 2005: Oral presentation, Nonindigenous fish in the Everglades: Potential ecological impacts.
- Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Science Conference, Palm Harbor, FL, 2003: Oral presentation, The Role of Seasonal Hydrology in the Dynamics of Fish Communities Inhabiting Karstic Refuges of the Florida Everglades.
- The Role of Drought in Aquatic Ecosystems Symposium, Albury, VIC, Australia, 2001: Oral presentation, The Effect of Drought on Everglades Fish Communities.
- Mississippi Academy of Science, Tupelo, MS, 2001: Contributed data and poster preparation about Dragonfly Feeding Behavior.
- Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Science Conference, Naples, FL, 2000: Oral presentation, Community Dynamics of Fishes in a Threatened Karstic Habitat.
- Coalition for Excellence in Tropical Biology Symposium, Miami, FL, 2000: Oral presentation, Survival of Wetlands Fish Communities in Adverse Conditions.
- Ecological Society of America, Snowbird, UT, 2000: Oral Presentation, The Community Dynamics of Fishes in Hydrological Refuges of the Eastern Everglades.
- Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Withalocochi, FL, 2000: Oral Presentation, The Community Dynamics of Fishes Surviving Dry Seasons in Karstic Pools.

REFERENCES:

Mark I. Cook, Ph.D. – CURRENT SUPERVISOR
South Florida Water Management District
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Phone Number: (561) 686-8800 x4539
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South Florida Water Management District
Lead Environmental Scientist
Phone Number: (561) 682-6608
Email: snewan@sfwmd.gov

Joel Trexler, Ph.D.
Florida International University
Professor
Phone Number: (305) 348-1966
trexlerj@fiu.edu

Eric Cline
South Florida Water Management District
Site Manager, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Phone Number: (561) 676-1971
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Botanist
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