

# FAST FACTS

- Age 42
- She grew up in rural Missouri playing in the woods and streams.
- She earned a bachelor's in biology, a master's in organic chemistry and a Ph.D. in environmental toxicology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 2006.
- She is married to Mike Baranski, an avian ecologist at the South Florida Water Management District; the couple has three children, including twin girls.
- To learn about volunteer opportunities at the refuge, call 561-732-3684.

## How does Rebekah's work help the Everglades?



**DONATO SURRATT**  
ECOLOGIST,  
LOXAHATCHEE  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE  
REFUGE

Rebekah has done a wonderful job in managing our water-quality monitoring network. She fought to keep funding for the program once the appropriation ran out. She was pivotal in finding new sources of revenue. She keeps us going in the right direction.



**MIKE BARANSKI**  
HUSBAND AND  
AVIAN ECOLOGIST

Rebekah is one of the most hard-working and dedicated biologists I've known. She has a high standard, a great work ethic and a lot of integrity. She's awesome at what she does and an unbelievable asset for the Everglades restorations in general and Loxahatchee in particular.

# ON THE SPOT

## REBEKAH GIBBLE

SENIOR WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST,  
A.R.M. LOXAHATCHEE  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

### What is your role with the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge?

I work closely with the Everglades Program Team and manage a complex and highly politicized water quality monitoring program, oversee a multimillion dollar per year invasive exotic species control program, and coordinate technical teams that make ecological recommendations for water management throughout the system.

### How did you become interested in your field?

I spent a lot of time outdoors as a child and have a natural love for wildlife and the outdoors. I learned in a zoology class about widespread amphibian population declines and the implications for biodiversity and ecological health of the planet. I was hooked and knew I wanted to help the amphibians. For my dissertation, I researched the likely causes of amphibian population declines.

### What are some of the most pressing issues you face?

The most pressing issues are making sure the water quality is good enough to support native species and controlling invasive exotic plant species. We also have issues with exotic animals, such as Burmese pythons, which we don't have enough resources to address.

### What do you want people to know about the Everglades?

I wish that everyone understood the functions and services the Everglades provide and how those services make all of our lives better.

### What can the average person do?

Educate yourself on the impacts of your actions and take steps to minimize these actions. For example, recycling is an easy, yet significant, conservation measure that anyone can do. Support businesses that use environmentally responsible packaging, follow water restrictions, minimize energy use, use native plants for landscaping and get involved.

### What do you do for fun and relaxation when you're not working?

I love hiking, biking, camping, snorkeling, 'looking for herps,'



(looking under logs and in vegetation for reptiles and amphibians) and anything outside.

### What do you like/dislike most about your job?

I am one of the luckiest people in the world to have the chance to work in the Everglades.

The best part of my job is that I get to work in the Everglades and see stuff that few people get to see. The thing I dislike the

most about my job is not always having the resources that we need to do the right thing.

### What are your goals for the upcoming year?

To do as much as I can to preserve and protect the refuge and the Everglades as well as to educate as many people as possible about the Everglades and all they do for us.