

# Introduction to the Third Edition of the *Florida Collecting Guide*

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**T**he state of Florida, in addition to being blessed with an incredible and diverse array of fauna and flora, is fortunate to be the home of a group of active fish hobbyists and collectors who, over the years, amassed a vast store of practical knowledge of its aquatic resources. A rudimentary list of collecting sites was originally assembled by Belgium hobbyist and part-time Florida resident Henri DeBruyn in the early 1990s. In the late 1990s, several hobbyists in the Tampa Bay area of Florida began collecting on a regular basis, visiting Henri's sites and discovering new ones.

As time went on, the collecting site list grew and, with the addition of GPS data, became more accurate and useful. In 2000, the group organized under the NANFA Outreach Program as the Central Florida Region and met regularly as

part of the Suncoast Killifish Society. As part of discussions about promoting NANFA and awareness of Florida native fishes, the idea arose to document our store of collecting data and experience into a form that would be useful to anyone wishing to collect native fishes in Florida. We initially produced a loose leaf binder that included a list of collecting sites, 60+ photographs from our members, a paper on local regulations and a few other items of interest.

Originally intended only for limited local use, we became intrigued by the potential of the publication to generate funds for NANFA, and after some redesign we believed we had a product that could be sold. The first edition of the *Florida Collecting Guide* was born. We also decided that from the first book sold, all profits would be donated to the NANFA general fund.

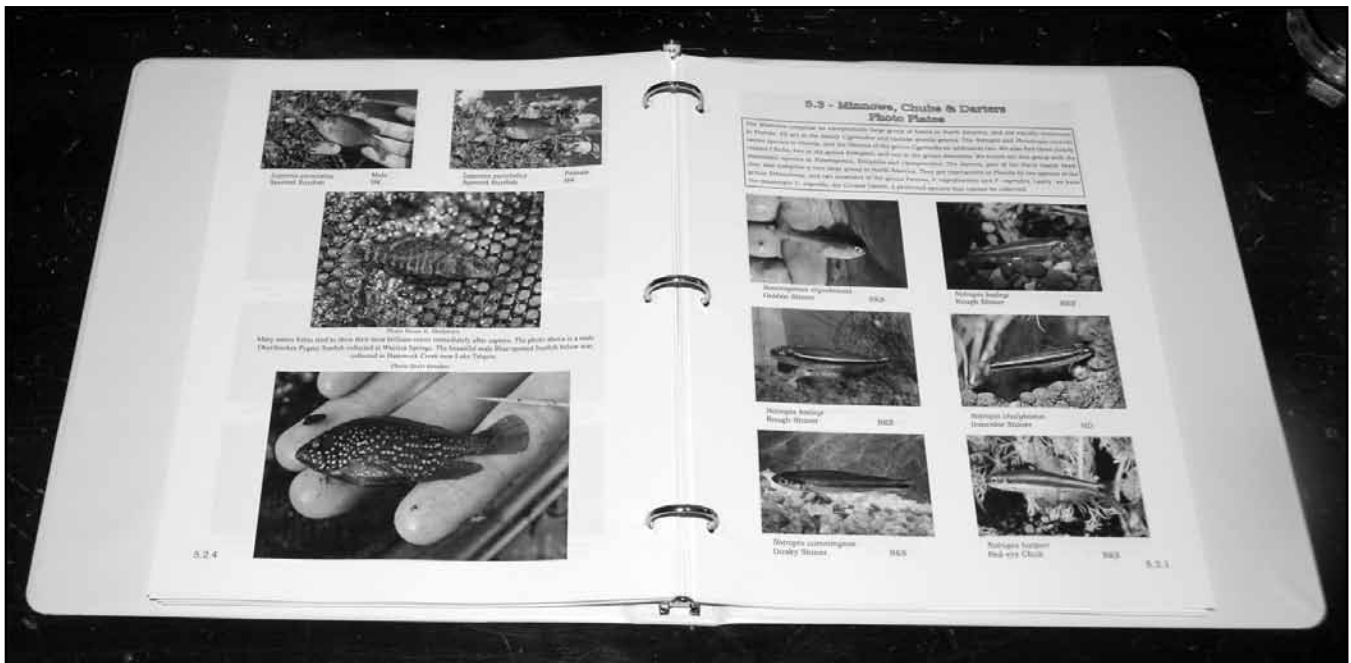


Fig. 1.

A look inside one of the photo spreads in the *Florida Collecting Guide*.

Site No.	Map #	Location	N Lat. (+)	W Lon. (-)	Water Conditions			Species Collected
					pH	pp m/mS	T (F)	
1	26	Mystic River Boat Ramp. Route 29, south of McDavid.	31.8555	87.3117				<i>E. sp. (zonatum or okefenokee, Es. americanus, F. blairae, F. olivaceus, Shiner sp.</i>
2	26	Canney Creek/Lake Miccosukee. SR10/US90 2 miles east of the Leon County line.	31.5345	83.9340				<i>F. chrysotus, G. holbrooki, H. formosa, Lept. ommata, Misc. Sunfish, Unidentified Darters</i>
3	26	Fine Barren Creek at County Rd. 4, west of Century.	30.9668	87.3314	5.4	40	65	<i>Ch. gulosus, Es. americanus, Eth. colorosum, Eth. edwini, F. olivaceus, G. holbrooki, Ic. Gagei, Lep. marginatus, Lep. punctatus, N. harperi, N. hypselopterus, Not. funebris, P. nigrofasciatum</i>
4	26	Stone Lake, CR4, approx. 2 miles west of Century	30.9667	87.2919				Flooded, no collections. Appears to be a productive site.
5	26	Beaverdam Creek – SR 4, west of Highway 29 (next major creek crossing to the west of Canoe Creek). Medium size creek, muddy bottom, slow flow. Steep side banks somewhat treacherous, fish the shore side.	30.9653	87.4472				<i>E. zonatum, F. olivaceus, G. holbrooki, Lep. punctatus.</i>

Site # is the reference on the fold out maps. (See below)

Details and in many cases directions to the collecting site

Refers to the site's location on DeLorme's Gazetteer for Florida

Latitude and longitude, each one verified for accuracy. Presented in latitude order from North to South

A few sites, not many, have water data.

An alphabetical listing by genera, then species of every fish species caught at the site.

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Fig. 2.

A sample from the more than 20 pages and 190+ entries of collecting site data.

The first edition was launched at the Year 2000 American Killifish Association Convention in Tampa. Several dozen books sold, and additional sales followed over the next few years through *American Currents* and the NANFA website.

Encouraged by the success of the first edition, the second issue was issued a few years later. This edition not only addressed some shortcomings of the first, but also added a significant amount of new information. It was divided into logical subsections, each devoted to specific subjects with the intent to only issue updates in the future. Forty additional fish photos were included and several new sections were introduced.

There was a section on aquarium-friendly collectible plants supported by 29 color photos, and a collectible native invertebrate section with an additional nine photos. The site location data was expanded to 81 sites, and updated to include more species details. A new section tabulated maintenance and spawning data for many species, and another provided general tips about the collecting process. Lastly, a new section on general species and habitat preferences was added.

Once again, sales were very good for such a limited subject publication. However, within a short time additional ideas surfaced, and we realized that certain shortfalls and omissions

would need to be addressed if the publication were to be made fundamentally complete. We realized that the goal of requiring only periodic updates to remain current could not be reached with this edition without a major rewrite and expansion.

Five years later we have the results of that labor — the third edition (Fig. 1). This edition represents not only a significant expansion of the resources introduced in the second edition, but introduces additional resources that essentially completes the presentation and reaches the goal of an easily update-able reference that will remain both relevant and current.

The following major changes were made in the third edition:

- More native fish photographs: This issue upgrades several photos and adds a substantial number of new ones from additional photographers, bringing the total to over 170. In addition, the layout of the photo pages was standardized.
- The section on aquarium-friendly native plants, introduced in the second edition, has been greatly expanded,

Genus	Dormitator	Elasoma	Elasoma	Elasoma	En.	En.	En.	Ericymba	Etheostoma	Etheostoma
Species	maculatus	evergladei	okefenokee	zonatum	chaetodon	gloriosus	obesus	buccata	colorosum	davisoni
Common Name	Fat Sleeper	Everglades Pygmy Sunfish	Okefenokee Pygmy Sunfish	Banded Pygmy Sunfish	Black Sunfish	Bluespotted Sunfish	Banded Sunfish	Silverejaw Minnow	Coastal Darter	Choctawatee Darter
N				30.9653				30.9561	30.9668	
W				87.4472				87.3478	87.3314	
N									30.9625	
W									87.4667	
N									30.9561	
W									87.3478	
N									30.9556	
W									87.3483	
N									30.9668	
W									87.3314	
Genus	Ericymba	Etheostoma	Etheostoma							
Species	buccata	colorosum	davisoni							
Common Name	Silverejaw Minnow	Coastal Plains Darter	Choctawatee Darter							
N(+)	30.9561	30.9668								
W(-)	87.3478	87.3314								
N(+)		30.9625								
W(-)		87.4667								
N(+)		30.9561								
W(-)		87.3478								
N(+)		30.9556								
W(-)		87.3483								
N(+)		30.9668								
W(-)		87.3314								

## The Species Summary:

Each species collected is presented in Genus/ species alphabetical order in a summary that lists every location where that species was found, again in latitude/ Longitude – North to South order.

Interested in a particular species ? Look it up on this summary, and every site will be listed. Select a location, note the latitude, then look in the latitude column on the site summary and find the exact location.

Species Collected										
<i>E. sp. (zonatum okefenokee, Es. americanus, F. blairae, F. olivaceus, Shiner sp.</i>										
<i>F. chrysotus, G. holbrooki, H. formosa, Lept. ommata, Misc. Sunfish, Unidentified Darters</i>										
<i>Ch. gulosus, Eth. colorosum, Eth. edwini, Es. americanus, F. olivaceus, G. holbrooki, Ic. Gagei, Lep. marginatus, Lep. punctatus, N. harperi, N. hypselopterus, Not. funebris, P. nigrofasciatus</i>										
Flooded, no collections. Appears to be a productive site.										
<i>E. zonatum, F. olivaceus, G. holbrooki, Lep. punctatus.</i>										
Flooded, no collections. Appears to be a productive site.										
<i>Am. ariommus, Ap. sayanus, Eth. colorosum, Eth. edwini, F. olivaceus, Lep. maculatus, N. maculatus, O. maculatus, N. cinnamomeus, N. cinnamomeus</i>										
Genus	Dormitator	Elasoma	Elasoma	Elasoma	En.	En.	En.	Ericymba	Etheostoma	Etheostoma
Species	maculatus	evergladei	okefenokee	zonatum	chaetodon	gloriosus	obesus	buccata	colorosum	davisoni
Common Name	Fat Sleeper	Everglades Pygmy Sunfish	Okefenokee Pygmy Sunfish	Banded Pygmy Sunfish	Black Sunfish	Bluespotted Sunfish	Banded Sunfish	Silverejaw Minnow	Coastal Plains Darter	Choctawatee Darter
N				30.9653				30.9561	30.9668	
W				87.4472				87.3478	87.3314	
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W									87.3478	
N									30.9556	
W									87.3483	
N									30.9668	
W									87.3314	
N										
W										
N										

Fig. 3.

A sample from the more than 1,000 entries of specific species location data.

## Index (Sample)

*Acantharchus*, habitat-collecting review, 4.1.1  
*Acantharchus, pomotis*, mud sunfish, 4.3.1, 4.4.1  
*Acipenser, brevirostrum*, shortnose Sturgeon,  
 2.1/2.1.1, 4.2  
*Acipenser, oxyrinchus*, Atlantic sturgeon,  
 2.1/2.1.1, 4.2  
*Adinia*, habitat review, 4.1.1  
*Adinia xenica*, diamond killifish 2.6, 4.3.1, 4.4.1,  
 4.4.1  
*Aequidens pulcher*, blue Acara, Exotic, 4.5.2  
*aestivalis, Alosa*, 4.2  
 african jewelfish, Exotic, 4.5.1  
 Alafia River drainage, 4.7.1  
 Alligator weed, 6.1.3/6.1.4  
*albus, Monopterus*, Exotic, 4.5.1  
*Alosa aestivalis*, blueback Herring, 4.2  
*Alosa mediocris*, hickory shad, 4.2  
*Alosa sapidissima*, American shad, 4.2

Fig. 4.

A sample from the fully cross-referenced index.

with additional text and color photos, bringing the total number of plant photos to 71.

- Many other color photographs have been added to augment text and to illustrate methods and practices. However, the section on aquarium-suitable native invertebrates that was introduced in the second edition has been dropped from this edition in favor of providing a more comprehensive focus on the sections dealing with fish and plants.
- Collecting Site Location Data: The number of collecting sites has more than doubled and all have latitude and longitude data that has been individually verified for accuracy. In addition, each location carries a *Florida Gazetteer* map reference and some include water quality information as well. The species collected at each site are listed in genus-species order, using an abbreviation table.
- Other sections from the second edition that have been retained and, in most cases, expanded include collecting tips and methods, habitat review by genus, and species maintenance and spawning information.

- In a major new section, we've added a species cross-reference that lists every species collected and tabulates the latitude and longitude data for every collection site at which the species was found. This data set has more than 1,000 entries, and there will be many more to come in future updates.

Other new information added to the third edition includes a short review of Florida's water resources, advice on locating potential collecting sites and, most importantly, identification of micro-habitats and what fishes are likely to be among them. It is this section that provides new collectors with critical information that will greatly increase their chances of successfully collecting our native fishes. For those interested in exotics, a new section reviews exotic fish populations in Florida, their status and the applicable regulations. We also review the general areas in which they are found, but no specific locations are given except for those we have actually collected. See "Updates" below for additional information on exotics.

To provide the fundamental structure missing in past editions, the table of contents has been rewritten, a fully cross-referenced index with more than 2,000 entries has been added, as well as cited references, recommended readings and a list of useful web pages. The graphic design has been redone to appeal to a broader audience including the institutional community and more technically oriented entities. We trust that we have successfully achieved that without materially altering the local and personal feel of the publication.

### Updates

There are no plans to print full books beyond this edition. Rather, we believe that with this edition we will be able to provide periodic updates as new collections are made, new photos obtained and new information is developed. And although updates are always problematical, the reorganization that the third edition has undergone should minimize the pages that will need to be replaced by any future updates. A major initiative of the next update will be to address the shortfall in collecting sites from southern and southeastern Florida, where exotics abound.

Some sample figures will give the reader a better feel for the third edition.

- Figure 2 is a sample from the more than 20 pages and

...cont. on p. 24.

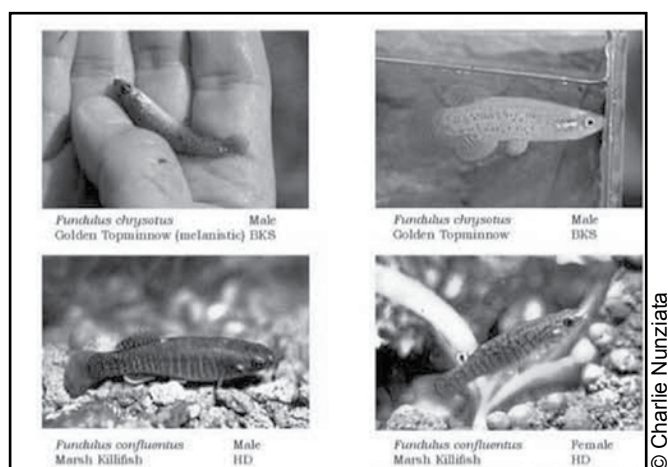


Fig. 5.

A sample from a fish photo page.

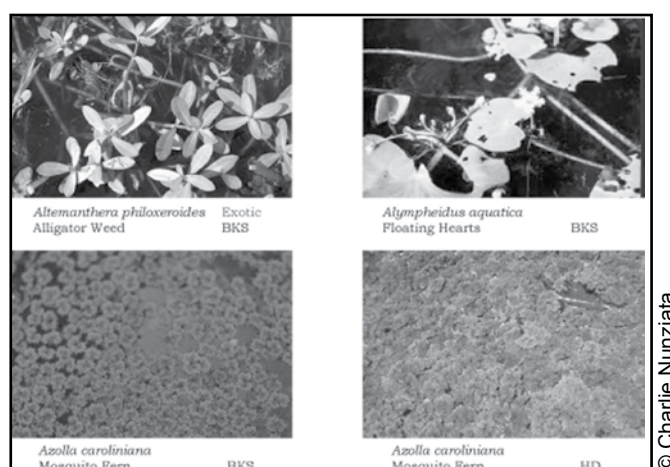


Fig. 6.

A sample from a plant photo page.

### Florida Collecting Guide...cont. from p. 19.

- 190+ entries of collecting site data.
- Figure 3 is a sample from the more than 1,000 entries of specific species location data.
- Figure 4 is a sample from the fully cross-referenced Index.

Partial samples from a fish photo (Fig. 5) and plant photo page (Fig. 6) are also shown, as well as a photo of the finished book (Color plate 2, p. 20) and fold-out maps (Color plate 3,

p. 20).

We hope the reader finds this publication an interesting and appropriate addition to his or her library. More importantly, we hope we have encouraged you to experience the natural treasures that is Florida and share with us the beauty and wonder of this special place.

Price: \$35 + shipping and handling. Postage costs are dependent on Zip code. Call or contact before ordering to get your postage and packing costs. For more details, please see the ad below. Thanks! 🐟

### The Central Florida Regional Group is proud to announce the release of the **Third Edition of the *Florida Collecting Guide***

Three years in the making: 136 pages, 8½" x 11", high-quality paper in a 3-ring display binder.

More color photographs: 172 fish and 71 plant photos and more than two dozen site photos.

190+ collecting sites described, latitude/longitude data, species list, fold-out maps.

Every species collected and tabulated by location, more than 1,000 entries.

Review of Florida's water resources and regulations. How-to collecting techniques.

"Where to find them" habitat review by genus, and identification of micro-habitats.

Species maintenance and spawning. Articles, exotics review, identification key.

A fully cross-referenced index and much more.

All profits are donated to NANFA. \$35 + S & H. PayPal, check or money order accepted.

A detailed introduction to the guide in PDF format is available upon request.

Contact Charlie Nunziata at: [epiplaty@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:epiplaty@tampabay.rr.com) or by phone at: (727) 393-3757.

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