



Roger Hammer is a professional naturalist and survivalist instructor for the Discovery Channel's reality television show *Naked and Afraid*. He grew up in Cocoa Beach and served in the US Army from 1965 to 1968 as a tank gunner. He spent thirty-three years as the manager of the 120-acre Castellow Hammock Nature Center for the Miami-Dade County Parks Department. He received the first Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award presented by the Florida Native Plant Society in 1982, and Tropical Audubon Society honored him with the prestigious Charles Brookfield Medal in 1996. In 2003 he received the Green Palmetto Award in Education from the Florida Native Plant Society. He has given keynote speeches at Florida Native Plant Society state conferences, the 2008 World Orchid Conference, and the 2016 Florida Wildflower Foundation symposium. In 2012 he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Florida International University and a lifetime achievement award from the Florida Native Plant Society, Tropical Audubon Society, and the North American Butterfly Association.

In 1979 Roger discovered a population of Florida atalas on Virginia Key – a butterfly reported as "presumed extinct" in 1965. Roger reared larvae over a period of five years and released them in Broward and Miami-Dade County preserves, including Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The discovery was made public by National Geographic in 1985. Roger has also discovered two species of native orchids that were new to the flora of Florida, and is credited with discovering the first pair of Bahama woodstar hummingbirds in North America.

Roger is an avid long-distance solo canoeist, kayak-fishing enthusiast, wildflower photographer, and connoisseur of expensive rums. He is the author of *Florida Keys Wildflowers*, *Everglades Wildflowers*, *Central Florida Wildflowers*, *Exploring Everglades National Park and the Surrounding Area*, and *Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies in Tropical Florida*. A new book titled *Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers* will be released in April 2018. He lives with his wife, Michelle, in Homestead, Florida.