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Area writers explore Florida history and the natural world

BY **KATHLEEN LAUFENBERG** • DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER • JANUARY 3, 2010

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Some Tallahassee readers may remember Hutto's first book, "Illumination in the Flatwoods" about raising a brood of wild turkeys.

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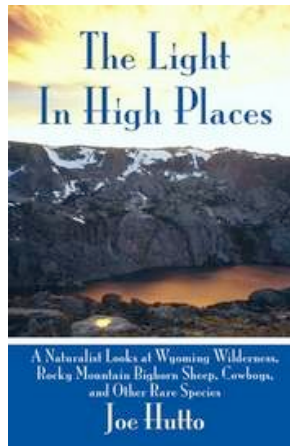
n **Robert W. Beard**, a retired Florida State University philosophy professor, has written "**The Runaway**" (\$19.95, Xlibris) about what happens when a young runaway boy meets up with a 50-something loner boat captain. It opens; "A commotion suddenly erupted, the unmistakable beat of running footsteps, obscenities unleashed. Since curiosity is a demanding mistress, I bounded the four steps to the cockpit sole, and another two to the aft deck."

Nearly 11 years ago, Beard built a boat and spent 10 months sailing, with his wife and two young boys, throughout the Caribbean. He wrote this book for one of those boys; after the sailing trip, the boy got into trouble of the criminal variety, and the story was intended to keep his spirits up.

• Of interest to some Tallahassee readers — and to bee lovers everywhere — is **Reese Halter's "The Incomparable Honeybee"** (\$16.95, Rocky Mountain Books) a slim, 112-page pocket-book



Naturalist Joe Hutto writes about living in Wyoming. (Special to the Democrat)



(Special to the Democrat)

work that traces how our now threatened honeybees have shaped our planet. It begins: "This is a story about the most important pollinators on Earth — the remarkable bees. I cannot tell the bees' story in isolation, though, as it interweaves with those of humans and many ecological systems on our planet. The interrelant relationships these little creatures maintain are cause for great celebration and, currently, great concern."

Halter is a conservation biologist and founder of the Global Forest Science institute.



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








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