

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

Gazetteer

FALL 2018

Go out and find some frogs!
Explore: **Alachua Outdoors** -
ACT's new *free* mobile app
for county-wide park, preserve,
and trail info.

BARKING TREE FROG
Hyla gratiosa



FALL 2018 - SPRING 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

22 Sandhill Stage: Passerine & Rachel Grubb
Prairie Creek Lodge

30 ACT's 30th on the 30th Anniversary Celebration
Prairie Creek Lodge

OCTOBER

6 ACT & Alachua Audubon Fall Bird Walk
Santa Fe River Preserve

7 Sandhill Stage: Daniel Boling & Lauren Heintz
Prairie Creek Lodge

8 Paddle On Tusawilla Preserve
Tusawilla Preserve

10 Coyotes In Florida & Keeping Your Pet Safe
Prairie Creek Lodge

13 Advanced Directives Workshop
Prairie Creek Lodge

18 ACT @ Third Thursday On Main Street In Alachua
Downtown Alachua

25 Protecting Nesting Sea Turtle Habitat
Prairie Creek Lodge

27 Pumpkin Spice & Everything Nice
Rockwood Park

28 PCCC Memorial Celebration
Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery

NOVEMBER

2 Leaving A Legacy Of Conservation: Planned Giving
Prairie Creek Lodge

3 "What's a Body To Do?" Workshop
Prairie Creek Lodge

9 Sandhill Stage: Brian Smalley & Frank Lindamood
Prairie Creek Lodge

10 30th Anniversary Photo Event
Tusawilla Preserve
Tusawilla Preserve Volunteer Clean-up Day
Tusawilla Preserve

11 Youth Art & Observation Workshop
Tusawilla Preserve

12 Paddle & Hike On The Santa Fe
Santa Fe River Preserve

18 Yoga On The Prairie
Tusawilla Preserve

DECEMBER

1 Sandhill Stage: The Belle Hollows & Elaine & Sam Mahon
Prairie Creek Lodge

9 Yoga On The Prairie
Tusawilla Preserve

12 "The Gulf - The Making Of An American Sea"
Readings by Jack Davis at Prairie Creek Lodge

14 Holiday Mingle
Prairie Creek Lodge

29 Otter On The Run Trail Race
Prairie Creek Lodge & Preserve

JANUARY

12 ACT & Alachua Audubon Winter Bird Walk
Prairie Creek Lodge

18 Sandhill Stage: Ordinary Elephant & The Kennedys
Prairie Creek Lodge

21 Potano Paddling Trail Service Day
Prairie Creek Lodge

26 Sandhill Stage: The Sultans Of String
Prairie Creek Lodge

FEBRUARY

8 Sandhill Stage: The Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio
Prairie Creek Lodge

17 Sandhill Stage: Acoustic Eidolon
Prairie Creek Lodge

MARCH

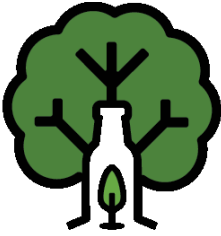
16 2019 Conservation Stewards Awards & Banquet
Prairie Creek Lodge

APRIL

6 Sandhill Stage: Sloan Wainwright
Prairie Creek Lodge

27 Tree Fest
Swamp Head Brewery

For more information on the events listed above, please visit Alachua Conservation Trust's website.



Gainesville **LOVES** Trees

Everyone loves trees because, well, what's not to love? Trees offer shade on a hot sunny day. They produce oxygen and filter the air we breathe. We've all heard, and know from our own experience, that access to trees and open spaces reduces stress and encourages us to be more active. Trees promote better water quality and well-treed neighborhoods even attract more residents and new businesses. Trees provide us with paper products and lumber while simultaneously creating food and shelter for wildlife. So it's no surprise that this year's 4th Annual Tree Fest at Swamp Head Brewery illustrated the incredible love of trees that exists in our community - with its best attendance yet and donations totaling more than \$16,000, all for the love of our trees.

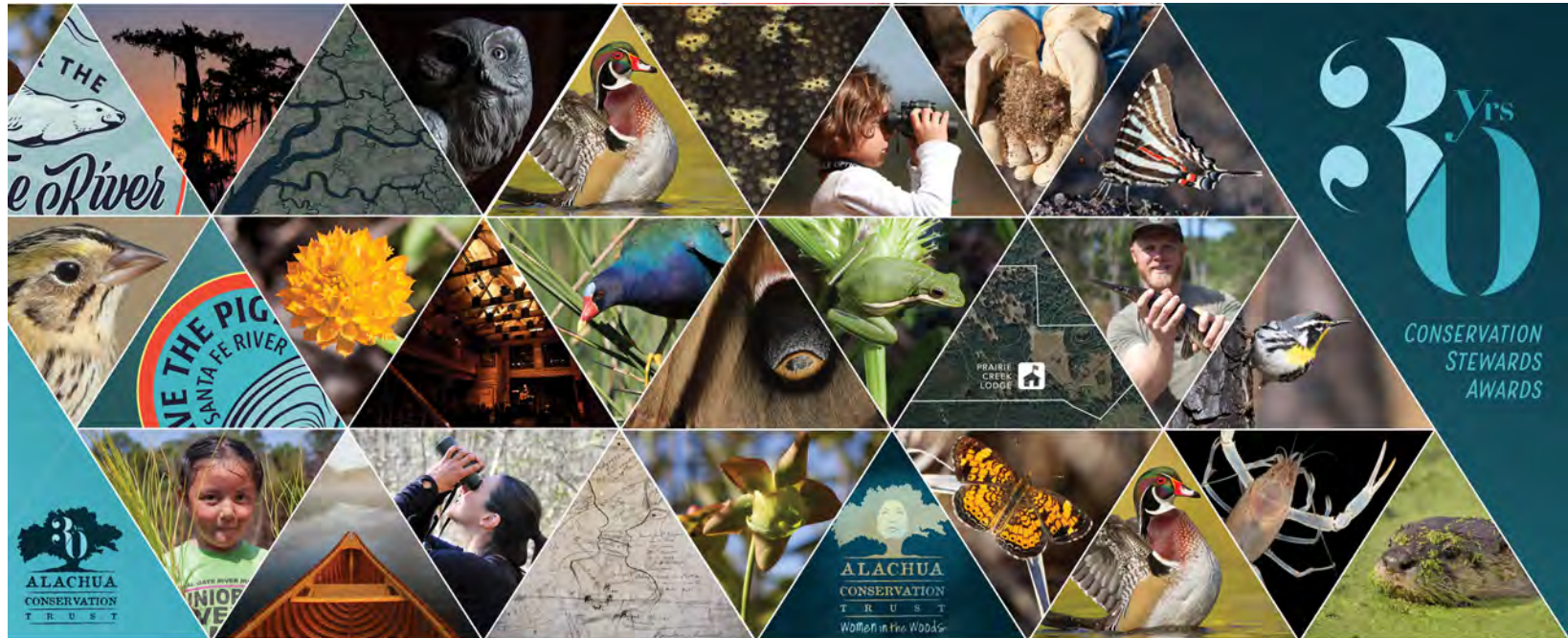
On April 28th, hundreds of people came out to Swamp Head for Tree Fest 4 to raise funds for restoration tree planting at Little Orange Creek Preserve. Tree Fest's theme "drink one beer, plant five trees" resonates well with our craft beer-loving community. This year's event alone will plant more than 80,000 longleaf pine trees on Little Orange Creek Preserve in Hawthorne, Florida, where more than 138,000 longleaf have already been planted, thanks to Tree Fest! Before European settlement, vast longleaf pine forests covered 90 million acres of land across the southeastern United States. Today, that number stands at just 3 million acres, but that number is expanding yearly thanks to the support of events like Tree Fest and the contributions of tree lovers like you. Not only is longleaf pine habitat majestically beautiful, it's also rich in plant and wildlife diversity, and with this community's overwhelming commitment to Tree Fest over the last four years, ACT's forest restoration efforts are occurring much faster than anyone could have imagined when we first started work at Little Orange Creek in 2012.

So all you tree lovers out there, take a hike through the longleaf at Little Orange Creek Preserve, and be sure to mark your calendars for next year's Tree Fest, which is slated for Saturday, April 27th, 2019 at Swamp Head Brewery. This incredible event would not be possible without the leadership and support of Solar Impact, Swamp Head Brewery, and all of 2018 Tree Fest's other generous sponsors:



*Soil & Water Engineering
Technology
Austin, Bovay & Gillman
Campus USA Credit Union
Will Stewart
Susan & Charles Allee
Best Water Solutions
Bronson Ace Hardware
Mike & Busy Byerly
FMD Green, Inc.
Mark Hurm & Co.
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Rolando Sanchez
Herrick Smith
Millhopper Montessori*

*Solar Impact
Swamp Head Brewery
Rotary Club - Downtown,
Gainesville & Sunrise Chapters
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Blue Highway Pizzeria
Cilantro Taco
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Hogtown Brewers, Inc.
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Sandy's Consignment Boutique*



2018 CORPORATE SPONSORS

LIVE OAK



LONGLEAF PINE



CYPRESS



MAGNOLIA



TUPELO



WIREGRASS



Save the date
Sept. 30th 2018



Celebrating
30 years of
conservation magic



Nineteen years ago this past spring, ACT kicked off its first-ever Conservation Stewards Awards & Banquet as a way to recognize those members of our close-knit community who've spent a lifetime saving the land we love and the natural resources we can't live without.

In many and varied ways, our honorees have embodied the essence of "conservation stewardship" as scientists, artists, entrepreneurs, career civil servants, elected officials, non-profit visionaries and captains of industry.

In 2018, we honored two such "renaissance men" of conservation - Michael Drummond and the late John Hankinson Jr. What a great night among so many others, and what a wonderful event for all who attended!

Please SAVE THE DATE and join us on March 16, 2019 for the 20th Annual Conservation Stewards Awards & Banquet.





OUR FLORIDA, OUR FUTURE

Your generosity today will help ensure that our Florida and the Florida of our future remains wild and scenic

ARTICLE BY: TOM KAY / PHOTO BY: KIM DAVIDSON

Earlier this summer, I spoke with the high school students participating in Nkwanda Jah’s Environmental Ambassadors program. As part of the series, community members working for environmental and conservation causes are invited to speak about the career opportunities in their fields. The first question I was asked is what I liked best about my job. While I love being outdoors and having the chance to observe wildlife, the best part about my job is the opportunity to engage with and share my experiences with students and young adults like the Environmental Ambassadors and those who participated in ACT’s Young Leaders for Wild Florida summer camp, to encourage them to follow their passions and interests. The other incredible part of my job is working with ACT supporters and landowners on creative ways to conserve this beautiful part of north central Florida.

Exploring a farm, homestead, or natural area with a landowner for the first time is a treasured experience. This past spring and summer frequently took me onto lands around the Santa Fe and Suwannee Rivers. The best of these trips were accompanied by the landowners. Land comes even more alive with the stories of those who have cared for and lived on it for years. To hear tales of storms survived or wildlife encounters, to see the labors of beautiful hand-built structures or renovated historical homes, is an education in the natural, cultural and historic resources of our region.

Kate Lee, a long time supporter of ACT, made one of those unique gifts to local conservation last year. At the same time she donated a conservation easement on her property, she also donated a remainder interest in it to ACT. When Kate recently sold her home, ACT received half the proceeds from its sale. In the Spring 2019 issue of the Gazetteer, you will hear more about the special places Kate helped conserve. Kate shared her motivations for making such a gift:

“People ask me why or how in the world did I decide I could afford to give up half of the proceeds from the sale of my property to conservation. My answer has always been, ask yourself what is the most important thing in the world to you, besides your children. Mine is my daughter and grandkids, natch, and then comes the chance to save a little tiny piece of the Earth and the critters that inhabit it. Folks seem to understand that, but then often will still walk away just shaking their heads.”

- Kate Lee

For those of us shaking our heads in understanding and agreement with Kate’s decision, there are many tools available to aid our collective belief in the importance of protecting our beloved Florida. Those options include gifts of land or a home through a life estate or enhanced life estates, also known as “Lady Bird Deeds,” which are named after the former first lady, Lady Bird Johnson. Like Kate Lee, you can use a remainder interest in property or other valuable asset to protect that place you care about most in north central Florida. Other options include charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, contingent bequests, and gifts from retirement plans or life insurance policies that can also make certain our region stays natural and beautiful.

To learn more about *your* options to save a little piece of the Earth for the critters and the next generation of nature lovers, join me on Friday, November 2nd for the “Leaving a Legacy of Conservation: Planned Giving Luncheon”. You can also call me at (352) 373-1078 or email me directly at act.tkay@gmail.com to discuss your personal options.



HOGTOWN CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

PHOTO BY: JACKIE ROTHBERG

Since the very first Hogtown Craft Beer Festival, seven years ago, the land conservation program at Alachua Conservation Trust has had amazing support from the Hogtown Brewers. The festival, held in April each year, is entirely run by volunteers and its earnings are passed on to an array of community non-profits to the tune of nearly \$200,000 since the first festival event in 2012.

“Each year, our beer fest committee works diligently and tirelessly to not only plan a great event, but also ensure the proceeds we raise find a great home among the many amazing and deserving charities in our community. Alachua Conservation Trust continues to be a great fit for us and wholly encompasses the environmental and philanthropic spirit we at the Hogtown Brewers pride ourselves upon,” says Steve Brosius of Hogtown Brewers.



Proceeds from the “HCBF” have funded ACT projects since 2012, including buying land at ACT’s Santa Fe River Preserve and the Little Orange Creek Preserve in Hawthorne, as well as funding trail building and overlook construction in Hawthorne. Alachua Conservation Trust is honored and grateful that the work we do in the community continues to be supported by the Hogtown Brewers.



\$50
Buys personal protective equipment for 4 *Women In the Woods* resource management interns

\$100
Plants one acre of long-leaf pines at an ACT Preserve

\$200
Pays for a school bus-load of Alachua County elementary school kids to receive environmental education at Little Orange Creek Nature Center

\$300
Provides one internship stipend for a *Women In the Woods* resource management intern

\$500
Applies critically-needed prescribed fire for the restoration of ten conservation acres

\$1000
Buys one acre of imperiled wetlands for permanent conservation



Women in the Woods BLAZING TRAILS

It's been an extraordinarily rainy and hot summer, but that hasn't stopped our indomitable intern crew from acquiring new skills and experiences in land management and accomplishing great things for ACT!

This summer's biggest project by far was making much needed improvements to trail infrastructure at Prairie Creek Preserve. Sadly, our beloved log bridge on the Kathy Cantwell Memorial Trail had deteriorated to a worrisome degree, so we constructed a brand new one from scratch. This was an adventure in problem-solving and tireless teamwork, but we all learned and laughed a lot together and felt very proud of the finished product! We also became very familiar with the challenges of having recreational trails through flatwoods, floodplains, and swamps during high water levels. Not only do wooden structures decompose quickly, but sometimes trails become flowing streams! Interns also scrubbed slippery boardwalks and gave them a new coat of stain to extend their lifespan. The bridge that was lovingly built over 10 years ago by Hutch and Ryan Crowder along the berm of the Orange Trail was also rebuilt, re-using the sturdy original frame.

The summer intern crew worked to maintain trails and remove exotic plants at Saarinen Preserve and Blues Creek Ravine Preserve, worked on an upland restoration project at Santa Fe River Preserve, gathered data for the *Alachua Outdoors* trail app, practiced their plant identification skills, and visited longleaf pine restoration sites all over the region. Whew!

Participants have included undergrad students majoring in natural resource conservation, forestry, wildlife ecology, environmental science, sustainability studies, and environmental engineering in addition to graduates exploring career paths or graduate school focus.

Interns learn land management skills through hands-on projects, and help ACT meet its land management goals. The internship program draws on the vast resources of a community filled with experts in a wide variety of natural resource fields. We greatly appreciate all of those who have shared their time & expertise this semester: Sandra Vardaman, Alachua County land conservation biologist, Colette Jacono, botanist at the UF Museum of Natural History, and Liz Ramirez, wildlife biologist at the Ocala National Forest.

Thanks also to the generous supporters of our *Women in the Woods* program and the Ryan Crowder Memorial Fund for helping us keep these internship programs going. We believe that, through them, we are helping to educate and inspire our next generation of land conservation stewards!

If you would like to learn more about ACT's *Women in the Woods* and Land Management internships or how to become a program supporter, please contact Grace Howell at act.graceh@gmail.com.





ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

Leading the Longleaf Pine Restoration Effort in North Florida

The America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) is a collaborative effort of multiple public and private sector partners actively supporting range-wide efforts to restore and conserve longleaf pine ecosystems. The vision of the partners involved in the ALRI is to have functional, viable longleaf pine ecosystems with the full spectrum of ecological, economic and social values inspired through the voluntary involvement of motivated organizations and individuals.

Across the nine states in the southeast where longleaf pine habitat is found, there are 17 "Local Implementation Teams" who are spearheading the on-the-ground work of the ALRI. Beginning this winter, ACT will be leading the Ocala Local Implementation Team.

The goals of the team will be supporting longleaf habitat restoration efforts in the region through cost-share funding for longleaf seedling purchases for private landowners, one-on-one training for private landowners learning to implement prescribed burning on their land, and assistance with the development of the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association. The team will also be assisting with habitat restoration projects on the Ocala National Forest and Camp Blanding Joint Training Center which will directly benefit populations of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, gopher tortoises, and Northern Bobwhite Quail.

If you are a private forest landowner interested in longleaf restoration or managing with prescribed fire, contact ACT today.

SPRINGS ETERNAL

Making Waves In The Community



In partnership with the Springs Eternal Project, the Florida Springs Council (FSC) recently installed a high-visibility public education sign campaign, pitching a message of springs conservation to visitors traveling to Gilchrist Blue Springs State Park. Harnessing the power of rhyming short jingles, a sequential series of a dozen roadside signs - in the classic Burma-Shave model of the mid-20th century - remind park visitors that we all have a role to play in protecting our beloved springs. Project leader John Moran explains:

“When we speak up for our springs, we know the issues we need to address: Too much water is being pumped out of the aquifer. Too much pollution is going back in. And we have a failure of civic engagement and political will. But as I considered this assignment, I realized that nobody wants to be lectured on their way to a day in nature. So we settled on catchy language to address these key points, offering a short course in springs advocacy in just 39 words. My hope is these words will worm their way into the eye and the ear and then find the heart, offering a gentle prompt to live mindfully on a finite planet.”

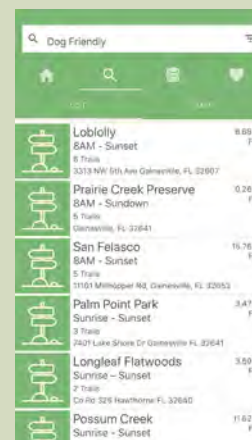
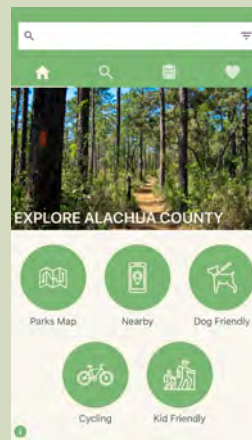
This project was financed through crowd-sourced fundraising, and Moran & FSC continue to seek opportunities for similar installations in other springsheds.

Alachua Outdoors

ACT'S trail-finding app for all mobile devices

Have a visiting friend who loves the outdoors? Good news! ACT has just released **Alachua Outdoors**, the perfect app for visitors and residents alike who love great places to hike, bike and enjoy our amazing parks and trails.

In addition to finding trails, parking areas and bathrooms, **Alachua Outdoors** can identify dog-friendly, kid-friendly, and cycling-appropriate trails, all while navigating them in real time. Very special thanks to “Visit Gainesville/Alachua County” for providing funding to develop the app through the Tourism Product Development grant program. Learn more about **Alachua Outdoors** and link to the FREE download at www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org.





Activating Florida's Next Generation of Conservation Leaders YOUNG LEADERS FOR WILD FLORIDA

ARTICLE & PHOTO BY: OSCAR PSYCHAS

Today's young Floridians are inheriting unprecedented environment challenges. By 2060, Florida is projected to lose an area of land the size of Vermont to unregulated urban sprawl while facing as much as 3 feet of sea level rise. Their generation will have to rise to the challenge of safeguarding Florida's natural heritage.

So how do we inspire young people to get outside, to become advocates and change-makers, and to start careers in conservation leadership? This summer, ACT continued its endeavor to foster these goals by sponsoring a new program intended to do just that. Young Leaders for Wild Florida was a two-week experience that engaged eight Alachua County teens to become Florida's next generation of environmental leaders. The program was inspired by Leslie Gamble and ACT's previous Springs Ambassadors camp for middle school students, and its mission - "endeavor to train, but seek to inspire." Our students engaged in wilderness adventures, conservation fieldwork, environmental education volunteerism, and resource-specific workshops around conservation and leadership at Gum Slough in Marion County, Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, Solar Impact, the Santa Fe River and Santa Fe River Preserve, the Einstein School, before the Bradford County Commission, and at the Prairie Creek Lodge.

"This program was incredible. Hearing from all of the specialists in environmental fields and getting my hands dirty doing conservation work really opened my eyes to all of the options that are out there for me, a girl who wants to save the environment."

- Participant Testimony

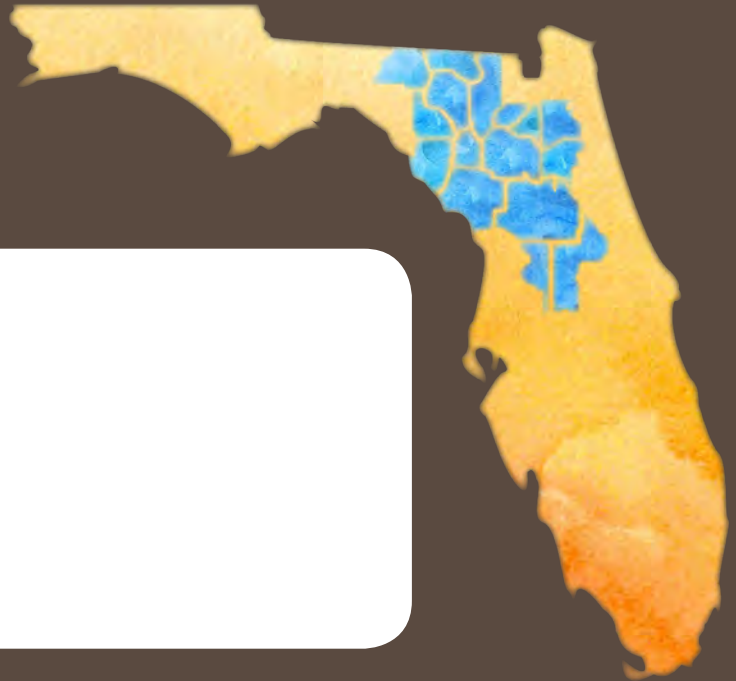
We extend our heart-felt thanks to all those conservation community members who shared their knowledge, perspective and inspirational love of natural Florida: owner and steward of Gum Slough Judy Smith, Park Services Specialist Amber Roux, naturalist & outdoor guide Lars Anderson, photographer and springs advocate John Moran, conservation professional and former ACT director Lauren Day, current ACT director Tom Kay, Solar Impact founder Barry Jacobson, Lindsey Cross of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, professor & springs advocate Lesley Gamble, Alachua County Commissioner Ken Cornell, Eastside HS Conservation Club advisor Dr. Steven Doherty, and our sustaining donor-sponsors David and Crystal Moynahan, Marci Slayton, and Middlebury College's Innovation Hub.

Kudos to all of our participants for demonstrating such passion, leadership and teamwork – and all while having a blast! We look forward to continuing the "Young Leaders for Wild Florida" summer program next year and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about, supporting, or getting involved with this program, please get in touch with ACT (info@alachuaconservationtrust.org) or program leader Oscar Psychas (opsychas@middlebury.edu). We certainly hope you do!





ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST
7204 SE County Road 234
Gainesville, Florida 32641



- 1. Madison
- 2. Hamilton
- 3. Columbia
- 4. Union
- 5. Bradford
- 6. Clay
- 7. Suwannee
- 8. Lafayette
- 9. Dixie
- 10. Gilchrist
- 11. Alachua
- 12. Putnam
- 13. Levy
- 14. Marion
- 15. Santa
- 16. Lake



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Since 1988, the mission of Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) has been to protect the natural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources in and around Alachua County, Florida. ACT protects land through purchase, donation, and conservation easements.

ACT is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity and receives no government grants for general operating support; we rely on contributions from private individuals, corporations, and foundations. Donations may be tax deductible, however ACT does not provide tax advice.

Alachua Conservation Trust's charitable solicitation number is CH12693. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.