

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

Gazetteer



“Saving a Pitcherplant Bog”

Learn more about our new project at
Little Orange Creek Preserve on
page 3

FALL 2014

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ALACHUA
CONSERVATION
TRUST



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 19 Fall Migration Count
- 24 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Lotus Lore
- 26 SANDHILL STAGE- Sarah Mac Band with Grant Peoples & the Peoples Republik
- 27 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Lotus Lore
- 28 CBI- "History and Choices in After-death Care" Presentation by Freddie Johnson
- 28 "Fall Butterflies" Walk led by Ivor Kincaide

OCTOBER

- 4 "Fall Birding" Walk led by Ivor Kincaide & Chris Burney
- 4 CBI- "Getting What You Want at End of Life" Presentation by Jim Wagner
- 8 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Things That Go Bump In the Night
- 10 SANDHILL STAGE- Robin Greenstein & Lauren Heintz
- 11 "Fall Spiders" Walk led by Jon Reiskind and Mark Stowe
- 18 "Prairie Creek" Paddle Trip led by Mark Larson
- 23 "Manatee Biology & Conservation" Presentation by Roger Reep
- 25 Volunteer Day- Ardisia Round-up Yeehaw!

NOVEMBER

- 7 "Santa Fe River" Paddle Trip led by Tom Kay
- 8 Volunteer Day- Prairie Creek Preserve Trail work day
- 8 SANDHILL STAGE- The New 76ers & special guest
- 12 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Seasonal Solutions

DECEMBER

- 4 Volunteer Day- Little Orange Creek Clean-up
- 5 (Almost) Full Moon Campfire at Prairie Creek Lodge
- 7 HHH- Annual Homestead Holidays
- 12 HHH- Candlelight Visits
- 12 SANDHILL STAGE- Richard Gilewitz Acoustic Adventures with Elaine Mahon
- 19 Holiday Mingle at Prairie Creek Lodge

JANUARY

- 10 SANDHILL STAGE- David Russell
- 15 Volunteer Day- Santa Fe River Clean-up
- 17 "Winter Birding" Walk led by Ivor Kincaide & Chris Burney
- 27 "Southeastern American Kestrels" Presentation by Karl Miller

FEBRUARY

- 15 SANDHILL STAGE- Acoustic Eidolon

MARCH

- 14 Conservation Stewards Awards

Info about these events can be found on ACT's website: www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org

Get e-notices on upcoming events by joining our email list on ACT's website, or "liking" us on our Facebook page.



SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 14, 2015

CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS

ACT: FACTS AT A GLANCE

- ① ESTABLISHED IN **1988** AS NON-PROFIT LAND TRUST
- ② DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED IN THE PURCHASE OF **17,190** ACRES
- ③ CURRENTLY OWNS **2663** ACRES, AND **3** HISTORIC BUILDINGS
- ④ PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ON MORE THAN **3162** ACRES
- ⑤ HUNDREDS OF ACRES BURNED ANNUALLY
- ⑥ SUCCESSFULLY LED 4 PUBLIC REFERENDA, 2 FOR FUNDING **\$60 MILLION**, AND 2 FOR CREATING REGISTRY OF PROTECTED PUBLIC PLACES
- ⑦ OVER **500** ACTIVE SUPPORTERS WHO DONATE AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 2 YEARS
- ⑧ OVER **4000** VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE HRS. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS
- ⑨ **20,000** LONGLEAF PINES PLANTED
- ⑩ 1 OF ONLY 4 NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAND TRUSTS IN FLORIDA
- ⑪ **10,000** WIREGRASS SEEDLINGS PLANTED
- ⑫ ACTIVE LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN 7 COUNTIES OF NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA



A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LAND TRUST

Out of 1700 land trusts across the country, Alachua Conservation Trust received the 2013 National Land Trust Excellence Award from the Land Trust Alliance. The award represents the highest single recognition that a land trust can receive in the United States.

VOTE YES ON 1



AMENDMENT 1 – WHAT’S AT STAKE?

This November 4th, Florida voters can ensure our natural heritage is protected for future generations. Amendment 1 is a ballot initiative that creates stable and long-term funding for conservation programs like Florida Forever and Everglades restoration.

“Amendment 1 is *not* a new tax.”

Fees collected by the state on real estate transactions, aka “doc stamps,” have been allocated to water and land

conservation since 1968. However, since 2009, these fees have been diverted to the state’s general revenues while funding for water and land conservation projects has been slashed by more than 95%. Amendment 1 will return these funds by providing \$10 billion over the 20 year life of the measure - *all without any tax increase.*

Conservation projects in our region that have benefited from this funding in the past include Barr Hammock, Phifer Flatwoods, Tusawilla Prairie, Blues Creek Ravine, Hogtown Creek Headwaters, and additions to San Felasco Hammock and Paynes Prairie. Amendment 1 will enable ACT and other regional organizations to continue work along the Santa Fe and Suwannee Rivers, to protect our springs, and to make important connections between our major conservation areas.

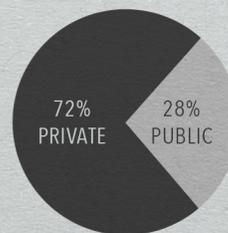
To enact, 60% of Florida voters must vote “YES” on

Amendment 1, and if passed, it would take effect on July 1st, 2015. The power to protect Florida’s water and land is in our collective hands - *please vote yes on 1.*

Alachua Conservation Trust has contributed more than \$21,000 to the cause, and ACT’s members, volunteers, and staff were instrumental in collecting the petitions needed to reach the ballot. To everyone who gathered petitions, tabled events, and donated money to the campaign, we thank you.

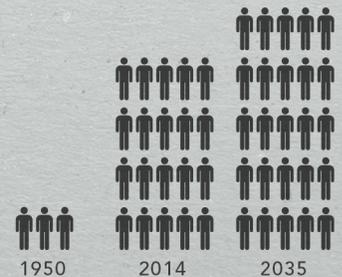
Our work is not finished though. If you are interested in supporting the campaign, contact ACT at info@alachuaconservationtrust.org or call us at (352) 373-1078.

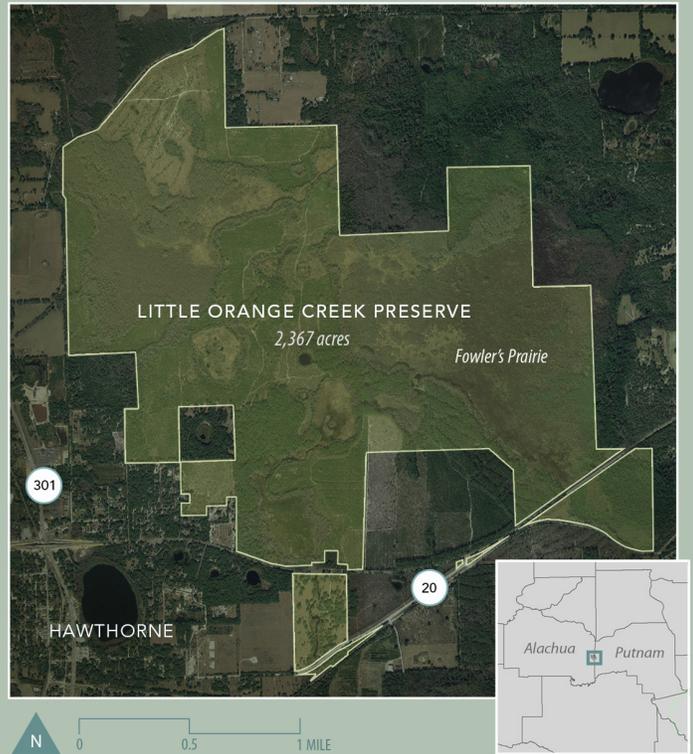
QUICK FACTS



Haven't we bought enough land already? **No.** 72% (25 million acres) of Florida is privately owned, and includes areas critical to water and wildlife conservation.

Florida's population is expected to reach **24.7** million by 2035, and opportunities to conserve natural lands and water resources will become increasingly difficult.





HOODED PITCHERPLANTS

Scattered clumps (LEFT TOP) of Hooded Pitcherplants (*Sarracenia minor*) can still be found in parts of Fowler's Prairie near Hawthorne, Florida (MAP ABOVE). ACT is working with Putnam Land Conservancy and the St. Johns River Water Management District to ensure their survival.

Close-up of a Hooded Pitcherplant bloom (LEFT BOTTOM) photographed in early August at Fowler's Prairie.

**PITCHERPLANTS OF FOWLER'S PRAIRIE
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT**

Our landscape has changed greatly since William Bartram passed through Alachua County in 1774, and many of the plants and animals he richly described and illustrated on his travels through the American Southeast are now rare and imperiled. The Hooded Pitcherplant (*Sarracenia minor*) is one such species, and an isolated population on Little Orange Creek Preserve is the focus of a new management effort for ACT. (See Bartram's Hooded Pitcherplant drawing on the cover)

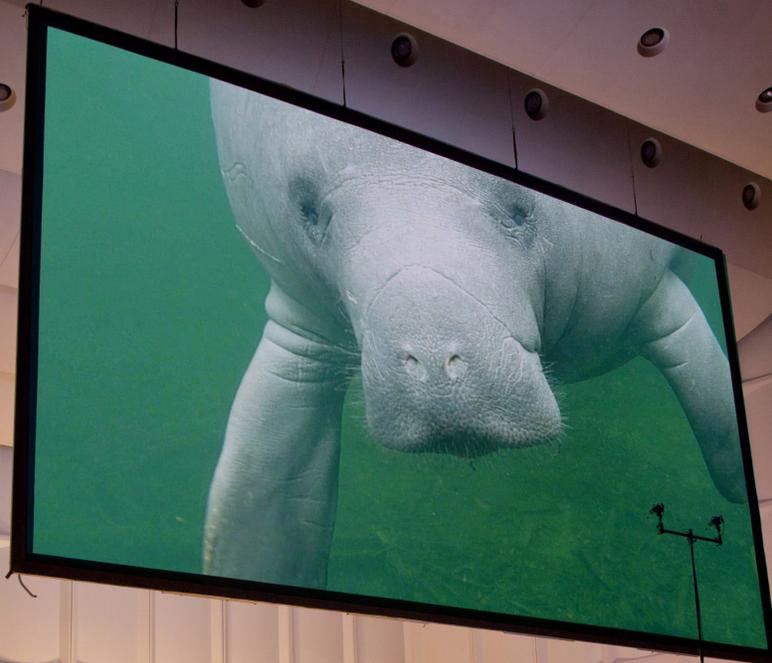
Pitcherplants get their name from the modified tubular leaves that form a trap or pitcher. Pitchers typically have a lid or hood that secretes nectar. Unwary insects are drawn to the sugary bait, slip on the waxy opening of the pitcher, and fall into the plant. Once inside, the downward hairs lining the inner surface of the tube prevent escape, and the insect soon drowns in the fluids at the base of the pitcher. Enzymes released by the plant eventually digest the insects, and the plant absorbs much-needed nitrogen - a nutrient that is usually limited in the acidic conditions where the plants grow. Many unique plants, some also carnivorous (e.g. Sundews, Bladderworts), are also found in nutrient poor wetlands, or bogs, where pitcherplants flourish.

Florida is a hub of carnivorous plant diversity with more

species than anywhere else in the country. Sadly, less than 3% of the original pitcherplant habitat along the Gulf Coastal Plain remains, and five of the six pitcherplant species in Florida are state and/or federally listed. Like other wetlands in Florida, bogs were commonly drained for silviculture or urban development. Decades of infrequent fire also contributed to their decline, allowing woody vegetation to overspread into these wetlands and shade-out the sun-loving pitcherplants.

Hooded Pitcherplants are the only species of pitcherplant found in central Florida, and the pitcherplant bog on the 2,367-acre Little Orange Creek Preserve is restricted to a few acres on the southern edge of Fowler's Prairie. ACT is currently working with partners to develop a management strategy specific to the bog. Research is an immediate need and will include: 1) conducting a baseline plant survey, 2) mapping the extent of the bog, and 3) determining the hydrology of Fowler's Prairie and the influence of State Road 20. Understanding how State Road 20 has disrupted the flow of water on Fowler's Prairie for decades is critical to mitigating the impacts of the impending road widening project. Management activities will include reducing hardwood species with mechanical treatments and prescribed burns, and monitoring feral hog disturbance.

ACT is committed to protecting these remarkable plants and the habitats they rely on!



"SWIMMING THROUGH AIR"

An underwater video by Springs Eternal Project Co-Director Lesley Gamble, debuted as part of the Gainesville Orchestra's season finale concert, Nature's Eden, at the Phillips Center in May.

SPRINGS ETERNAL PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION THROUGH VISUAL IMAGERY

The Springs Eternal Project, sponsored by Alachua Conservation Trust, is a series of creative partnerships with Lesley Gamble, John Moran and Rick Kilby.

The Springs Eternal exhibit, featuring the photographs of Project Co-Director John Moran, moved from the Florida Museum of Natural History to Tallahassee for the 2014 legislative session. Secretary of State Ken Detzner lauded the Project as a prime example of the power of the arts to inform and inspire public policy.

To facilitate a wider audience, Co-Director Lesley Gamble secured grants to create a travel-friendly version of the exhibit featuring expanded content and a video kiosk suitable for display in schools and other public venues. For booking dates, check SpringsEternalProject.org later this year. Gamble also led an Adopt-A-Legislator campaign, and exhibit tours were conducted for Rep. Clovis Watson, Jr., Rep. Keith Perry and Sen. Rob Bradley, as well as Sen. Bob Graham. The Project partnered with the Florida Springs Institute and the League of Women Voters to distribute Springs Eternal Project catalogs to all of Florida's 160 state legislators, Gov. Rick Scott, DEP Secretary Herschel Vinyard, and scores of water management district board members and county commissioners.

Moran and Gamble continue to give presentations state-wide on water and Florida's future. In February, Moran spoke on the Capitol steps at the Clean Water Rally and he will meet with newspaper editorial boards across Florida this fall.

Dr. Gamble continues to teach her springs-focused Art, Water, and Ecology course at UF, while her Urban Aquifer buses keep a vision of our spectacular blue waters flowing throughout Gainesville.

Congrats to Moran, who received the City of Gainesville Artist of the Year Award, the Stetson Kennedy Foundation Fellow Man and Mother Earth Award and the 2014 Matheson Museum Award. His springs photos were featured on the cover of the Gainesville Real Yellow Pages and posters for WUFT-FM and the Downtown Festival and Art Show. Congrats also to project partner Rick Kilby's Finding the Fountain of Youth was honored with a Florida Book Award in April. His exhibit continues to tour Florida.

And many, many thanks to all those who contributed to John, Lesley, and Rick's visionary endeavor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Go to: SPRINGSETERNALPROJECT.ORG

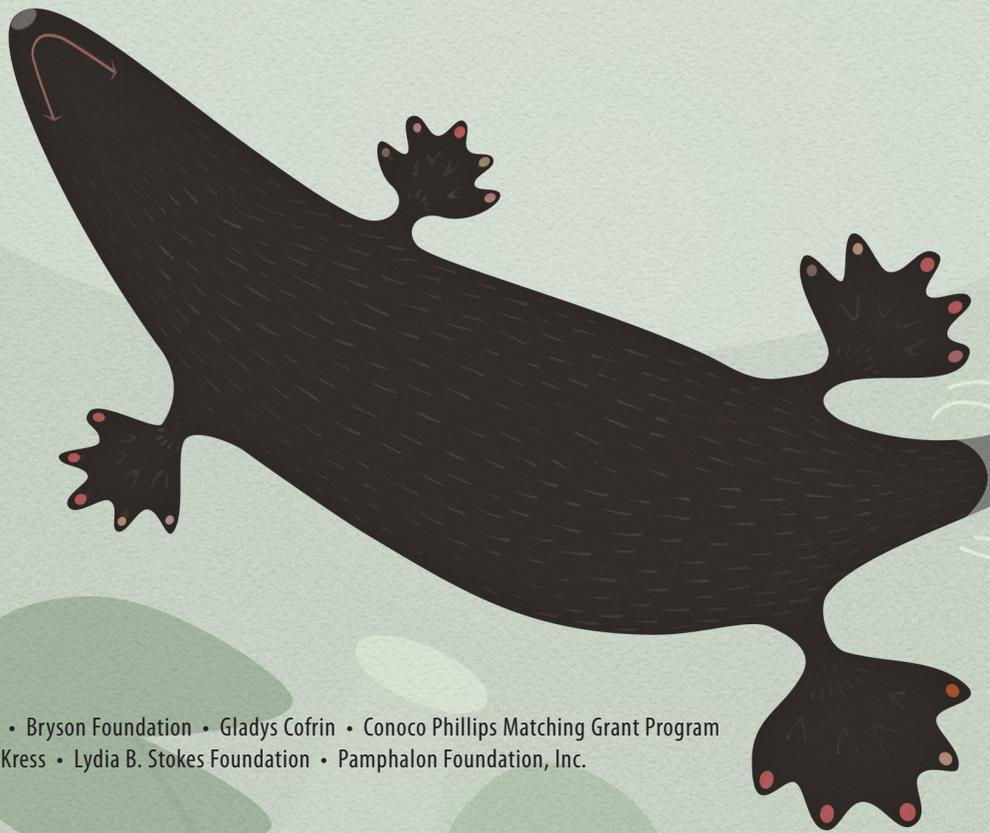
Contributions can be made on ACT's website.

From the donation page, select "Springs Eternal" under "Fund".



2013-2014 DONATIONS

*We thank our many supporters
whose contributions continue
to make possible the protection
of Florida's special places.*



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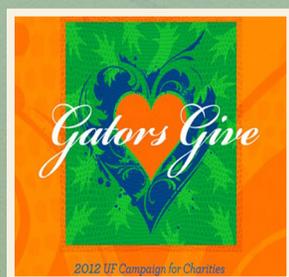
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OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT ACT



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CAMPAIGN FOR CHARITIES

Each year, University of Florida faculty and staff contribute to local charities through payroll deductions. Over the past nine years, the UF Campaign for Charities has donated over \$1 million per year to the ninety-five local recipients, including ACT. Our annual receipts from the program have surpassed \$23,000, and this funding provides crucial support to our basic operations and programming. We appreciate the fact that the administrative costs incurred by United Way are under 5% of the proceeds.

If you are a UF employee, please consider designating a portion of your paycheck to the UF Campaign for Charities – it's an easy and impactful way to help your community! We hope to see you at the UFCC Breakfast Kickoff Celebration at the Reitz Union on October 3rd. Thank you to our many UF-affiliated supporters!

For frequently asked questions and information about all charities: www.UFCC.UFL.edu

2014 CORPORATE SPONSORS



Many thanks to our 2014 Corporate Sponsors for contributing to our "Room to Roam" campaign, an initiative to protect and connect open spaces for wildlife. Your generous support will help us secure important additions to Little Orange Creek Preserve.



LIVE OAK



LONGLEAF PINE



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WIRE GRASS



LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE



WOODS 10

ACT's land management team led by Ivor Kincaide (RIGHT) gets a new brush truck with a generous donation from long-time volunteer Doug Hornbeck (LEFT).

WOODS 10

Every once in a while, a non-profit organization is lucky enough to have volunteers who believe so deeply in its mission that they decide to make an enormous contribution to help build the capacity of that organization.

For Alachua Conservation Trust, Doug Hornbeck is one of those people. Having worked for years to assist ACT's prescribed fire program - helping build and repair equipment, assisting on burns, and helping with planning - Doug and his wife, Sue Mauk, decided to help take ACT's prescribed fire program to the next level. They donated the funds necessary for ACT to purchase its own brush truck - a vehicle used for fighting wildland fires and also for safely conducting prescribed burns. Working with fire is no small affair, and having the right equipment is critical to do the job right.

"We saw the need and knew there was a big opportunity to fill that need. We love what this organization is doing for our community and for conservation land in Florida, so helping make this a reality for them was an easy decision. ACT has a long track record for getting the job done and we wanted to help the organization continue to be successful."

-Doug Hornbeck

This is perfect timing because in 2015, the scope of the prescribed fire program will grow significantly as ACT begins burning and restoring land at Little Orange Creek Preserve near Hawthorne.

LITTLE ORANGE CREEK PRESERVE

Progress toward opening Little Orange Creek Preserve cleared a big hurdle this summer with the approval of an agreement (MOU) that establishes the framework for future management of the park. The Little Orange Creek Management Cooperative was born and all of the partners - the City of Hawthorne, Putnam Land Conservancy, Alachua County, Alachua Conservation Trust, and the Conservation Trust for Florida - met on August 8th to work out the details of the first draft of the management plan that will guide improvements in the park, as well as the commencement of long-term management and restoration of the forests and wetlands on the property. ACT is taking the lead role in additional land acquisitions and management planning at the Preserve, while all of the partners will share in the duties of management and infrastructure

development such as building hiking, horseback, and mountain biking trails, as well as parking areas, kiosks, and scenic overlooks.

PRAIRIE CREEK PRESERVE

In April, May, and June, ACT conducted four prescribed burns at Prairie Creek Preserve totalling about 80 acres. We continue making progress on our restoration efforts in these former pine plantation areas by following up our prescribed burns with wiregrass and longleaf pine planting. This year staff, along with the help of dozens of interns and volunteers, planted 12,000 wiregrass and longleaf pine seedlings paid for by a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, to whom we owe our thanks.

Also at Prairie Creek Preserve, our newest employee Mark

Larson and a team of interns rerouted a trail around a wetland, built new boardwalks and a log bridge over seasonally wet trails, and completed preparations and mop-up for controlled burns.

TUSCAWILLA PRESERVE

At Tusawilla Preserve, we bushhogged portions of Thrasher park on the north end to maintain meadow areas that are

important breeding and feeding habitat for bluebirds, Indigo buntings, and blue grosbeaks in the summer and many species of wintering sparrows that will arrive this fall from other states. In addition, all of the old bluebird nest boxes were replaced with new boxes that were constructed last winter by volunteers.

Please take a look at the calendar on pg.1 for upcoming opportunities to volunteer, thanks!

RYAN CROWDER MEMORIAL INTERNSHIP FUND

The Tibetans believe that tragedy should always be utilized as a source of strength, and for the ACT family, that is nowhere more evident than in our Internship program. The untimely passing of one of our own in 2010 led to creation of the Ryan Crowder Memorial Internship fund, and through it, we now have the opportunity to pass on to many young people the values and skills necessary to equip our next generation of land conservationists.

This summer, ACT was fortunate to work with a great crew of land management interns. Thomas Fray, Lauren Doing, Jordan Robotaille, Calvin Gregg, Catherine Phillips, and Nicole Panico were an energetic crew of individuals who, together, made huge progress on many of our land management objectives. It would be a delight to write about each of these amazing individuals, but space limitations require a focus on only one:

Nicole is a wildlife ecology major at UF who came to us prepared to learn and ready to work hard. Little did she know, she would actively partake in planting over 12,000 wiregrass and longleaf seedlings, the building of boardwalks over soggy trails, and would learn to run and service two-stroke motors. Her personal favorite among these - building log bridges using only hand tools to move, place, and assemble them. Nicole also mastered the technique for using a come-along to leverage another tree, and wedge smaller sections of log underneath the log bridge to roll it into position. Her motto - why lift when you can roll? When an obstacle arose at any point in the process, Nicole was ready to tackle it with her wits and willpower.

After Nicole's tenure ended, she left some advice for incoming interns, "Do not underestimate the importance of a

large, balanced breakfast!" She also left us with a final message about her experience here, "Despite the challenges associated with this kind of work, participating in this internship has only boosted my confidence that I will be able to do the work necessary for the positions I want to pursue."

For more information about ACT internships, call ACT at (352) 373-1078, or contact them by email: info@alachuaconservationtrust.org

Contributions can be made on ACT's website. From the donation page, select "Ryan Crowder Memorial Internship Fund" under "Fund".

Inset is a brief article about Ryan and the program, contributed by Ryan's mother, Meg Neiderhofer.



Ryan was a graduate student at Cornell University studying the application of sustainable practices introduced to subsistence fishing families in the Pearl Lagoon of Nicaragua. His love of fishing was fostered on many excursions with his stepfather, Hutch, and his friends, as they plied the waters around Seahorse Reef and Shell Mound, and on our family camping

trips on Dog Island, the Oklawaha and the Santa Fe Rivers. These experiences were inspiration for his graduate work in Nicaragua, and his project had been very successful - so much so that the European Union wanted to introduce his methodology to Africa. As a result, Ryan travelled to Managua for a meeting in late November 2010, where he somehow ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time, alone, and was senselessly killed by a street gang.

At a critical time in Ryan's young adult life, ACT offered him temporary employment that allowed him to develop skills, be part of a team committed to a noble mission, and make a contribution with his energy to something that mattered. When he died, as when any loved person disappears permanently from the reality we know, one of the things that remains in memory is gratitude for shared experiences. One of the ways we honor them is to honor the process that shaped the unique and cherished person who is no more. At the time of Ryan's death, people contributed to ACT to fund an internship in his name so that other young people could be given a chance to discover similar skills within themselves, and hearing their stories helps reconnect those who loved Ryan to the things in life that matter.

If you can, please join me in contributing to ACT's internship fund, either in Ryan's memory or in recognition of someone else YOU love.

-Meg



ACT's land management interns with Assistant Land Manager, Mark Larson. (FROM LEFT: Thomas Fray, Mark Larson, Nicole Panico, Calvin Gregg, and Jordan Robotaille)



TUSCAWILLA LEARNING CENTER

Spring rains made soggy ground on the TuscaWilla Prairie last spring, but nature-loyal participants were not swayed away, children's laughter and sounds of joyous union filled the air, and once again the TuscaWilla Learning Center children's environmental education program was a resounding success! After seeking higher ground from our usual learning space, the fun began. Children learned about pollination and plant life cycles, food webs of the prairie, and how to become stewards for the environment. In February, each child made their own plantable newspaper pots, which they filled with composted soil and loofah seeds to grow at home. Bees love to visit the bright yellow blossoms of the loofah vine - a buzzing reminder of the importance of pollination.

March's Wild Wednesday continued with group singing and the acting out of a food chain...from the sun to the

insects on scat. One student volunteered to read to the whole group, and they all listened closely to a book about food chains, while the adults present celebrated a spontaneous peer-teaching event. The high-energy group was delighted to play a game of "predator and prey" tag before closing down the lesson with song.

An April tradition at TLC is the Earth Day Explorations class. The activities are based on sharpening ones' senses in nature to help enhance and encourage unique experiences outdoors. We also celebrate Earth Week with a very special event that allows any child to feature what they or their family do to help the environment become healthier. We are always amazed by the strides families are committed to taking in an effort to help our beloved Earth. Way to go, TLC families! We are looking forward to another great season!

Join us this fall - see schedule below!

WILD WEDNESDAY PROGRAM

Fall 2014 Schedule

Take advantage of the school district's early release Wednesdays and bring your children/grandchildren/homeschoolers to play and explore at this ACT-owned and managed nature preserve with a gorgeous vista!

Programs are held at Thrasher Park on TuscaWilla Preserve in Micanopy, FL. Please park at the Micanopy Native American Heritage Park on TuscaWilla Road (SE 165th Ave). Programs are geared for children ages 3-8, with accompanying adults, but all are welcome to come explore.

If you are interested in volunteering with or attending a TLC program, please email your interest to TuscaWillaLC@gmail.com

LOTUS LORE

Wednesday, September 24th, 2-4pm or Saturday, September 27th, 10-12pm
America's largest native blossom, *Nelumbo lutea* or American Lotus, is painting TuscaWilla Lake yellow with sweet smelling blossoms. At TLC's September Wild Wednesday program, or a newly offered Saturday program, children can learn about these freshwater flowers. The TLC team will introduce some of the many ways the entire lotus plant has been used historically. We will play a game to introduce participants to the water resistant properties that continue to intrigue scientists.

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Wednesday, October 8th, 2-4pm

"Did you hear that? What was that sound?" As autumn arrives and daylight hours shorten, we will explore the mysterious creatures that sleep while we play and forage while we dream. Who are they and how do they do what they do? Be prepared to put your imaginary night goggles on as we explore nature's nightlife and the quiet-time chorus.

SEASONAL SOLUTIONS

Wednesday, November 12th, 2-4pm

As the chill of North Central Florida's November weather settles the mosquitos, TLC will be exploring seasonal changes that will occur on TuscaWilla Prairie. How do local plants and animals make it through the cold without a warm fire to sleep by? Children will learn about the different adaptations and behaviors that seasonal changes bring out in the best of us. Our outdoor learning space facilitates a deep connection with the environment that gets kids brainstorming, dancing, and singing about winter in the wild.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about TLC on ACT's website (QR code to the right), join them on Facebook, call ACT at (352) 373-1078, or contact them by email: TuscaWillaLC@gmail.com





ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

7204 SE County Road 234
Gainesville, Florida 32641

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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 easement.

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.

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