

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

Gazetteer



ALACHUA
CONSERVATION
TRUST



“Fire & Flatwoods Salamanders”

On November 5th, learn how fire affects imperiled amphibians in Florida.

FALL 2015

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FLATWOODS SALAMANDER LARVAE
PHOTO BY DON FILIPIAK

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

29 SANDHILL STAGE - Brian Smalley

SEPTEMBER

- 5 "Explore the upper Santa Fe River" led by Ivor Kincaide & Chris Burney
- 6 CBI - "Choices in After-death Care" Presentation & Tour by Freddie Johnson
- 12 "Fall Butterflies" Walk led by Ivor Kincaide
- 19 Audubon Society's Fall Migration Count
- 19 SANDHILL STAGE - Tracy Grammar
- 19 TLC - Wild Weekend: Flower Fly-bys
- 20 "Fall Migration" Walk led by Ivor Kincaide
- 20 "Native Plants" Walk led by Anna Hutson & Tim Sullivan

OCTOBER

- 10 "Santa Fe River" Paddle Trip led by Mark Larson
- 15 "Climate Change Effects in the Big Bend Region" Presentation by Amy Langston
- 16 CBI - "A Good Death: A Doctor's Perspective" Presentation by Dr. Monica Williams-Murphy
- 17 TLC - Wild Weekend: We Like Lichens
- 24 CBI - "Getting What You Want at End of Life" Presentation by Jim Wagner & Eloise Harman
- 25 CBI - Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery Annual Memorial Celebration

30 Pithlachocco Returns at First Magnitude Brewery, *learn more at right*

NOVEMBER

- 5 "Fire & Flatwoods Amphibians" Presentation by Jamie Barichivich
- 6 SANDHILL STAGE - The New 76-ers
- 8 "Field Notes" Workshop at the Doris
- 14 TLC - Wild Weekend: Tremendous Trees
- 14 "Dirt Matters" Walk by Seaton Tarrant
- 15 "Bird Camp for Kids" at Tusawilla Preserve
- 21 Volunteer Day - Tessa Mims Memorial Tree Planting

DECEMBER

- 5 Volunteer Day - Longleaf and Wiregrass Planting
- 6 HHH - Annual Homestead Holidays
- 6 Hogtown Brewdown, *learn more at right*
- 11 HHH - Candlelight Visits
- 18 Holiday Mingle at Prairie Creek Lodge
- 20 Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count

JANUARY

- 9 Volunteer Day - Longleaf and Wiregrass Planting
- 16 "Winter Birding" Walk led by Ivor Kincaide
- 21 Volunteer Day - Santa Fe River Preserve Clean-up

Details for each event will be posted on ACT's website and via social media: 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 12, 2016

CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS

ACT: FACTS AT A GLANCE

- ① ESTABLISHED IN 1988 AS NON-PROFIT LAND TRUST
- ② DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED IN THE PURCHASE OF 18,427 ACRES
- ③ CURRENTLY OWNS 3,276 ACRES, AND 2 HISTORIC BUILDINGS
- ④ PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ON MORE THAN 3,162 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 5,500 VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE HRS. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS
- ⑨ 50,000 LONGLEAF PINES PLANTED
- ⑩ 1 OF ONLY 4 NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAND TRUSTS IN FLORIDA
- ⑪ 18,000 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.

Out of primordial depths to destroy the world!

PITHLACHOCCO RETURNS

CAME FROM BENEATH THE LAKE



SAVE THE DATE IF YOU CAN..

EERIE FUN-FILLED SPINE-CHILLING

ACT'S SECOND HALLOWEEN BALL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH @ FIRST MAGNITUDE BREWERY



HOGTOWN BREWDOWN

Sunday, December 6th – **SAVE THE DATE**
Prairie Creek Lodge

This festival, organized by the Hogtown Brewers, brings beer fans and brewers together to raise funds for Alachua Conservation Trust. The event features home brews with food pairings – all prepared by the members.

Details for these events will be posted on ACT's website soon:
www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org



2015 "VOICE FOR THE WILD" CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS – OUR BEST EVER!

The 2015 Conservation Stewards Awards – ACT’s 16th annual recognition event that each year since 2000 honors a few of the community’s most outstanding environmental leaders – was without qualification our best ever! It was a beautiful March evening for which the weather cooperated perfectly, the food prepared by East End Eatery, Fables Catering and Mosswood Farm Store was delicious, the music provided by Michael Claytor & Friends and the Kallenbach Boys was lively, and the messages delivered by our honorees – Doug Hornbeck, Jeri Baldwin and former Florida Governor and US Senator Bob Graham – could not have been more meaningful.

Senator Graham, in particular, spoke eloquently about his great love of our natural resources and the importance of continuing to preserve them. His praise for ACT’s successes over its thirty-plus years in doing just that were heartening, and his admonitions regarding how the state would potentially be using funds generated as the result of the then just-passed Amendment 1 – ostensibly meant for land acquisition – were a rallying cry. We are ever-grateful for the work that Bob, Doug, Jeri and all of our previous stewards do continually to support and expand our preservation efforts throughout North Central Florida, and again we thank them.

Many, many thanks also to our fifty-two corporate sponsors (listed, right); their commitment to land conservation, environmental education and stewardship exemplify what makes our community truly great. Many retain an ongoing relationship with ACT year round, and we hope our supporters will appreciate them equally by patronizing these awesome local businesses. And last but not least, we extend our deep gratitude to ACT supporters old and new - with just under 500 folks participating and nearly \$65K in donations generated, the 2015 Conservation Stewards Awards was our best attended and highest earning CSA event to date, making it our most successful annual event ever, and one at which *our community strongly and loudly raised its Voice for the Wild!*

PHOTOS taken by John Moran: (A) Michael Claytor & Friends; (B) Cocktail hour inside Prairie Creek Lodge; (C) Senator Graham meeting the AmeriCorps NCCC team (learn more about this group on pg. 9); (D) the 2015 Conservation Stewards (from left): Senator Bob Graham, Jeri Baldwin, Tom Kay (ACT’s Executive Director), and Doug Hornbeck; (E) Doug Hornbeck’s acceptance speech including an impersonation of David Letterman, “Top 10 reasons I like ACT!”



(A)



(B)



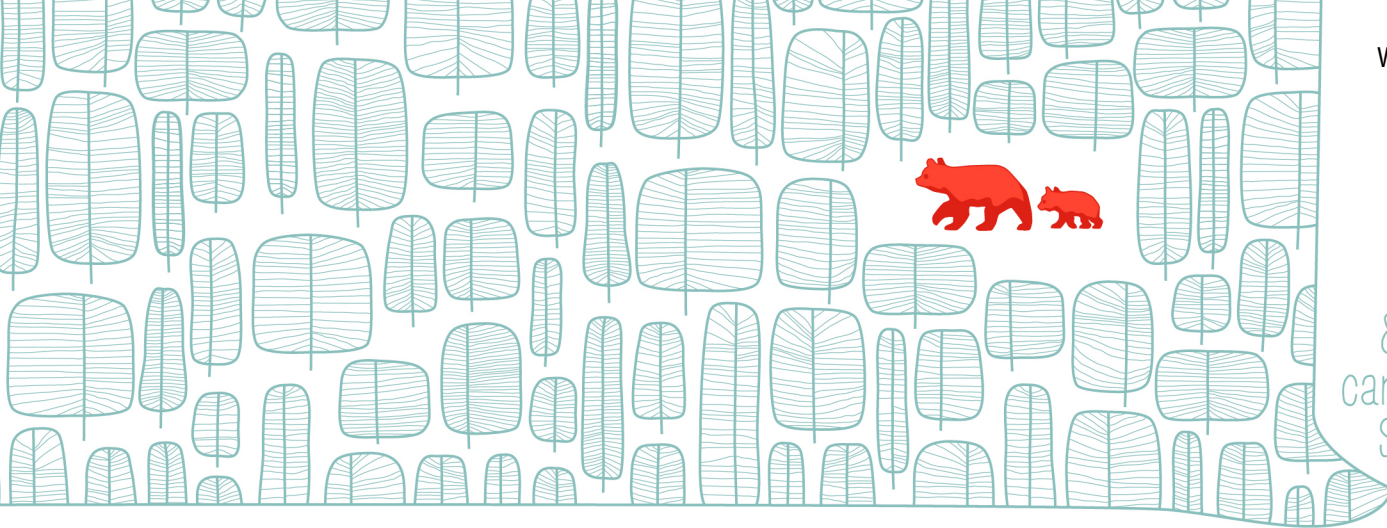
(C)



(D)



(E)



The wildlife & its habitat cannot speak. So we must & we will.

2015 CORPORATE SPONSORS

Theodore "T.R." Roosevelt

Live Oak



Longleaf Pine



Cypress



Magnolia



DAVID COFFEY, P.A.

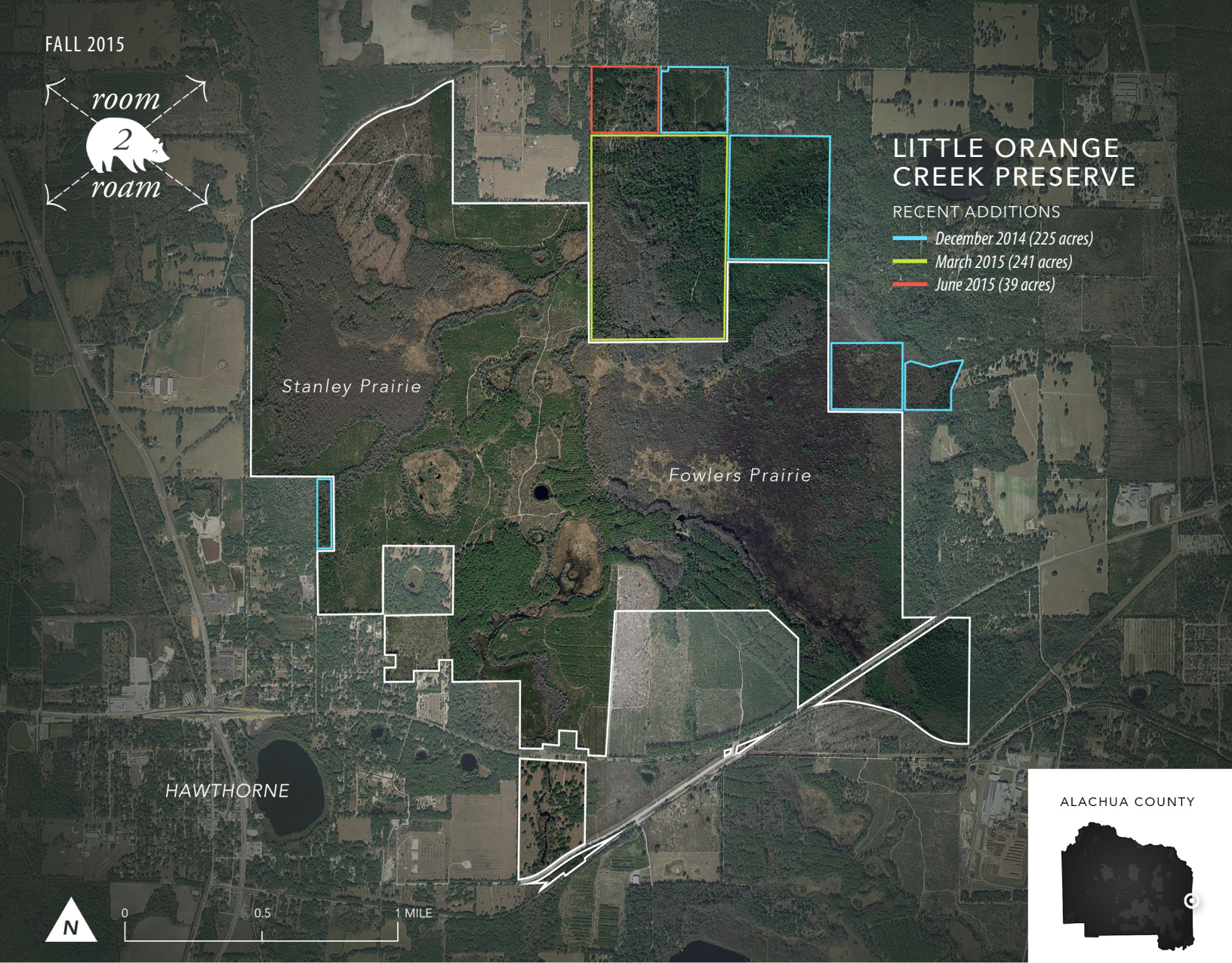


Tupelo



Wiregrass





LITTLE ORANGE CREEK PRESERVE

RECENT ADDITIONS

- December 2014 (225 acres)
- March 2015 (241 acres)
- June 2015 (39 acres)

NOW DOUBLE IN SIZE

Little Orange Creek Preserve was created five years ago with the purchase of 1,275 acres by the City of Hawthorne and Putnam Land Conservancy using funds from Florida Forever. Today, the preserve encompasses 2,867 acres - 505 acres were acquired over the last year in three phases by Alachua Conservation Trust through the “Room to Roam” campaign (see map, above). The additions were made possible by ACT donors, three private philanthropic foundations, the Alachua County Forever program, and state wetland mitigation funds.

The new parcels protect additional parts of Fowler’s Prairie, and a mixture of upland habitats including patches of high quality sandhill. For wide-ranging animals, such as Florida black bear, river otter, and bobcat, these additions mean *more space* - these species need relatively intact landscapes, and for now, they can still be found in the area. Photos collected from camera traps provide evidence that several different bears are regularly passing through the preserve.

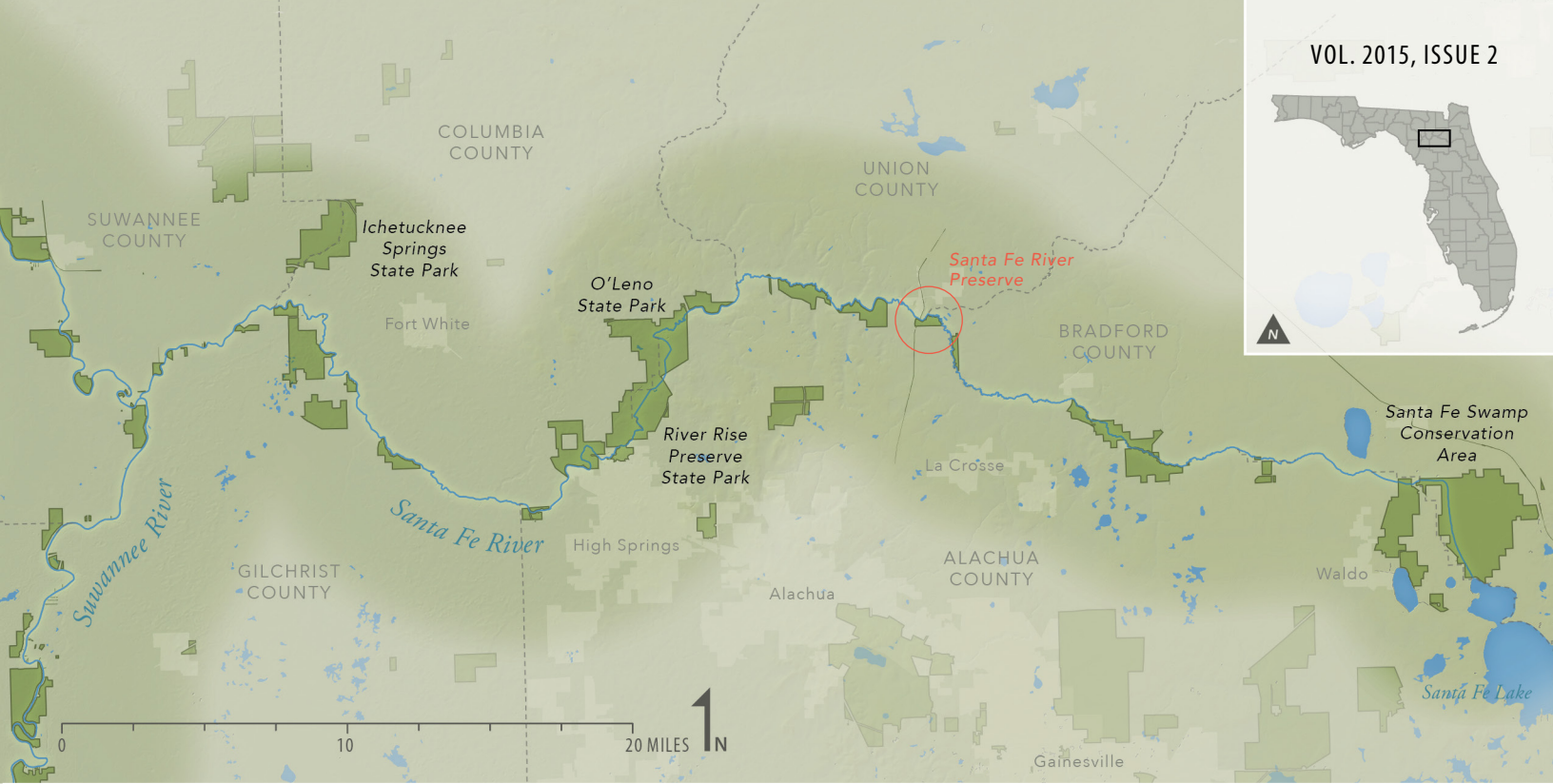
Currently, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) is mapping out the historic plant communities for the entire preserve. The maps will be used to further refine the management

plan, and in particular, restoration goals and needs. Efforts are already underway to restore pine communities with Longleaf pine plantings conducted in several parts of the preserve.

Much remains to be learned about Little Orange Creek Preserve and the natural riches it supports. Recent botanical finds attest to this - this year, Mike Stallings, ACT’s preserve steward, found several rare and imperiled plants on the preserve including Florida Spiny Pod (*Matelea floridana*), Yellow Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), and a sizeable population of Giant Orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata*). We hope, as the preserve opens to the public, more discoveries like this will be made!

LOT DONATION PROGRAM

Another aspect of the “Room to Roam Campaign” is a lot donation program with the goal of removing small outparcels from inside the preserve. Many thanks to the individuals and families who donated their tracts to Little Orange Creek Preserve - these include: Mary K. King, Sarah Kimball, Eleanor Gahan & Family, Edward R. & Mary Ann Kenderdine, Mary Koparian, Evelyn Lepley, Albert Buckner-Ann Long, Wallace Penrod, and Frank Wimmer.



LAND OF SPRITES & SANDDRAGONS

SAVING THE SANTA FE RIVER

The Santa Fe River is a corridor for life, big and small. This complex and diverse waterway provides habitat for many species as it meanders 75 miles westward from its headwaters on Lake Santa Fe – big charismatic species like Florida Black Bear and River Otters, as well as small enigmatic species like Florida Mapleleaves, Everglades Sprites, and Tawny Sanddragons.

ACT's Santa Fe River Preserve (186 acres near Worthington Springs) is part of a much larger effort to safeguard the river and keep it a complete and viable conservation corridor (see map, above). Protecting the Santa Fe River has been a top priority for government agencies and non-profits like ACT for decades, and today, roughly half of the river's length is in conservation on one or both sides.

Until recently, the remaining unprotected sections of the Santa Fe River have experienced limited development pressure, and consequently, much of the river is in excellent condition and still very wild. The river, its tributaries, springs, sinkholes, and swamps are home to several endemic species and species that have disappeared or declined elsewhere – such as Gulf Sturgeon, Suwannee Bass, Suwannee Cooter, roughly fifty imperiled invertebrates including the federally endangered Oval Pigtoe, and much more. For terrestrial wildlife, the Santa Fe River is a key east-west link connecting conservation lands in north central Florida with other parts of the Suwannee River watershed, and is used by Florida Black Bear, River Otter, Beavers, Bobcat, Grey Fox, and migratory birds.

Currently, change in land use is the biggest threat to the river. Development, agriculture and industrial forestry mean less habitat and more people/activities that need water. Water and habitat quality are strongly affected by nutrient-laden runoff and sedimentation, and by declining stream flows and water levels. These factors together contribute to reduced levels of

dissolved oxygen, increased turbidity, and habitat degradation, which, in turn, reduce and in some cases destroy biodiversity in the basin.

The best way to prevent this is to continue protecting the adjacent uplands, and create a wide enough buffer that reduces the impacts associated with runoff and provides enough space for wildlife to move. Much has been accomplished already, ACT is working hard now to expand our existing preserve on the upper Santa Fe River – *look for more news on this soon!*



TOP: Warmouth and Red-finned Pickerel; part of an ACT aquatic survey on Santa Fe River Preserve near Worthington Springs. BOTTOM: Santa Fe River where the water glows red with tannins against the white sandy bottom.



Help us protect the places that matter, join our monthly giving program and become a **Hero for Habitat!**



Photo: Jack Rogers

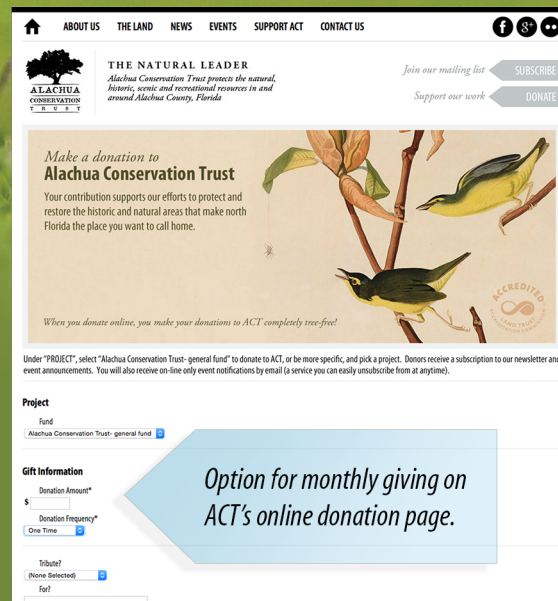
"It works great, and feels painless. No more guilt, no more procrastination, no more budget wrangling, just an easy sense of doing the right thing."

— Warren Nielsen
Hero for Habitat

AUTOMATIC MONTHLY GIVING IS EASY & CONVENIENT

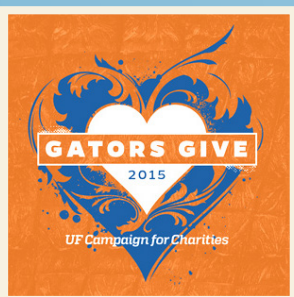
Monthly giving is the easiest and most effective way to support Alachua Conservation Trust *AND* become part of a special group of ACT's most passionate and forward-thinking supporters — **Heroes for Habitat.**

Setting up monthly giving is easy. Go to ACT's online donation page (right), and select "Monthly" in the "Donation Frequency" option. ACT staff are always available to answer questions or for any assistance you need, call 352-373-1078 or email: info@AlachuaConservationTrust.org



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 average receipts from the program have surpassed \$25,000, 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 **Friday, September 18th**. Thank you to our many UF-affiliated supporters!

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



tusawilla LEARNING CENTER



PHOTO: TLC student plants a seed during the "Pollination" program last spring.

AMATEUR NATURALISTS

"Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives."

-THOMAS BERRY

Unearthing a fossil shark tooth along an abandoned railbed, finding a tadpole sprouting legs, counting bats on Lake Alice...while we are all born curious with our surroundings, some of us can recall a particular moment or encounter during our childhood that gave us a newfound appreciation of nature and an eagerness to learn more. As an outdoor classroom, Tusawilla Learning Center encourages kids to use their senses and explore the natural world around them...and it is hoped, find similar inspiration within it.

Last spring, Tusawilla Learning Center became a flyway for Sandhill cranes, a swarm of buzzing bees, and a studio for plen air artists (Migration, Pollination, and Earth Day classes respectively). Activities for the young participants included keeping a field journal with notes and sketches, painting the prairie (literally, in some cases), planting beans in homemade pots, and lots of song and dance. And since the classroom sits below a canopy of live oaks on the edge of Tusawilla Prairie, unexpected guests included skinks, Bald Eagles, dragonflies, treefrogs, and much more.

This fall, Tusawilla Learning Center has a new lineup of classes (listed to the right), and by popular demand we are moving "Wild Wednesdays" to "Wild Weekends" (Saturdays only). Classes will be held from 10am to noon at Tusawilla Preserve near Micanopy.

FALL 2015

TLC Programs are for children ages 3-8 and are held on Saturdays from 10am to 12pm at Tusawilla Preserve in Micanopy, FL. If you are interested in attending a TLC program, please RSVP to: TusawillaLC@gmail.com

Flower Fly-Bys (9/19) In September, Tusawilla Prairie becomes a sea of color from the varied and vibrant hues of fall wildflowers, and insects are ready in numbers and diversity to capitalize on this bounty. For the Flower Fly-Bys program, we will observe these pollinators and answer some basic questions in natural history. Do bees choose certain flowers? Do butterflies have a preference between sun and shade? What is the most common butterfly on Tusawilla Prairie? Do bumblebees and honeybees exhibit different behaviors? Join us for this outdoor lab, and help us get a better understanding of these tiny, yet hugely important, animals.

We like Lichens (10/17) Once upon a time, some fungi and algae decided they were better together than apart, and a symbiotic agreement was made. Now permanent roommates, we call this association "lichen". The partnership is more common than most realize, and once we learn what to look for, we can find lichen in many forms and many places. As we survey the preserve for lichen, we will learn not only how this relationship works - how each depends on the other to exist - but also what lichen can tell us about our surroundings.

Tremendous Trees (11/14) With fall in full swing, TLC will celebrate the majesty and significance of trees. Tusawilla Prairie has a towering canopy of trees along its margins, and we will learn how to identify the big ones and the small ones below them. A noted Florida forester will be our guest expert, and she will teach us how to use some of the tools of her trade. Some of the questions we'll tackle include what the differences between deciduous and evergreen are, what crenate and palmate mean, and much more. Come explore the tree-mendous world on Tusawilla Preserve, and stay for a climb or two.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

ACT PARTNERS WITH AMERICORPS

This spring, ACT was fortunate to be selected as a partner for AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps). Inspired by the achievements of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's, AmeriCorps NCCC provides opportunities for young adults – all 18 to 24 years old - to participate in team-based service projects throughout the United States. ACT's nine-member team, dubbed "River Six", logged over 2400 service hours during their month-long visit. River Six worked on a wide variety of land management projects and were instrumental to the public openings of Rockwood Park (see pg. 5) and Saarinen Preserve (see pg. 10) in 2015. The team performed tasks such as building trails and kiosks, removing invasive plants, cutting fire lines, planting native trees and grasses. Thank you AmeriCorps NCCC!

ANOTHER GREAT SUMMER WITH YELS

UF's Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership & Sustainability (YELS) summer program gives college bound high school students the opportunity to live, work, eat, and play on the UF campus for five weeks each summer while "learning about social entrepreneurship, being inspired to solve social problems, and practicing sustainability". ACT has partnered with YELS since 2010, and this year's student volunteers cut trails, removed fencing, pulled exotics, and planted trees. Many thanks to the wonderful students who participated this year, and particularly to Dr. Kristin Joos, whose innovative program has benefited not only ACT, but everyone in our community and from elsewhere who visits and enjoys our preserves!



PHOTO: YELS students plant longleaf pines in a restoration area at Prairie Creek Preserve.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Alachua Conservation Trust is pleased to welcome new members to our Board of Directors. Kim Davidson and Muthusami Kumaran bring valuable insights and diverse expertise to ACT's work in north central Florida.



MUTHUSAMI KUMARAN

Kumaran is the Assistant Professor of Nonprofit Management & Community Organizations, Department of Family, Youth & Community Sciences, IFAS, University of Florida. He has a Ph.D. in Public Administration and a Ph.D. in Urban & Public Affairs. His teaching, research and service works revolve around organizational capacity building for nonprofits in the US and NGOs around the world. He has presented in several international environmental conferences including IUCN's World Conservation Congress. He serves on the Global Environmental Advisory Committee, Jeju, South Korea. He is a huge fan of US National Parks, and has visited 22 so far. His life-time ambition is to visit all 59 parks with his family.



KIM DAVIDSON

Davidson is a native of Virginia. She holds a B.A. degree in Biology from Colgate University and a M.D. from the Medical College of Virginia where she subsequently completed an internship and residency program in Obstetrics & Gynecology. She moved to Gainesville in 1989, for fellowship training at the University of Florida and then completed a residency in Family Medicine. She has since made Gainesville her home, where she has been in private practice since 1994. With a passion for the environment and wildlife photography, she can often be found exploring the natural areas of Florida. It is her hope and desire to see Florida preserved for the generations ahead.

PRESERVE PROFILE: SAARINEN PRESERVE



LEGEND

- YELLOW TRAIL -1.1 mi
- BLUE TRAIL -0.5 mi
- WHITE TRAIL -0.7 mi
- RED TRAIL -0.3 mi
- Conservation Lands
- Private Lands

Landscape has been significantly altered by people for more than a century. Alachua Conservation Trust is restoring portions of the preserve to their native plant communities. Please respect signage for ecologically sensitive areas.



#3208 NW 186th St.
Newberry, FL 32669

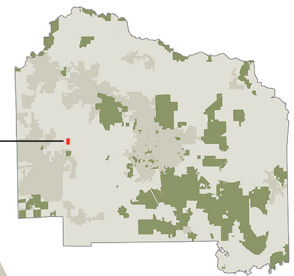
~16 miles
to downtown Gainesville

PLEASE
respect private
property boundaries as
hunting may be in
progress.

NW 32ND AVE

NW 182ND ST

ALACHUA COUNTY



conservation lands
in dark green &
urban areas in brown

OPENING CEREMONY

“As I (sit) here and look around at all of this crowd who have worked so hard and dedicated themselves, it really fulfills the dream that we had when we decided to donate this to the (trust)...” -just a few of the sentiments shared by Arthur Saarinen (right) after he cut the ribbon and officially opened Saارينen Preserve to the public in April.

Saarinen Preserve covers 78 acres and includes forested uplands filled with Longleaf Pine, Southern Red Oak, Live Oak, and Flowering Dogwood. And with nearly 3 miles of trails criss-crossing the preserve (see map above), your chances of seeing interesting wildlife are good. The trails are designated for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrian users, and reference points are posted to help you stay on track. Enjoy!

PHOTO (right): Arthur Saarinen cuts the ribbon with family and AmeriCorps NCCC team looking on.





ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

7204 SE County Road 234

Gainesville, Florida 32641

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST: THE NATURAL LEADER

BOARD of DIRECTORS

President- **Pegeen Hanrahan**, P.E., Environmental Consultant

Vice President- **Trey Greer**, Associate Director, University Writing Program - UF

Secretary- **Alison Blakeslee**, Private Investigator - Fisher & Blakeslee

Treasurer- **Mike Castine**, AICP, Senior Planner - Alachua County Growth Management

Anne Barkdoll, Ph.D., Biologist - Florida Div. of Recreation & Parks

Bill Bryson, Publisher/Business Owner

Fred Cantrell, University Business Affairs - UF, retired

Richard Hamann, J.D., Associate in Law, Ctr. for Gov't Responsibility - UF

Howard Jelks, Fish Biologist - U.S. Geological Survey

Laurel Nesbit, Program Assistant, Office of Sustainability - UF

Peter NeSmith, Botanist - Water & Air Research, Inc.

Charlie Houder, Certified Forester/Realtor - Saunders Real Estate Forestry Group

Bruce Delaney, Asst. VP for Real Estate - UF Foundation, retired

Muthusami Kumaran, Asst. Professor in Dept. of Family, Youth & Community Science - UF

Kim Davidson, M.D., Family Practice Doctor

STAFF

Tom Kay, Executive Director

Ivor Kincaide, Land Manager

Mark Larson, Assistant Land Manager

Lesla Holder, Office Manager

Chris Burney, Project Manager

Resident Caretakers: Parker Titus, Seaton & Star Tarrant

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.

ALTA

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