

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

Gazetteer



*“Conserving Florida’s
Only Endemic Bird Species,
the Florida Scrub-Jay”*

Upcoming presentation by Craig Faulhaber- just
one of the many ACT programs available this
spring, listed on **page 2**



SPRING 2013

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 12, 2013

TLC – “Seasonal Solutions”. *Learn more on page 4.*

Feb. 20, 2013

TLC – “Wild Wednesdays”. *Learn more on page 4.*

March 7, 2013

TLC – “Tuscawilla Through Time”. *Learn more on page 4.*

March 10, 2013

SANDHILL STAGE CONCERT – Sam Pacetti.

March 16, 2013

Conservation Stewards Awards – Historic Haile Homestead. *Learn more on page 2.*

March 20, 2013

TLC – “Wild Wednesdays”. *Learn more on page 4.*

March 20, 2013

“Nature Photography” – Workshop led by Miguel Palaviccini.

April 6, 2013

“Florida Ecosystems and Fire Ecology” – Walk led by Jack Putz.

April 14, 2013

SANDHILL STAGE CONCERT – Sloan Wainwright.

April 14, 2013

“Birding by Ear” – Walk led by Ivor Kincaide and Chris Burney.

April 17, 2013

“Florida Scrub-Jay” – Talk by Craig Faulhaber.

April 17, 2013

TLC – “Wild Wednesdays”. *Learn more on page 4.*

April 18, 2013

TLC – “Home Sweet Habitat”. *Learn more on page 4.*

April 20, 2013

“Tree Identification” – Walk led by Bob Simons.

April 22, 2013

Celebrate Earth Day with ACT by helping plant longleaf pines.

May 1, 2013

“Big Cats & People” – Talk by Caitlin Jacobs.

May 4, 2013

Hogtown Craft Beer Festival – ACT benefit at Kanapaha Gardens. *Learn more at right.*

May 11, 2013

SANDHILL STAGE CONCERT – Elaine Mahon with the Gatorbone Band.

May 18, 2013

“Spiders” – Walk led by Jon Reiskind.

June 15, 2013

SANDHILL STAGE CONCERT – The Currys.

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

What { HOGTOWN CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

When { 4TH MAY, 2013

Where { KANAPAHA GARDENS GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA



HOGTOWN CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Once again, Alachua Conservation Trust is a charity partner for the upcoming Hogtown Craft Beer Festival on Saturday, May 4th, 2013 at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. 2012 was the fest’s inaugural year and it was a tremendous success with brews from Cigar City, Swamp Head, Bold City, Saint Somewhere, Terrapin, Sweetwater, Green Room, Highland, Southern Tier, Stone, Pensacola Bay, Blue Point, Twisted Pine, Tequesta, Victory, Mile Marker, Intuition Ale Works, and much more. This year will offer another exciting lineup of beers plus food pairings from local Gainesville restaurants and caterers, educational beer seminars, home-brewing demonstrations, and live music. Stay tuned to ACT’s website and Facebook page for more information as it becomes available.

PAINTING BY STEVE ANDREWS



SILENT AUCTION

2013 CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS

Each year, we depend on the generosity of individuals, local businesses and organizations to make our silent auction at the Conservation Stewards Awards a successful fundraiser. Alachua Conservation Trust would like to invite you to participate in our 2013 auction through donation or sponsorship.

Donations to the silent auction are charitable contributions and ACT will provide a donor acknowledgement letter for your records. Items must be received by Wednesday, March 6th to be included in the auction. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us at (352) 373-1078 or email to info@AlachuaConservationTrust.org.

items needed



Here's to a bird, a bottle and an open work stocking.
 There's nothing in this that is so very shocking.
 The bird came from Jersey, the bottle from France,
 and the open work stocking was first seen at a dance

Maggie A. Haile
 October 27th 1889

@ Historic Haile Homestead
 (Home of the "TALKING WALLS")

Saturday, March 16th, 2013

CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS



CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH from 5:30 to 9:30PM
 HISTORIC HAILE HOMESTEAD

Each year, Alachua Conservation Trust honors individuals in our community who have made cultural and environmental protection a priority in their lives. Please join us at Historic Haile Homestead on Saturday, March 16th as we acknowledge the 2013 Conservation Stewards.

The festivities kick off at 5:30PM with a social hour, followed by a Southern BBQ and the awards ceremony. We will wrap up the evening with a live performance by Nook & Cranny. As always, there will be much to bid for during the silent auction. Tickets are \$60 (children under 12 are free) and must be purchased in advance. For additional information, driving directions to Historic Haile Homestead, or to buy your tickets online, visit www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org.

2013 CONSERVATION STEWARDS

Dr. Robert L. Knight

An environmental scientist who has a passion for conserving Florida's springs. For over 30 years, he has forged a path in ecosystem assessment, water quality examination, and education. Dr. Knight has founded both the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute, a program dedicated to springs science and education, and Wetland Solutions, Inc., an environmental consulting service with a focus on water quality improvement.

Eleanor Blair

Graduate of The Cooper Union for Advancement of Science and Art. She moved to Gainesville in 1971, and since, has been painting native Florida landscapes attesting to the significance of conservation. She is a well-known member of the art community in Gainesville; exhibiting her work in local art festivals, performing on stage with the Gainesville Chamber Orchestra and working in her studio/gallery downtown.



Proceeds from this year's Conservation Stewards Awards will be used to replace the roof at ACT's Historic Haile Homestead. The current shake-shingle roof is leaking and must be replaced to protect the unique "Talking Walls" from further damage. Tarps are currently in place, but will only provide a temporary fix. Alachua Conservation Trust and Historic Haile Homestead, Inc. hope to raise \$50,000 to help with the cost of this repair, and your support is critical. Learn more at www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT “HUTCH” HUTCHINSON’S MEANING TO ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

by Pegeen Hanrahan, Vice President of the Board

The community of people that is Alachua Conservation Trust has relied on the creative genius, boundless energy, and outrageous certitude of Robert Hutchinson for nearly 24 years. Since being elected to the Alachua County Commission last November, Hutch has been volunteering as ACT’s interim director until our new director is on board.

Hutch was ACT’s founding Executive Director in 1989 for the fledgling organization, which was created to pursue the vision of a Greenbelt Task Force. That group was made up of iconic locals such as Al Ring, Doris Bardon, and Dwight Adams, and they concluded that Alachua County should protect a greenbelt of forests, farms, and natural lands surrounding Gainesville, and that a local, non-profit land trust was needed to make it happen.

Hutch grew up on Pithlachocco, and worked in various planning and public information jobs between stints in graduate school. Within his first year at ACT, working out of a local law firm’s storage closet, he negotiated the acquisition of a 900-acre addition to San Felasco Hammock which today includes the popular single-track bike trails. Hutch negotiated ACT’s purchase of significant additions to Paynes Prairie, on the north east, and south rims, including the 1000-acre Hickory Ranch and the 650-acre Jerevan tract. He also authored the state’s highest ranked Florida Communities Trust grant proposal resulting in the purchase of hundreds of acres land worth \$3 million in the Hogtown Creek Greenway.

During periods when he wasn’t working for ACT, Hutch served as director of Gainesville’s Downtown Re-development Agency, as a land acquisition agent for The Nature Conservancy, and a forest sustainability certifier associated with The Rainforest Alliance. He served one term as an Alachua County Commissioner, and subsequently as Development Director for the Florida Museum of Natural History.

In 2000, Hutch, Doug Hornbeck, Pam Zaber and others conceived and promoted Alachua County Forever, a citizen’s initiative that funded the County’s land protection program with a property tax levy. ACT wrote the acquisition polices for this new county program. ACT also became the first non-profit in Florida to receive its own Florida Communities Trust state grant to purchase and retain ownership of conservation lands.

Hutch returned to ACT in 2005 with enthusiasm but not with the intent to lead. Lauren Day was the excel-

lent Executive Director at that time, someone I’m proud to have hired when I served as director between 2000 and 2003. When Lauren was hired by The Conservation Fund in 2008, Hutch assumed ACT’s leadership role again. Since then, Hutch has put together the incredibly talented staff that includes Lesa Holder, Ivor Kincaide, Chris Burney, Al Hutchinson, and many volunteers. During this past decade, ACT has purchased Tuscowilla Preserve (600 acres), Phifer Flatwoods (650 acres), Prairie Creek Preserve (1200 acres plus the Lodge), Little Orange Creek (700 acres), and the Santa Fe River Trail and Preserve (180 acres) in addition to a dozen conservation easements on private lands totaling 2700 acres.

Also during this period, a diverse set of partners, including Hutch, Jack Hughes and myself, conceptualized the Wild Spaces–Public Places sales tax initiative. It was passed by the voters in 2008, and has provided two years of funding for parks improvements and natural land purchases in Alachua County.



Hutch has helped to create and mentor several allied non-profits including Historic Haile Homestead, Florida's Nature Coast Conservancy in Cedar Key, the Putnam Land Conservancy, and Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery. In the wake of the tragic loss of his wife's son, Ryan Crowder, in 2010, it is this last project that has given Hutch a place of focus and insight on difficult days. More than once when I've called him, he was in the cemetery digging a grave by hand. "ACT's cemetery allows the participants in our natural burials to connect with the land and the environment in a profound and meaningful way," is how Hutch describes it.

While Hutch says that he looks forward to the new

challenges of local government, particularly the intersection between criminal justice, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment as a County Commissioner, he will not be stepping away from his passion for saving land and protecting water. He will remain active with ACT and will retain a seat on the Steering Committee of Florida's Water and Land Legacy, the 2014 citizen's referendum to amend the constitution to fund conservation acquisitions.

On behalf of the board, staff, and supporters of ACT, and the many critters who now have a secure home – *thank you, Hutch.*

TUSCAWILLA LEARNING CENTER – IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

TLC Announces a new class: Wild Wednesdays at Tuscowilla Preserve



As spring buds green on Tuscowilla Prairie, a new Tuscowilla Learning Center (TLC) program also emerges: Wild Wednesdays!

Once a month, 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! TLC's new environmental education program will introduce various concepts using games and activities. Participants will learn and connect with nature while they play. What better way to learn?!

These free activities will be held at the Tuscowilla Preserve trails at 600 S.E. Tuscowilla Road (also called S.E. 165th Avenue) in Micanopy. Parking is available at the Micanopy Native American Heritage Preserve which is directly across the street from the trailheads.

The program is geared for children ages 4-8 (with adult), but all are welcome to come explore the outdoors. There is no cost to attend these spring sessions.

SPRING 2013 WILD WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday, February 20th, 2:00PM - 3:00PM

TLC hosted and organized environmental education game-time, with a focus on migration. Followed by independent play and exploration.

Wednesday, March 20th, 2:00PM - 3:00PM

Frog Walk and Talk plus a human frog chorus will be led by our special guest from Tampa, 11-year-old Avalon Theisen, creator of ConserveltForward.org. Avalon is a winner of the Save the Frogs award for Amphibian Conservation, the national Barron Prize For Young Heroes (honors young leaders who are making a difference in the world) and the International Eco-Hero Award!

Wednesday, April 17th, 2:00PM - 3:00PM

TLC hosted and organized environmental education game-time with a focus on Earth Day and how we can do our part to protect and preserve nature. Followed by independent play and exploration.

SPRING 2013 CLASSES

Space is limited for the TLC Classes so pre-registration is required. If you are interested in participating in these classes, please email TuscowillaLC@gmail.com or call (352) 466-0204.

Thursday, February 21st, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

SEASONAL SOLUTIONS- Students will learn how plants and animals have adapted to cope with the seasonal changes in the environment. After our discussion of seasons and adaptations, we'll make binoculars for the "seasonal scavenger hunt", and report our findings with tables and graphs. In addition, students will learn a hibernation song to accompany a skit, and if time allows, do another game or craft project.

Thursday, March 21st, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

TUSCAWILLA THROUGH TIME- What is Archaeology? When was the Woodland Era? Learn about the Timucua people and how they used local plants and animals to survive on the Tuscowilla Prairie.

Thursday, April 18th, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

HOME SWEET HABITAT- We'll first discuss the elements that make up habitat, and explore the various habitat types nearby. Children will reflect on their own habitat and contrast it with those found on Tuscowilla Prairie. Children will then choose a particular habitat for a plein air painting experience.

Since October 2010, the volunteers at the Tuscowilla Learning Center have organized and hosted 23 classes for 256 children and 201 adults in partnership with ACT.

LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

by Ivor Kincaide, ACT Land Manager

Much has been accomplished in ACT's Pine Flatwoods Restoration Project on Prairie Creek Preserve. Many of the challenging parts could not have been completed without the hard work and determination of ACT staff and considerable assistance from the Nature Conservancy, Neutral Gator, and numerous student groups from the University of Florida. Starting three years ago and continuing through this winter, ACT has thinned and burned nearly 200 acres of pine plantation, reduced encroaching hardwoods, and planted over 20,000 longleaf pine seedlings. In addition, invasive plants such as camphor, tallow, coral ardisia and tropical soda apple have been steadily removed from the preserve with the tireless help of ACT volunteers Darrell Hartman and Paul Hoffhein.

For 2013, ACT's management goals include more prescribed fires, completion of the next two segments of low-profile boardwalks on Prairie Creek Preserve, and construction of a low-cost, low-impact wildlife viewing platform on Tusawilla Preserve. We plan to design an observation structure that can be repeated at Santa Fe River Preserve, Little Orange Creek Preserve, and Prairie Creek

Preserve. However, the most pressing land management need is replacing the shake-shingle roof on Historic Haile Homestead which relies heavily on ACT's "Raise The Roof" Fundraising Campaign.

Another priority this year will be the planning and execution of improvements necessary for the opening of our newest preserves, Santa Fe River Preserve near Worthington Springs and Little Orange Creek Preserve northeast of Hawthorne. Along with habitat restoration, making conservation lands accessible to the public for outdoor recreation is a primary management goal of Alachua Conservation Trust, and we hope you will continue to support our efforts in north central Florida.

Photo (below): Crew from Cinema Verde, coordinated via Earth Givers, helped ACT plant longleaf pines within a restoration area on Prairie Creek Preserve. This section of the preserve was previously pine plantation that had become overgrown with various hardwoods. ACT, with help from various partners, has cleared out many of the non-native pines and encroaching hardwoods, and is currently planting natives.



PRESERVE PROFILE: Historic Haile Homestead

Historic Haile Homestead is a hidden treasure in north central Florida. Nestled in Gainesville, this 6,200 square-foot structure was the heart of the old 1,500 acre Kanapaha plantation.

The home is the second oldest in Alachua County, but the feature that makes Historic Haile Homestead particularly special is the “talking walls.” Members of the Haile family and their guests would write on the walls – anything from diary entries to party guest lists to recipes for home remedies. The walls contain more than 12,500 words, with much of this being in the music room and parlor. Ben Haile has the oldest writing in the home, dated in 1859 when he was just seven years old.

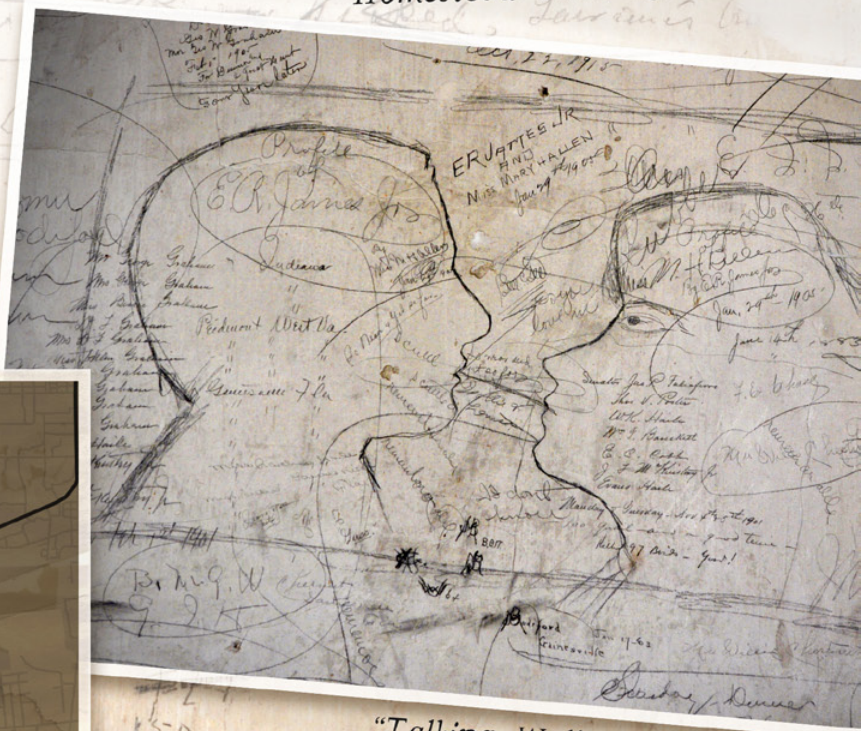
The Haile family moved to Gainesville from Camden, South Carolina in 1854 to establish a Sea Island Cotton plantation, which they named Kanapaha. The Historic Haile Homestead was completed in 1856 with the labor of enslaved black craftsmen.

In the late 1980's, the Haile family partnered with Alachua Conservation Trust to restore the house. Today, ACT co-owns and manages the property in a unique partnership with the Haile family that maintains the family name on the house while preserving it for the historic legacy.

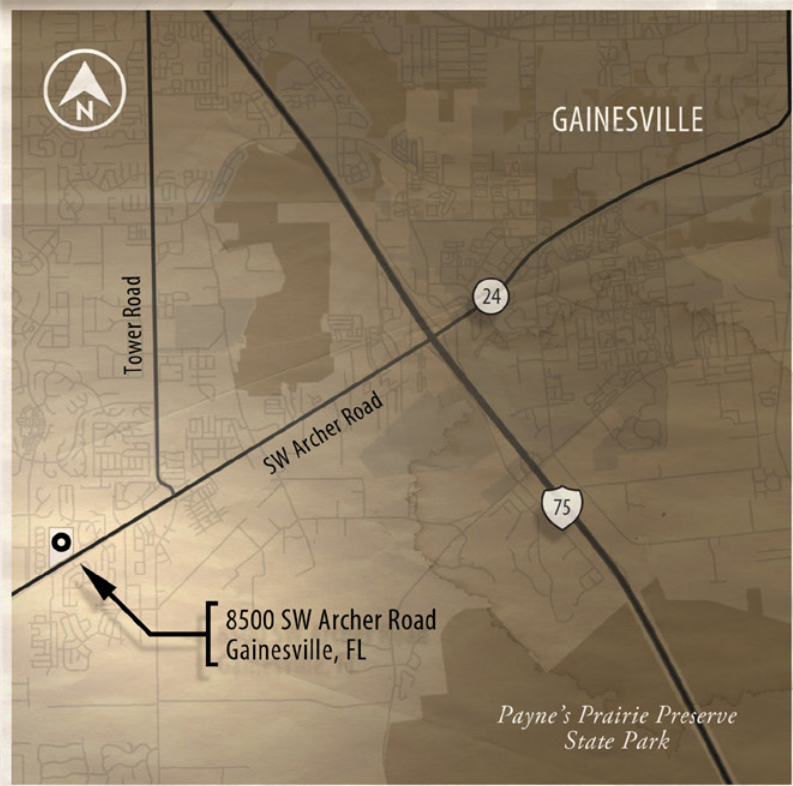


Homestead circa 1900

Historic Haile Homestead is open to the public for tours every Saturday from 10AM to 2PM and on Sunday from 12PM to 4 PM. Tours are \$5 per person, children under 12 are free.



“Talking Walls”



AAA
RAISE THE ROOF

HELP ACT GET A NEW ROOF ON HHH
Learn more at:
www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org





ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

7204 SE County Road 234

Gainesville, Florida 32641

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST: THE NATURAL LEADER

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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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