

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

Gazetteer



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“Wood Ducks and other cavity nesters get new homes on ACT Preserves.”

Learn more about our new Nest Box Program on **page 6**



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 19 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Plant Life Cycle and Pollination
- 27 Volunteer Day- Trail Maintenance at Prairie Creek Preserve, *learn more on page 7*

MARCH

- 1 SANDHILL STAGE- Acoustic Eidolon
- 6 "Black Bears in Central Florida, Past and Current Research" Talk by Brian Scheick
- 9 CBI- "Death Cafe" Open discussion about Death, Morality, and Thanatology
- 15 Conservation Stewards Awards- Prairie Creek Lodge, *learn more on page 2*
- 12 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Food Web Fun
- 21 SANDHILL STAGE- Joe Crookston
- 30 CBI- "All About Death Care" Workshop

APRIL

- 1 "Opportunities with Citizen Science" Talk by Adam Kent and Chris Burney, *learn more on page 6*
- 3 Volunteer Day- Bioblitz at Little Orange Creek Preserve, *learn more on page 7*

- 5 Hogtown Craft Beer Festival- ACT benefit at Kanapaha Gardens, *learn more below*
- 6 SANDHILL STAGE- Eliza Gilkyson
- 12 "Birding by Ear" Walk led by Ivor Kincaide and Chris Burney
- 13 SANDHILL STAGE- Sloan Wainwright
- 16 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Earthday Explorations
- 19 "Medicinal and Edible Plants" Walk led by Susan Marynowski
- 24 Volunteer Day- Nest Box Survey, *learn more on page 7*
- 26 CBI- "Getting What You Want at End of Life" Talk by Jim Wagner and Eloise Harman
- 26 "Creatures of the Night" Walk led by Ivor Kincaide and Chris Burney

MAY

- 2 "Santa Fe Paddle" Trip led by Tom Kay
- 9 SANDHILL STAGE- The Currys
- 15 "The Archaeology of Florida's Springs and Wetlands" Talk by Bruce Nodine and Barbara Purdy
- 29 Volunteer Day- Native Grass Planting at Prairie Creek Preserve, *learn more on page 7*

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.



What { **HOGTOWN**
CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

When { **5TH** APRIL, 2014

Where { **KANAPAHA GARDENS**
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA



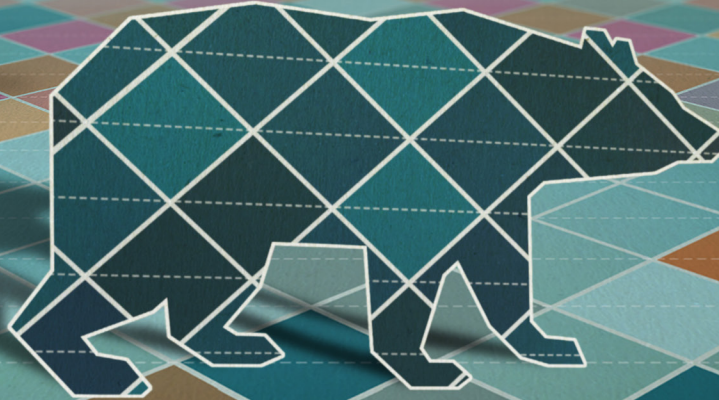
PAINTING BY STEVE ANDREWS

Sample beers from various local, regional, and national breweries- and help ACT!

Once again, Alachua Conservation Trust is a charity partner for the 3rd Annual Hogtown Craft Beer Festival on Saturday, April 5th, 2014 at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. This year's event will offer another exciting lineup of beers plus food pairings from local Gainesville restaurants and caterers, a homebrewing showcase tent, and live music featuring multiple local acts.

learn more: WWW.HOGTOWNBEERFEST.COM

CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS



SATURDAY
MARCH 15

5:30PM–9:30PM

PRAIRIE CREEK LODGE



CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS

SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH

5:30PM – 9:30PM

PRAIRIE CREEK LODGE

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 Prairie Creek Lodge on Saturday, March 15th as we acknowledge the 2014 Conservation Stewards.

This year's theme, "Room to Roam", represents our need to protect and connect vast open spaces for wildlife, and our honorees have all made important contributions to landscape-scale conservation in north central Florida. Proceeds from this year's event will continue our efforts to expand Little Orange Creek Preserve, a 2,000+ acre project near Hawthorne.

The festivities kick-off at 5:30PM with a social hour, followed by a "local foods" dinner and the awards ceremony. We will wrap up the evening with a live performance by Hard Luck Society.

Tickets are \$70 and must be purchased in advance. For additional information, driving directions to Prairie Creek Lodge, or to buy your tickets online, visit www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org

2014 CONSERVATION STEWARDS

Jack Hughes

The late Jack Hughes was the executive director of the Gainesville Sports Commission for 16 years and a driving force in bringing numerous sporting events to Gainesville. He was a co-chair of the Wild Spaces & Public Places campaign, which helped gain voter approval in 2008 of a half-cent sales tax that ran for two years. The sales tax generated \$32 million for parks and the purchase of conservation lands throughout Alachua County.

Robert Christianson

Robert Christianson has worked in land conservation and water management programs for the last 30 years. Since 1993 he has headed up the land acquisition and land management programs at the St. Johns River Water Management District. During that time, Robert has overseen the acquisition of approximately 450,000 acres of land, 40,000 acres of which are in Alachua County. In addition to overseeing this investment of \$1 billion, he has developed the District's land management program from its infancy.

Charlie Houser

Charlie Houser, a University of Florida graduate with a BS in forestry, has served with the Suwannee River Water Management District since 1989. During that time, Charlie has overseen the acquisition and management of over 300,000 acres of land and conservation easements for the protection of the region's water resources. Charlie also served as the Director of Land Acquisition at St. Johns River Water Management District, and Branch Manager for F & W Forestry Services, Inc.



The figure of a regal Snowy Owl adorns the column of ACT's National Land Trust Excellence Award. This beautiful award can be viewed at ACT's office in Prairie Creek Lodge.

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST RECEIVES TOP AWARD

Our silver anniversary year started with the news that Alachua Conservation Trust was being recognized with the highest honor for land trusts in the United States. The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) selected ACT from over 1700 other organizations for the "National Land Trust Excellence Award", given only once per year. The award was presented at Rally 2013: The National Land Conservation Conference in New Orleans last September.

Michael Dowling, LTA's chairman of the board, said "Today's tough national political climate is having consequences on the ground throughout America. In response, we are seeing some innovative and amazing initiatives. This year's National Land Trust Excellence Award celebrates the work of a small but effective land trust in north central Florida."

ACT is the first land trust from Florida to receive the award. We were recognized primarily for the innovation and collaboration we have brought to saving land. ACT's creative financing has included the many supporters who

provide bridge loans that help us move nimbly to save imperiled properties. Since 1988, ACT has participated in the conservation of nearly 50,000 acres of land in north central Florida, with successful local referenda providing the funds for 20,000 of those acres.

In Florida, ACT is one of only two local land trusts that are in the top fifty nationwide in both the acres and value of lands protected. ACT was one of the earliest land trusts to be nationally accredited, and opened only the fourth certified conservation burial ground in the nation four years ago. Historic preservation, environmental education, sustainable agriculture, and nurturing folk music are programs that ACT's partners also provide to our community.

Executive Director Tom Kay, in accepting the award, emphasized that ACT's supporters and volunteers provide the best measure of our land trust's urgent work in land conservation. *The award is truly a community achievement!*

SPRINGS ETERNAL PROJECT – NEW BUS WRAP FROM URBAN AQUIFER

The latest addition to Lesley Gamble’s Urban Aquifer features Sirena, a rarely-seen avatar of the springs, photographed by cave divers Mark Long and Tom Morris in the flamboyantly beautiful waters of Gilchrist Blue Springs.

Margaret Ross Tolbert, creator of Sirena, says: “Sirena represents the mysterious qualities of life within the springs.” She adds, “Fantastic creatures such as manatees, gar, 200 year old crayfish and exotic endemics like the blue nose shiner swim in our springs. No surprise that Sirena lives there, too!”

Sirena’s tour through Gainesville on an RTS bus traces and crosses passages of the Floridan aquifer, the water that feeds our springs. As pollution and overpumping degrade these aquatic jewels, Sirena’s habitat and very existence are

threatened, too.

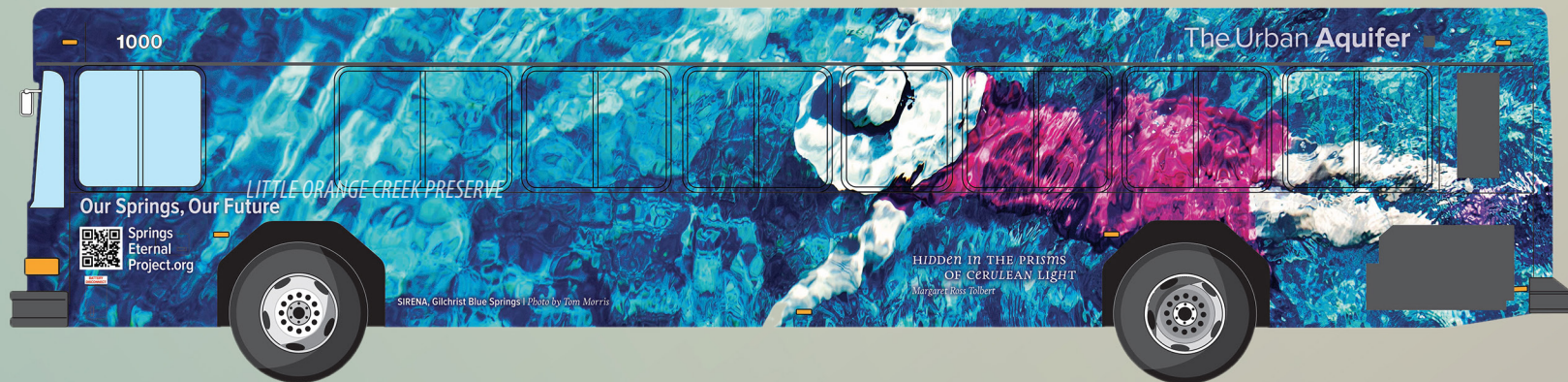
But it doesn’t have to be this way. QR codes on the buses direct viewers to SpringsEternalProject.org and actions we can all take now to save Sirena’s home: www.springseternalproject.org/take-action-now

Watching the enormous image of Sirena glide by, one pedestrian said, “I don’t know who she is, but I want to be there.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more on their website:

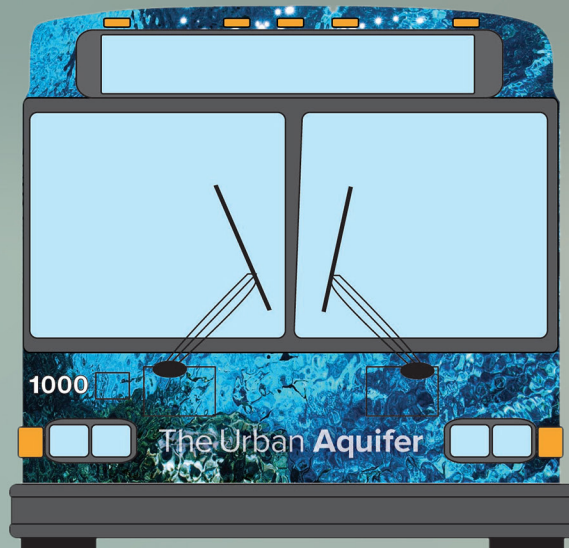
SPRINGSETERNALPROJECT.ORG (QR code to the right), or join them on Facebook



SIRENA BUS WRAP

“Urban Aquifer: Vehicles to Think With”, created by Springs Eternal Project Co-Director Lesley Gamble, is a performance artwork, concrete poem, mobile educator and ongoing public service event that “daylights” the aquifer beneath our feet.

Wrapped in luminous full-scale springs images created by local artists Margaret Ross Tolbert, John Moran, Tom Morris and Mark Long, Regional Transit System buses flow throughout our urban conduits as a metaphoric aquifer, the lifeblood of our region.



VOTE YES ON 1



PHOTO: MARK LONG

VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 1

Florida's Water and Land Legacy constitutional amendment will be on the November 2014 ballot! On January 17th the petition surpassed the required 683,149 verified signatures and 14 qualified congressional districts needed for qualification. By the February 1st deadline it had 707,868 verified signatures. It will be Amendment 1 on the statewide November 4, 2014 election ballot.

The campaign is holding regional qualification celebrations in February across the state to thank those volunteer signature gatherers and organizations who contributed both time and resources to achieving this success.

Alachua County was one of the leaders in gathering petitions, and several local supporters have provided significant funding for the effort. Alachua Conservation Trust donated \$20,000 to the cause, and our members, volunteers, and staff were instrumental in collecting the needed petitions over the course of the campaign.

For many years, the State of Florida had the nation's premier land conservation programs, first called Preservation 2000 and more recently named Florida Forever. In 2009, the legislature de-funded those programs and used the documentary tax stamp revenue (a small fee on every real estate transaction) to balance the budget. With real estate closings once again increasing, there is more than sufficient funds for land conservation, while using only a third of this existing revenue stream.

Alachua County projects have benefited from these state programs in the past, with major projects including

Barr Hammock, Phifer Flatwoods, Hogtown Creek Headwaters, and additions to San Felasco Hammock and Paynes Prairie. If the referendum passes, it will enable ACT, the Alachua County Forever program, and the water management districts to finish conserving land along the Santa Fe & Suwannee Rivers and to make connections between our major conservation areas.

The work is not over and supporters of Florida's water and land need to rally for the next stage of the campaign. For the Amendment to pass, the ballot initiative needs at least 60% of the voters to vote "yes" on the measure. If the referendum is successful, \$10 billion will become available over the next twenty years for the purchase, restoration, and management of Florida's conservation lands and water resources without raising taxes. It would take effect on July 1st, 2015. The power to protect Florida's water and land for future generations to come is in our collective hands.

Please Vote Yes on Amendment 1 come November 4th. *This may be the single most important conservation act that we take during our lifetimes.*

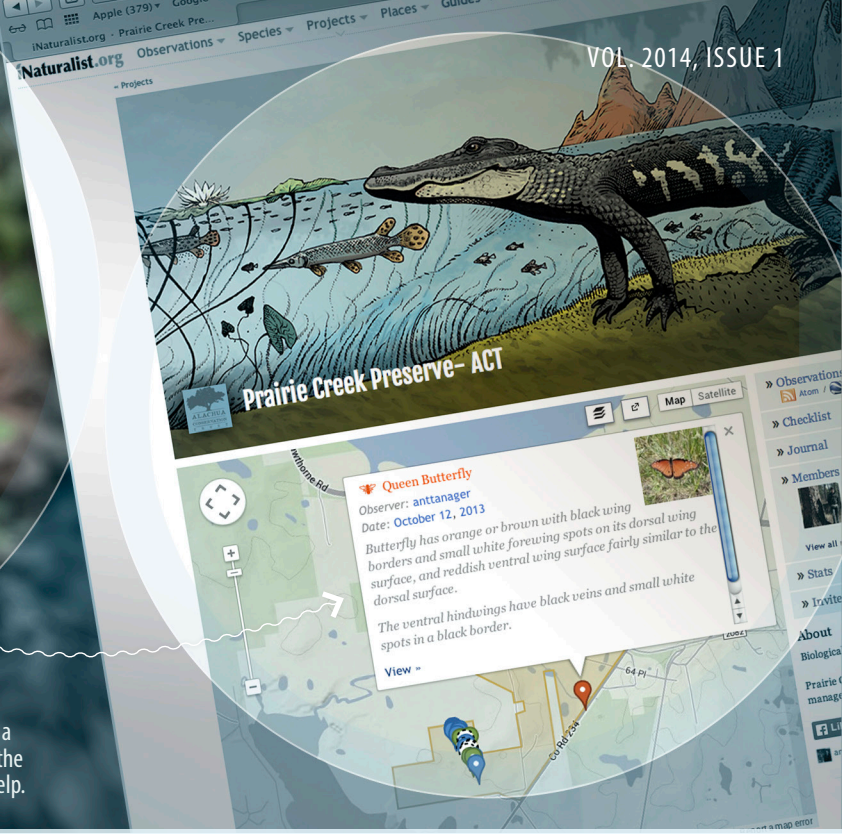
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more and join the campaign, go to: Voteyeson1fl.org (QR code to the right), also visit them on Facebook, or call the office at (850) 629-4656.





Using the iNaturalist app is free and easy, take a picture of a butterfly or record the calls of a frog with your smartphone and press the “add observation button” (it automatically adds the date, time, and location). If you don’t know what it is, ask the iNaturalist community for help.



PARTICIPATE IN CITIZEN SCIENCE

Armed with smartphones and the power of the internet, citizen scientists are contributing to science at an unprecedented rate and scale. Appreciating this potential and often lacking resources of their own, research institutions have created new ways to engage public participation. Today, you can help track salamander migrations, map asteroids, or measure Monarch larva- the opportunities to get involved seem infinite.

iNaturalist and eBird are two very popular citizen science projects. For example, in March 2012, participants reported more than 3.1 million bird observations across North America to eBird. They both consist of a centralized

database that receives basic information (i.e. what, when, where) via online forms and smartphone apps. iNaturalist and eBird are free and require contributors to set up an account which functions much like an “e-fieldbook”, allowing users to manage and review their observations. Observations from across the world are shared, and online summary tools allow exploration of the databases.

LEARN MORE

On April 1st, ACT is hosting a “citizen science” workshop by Adam Kent and Chris Burney that will cover the basics of iNaturalist and eBird, and explain why they are useful to you and science.

ACT’S NEST BOX PROGRAM

Natural holes can be a scarce resource on lands where dead trees and snags were routinely removed. Nest boxes can be an effective substitute, and are commonly used in wildlife management.

Last fall, ACT staff and volunteers constructed 30 nest boxes using designs for different cavity-nesting birds: Wood Duck, American Kestrel, Eastern Screech-owl, and Eastern Bluebird. This spring, we will be busy getting them put up on various ACT preserves.

GET INVOLVED

On April 24th, join ACT land managers as we spend the day installing, cleaning out, and monitoring nest boxes at Tusawilla and Prairie Creek Preserves. We will end the afternoon entering our data into another citizen science database called NESTWATCH, developed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST PRESENTS

PITHLACHOCCO RISES (HALLOWEEN BALL)



NEWNANS LAKE
(PITHLACHOCCO)

Many thanks to our Corporate Sponsors:



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – SPRING 2014

This spring, we are scheduling VOLUNTEER DAYS to enlist your help with various projects on ACT's preserves. These are mostly outdoor activities, so come prepared for bugs and the elements!

Details for the following events will be posted on

ACT's website and our Facebook page at least two weeks in advance. RSVPs are not necessary, but are appreciated. For additional information or to learn about other possibilities for volunteering, please contact Ivor Kincaide by email: act.landmanager@gmail.com.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

February 27th

We will spruce up the trails at Prairie Creek Preserve and build temporary bridges where needed. We will also install new trail signs and markers. Wear rubber boots or just plan to get wet.

BIOBLITZ

April 3rd

Using field guides, binoculars, cameras, and different smartphone apps (*see pg.6 or attend the "Citizen Science" workshop on April 1st*), we will conduct a quick biological survey of Little Orange Creek Preserve near Hawthorne. We currently have very little information about the ani-

mals and plants found on the preserve, so anything we learn will be helpful.

NEST BOX SURVEY

April 24th

We will spend the day installing, cleaning out, and monitoring nest boxes at Tuscawilla and Prairie Creek Preserves.

NATIVE GRASS PLANTING

May 29th

Plan to get dirty helping ACT further our restoration efforts at the Prairie Creek Preserve with a full day of planting native grasses and longleaf pine seedlings in recently burned areas of the preserve.

LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE**PRAIRIE CREEK PRESERVE**

With help from The Nature Conservancy's resource management support team, we have started prepping the preserve for the spring prescribed fire season. This involves mowing roads, cleaning our fire lines, and updating our burn plan for the various fire-managed areas in the preserve. If conditions allow, we hope to conduct our first burn during the first week of March.

The wet weather over the past year has elevated water levels throughout the preserve to their highest point in years. While this may be fantastic news for the frogs and wading birds, the network of hiking trails has suffered and sections are regularly underwater in many spots, making access without rubber boots an issue. We will be addressing this problem over the next month with temporary bridges.

HISTORIC HAILE HOMESTEAD

Together, Alachua Conservation Trust and Historic Haile Homestead, Inc are applying for a Florida Division of Historic Resources grant to address a number of repair and maintenance issues that include treating a chronic drywood termite problem in the Haile Homestead structure. The two organizations will also be teaming up next month to install a new historic marker for the building.

LITTLE ORANGE CREEK PRESERVE

ACT and partner organizations are continuing to develop a unified management plan for the lands that

make up the 2,367-acre preserve. We are working closely with the City of Hawthorne and the Putnam Land Conservancy to develop specific guidelines for the long-term management and restoration of various habitats.

The plan also addresses improvements needed to provide better recreational access, and may include provisions for limited hunting, particularly for management concerns (e.g. feral hogs). It also outlines a strategy for prescribed burns in areas of the park that will benefit from fire management.

The partner organizations have made tremendous progress in forming a management cooperative that will provide the necessary framework for getting the work completed over the long-term.



Henslow's Sparrows (right) were recorded for the first time on Prairie Creek Preserve during the Christmas Bird Count. Three birds were found, an important count for a species that has declined steadily over the past few decades. (Photo: Benjamin M Clock)



PAINTING: CHARLEY HARPER

TUSCAWILLA LEARNING CENTER

Over the years, TLC volunteers have commented on how much the children in the TLC family have grown from class to class and season to season. We would like to extend a special thanks to those of you who have given your continued support. A number of families have been with us since we began in 2010. Thank you! Thank you! We thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to share in the wonder and beauty of outdoor exploration and learning with you and your children!

Reflecting on last fall, the first thing that comes to mind is how much children love to run and share. The trails of Tuscawilla Prairie were filled with excitement as children outfitted with "nature spy scopes" (toilet paper rolls) spotted zebra longwing butterflies flitting amongst purple ironweed flowers, large snails tucked in the tall grass, frogs of varying sizes and

colors, and more. They always ended up in the grand live oak tree that creates a margin between the prairie and the forest. Even though they all wanted a turn at the same time, they found a way to communicate and wait in a row on the branch that resembles an elephant's trunk, bent to the ground, ready to lift each child in turn.

We'd like to thank Sylvan Dell Publishing for donating books to our, "Tales on the Trails" program. Also a big thanks to Amber Roux from Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, and Doug Noble, retired from the Florida Museum of Natural History. Their deep knowledge and passion for the environment, along with the help of all our volunteers, made each class a great success.

Join us this spring- see schedule below!

WILD WEDNESDAY PROGRAM

Spring 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!

TLC volunteers will introduce various environmental educational concepts using games, songs, and activities. Participants will learn and connect with nature through playful activities that build curiosity and immerse your child in the natural wonders of our beautiful preserve. It's fun for the parents too!

All programs begin at 2pm 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 4-8, 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

PLANT LIFE CYCLE AND POLLINATION

February 19th, 2-4pm

What do flowers, fruits, and pollen have to do with baby plants? Children will discover and share how new plants enter the world. Observation and imagination

skills will be engaged to develop an understanding of the importance of spring flowers on Tuscawilla Prairie. Followed by independent play and exploration.

FOOD WEB FUN

March 12th, 2-4pm

"Predator and prey, producers and decay, are in the food chain-ch-chain, chain." These are some lyrics from a favorite TLC skit that teaches how the coyote is connected to the fly. Webs of life intersect all around us, come let the Tuscawilla Prairie show how local spiders and other animals and plants explain the concepts of food chains and food webs. Followed by independent play and exploration.

EARTHDAY EXPLORATIONS

April 16th, 2-4pm

Earthday Explorations class begins with some sensory game-time. Children learn to listen like foxes and see like eagles; a great way to develop their awareness of nature, and feel connected to the forest and its many creatures. Children will also talk about Earth Day and how we can do our part to protect and preserve nature. Followed by independent play and exploration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

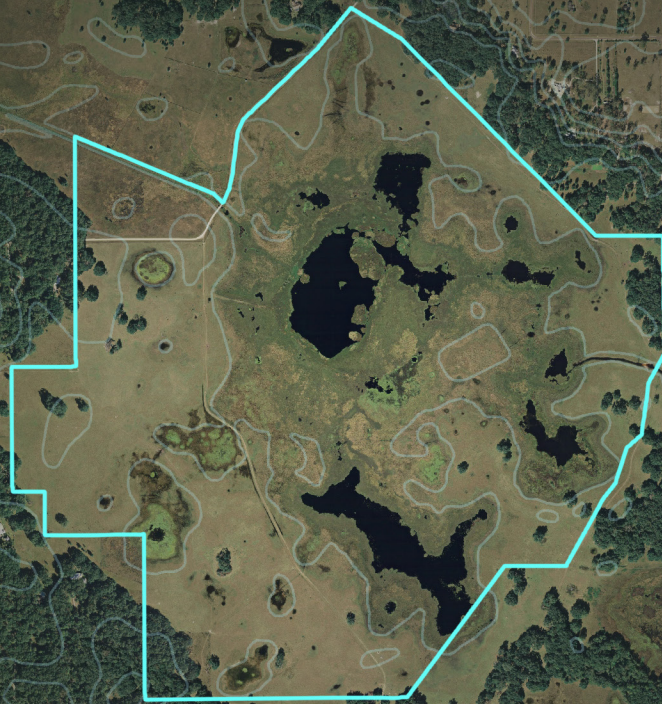
Learn more about TLC on ACT's website (QR code to the right), join them on Facebook, call ACT at (352) 373-1078, or contact them by email: TuscawillaLC@gmail.com



PRESERVE PROFILE: KANAPAHA PRAIRIE

Due to the efforts of a committed group of local residents and multiple partners, Kanapaha Prairie (685 acres) was permanently protected by a conservation easement in 2008 with a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, a program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The property is currently owned by The Conservation Fund, and the conservation easement is held by Alachua Conservation Trust.

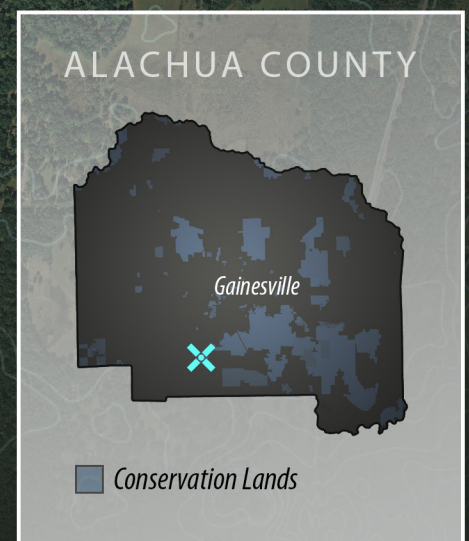
Kanapaha Prairie is part of a larger network of wetlands in north central Florida that attract thousands of migratory birds each year, such as Sandhill Cranes, many species of waterfowl, Wood Storks, American Bitterns, and Bald Eagles. In recent years, Kanapaha Prairie was one of the only known sites in Florida you could find a Sprague's Pipit- a secretive grassland bird that seldom winters in Florida. The fluctuating water levels also provide important habitat for various reptiles and amphibians that use ephemeral water bodies.



Kanapaha Prairie is not open to the public, but guided walks are occasionally available. Please contact Alachua Conservation Trust for more information.



0 0.5 1.0 miles





ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

7204 SE County Road 234

Gainesville, Florida 32641

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST: THE NATURAL LEADER

BOARD of DIRECTORS

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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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