



GAZETTEER

August, 2007

Prairie Creek Preserve Grows

THE PRAIRIE CREEK BASIN PRESERVE GREW BY 48 ACRES THIS SUMMER WHEN ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST PURCHASED ADDITIONAL LAND ALONG THE GAINESVILLE-HAWTHORNE RAIL TRAIL. ACT'S PRESERVE NOW INCLUDES AN 1890S FARMSTEAD WITH SEVERAL BUILDINGS, OLD LOGGING TRAMS ON DIKES THAT ARE RAISED AS MUCH AS FOUR FEET ABOVE THE SWAMP FORESTS (AND WILL BE THE FOUNDATION FOR SOME MULTI-USER TRAILS), AND A STUNNING VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES. WE BELIEVE THE TALLEST CABBAGE PALMS IN ALACHUA COUNTY ARE ON THE PROPERTY, AS WELL AS LARGE SWAMP CHESTNUT OAKS, PONDS FULL OF PICKEREL WEED, AND GROVES OF GREEN DRAGON PLANTS.

In August, Florida Communities Trust reimbursed ACT for our acquisitions so that lenders who made this project possible could be re-paid. The significant dollars required to purchase these valuable tracts were beyond the fundraising capacity of ACT – this project cost \$2.4 million – so fourteen generous supporters stepped forward with bridge loans in the interim.

Prairie Creek, which drains southward out of Newnans Lake (aka Pithlachocco), is the only outfall from the lake and is one of the most significant tributaries to Paynes Prairie and Orange Lake. The Preserve, owned and managed by ACT, is now 319 acres, and abuts hundreds of acres owned by the St Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Park Service. We are continuing with our attempts to protect additional lands in the area through direct purchase or conservation easements.

Alachua Conservation Trust relied on the generosity and courage of fourteen organizations and individuals who backed our pleas for assistance with generous bridge loans totaling over \$2 million:

Florida Wildlife Federation
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Natural Futures Foundation – Larry Harris
Howard and Lisa Jelks
David Etherington and Jeff Dunn
Jay Ritter
Sam Trickey and Cynthia Karle
Sara and K.M. Eoff
Two anonymous lenders

ACT paid back these low interest loans with our grant award from Florida Communities Trust, received earlier this month. Thank you!

Public trails in the preserve will ultimately consist of several miles of unpaved loops, providing a tranquil change of pace for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Two trails will be dedicated at a special naming ceremony on the morning of October 20th. ACT's land management contractor, Ryan Crowder, has been supervising community service workers who are clearing the trails and removing exotic plants, and ACT is working with organizations such as the Friends of Paynes Prairie, the Friends of the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail, the Gainesville Cycling Club, and Alachua County to develop other amenities at the Preserve. Our focus is currently at the popular "Witness Tree Junction" trailhead near the intersection of County Roads 2082 and 234 in Rochelle. Boardwalks, bridges, and other facilities will be built as materials and volunteer labor become available.



*Pickerelweeds in
Prairie Creek are the summer
joy of bumblebees*





Twigs in the Nest

PHIFER FLATWOODS

Alachua Conservation Trust prepared an application for Alachua County Forever to receive a substantial reimbursement for Phifer Flatwoods. This 643-acre parcel, including three miles along the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail, is an intricate mosaic of pine flatwoods and cypress sloughs. ACT acquired the property with the help of hundreds of donors and fifty lenders in 2005, then sold it to Alachua County in 2006. We'll find out in September if the grant proposal to Florida Communities Trust is successful – if so, the County will receive 40% of the purchase price back – over \$1.2 million – that can be used to protect additional lands.



Lizard tails in Phifer Flatwoods have wet feet, as will their seekers.

HOGTOWN CREEK HEADWATERS



Lightly, damselflies of Hogtown Headwaters will alight on your nose.

Under contract with the City of Gainesville, ACT is negotiating the purchase of the Hogtown Creek Headwaters. The landowner, Home Depot, which just opened a new store on a corner of the site, has tentatively agreed to sell the remaining 75 acres to the City to become the next nature park. ACT prepared a successful grant application of nearly \$5 million to Florida Communities Trust to fund the project. Home Depot is also considering a substantial contribution to the City to assist with park acquisition and development. The purchase should be completed this fall, with the park opening sometime next year.

LAKE TUSCAWILLA AND KANAPAHA PRAIRIE

In July, Alachua Conservation Trust submitted a \$1 million proposal to the federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act program (NAWCA). The plan is to acquire additional land around ACT's 379-acre Lake Tuskawilla Preserve and conserve a large portion of the wetlands of Kanapaha Prairie with a perpetual easement. This is the first phase of an ambitious project to preserve flyways and wintering grounds for migratory birds, such as Whooping and Sandhill Cranes. Lauren Day of Alachua Conservation Trust, Matt Sexton of The Conservation Fund, and Joanne Davis with 1000 Friends of Florida prepared the application. Special thanks to Alachua County, Florida Communities Trust, Conservation Trust for Florida, and several private individuals for assisting with this project. We'll know later this Fall if the project is funded.



Lake Tuskawilla provides juicy tidbits for white ibis dining.

ACT'S TV COMMERCIAL

Combine the stunning beauty of John Moran's nature photography with the video editing skill of documentary producer Eric Flagg, the traditional music of Mark Archer, and the generosity of Fine, Farkash, and Parlapiano and Cox Cable -- and what you get is everybody's favorite TV commercial on the Gainesville airwaves. The thirty-second public service announcement for ACT has brought in praise for how it stands out from the fray on TV and has helped ACT achieve greater recognition for our accomplishments. John Moran is a long-time ACT supporter and Conservation Steward, and Eric Flagg and Alan Parlapiano joined the ACT Board of Directors this year.

NATURE WALKS AT BLUES CREEK

ACT's Blues Creek Ravine continues to be a popular hiking area, despite the lack of permanent public access (we're working on it!). Through a special arrangement, ACT guides groups who are interested in experiencing the deeply incised ravines, the mature hardwood forest, and the serenity of this 163-acre wilderness off Millhopper Road. Members of the Unitarian Universalist church enjoyed hiking the trails for their Earth Week celebration, guided by ACT Board member Peter NeSmith and Professor Kaoru Kitajima. Special thanks to Al Tweedy and Marilyn Kershner for setting it up!

*Unitarians
hiking ACT's Blues Creek Ravine
revel in Earth Week.*



CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS



*Thanks, Ken and Linda:
Tuscaquilla's sunsets are
truly delicious*

ACT's Eighth Annual Conservation Stewards Banquet continued in the tradition of being a great party and a successful fundraiser. Honorees Ken and Linda McGurn were recognized for their continued support of local conservation efforts with the donation of the largest part of ACT's Tuscaquilla Preserve. Rex Rowan was recognized for his lifelong contributions to the birding community. Over 300 attendees enjoyed the evening at the Florida Museum of Natural History, featuring lively entertainment, great food, and an extensive silent auction. The Conservation Stewards Banquet has become the most popular event of the year for the local conservation community.



*Rex Rowan, friend of
our feathered friends, helps them fly
right into our heart.*

ACT STAFF NEWS



LESA HOLDER is ACT's new Office Manager. With experience in the Gainesville Fire Rescue Department, a nature sanctuary in Marion County, and a legal publishing firm, she comes well equipped to put out the fires caused by the increasing complexities of local conservation work. Lesa lives with her husband, children, and critters near Newnans Lake and is an avid outdoorswoman and gardener.

RYAN CROWDER

is ACT's Labor Crew Supervisor and has been managing community service workers on ACT projects for the past six months. Under contract with ACT, Ryan's crews have created miles of trails, stabilized old buildings, filled dozens of dumpsters with debris, and cleared unwanted vegetation. Ryan's experience includes international development and conservation work in Nicaragua and Argentina.



SARAH BARTLETT, ACT's development coordinator, left Gainesville for a position with *The Carter Center* in Atlanta. She writes back that her experience with ACT was invaluable in helping her transition into the big leagues of non-governmental organization finance and fundraising.

*Those haiku captions
must be the right brain of Hutch
trying to escape.*



The Future of Local Land Conservation

WHAT SHOULD A LOCAL LAND TRUST REALLY BE DOING? LIKE MANY ORGANIZATIONS, ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST PERIODICALLY RE-VISITS OUR PRIORITIES IN THE FACE OF CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES. BESIDES PREPARING FOR NATIONAL ACCREDITATION, ACT IS ENGAGING IN A STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS THIS FALL. BEFORE LOOKING AT SOME OF THE ISSUES FACING THIS LOCAL CONSERVANCY IN OUR NEXT PLANNING HORIZON, HERE'S A BRIEF REVIEW OF ACT'S HISTORY.

ACT'S FIRST YEARS

In the late 1980s, the Alachua County Greenbelt Task Force encouraged the formation of a local land trust. Shortly after Alachua Conservation Trust was incorporated in 1988, the state created the Preservation 2000 program to fund major state acquisitions. For our first few years, ACT proposed, lobbied, and acquired lands for the state's Conservation and Recreations Lands program. ACT negotiated important additions to Paynes Prairie Preserve, including the 1000-acre Hickory Ranch, which now includes the Park's offices and maintenance facility, the Jerevan properties, which contain scrub habitat along the Rail Trail, and important lands along Wacahoota and Hawthorne Roads.



Justin Saarinen (new ACT Board member) and Arthur Saarinen (former ACT Board member) inspecting the forest restoration at ACT's Saarinen Preserve. The family's gift is one of the largest outright donations for conservation purposes in Alachua County.

ACT also proposed and negotiated the purchase of significant portions of Watermelon Pond along the Alachua/Levy County border, of which nearly 5000 acres is now part of Goethe State Forest. Alachua County Forever, The Nature Conservancy, the State of Florida, and others continue to actively seek conservation lands in this unique area.

The Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area, conceived by Cross Creek residents, became an ACT project when we re-submitted their proposal to the State of Florida in the early 1990's. Ultimately, this resulted in 28,000 acres being preserved by the St. Johns River Water Management District using a creative combination of conservation easements and fee simple acquisition from Georgia Pacific. ACT also negotiated the purchase of lands to add onto the north side of San Felasco Hammock State Preserve, which are now the site of popular bicycle trails.

ACT'S ADOLESCENCE

As the state geared up its staff capabilities to match its available funding, the need for ACT to be involved as an acquisition agent lessened. During the mid- to late-90s, ACT restored the Historic Haile Homestead and accepted the generous donation of the 80-acre Saarinen Preserve near Jonesville. ACT also began to seek private conservation easements and negotiated some important ones, such as a 413-acre easement in Yankeetown, and a 659-acre easement near Millhopper Road.

ACT also played a pivotal role in the creation of Alachua County Forever. Our first Conservation Steward's banquet, in 1998, provided the initial funding for the citizen's initiative. ACT's Executive Director at the time, Pegeen Hanrahan, also drafted the acquisition guidelines for the program with the help of County staff that has been widely recognized as creating transparency and fairness in selecting the properties to be acquired with public funds.

ACT IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

In 2001, the new Florida Forever program allowed land trusts to receive state funds directly from Florida Communities Trust ("FCT") for the purchase of conservation lands. ACT immediately began to seek these grants and is the most successful land trust in the state in receiving them. Our FCT projects include Blues Creek Ravine, a 163-acre nature sanctuary north of Millhopper Road, the 379-acre Lake Tusawilla Preserve near Micanopy, and the 319-acre Prairie Creek Basin project. ACT also partnered or prepared grant proposals for Florida Communities Trust projects such as the Hogtown Creek Greenway (in the early 90s), Phifer Flatwoods, Bivens Branch, and the Hogtown Creek Headwaters.

ACT has partnered with many conservation organizations, including ongoing projects with The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund, and the Conservation Trust for Florida. With increasing land ownership has come increased management responsibilities, and ACT is seeking to complete a \$1 million land management endowment. In just three years of fundraising, we're over halfway there.

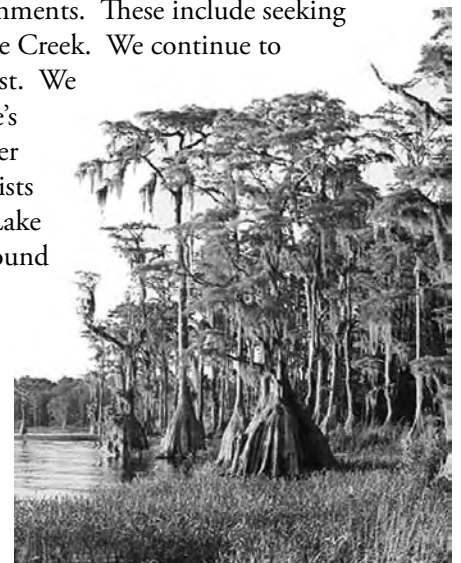
“ACT must remain flexible, entrepreneurial, and opportunistic in selecting the projects that we work on.”

ACT'S FUTURE

Alachua County Forever, our local government land-buying program, will soon be out of funds. ACT cannot take the lead role in promoting a successor program (which requires a referendum), as this is typically done by a political action committee. We are actively participating in the formation of a citizen's support organization, and serve as the group's fiscal agent. The *Friends of Alachua County Forever* is gearing up this fall for increasing involvement and support by the public for Alachua County Forever's new preserves.

ACT's future land protection projects are even more ambitious than our past accomplishments. These include seeking additional lands in eastern Alachua County in areas such as Lochloosa Creek and Prairie Creek. We continue to facilitate what we hope will be a conservation outcome for the remaining Serenola Forest. We are designing a major project to protect the largest contiguous greenspace in Gainesville's western fringe. ACT is facilitating the public acquisition of an impressive Santa Fe River property, and additional lands along the river are being identified with the help of activists in the High Springs area. We will continue to work in conjunction with the Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association on a Florida Forever project to protect remaining natural areas around that spectacular lake.

Unfortunately, funding limitations, both in what ACT can raise privately, and what public agencies can commit, will always result in the heart-breaking triage of selecting what we can actually save. We will continue to seek grants from Florida Communities Trust as long as we can envision projects that fit within their criteria. If there is to be a successor to the state's Florida Forever land acquisition program when it expires in a few years, we will shape our efforts to its mission.



The Hanson Sanctuary contains the last active bird rookery on Lake Santa Fe and was acquired by ACT in 2004 and conveyed to the State of Florida in 2006

ACT is embarking on new roles in land management, certainly of our own land, but perhaps for some lands owned by local governments. We will be hiring a Land Manager this fall from a pool of 61 applicants (including 14 couples) from across the country.

To a great extent, ACT must remain flexible, entrepreneurial, and opportunistic in selecting the projects that we work on. In the past, private conservation easements were not particularly attractive to many landowners, but increased federal tax incentives are generating more interest, particularly among people who have recently experienced large increases in property values, but have no speculative intent for their land.

ACT welcomes input from our supporters on how we can most effectively deploy our limited resources “to protect the natural, historic, recreational, and scenic resources in and around Alachua County.” Our Board's strategic planning session is in mid-September, and Board members would welcome your input about how and where ACT should focus our efforts.

When measured by the amount and value of land protected, Alachua Conservation Trust is second in Florida among local land trusts, and is one of the most respected land trusts nation-wide. When measured more subjectively, ACT has become the institution that most clearly projects this community's steadfast support of north Florida's natural beauty and rich heritage, and that we all agree is a legacy we must take responsibility for passing on to future Alachua Countians.



In Memoriam

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.
The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference.
The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.
And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.

~ Elie Wiesel

*In memory of the ACT supporters --
friends and family -- who made a difference:*

Edwyn Niederhofer
Susan B. Wright

*Thank you to these artists, merchants, and supporters
who contributed to ACT's charity auction in 2007:*

Alachua County Forever - Ramesh Buch *
Alternatives - Laurie Wilkins * Anne Barkdoll *
Karen Bartlett * Big Trees Plantation * Eleanor
Blair * Linda Blondheim * Blue Highway Pizza
- Frank and Winny Ruffino * Dawn Bone, Licensed
Massage Therapist * Iris Burke * Rick Cain *
Canoe Outpost - Jim Wood * Wes Corbett * Dr.
Jaret Daniels * Dorn's Liquors * Polly Doughty *
Michael Drummond * David Etherington and
Jeff Dunn * Festival Signs - Robbie Rucker *
Dahvi Fradkin * Freeride Surfshop - Tom Glikes
* Gainesville Health and Fitness Center * Ann
Gilroy * Haile Village Farmer's Market - Marie
Hemming * Larry Harris * Gina & John Hawkins
* Historic Haile Homestead - Karen Kirkman *
Angela Hoppe * Jillian's Photography * Freddie and
Peggy Johnson * Michael Kemp * Allison LeBaron
* Micanopy Animal Hospital - Molly Pearson *
Micanopy Wildflower Nursery - Claudia Larsen *
Donna Mitchell * John Moran Photography *
Laura NeSmith * Orion Fitness Center * Linda
Pence * Jack Putz * Steve Robitaille * Dan Rountree
* Arthur and Phyllis Saarinen * Salon LaDiDa -
Diana and Dave Castine * Sanctuary Yoga - Melissa
Montilla * Satchel's Pizza * Virginia Seacrist *
Peter Senesac * William Schaaf * Spin Cycle - Ted
Kubisek * Helen Suits * The Nature Conservancy
* Tioga Town Center * Margaret Tolbert * Julie
Warmke-Robitaille * Wild Birds Unlimited - Ingrid
and Bubba Scales * Willy the-Losen * Wine and
Cheese Gallery * Kathleen Wobie * *and anonymous
donors*



6

Volunteer Opportunities

Festivals & Fairs – We need folks who will take a shift at events like the Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival, the Downtown Arts Festival, the Butterfly Festival, and the Farmer's Market to educate the public about ACT's mission.

Trail Building – Blues Creek Ravine, Tuscawilla Preserve, Prairie Creek Basin

Sign Placement – ACT will be marking the boundaries of some of our properties at regular intervals with small signs and needs a volunteer to assist

Scout Project -- Research the likely design of the water dipping/pumping technology of an 1890s dug well and re-construct ACT's historic well-head.

Office Help – Photography, web-site, data entry

For more information, contact Lesa Holder at (352) 373-1078



It is too late to volunteer to shovel sludge from the bottom of a sixty year old cattle dip vat. Richard Hamann, environmental attorney and ACT co-founder, took charge of seeing that the dip vat on our Tuscawilla Preserve was properly stabilized and entombed and that the sludge was disposed of in a safe and legal manner.

In 2000, the voters of Alachua County overwhelmingly approved a citizen's initiative that created \$29 million to be used exclusively to acquire land for conservation purposes. The quarter mil that was authorized raised \$25 per year for every \$100,000 of property value.

Alachua County Forever: Promises and Partnerships

The unforeseen buzz-saw of real estate speculation that doubled and tripled land prices during 2004-2006 timeframe was hard on Alachua County Forever and

One of the promises of Alachua County Forever was that it would enable the County to receive matching funds to preserve more land. In the past five years, \$54 million in land has been protected, with less than \$19 million of this coming from our local funds. However, by late 2007, most of the remaining local funds will be committed, and so the program will only be able to continue as reimbursements are received.

Alachua County Forever has done a *great* job! The portfolio of properties acquired is impressive – over 11,000 acres, including large gems such as Barr Hammock, Longleaf Flatwoods, Mill Creek, and Phifer Flatwoods. It also includes more urban projects, such as Cofrin Nature Park and the Sweetwater Preserve next to Boulware Springs. Lands are nominated by the public, analyzed by County staff, and prioritized by the volunteer Land Conservation Board. At the discretion of the County Commission, the land can then be purchased from willing sellers.

similar state land programs. Available funds simply did not go as far as they were anticipated when the programs were created. Clearly, Alachua County Forever has been successful in what it has accomplished, yet it is just as clear that the job of saving our most cherished landscapes is not complete.

Conversations have begun in earnest about whether an Alachua County Forever 2 should be considered. One citizen group is looking at re-upping our local conservation program in much the same form as it currently exists, while another group is discussing an initiative that might include funding for quality of life concerns in addition to greenspace, such as roads, schools, and active recreation. There is much uncertainty about local government budgets, the future of state land acquisition programs, and the real estate market. It is likely that answers to how these questions impact voter sentiment can only be determined by careful polling.

As a non-profit charity, ACT steers clear of direct political involvement. If a group decides that a referendum is viable in an upcoming election cycle, one or more political action committees will be formed to sponsor it, and ACT will once again be available to provide technical information while others will provide the grassroots advocacy.

Lands Protected by Alachua County Forever and partners

For more information about Alachua County Forever check out:
www.co.alachua.fl.us/government/depts/epd/land/

Project name	Year	Acres	Alachua Co. \$	Partner \$	Partners
Mill Creek Preserve	2002	1,194	\$ 1,413,970	\$ 1,413,970	f
Blues Creek Ravine	2002	163	-	1,657,000	a,f
Longleaf Flatwoods	2003	1,388	1,468,305	723,153	i
Cofrin Park	2003	23	468,913	1,031,087	f,g,k
Fox Pond	2004	77	-	1,750,000	e
Kanapaha Prairie	2004	687	-	850,000	c,k
Austin Cary Forest additions	2005	1,702	1,617,013	2,115,013	h,i
Lake Alto/ Waldo Blueway	2005	466	1,793,305	-	
Santa Fe River	2006	242	1,200,000	-	
Phifer Flatwoods	2006	634	2,882,293	-	a,f
Sweetwater Branch Preserve	2006	113	1,872,866	5,831,112	f
Prairie Creek Basin (3 parcels)	2006	319	-	2,379,770	a,f
Mill Creek addition	2006	36	330,512	-	
Paynes Prairie addition	2006	25	225,720	-	
Barr Hammock	2006	2,302	3,986,250	6,139,275	f,j
Lake Tusawilla (3 parcels)	2006	379	-	1,986,000	a,f,k
Santa Fe River easement	2006	63	5,000	58,450	k
Watermelon Pond (3 parcels)	2006	558	927,000	-	
Watermelon Pond Ranch	2007	1,306	-	10,000,000	b,d
Lake Forest Creek	2007	22	75,000	-	
Total		11,699	\$ 18,266,147	\$ 35,934,830	
				\$ 54,200,977	



Key to Partners

- a Alachua Conservation Trust
- b The Nature Conservancy
- c The Conservation Fund
- d Florida Fish & Wildlife
- e Florida Forever
- f Florida Communities Trust
- g City of Gainesville
- h Federal Forest Legacy
- i St. Johns River WMD
- j Southwest Florida WMD
- k Private donors

ACT's Friends and Family

ACT is an appropriate abbreviation for Alachua Conservation Trust – thanks to everybody for your great “ACTS.”

ARTHUR SAARINEN, BRUCE DELANEY, AND MICHAEL BINFORD – thanks for your years of service on ACT's Board of Directors. And welcome to **FRED AND LINDA CANTRELL, ERIC FLAGG, AND ALAN PARLAPIANO** who join this ACTive Board. For this year's Conservation Stewards Banquet, thank you **ERIKA NELSON** for coordinating ACT's silent auction with panache', along with the invaluable assistance of **GRACY CASTINE, LAURA NESMITH, AND JENNY MULLIS**. Thanks to **CLAY GIBBONS** at *Alta Systems* for database and newsletter help, and to **Clay and MARILYN HUTCHINSON** for the paper crane decorations. Thank you, **DOUG JONES, DAVE STEADMAN, BEVERLY SENSBACH, NATALIE SILVA, JEFF GAGE, CAROLINA PUENTE,** and the entire staff of the *Florida Museum of Natural History*. And to *Celebrations Catering* - in particular, **LEAH SHERER** - for all that was scrumptious. Thanks to **GRACY CASTINE**, again, for rounding up everybody's favorite beverages. And to maestro **TOMMY CLAY** for tickling the ivories and the *WEEDS OF EDEN* for rocking the house. **DOUG HORNBECK** created the great interactive thermometer and easels, and **DANA DAY, SUSIE LYONS, CHRISTINE HOUSEL,** and many other hosts made the evening comfortable for everyone. We



ACT Board member Peter NeSmith delineating wetlands on Kanapaha Prairie based on soil profiles.

appreciate **BILL SANDERS AND DOZIER HINES** for their hard work in maintaining our Prairie Creek Preserve. Thanks to **SHIRLEY ANDERSON**, County Arborist, for providing the trees at Witness Tree Junction, to Herb Poole for providing the mulch, and to the *City of Gainesville* for selling a surplus water tanker to ACT for their aftercare. Thanks to the legal team of **DAVID MENET AND CARRI-ANNE POWELL** who patiently sorted out countless title issues *ab ovo usque ad mala* for our various real estate transactions. Thanks also to **WALTER TOVKACH** for guiding ACT through some thorny tax issues. We especially valued the cooperation of *Plum Creek Timber Company*, in particular **GREG GALPIN**, in helping with our Prairie Creek transactions, and **WALLACE ZETROUER AND LEE CREWS**, true neighbors who helped us resolve some title problems. And thanks to the *Florida Communities Trust* staff – **KEN REECY, KRISTEN COONS, GRANT GELHARDT, DELBERT HARVEY, CAROLINE SUTTON, JERRY TABER, AND HANK VINSON** – for your understanding that there's lots of alligators in every swamp you help us save – FCT's creativity, patience, and strong ethics set the standard for public land conservation programs. As always, we appreciate the entire *Alachua County Forever* staff, who continue to acquire and manage the gems in Alachua County -- **RAMESH BUCH, SANDRA VARDAMAN, SARA LEITMAN, KELLY MCPHERSON, AND BRIAN BLOCK**. Thanks also to **JACK HAUPTMAN AND PETE COLVERSON** for creating the ACF slideshow. Thank you's to **MIKE CARTER** of *Kate's Fish Camp* for providing canoes for field trips and clean-up projects on Prairie Creek, and to **AUSTIN CREVASSE** for keeping our conversations about Prairie Creek interesting. Thank you to the **NIEDERHOFER FAMILY**, and to the **AMUNDSON/BOYD FAMILY**, for donations of antique furniture for the Prairie Creek homestead – your receipt is in the mail. Acquiring the City of Gainesville's new nature park, still

under negotiation, will assuredly be successful if judged by all the folks who have been creatively involved: **JOHN HUDSON, DICK BISELI, KATE PETERSON, DAN PELLICER, NATOSHA REID, ANNE EGAN, STEVE PHILLIPS, NICOLE SMITH, ERIC BREFDFELDT, RUSS BLACKBURN, MIKE AND MARION JONES,** and many others. **AL HAAKER**, our surveyor has done yeoman's work this year on several projects for us. And **FRED PARTIN** and the folks at *Universal Engineering* have done careful investigations for our environmental audits. Volunteers **CHRISTINE HOUSEL, LARRY SCHWANDES, MARY VALLIANATOS, FRED AND LINDA CANTRELL,** and numerous others have peopled ACT booths and helped with special events. Thank you, **JESSE MOGLE** for your weeks of tedium working on our website and database. We appreciate the exceptional cooperation of *Alachua County Court Services*, including **JUDGE MARY DAY COKER, SALATHEIA BROWN, TONY GORDON, STEVE McANINCH, AND CARLOS VILLALOBOS** in helping with the establishment of ACT's successful community service program. We appreciate the many donations of **PAUL AND JONI FLORENCE** of *Florence Recycling and Disposal* to our property clean-up efforts. Thank you, **KAREN DEETER** for waiving tipping fees for disposal of illegal dumping that ACT crews pick up – there's always another dumpster load. Special thanks to **JOHN WINN**, ACT Board member for tackling and taming administrative monsters: accreditation documentation, investment options, audit standards, board policies, and our annual report to the IRS – we know you really believe in “More Wood, Less Paper.” The folks at the *Land Trust Alliance* continue to provide great training and advice – especially **CHUCK ROE AND FRANK MCKAY** with LTA's Southeast Office. Thanks to **LISA GEAREN AND BARRY RUTENBERG** for filling the leadership vacuum surrounding the public policy debate for ways to fund quality of life issues. Thank you **WILL ABBERGER** of the *Trust for Public Land* for your behind-the-curtain advice. Kudos to committed conservationist **DAVID “THE PEARL” CARR** who has stepped up to serve as Treasurer of the recently formed *Friends of Alachua County Forever*. Special thanks to the **DAVE MATTHEWS BAND** for including ACT in their Eco-Village. **CHARLES TOMPKINS** is our Computer King, out-smarting silicon to keep the network humming. Thank you, **JOHN HOWARD** for books that balance, and to **STEVE KATTELL AND BRUCE ZAVON** for non-profit tax and accounting advice. We couldn't have budged the world's heaviest copier without **MARK SMITH AND WARD BATTON** coming to the rescue, and it wouldn't remain happy without **JOHN ANDERSON**'s timely surgery. Thank you, **MATT KIRK** for updating and re-designing ACT's website, and to **JOHN MORAN** for the continued use of your photos. We're searching for a phrase to express our gratitude to **GOOGLE** for a major software donation and on-line advertising support. We appreciate the help of **LYNN THIGPEN AND ALLISON NORTON** for assisting with surplus City of Gainesville property, and **RON MILLS**, for assisting with surplus County property acquisitions. The generosity of **ANA VARELA** is much appreciated – she coordinated a holiday art sale in Micanopy that benefited ACT's *Lake Tuscowilla Preserve*, which included participation from artists **HELEN SUITS, CAROL ADAMSON, MABELIN CASTELLANOS, CLAIRE-LYNE XYLENA APOTHELOZ, DOUG DEWEY, KATHLEEN WOBIE, AND WENDY BENNETT**. Speaking of art, the fellows who dealt with ACT's cattle dip vat – **RICHARD HAMANN, FRED PARTIN, AND RICHARD VORIES**, turned the scooping of sludge into performance art. Thank you, **MATT SIMPSON**, of *Natural Resource Planning Services*, for coordinating the Saarinen Preserve forest restoration project, and thank you, **RYAN MILLER** for adopting this preserve. The creative energy of **MARTHA STRAWN** in reinvigorating our Santa Fe River initiative couldn't come at a better time. We appreciate the efforts of **KAREN JOHNSON** and the folks at GRU in striving for a conservation outcome on important properties. Thanks for the efforts by **MARK CARPENTER, MARY BLAKE, CHARLIE**

PEDERSEN, ERNIE ASH, LIBBY STUART, SANDY RAY, ELLEN HUNTLEY-DUBE, all of whom are seeking creative ways to save Watermelon Pond. Special thanks to the team who provided input into the preparation of the NAWCA grant proposal: JOHN WINN, REX ROWAN, PETER NESMITH, MARGARET CHENEY, MICHELLE FOLEY, HEATHER TIPTON, ROBIN BOUGHTON, STEVE ROCKWOOD, CRAIG WATSON, DAVID BUIE, LARRY KOHRNAK, PAUL HURT, PETER AND LISA GEAREN, MARILYN SPALDING, AND PETER FREDERICK. And thank you, MIKE AND BUSY BYERLY, for walking the walk in all aspects of conservation. We appreciate the continued leadership of KAREN KIRKMAN and the *Historic Haile Homestead* board, in particular MIKE CASTINE, and also the *Tourist Development Council* staffed by ROLAND LOOG AND JOHN PRICHER for continued faith in the Homestead. And thank you to IAN KRESS, WILLA DRUMMOND, KATE LEE, and many others for keeping the flame alive to protect the Serenola Forest, and to MICHAEL DURKEE AND VALENTIN ZAHARIEV, for continuing to seek ways to save it. We appreciate SALLY MORRISON, BILL DUNK and the DUDLEY FARM FOLKS, THE EMMEL FAMILY, ERIC PARKER, JOHN PLA and others for serious conversations about a conservation outcome for that area. And to SUSAN MARYNOWSKI, NANCY LASSETER, SALLY MORRISON – the *Rochelle Historic Society* – where the real work is about to begin in reclaiming some history. Thank you, GEORGE EDWARDS, for your indefatigable efforts with the *Friends of Paynes Prairie*, including mutually beneficial projects with ACT. Thank you, MEG NIEDERHOFER for your druid's wisdom and the landscape plans and to JASON TEISINGER for your gift of green -- native palms on ACT preserves. We appreciate the continued efforts of FRED CANTRELL, BRUCE DELANEY,

ED POPPELL, JOE JOYCE, AND PEGEEN HANRAHAN to resolve access issues to Blues Creek Ravine. And when all else fails, we appreciate FREDDIE JOHNSON, LARRY SCHWANDES, RUSS MCCARTHY, BRUCE MORGAN, DEEDEE DELONGPREE, LINDA DUEVER, JOHN MCPHERSON, TOM ANKERSON, AND TED ASTLEFORD, for your pioneering Dust-to-Dust initiative. Thank you to the *Alachua County Historical Commission* particularly MELANIE BARR, and thanks also to MIKE STALLINGS, BILL ANDREWS, AND JUANITA WHITE-BENNETT for your help with the Phifer Flatwoods project. Thanks to NATALIE THOMAS, the most energetic realtor in the known universe, and to PHIL DELANEY AND ROBBIN KARR for efficiently surplusing an ACT property. As always, we are in awe of the work of ROBERT CHRISTIANSON AND CHARLIE HOUDER at our two water management districts for all that they do to protect our water resources. Thanks to JOHN BARROW for architectural advice whenever it's needed. Thank you, KATHLEEN PAGAN, eCivis guru and finder of promising grant opportunities, and to LISA MODOLA, volunteer extraordinaire. Thanks to the generosity of SARAH MCCUNE AND JAY PARRISH for their holiday donation to ACT, given as gifts to friends and family. For your campaign to get children into the woods, thank you SALLY DICKINSON AND GLADYS LANE. Finally, to SUSAN WRIGHT for the life lessons in civic generosity, love of place, and personal courage that you graced us with – we'd rather you not be resting in peace -- you left just a few more things for us to do.

It takes a community to sustain a land trust!

*Alachua Conservation Trust thanks
our 2007 Corporate Sponsors
for their generosity:*

Fine, Farkash, and Parlapiano
Attorneys



**Salter, Feiber, Murphy,
Hutson & Menet, P.A.**
Attorneys at Law



**Collier Enterprises
GIS Associates, Inc.
Saliwanchik, Lloyd, & Saliwanchik, P.A.**

Atlantic Design and Construction, Inc.
Dave Mays Automotive
McGriff-Williams Insurance
Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc.
Water & Air Research, Inc.

ACT and all charities appreciate the many companies who match their employees' charitable contributions

*Alachua Conservation Trust
thanks our many supporters
whose generosity makes
possible the protection of
north Florida's special places.*

\$ 10,000 +

Ken & Linda McGurn
John & Anne Shermyen
Four anonymous donors

\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999

Huisking Foundation
Pamphalon Foundation
Two anonymous donors

\$ 1,000 - \$ 4,999

Kathy Cantwell & Julia Thaler
Fine, Farkash, & Parlapiano, P.A.
Florence Recycling & Disposal
Peter & Lisa Gearen
Jim & Sibet Grantham
Carmen Harris
Robert Hutchinson &
Meg Niederhofer
Jelks Family Foundation
Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc.
Sam Trickey & Cynthia Karle
Alan & Linda Katritzky
Anne Koterba & Jeffrey Goldberg
Ian Kress
Warren & Gladys Lane
Joe & Lucille Little
Sarah McKune & Jay Parrish
Pandion Systems
Plum Creek Timber Company
Susan & Robert Rout
Barry Rutenberg & Associates
Stephen & Carol Shey
The Planning Connection -
Jackie Cassarly
Three anonymous donors

\$ 500 - \$ 999

David Arrighi - Thornebrook Gallery
Eric Amundson & Sherry Boyd
Anne Barkdoll
Alison Blakeslee & Rick Fisher
Laurer Day & Jason Teisinger
Sally & Josh Dickinson
Michael Drummond
Stephen Emmett
Florida Museum of Natural History
Joe Durando & Trace Giornelli
GIS Associates, Inc.
Jonathan Hamilton & Donna Mohr
Doug Hornbeck & Sue Mauk
Craig Lowe
Richard & Joan Promin
Arthur & Phyllis Saarinen
Beverly & Jon Sensbach
Jack Smith & Elieen McCarthy
Lex & Annie Thomas
Bruce & Karen Zavon

Putnam Land Conservancy's First Anniversary

The Putnam Land Conservancy (PLC) celebrated its first year of operation in the spring of 2007 with a successful fundraiser. The mission of PLC is to work cooperatively with landowners and public and private conservation partners to preserve and protect important natural areas and open spaces -- including wetlands and waters, forests and farmlands, and environmentally significant habitats. Putnam County is just to the east of Alachua County, and includes land along the St. Johns River and the municipalities of Palatka, Interlachen, and Melrose. It also has some of the core wildlands between the Osceola and Ocala National Forests, a major north-south wildlife corridor in this part of Florida. Putnam County is experiencing increasing development pressure from all directions.

PLC has made great progress in its first year, turning in two major land acquisition grant applications, one to the Office of Greenways and Trails, and one to Florida Communities Trust. It has reached many important organizational milestones, including IRS designation as a 501c3 non-profit corporation. Three board members attended the national land trust rally in Nashville last fall.



PLC members during their al fresco Strategic Planning Retreat at the Clay Ranch in Putnam County

Tommy Clay, Jr. is the President of PLC. With the assistance of Alachua Conservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy, his family is seeking to convey a conservation easement on his family's 2500-acre ranch near Grandin. Founding board members of PLC include Claude Brown, Laurie Douglass, Tim Keyser, Mike Stallings, Bob Virnstein, and Willy the Losen. Long-time ACT supporter Kathy Cantwell chairs PLC's Projects Committee, and ACT volunteer Lisa Modola chairs the Fundraising Committee. Robert Hutchinson is also on PLC's Advisory Board and Bruce Delaney, a former ACT Board Member, recently conducted PLC's strategic planning retreat. The organization's goals include hiring staff, increasing awareness of conservation opportunities, and perhaps initiating a land protection referendum in Putnam County.

ACT's strategic plan from 1998 identified preserving the prairies in western Putnam County as a priority, and we were getting so many requests for assistance from our eastern flank that it made sense to shepherd the creation of a local group who better understands the environmental, political, and cultural landscape. The two organizations will continue to work closely together, particularly in coordination on projects that cross the County line. For more information about PLC, check out their excellent website at: www.PutnamLandConservancy.org.

Salter, Feiber, Murphy, Hutson, and Menet, P.A.

Attorneys at Law



Personal injury & wrongful death, worker's compensation, estate planning/wills & probate, real estate law, civil litigation, and mediation.

3940 NW 16th Boulevard - Bldg B
(352) 376-8201
www.SalterLaw.net

\$ 100 - \$ 499

- ◆ Dwight & Joan Adams
- ◆ Sally Adkins & Patrick Burger
- ◆ Bill & Dodie Andrews
- ◆ Bertie Anglin
- ◆ David Anthony & Joan Griffin
- ◆ Atlantic Design & Construction
- ◆ Michael & Joy Avery
- ◆ Barbara Barletta
- ◆ Walter Barnard & Claudia Larsen
- ◆ John Barrow & Kerry Dowd
- ◆ Mary & Mark Barrow
- ◆ Walter & Pamela Barry
- ◆ Harvey & Terry Baxter
- ◆ Carl & Mary Bennett
- ◆ Robert & Georgia Bertcher
- ◆ Michael Binford
- ◆ Brian & Sandra Block
- ◆ Sandra Boswell & Henry Ebersole
- ◆ Susan Milbrath & Mark Brenner
- ◆ David & Carolyn Brown
- ◆ Dave Bruderly
- ◆ B.J. Bukata & Eliana Bardi
- ◆ April Herring Cantrell & Frederick Pate
- ◆ Mike & Gracy Castine
- ◆ Maureen Clancy
- ◆ David & Susan Coffey
- ◆ Robert & Bhakti Cohen
- ◆ Collier Enterprises
- ◆ Courtland & Marian Collier
- ◆ Robert & Virginia Craig
- ◆ Edward & Sheila Crapo
- ◆ Creative Environmental Solutions
- ◆ Gwenda & Neal Adams Creel
- ◆ Dave Mays Automotive
- ◆ Madeline Davidson
- ◆ Jody & Suellen Davis
- ◆ Lloyd & Marie Davis
- ◆ Mary Jo Davis
- ◆ Jude Dawson
- ◆ Dana & Arthur Day
- ◆ Dow & April Derato
- ◆ Nancy Deren
- ◆ Richard & Virginia Dolder
- ◆ Rich & Suzanne Doty
- ◆ Polly & Paul Doughty
- ◆ Willa Drummond
- ◆ Ellen Huntley-Dube & Matt Dube
- ◆ Paul & Margo Duncan
- ◆ George & Lee Edwards
- ◆ Lonnie & Elizabeth Edwards
- ◆ John & Katherine Ewel
- ◆ Martin Fackler
- ◆ Florida Native Plant Society
- ◆ Leonard & Libby Furlow
- ◆ James Gershow
- ◆ Ira & Gerri Gessner
- ◆ Clay Gibbons
- ◆ Mark & Janice Gold
- ◆ Crystal Goodison & Eric Flagg
- ◆ Richard & Mary Ann Green
- ◆ Dana & Nancy Griffin
- ◆ Ramona Griner
- ◆ Martin & Barbara Gunderson
- ◆ Anne Haisley
- ◆ Richard Hamann
- ◆ Pegeen Hanrahan & Tony Malone
- ◆ Robert & Mary Ellen Hanrahan
- ◆ David Harlos & Darcie MacMahon
- ◆ Larry Harris & Kathleen Deagan

Tom Harris & Martha Monroe
 Jack & Marjorie Hauptman
 Regina & John Hawkins
 Susanne Hesse & Douglas Dyer
 Hilda Hildalgo & Cheryl Lamay
 Michael & Lorraine Hoctor
 Robert & Lynn Holt
 Ian & Helen Hood
 Charlie & Susan Houder
 John & Ann Hudson
 Elizabeth Maloney-Hurst &
 Thomas Hurst
 Bruce & Laura Hutchinson
 Doug & Tamara Hutchinson
 Edward & Marilyn Hutchinson
 Susan Jacobson & Jeff Hardesty
 John & Bunnie James
 Howard & Lisa Jelks
 Lewis & Ruth Johns
 Douglas & Sheila Jones
 William & Carol Kem
 Marilyn Kershner & Al Tweedy
 Clyde & Suzanne Kiker
 Martha King
 Paul & Leslie Klein
 John Knaub
 John & Bonnie Kraft
 Merle & Maxine Kuns
 Oliver Lake
 Cheryl Lamay
 Murray Laurie
 Kate Lee
 Marjorie Lindauer & Joanne McIlhenny
 Carol Lippincott
 Bruce MacFaden
 Elizabeth Mann
 Sandra & Douglas Mann
 Tim Martin
 Jeanna Mastrodicasa
 Lori Christine McCain
 Rod McGalliard & Kim Tanzer
 McGriff-Williams Insurance Agency
 John McRitchie & Regina Kramel
 Carol Meyer
 Jon & Tanya Mickler
 Michael & Jeannene Mironack
 Lisa Modola & Claude Brown
 Hendrik Monkhurst & Alka Velenik
 Ryan & Katrina Morrell
 Robert Myers
 Natural Resource Planning Services
 Carlotta NeSmith
 Warren & Winnie Nielsen
 Ellen & Bruce Nodine
 Melissa Norman & Brent Gila
 Susan O'Brien & Katrina Schwartz
 Elisabeth Odum
 David O'Keefe
 Larry Page
 David Pais & Katie Sieving
 Richard & Kathryn Parker
 Dan & Molly Pearson
 Reed Pedlow & Mary Jane Angelo
 James & Linda Pence
 Jennifer Perez & William Zeits
 Peter Pettegrew
 James & Jennifer Pochurek
 Peter & Adeline Polshek
 Charlotte Porter
 Carri-Anne & William Powell
 Jack Putz & Claudia Romero
 Wilhelmina Rao



Attorneys

Fine, Farkash, & Parlapiano, P.A.



Founded in 1980 and located in historic downtown Gainesville, the attorneys in our firm have over 75 years of combined experience. We specialize in serious personal injury and wrongful death cases, and are available for free consultations and 24 hour emergency home or hospital visits.

“Let us put our experience to work for you.”

352-376-6046

1-800-637-4545

622 NE 1st Street Gainesville, Florida 32601

www.ffplaw.com

Out of Africa

by Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson

What I did on my summer vacation was safari with my family in southern and eastern Africa. Not really knowing what to expect, I suppose I was looking forward to a reprise of our family's marathon camping vacations from the 1960s, drinking Fizzies in the station wagon as we cruised from one grand park to another, taking in all the sights while enduring mega-doses of togetherness in a sweltering car and mildewey tents.

What I was unprepared for was the challenge that Africa presents to all the senses. The sheer quantity and diversity of wildlife in the game preserves is something that no television program can prepare you for. To crest a hill and see thousands of zebras in panorama is stunning enough – but it is overwhelming to see them intermixed with countless other critters you've never heard the names of: kudus, lechwes, topis, and dik-diks.

The remaining wilderness areas of Africa have much to teach us about our own landscape – within my first few hours there, I already felt a deep nostalgia for the elephants that Florida's forest most surely misses. Elephants and other megafauna influence the land in ways that no other force can, and Florida's flora and fauna is still reverberating from their sudden disappearance just a few thousand years ago. The hours that our safari group spent quietly in the midst of elephant herds was an incomparable experience in observing subtle communication and familial bonding encompassed within a profound force of nature.

Who knew that rhinos were so observant, agile, and quick; and that hippos have such a belly laugh, at least when they aren't being surfed on by lions? And that Africa's birdlife is so iridescent and resplendent? But just as surprising to me were the results that we witnessed of many successful conservation efforts (so far) against all odds. We heard the inspiring stories of how folks brought back rhinos and species of giraffes and zebras that had all but disappeared from the wild. We met the people whose work may possibly save the cheetahs, African wild dogs, and great raptors. And most impressively, we talked at

(continued on page 14)



Wide-mouthed ("white") rhino at the Lewa Conservancy in Kenya. These guys don't bluff charge!

Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc. JEA

CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS

730 NE Waldo Road Gainesville, FL 32641 352-377-5821

- Jon & Julia Reiskind
 - Sara & Warren Rice
 - Georgia Rolfe
 - Dan Rountree & Jude Dawson
 - M.G. & Bonnie Sanchez
 - Nicole Sands
 - Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association
 - Carol & James Sarisky
 - Harry Saxton
 - Hoch & Celeste Shitama
 - Erick Smith
 - Harold & P.K. Snellen
 - Staiger-Barichivich Family
 - David Steadman
 - Ruth Steiner
 - Mark Stowe
 - Joe & Jean Subers
 - Elizabeth Sugalski
 - Mark & Maureen Szymanski
 - Tensys Medical - Christian Tischer
 - Willy the Losen
 - Grant & Susan Thrall
 - Carroll & Doris Tichenor
 - Martha Tod
 - Denise Trunk
 - Thom & Linda Tyler
 - Sandra Vardaman
 - Ana Varela
 - David & Barbara Wagner
 - Thomas Ward
 - Water & Air Research, Inc.
 - Edward & Kathleen Wilkinson
 - Carol Willis
 - Lu Anne Wilson
 - James Wood
 - Bill & Carole Zegel
 - plus anonymous donors
- + \$99
- Marjorie Abrams
 - Jennifer & Gabriel Acevedo
 - Yvonne Amundson
 - Gene Anderson & Richard Sows
 - David & Joanne Auth
 - Lynn Badger
 - Keith & Laura Bailey
 - Nancy Baldwin
 - Martha Banks

(continued from Page 13)

Sarah Bartlett
 Day Bennett
 Tabitha Biehl
 Barbara Brieno
 Emily Browne
 Harvey Budd & Ilene Silverman
 Janice & H.A. Bullard
 Candler Appraisal Services
 Gwen Carriere
 Mike Carter
 Paul Chadik
 Chiappini Farm Native Nursery
 Tommy Clay, Jr.
 John & Cynthia Clements
 Peter & Kathleen Colverson
 Wes & Nancy Corbett
 Robert Cottey
 Lorna Craven
 Christine & John Denny
 Cathy DeWitt & Rob Rothschild
 Mark & Melissa Diblin
 Laura & John Dickinson
 David & Kathy Dilcher
 Paul & Cheryl Doering
 William & Marilyn Donigan
 Betty Ann Dunckel
 Judy & Anna Flynn
 Gale Ford
 Diane Forkel
 D.A. & James Fosser
 J.T. Frankenberger
 Carolyn Frederick
 Laurel Freeman
 Michael Gannon & Genevieve Haugen
 Marianne Gengenbach
 David & Judy Gold
 Patricia Goodrich
 Sarah Graddy
 Arnold Grobman
 Charles & Annemarie Hammond
 Erica Haynes
 Robert & Janet Heeke
 Alan & Marie Hemming
 John Hendrix
 Mike & Kathryn Holloway
 Robert Hornberger
 David Huffman



length with the native Africans who have bravely altered their culture's customs in the face of changing realities, and whose new beliefs are all that will save the last of the least.

In conservation policy circles, we frequently pay lip service to engaging the local community to realize the benefits of conserving native landscapes. I've been a lifelong eco-tourist, and frankly, this social contract is not done very well in most places including Florida. But at



least in parts of Africa, we have a model for how eco-tourism is helping the local communities that now rely on the value of biodiversity for their livelihood. Most impressive to me was the exceptional quality of our native guides in not only being able to track animals by their spoor or scent, but by their deep understanding of the ecological, geological, and evolutionary, as well as the social, demographic, and political forces that bear on their environment.

I come back from Africa with a visceral understanding of what had only been an intellectual notion of Eden. Because humans co-evolved with the wild animals of Africa, the animals developed a wariness and resistance to domestication – practically no African animals have ever been domesticated. Only when humans migrated to Asia did they have the need to domesticate animals, and those animals were more susceptible having not learned to avoid us. When humans reached North America, the animals had no experience of humans either, and in their naiveté, succumbed to the “Pleistocene overkill” that erased most of North America's big animals.

It is a moral imperative for everybody who believes in preserving biodiversity to get over to Africa and spend some money helping the locals save what's left. This generation of native conservationists are a fragile vanguard that will only succeed with our support. Sure, there is the impact of travel on climate change (our travel company claims to be carbon neutral), and concerns about supporting African kleptocracies, and worries about personal security -- but on balance, the value of saving what is left of Africa's great landscapes is worth it, and, by the way, it's as much fun as you'll have on any vacation you can imagine.

Hutch and twelve family members spent three weeks traveling in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and Kenya.



Environmental Science, Research, Communications, and Training

Pandion Systems focuses on the interaction between people and natural systems. We work with both the private and public sector to address environmental challenges with creative, timely, and effective solutions.

352-372-4747

4603 NW 6th Street - Gainesville

Wish List*

Furniture and art: must be in good condition and should be appropriate for a late 19th century homestead.

Vehicles: pick up truck, jeep, tractor, all terrain utility vehicle, flatbed trailer

Fire gear: drip torches, backpack sprayers, flappers, fire rakes, etc.

Tools: hand tools, power tools, landscaping tools, heavy duty mower for trail maintenance.

Electronics: GPS unit(s), office or laptop PC computer, video projector, video projection screen.

Building materials: Fence posts, galvanized metal pipe, and pressure-treated lumber in many sizes.

** Items donated may be eligible for tax deductions. In some cases, ACT can pay for discounted items in good condition -- call Hutch at 352-373-1078*

Building communities in Alachua County, and working with Alachua Conservation Trust to save our natural communities



352-373-8466

Roy Hunt
Renato Inserra & Julia Meredith
Erica Bloomberg & Robert Johnson
Chandler & Kathy Jones
Walter & Janie Kalaf
Ivor Kincaide & Julieanne Tabone
John Krigbaum
Cora Kurtz
Sandra Lambert
Ary Lamme
Lucille Lane
Chris Larsen
Lynn Lefebvre
Nancy Loeper
Kimball Love
John & Katherine Lowe
Jane Luzar
Susie Lyons
Iris & Harvey Maahs
Joe MacKenzie
Jeff & Wendy McAleese
Frank Mead
Brian Melchar & Donna Bowie
Juanita & W.I. Miller
John Moran & Peggie Bowie
Anne & Harper Mashburn Morgan
Lynn Mosura-Bliss & Alan Bliss
Jenny Mullis
Mark & Erika Nelson
Steven & Beverly Noll
David Ottenberg
Rick Owen
Page Realty Advisors
Sam Palmer
Howard & Carolyn Pardue
Craig & Sandra Parenteau
Geoffrey Parks & Carol Church
Charlie & Maura Pedersen
Anna Peterson & Manuel Vasquez
Frank & Geraldine Petrone
David & Amy Quillen
Janet & David Quilligan
Alice Reakes
Leonard & Helene Rhine
Billy Russell
David & Candace Schwartz
Goldie Schwartz
Debra Segal & Bob Knight
Nancy Sever
Jeff & Diana Shamis
Lawrence & Elizabeth Shaw
Ann Shortelle
Barry & Harriet Smith
Les & Cindy Smith
Billie Staff
Susan Stanton
Thomas Stevens
Gordon & Ruth Streib
Clay Sweger
Charles & Sylvia Tatum
George Tirebiter
Robert & Eleanor Udy
Andrew & Susan Vince
Ryan Warne
Laurie Wilkins
Lois Anne Willits
Edward & Willa Wolcott
Floyd W. Wood
Robert & Gay Zieger
Terry Zinn

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST: The Natural Leader

Board of Directors (2007)

Janet Wootten, *President of ACT*, Research Editor, retired
Howard Jelks, *Vice Pres. of ACT*, Fish Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey
Alison Blakeslee, *Secretary of ACT*, Private Investigator, Fisher & Blakeslee, Inc.
Anne Barkdoll, Ph.D., *Treasurer of ACT*, Biologist, Fla. Div. of Rec. & Parks
Fred Cantrell, Associate Vice President for Business Affairs - UF
Linda Cantrell, Consultant & Education Administrator, retired
Mike Castine, AICP, Land Planner, Brown & Cullen, Inc.
Eric Flagg, Environmental Scientist and Documentary Film Producer
Richard Hamann, J.D., Associate in Law, Ctr. for Gov't Responsibility - UF
Pegeen Hanrahan, P.E., Honorable Mayor, City of Gainesville
Peter NeSmith, Botanist, Water & Air Research, Inc.
Alan Parlapiano, J.D., Attorney
Justin Saarinen, Geographer & GIS Consultant
John Winn, J.D., Attorney

Staff

Lauren Day, Executive Director
Robert Hutchinson, Project Manager
Lesa Holder, Office Manager
Ryan Crowder, Contractor - Land Management

Office: (352) 373-1078

www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org

Info@AlachuaConservationTrust.org

The mission of Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) is to protect the natural, scenic, historical, 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 created in 1988. ACT receives no government grants for general operating support, and relies on contributions from private individuals, corporations, and foundations. Donations may be tax deductible.

ACT has adopted the *Standards and Practices* of the national Land Trust Alliance which are available for viewing at: www.LTA.org

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) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



**A L A C H U A
C O N S E R V A T I O N
T R U S T**

12 West University Avenue
Suite 201
Gainesville, Florida 32601

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GAINESVILLE, FL
PERMIT NO. 702