

2023 Conservation Stewards Awards

Classroom to Conservationist: Honoring Community Educators

Join ACT on **Saturday, March 25, 2023**, from **5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** for the Annual Conservation Stewards Awards at **Prairie Creek Lodge**. This event honors individuals in our community who are influential in a wide variety of ways – the arts, historic preservation, and particularly, in protecting our wildlife and natural resources. Past Conservation Stewards Awards have been some of the largest gatherings of community leaders and supporters of wild Florida in the region. Tickets are \$80 and include dinner, drinks and a musical performance from Gainesville-based **Sooza Brass Band**. All funds from the event will support Alachua Conservation Trust's work towards land conservation.



Our theme this year celebrates the profound impact of community educators and their work to inspire future generations. Their devotion to providing educational opportunities to all and empowering young people to find their passion in conservation and their local communities is inspirational. The future of conservation would not be possible without community educators, who work tirelessly to ensure that those they serve have a meaningful understanding of the natural world, its history, and the

opportunities for enacting change. Whether in outdoor classrooms at local nature preserves, community centers, or lecture halls, our honorees have made conservation and preservation a component of their work. Please join us in honoring their efforts and recognizing their passion and persistence to shape the past, present, and future of conservation.

2023 Honorees:



Randi Cameon

Following a successful career in public health, international and women's health, and grant writing, Randi Cameon charted a new path as an environmental educator and has positively impacted the lives of thousands of students in our community. Randi has been a long-time volunteer with ACT, launching and guiding several environmental programs with the organization, including the Creekside Environmental Ed for Kids (CrEEK)

Program, which provides immersive environmental instruction to over 800 underserved 4th grade students in Alachua and Putnam counties each year.



Richard Hamann

Richard Hamann was born in Gainesville but raised in the swamps of South Florida. He received both a B.A. (1971) and a J.D. (1976) from the University of Florida and was employed as an attorney, researcher and teacher at the UF College of Law's Center for Governmental Responsibility. He has conducted research on a wide variety of environmental, land use and water management issues and has taught several courses and seminars

on environmental law, water law and comparative environmental law before retiring in 2020 as an Emeritus Professor in Law. One of the founding board members of Alachua Conservation Trust, he has also served on the boards of Florida Defenders of the Environment, Florida Wildlife Federation, and the Everglades Law Center. He was Chairperson of the Environmental and Land Use Law Section of The Florida Bar in 2000-2001, and formerly served on the Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District.



Vivian Filer

Vivian Filer is a long-time resident of Gainesville, Florida. Her professional career includes employment at Shands Teaching Hospital as both a Nursing Assistant and a Registered Nurse and at Santa Fe College as a professor of nursing. Vivian has served on a remarkably diverse number of committees, boards, and auxiliaries often as chair or president. She is also co-founder of the Springhill Neighborhood Association, and the Greater Gainesville Black Nurses Association. In her present role, she is founder and Chair of the Board of the Cotton Club Museum and

Cultural Center. Vivian's leadership role started and flourished at Mt. Olive AME Church where she has served all her adult life. Vivian enjoys singing with her sisters in the a capella trio known as the Washington Sisters and entertaining audiences of all ages with her storytelling skill. She is the widow of Delano Filer Sr. and the mother of two sons. She is the grandmother of four grandchildren, two boys and two girls.

