

Gazetteer



“The Springs Eternal Project hits the road with Urban Aquifer”

Join us for a Springs Eternal presentation on Nov. 5th and get an update on this fantastic project on **page 3**



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UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 7 SANDHILL STAGE- Jack Williams
- 14 Prairie Creek Canoe & Kayak Paddle with Tom Kay
- 18 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Reading Rangers
- 21 Fall Migration Bird Count- Tusawilla
- 22 SANDHILL STAGE- Patchwork with Larry Mangum
- 28 CBI- "End of Life" Workshop

- 9 Blue Bird Count at various ACT Preserves
- 13 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Tremendous Trees
- 14 "The Ancient Alachuans" Talk by Bruce Nodine and Barbara Purdy
- 15 Full Moon Campfire with ACT
- 22 SANDHILL STAGE- The Erasables
- 24 CBI- "Choices in After-Death Care" Workshop

OCTOBER

- 9 "Amphibians of Florida" Talk by Paul Moler
- 12 Fall Birding Walk with Ivor Kincaide
- 13 SANDHILL STAGE- The Billy Jonas Trio
- 16 TLC- Wild Wednesday: Fossil Frenzy
- 27 CBI- Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery Memorial Event
- 30 Pumpkin Carving Workshop with ACT

DECEMBER

- 7 Bat & Bird Box Building Workshop with ACT
- 8 HHH- Annual Homestead Holidays
- 8 SANDHILL STAGE- Buddy Mondlock
- 13 HHH- Candlelight Visits
- 15 Christmas Bird Count- Gainesville
- 19 Christmas Bird Count- Melrose
- 20 Winter Solstice Potluck Dinner with ACT & Forage

NOVEMBER

- 1 ACT's Halloween Ball *(learn more below)*
- 5 Springs Eternal Presentation by John Moran & Lesley Gamble

JANUARY

- 10 SANDHILL STAGE- Gretchen Peters
- 25 SANDHILL STAGE- Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen

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.




Halloween Ball

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2013

PRAIRIE CREEK LODGE

HALLOWEEN BALL

Join Alachua Conservation Trust for our new fall fundraiser on Friday, November 1st starting at 8:00pm and continuing to 1am- it promises to be an evening of spine-tingling fun. Once again, plenty of your favorite poison will be available, and undead music will be provided by Wildshiners. Costumes are a must, and the most creative, wacky, whimsical or daring costumes (official categories still to be determined) will get a prize. Tickets are \$40, and will soon be available online from ACT's website. All proceeds further ACT's mission to conserve the important natural and historical resources that make this part of Florida special. The Halloween Ball will be at the Prairie Creek Lodge, 7204 SE CR 234 – for more information, visit www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org or call (352) 373-1078.





THE STATE OF CONSERVATION - A Message from the Executive Director

In June, I became the new Executive Director of ACT as Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson stepped down after his election to the Alachua County Commission. Hutch has been a powerful visionary force in Florida land conservation for over 25 years, and ACT continues to benefit from his energy, ideas, and ability to make things happen. It is an honor and a privilege to follow in the footsteps of such an exceptional conservation steward.

ACT is built on the dedication and passion of our gifted staff, volunteers, and donors that are driven to conserve the natural landscapes of Florida. As a result of their collective efforts, ACT has become a leader in land conservation for Florida. My goal is to continue to strengthen ACT’s long and successful track record of protecting the natural, historic, scenic and recreational resources of North Central Florida.

One of the key conservation efforts I would like to highlight is the Florida Water and Land Legacy campaign (FWLL). FWLL will play a major role in shaping Florida’s conservation future. The most important action you can take in the next three months is to get involved with this campaign. If you enjoy outdoor activities, hunting or fishing, drinking clean water, or breathing clean air, then it is critical that you spend time and effort in the next three months ensuring that the FWLL constitutional amendment is placed on next year’s November ballot. This initiative is critical to the future of conservation in Florida. The funds from this initiative will aid in the restoration, management and acquisition of conservation lands. But to make this funding available, we must first gather the necessary signatures to have this initiative placed on the ballot.

If you have not signed the Florida Water & Land Legacy petition, please go to 4fla.org/ACTlegacy. Print the petition, fill it out, sign it, and mail it in. Then let your family and friends know about the campaign and urge them to sign it. Consider volunteering to gather signatures and/or making a donation to ensure we reach our goal of 250,000 volunteer gathered signatures by November 30th of this year.

As the cooler months approach, the outdoors beckon more and more. ACT and our partner organizations have many great opportunities to get out and enjoy Florida. I invite you to join us at one or all of ACT’s fall events which include workshops, Sandhill Stage concerts, and community festivals. Please contact me if you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss ACT’s future plans, a potential land project, volunteer opportunities, planned giving, or ideas for a fundraiser. I would be very happy to discuss these matters while kayaking on our local waters (my favorite activity). Also contact me if you would like to have me speak to your organization or class about conservation issues and opportunities for involvement. I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you better in the coming months and years ahead.

I’m blessed and proud to be a part of ACT, and I am committed to furthering our mission of protecting and preserving Florida’s special places.

All my best,

Tom
Tom Kay

ACT: FACTS AT A GLANCE

- Created in 1988 as non-profit land trust
- Nominated for protection over 50,000 acres
- Directly participated in the purchase of 17,190 acres
- Currently owns 2590 acres, 3 historic buildings
- Perpetual conservation easements on more than 2760 acres
- Active land conservation projects in 7 counties of north central Florida
- Successfully led 4 public referenda, 2 for funding \$60 million, and 2 for creating Registry of Protected Public Places
- Over 500 active supporters who contribute at least once every 2 years
- Over 2500 volunteer and community service hrs. in the past 12 months
- 1 of only 4 nationally accredited land trusts in Florida
- Achieved 100% Board membership with Land Trust Alliance (4th year)



View of Springs Eternal: Florida's Fragile Fountains of Youth. Nature photographer John Moran's exhibition at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville runs through December 13th, 2013. Clerestory window photograph is by Lesley Gamble.

SPRINGS ETERNAL: FLORIDA'S FRAGILE FOUNTAINS OF YOUTH – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION THROUGH VISUAL IMAGERY

The Springs Eternal Project is sponsored by Alachua Conservation Trust and was created by Lesley Gamble, John Moran and Rick Kilby.

“The project goal,” says Dr. Gamble, an art history professor at UF, “is to work across institutional and cultural divides in order to understand why the health of our springs is in serious decline, and to inspire Floridians to work together to ensure effective solutions.”

Springs Eternal: Florida's Fragile Fountains of Youth documents 30 years of acclaimed Florida nature photographer John Moran's forays to the springs, chronicling their beauty and changes. Rick Kilby's **Finding the Fountain of Youth** examines how the legend of Ponce de León's quest shaped the Sunshine State's image as a land of rejuvenation and magical spring-fed waters. Both exhibitions are on view until December 15th, 2013 at the Florida Museum of Natural History, where officials estimate an audience of 150,000 visitors.

Reaching out to people who may never visit a museum or a spring, Lesley Gamble's **Urban Aquifer** features Gainesville RTS buses wrapped in luminous large-scale im-

ages of the springs. A new addition, the Rural Aquifer bus, was just completed in collaboration with Tracy Wyman's aquiPROJECT and students from the White Springs H.O.P.E. program.

The SpringsEternalProject.org website offers a wealth of images and resources, including ways to care for our springs and links to groups involved in advocacy, research and restoration.

Looking ahead, fundraising continues to grow the website, extend the fleet of Urban Aquifer buses, travel the Springs Eternal exhibit statewide and deliver copies of the exhibition catalog to all 160 members of the Florida Legislature. Contributions can be made on ACT's website (from the donation page, select "Eternal Springs" under fund).

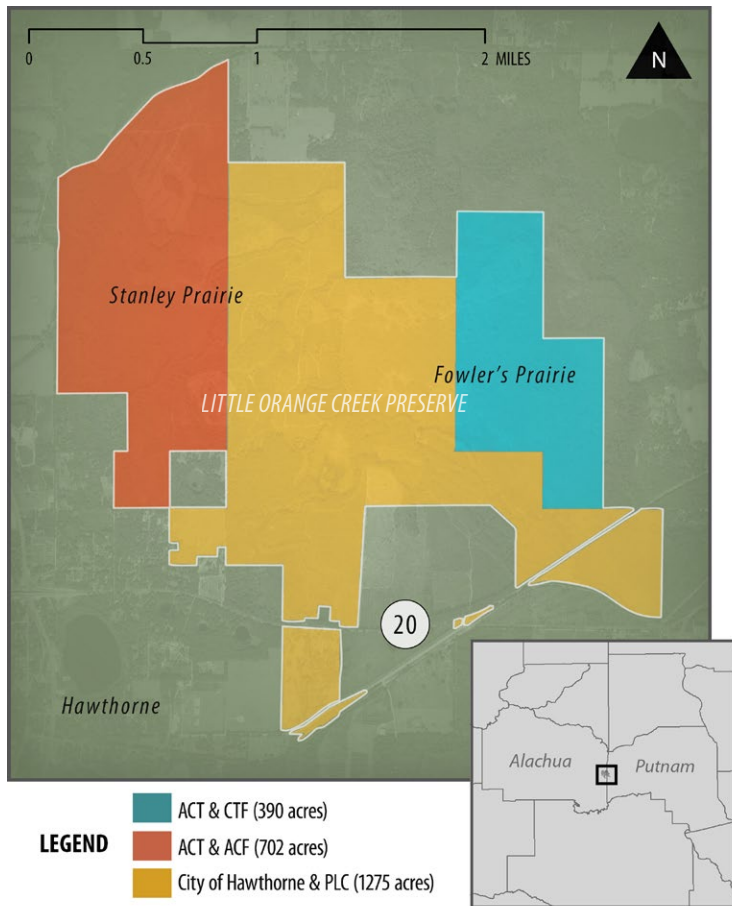
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about Springs Eternal on their website: SpringsEternalProject.org (QR code to the right), join them on Facebook, or call ACT at (352) 373-1078.



New! 390-ACRE ADDITION TO LITTLE ORANGE CREEK PRESERVE

Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) now owns and manages the core part of Fowler's Prairie, one of the most unique wetlands in our area. The 390 acres is the newest addition to Little Orange Creek Preserve, which now totals 2,367 acres. The acquisition is located in Putnam County just over the county line from Alachua County, near Hawthorne. From a landscape perspective, Little Orange Creek Preserve protects an important, albeit incomplete, corridor between various large conservation areas in the region, such as Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area and Ordway-Swisher Preserve.



The purchase was made possible with federal funds from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), and represents another successful partnership of the North Florida Wetlands Conservation Project (NFWCP) to apply this funding source in the region. Previous NAWCA projects include Kanapaha Prairie, Tuscawilla Preserve, Barr Hammock, and another part of Little Orange Creek Preserve. The NFWCP is a collaborative effort between multiple agencies and non-profit organizations to protect an extensive network of freshwater wetlands in north central Florida that provide important habitat for migratory birds along the Atlantic Flyway. To date, over 8,000 acres have been protected.

The 390-acre addition is the most open section of Fowler's Prairie with large stands of Maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*) and patches of Sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*). At one time, Fowler's Prairie was important habitat for several species of carnivorous plants, particularly Hooded Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia minor*), which is now listed as a Threatened Plant in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Unfortunately, many years of fire exclusion and recent droughts have enabled woody vegetation to encroach, resulting in marsh habitat that is dried up and shaded out in many areas. ACT has considerable experience restoring wetlands in this condition, and will work aggressively to protect the unique natural communities found in Fowler's Prairie.

Multiple conservation properties make up Little Orange Creek Preserve, and the 2,367 acres are a mixture of pine and hammock uplands, hardwood swamps, and marshes. Currently, the organizations responsible for the management of the preserve (ACT, Conservation Trust for Florida, City of Hawthorne, Putnam Land Conservancy, and Alachua County Forever) are working on a unified land management plan, a strategy that focuses on resource protection and provides plenty of recreational opportunities.

SAVING FLORIDA ONE BURIAL AT A TIME

A little over three years ago, Dr. Kathy Cantwell was the first burial in Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery on a site that she chose herself. Today, our cemetery has become widely recognized as a leader in the field of green burials. Cemetery operators from throughout the southeast have visited our operation in Rochelle to improve their facilities and procedures. The cemetery has been featured in a package by Thomson Reuters news service that includes articles, pictures, and video that was widely distributed.

Our burials have included people of all races, ethnicities, and religions. The ceremonies surrounding the burials have included deeply personal expressions, amazing music, and traditions from all over the globe. The hand-dug graves

are only decorated with naturally occurring objects or plants, and some graves have become the focus of restoration for native wildflowers. Over 250 people to date have signed up to be buried in the cemetery by completing "Burial Preferences" forms.

Most importantly, our cemetery has demonstrated the strong connections that are created between people and land. Since the proceeds go towards additional land acquisition and restoration, our cemetery's unofficial slogan has become: "Saving Florida one burial at a time."

For more information, visit: www.ConservationBurialinc.org

DEADLINE FOR FLORIDA’S WATER AND LAND LEGACY

The Florida Water and Land Legacy (FWLL) is a coalition of more than 4,000 individual volunteers and 300 conservation and civic organizations from across the state working to put the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the November 2014 ballot.

UPDATE

A deadline of November 30th is looming to gather the required 683,149 petitions for our citizen’s initiative to conserve land in Florida. If successful, the referendum will be on the November 2014 ballot, and if passed, will generate funding for the purchase and restoration of conservation lands without raising taxes.

Alachua County is one of the leaders in gathering petitions, and several local supporters have provided significant funding for the effort. Alachua Conservation Trust has donated \$20,000 to the cause. Our former Executive Director Pegeen Hanrahan is the campaign’s state-wide leader, and she will gladly make a presentation about the effort to any group who will invite her.

The State of Florida had the nation’s premier land conservation programs, first called Preservation 2000 and more recently named Florida Forever. In the last five years, the legislature has de-funded those programs and

used the documentary tax stamp revenue (a small fee on every real estate transaction) to balance the budget. Now that real estate closings are increasing, there will be plenty of capital available to fund land conservation 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 complete conservation of land along the Santa Fe River and to make connections between our major conservation areas. The time is now to step up! Please fill out a petition, donate, or volunteer (use the website listed below to get started).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more, get a petition, or donate to FWLL on their website: FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org (QR code to the right), join them on Facebook, or call them at (850) 629-4656.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

2013 HOGTOWN CRAFT BREW FESTIVAL

The Hogtown Brewers, Gainesville’s homebrew club since 1985, again designated Alachua Conservation Trust as their major charitable beneficiary for the second annual Hogtown Craft Brew Festival. Similar to the inaugural event, this year was a huge success, with over 1200 jolly aficionados of our favorite beverage in attendance. As a participating charity, ACT provided dozens of volunteers who helped set up, run, and take down for the event- many thanks from the Hogtown Brewers and ACT. The event raised \$8,000 for ACT!

Next year’s festival will also be at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens on April 5th, 2014. Be sure to mark your calendars now and get your tickets early, or consider helping ACT as a volunteer.

P.K. YONGE’S “PIZZA BY THE CREEK”

The K-1 Learning Community ran a pizzeria as part of an economics project and fundraiser developed by the teachers at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School at the University of Florida. These amazing students (photo right), under the leadership of Michele Frank, Marisa Stuke and Ashley Hill, raised over \$400, and chose to donate the proceeds to Alachua Conservation Trust. “Pizza by the Creek” was run for two days and provided students with real world experience operating a restaurant and in philanthropy.

ACT is honored to be the charity the P.K. students selected, and is hoping to return the favor by putting together an environmental program for them over the next school year.

A wonderful video of the project by Michelle Friedline can be seen online at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5-JjD1rRbA>



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT ACT



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CAMPAIGN FOR CHARITIES

Each year, University of Florida faculty and staff contribute to local charities through payroll deductions. Over the past seven years, the UF Campaign for Charities has donated over \$1 million per year to the ninety-four local recipients, including ACT. Our annual receipts from the program have ranged from \$13,650 to over \$21,000, and this funding provides crucial support to our basic operations. We appreciate the fact that the administrative costs by United Way are under 5% of the proceeds.

If you are faculty or staff, please consider designating a portion of your paycheck to the UF Campaign for Charities – it's an easy and painless way to help your community! We hope to see you at the UFCC Breakfast Kickoff Celebration at the Reitz Union on September 27th. Thank you to our many supporters!

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

SOLTERRA NATURAL MEATS IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE THE ACT BUYERS' CLUB

Solterra supports sustainability, conservation and the great work that ACT and its membership does in Alachua County. Solterra's success as producers of natural pastured chicken, pork and grass fed beef requires focus, luck, Mother Nature's cooperation and caring consumers. Their goal is a collaboration between consumers who care about the quality of the food they eat and the producers!

As an ACT fundraiser, Solterra has created the **ACT Buyers Club**. ACT supporters that join will be entitled to special discounts on products, and in return, Solterra will make a donation to ACT on their behalf.

If you are interested in joining the ACT Buyers Club, or would like more information, email: SolterraACTclub@gmail.com
To learn more about the farm, feel free to visit their facebook page: [facebook.com/solterranaturalmeats](https://www.facebook.com/solterranaturalmeats)

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thanks our many supporters whose contributions continue
to make possible the protection of Florida's special places.*

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On behalf of Ed Herb - Edna Herb

On behalf of Erwin Reddick - Calvin Martin

On behalf of Harold Nugent - Frederick & Mary Foshier

On behalf of Ryan Crowder - Lesa Holder, Meg Neiderhofer

On behalf of Skip Choate - Elvira Choate, Sally Ryden

On behalf of Wayne Clements - Diane Haines

On behalf of Jake Rucker - David Cook & Annie McPherson, Krin Cosner, Alan Hill & Marcia Green, Calvin Martin

On behalf of Robert Carlson - Ann Carlson, Philip & Debbie Hoelscher, Leora King, Albert & Vanda O'Neill, Jon & Laura Russell, Mary Stuart, Philip & Karen Teige



Always a walk on the wild side!

Tusawilla Learning Center is ACT's environmental education program for kids. TLC's mission is to inspire curiosity and help our children connect with the natural world- children are introduced to the intricate natural connections that make up Tusawilla Preserve, Micanopy's own "Mini Paynes Prairie."

TUSCAWILLA LEARNING CENTER

SPRING 2013

April was an exciting month for the Tusawilla Learning Center: a group of 17 students in a wood construction class in the University of Florida's Department of Landscape Architecture presented their innovative designs for an accessible, multi-purpose outdoor structure that could provide shade and rain protection for TLC's environmental education programs. We want to thank all of the UF students for their inspiring and creative ideas and especially their professor, Robert R. Grist, of the College of Design, Construction and Planning who approached TLC with this idea for a class project. Coincidentally, Prof. Grist has lived adjacent to the Tusawilla Prairie for more than 30 years.

To celebrate Earth Day at April's Wild Wednesday class, the TLC students became the teachers and shared ideas with their peers about how they and their families could help conserve the planet. One family shared a poem

about the "leave no trace" philosophy. Another student read a story she wrote, called the "Zero waste project" about how she and her family began a zero-waste project at her home and school. She passed out a full page list of items that can be terra-cycled, just in case anyone else wanted to start a new type of recycling at home. Other subjects presented were composting, vermiculture and recycle-bots (making creatures out of what others may call garbage). It was a bright day on Tusawilla Prairie as the children explained how we can all make better choices each day with the health of the Earth in mind.

Join us this Fall- see schedule (above right)!

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: TusawillaLC@gmail.com



TUSCAWILLA LEARNING CENTER

Wild Wednesday Programs

Fall 2013 Schedule

All programs begin at 2pm at Thrasher Park on Tuscawilla Preserve in Micanopy, FL. Please park at the Native American Heritage Park on Tuscawilla Road.

Programs are for children ages 3-8 and their accompanying adults.

Classes are limited to 20 children. Please RSVP at tuscawillalc@gmail.com

READING RANGERS

September 18th, Wednesday, 2-4pm

A special guest from Paynes Prairie State Park will visit. She will talk about being a park ranger, and then lead a "Junior Ranger" activity that gives the kids first-hand experience at being a conservation officer.

September is **National Literacy Month** and TLC will join in the celebration by reading about nature. Look for "Tales on the Trails."

Special Thanks to Sylvan Dell Publishing for their donation of several award-winning children's books that "promote math and science through literature."

LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

PRAIRIE CREEK PRESERVE

The wet weather allowed ACT to complete a record number of prescribed burns this spring. Most of our preserves are interspersed with various types of wetlands, making the risk of a duff fire a management concern, particularly during the droughts we experienced between 2010 and 2012. With standing water present, we conducted burns in several wetlands at Prairie Creek Preserve, a treatment that renews emergent vegetation while reducing hardwoods that ultimately crowd out open marshes. Though the rains have been advantageous for management, many of our trails are now submerged in places, so please be prepared on your next visit.

HISTORIC HAILE HOMESTEAD

Fortunately, Haile's much-needed roof replacement was completed in May, before the summer rains commenced. The Homestead now has a beautiful new pine shake roof using pressured treated wood and waterproof membranes, extras that should provide better protection and longer life.

LITTLE ORANGE CREEK PRESERVE

ACT's recent additions have increased the acreage of Little Orange Creek Preserve from 1275 acres to 2,367 acres (see article on page 4). Since the three parts that make up the preserve are owned and managed by different organizations (Town of Hawthorne, Putnam Land Conservancy, Friends of Little Orange Creek, Alachua Conservation Trust, Alachua County Forever program and

FOSSIL FRENZY

October 16th, Wednesday, 2-4pm

Celebrate **National Fossil Day!** What is a fossil? Where are they found in Florida? What creatures roamed across Tuscawilla Prairie millions of years ago? Did dinosaurs ever live in Micanopy? Get ready to dig in and see what you can find, and learn much more about our prehistoric past.

Special guest Doug Noble is a retired administrator of the Florida Museum of Natural History. He plans to dig into museum resources and bring hands-on activities.

TREMENDOUS TREES

November 13th, Wednesday, 2-4pm

As Florida moves toward autumn, TLC will investigate the importance of trees and learn some of the characteristics that we can use to identify different types of trees. What is the difference between deciduous and evergreen? How about crenate and palmate? We invite you to come meet the tree-mendous world of the true green giants on the Tuscawilla Preserve.

Conservation Trust for Florida), a partnership has formed to develop a unified management plan. In addition to habitat restoration and protection, the unified plan will cover recreational opportunities that include a trail network.

TUSCAWILLA PRESERVE

Tuscawilla Prairie presents many of the same challenges as Paynes Prairie, only on a smaller scale. Recent dry spells and absence of fire have allowed willow, persimmon, saltbush, and other shrubs to spread throughout the 600-acre basin marsh. As an alternative to fire, we have experimented with mowing in several large management zones to control hardwood encroachment. Sandhill cranes appreciated the new openings immediately!

SANTA FE RIVER PRESERVE

Thanks to the Alachua County Forever program, this preserve recently doubled in size with the acquisition of a 90-acre parcel to the east. The new addition protects another half mile of the Santa Fe River corridor. The expansion will allow for a more extensive trail network which we plan to open to the public in 2014.

Northern Bobwhite (right) have returned to Prairie Creek Preserve. Several years of land management, particularly prescribed burns, have created habitat suitable for this species (Photo: Jack Rogers).





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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