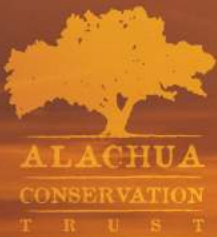


ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

Gazetteer

30 yrs

*Saving extraordinary places throughout
north central Florida since 1988.*



SPRING 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

10 9:30am-11:30am
Pancakes On The Praire
@ Tusawilla Praire Preserve

11 10:00am
Azaleas & More: Plant Walk
@ Santa Fe River Preserve

17 5:30pm-9:30pm
19th Annual CSA Awards
@ Praire Creek Lodge

25 10:00am-11:30am
Tree Bark ID Walk
@ Santa Fe River Preserve

APRIL

7 9:30am
**Advanced Directives:
CBI Workshop**
@ Praire Creek Lodge

7
Santa Fe River Paddle
@ RSVP Required

8 8:30am
Birding By Ear
@ Santa Fe River Preserve

14 9:00am-12:00pm
Beetles & More Walk
@ Praire Creek Preserve

21 1:30am
Hogtown Craft Beer Fest
@ Alachua County Fair Grounds

21 9:30am
**What's A Body To Do? :
CBI Workshop**
@ Praire Creek Lodge

22 1:00pm
Ice Cream Social
@ Rockwood Park

28 12:00pm
Tree Fest 2018
@ Swamp Head Brewery

MAY

26 9:00am-12:00pm
Dragonflies Of Florida
@ Praire Creek Preserve

JUNE

7 6:00pm-9:00pm
Citizen Science Workshop
@ Praire Creek Lodge

SEPTEMBER

30
ACT'S 30th Anniversary Bash
@ Praire Creek Lodge

DECEMBER

14 6:00pm-9:00pm
Holiday Mingle
@ Praire Creek Lodge

Board of Directors

President - Laurel Nesbit, Registered Mental Health Counselor, CWC - UF
Vice President - Kim Davidson, M.D., Family Practice Doctor - Retired
Secretary - Alison Blakeslee, Private Investigator - Fisher & Blakeslee
Treasurer - Bruce DeLaney, Asst. VP for Real Estate - UF Foundation, Retired
Anne Barkdoll, Ph.D, Biologist - Florida Div. of Parks & Recreation
Bill Bryson, Publisher/Business Owner
Fred Cantrell, University Business Affairs - UF, Retired
Mike Castine, AICP, Senior Planner - Alachua County Growth Managment
Robert Christianson, SJRWMD, Division Director of Strategic Planning, Retired
Trey Greer, Associate Director, University Writing Program - UF
Richard Hamann, J.D., Associate in Law, Ctr. for Gov't Responsibility - UF, Retired
Pegeen Hanrahan, P.E., SE Urban Parks Finance Director, Trust For Public Land
Howard Jelks, Fish Biologist - U.S. Geological Survey
Muthusami Kumaran, Professor, Dept. of Family, Youth & Community Science - UF
Peter NeSmith, Botanist - Water & Air Research, Inc.

STAFF

Tom Kay, Executive Director
Ivor Kincaide, Land Manager
Lesia Holder, Office Manager
Chris Burney, Project Manager
Grace Howell, WITW Land Mgmt. Specialist
Melissa Hill, Project Coordinator
Justin Caron, Staff Attorney
Kathryn Tancig, Conserv. Land Negotiator
Barry Coulliette, Private Lands Prescribed Fire Specialist



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 easements.

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.



30 yrs

CONSERVATION
STEWARDS
AWARDS

MARCH
17TH

2018 HONOREES

SATURDAY, 5:30 PM AT PRAIRIE CREEK LODGE

TICKETS \$75 AVAILABLE AT : WWW.ALACHUACONSERVATIONTRUST.ORG

JOHN HANKINSON, JR.

The late John Hankinson, Jr. was one of Florida's greatest conservationists and a talented blues harmonica player with several bands including "Johnny Matanzas and the Hombres" and "The Non-Essentials." John's professional career revolved around the inter-relationship of land and water resources, protecting watersheds to assure there would be clean and abundant water in the future. Early in his career John was an analyst in the legislature with the House Committee on Regulatory Reform. His Chairman, Representative Bill Sadowski, a man of the highest integrity, was an important mentor to John. After seeing, from the inside, how laws were made, and the appalling influence special interests had in the relative vacuum of independent science being considered, John was persuaded by Marjorie Carr to be the Director of the Environmental Service Center. The purpose of the organization was to bring to the House and Senate committees qualified subject matter experts that could make presentations and answer questions regarding the legislation being considered. Marjorie believed if the Legislators knew better, they would do better, we just needed to provide them accurate information. Marjorie Carr was a person of incredible determination and perseverance. She was an inspiration to John all his life. During this time, one of John's greatest honors was to be selected by Governor Bob Graham to serve on the ELMS II committee to assist in developing the State Comprehensive Plan, which led to the passage of Chapter 163, the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Act of 1985. Shortly thereafter, he served as the Director of Planning and Acquisition at the St Johns River Water Management District where he focused on the acquisition of critical watersheds such as the Upper St. Johns River Basin, Lake Apopka and the Ocklawaha River Basin. John often remarked that this was the best job he ever had, buying and protecting Florida's environmentally sensitive land. Working with public and private partners he participated in the acquisition of over 200,000 acres of environmentally important lands in Florida. In 1994 John was appointed by President Clinton as Regional Administrator of EPA's office in Atlanta, overseeing federal wetland regulation and state implementation of delegated Clean Water Act programs in eight southern states. John promoted comprehensive watershed and coastal aquatic ecosystem management including the Florida Everglades, National Estuary Programs, and efforts to establish a compact for the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint (ACF) river system.

Following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, he was appointed by President Obama to serve as the executive director of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force where he worked with 11 federal agencies and five states to develop a strategy for restoration of the Gulf of Mexico. In his retirement, he refocused on Marjorie Carr and his shared goal to restore the Ocklawaha River to be a free-flowing system. John was a larger than life character whose generous spirit and infectious laughter will be sorely missed.

MICHAEL DRUMMOND

Michael is well known around Alachua County (and beyond) for his impressive knowledge of flora and fauna, his passion for nature and the outdoors, and his lifelong dedication to protecting our local environment. A graduate of UF, Michael started working at the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department in 1990, and is one of the longest standing employees to date, providing invaluable mentorship to fellow staff. In 1992, Michael wrote the first wetland protection ordinance and was instrumental in ensuring its adoption, thus setting Alachua County as a leader in environmental protection across the state. He also singlehandedly introduced protection policies for archeological resources in our community and was recognized by the Florida Archaeological Council with a Heritage Preservation Award. Over the years, Michael has contributed to countless Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code updates, most notably amongst them being the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, which expanded wetland buffer requirements and added protections for upland communities such as significant habitat, listed species habitat, and strategic ecosystems. In his current role as a senior environmental planner, he reviews land use, zoning and development applications for compliance with the county's protection requirements, as well as supports the land conservation program in evaluating properties for conservation value. When Michael's interest in a topic is piqued, he will immerse himself until mastery is complete, which is largely how he has become the local expert in archeological resources, botany, birding, and local natural history, amongst many topics. He is also an accomplished nature photographer and an incredible cook!



Photo By: John Moran

GRAND OPENING OF THE SANTA FE PRESERVE

Your Next Outdoor Adventure Is Closer Than You Think

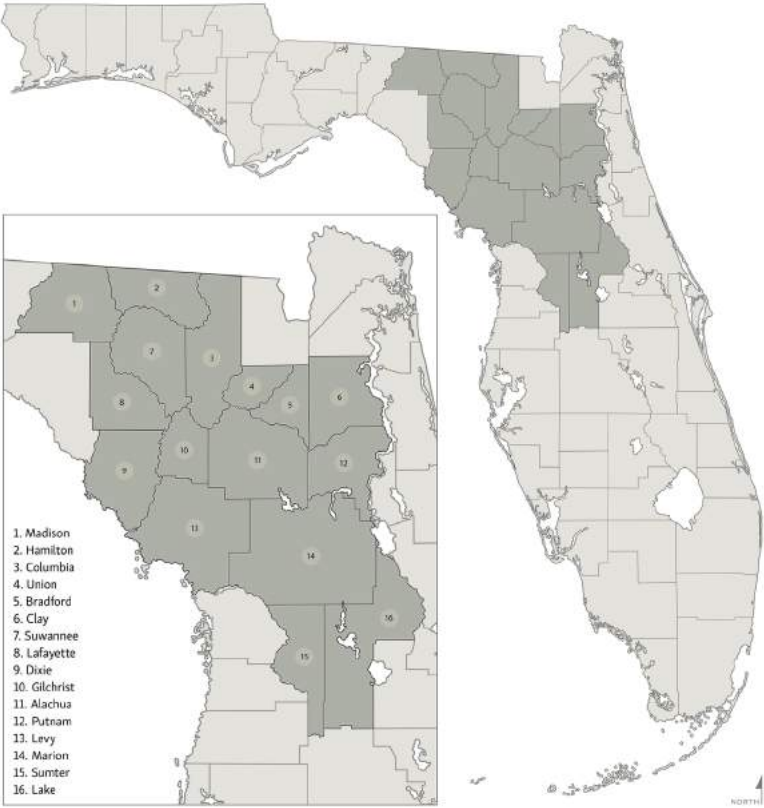
Placing land under contract, especially land facing development pressure, brings relief and also begins the first steps of permanently conserving a property. Closing on a property and permanently conserving land is always an exciting day for the community. The best day though is finally opening those new conservation lands as a nature preserve for people to experience and enjoy themselves. The rush from those days lasts long after the event is over and nears the exhilaration one feels when skydiving. It is truly that special to have a grand opening. All the efforts and financial support from you – the volunteers, the donors, the campaign cheerleaders, the partners - is second to none.

On November 18th, we celebrated the grand opening of Santa Fe River Preserve near Worthington Springs. The weather was perfect for sharing time together with our closest friends and celebrating another critical conservation victory in our backyard. While Hurricane Irma slowed down the progress of getting the Preserve ready for its grand opening, it also highlighted why it is critical to conserve the lands along the Santa Fe River and its floodplain. There is a renewed urgency to buffer our rivers, wetlands, and shorelines from new development.

This point was highlighted during the grand opening ceremony. Alachua County Commissioners Hutch Huthinson and Lee Pinkoson gave impassioned speeches that touched on the successes of Alachua County Forever, Wild Spaces & Public Places, and of Alachua County’s commitment to conservation of our water and land resources, open space and recreational areas for the community to enjoy. ACT’s executive director Tom Kay spoke to the importance of partnerships in bringing this project together, including Alachua County, the state of Florida through the Florida Communities Trust grant program, The Conservation Fund through their loan program, and all the amazing foundations and individuals that have supported the Rise Up for the Santa Fe River campaign.

Conserving this land embodies what conservation must be these days to succeed: multiple partnerships and broad based community support working toward a collective goal of protecting and stewarding these lands for wildlife and people alike.

After the presentations and ribbon cutting, attendees mingled over refreshments and headed out to explore the new hiking trails, paddle the river with guide Brack Barker and ride about the preserve on two wheels led by ACT board member Howard Jelks. So many people and partners made this special day possible. Your support has led to the protection of more than 900 acres and 6 miles of river frontage along the Santa Fe River. Read on to see how YOU can continue to protect our region’s emerald necklace.



Conserve With Us A New Way to Support Land You Love

Alachua Conservation Trust is partnering with Conserve With Us to bring the Rise Up for the Santa Fe River Campaign to a larger audience. Conserve With Us is a new online platform transforming the way land trusts connect with people and communities to protect the places we all care about. ACT is one of the first three land trusts to use this platform in the country. You can support a project in your own backyard like ACT's Santa Fe River project or anywhere across the country. The important thing is that YOU can act now and make a difference. We still have to raise \$200,000 to cover costs associated with this project by the end of March 2018.

Check out the project and donate at: conserewith.us/santaferiver





GIVING THE GIFT OF CONSERVATION

Plans change. People want their land to stay as open space. They want a place where the critters can continue to roam. They want to see the places they grew up to love enjoyed by others. Some don't want to hand down the burden of deciding what to do with a property or a home to their loved ones.

And still others want to see their lands used for the benefit of a larger conservation project. Regardless of the motivation or combination of motivations, more people donated land to Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) this year than any previous year. With these generous gifts of conservation in Alachua, Columbia, Putnam and Lake Counties, the pace of conservation in our region continues to pick up. With the gift of a 102 acre farm in Howey-In-The-Hills, ACT has its first conservation property in Lake County.

Lacy's Grove is a mix of pasture that's home to many gopher tortoises, upland hardwoods, pine forests, an old orange grove, and wetlands that are called home by a variety of egrets and cranes, water fowl, turtles, alligators, and some fairly good fishing according to the locals. In the long term, ACT will ensure that it is always an open and natural space that protects the water resources and benefits all the wildlife that resides there.

In Columbia County, the Hodor Family has donated another two parcels of land to become part of ACT's Howard I. Hodor Preserve in Columbia County. The first gift of 107 acres from the Hodor family came in 2014. With the latest gift, Hodor Preserve is now 110 acres of predominately hardwood forest along the Santa Fe River. It is located between Ichetucknee Springs State Park and Ft. White Environmental and Conservation Area. The Preserve will be open for outdoor enjoyment and recreational use in 2019.

As we all experienced last fall during Hurricane Irma, the importance of protecting lands along the Santa Fe River and our other water bodies has never been more important. We are grateful to the Hodor family for their gift to further this conservation objective.



Thanks to several lot donations in 2017, Little Orange Creek Preserve in Hawthorne continues to expand. With land gifts from Franklin Tucker, John Vander-Hoek, and the Association of Research & Enlightenment in 2017, Little Orange Creek Preserve is inching closer to the 3,000 acre milestone.

With your support and current priority land projects surrounding the Preserve, this should be the year that the milestone will be reached. These projects will enhance the existing wildlife habitat, especially for wide ranging species such as the Florida black bear and improve the ongoing longleaf habitat restoration efforts at the Preserve.

Karl & Linda Feldthausen purchased 6.5 acres near Lake Santa Fe with the plan that they would build a home and retire there. Their plans changed and they wanted to see their property benefit ACT's Santa Fe River wildlife corridor project. With a clear vision of their desire and ACT's numerous active projects along the Santa Fe River and in the watershed, the Feldthausens knew gifting their land near Lake Santa Fe to ACT was a win for conservation in the region. In the same vein, local conservationist Susan Carr owned over 7 acres of family land near Brooker in Alachua County that she wanted to see put to a much better use.

While her land does not fall into a current ACT project area and is not adjacent to conservation lands, its benefits are significant in that ACT will be able to use it to possibly trade for or sell to acquire lands that fall into one of these categories. This generous gift gives ACT another tool to conserve the most important lands in our region.

Finally, the late Fred Thompson, a renowned malacologist, left his 167 acre homestead on Ledwith Lake near Micanopy to ACT in his will. The property was officially transferred to ACT in January 2018. This beautiful mix of mesic hammock, ponds, creeks, and upland hardwood forest is an important conservation land near Alachua County's 5,000 acre Barr Hammock Preserve. Future plans for the property are just getting underway, so stay tuned for future updates on this gift of conservation.

Gifts like these will benefit us all. If you have a property that you'd like to see conserved or used to help protect other land that you love and care about, contact ACT's executive director Tom Kay at (352) 373-1078 or act.tkay@gmail.com. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated property or bequeathed property to ACT in 2017. These gifts are ensuring that nature will always be close by to enjoy for generations to come.



WELCOMING BARRY COULLIETTE

It's well understood that fire plays a critical role in the maintenance of longleaf pine ecosystems in north Florida. At ACT we also know that saving these ecosystems will only be possible with careful stewardship of both public and private lands. Beginning this year, ACT will take a leadership role in the Ocala Local Implementation Team (OLIT), a regional partnership of public agencies and private landowners focused on longleaf ecosystem survival and restoration. It will take a team effort to ensure that gopher tortoises, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and fox squirrels have the habitat they need to survive in north Florida, and we're helping build that team. Focusing on private landowner work, please welcome Barry Coulliette, the newest addition to the ACT team. After more than three decades of managing lands with fire in our region and instructing students across the state on the safe application of fire, Barry will be helping private forest landowners as ACT's prescribed fire specialist. Through one-on-one consultation and leading workshops, Barry plans to help landowners in our area build skills and confidence around managing their longleaf habitat through prescribed burning.



Photo By: Susan Carr

"We are trying to restore a longleaf pine sandhill on our property, and prescribed fire is our most important management tool. However, we don't have burning experience and we were nervous about actually conducting a prescribed burn. Barry helped us at all stages - without his help, we probably would not have done the burning on our own. Barry provided the education, experience and motivation to get us moving toward sustainable fire management on our property." Rick Robbins & Susan Carr

FAREWELL MARK



Photo By: Melissa Hill

In 2014, Mark Larson came to work for Alachua Conservation Trust first as a volunteer, but it wasn't long before he had established himself as an invaluable organizational asset. His knowledge of the native landscape, of land management practices and techniques, his ability to fix almost anything, and his "can do" attitude made it impossible for us not to bring him onboard as our assistant land manager. Among his many achievements, Mark can be credited for expanding our resource management program to include several seasons of Americorps-NCCC teams that enabled us to open preserves at an accelerated rate, and for formalizing our now much-sought-after internship program, which previously had been only incidental to ACT's other environmental education and land management activities.

But alas, as Mark and wife Ana's family grew in 2017 to include a daughter – baby Magnolia – so did Mark's ambitions, and it was with both great sadness but also great joy that we supported his decision to take a post with Alachua County's Parks & Conservation Lands division as an Environmental Specialist late in the year. Please join us in wishing Mark all the best in his new job, and help us to remind him that – much like the Mafia - once you're "in" with ACT, you're in for life...which is why he'll be hosting our Pancakes in the Park event (once again as a volunteer) on Saturday, March 10th at Tusawilla Prairie!

WOMEN IN THE WOODS



Since the summer of 2017, ACT's Women in the Woods internship program has been a great success! So far, in tandem with our long-standing land management internship, this program has provided twenty students, including 14 young women, opportunities to explore the field of natural resource management. Students have a variety of academic backgrounds, majoring in Wildlife Ecology, Forestry, Environmental Science, Natural Resource Conservation, Wetlands Ecology and Sustainability Studies. At ACT they gain valuable hands-on experience and develop essential skills while assisting staff with every day land management tasks and helping to accomplish many of the larger projects on ACT's preserves.

As our interns have learned, taking care of natural areas is a big job! In the fall, interns spent many workdays helping to clear preserve trails of storm debris from Hurricane Irma, which provided great opportunities to learn about the safe use of chainsaws, handsaws and loppers as well as build a lot of muscle and get familiar with many miles of our preserve trails. As the grand opening of the Santa Fe River Preserve approached in mid- November, interns gained some basic carpentry skills as they helped build and install a kiosk and a pedestrian entrance at the north entrance to the preserve. Many days were spent removing invasive exotic plants and clearing, creating and blazing trails. Finally, interns helped clean up and set up for our ceremony and celebrated with us. Phew! We are so grateful for their hard work - we certainly couldn't have done it without them.

This spring, interns have been busy planting hundreds of longleaf pines, clearing trails, removing invasive plants and learning about prescribed fire, restoration and other conservation-oriented land management practices. Interns also joined ACT staff to participate in the City of Gainesville's Great Invader Raider Rally in January, removing invasive plants like coral ardisia from ACT's Blues Creek Ravine Preserve.

In addition to the hands on learning, ACT interns have had the incredibly valuable opportunity to meet with and learn from some of our local professional Women in the Woods. At special "mentor luncheons," these women have shared a variety of career experiences and real-world perspectives as women in the field of natural resource management. Interns have the opportunity to ask questions and often get to tour managed lands. We would like to thank these amazing Women in the Woods for volunteering their time to make a difference in the lives and careers of our aspiring youth:

Andrea Christman, Park Biologist at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Sandra Vardaman, Conservation Lands Program Supervisor for the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department

Sheri Amundson, Private landowner, Kincaid Loop Longleaf Restoration Partnership

Liz Ramirez, Wildlife Biologist at the Ocala National Forest

Caroline Hament, Nature Assistant for the City of Gainesville's Natural Resource Management team



A SLICE OF SATCHEL'S

Have you ever wondered why Satchel's is cash only?

It's because Satchel's is working hard to improve our community through awarding monthly "Satch Cash" recipients. This past January, all Satch Cash ATM fees went to support the Women in the Woods program. With the help of Satch Cash, ACT's hope is to fund one semester of interns with a travel stipend to and from ACT Preserves, as well as cover the costs of the personal protection equipment needed for their safety as they serve approximately 192 hours of substantive land management work on public preserves. Thank you Satchel's for helping ACT interns continue to learn while they improve and maintain conservation lands that are vital wildlife habitats!

THE NATURE CLASSROOM

By Melissa Hill

Water begins to sink in over the lip of my boots, but I smile and take the next step as the students cheer me deeper into Little Orange Creek. My soggy boots don't put a damper on their mood as I emerge with a net teeming with creatures- mosquitofish, dragonfly larvae, water scorpions, and midges. Curious and excited, the students huddle around the station to see what creatures have been lurking in the park's waters. The thirty minutes at the wetlands station blaze by, and soon the students move off to the next of the four learning stations. Last fall, ACT continued its partnership with the Little Orange Creek (LOC) Environmental Education program. Through providing volunteers, staff time, and funding for school bus charters, ACT was able to serve over 600 children and continue strengthening relationships with local schools in East Gainesville, Melrose, and Hawthorne. Randi Cameon, President of Friends of Little Orange Creek, says,

"We appreciate our program partners - Alachua Conservation Trust, UF Aquatics and Fisheries Fishing for Success Program, Alachua County Library System Hawthorne Branch, and the City of Hawthorne. The collaboration of all of us from different perspectives - biology, horticulture, library science, conservation, and environmental science - brings a rich and dynamic balance that excites us all!"

Many thanks to the Huisking Foundation and the Colverson family for providing funding to make this work possible!



Photo By: Randi Cameon

THANK YOU, ROTARY!

We extend our deep gratitude to the Downtown Rotary Club of Gainesville for honoring ACT this past November as its "Wine to Water Wes Skiles Water Stewardship" non-profit award recipient for the year 2017. ACT was recognized by the local service organization for its work to protect the land and springheads along the Santa Fe River basin, and for its ongoing Springs Eternal and Springs Ambassadors environmental education programs in partnership with John Moran and Lesley Gamble. Downtown Rotary inaugurated the event - named after imminent local cave diving pioneer, explorer, and underwater cinematographer Wes Skiles - four years ago to honor individuals, non-profits and businesses whose actions best reflect its own work through the Rotary Foundation Water Project to conserve local water resources for generations to come.



Photo By: Randi Cameon

What { **HOGTOWN**
CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

When { **21ST** SATURDAY
APRIL, 2018

Where { **ALACHUA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA



PAINTING: "THE EDGE" BY STEVE ANDREWS



SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH
12:00PM - 11:00PM
SWAMP HEAD BREWERY

2017 HALLOWEEN BALL

Marty McFly, cotton candy, a cat burglar, mermaids, and a ten foot tall robot were just some of the attendees for this year's fourth annual Halloween Ball. Close to two hundred spooky and creative supporters came out in the name of conservation and costume contests to "Rise up for the Santa Fe River." Proceeds from this event went to help fund the addition of 3.25 miles of riverfront along the upper Santa Fe River. A huge thanks to our partner First Magnitude Brewing Company for the excellent venue and tireless support!





ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST
7204 SE County Road 234
Gainesville, Florida 32641

ACT: FACTS AT A GLANCE

- 1 ESTABLISHED IN **1988** AS NON-PROFIT LAND TRUST
- 2 INVOLVED IN THE CONSERVATION OF OVER **50,000** ACRES
- 3 DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED IN THE PURCHASE OF OVER **19,000** ACRES
- 4 CURRENTLY, OWNERS OF **4,317** ACRES AND 2 HISTORIC STRUCTURES
- 5 PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ON **3,227** ACRES
- 6 HUNDREDS OF ACRES MANAGED WITH PRESCRIBED FIRE IN 2017 ALONE
- 7 SUCCESSFULLY LED 5 PUBLIC REFERENDA, 3 FOR FUNDING **\$192.5 MILLION**, AND 2 FOR CREATING REGISTRY FOR PROTECTED PUBLIC AREAS
- 8 OVER **600** ACTIVE SUPPORTERS WHO DONATE AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS
- 9 OVER **5,800** VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS IN THE LAST YEAR
- 10 OVER **140,000** LONGLEAF PINES PLANTED OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS
- 11 1 OF ONLY 6 NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAND TRUSTS THROUGHOUT FLORIDA
- 12 ACTIVE LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN **16 COUNTIES** IN NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 17, 2018 @ 5:30PM

CONSERVATION STEWARDS AWARDS

@ PRAIRE CREEK LODGE

TO CELEBRATE
OUR 2018
HONOREES
& ACT'S
30th!



A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LAND TRUST

Out of 1700 land trusts across the country, Alachua Conservation Trust received the 2013 National Land Trust Excellence Award from the Land Trust Alliance. The award represents the highest single recognition that a land trust can receive in the United States.