

CONSERVATION FLORIDA

ISSUE 20

THE POST

Celebrating
20 YEARS
OF PROTECTING
FLORIDA LANDSCAPES

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FLORIDA SPRINGS

Saving land to protect water



What is Conservation Florida?

Conservation Florida is a 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust. We are one of the only land trusts in Florida chartered to work statewide, and we are proudly accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.



Sound Finances
Ethical Conduct
Responsible Governance
Lasting Stewardship

Brief History

Conservation Florida was founded in 1999 by David Carr. His father, Archie Carr, was recognized as a leading authority on sea turtles. His mother, Marjorie Harris-Carr, helped establish Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park and led efforts to stop the Cross Florida Barge Canal. As the son of pioneering conservationists, he saw firsthand the growing need for a land trust that would focus on protecting Florida's "working rural landscapes," which include farms, ranches, and timber lands. Since its founding, Conservation Florida has expanded its mission to include natural landscapes. Looking ahead, we will continue to be resilient, pioneering, and adaptive to Florida's land conservation needs.

Mission

Our mission is to protect Florida's natural and agricultural landscapes for future generations.

CONSERVATION FLORIDA CELEBRATES

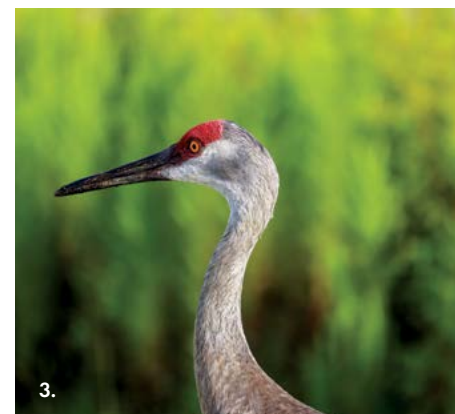
20 years of protecting Wild Florida

Happy anniversary, friends!

As Conservation Florida turns 20, please join us in honoring everyone who has supported this organization and its important mission over the last two decades.

Conservation Florida started with the bold vision of our passionate founder. David Carr saw the need for a statewide land conservation group and took it upon himself to start one. Like so many good ideas, his vision took shape during discussions among friends around a kitchen table. At the turn of the millennium, our founders gathered in the small town of Micanopy to launch a new nonprofit dedicated to protecting Florida's magnificent landscapes, rural farmlands, and life-sustaining ecosystems for future generations.

Florida's conservation future is uncertain, but in the face of what may seem like impossible challenges, we see opportunities. This milestone anniversary brings with it new energy to make the last great push for meaningful and lasting conservation in Florida. You are a part of our success. You are part of our conservation community, and you are cordially invited to join us in celebrating Conservation Florida's 20th anniversary!



FROM OUR INSTAGRAM COMMUNITY

#ilovewildfl, @conserveflorida

1. I love wild Florida because there is always something in bloom. @emilybellphoto
2. You can have a different kind of adventure everyday here. 🥰 @larrawanders
3. I love wild Florida because of the beautiful biodiversity that you can find all around you. @jessacurrrr_photo
4. #ilovewildfl because being in nature is my happy place. The hustle and bustle of the workdays are long forgotten the moment I step into the wild. 🙌🥰 @nate.arnold.photo





1.



3.



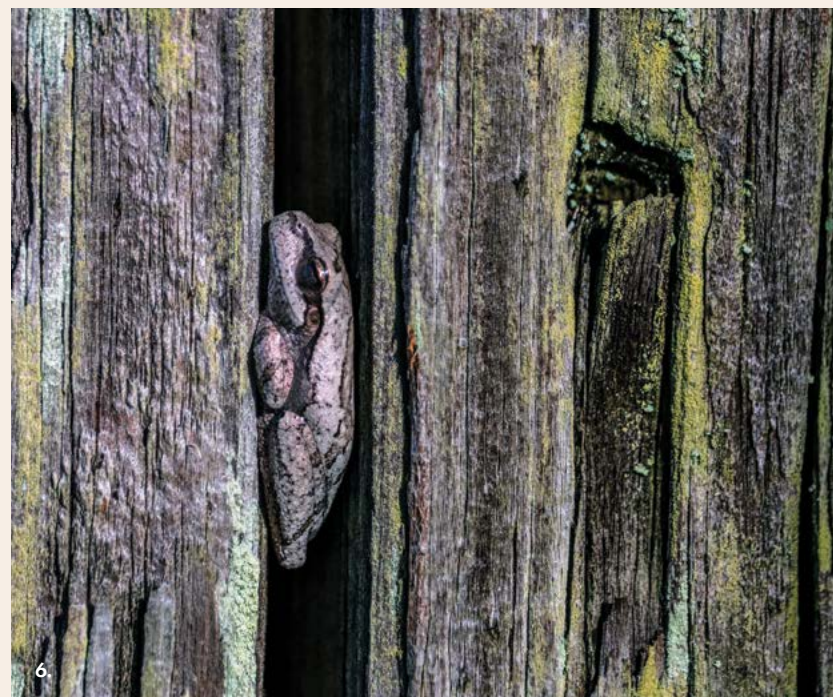
2.



4.



5.



6.

BIOBLITZ

at Rock Springs Run State Reserve

Love for Florida’s environment and curiosity about our natural world brought dozens of people — children, families, scientists, teachers, and college students — to Rock Springs Run State Reserve on Oct. 12 to take part in Conservation Florida’s annual bioblitz.

Participants ranged in age from 18-months to 85-years old. They traveled from places as far away as High Springs and Palm Beach Gardens to explore the Reserve, which is a 14,000-acre wild area approximately 30 miles north of Orlando.

The Reserve provides a critical connection between the Wekiwa Springs State Park and the Seminole State Forest. Together, these protected lands form the southernmost boundary of the Wekiva to Ocala Corridor.

Leading the Way

Birders Robert Emond and Gigi DelPizzo kicked off the morning by leading participants on a search for birds. No one spotted the beloved and endangered Florida Scrub-Jay, but volunteer conservationists documented red tail hawks, vultures, cardinals, yellow warblers, and three kinds of woodpeckers!

Scanning the skies and searching the forest floor, participants ventured into the woods with herpetologist Dr. Marc Behrendt, to look for frogs, snakes, turtles, and other reptiles and amphibians.

Next, plant expert Allegra Buyer led participants through the pine flatwoods to look for and document numerous plant species including wire grass, hairy indigo, goldenrod, shiny blueberry, longleaf pine, and loblolly bay.

Our last tour was led by biologist Jess Rodriguez. She shared her experience in imperiled species conservation and management during the final hike of the day.

Making Science Fun and Accessible

As early as 2007, people have volunteered their time to take part in bioblitzes across the world. National Geographic defines a bioblitz as “an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time.”

Bioblitzes, whether in small communities or in large preserves, have become a popular and easy way to engage in citizen science — a way for anybody to interact with nature, get outside, and

observe the precious biodiversity we strive to protect with each of our land protection projects.

Learn how to host a bioblitz in your community or school, by visiting nationalgeographic.org/projects/bioblitz. Email info@conserveflorida.org to participate in our 2020 bioblitz.

Special Thanks

Thank you to the volunteers and everyone who helped make the bioblitz a success!

- Dr. Marc Behrendt
- Robert Emond
- Leah Norris
- Allegra Buyer
- Rebecca Harbour
- Jess Rodriguez
- Gigi DelPizzo
- Connie Modriskey
- Brian Scheick

Why I loved *and hated* seeing Central Florida from above

Article and photography by Tanner DiBerardino

I wish everyone could see Florida from the air because then we'd have a much easier time saving it.

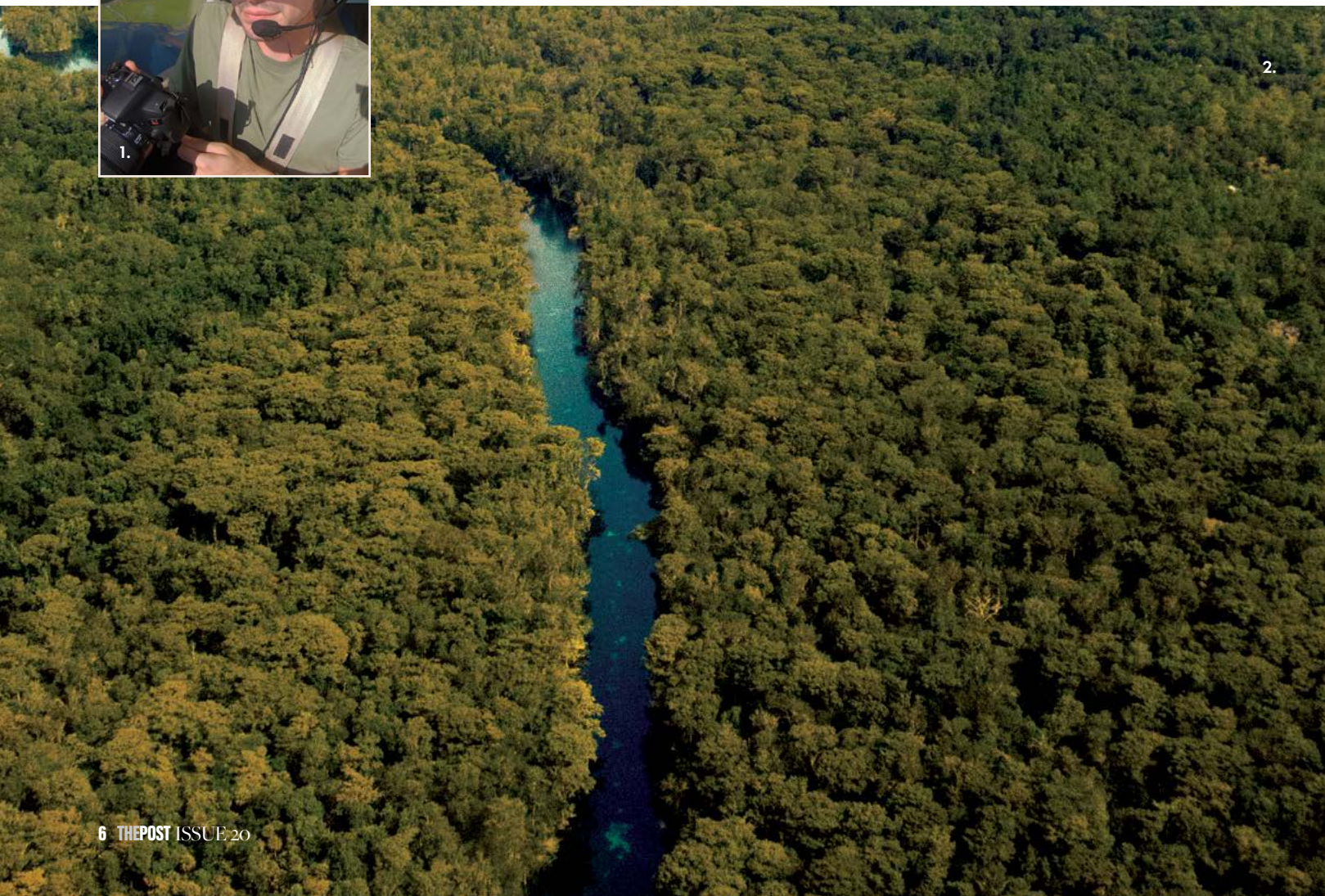


AS A GRADUATING COLLEGE SENIOR hoping to work for an environmental nonprofit, I had admittedly become a bit cynical about my job prospects. That is, until I received an email from Conservation Florida about an internship. A week later, I found myself sitting in the copilot's seat of a plane (that I was way too large for) with Traci Deen and Butch Parks.

That morning, I arrived at the hangar weighed down by about 30 pounds of camera gear. In the lobby, Butch splayed a map over the table and

reviewed our flight plan with our pilot, Charlie Martinez. I was briefed on important areas to photograph, and we climbed into the plane where I squeezed into the front seat with Charlie.

I had flown in a small plane once before, but take-off still felt unfamiliar and exciting. The plane bounced and swayed as if it were lifted by a string. I recorded on my GoPro, got my two photo cameras set up, and grabbed my video camera just in time to catch our departure from Earth.



Capturing the Views

The thin haze that hung over the Orlando Executive Airport earlier that morning had lifted, and we were treated to a sunny sky with only a few wispy clouds hanging in the distance. With no air-conditioning in the plane, I had to keep wiping sweat off of my camera, but it was worth it; the sun illuminated the expanse of wild Florida brilliantly.

As we quickly gained altitude, the trees below multiplied into forests, houses sprouted into neighborhoods, and the roads became snaking masses cutting through the land. Butch and Traci were rattling out names of rivers and forests one after the other as I snapped away, trying to keep up: the Wekiva River, St. Johns River, Lake Monroe.

Once we reached cruising altitude at 1,200 feet, Charlie slowed and steadied the plane, and the beauty of Florida's wilderness came into focus. The forest was split in two by the glimmering Wekiva River. Vast prairies opened up into lakes and streams, and tiny white dots came and went as airboats weaved throughout the wetlands. Seeing Florida like this truly amazed me and affirmed everything I had heard about the state's lushness and biodiversity. I was taken aback by the sheer scale of the landscape, with swamps and grasslands running for miles and miles. I told Traci, "I wish everyone could see Florida from the air because then we'd have a much easier time saving it." Unlike the rolling hills and towering mountains of the American West, much of Florida's beauty is tucked away behind walls of trees, less visible because of its flatness.

Witnessing the Rampant Overdevelopment

This same land is under threat from overdevelopment; rivers and prairies became speckled with houses and dissected by highways. Bridges straddled rivers, roads cut through previously remote forests, and housing developments consumed patches of green. Trees were being leveled and burned, while housing developments only miles away sat barren with only a few houses having ever been built. It appeared much worse than I thought.

As a lifelong Floridian, I was familiar with the high amount of development in our state, but I was wholly unaware of the scale. **The size and grandeur of the Florida wilderness awed and terrified me as I saw it replaced with a congruent cluster of housing developments and highways.**

This segmentation breaks up the Florida panther population into smaller groups that can't access each other, forcing them to breed within those smaller populations. Habitat loss is one of the biggest threats to the variety of life on this planet. The International Union for Conservation of Nature produces the most comprehensive list of threatened species globally called the Red List, and according to the World Wildlife Fund, **habitat loss is the primary threat to 85% of the species on the list.**

Protecting Florida's Biodiversity

This puts Florida in a particularly concerning spot. The state falls within one of only 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world, which are regions home to at least 1,500 endemic vascular plants, and we face high rates of development with nearly 29,000 new homes built last year in Orlando alone, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

We cannot continue to grow at this rate with this little foresight and expect to keep the wild spaces that drew so many here in the first place. We must protect and conserve Florida's wild spaces while also adapting our already developed land into places of smart and responsible growth. Efforts from groups like Conservation Florida are the reason that over nine and a half million acres of land are currently being managed for conservation, and the reason I find any solace in our state's future.

1. CFL intern Tanner DiBerardino during a flight over Central Florida.
2. This aerial view shows a segment of the Silver River surrounded by conservation lands. The Silver River is fed by Silver Springs and flows into the Ocklawaha River, which eventually joins the St. Johns River near Palatka.
3. A housing development being built near Clermont, Florida.
4. Cook Lake surrounded by encroaching development.
5. An RV resort built only a few hundred feet from the banks of the Ocklawaha River.

You're Saving Land

FROM THE EVERGLADES TO THE PANHANDLE, your support is helping to shape Florida's conservation future. Thanks to you, our landscape-scale projects are saving some of the rarest ecosystems and plant and animal species in the world. Please visit our website to see more details about these featured projects and initiatives.

1. Protecting over 20,000 acres of ranchlands in the Kissimmee River Basin and Lake Okeechobee Watershed. Photo by **CARLTON WARD JR.** **2.** Protecting over 2,000 additional acres of family lands critical to the Everglades Headwaters located within the Adams Ranch Florida Forever project boundary. Photo by **CARLTON WARD JR.** **3.** Creating a corridor for paddlers and wildlife, and a buffer for Avon Park Air Force

Range by saving over 1,200 acres along Arbutle Creek Photo by **DON YACKEL** **4.** Saving pristine scrub habitat within the W2O boundary. **5.** Forming a buffer of over 10,000 acres of protected lands around Silver Springs Headwaters. Photo by **CARLTON WARD JR.** **6.** Supporting a regional partnership to save nearly 100,000 acres in northern Florida with over 5,200 acres of active projects within the O2O. Photo by **ERIC TOMPKINS**

7. Spanning 7,200 acres in Okaloosa County, our Welanee Watershed Forest project will complete the protection of most of both sides of the upper Yellow River. Photo by **NWFWMD** **8.** Safeguarding Florida's wondrous waters with over 1,000 acres within the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone. Photo courtesy of **JOHN FERRELL** **9.** Saving over 8,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat in the Panhandle. Photo by **JESSICA MODRISKEY**



1. EVERGLADES HEADWATERS



4. WEKIVA TO OCALA



5. SILVER SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE



7. WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE



2. ADAMS RANCH



3. ARBUCKLE CREEK WATERSHED



6. OCALA TO OSCEOLA



8. YELLOW RIVER, WELANEE



9. LONGLEAF PINE HABITAT

NORTHERN EVERGLADES

RANCHLANDS & WATERSHEDS This vital and vibrant landscape spans Okeechobee, Osceola, Highlands, Glades, St. Lucie, Martin, and Polk counties. Saving land surrounding rivers, lakes, and streams in the Kissimmee River basin is essential to the health of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. These lands

help filter surface water flowing from the north before it reaches Lake Okeechobee. Our projects here will protect family-run ranches that provide significant habitat for Florida panthers and other species like the grasshopper sparrow. They will also help buffer Avon Park Air Force Range.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

FORESTS & SPRINGS Central Florida is home to the world's largest contiguous sand pine scrub ecosystem and more than 600 lakes, rivers, and springs, including three first-magnitude springs. Our active projects in this region contribute to the formation of a statewide conservation corridor, support healthy

populations of native plants and wildlife, and provide places to recreate and connect with nature. Our projects here are also important for the recharge of the Silver Springs springshed, filtration of groundwater flowing into the Ocklawaha River Aquatic Preserve, and for the production of sustainable local forest products.

NORTHWEST FLORIDA

SPRINGS & LONGLEAF PINE HABITAT The Florida Panhandle contains ecologically intact landscapes that include the largest remaining longleaf pine ecosystem in the world. It's also home to large swaths of existing conservation areas including the

Apalachicola National Forest, Blackwater River State Forest and Eglin Air Force Base. Our active projects here total nearly 8,000 acres and, once completed, will protect large tracts of native longleaf pine forests, artesian springs, and coastal habitats.



1.

Saving land to protect water

With your support, Conservation Florida is working to conserve landscapes that will provide long-term protection for Florida's Springs

Silver Springs

Your sustained support is making a big difference for this Florida gem

With your help over the last five years, Conservation Florida has successfully built a land protection buffer zone for Silver Springs in Marion County. Our latest project is located within the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River Florida Forever Project boundary.

Your ongoing support makes this type of multi-year, multi-phase project possible. This is your support in action!

SILVER SPRINGS FOREST CONSERVATION AREA

Your 2015 Conservation Success

Your support helped us lead efforts to protect the 4,900-acre Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area. To save Silver Springs Forest, we entered into a contract with Rayonier and coordinated with the St. Johns River Water Management District to buy the property. We then raised \$488,000 to close a funding gap, save the land, and leverage \$11 million in state and federal funds for the purchase. Funding partners included the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Forest Legacy Program, the Felburn Foundation, the Moskovitz Foundation, and individual donors like you.

SILVER SPRINGS SANDHILL

Your 2017 Conservation Success

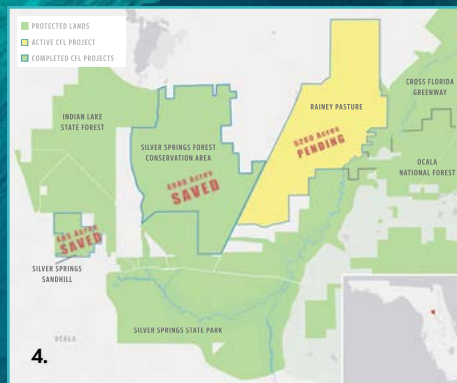
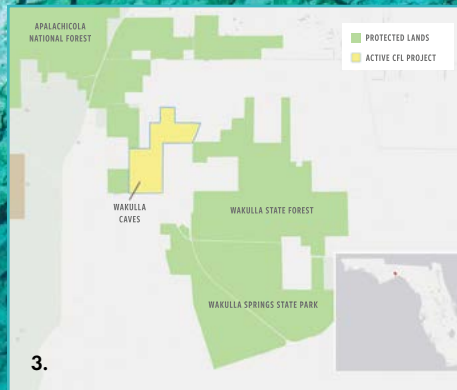
Thanks again to you, Conservation Florida facilitated its second project within the Silver Springs Protection Zone. Known as Silver Springs Sandhill, the 365-acre property was bought by the state with funding from the Florida Forever program, and it is being managed by Marion County Parks and Recreation. Conservation Florida conducted the negotiations and signed a purchase option with multiple owners of the property, which was slated to be developed with 1600 housing units.

RAINEY PASTURE

Your Support in Action Now

Your ongoing support is helping us close in on the protection of Rainey Pasture. This is the most important "missing piece" in Conservation Florida's Silver Springs Protection Zone plan. Once protected, a continuous link will be formed between the Indian Lake State Forest, Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area, the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, Silver Springs State Park, and the Ocala National Forest! See illustration 4 on the opposite page.

Protection of this 5,200-acre property will also provide a buffer from development on the west side of the Ocklawaha River. Our partners include the Florida DEP, the Florida Forest Service, and the U.S. Forest Legacy Program.



2.

After more than 20 years of working with state agencies, Conservation Florida brought a renewed sense of optimism and understanding to negotiations that finally resulted in a deal. I couldn't be happier for the legacy of my family than to have the amazing water resources of this property in public ownership.

– John Ferrell

Wakulla Springs

Because of you, Wakulla Caves will be added to Wakulla Springs State Park

Wakulla Caves has been a high priority on the State's land protection list for over two decades. Thanks to you, strong partnerships, a generous landowner, and funding from Florida Forever and the U.S. Forest Legacy Program, this special property will now be protected forever.

Conservation Florida successfully negotiated the acquisition, secured a purchase agreement, worked with partners to obtain funding, and advocated for its protection before the Florida Cabinet. In July, Cabinet members voted unanimously to approve funding to complete the purchase.

The 717-acre property is essential to the health of Wakulla Springs. It has at least 13 karst sinks, which store water and feed the springs. Wakulla Springs is a National Natural Landmark and one of the largest and deepest freshwater springs in the world. In

addition to providing essential water quality benefits to Wakulla Springs and the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve along St. Mark's shores in the Apalachee Bay, the sinks provide entry into a vast underground cave and tunnel network that has long been a destination for cave divers. The site also harbors several rare animals, including three crustaceans that live in the aquatic caves, and a historic cemetery.

Our work in the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone isn't done! Other parcels are vulnerable to development. Your support enables us to continue our work to protect land above the underground conduits that are essential to the long-term preservation of Wakulla Springs.

1. Manatees in a Florida spring. Photo by **MAC STONE** 2. Divers come from around the world to explore the vast caverns at Wakulla Caves. Photo by **ANDREAS HAGBERG** 3. Wakulla Caves forms a critical link between other protected lands in the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone. 4. Rainey Pasture is a critical link in Conservation Florida's Silver Springs Protection Zone project.

For the Love of Florida

by Traci Deen



WE'RE FLORIDIANS. We swim, eyes open and breath held, in crisp, turquoise Florida springs. As school children, we study the Florida panther as a big cat that still roams our most wild places. We dive off the coast and find coral reef systems bustling. We paddle and kayak waterways alongside the manatee and dolphin. We enjoy an endless variety of recreational activities on the best public lands in the nation. We eat

Florida-grown, Florida-raised food. We love it here. Who wouldn't? This is home, and it's iconic. It's Florida.

But we also watch as our coasts battle the tides of a rising sea and as our estuaries experience algal blooms that destroy entire ecosystems. We ache as panther after panther is struck down on our roads. We lament the loss of green space as another piece of paradise is paved, another ranch lost to rooftops, and we see what's coming: more of us, more roads, more rooftops.

Protecting Florida's natural and agricultural landscapes has never been more important than it is today as we face a growing population, an extraordinary rate of habitat loss and fragmentation, and reduced funding for land conservation.

The Last Great Push for Conservation

Florida is the third-most populous state in the nation, growing by nearly 1,000 newcomers each day. We're projected to exceed 30 million residents by 2060. With this comes a greater demand for water and the development of rural and natural lands for urban use. How we manage our natural resources over the next 10 to 20 years – what we save and what we pave – will undoubtedly determine Florida's conservation future, and the future of Florida as a whole.

So, this is it: This is the last great push for land conservation in our State.

Fragmentation & Loss of Habitat

As Florida's population booms, new roads, housing developments, and shopping centers fragment natural ecosystems. Poorly

planned expansion of cities cut off natural wildlife corridors. The importance of maintaining landscape connectivity to ensure the survival of wide-ranging wildlife species, like the black bear and panther, has been documented for nearly 30 years. Yet, there is still no coordinated, statewide effort to protect natural corridors that provide wildlife with access to safe passageways between conservation areas. Instead, we plan for three new toll roads that will slice through some of Florida's most pristine natural and green spaces and vital wildlife corridors.

Earlier this year, Florida's lawmakers passed a bill that begins the planning process for the toll roads that are intended for mostly rural, natural areas. Conservation Florida's position is this: our state's transportation infrastructure is important, but so is our state's green infrastructure. Far too often it is overlooked and at great risk of being decimated if we don't think and plan judiciously. As we contemplate growth and development, the protection of wildlife corridors and vulnerable natural systems must be contemporaneously addressed and designed.

Reduced Funding for Land Conservation

Florida was once a bold leader in land conservation. Created in 1999 under Governor Jeb Bush, our state "Florida Forever" land acquisition program was funded at about \$300 million a year for almost two decades. In 2009, funding was slashed, and it has languished ever since.

In 2014, 75% of Florida voters passed the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, commonly called "Amendment 1." That was a moment to celebrate, for certain, as is our five-year anniversary of its passing—but there is significant work to be done. Intended to restore funding for land protection, including wetlands and forests, recreational lands, beaches and shores, and working farms and ranches, voters overwhelmingly approved the constitutional amendment that would divert 33% of revenue from a tax on real estate documentary stamps to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF).

Today, the LATF could be used to restore funding to historically successful land conservation programs like Florida Forever, the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, and Florida Communities Trust. However, despite public demand, adequate, meaningful, and consistent funding for critical land protection programs remains unseen.

We can do better. We must.

Conservation Florida will be your partner as we protect critical lands, advocate for meaningful and consistent conservation funding, and serve as a steady voice for the long-term prioritization of Florida's wild and working landscapes.

Finding Common Ground

There is hope, however. From the sandhills to the swamps, Floridians don't always agree, but leave it to Floridians to find our common ground in the actual land we share.

Conservation connects us. It's part of our ethos, our Floridian ethic. In it, there is hope for Florida's conservation future.

Conservation promotes the sensible, deliberate protection of lands that are necessary to keep our state, its people, and its wildlife healthy and thriving. And we tend to agree on it. Land conservation is a no-brainer, and Floridians just get it.

Conservation lands protect our life-sustaining and economy-sustaining water, and water is the lifeblood of our State. The economic benefits of conservation alone make conscientious land acquisition fiscally responsible. Responsible before we even consider the economic benefits of clean water and air, for example, that conserved lands provide. Land conservation deals in forever—and forever protects the future generations of Floridians.

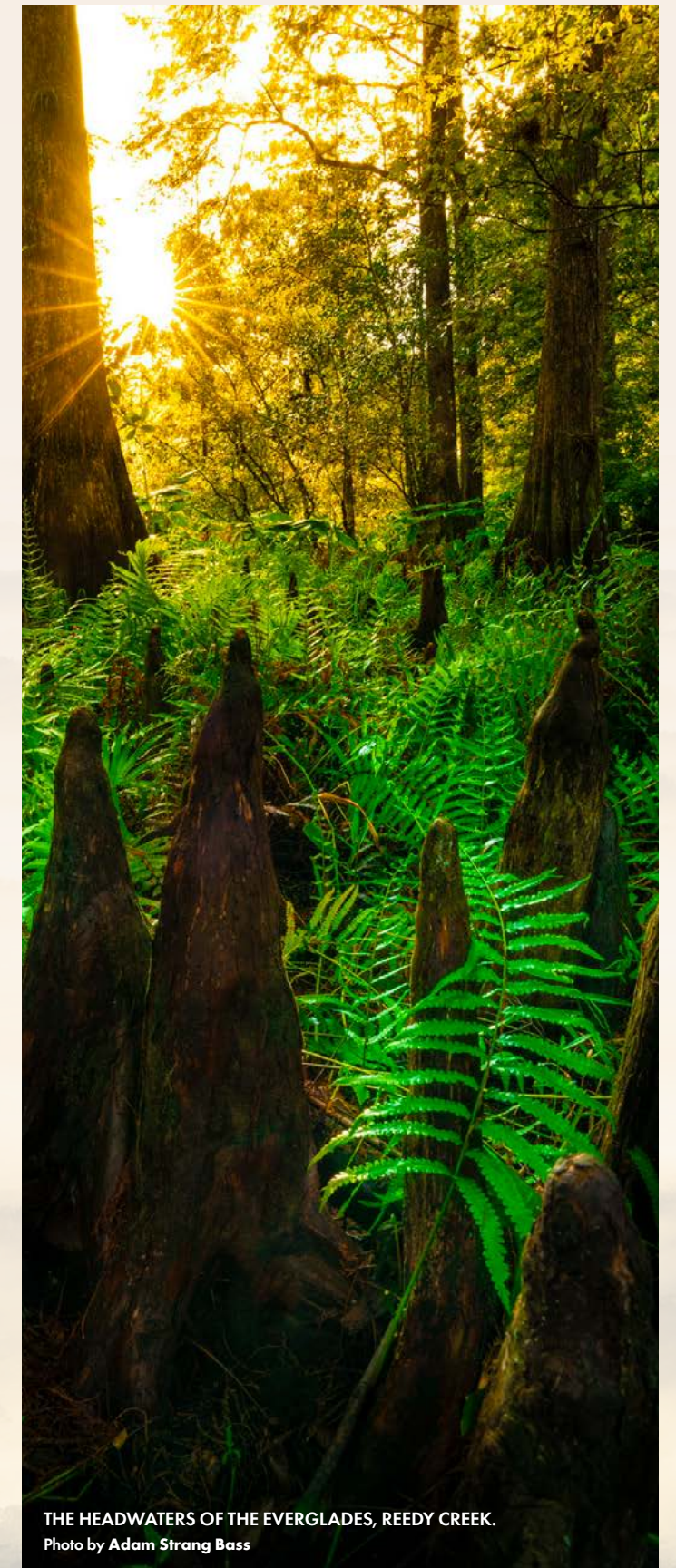
Land conservation is a tool that, if used well, can also keep Florida's family farms and ranches in business while simultaneously protecting the conservation value of the land. Maintaining green landscapes, wildlife corridors, and open space, while safeguarding food security and the rural communities that are dependent on the economic viability of agricultural operations is a double, or triple win. Imagine a ranching operation, thousands of open, beautiful Florida acres—and then imagine that land being protected from pavement forever while also continuing to produce. Conservation is the way!

You Make a Difference

Because of you, Conservation Florida has permanently conserved over 25,000 acres of land over the last 20 years. But we must do more, and soon.

We know that Florida's land and water should be defended with unyielding boldness and Florida's biodiversity cherished. We're working for and with you to protect Florida's natural and agricultural landscapes—to preserve wild, wonderful Florida.

I invite you to join us as we continue to make strides toward our conservation goals, for the love of Florida, and for her future. Support our work with a meaningful gift, volunteer as we explore and document wild Florida, or call your state lawmakers and tell them that conservation matters to you—just know that we will be here alongside you as together, we save land, for nature, for people, forever.



THE HEADWATERS OF THE EVERGLADES, REEDY CREEK.
Photo by Adam Strang Bass

Thank you!

A Gift is Your Love for Wild Florida in Action

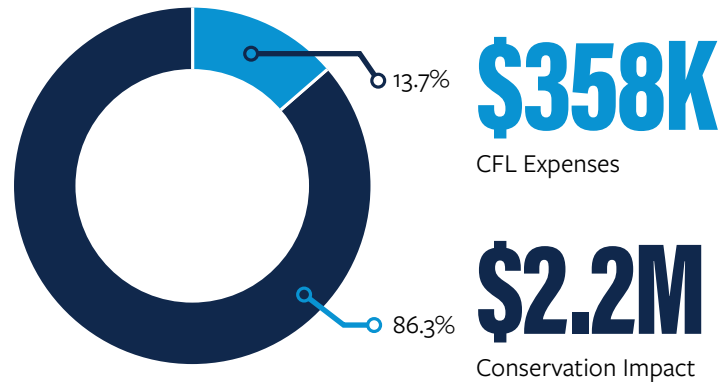
At Conservation Florida, we put your gift to work. You believe land conservation is important enough to invest in, and we take that seriously. Thanks to you, last year we helped two families protect 2,172 acres of ranchlands and wildlife habitat through Florida's Rural and Family Lands Protection Program. Your generosity turned an investment of \$358k into a conservation impact of over \$2.2 million dollars. In other

words, every gift of \$200 protected over an acre of land!

The year before, your giving was leveraged to protect 5,120 acres with a market value of \$16,213,000, yielding a whopping 67:1 ROI. You can continue to expect a high return on your investment, as we strive for measurable results that leverage public and private funding sources.

BY THE NUMBERS

Your Return on Investment Last Year



Be a gamechanger. Invest in conservation.

Florida's wildlife, springs, prairies, and forests can't protect themselves. They need your support. Learn more about any of the giving options below by calling our office at 352-376-4770 or emailing info@conserveflorida.org.

- Start giving monthly or quarterly
- Make a donation of land, stocks, goods, or services
- Make a tax-free transfer from your IRA
- Create a fundraiser for us on Facebook or host a fundraising event for us in your home
- Name CFL as a beneficiary in your will
- Ask your employer about gift matching
- Select Conservation Florida when you shop Amazon Smile
- Vote for us at select Target stores in Central Florida through January 5
- Volunteer with us

INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS

There is strength in numbers. When you apply your talents to a cause you love, everyone wins!

Board of Directors

- Ed Montgomery, President
- Barry Rutenberg, Vice President
- Jon Graham, Treasurer
- KC Nayfield, Secretary
- Celeste Shitama
- David Pais
- Jeff Hardesty
- John Regenfuss
- Mike Forrester
- Neil Asma

Volunteers and Interns

- Allegra Buyer
- Andrea Sotomayor
- Beth Nordhorn
- Bob Whitmore
- Connie Modriskey
- Derek Dunlop
- Emily Dziuban
- Gigi DelPizzo
- Gloria Li
- Hannah Marshall
- Jess Rodriguez
- Jillian Nerenberg
- Leah Norris
- Lizzie Winchester
- Madi Dale
- Marc Behrendt
- Marlowe Starling
- Rebecca Harbour
- Robert Emond
- Tanner DiBerardino
- Tierney Shimansky

TRUSTED PARTNERS

There is power in partnerships. We believe in linking arms to protect more of Florida's natural and agricultural landscapes.

- Alliance of Florida Land Trusts
- Florida Cattlemen's Association
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Forest Service
- Florida Greenways and Trails
- Florida Wildlife Corridor
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- University of Central Florida



We earned a 2019 Platinum Seal of Transparency by sharing the metrics that matter most! Check out our updated GuideStar Profile.

Every act of giving has a story...
What's yours?

by KC Nayfield,
a Conservation Florida board member

I AM A NATIVE FLORIDIAN, AND I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF CHANGES in my state over the last 67 years. As the population has swelled from 3 million to over 20 million, I have gained a greater appreciation for our magnificent and wonderful native species. I admire our wildlife from the perspective of a wildlife veterinarian, a founder and former director of a wildlife rescue group, and an outdoorsman and fisherman. Florida's environment, natural beauty, and natural resources are in peril, and it is important that we conserve and protect them.

As soon as we had the means to do so, my wife Marybeth and I wanted to invest in land conservation. We considered our purchase of a 136-acre tract just north of White Springs to be an investment in our values – an investment in Florida's future. We named our property Nayfield Acres and worked with Conservation Florida to place a conservation easement on the land.

Now, a decade later, I am a proud member of Conservation Florida's board of directors. I see firsthand the good work that this organization is doing and the integrity and passion of its staff and my fellow board members.

I ask you to please consider joining me in making an investment in Florida's conservation future by supporting Conservation Florida. Together, let's save Florida, for nature, for people, forever.



KC, Marybeth and Seeger at the Suwannee River.

Gifts in memory & in honor of others

We wish to thank all of our supporters and volunteers. We wouldn't be here without you. Here, we share your messages of love and friendship. The following tributes were made between 9/21/2018 – 10/01/2019.

In honor of:

Dorian David

Kathryn Klemenich; *"Friend and benefactor"*

KC and Marybeth Nayfield

Connie Lyons Weinbaum
Cameron DeHeer

George A. Zellner, Jr.

Corinne Zellner; *"If you were here, I know you'd join me in trying to help preserve Florida's natural heritage!"*

Jay Jackson

Donna Watson

JB, Steve, Nick and Camille

Brian Clifton; *"Merry Christmas - We love you!"*

Linda and Charles Hodoval

Kelly Hodoval

Lisa and Peter Gearen

Joe and Ginny Cauthen

Mildred Byrd & Patricia Canby

John Byrd

Peggy Davis

The P-D-M-K Hammers; *"So that all may be able to enjoy Florida's wonders; now and in the future..."*

Steve Grothmann

Jennifer Grothmann

Michael Grothmann; *"Merry Christmas 2018"*

Jennifer Clifton; *"To gator and panther country"*

Wilhelm Grothmann

The Joiner Family

Jillian Westfall

Traci and Cyndi

Lisa and Peter Gearen; *"To their professional advancements over the last year"*

Traci Deen

Murray Devine; *"Class IX Represent. Happy Giving Tuesday!"*

In memory of:

William H. Good

Elizabeth Cartwright; *"He was a former Lake County Commissioner who advocated for slow, sustainable growth. He was also a former pres. of the Lake County Conservation Council, a retired science teacher, a talented musician and writer, an avid sailor and outdoorsman, and a consummate environmentalist. He was entirely devoted to his loving wife and his son and daughter. He traveled the world and touched countless lives both locally and around the globe. May he live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. We will not see his like again, but hopefully we can carry on his legacy of conservationism."*

Alex McKeeman

Justin Buzzi

Laura Rutledge; *"We love and miss you."*

George Spencer King (USAF) Ret.

Martha Winters

WM Mark Whitten

David Juras



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ON THE COVER

#ilovewildfl, @conserveflorida

“I was born and raised in South Florida in 1960, Fort Lauderdale to be exact, and have lived my adult life in Boca Raton. As a native Floridian, I love all things Florida. However, wild and natural Florida has a very special place in my heart. I’m Inspired by the landscape paintings of Albert E. Backus, and spend my free time exploring Florida’s many rivers, creeks, swamps, forest, prairies, and coastlines, in search of the majestic landscapes he captured so beautifully in his paintings. I’m driven to see and experience as much of Florida’s remaining wild places as I can, before they disappear. I can’t really explain the deep emotional connection I have to the Florida landscape, but I hope somehow it’s reflected in the photographs I take.”

Photo by **GREG ANDERSON @GAPIXELS**

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Will Dickey Photography

Randy Batista Photography

