



CONSERVATION TRUST *for* FLORIDA

THE POST

FALL 2016



FAMILY FARMS

P01

Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area

One of the greatest success stories in the Conservation Trust for Florida's history

P04

Family Farms

Meet the Jahreis family and discover how they're protecting their land for future generations



FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of the board, I am delighted to take part in sharing the good news that the Conservation Trust for Florida is having a watershed year. In January, we identified three 2016 priorities: land protection deals, financial stability and outreach. Now, as we move into the second half of the year, here is a summary of where we stand.

We continue to be a leader in land protection as we pursue our vision of connected lands on a landscape scale. To date, we have assisted with protecting over 17,000 acres, and have many thousands of acres of inspiring projects in the pipeline for possible protection over the next two years.

We have achieved a state of financial health and coherence. We look to the future with renewed confidence and have begun to dream about possible new directions over the next six to eight quarters. I am particularly proud to report that board giving has risen by over 10% this year, and overall giving is strong. As always, we are grateful for the support of our donors!

On the operations side, we have transformed our way of conducting business with new membership management software and the adoption of streamlined business practices. This year, we have submitted a record number of grant applications, and we are on track for the highest level of grant funding we have ever received. And, by year's end, we expect to have produced a Case Statement that will propel our messaging and marketing in 2017.

Perhaps best of all, these things have been accomplished collaboratively between the staff and the board. Team CTF is strong and on the move!

Executive Director Susan Carr and I have traveled over a thousand miles in the last few months. We have visited stakeholders all over the state, sometimes seeking direct support, but more often simply making connections and asking for advice. Our message is simple: We are saving Florida. Time and again, we receive the standard response: Thank you! How can we help?

And that last question is now our most pressing challenge. How can we achieve such an ambitious vision? As I say to the staff regularly, we must stay focused and keep doing the deals that shape the future of our beloved Florida. We must be prepared to adapt to changing opportunities and circumstances. And we must seek help from others. Now you may ask: How can I help?

Your financial support is our lifeblood, but further, I ask you to consider reaching out as a part of our team ... host a house party, consider committee work, become an ambassador for our mission. I would appreciate the opportunity to talk to you about any or all of the above.

Please feel free to reach me at LMOLITORGE@aol.com.

We have a very bright future, and we'd like you to be an active part of it.



ON THE COVER

PHOTO BY RANDY BATISTA, www.randybatistaphotography.com

The Jahreis family gathers for a portrait at their Lake County ranch on Feb. 21, 2016. The 625-acre ranch is now and forever protected by a conservation easement.

From left to right: Jack Rainville, Eric Rainville, Brittain Rainville, Beth Jahreis Rainville, John Jahreis Sr., Margaret Jahreis, Andrew Jahreis, Denise Jahreis, Jacob Jahreis, John Jahreis Jr.

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352-376-4770



An accredited land trust.

The mission of the Conservation Trust for Florida is to work with landowners to save Florida's wild and working landscapes for future generations.



Ride, hike, bike and immerse yourself in nature



...it is important to provide opportunities for public recreation in a way that is compatible with water resource and springs protection

By CTF Staff

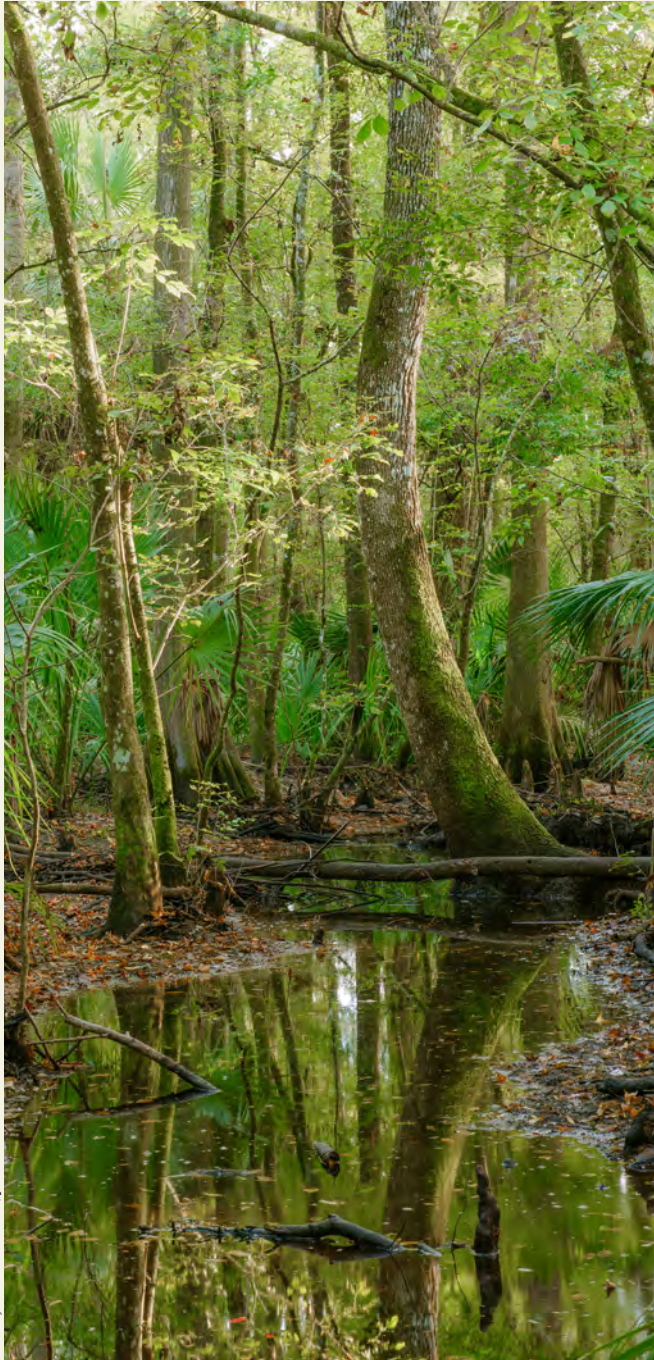


Photo by CARLTON WARD, JR.

The 4,900-acre Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area in Marion County is one of the greatest conservation success stories in the Conservation Trust for Florida's history.

Its size, location, accessibility, and natural resources provide tremendous benefits for people and wildlife.

The St. Johns River Water Management District purchased the property with the help of the Conservation Trust for Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. The creative partnership formed after the Conservation Trust negotiated a purchase contract with the seller in the fall of 2015.

The grand opening celebration was held by the District on May 27, 2016. The first visitors were eager to explore the trails by horseback, mountain bike and foot! Visitors also enjoyed delectable snacks from Blue Highway Pizzeria. During the celebration, they heard heartfelt remarks from the partners who worked so hard to bring the Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area to life.

The Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area connects to other conservation lands to the west, south and southeast (see map on next page). It also provides a protective buffer from development for the Silver Springs State Park, Silver Springs and the Silver and Ocklawaha rivers.

More than 12 miles of back country trails loop through the forest and provide excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. Visitors can access the property from three trailheads, one of which has a parking lot that accommodates horse trailers.

"In a state with more than 20 million residents and more than 100 million visitors each year, it is important to provide opportunities for public recreation in a way that is compatible with water resource and springs protection," the District's executive director Dr. Ann Shortelle told the crowd at the opening celebration.



1



2



PHOTO BY JOEL J. FURMAN

3



1 The first equestrians to explore the new trails await the cutting of the ribbon.

2 *Left to right:* Marion County Commissioner Earl Arnett, DEP Secretary Jon Steverson, Dr. Robert A. Norman, Guy Marwick of the Felburn Foundation, District Governing Board Vice Chairman Fred N. Roberts Jr., District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle, and Chad Smitherman of the Florida Forest Service. Photo courtesy of Joel J. Furman.

3 Like a missing piece to a puzzle, Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area connects Indian Lake State Forest with the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area and borders Silver Springs State Park.



YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Conservation Trust for Florida used private donations to leverage \$11 million in state and federal funding for the Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area





Family Farms A Legacy and a Last Stand for Conservation

By CTF Staff

Margaret and John Jahreis own a ranch in Lake County, but it's not just a ranch. Along with their family and their land, their ranch operation is their pride and joy.

Like a scene from a Norman Rockwell painting, the Jahreis family gathers for a meal around a farm table on the front porch of their home. Nothing fancy, just a good, home-cooked meal. As they pass the cornbread and swap stories, it is clear that their children and grandchildren are grateful the ranch is, and will always be, part of their heritage.

Their journey to conserve their 625-acre slice of paradise started in 2008 when they attended a conservation easement workshop held by the Conservation Trust for Florida. We helped them through the process of submitting an application to the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, which is administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and

Consumer Services. Six years later, their land was protected, forever.

The Program aims to protect natural resources while preserving agricultural activities by acquiring conservation easements.

“The Jahreis Family Ranch, in an area with high aquifer recharge and located at the headwaters of four major river systems, is an invaluable piece of Central Florida’s ecosystem,” said Commissioner Adam Putnam in a statement about the property.

The Jahreis citrus production and a cattle-grazing operation supports local agriculture and the conservation easement protects more than 615 acres of the Jahreis’s environmentally important land located within the Green Swamp Florida Forever Project.



If you own conservation land that you want to see protected forever, please contact us for more information about available options. Remember, our mission is to work with landowners to save Florida’s wild and working landscapes for future generations.



RANDY BATISTA www.randybatistaphotography.com

Conservation easements on private property benefit landowners while protecting important wildlife habitat. Shown here, a Sherman's fox squirrel, which is a State protected sub-species restricted to open pine woodlands in Florida and Georgia and a Wood Stork, a Federally Threatened species that inhabits Florida wetlands, find sanctuary on the Jahreis land.

THANK YOU

250,000+

Felburn Foundation

150,000+

Richard and Nancy
Moskovitz Foundation

25,000+

The AEC Trust

10,000-24,999

Susan Carr
Lydia B. Stokes Foundation
SJ Edwards Foundation
Dharma Foundation
The Jelks Family Foundation

5,000-9,999

Lisa and Peter Gearen
John and Margaret Jahreis
Hoch and Celeste Shitama

1,000-4,999

Anonymous
Brad and Alice Andrews
K.M. and Sara Eoff
John Fox
Andy and Rachel Knieriem
Joseph and Lucille Little
Lawrence Lokken and Mae Clark
Quinn Family Charitable
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Jim and Mary Neal

Ike Rainey
Kosman Foundation
Quail Roost Foundation
John Rudnianyn
Barry and Kris Rutenberg
Dan and Barbara Spiess
Dan Ward

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Campbell Foundation
Damon Copeland
Gov. Buddy and Anne MacKay
David Menet
Steven Munger
David Pais
Nancy Peterson and Gerald
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Vicki Santello
Robert Stenstream

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Linda Cirulli-Burton
Kathleen Deagan
Bruce and Paula DeLaney
Laurie French
Grady and Honor Hartzog
Kate and Eric Hellgren
Randy and Jean Kaufman

Carol Lippincott
Ken and Linda McGurn
Dan Miller
Ed Montgomery
Michael and Karen Munroe
Rick Robbins
Sally Ryden
Timothy Strauser
Thomas and Carla Summers
Floyd Thompson and Martha
Campbell Thompson
Mike and Lindsay Webster
John T. S. Williams

100-249

Anonymous
Jeri Baldwin
Andrew and Marion Barnes
Karin Benson
Gary and Wanda Borse
Kerri and Robert Braly
David Brown and Carolyn
Takeda-Brown
Rick and Marlene Conaway
Nancy Deren
Dwight DeVane and Doria
Gordon
Jacquelyne Diamond
Richard and Virginia Dolder
William Dunk
John and Katherine Ewel
Barnes and Elizabeth Gardiner

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Hungry hikers got a delicious surprise

We were thrilled when the Blue Highway a Pizzeria in Ocala generously offered to provide snacks for the grand opening celebration of the Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area.

When they delivered three huge trays of savory gourmet sandwiches, we were blown away. But their hospitality didn't end there. They hosted a party for the Conservation Trust and friends following the celebration and donated a portion of the proceeds to our land conservation programs. Thank you Winny Ruffino, Kelly Roe and everyone at Blue Highway!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT 2015



For the love of wildlife

When Rachel and Andy Knieriem were planning their wedding, things got a little wild. The couple decided to invite river otters, marsh rabbits, coyotes, black bears and panthers to their reception!

Rachel has always loved animals and believed in the importance of conservation. She and Andy wanted to shine a light on the loss of habitat and the effect it has on wildlife. In addition to educational displays placed at guests' tables, they created animal-themed party favors and asked guests to support conservation efforts. Rachel and Andy have been ardent supporters of the Conservation Trust, and we are very grateful for their generosity and concern for our state's wildlife. Thanks love birds!



Carole Green
Diane Haines
Jeff Harrison
Richard and Jane Hiers
Andrea Holbrook-Wagman
George Ireland
Susan Jacobson
Sharon Jerdeman
David Juras
Earthshare
Edward and Rachel LaCombe
Gladys Lane
Linda Lanier and Randy Batista
Dale and Helen Lundgren
Cheryl Mall
Joseph Nassau
Melissa Norman
Frank Orser
Deborah Parrish
Renee and Jack Payne
Jared Phillips
Heart Phoenix
Pamela Pieper
Kenneth and Colleen Rand
Dorothy Robbins
Perran Ross and Sylvia Scudder
E.L. Roy Hunt
Jeff and Erna Rubin
Christopher Silver
Ruth Steiner
John and Eleanor Thrasher
Sam Trickey

Raymond Webber
Russ Weber
Jane West
Kellie Westervelt
Gayle and Bruce Wheeler
Norris and Nancy Williams
Dave Wilson
Laura Dickinson
David and Christina Flagg

25-99

Anonymous
Linda Blondheim
Myron and Louise Brown
Clyde and Niki Butcher
Edward Carter
Edward and Sheila Crapo
Patty Crass
Janet Davies
Janice Dickhaus
Kenneth Dodd and Marian Griffey
Douglas Dyer and Susanne Hesse
Gina Early
Robert Fisher
Nadine Foley
Harvey Goldstein
Carol Gordon
Deborah Green
Freda Green
Sarah Harrison

Mark Jacim
Freddie and Peggy Johnson
Bobby Jones
Linda Jones
Michael Jordan
Kurt and Lisbeth Kent
Sarah Joyce King
Peter and Anne Meylan
John Moran
Tim and Ruthie Noland
Fritzi Olson
Karen Pearce
Isabelle Potts
Walter and Barbara Probert
Alice Reakes
Stephen Schachter
Matt Smith
Les and Cindy Smith
Marie Steinwachs
Patricia Tierney
Stephen Waugh
Adam and Linda Wendling
Geoffrey West
Matthew Williams

For Others

Anonymous
in honor of Hoch Shitama
Patricia and David Tipson
in honor of Andrew and Becky Dubill
Geoffrey West
in honor of Paul Stahow, the father of a great conservation advocate -- Jane West

THANK YOU

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Great job Gator

University of Florida grad, Nazmi Ahmed, was a wonderful addition to our team this spring. She spent seven weeks volunteering as our Conservation Outreach Intern as part of her Sustainability Studies curriculum. Thanks for your help, Nazmi!

Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area

Felburn Foundation
Richard and Nancy Moskovitz Foundation
Dr. Robert A. Norman
Matt and Ellen Dubé
in memory of Bill and Bonnie Huntley
Ronald and Betty Broman
Alan Hodges and Susan Marynowski
James Hillier
in honor of John Gannett
Callie DeHaven
Gerald Napp

Gators Give

Anonymous (4)
Laura Dickinson
Jeff Harrison
Kate Hellgren
Susan Jacobson

Linda Lanier
Dan Miller
Steven Munger
Michael Munroe
Pamela Pieper
Christopher Silver
Ruth Steiner
Marie Steinwachs
Floyd Thompson
Stephen Waugh
Adam Wendling
Gayle Wheeler
Matthew Williams

Business Supporters

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Gainesville Health and Fitness
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Pais Realty
Pearl Country Store
Rayonier, Inc.

Salter Feiber, P.A.
Springfield Law, LLC
Summershine Farm
Wildflowers of Florida

Partnerships

Alachua County
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Forest Service
Rayonier
St. Johns River Water Management District
Flagler County

In-kind

Joel J. Furman
Randy Batista

Volunteers

Nazmi Ahmed
Valerie Anderson
Peter Gearen

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



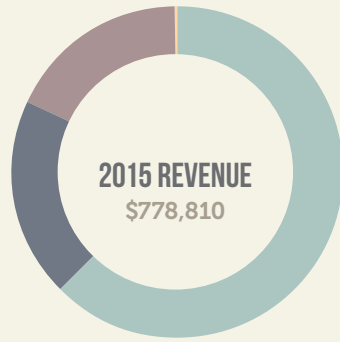
Your voice on Capitol Hill

Executive director Susan Carr joined over 120 "Land Trust Ambassadors" in D.C. for three days of briefings and meetings aimed at shaping the future of conservation policies. According to the Land Trust Alliance, the ambassadors influenced the passage of an "energy bill that would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and defeated an amendment to gut the provision."

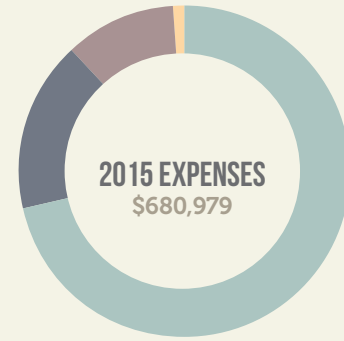
Shown at left with Alan Grayson, U.S. Representative for Florida's 9th congressional district, Susan will continue to meet with politicians throughout the state to inform them about our most critical land protection projects.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2015



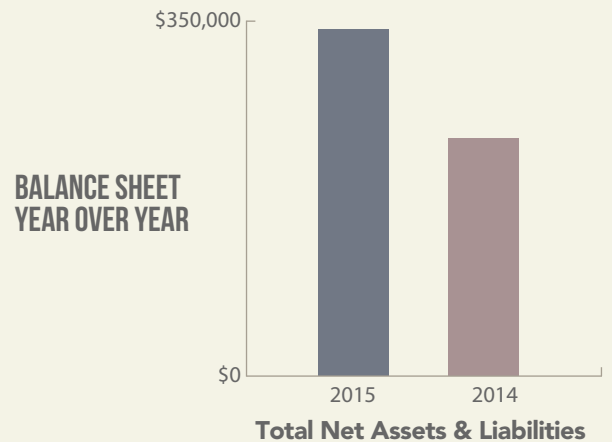
- SSF Contributions* | \$488,000
- Grants | \$151,000
- Individual Contributions | \$138,378
- Interest Income | \$1,432



- SSF Contributions* | \$488,000
- Program Services | \$111,941
- Administration | \$74,622
- Fundraising | \$6,416

* Contributions raised by CTF for the Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area project.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION YEAR OVER YEAR		
	2015	2014
Cash & Investments	339,724	234,347
Other Assets	2,090	330
Total Assets	341,814	234,677
Liabilities	26,119	14,687
Net Assets	315,695	219,990
Total Net Assets & Liabilities	341,814	234,677



ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



In 2015, we participated in the protection of

6,258 ACRES



We are currently assisting
30+ LANDOWNERS
with conservation efforts



Our projects protect farmlands, springsheds, wildlife habitat, aquifer recharge and the region's most significant natural areas.



"In progress" projects total more than
150,000 ACRES
of land throughout the state



We are guided by science-driven plans that prioritize important habitats and significant landscape connections

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The Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust. The mission of the Conservation Trust for Florida is to work with landowners to save Florida's wild and working landscapes for future generations.

STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION/PUBLIC NOTICE

DEAR MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS,

The Conservation Trust for Florida is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of accreditation. A public comment period is now open. The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Conservation Trust for Florida complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-andresources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrust-accreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on the Conservation Trust for Florida's application will be most useful by Nov. 11.