

LANDOWNERS HONORED WITH AWARDS

Landowners Honored with Awards

Kerry Heubeck and Phyllis Hansen were honored with Land Conservation Awards for protecting their land with a conservation easement at the Fall Fundraiser & Awards Ceremony on Sunday, November 7th at The Yearling restaurant in historic Cross Creek.

The Farmlands Project - Estate Planning Workshops

Kerry Heubeck, son of Elmer and Harriet Heubeck, was honored with an award for protecting 200 acres of his parents' Quail Roost Farm, which is located east of Citra. Phyllis Hansen was also honored for placing a conservation easement on her homestead in Cross Creek.

President's Letter

Kerry's parents are considered true pioneers in the Florida Thoroughbred horse industry. In the 1940's, the Heubeck's managed Rosemere Farm, the first Thoroughbred horse farm in Marion County. In the early 1960's they built and managed Hobeau Farm, as well as their own farm, Quail Roost, where they raised Thoroughbreds, cattle, and exotic game. Until their deaths, just months apart in 2003, they held a deep love for the land upon which they lived and worked. The Quail Roost Conservation Easement was dedicated to their memory.

Election of New Officers

The Greenways Program - Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway Remains on "A" List

"Before they died, each of my parents spoke of protecting the land," Kerry wrote in a statement. "I've also come to believe that each of us must assume that responsibility of preserving the wildness that remains — so that our

Call to Action by the Land Trust Alliance

The CTF Experience

Art Benefits CTF

Yaupon Tea Recipe



Photo of Elmer K. and Harriet Heubeck. The Quail Roost Conservation Easement was dedicated to their memory by their son, Kerry Heubeck.

children, and theirs, may come to know such beauty; and, quite possibly, for the very survival of us all."

Kerry's daughter H'Krih Shelhammer accepted the award on behalf of her father, who was unable to attend. She spoke about growing up in the Ocala National Forest and the sadness she experienced when she returned, several years later, to the same area. She said her father shared stories

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ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

with Jerry Cosgrove of the American Farmland Trust

CTF is hosting two estate planning workshops with Jerry Cosgrove of the American Farmland Trust (AFT.) The Saturday, February 26th workshop will focus on both the substance (what) and the process (how) of estate planning issues for farmers and other rural landowners. The workshop is geared towards staff and Board members of land trusts and professionals. A second workshop geared toward landowners will be held on Sunday, February 27th and will focus on the economic benefits of conservation easements and ways to reduce property, federal income, and estate taxes. Additional topics covered at the workshop include life estates, charitable remainder trusts, and business organization strategies.

TRAINING WORKSHOP - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26th 12 - 5 PM at the UF/REITZ UNION - rooms B74/B75

Box lunch served, \$25 fee for workshop/lunch. (Student rate is \$7.) Ron Howard from the Natural Resource Conservation Service will present information during lunch about state and federal land conservation and stewardship programs. Copies of the AFT book *Your Land is Your Legacy, A Guide to Planning the Future of Your Farm*, will be offered for sale at \$8 each. Pay CTF in advance or at the door.

LANDOWNER WORKSHOP - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27th 12 - 4 PM at the HERLONG MANSION B&B IN MICANOPY

Ron Howard from the Natural Resource Conservation Service will present information during lunch about state and federal land conservation and stewardship programs. FREE WORKSHOP, BBQ LUNCH AND COPIES OF THE BOOK *Your Land is Your Legacy, A Guide to Planning the Future of Your Farm* provided.

The workshop series is part of **The Farmlands Project**, an educational and outreach project initiated by the Conservation Trust for Florida to address the high conversion rate of working rural lands to urban uses. In 2003, according to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida's 44,000 farmers and ranchers contributed \$62 billion to the

(Continued on page 4)

President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

CTF had a great 2004 and I want to thank you for your substantially increased support. We had the most successful fund raiser ever and we have taken substantial steps in our goals for protecting working rural lands through easements and educational programs for landowners. We are most pleased with the dedicated efforts of our Executive Director Busy Kislig Shires. She is a true energy source for our land trust.

At our Annual meeting in January, Hugh Popenoe was appointed to the Board. We are grateful and pleased that Hugh has agreed to add his efforts to ours and help us work with farmers and ranchers in preserving a vanishing landscape and a way of life. I am also delighted we were able to induce Board member Katie Sieving to return for another term as she is much of the glue that holds us together.

The following slate of officers were elected at the Annual meeting: Terry L. Zinn, President; Nancy J. Peterson, Vice-President; Katie Sieving, Secretary; and Michael Campbell, Treasurer. We have added Dr. Tom Hctor to our staff to help us foster and further our Greenways Program and Drew Melville as the Coordinator for The Farmlands Project. We were able to add staff through your support.

CTF welcomes Frank Walters, an accountant with Davis, Monk, & Co. and Wayne Castello, an attorney in private practice to our Advisory Board. We greatly appreciate their commitment to serve as an information resource for the Board. CTF has taken steps to strengthen our ties with local and regional land trusts by helping form a regional alliance of land trusts. With limited resources it only makes sense for us to coordinate and collaborate on common causes and issues.


This year there will be attempts in Congress to eliminate favorable tax status for Conservation Easements and I encourage you to make your voice known to your elected officials that you want Congress to keep Conservation Easements as a viable tool for protecting and conserving lands.

Thank you to all the members who renewed their membership and to our generous supporters during 2004: Kerry Heubeck and the Quail Roost Foundation; Progress Energy; GRUgreen; Mickey Singer; the Sears-Swetland Foundation; the Sierra Club Foundation; the Land Trust Alliance, Southeast Program; Gary and Nancy Meffe; Kathleen S. Williams; Nancy J. Peterson and Gerald Culen; and The AEC Trust.

Thank you to the Thomas H. Maren Foundation for their generous support.

I look forward to an even better year in 2005 and hope you will join us in our efforts to preserve our working rural lands.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Zinn, President of the Board

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Drew Melville, Farmlands Program Coordinator

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Introducing Hugh L. Popenoe, Board of Directors

Hugh L. Popenoe is a Cattle and Water Buffalo Rancher in Alachua and Levy Counties and Professor of Soils, Agronomy, and Geography at the University of Florida. Although most of his career has been devoted to international activities in tropical land management, he has also participated in domestic organizations. He was Founder and Director of the Florida Sea Grant College, chaired the administrative committee of the Florida Water Resources Research Center, served as Director of the UF Center for Aquatic Sciences, was Vice-President of the Florida State Horticultural Society and Vice-Chairman of the Gulf Universities Research Consortium. He is a Founder and currently President of the American Water Buffalo Association.

about how he used to ride "for hours over hills and through woods without seeing a single soul. Nowadays, if we are driving together he's able to point out the mall where his family's house had been, or the store where there used to be a paddock for the mares," said H'Krih. (To read H'Krih's entire speech go to CTF's website at www.conserveflorida.org.)

The conservation easement on Quail Roost Farm will protect a significant stand of cypress trees, but will also allow the new owners of the farm, James and Lee Windham, continued use of the land for bird hunting, horseback riding, and to raise organic beef cows.

Phyllis Hansen's 25-acre estate in Cross Creek will be protected from future subdivision with the easement she placed on her land. Phyllis wanted to protect the scenic beauty of the tupelo swamp on her property. "When I found this spot of land I knew I would never go anywhere else," she wrote. "The beauty was more than I had ever imagined could exist in one place. I worried about what would happen to it when I was no longer around. After a number of efforts, trials, and errors, the Conservation Trust for Florida solved my problem and I thank them earnestly from the bottom of my heart."

After raising six children, Phyllis went back to school and graduated in 1983 from the University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation. She worked with Dr. Edward Phillips at the UF/Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences department for over 20 years. She is now officially retired, but she still works part-time with Dr. Phillips. She is also an active member of the Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm.

In addition to the awards ceremony, CTF Development and Outreach Committee Co-Chair, David Pais along with Storm Roberts of 98.5 WKTK radio station (who served as the auctioneer), auctioned off original art. Artists included Kate Barnes, Eleanor Blair, Peter Carolin, Sean Dowie, John Moran, Annie Pais, Katie Wobie, Susan Trammell, Clyde Butcher, and Jeff Ripple. CTF has adopted the Artists Alliance of North Florida's guidelines for art auctions which allows the artist to determine the amount (up to 100%) of the purchase price of the piece to contribute. Out of the \$4,670 raised at the art auction, \$1,800 went back to the artists.

Francis E. "Jack" Putz, a Professor of Botany at the University of Florida and The Prince Bernhard Professor of International Conservation at Utrecht University in The Netherlands, was the guest speaker for the event. Jack spoke about the importance of protecting plant biodiversity and described the many uses of the Yaupon *Ilex vomitoria* shrub. Jack provided a recipe to make tea out of the yaupon leaves for the newsletter. (See separate insert.)



Phyllis Hansen (on left), recipient of a Land Conservation Award, was introduced by her long-time friend and fellow Cross Creek resident Kate Barnes. Photo by Ed Geers.

A special THANKYOU to the Fall Fundraiser & Awards Ceremony primary event sponsors:



☞ THANK YOU to the event sponsors: Atlantic Design and Construction, Inc. (mullet dip), Goodwin Lumber Company (awards), Herlong Mansion Bed & Breakfast and the Micanopy Historical Society (tables and chairs), Kathleen S. Williams (fawn cards), and The Flower Shop (head table flowers.)

☞ THANK YOU to the event program sponsors: Pais Landscapes/Agrosystems, the Pearl Country Store, Blue Highway - A Pizzeria, the Professional Backup Assistant, Farm Credit of North Florida, and Bobcat & Kubota of Ocala.

☞ THANK YOU to Storm Roberts of 98.5 WKTK radio station for serving as the auctioneer, Ed Geers for taking pictures of the event, Monica Leaden Cooper and Jack Nettles for providing musical entertainment, and to Jean Tyson of Tyson Trading Co. for her advice on event planning.

☞ THANK YOU to the Development and Outreach Committee for putting on a great event! Committee members include: Development Co-Chair Kathleen S. Williams, Outreach Co-Chair David Pais, David Carr, Joni Ellis, and Nancy J. Peterson.

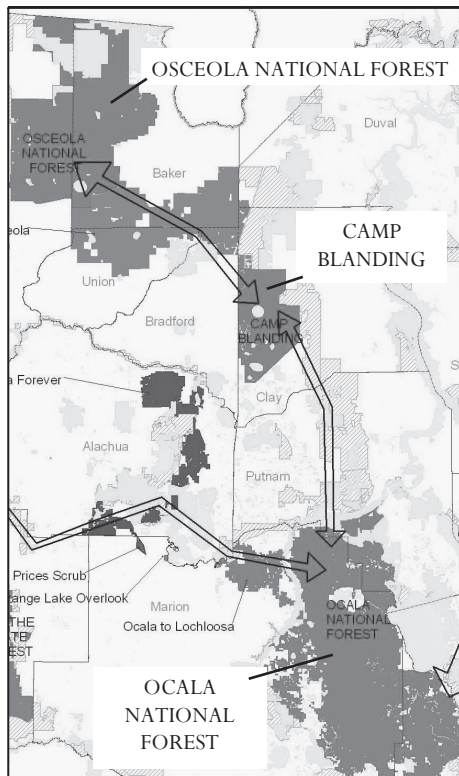
Please patronize these sponsors and help support renewable energy by signing up for GRUgreen (www.gru.com or 352-334-3434.)

state's economy and provided approximately 648,550 jobs. However, the state loses more than 150,000 acres of rural land to urban development every year. The goal of The Farmlands Project is to slow this trend. By providing landowners with information about methods to protect their farm and ranch lands and in some instances receive a cash payment for protecting their land, there is a better chance of maintaining family lands and passing them on to future generations. The financial assistance, estate tax savings, and/or possibly a reduction in property taxes will help sustain Florida's farm and ranch families.

The Alachua Conservation Trust is partnering with the Conservation Trust for Florida on the workshop series and Saturday's workshop is being held in conjunction with the Public Interest Environmental Conference, hosted by the UF Law School. For more information on the conference: 352-392-2237 or visit <http://grove.ufl.edu/~els/>

The American Farmland Trust approaches estate planning with two goals in mind:
"To help farmers and ranchers find the best way to transfer their operations to other farmers and ranchers; and to keep productive land in agriculture."

CAMP BLANDING TO OSCEOLA NATIONAL FOREST ECOLOGICAL GREENWAY PROJECT REMAINS ON FLORIDA FOREVER "A" LIST



The Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway project is the shaded area between the Camp Blanding Military Base and the Osceola National Forest. The 153,000-acre project will remain on the Florida Forever "A" list.

The Florida Forever project, Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway (Greenway) project, that CTF and the Office of Greenways and Trails (in conjunction with the University of Florida and the Geoplan Center) submitted in 2003, will remain on the Florida Forever "A" list since it received six out of seven votes from the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC.)

Since the initial ranking of Florida Forever projects in 2004, ARC re-ranked projects in January 2005 due in large part to the large number of projects on the "A" list and a limited amount of funds to acquire lands. The 153,000-acre Greenway project was originally placed on the "A" list in February 2004 when ARC along with Governor Jeb Bush and the Cabinet, voted unanimously to place the project on the top ranking list.

The re-ranking process has been a wake up call for CTF and has helped to energize and reaffirm our commitment to protect the corridor. CTF also realizes that the Florida Forever program does not have enough funds to acquire the entire parcel; therefore CTF is working to find additional resources to acquire lands within the corridor. CTF will focus its protection efforts on acquiring the critical frontage along US 301, which threatens to sever the corridor due to sprawling commercial development in Duval County. CTF will work with private foundations and plans to submit a grant proposal to the Forest Legacy program in order to secure matching funds.

Your additional support has enabled CTF to hire Dr. Tom Hoctor on a contract basis to assist with preparing grant applications. Dr. Hoctor will perform the data analysis and mapping services for the project. His expertise is in regional landscape ecological analysis and conservation planning,

ecological reserve network design, and utilizing Geographic Information Systems.

The Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway is part of CTF's Ocala National Forest to Osceola National Forest Corridor. (See map.) The Greenway is part of a large complex of existing and proposed conservation lands that could result in a conservation network running from central Florida through southeastern Georgia. Florida Forever projects and existing conservation lands encompass an ecological network from the Wekiva River basin north of Orlando to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, which represents a distance of almost 200 miles and well over 1 million acres of connected lands. Furthermore, additional projects under consideration could result in an ecological network from the headwaters of St. Johns River (as well as parts of the Kissimmee River basin) to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to encompass almost 300 miles of continuous conservation lands.

Thank you to Jim Wood, Assistant Director of the Office of Greenways and Trails for his continued support of the project. Thank you to everyone who wrote letters of support: Dr. Tom Hoctor, Research Associate, UF/Geoplan Center; Dr. Gary K. Meffe, CTF Advisory Board member and Editor-in-Chief, *Conservation Biology*; Laurie Ann Macdonald, Florida Director, Defenders of Wildlife; Jeremy Dixon and Walter McCown of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Joshua C. Dickinson, Executive Director, Forest Management Trust; David Auth, Kathy Cantwell, and Jim Lyle of the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club; Alachua County Commissioner Mike Byerly; Marion County Commissioner Andy Kesselring; Dr. Larry D. Harris, Professor Emeritus, UF; Dr. Clyde Kiker, Professor, UF; Christine Housel; and Rebecca Wilson.

CALL TO ACTION *by the* LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

The Land Trust Alliance recently alerted CTF about a proposal by the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) to drastically cut back tax benefits for conservation donations -- donations of land, donations of conservation easements, and bargain sales. **We need to generate overwhelming opposition to this approach**, so that Congress realizes that they can't adopt it without harming the people who vote for them. We risk that the recommendations made by the US Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation might be translated into law. Help stop the recommendations that:

- ◆Tie value assessments of conservation land and easement gifts not to present values, but to the original purchase price
- ◆Eliminate federal income tax deductions for conservation easements on any property containing the donor's principal residence
- ◆Reduce the income tax deductions to only 1/3 the total appraised value of the gift

Why Your Actions Are Critical

These recommendations, if enacted into law, could kill the future donations of conservation land and easements. Every e-mail, letter, or phone call to your own Senators and Congressional Representatives will help. Thank you to those people who have already written, and who are taking the initiative to get others to write. Here's how you can help:

1. Write Letters:

We need you to generate local input to all Members of Congress, particularly the key members, about the local consequences of the JCT proposals. Please send a letter opposing the proposal and promoting private land conservation. Check www.lta.org for more information.

2. Arrange Visits with Key Leaders:

We need to have in-person lobbying of key Congressional leaders by local conservation leaders and local government officials.

THE CTF EXPERIENCE

Get – Always for CTF Members and Friends

CTF is teaming up with local travel agencies and tour guides in an effort to increase awareness about land conservation and to raise funds for our operating expenses. Some trips are being offered to CTF at a group rate and an additional fee is added as a donation to CTF.

A few of the trips showcase special natural areas that we are working to protect. Please inquire with CTF on the availability and dates.

ADVENTURE OUTPOST – LARS ANDERSON

Canoe Trips on Cross Creek, Canoe Trips to see Manatees on Crystal River, and Hikes on Paynes Prairie
\$50 - trip includes a \$15 donation to CTF and a signed copy of Lars' book *Paynes Prairie* (a \$5 discount on book)

CLUB FLORIDA – VIRGINIA SEACRIST

Stay in a Tree Top Yurt and Hydrobike on the Santa Fe River
\$50/night – includes a \$10 donation to CTF and a \$3 one-time membership fee to Club Florida

LAZY RIVER CRUISES - CAPTAIN MIKE

Pontoon Boat Rides down the Withlacoochee River
\$25 – trip includes a \$9 donation to CTF

WILD FLORIDA ADVENTURES – BRACK BARKER

Kayak Tours of the Cedar Key Area (Inquire with CTF.)

WORLD CLASS TRAVEL – BOB TODD

Eco-tours to Peru and Costa Rica (Inquire with CTF.)

A list of the Senators and Congresspersons we most need to influence is posted at www.lta.org/publicpolicy/ppc_contact.htm. If you or your supporters have a close relationship with any of them, please email Christen Young at: cyoung@lta.org.

3. Identify Partners:

LTA is recruiting people and organizations who aren't land trusts, but share an interest in our work, to make statements opposing what the JCT has proposed. That includes sportsmen's and wildlife conservation organizations, agricultural organizations, state governments, and federal conservation agencies. Send contacts to Christen Young at: protectprivateconservation@lta.org

4. Media: It is important to have letters to the editor published and to have the editorial board to write an endorsement of conservation easements and land trusts. Send letters to the Gainesville Sun: voice@gvillesun.com or fax to: 338-3128.

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The mission of the Conservation Trust for Florida is to protect the rural landscapes of Florida. We focus on farms, ranches, working forests, and natural areas that provide landscape connections.

Florida loses 150,000 acres of rural land to development every year.
 Your support will help CTF work to slow this trend.

WISH LIST: Color and B&W toner cartridges (HP Office Jet All in One), GPS Unit, and a digital camera.

COMMITTEES: CTF has two working committees that need your help! If you would like to volunteer your time to serve on the Development and Outreach or the Land Protection committees, please contact us.

KANAPAHA SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL: CTF will be selling several varieties of native wildflower seeds at the festival on March 19th and 20th. Please stop by the booth and show your support! If you would like to help out in the booth, please contact us.

CTF GIFT SHOP: Coming soon! Gift cards with the fawn etching by artist Kate Barnes, t-shirts, and native wildflower seeds for sale. www.conserveflorida.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES! I support the goals of the Conservation Trust for Florida and enclose my tax-deductible membership dues of:

- \$15 Student
- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$250 Patron
- \$500 Founder
- \$1,000 Benefactor

I have time and talents to contribute as well. Please contact me!

I am a landowner and would like information about conservation easements.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ART BENEFITS CTF

- ☞ Artist Susan Trammell will generously donate \$100 of the proceeds from the sale of the framed original water color titled Flame Azalea - *Rhododendron austrinum* to CTF. (12" x 16" Price \$600.)
- ☞ Susan will donate all of the proceeds of the framed photograph giclee titled Chain Fern - *Woodwardia virginica* to CTF. (10.5" x 13.5" Price \$50)

☞ Both pieces of art are on display at Tyson Trading Co. in Micanopy. (505 Cholokka Boulevard, open Thursday - Sunday from 11 to 5 pm.)

YAUPON TEA RECIPE

From Jack Putz

Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) is a common understory shrub over much of the coastal plain. Multitudes of its small leaves are easily collected by hand-stripping the branches. To make a cup of tea, either dry the leaves in a cool oven or food drier or blanch a big handful of fresh leaves until they are mostly black in a hot pot. Crunch up the crispy leaves and brew them as you would a bag of Lipton's. This is just one approach to making yaupon tea, of which there are many.

Timucuan Indians reportedly boiled their teas for several hours, but this might have only been for ritual cleansing and not daily consumption.