



# THE POST

*PROTECTING OUR RURAL LANDS*

AUGUST 2009

## \$1 MILLION NAWCA GRANT



*The view across Ledwith Prairie is spectacular! This photo was taken from the Barr Hammock Preserve. A conservation easement will protect several hundred acres of important habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl. Photo by Larry Korhnak.*

A great milestone for CTF was the award of a \$1 million grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) this March. This grant is a huge step because CTF will be purchasing our first easement with grant funds! CTF has protected over 500 acres of land with easements by landowners donating easements to CTF and over 8,500 acres by working with our project partners to acquire land through local, state, and federal conservation programs.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant was for the North Florida

Wetlands Conservation Program, Phase III project. CTF requested \$1 million to acquire a conservation easement on Ledwith Prairie with our project partner, Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT).

CTF will split the \$1 million with ACT, who will also acquire property as part of the project. Protecting Ledwith Prairie will help increase ecosystem connectivity since the property is adjacent to the Barr Hammock Preserve and Levy Prairie Preserve which encompass nearly 5,600 acres. (CTF nominated both projects to the Alachua County Forever program for acquisition).

# Welcome and Congratulations!



*CTF Land Conservation Director Ellen Hunley Dube' and CTF Land Conservation Assistant Director John Henry November. Photo courtesy of CTF.*

Ellen and her husband Matt Dube' are expecting their first child in December of this year. *Best wishes to Ellen and Matt!* John recently graduated from Law School at the University of Florida and he will be moving to Sugarloaf Key to practice public interest environmental & land-use law for a non-profit organization called Citizens Not Serfs. *Good luck to John in his new job working to protect the Keys!*

## Welcome, new Board Members

**William W. (Bill) Bennett**, *Board of Directors*

Bill is a veterinarian and has owned and operated the Williston Veterinary Clinic since 1974. Bill is the Past President of the Levy County Cattleman's Assoc. He is the Director of the Williston Chamber of Commerce and he runs a cattle and timber operation on his farm in Williston.

**Kevin Brown**, *Advisory Board*

Kevin has been with Farm Credit since 1986. He is a Chief Appraiser, working in Alachua. He is a central Florida native, and his degree is in plant and soil science from UF, and his interests are real estate, geography and land management. Kevin's hobbies include gardening, landscaping and maintaining his small timber farm.

## Welcome, new Staff Member

**Vicki Leslie Duncan**, *Development Director*

Vicki is the co-founder of the Trilogy School and taught at the private school from 1992 – 2003. She also taught in several public schools in Alachua County and one in Marion County. She also worked with Daniel Ward, the curator at the UF Herbarium from 1975 to 1976.

## CTF celebrates our 10th Anniversary!

CTF is celebrating our 10th anniversary this year! The organization was founded to protect wildlife corridors and working rural lands on a statewide basis. CTF has protected over 9,100 acres of land. *Thank you to our original founders who are still an active part of CTF: David Carr, Mike Campbell, and Gary & Nancy Meffe.*

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# FALL ROUND UP! 2008

The Whitehurst Horse Prairie Ranch was the perfect setting for the Conservation Trust for Florida's Fall Round UP! and Awards Celebration on November 16th. CTF honored landowners, Betty and Deborah O'Neill, who made a commitment to protect their 200-acre BoPoDo Farm located near Williston with a conservation easement. The O'Neill's are committed to the long-term stewardship of their farm.

It was a treat to hear the story of early Florida as told by Judge Nelson E. Bailey. Judge Bailey's program included the history of the Florida cowboy that dates back almost 500 years to the early Spaniards. A Palm Beach County judge, Judge Bailey

was dressed in period clothes from that period and he told interesting stories about the daily lives of Cracker cow hunters and their families. He painted a vivid picture of those settings and explained how those early settlers were able to survive. "Horses, cows and orange trees are all part of our Spanish heritage," Bailey said. "People don't realize that the first cowboys in the United States were in Florida," he added.

Our guests also enjoyed the "plein air" painting demonstration by award winning artist Kate Barnes.

A special thank you to the Florida Cow Hunters Mark and Nadine Carpenter (and their daughter), Jack Gillen, Jerome Feaster, Billy Ray Hunter, Frank Batey, Tony Morrell, and Kevin Sheffield for providing a cracker "cur" dog and cracker horse demonstration, which complimented Judge Bailey's real life stories.

Thank you also to Benjamin Dehart for playing music and to Matt Dube' for taking photographs. The event helped CTF raise nearly \$20,000 for our land conservation and outreach programs.

*Thank you for your support!*

*"People don't realize that the first cowboys in the United States were in Florida," said Judge Bailey.*



*Betty O'Neill, CTF President Terry Zinn, and Deborah O'Neill at the Fall Round UP! & Awards Ceremony on November 16, 2008 at the Whitehurst Horse Prairie Ranch. The O'Neill's were honored with a Land Conservation Award for protecting their 200-acre BoPoDo Farm near Williston. Photo by Matt Dube.'*

*Judge Nelson E. Bailey, a Palm Beach County judge, was the Keynote Speaker at the event. Judge Bailey's program included the history of the Florida cowboy that dates back almost 500 years to the early Spaniards. Photo by Matt Dube.'*



*A young girl holds up a lily pad “bat” during a field trip to Barr Hammock. The trip was organized by Women for Wise Growth and was led by Ramesh Buch, Program Manager for the Alachua County Forever program. Photo by Ellen Huntley Dube.’*

With our project partners, the Alachua County Forever program, the Alachua Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and Women for Wise Growth, CTF will be leading private educational tours of Barr Hammock and Levy Prairie. We would be happy to arrange an outing for you or an organization that may be interested.

Levy Prairie features a variety of natural communities, including freshwater marshes and hardwood swamp, and contains habitat for a variety of threatened and endangered species, such as sandhill cranes, wood storks, and bald eagles.

The complex of conservation lands – Paynes Prairie, Barr Hammock, and Levy – are part of the Ocala National Forest to Goethe State Forest Greenway, which helps connect the two conservation areas by creating a wildlife corridor for wide-ranging species such as the Florida black bear.

## **Ocala-Fisheating Creek Greenway**

The southern portion of the Ocala National Forest to Osceola National Forest Greenway (O2O) stretches down into south Florida near Lake Okeechobee. CTF’s primary opportunity to protect essential portions is centered around the Highlands-Glades (counties) population of the Florida black bear. We have been working with the University of Kentucky and Archbold Biological Station to use GPS telemetry data from collared bears to identify important habitat and corridors to maintain and even expand the bear population.

Tragically, Dr. David S. Maehr, leader of the Highlands-Glades bear project from the University of Kentucky, died in a small plane crash while tracking these bears in June 2008. The pilot, local citrus grove owner and conservationist Mason Smoak, also died. Archbold Biological Station, UF and CTF are working with Dave’s colleagues at the University of Kentucky to keep this project going despite Dave’s death, since we know this is what Dave would have wanted most.

## **Ocala-Matanzas Greenway**

CTF is working with the Florida Wildlife Federation to ensure that proposed developments near I-95 in Flagler and St. Johns Counties do not significantly harm the protection of this corridor. Tom Hoctor met with one landowner who owns over 20,000 acres just west of I-95 to modify their proposed development to enlarge protected greenspace to include functional corridors, including a corridor running through their property west to east to the Pellicer Creek corridor, which is likely the best opportunity to connect to conservation lands along the Matanzas River.

## **Osceola-Apalachicola and Springs Coast-Big Bend Greenways Projects**

CTF is working with Wildlands Conservation, Inc. on expanding this project to include projects from the Big Bend south to the Chassahowitzka complex of conservation lands in Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco Counties, which will protect a functional bear corridor between Chassahowitzka, Goethe State Forest, and the Lower Suwanee National Wildlife Refuge.



*Dr. Larry Harris and Dr. Tom Hoctor are working with officials at the University of Florida to establish a memorial fund in Dr. David S. Maehr’s honor. The fund will support research on panthers, bears, greenways, and landscape ecology. For more information contact Larry at [ldharris@ufl.edu](mailto:ldharris@ufl.edu).*



Top photo: Attorney John Feldman and landowner Mike Adams at the February 18, 2009 seminar. Right photo: Deborah O'Neill and CTF President Terry Zinn at BoPoDo Farm. Lunch for the seminar was held at the O'Neill's BoPoDo Farm. Photos courtesy of CTF



*Deborah O'Neill said that the family's "only regret was that we didn't have thousands of acres to protect."*

*The seminar series focuses on conservation easements and the federal, state, and local programs that can provide landowners with tax and financial incentives to protect their land.*

*Conservation easements can help landowners realize tax savings on property and federal income taxes and, in some cases, estate taxes.*

*Based on the value of the conservation easement, the federal tax incentives allow qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100 percent (landowners 50 percent) of their total income the year of the conservation easement donation. Any remaining value of the donated easement can be deducted, (up to 100 percent of the landowner's income), and carried forward for 15 years.*

*Amendment 4 will provide full exemption from property taxes for land with a perpetual easement and a funded management plan.*

## Landowner Seminar in Ocala



This is the third year that CTF has held our seminar series and the very first seminar in 2006 was also held at Golden Hills Golf & Turf Club in Ocala!

About 65 people attended the February 18, 2009 seminar at the Golden Hills Golf & Turf Club. We were pleased to have attorney John Feldman, who also gave a presentation at the April 2008 seminar at the Florida Carriage Museum, be a part of the seminar. John talked about the tax benefits of conservation easements. Appraiser Albert (Leon) Strickland talked about the appraisal process for easements and Mark Aselson from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, talked about the state programs available to assist landowners.

Mr. Feldman and Mr. Strickland were great speakers. They have worked together on other projects and their camaraderie and humor made the technical information about easements pleasant.

The highlight of the seminar was a picnic lunch at the O'Neill's BoPoDo

Farm, which was just around the corner from Golden Hills. The O'Neill family donated a conservation easement to CTF to protect their 200-acre horse farm and nature trails in 2008. During lunch, Deborah O'Neill talked about why the family decided to place an easement on their land and about the process, which took about a year to complete. Deborah said that the family's "only regret was that we didn't have thousands of acres to protect."

Thank you to Mark Shuffitt, Extension Faculty for the Marion County Extension Office, who moderated the meeting. Thank you also to Martha Thomas of Lake County Extension Office and to the Marion County Extension Office for publicizing the seminar.

Special thanks to our sponsors, the Quail Roost Foundation, Sally Venerable, the Educational Foundation of America, and Progress Energy. Thank you to Richard Hancock, Executive Vice President of the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association, for sponsoring the banquet room for the event.



*A magnificent oak tree on Dr. Raymond Webber's property. Photo by Ellen Huntley Dube.'*

## CEDAR LAKE RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT

A beautiful piece of Old Florida has been preserved by Williston dentist Dr. Raymond Webber who donated a conservation easement to CTF in 2008 on 54 of his 100 acres. A portion of Dr. Webber's property has been developed into a magnificent botanical garden with waterfalls, gazebos, and trails down into a limerock quarry.

The 54-acre property provides relatively natural habitat for native plants and wildlife and has a magnificent mixed forest with huge oak trees. He is restoring portions of the property to provide native vegetation for wildlife.

"I want to make sure this place will never be developed," said Dr.

Webber. He is part owner of Devil's Den, an underground spring inside a dry cave that is very popular among scuba divers.

The remains of many extinct animals from the Pleistocene Age (2 million - 10,000 years ago) were discovered at Devil's Den, including the bones of early man, dating back to 75,000 B.C. The conservation easement will help buffer and protect Devil's Den and the botanical garden from encroaching development.

"Tax benefits will help, but that's not why I'm doing this (creating an easement.) This place is best for the animals and the birds," Dr. Webber added.

## Thank you FALL ROUND UP! 2008 SPONSORS



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### CTF's New Office

CTF will be opening a new office at the Ice House Gallery in McIntosh. A very special thank you to George Ferreira for his help and support of CTF. The Gallery, located on 441, is in the heart of downtown McIntosh, will be open on Thursdays and Fridays. *Stop on by!*

### Become a Member Now!

Your support is vital and helps CTF achieve our objectives to protect working rural lands and wildlife corridors. You can renew or become a member by using PayPal or the Membership link at [www.conserveflorida.org](http://www.conserveflorida.org) or by contacting the CTF office directly for a membership form.

### 2008 Annual Report

CTF is pleased to present our 2008 Annual Report, which is available online at [www.conserveflorida.org](http://www.conserveflorida.org). If you would prefer a printed copy, please send a request to [busy@conserveflorida.org](mailto:busy@conserveflorida.org) or call 352-466-1178.

### Congratulations to Marlene

CTF Board Member Marlene Conaway's presentation titled "Conservation Law & Planning: Useful Lessons Learned from the Florida Keys" was accepted as one of the topics for the Land Trust Alliance's Rally in Portland, Oregon in October 2009.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



*Sunset on Lake Santa Fe at the Melrose spring art event "Open Air Arts." The event raised \$3,000 to support CTF's land conservation programs.  
Photo by Renee' Hoffinger.*

## Open Air Arts

The Third Annual Spring Art Event in Melrose was a successful event for all! Both the Melrose Bay Gallery and Bellamy Road Fine Arts hosted the annual "plein air" event from April 1 - 11.

Seventy five artists from the region including painters, photographers, and stain glass artists made art to celebrate the beauty and heritage of north Florida.

The festivities concluded on Saturday, April 11, 2009 with a Gala Sale and Reception with live music and refreshments at both gallery locations.

Awards for Best of Show and for several painting mediums as well as prize money were presented to the winning artists at the Gala reception.

The event raised \$3,000 to support CTF's land conservation programs that help protect Florida's working rural landscapes and wildlife corridors. The funds will help support our seminars that provide information about conservation easements and land preservation projects to protect land for future generations.

CTF applauds Harriet Huss and Anne Gilroy for their superb job in coordinating Melrose's Open Air Arts. Our special thanks to Keith Bollum, Linda Pollini and David T. Warner for their endless support and contributions that made this event possible. Thank you also to the property owners that volunteered their lovely homes for painting sites and to our members for supporting CTF by attending the event.

### Thank you to the Open Air Arts Business Sponsors and Partners

Alachua County Waste Management, Central Florida Office Plus, Wildflowers of Florida, Inc. (Terry Zinn), Coin and Jewelry Gallery (Ann & Vince Santostefano), First Care of Gainesville, Quality Cleaners, The Other Shoppe, Inc. (woodworking), Haase Design (Ron & David Haase), Icehouse Studios & Furniture Gallery (George Ferreira), Melrose Optical Care, Melrose Business & Community Organization, Micanopy Chamber of Commerce, David Pais, Harriet Huss

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# Landowner Seminar at Otter Springs

CTF held the second of three major landowner seminars planned for 2009 on March 24 at Otter Springs Park in Trenton. Fifty-five people attended with the majority being landowners.

Our talented speakers included Jacksonville attorney Frank J. Yong, who made a presentation on the tax benefits of conservation easements; Robert Sutte, MAI, who talked about the process of appraising easements; Joe Maltese of John Hancock Financial Network and Allegiance Financial Advisors, Inc., who presented information about the use of life insurance as an estate planning tool and to preserve family wealth; Charlie Houder, Deputy Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District who talked about the District's acquisition process and priority areas for conservation.

In addition, Brian J. Olmert, President of Loncala, Inc., talked about the company's conservation projects with the state and the Suwannee River Water Management District. Loncala sold land for the Ichetucknee River State Park and Watermelon Pond. Jerry Joiner, private consultant for the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, made a presentation about the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program; CalLee Davenport from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), presented information about USFWS programs for enhancing wildlife on privately owned land; and CTF Land Conservation Director Ellen Huntley Dubé, presented an overview of the property tax benefits of Amendment 4.

Thank you to the Gilchrist County Extension Office for publicizing the seminar. Special thanks to CTF President Terry Zinn for moderating the seminar. Special thanks to our major supporters, Sally Venerable, the Educational Foundation of America, and Progress Energy.



*Otter Springs, which flows into the Suwannee River, is a 636-acre park that was recently purchased by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD). Photo courtesy of SRWMD.*

Thank you also to sponsors Karst Environmental Services, Inc., Apex Color, GCY Professional Surveyors & Mappers, and to the Suwannee River Water Management District for sponsoring the banquet room for the seminar.

The Suwannee River Water Management District recently purchased the 636 acre park. Otter Springs, is a second magnitude natural spring which flows into the nearby Suwannee River.



## UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR

The Alliance of Florida Land Trusts is hosting a professional seminar by Colorado land-use attorney Timothy Lindstrom in Winter Park on Tuesday, October 27. The seminar will be held on the Rollins College campus in the Mills Memorial Building.

The day long seminar will include an intensive training for attorneys and land trust staff from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In the afternoon, the seminar will be geared toward the general public.

Attorneys can apply for Continuing Education credits (3.5 hours) from the Florida Bar. The fee is \$125 plus \$35 for Tim's book "A Tax Guide to Conservation Easements." The afternoon session is \$50 plus \$35 for the book.

Timothy Lindstrom is an attorney who specializes in the federal tax law governing conservation easements and land trusts. He serves as legal counsel to easement donors and land trusts throughout the United States. He is

a frequent lecturer and writer on the topic, and has played an instrumental role in the creation of additional statutory incentives for voluntary land conservation. Lindstrom and his family have contributed easements on farms in Virginia and Michigan.

To register and for directions, contact Busy Kislig-Shires Byerly by e-mail at [busy@conserveflorida.org](mailto:busy@conserveflorida.org) or by phone at 352-466-1178.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

by Matt Dube'

*Motorcyclists are passionate about the same landscapes that conservationists protect, yet each is apparently unaware of each other's interests. Let's expand our awareness and create new alliances to further the work of preserving open spaces and working lands.*



*Wacahooty Road near Moore's Pond and Barr Hammock Preserve. Photo by Matt Dube'.*

Motorcyclists are fortunate to have so much beautiful countryside just beyond the Gainesville city limits to enjoy from the saddle. I would miss these places - Evinston, Shiloh, Cross Creek - if they devolved into the kinds of anonymous landscapes that have obliterated parts of authentic Florida.

I ride a sport touring motorcycle because I enjoy the freedom of the open road and the sense of adventure it invites. I've traveled much of the Deep South on a motorcycle, but the scenic back roads of Alachua and Marion Counties are some of my favorites. Some weekend mornings, I'll travel south from Gainesville on US 441 and turn onto CR 234 past wooded land and pastures just north of Micanopy. Sometimes I'll ride the limerock section of Wacahooty Road near Moore's Pond and Barr Hammock where the landscape appears more canopied and ancient. Other times, I'll ride CR 329 where cattle graze on green rolling hills near Shiloh.

In 2006, the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage published research on motorcycling in the US and Canada that highlighted the growth of recreational motorcycling. Of the approximately 5.7 million motorcycles registered for on-road use, about a third ride from 10,000 to 20,000 miles per year.

What's behind this growth trend? According to the Nova Scotia report, today's motorcyclists are looking for the interesting backroads of America

like those celebrated in William Least Heat-Moon's classic book *Blue Highways*. The report found that touring motorcyclists want "good quality roads that are exciting to drive on, roads with minimal traffic, and good restaurants." Motorcyclists also look for "great views and roads with curves and vistas".

*"What we are passionate about is discovering adventure among our remaining open spaces, working landscapes, and small towns with the hope of experiencing something truly amazing."*

All of this brings me to the point I wish to make, which is: Motorcyclists are allies of the land conservation movement.

Motorcyclists don't spend millions of dollars on bikes and gear to tour the suburbs or sit in traffic among endless commercial strips.

What we are passionate about is discovering adventure among our remaining open spaces, working landscapes, and small towns with the

hope of experiencing something truly amazing. We seek out authentic places shaped by thriving local economies, good environmental stewardship and responsible growth management. We want to experience the diverse geography and history of this beautiful land.

I believe this desire makes a touring motorcyclist a kindred spirit among "traditional" conservationists, yet their is little evidence that the two groups are constructively aware of each other. Perhaps the motorcycle touring community and land trusts could recognize the potential benefits of cooperation. What kind of actions could be encouraged? I have some suggestions:

**Motorcyclists:** Support land trusts with an annual financial contribution. Cast votes of support for local conservation initiatives and political candidates. Buy domestically produced agricultural products from small producers. Choose to patronize locally owned and operated hotels, restaurants and family farms.

**Land Trusts:** Reach out to the motorcycling community to encourage participation in advancing the land trust's mission. Develop scenic tour maps highlighting conservation projects and local character.

*Matt Dube' is the Project Coordinator with the City of Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency and is married to CTF Land Conservation Director Ellen Huntley Dube'.*

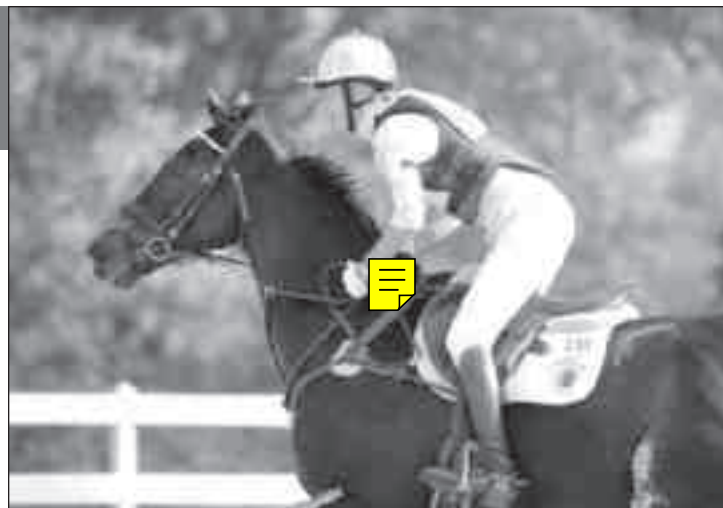
# NFHJA LAND TRUST BANQUET

Conservation Trust for Florida (CTF) and the North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) were the featured land trusts at the annual banquet held by the North Florida Hunter Jumper Association (NFHJA) on Saturday, January 19, 2009 at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

After the banquet, guests watched the \$75,000 FEI Grand Prix Show Jumping event in the covered arena. Clay Henderson, an attorney from Volusia County who has worked to protect nearly 250,000 acres of land was the keynote speaker. Sara Kozumplik Dierks, a four-star international three-day eventer, also spoke about the importance of protecting horse farms at the event.

Sara has competed as a Four Star eventer for the past 10 years. Her horse, Somerset was ranked 7th in the country for 2008. She was just named to the 2009 US Eventing winter training list. Sara runs Overlook Farm Eventing with her husband Eric Dierks. The farm operates out of Ocala, Fl. and Berryville, VA.

Clay Henderson is an attorney with Holland and Knight, one of the largest law firms in the nation. He was president of Florida Audubon Society, the state's oldest and largest conservation organization. Clay specializes in



*Sara Kozumplik Dierks and her horse Somerset. Sara spoke about the importance of protecting horse farms at the NFHJA banquet. Photo courtesy of Overlook Farm.*

environmental law, land use, and Smart Growth policies. He developed the first county endangered lands acquisition program "Volusia County Forever" and helped launch Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever.

Special thanks to Tony Weight, NFHJA President and Sue Rindal, NFHJA Sponsor Coordinator for their support of the event. Thank you also to Donna Chapman-Grasso, professional artist and equestrian, for donating 40% of the proceeds from the sale of the original painting *Young Turkeys* to CTF and NFLT.

## TAX INCENTIVES FOR EASEMENTS

The 2008 Farm Bill recently extended a 2006 incentive that enables family farmers, ranchers, and other moderate-income landowners to get a significant tax benefit for donating a conservation easement on their land. But unless Congress acts, the incentive will expire at the end of 2009! The renewed incentive helps landowners of modest means choose conservation by:

- Raising the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%;
- Allowing qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI; and
- Increasing the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.

### Bills Introduced to Improve Estate Tax Incentives for Conservation

Estate taxes can lead to the break-up, sale and development of family-owned farm, ranch and forest lands, even when landowners would prefer to keep these lands intact. Three new bills have been introduced by Congress.

**H.R. 3050 - American Family Farm and Ranchland Protection Act**, introduced by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Eric Cantor (R-VA). This bill will increase the cap on the "2031(c) exclusion" from estate tax for 50% of the value of land under easement, from the current \$500,000 to \$5 million.

**H.R. 3524 -- Family Farm Preservation Estate Tax Act**, Introduced by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA). This bill would indefinitely defer estate taxes on agricultural and conserved land so long as it remains in the family, ensuring that nobody will have to sell their land just to pay estate taxes.

**H.R. 1328 -- Farmland Preservation and Land Conservation Act**, Introduced by Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY) to defer estate taxes on agricultural land or land under easement.

### How You Can Help

Urge Representatives to cosponsor the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, H.R. 1831, introduced by Reps. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Eric Cantor (R-VA).

Urge Senators to cosponsor the Rural Heritage Conservation Extension Act, S. 812, introduced by Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Charles Grassley (R-IA).

For more info: Contact the Land Trust Alliance at 202-638-4725 or [policy@lta.org](mailto:policy@lta.org).



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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. We have successfully protected approximately 9,100 acres of rural landscapes through publicly funded land conservation programs and privately donated conservation easements.*

CTF, in conjunction with the Office of Greenways & Trails, has also helped begin and facilitate the protection of a 153,000-acre project, the Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway.

We work on a statewide basis to protect working rural landscapes and wildlife corridors through educational workshops and direct protection through voluntarily donated conservation easements and acquisition by publicly funded land conservation programs.

© Matt Dube

**2009 Fall Round UP! & Awards Celebration**

*Join us to celebrate*

**Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Tradition**

**Robert L. Stone**

Outreach Coordinator, Florida Folklife Program

*Whitehurst Horse Prairie Ranch  
 Sunday, November 8th from 3 to 6 p.m.*

**Thank you for your support!**

Your support is vital and helps CTF achieve our land conservation goals to protect working rural lands and wildlife corridors. Go to [www.conserveflorida.org](http://www.conserveflorida.org) and click on Memberships or use the PayPal link. Or call 352-466-1178 for a membership form.

**CTF celebrates our 10th Anniversary!**

Conservation Trust for Florida is celebrating our 10th anniversary this year. The organization was founded in 1999 by David Carr to protect wildlife corridors and working rural lands on a statewide basis.

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