

Photo by Carlton Ward Jr ©

JULY 2012

NAYFIELD CONSERVATION EASEMENT *protects 136 acres of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network*



The spring run on the Nayfield's property, which is adjacent to the Big Shoals Conservation Area -- which is also adjacent to the Big Shoals State Forest and State Park. The Big Shoals are the largest rapids in Florida and limestone bluffs reaching 80 feet can be found on the banks of the Suwannee River. Photo by Kristianna Lindgren.

KC Nayfield and former CTF Treasurer Mike Campbell at the CTF Annual Meeting at the Herlong Mansion B&B in Micanopy. Photo by Kathleen S. Williams.



Thank you to landowners Dr. KC and Marybeth Nayfield for protecting a gorgeous 136-acre property in Hamilton County with a conservation easement that was donated to the Conservation Trust for Florida in December of 2011.

The Nayfields are restoring the property with longleaf pine and native understory species. Their property, which is adjacent to the Big Shoals Conservation Area, helps protect the Suwannee River watershed.

The Nayfields decided to protect their property because, "we wanted to preserve a piece of natural Florida and to pass it on to our family. We are both native Floridians and are very upset with the urban sprawl and over development that has afflicted the State over the last 50 years. We have enjoyed the Suwannee River

at the Gulf for over 40 years," said Dr. Nayfield. "We liked this area due to its proximity to the Stephen Foster State Park which holds many wonderful events. White Springs is like stepping back in time."

The Nayfield's property also helps to protect land within the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN). The FEGN was adopted by the FL Legislature as part of the FL Greenways Plan and it is administered by the Office of Greenways & Trails and the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Their property is part of the FEGN Priority 2 conservation areas that will help complete a statewide ecological network of public and private conservation lands. ∞

*A Message from
CTF President David Pais*

I am very excited about all of the activities that CTF currently has underway and I wanted to share with you my enthusiasm for the coming year. Our Board and staff are moving forward with renewed energy and optimism for the future.

We recently completed an organizational assessment with Carol Lippincott of Floridaia, LLC. CTF reorganized some of our staff and determined that one of the greatest needs for CTF was to focus on fund-raising, messaging, and marketing. In the next few months, we hope to hire a new Development and Communications Director! This will help CTF broaden our base of support and expand our message of protecting family farms, forests, and wildlife corridors.

Thank you for the generous support from **The Felburn Foundation**, the **Lydia B Stokes Foundation**, the **Quail Roost Foundation**, the **Quinn Family Foundation**, the **Land Trust Alliance**, and many individual members. Thank you for your contributions! Your support helps us leverage our matching grants to generate more funds for conservation.

The Felburn Foundation's grant is a challenge grant to raise \$40,000 for CTF. Every dollar you contribute to CTF will be matched by the Felburn Foundation. CTF has a deadline of November 1st to raise the matching funds. Please help CTF reach this goal!

CTF recently co-hosted an outstanding workshop in Ocala on May 3rd. The "Land Use, Water, and Farming on Karst" workshop featured Dr. Bob Knight, Charles Lee of Audubon of Florida and Pete Colverson of Normandeau Assoc., who are some of the top scientists and policy makers in the state that are addressing water issues relating to agriculture and water resource protection. Growing public concerns over increased pressure on our vulnerable water supply have brought CTF into the forefront of promoting wise and sustainable use of this precious resource. The video of the workshop is available on our website at www.conserveflorida.org.

We have planned 8 workshops on land conservation to help family farmers and landowners preserve their land. The **Planning for the Future of Your Family Lands Workshop Series** helps farmers and landowners understand their estate and how to use conservation easements, and their potential tax benefits, as an estate planning tool. These workshops are particularly relevant given the growing interest in supporting locally produced food and protecting the safety of our food supply.

We are moving forward with a brand new initiative to help beginning farmers secure access to farmland with our new website www.floridafarmfinder.org. This will help connect new aspiring farmers looking for land suitable for farming with seasoned farmers who want to see their land to continue to produce food.

This November our **Fall Harvest Festival** will feature all locally produced food prepared and presented by some of the top chefs in the area to highlight the importance of protecting our local agricultural heritage. Please stay tuned for more details.

We will continue to work diligently protecting our rural working lands and landscapes by promoting conservation easements and other options for farmers and landowners who want to protect the lands they love.

Please consider helping us to continue to save the "Real Florida Landscape" that we all so dearly know and love.



J. David Pais
President of the Board

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Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.
502 Cholokka Blvd.

P.O. Box 134, Micanopy, FL 32667

Phone: 352-376-4770

www.conserveflorida.org

info@conserveflorida.org

*CTF is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit land trust.
The mission of CTF is to protect the rural
landscapes of Florida. We focus on farms, ranches,
working forests, and natural areas that provide
landscape connections.*

FALL ROUND UP! 2011



Grady and Honor Hartzog graciously accept the 2012 Land Conservation Award for protecting their Santa Fe River property with a conservation easement.



CTF Advisory Board Member Peggy Carr, Susan Carr and CTF Founder David Carr. Bottom right photo: Hans Tanzler III accepting a thank you gift for hosting the Fall Round UP! Bottom left photo: Jim Last helps Debbie Tanzler steer a pair of Belgian Draft horses at the event. Photos by Gary Denton.

Each year at the Fall Round UP!, CTF celebrates a year of land conservation and we honor a landowner who made a commitment to protect their land with a conservation easement.

On November 6, 2011, CTF honored landowners **Grady and Honor Hartzog** for protecting their magnificent river front property on the Santa Fe River. The Hartzog's property was platted with 15 house lots when they bought the property, but they wanted to preserve their property for wildlife and to protect the river. The property has a

varied topography with karst features and 2,000 feet of frontage on the Santa Fe River. In the spring a carpet of rain lilies that bloom under the live oak trees. The Hartzogs plan to build a dock that's handicap accessible so that they can take handicap and disadvantaged children on field trips to their property.

The event raised about \$13,000 for the organization and our land conservation projects to protect land like the Hartzog's and the Nayfield's property for future generations.

Thank you to our generous hosts **Hans and Debbie Tanzler** for sponsoring the event at their Cypress Grove Farm in Waldo.

Thank you to **Darleen Randall** and **Take Away Gourmet** for donating the catering for the Fall Round UP!

A special Thank You to **Lorelei Esser** for designing and installing the centerpieces and lighting. Thank you to the **6 Artists, 6 Prairies** painters for painting at the event.

(Continued on page 4.)



THANK YOU
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FALL ROUND UP!

(Continued from page 3.)

Since 1999, CTF has protected nearly 9,500 acres with about 700 acres of that in donated conservation easements. CTF holds 6 privately donated conservation easements on local farms and natural areas.

These conservation easements are funded by our member's donations. Thank you for helping to protect our natural resources and farms!

Dr. Hctor described several of CTF's wildlife corridor projects and CTF Advisory Board Member Carlton Ward Jr. talked about the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition project.

Thanks to Past President Kathleen S. Williams for serving as the MC for the evening and CTF Advisory Board Member Peggy Carr for making a speech about the important role of land conservation. ☛

Bill Congdon,
General Counsel for
St. Johns River Water
Management District
and Cindy Martin.



Callie DeHaven of
Rayonier Timber
Company and 2012
CTF President
David Pais.
All event photos by
Gary Denton.



Thank you so much to **Darleen Randall** and **Take Away Gourmet** for donating the catering for the Fall Round UP! Please show your support by patronizing her business. Visit www.TakeAwayGourmet4u.com

Thank you to the **6 Artists 6 Prairies Artists** for their support of the event and for donating 30% of the sales of the paintings with CTF. Steve Andrews, Linda Blondheim, Charles Dickinson, Scott Hiestand, and Mary Jane Volkmann. <http://sixartistsixprairies.blogspot.com>



AT CYPRESS GROVE FARM



Top left: Tom Hctor and Carlton Ward Jr talk about the FL Wildlife Corridor. Top right: Marty Fiorentino, President, The Fiorentino Group and Mary Baer-Fiorentino of WJXT Channel 4 in Jacksonville. Middle: Mary Jane Volkmann painting. Left: David Menet of Salter, Feiber, P.A. and Emory Springfield of Springfield Law, P.A. Bottom: Mary Reed, Carissa Driggers, Ana-Luiza Fraisse, and Lordwige Atis of the UF Ambassadors Program.

THANK YOU AUCTION DONORS

Steve Andrews, Donna Beggs, Kathleen Deagan, Scott Hiestand, Bernard and Chris Machen, Steve Nesbitt, Colquitt Tanner, Ana Varela, Mary Jane Volkmann, and Mike and Lindsay Webster. Alternatives Global Market Place, Central Florida Office Plus, Gainesville Health and Fitness Center, Gifts of Avalon, Inc, Grandiflora, Great Outdoors Restaurant, High Springs Emporium (The Rock Shop), Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs, Hilton-Walt Disney World, Hippodrome State Theater, Ilene's Gator Store, Janus Hotel and Resorts, John's Lane Farm, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Landscapes Of The South, Leni's and Janet's Crafts, Leonardo's 706, Mousehole Antiques, Patagonia, Saddlebrook Resort, Satchel's Pizza, Sparr Building and Farm Supply, Station Bakery & Café, Tack Shack of Ocala, The Secret Garden Bakery, Thornebrook Gallery, Wild Birds Unlimited

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THANK YOU CTF DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

David Carr, Lisa M. Gearen, David Pais, Jennifer B. Springfield, Celeste Shitama, and Kathleen S. Williams.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

Molly Davis joined CTF this spring to help with the USDA workshops as CTF's Land Conservation Assistant Director. She graduated with honors in May from UF with a Bachelors of Science in Sustainability and the Built Environment. Molly will help facilitate the USDA project until that project ends in August.



Samantha Culp graduated from the College of Charleston with a major in Political Science and minors in Sociology and Environmental Studies. She is enrolled in the Environmental and Land Use Law Program and the Conservation Clinic. She was awarded the Conservation Fellowship; a grant that has enabled her to work at CTF this summer as a law intern.

Welcome to CTF Molly and Samantha!

L to R: Molly Davis and Samantha Culp.

Mike Campbell was presented with a Founders Award at the Annual Meeting in January for serving on the Board of CTF for 13 years. Mike was also one of the founding Board Members of CTF. *Mike Campbell and a young supporter of CTF at the Micanopy 4th of July Parade. Photo courtesy of CTF.*



At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors held at the Herlong Mansion Bed & Breakfast on January 28th, a new Executive Committee was elected and Mike Campbell, who was one of the founding Board Members of CTF, was awarded with a Founders Award for serving on the Board of CTF for 13 years.

Mike served as the Treasurer, President and as the Chair of the Land Protection Committee for several years. He and his wife Sandy own a tree and seedling nursery and consulting business in Micanopy. *Thank you Mike for your contribution and service to CTF!*

Welcome new Executive Committee:

President: David Pais, Owner of Pais Realty and Pais Landscapes.

Vice-President: Ed Montgomery, Director, Real Estate Sales and Marketing for TerraPointe Services

Treasurer: Nancy J. Peterson, Assoc. Dir. for Research and Services, UF School of Forest Resources and Conservation.

Secretary: Stephen Nesbitt, Sandhill crane and eagle expert. Ornithologist and retired Biological Administrator for the Florida Wildlife Commission and member of the Whooping Crane Recovery Team.

Welcome new Board Members:

Mike Webster: Mike grew up in south Florida as a conservation ethic emerged from issues surrounding the Jetport, Big Cypress National Preserve, and Everglades System restoration.

A northeast Florida resident since the late 1970s, Mike served on the Board of the Florida Wildlife Federation and witnessed the creation of Jennings State Forest and the related Ravines, Talbot Island State Park, Guana WMA/State Park, Northeast Florida Timberlands Reserve, and Osceola National Forest Pinhook addition.

Mike has been involved with diverse local government growth management proceedings, and is the recipient of the City of Jacksonville Mimi and Lee Adams Environmental Award.

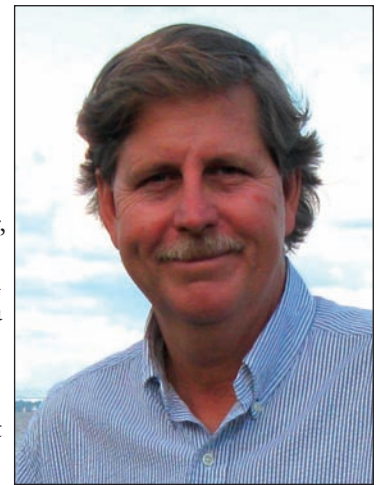
A licensed Yacht Broker, he is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys Florida's public lands and waterways, and is a member of a hunting club.

Lee "Alex" Wheeler III: Alex is a Senior Accounting Manager at Bunting Tripp and Ingley LLP CPA's in Lake Wales, Florida, where he specializes in not-for-profit organizations.

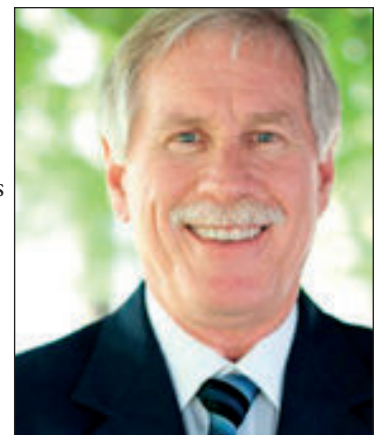
He is a former Polk School Board member and city commissioner, and served five terms as mayor of Lake Wales.

He is past president of Green Horizons Land Trust, Chairman and founding member of Lake Wales Free Clinic, Inc., Treasurer of the Lake Wales Health Care Foundation, and was named 2010 Citizen of the Year.

He is an avid SCUBA diver who enjoys camping and working with environmental causes.



Photos courtesy of Mike Webster and Alex Wheeler.





WORKSHOP

LAND USE, WATER, AND FARMING ON KARST

Protecting Groundwater and Springs Basins

CTF co-hosted a Springs Protection workshop on May 3rd, 2012 with the Marion County Extension Office and Normandeau Associates.

The timely workshop brought together experts to discuss the ecology, water quality and significantly reduced water flow at Marion County's springs.

The workshop also presented strategies to protect the aquifer such as proper pasture and manure management for horse farm owners in sensitive karst areas and options for large landowners to help protect ground water with dispersed water storage projects conducted in col-

laboration with Audubon of Florida. In addition, CTF Assistant Director Busy Shires Byerly made a presentation on the tax benefits of conservation easements.

Thank you to our distinguished list of speakers at the event: **David Pais**, CTF President of the Board; **Buddy MacKay**, former Gov. and Lt. Gov. of Florida and CTF Advisory Board Member, Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.; **Jamie Cohen**, Farm Outreach Coordinator, Marion County Extension Office; **Peter Colverson**, Environmental Consultant with Normandeau Associates and former coordinator of the

Rainbow Springs and Silver Springs Basin Working Group; **Dr. Robert L. Knight**, Director, Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute; **Charles Lee**, Director of Advocacy, Audubon of Florida; and **Guy Marwick**, Board of Directors, The Felburn Foundation.

The goal of the workshop was to bring awareness about the alarming decline of the region's water resources and to talk about solutions that landowners can take to make a difference to protect this vital resource.

Thanks so much to the speakers for making the workshop a success! ☺

GUEST ESSAY by NOAH SHITAMA, SWALLOWTAIL FARMER

This essay was excerpted from the Swallowtail Farm Newsletter that Noah writes for the weekly Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) pick up of fresh produce.

I remember visiting Michael and Mariana of Rosie's Organic Farm in the week leading up to our first cultivation of the fields at Swallowtail Farm. They welcomed us warmly and we walked through their nursery and the fields and talked about the future...

They were sweet and supportive and kind, and it's been a great friendship ever since; peers to share our little farming life bubble with, to talk about the yeas and nays of trellising tomatoes, to trade strawberries for melons with, to think about what farming means for family life, about work, and about Place.

The question of Place has been where our conversation has resided most in the past year or so, mostly because they have known that they

want to find a permanent home, but also because until this season, I was commuting to farm, and trying to figure out where to put myself, both in the short and the long.

It is the eternal question for non-landowner farmers, because to farm is to create a whole life based in the land. It is as Michael puts it, the *Livity*. There is no farming without a place to farm; no *Livity* without the land. And yet so many young farmers these days are without land, and land is not cheap, because the days when agriculture was the 'highest and best use' are long gone, made ancient and relic by the greedy logic of development.

When good farmland has the development potential to host a subdivision, our prudence is forsaken, and the developer is inevitably the highest bidder. With each such sale, we sell out our agricultural commonwealth piecemeal. It is an old problem by now.

On the other hand, there is a great gap to fill, and the old-timer farming generation is now septagenarian and older and becoming great-grandparents to our children. Many of them have left the fields for the rocking chair, and are now merely telling stories, like the voices of Foxfire books, to any ears wise enough to listen.

Even our parents' parents were not an agricultural generation, so the ocean appears wide and deep between Greenhorns and American Gothic.

Yet there is, unmistakably, a sweet miracle in the works in America, though clearly outshouted by the pitch of politics and the chaos of Kardashians. It is in the margins of course, on the edges of town and city, and in the nooks and crannies between subdivision and wetland, between city spire and mountain crag.

(Continued on page 8.)

(Continued from page 7.)

We are still hopeful people, and I am not even as young as the great Sea of new farmers who are crowding the intern lists and WWOOFing dorms of farms here and elsewhere as we speak, listening in on the old conversation that we thought might have been ended, of talk of bread and grain and plow and ox.

As Hutch Hutchinson put it the other day, farming is the new environmentalism. It is the way young people are being activists, because it resolves idealism to action in a palpable and fulfilling way

And so there is an exodus underway. The flight from farms to the city has had its heyday, and much was lost along the way, but what was most lost that must be regained was Land. From the settler to the sharecropper to the urban farmer, it has always been the heart of the matter.

What Michael and Mariana and the rest of us are seeking is a place to land, and perhaps to call our own. New models of agricultural subdivisions and urban farmsteads and land trusts are emerging that accommodate many of our visions, but it is a long flight still, and there is much to be overcome in the way of simple expense, complex negotiations, and the creation of a new culture of sustainability, of *Livity*.

When the young folk leave the nightclub and hop their last train and look for community and a place to raise a family, they are often looking for something sweeter and deeper than office space, and we must find a way to reconcile our reconnective impulse with the reality of real estate and a short but definite epoch of agricultural ruin.

We will look for community in the cracks in the pavement where the dandelion grows, in the old farmsteads where the stories are there for the hearing, and in the new social media that connects us all in bizarre and gratuitous and marvelous ways. The garden is growing yet.

With an ear to the old and hope for the new,

Noah Shitama
Swallowtail Farmer



Florida FarmFinder works to continue Florida's rich farming heritage by keeping productive farmland in production. The majority of farmers in the state of Florida are over 55 years old, and almost half of Florida's agricultural lands will change hands in the next twenty years.

Many older farming families are faced with the reality that there is not a younger generation to continue farming their land. Similarly, many beginning farmers who want to enter the field are unable to secure affordable access to land.

The Florida FarmFinder was created to address both problems by connecting farmers and farmland owners with beginning farmers.

SCOPE OF THE FARMFINDER
The Florida FarmFinder's searchable database provides listings of available farmland and farming opportunities, and profiles of farmers in search of mentoring and agricultural employ-

ment opportunities. Users may search for listings fitting certain criteria—such as region of the state or land use, or may access the entire set of listings. Registered users may create their own listings, and can contact others with listings.

Many beginning farmers who want to enter the field of farming are unable to secure affordable access to land. Florida FarmFinder will help connect beginning farmers with farmland owners.

Florida FarmFinder was created with financial support from the USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant, and a grant provided by an anonymous donor.

WHO USES THE FLORIDA FARMFINDER?

Established Farmers and Farmland Owners who want to keep or put their land in production through sale, lease, partnering or other arrangements.

Beginning Farmers searching for suitable lands or other farming opportunities to meet their needs.

www.floridafarmfinder.org

From January 17 through April 25, 2012, a team of explorers, including photographer Carlton Ward Jr, cinematographer Elam Stoltzfus, bear biologist Joe Guthrie and conservationist Mallory Lykes Dimmitt, trekked 1,000 miles in 100 days to showcase the opportunity to protect a connected corridor of natural lands and waters throughout peninsular Florida for the benefit of wildlife and people.

GENERATING AWARENESS

The Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition traversed the Everglades ecosystem into Big Cypress, over to the Everglades Agricultural Area, back to the Okaloacoochee Slough, across the Caloosahatchee, over to Babcock Ranch, back along Fisheating Creek toward Lake Okeechobee, up the Kissimmee River with excursions toward the Lake Wales Ridge, up the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, east around Orlando into Ocala National Forest, and north along the O2O corridor (Ocala to Osceola) to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The trek covered over 1,000 miles in 100 days.

SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS

The concept of a statewide ecological corridor is not new to Florida. The Florida Wildlife Corridor expands on decades of work by numerous conservation organizations, including The Nature Conservancy's Northern Everglades initiative and the Conservation Trust for Florida's Ocala National Forest to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway project (O2O).

In addition, the work of the Everglades Foundation's multi-partner Kissimmee River Restoration project, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's panther research, Archbold Biological Station/University of Kentucky's black bear research, WWF's Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Project (FRESP) around Lake Okeechobee, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's investment in Fisheating Creek, Florida Forever, the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission's Cooperative Conservation Blueprint project, and countless hours of work by many others that have given us the opportunity to connect what remains.

The Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) provides the scientific foundation for the Florida

Wildlife Corridor. FEGN was an outcome of earlier efforts to demonstrate the importance of protecting wildlife corridors and a network of conservation lands spearheaded by Larry Harris and Reed Noss at the University of Florida in the 1980s. Dr. Tom Hoctor has done extensive GIS analysis of the FEGN and CTF has worked to protect sections such as the Ocala to Osceola Greenway (O2O).

FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR FOUNDERS

The Florida Wildlife Corridor was founded by Dr. Tom Hoctor, Director of the Center for Landscape and Conservation Planning at University of Florida and who is also the Greenways Research Scientist for CTF and Carlton Ward Jr, Conservation Photographer and founder of the Legacy Institute for Nature & Culture (LINC), who is also an Advisory Board member of CTF.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor was inspired by the bear research of David Maehr and of agricultural and conservation leader Mason Smoak, who both tragically died in a plane crash while doing bear research in Highlands County in 2008. Through this project, the team hopes to transcend cultural, perceptual and geographic boundaries, to connect people to the places we need to protect, and ultimately help reconnect and restore the fragmented lands and waters in Florida.

www.floridawildlifecorridor.org



Top photo: On day 60 of their journey, the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition team travels the St. Johns River.

Left photo: Hiking the Florida National Scenic Trail from Olustee Historic Battlefield State Park to Ocean Pond in Osceola National Forest with FL Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel Vinyard and Dennis Miranda, director of the Florida Trail Association. L to R: Mallory Dimmitt, Joe Guthrie, Secretary Vinyard, Dennis Miranda, and Carlton Ward Jr. Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition. Photographs by Carlton Ward Jr.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR FAMILY LANDS WORKSHOP SERIES

In 2012, CTF began the third year of the three-year USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher project, which is conducted in partnership with the UF/Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences department.

CTF developed a comprehensive curriculum with an instructor and student manual, which also includes power point presentations, on how to conduct an interactive workshop on conservation easements.

The workshop series consists of three workshops that build on one another, with the first emphasizing the importance of planning for the future of their land and an introduction to private land conservation, specifically conservation easements.

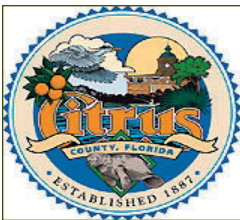
The second workshop covers the potential tax and financial incentives of conservation easements. The final workshop in the series provides guidance on the details involved with placing a conservation easement on one's land, including typical costs involved and determining an organization to work with.

CTF's land conservation workshops will help existing farmers develop a planned and orderly transition of farmland to the next generation. The aim of the training is to empower farmers to find solutions to their specific transfer questions while providing a network to appropriate financial, legal and conservation resources.

Thank you to Heidi Horak, an attorney from St. Petersburg, FL who grew up on a beef cattle farm in New York state, for her help in facilitating the workshops!

CTF held four workshops in May in Lake, Sumter, Putnam, and Marion Counties. The Putnam County workshop was co-hosted by the Putnam Land Conservancy (PLC).

Thank you to PLC and the Extension Office staff for their help in promoting the workshops!
UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
July 24th Bradford Co. Ext. Office, 2266 N. Temple Avenue, Starke
July 26th: Citrus Co. Ext. Office, 3650 West Sovereign Path, Lecanto
TBD: Alachua County and Marion County to present the tax benefits of conservation easements.



Thanks so much to Shirley Lasseter and the Hippodrome for bringing natural horseman Buck Brannaman to Gainesville!

The documentary, *Buck: The Movie*, is about Buck's life and his training methods. CTF staff made presentations about the importance of protecting land for horses at two of the movie's showings. CTF was invited back for a third showing where Buck was there in person. (He was very charming!) The Hippodrome donated a portion of the proceeds of the ticket sales to CTF and the Horse Protection Assoc. of Florida.

Morgan Silver, Executive Director of the Horse Protection Assoc. of Florida, Buck Brannaman, Shirley Lasseter, Cinema Director, and Busy Shires Byerly CTF Interim Executive Director. Photo courtesy of CTF.



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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 9,500 acres of rural landscapes.

CTF works on a regional basis to protect working rural landscapes and wildlife corridors through educational workshops and direct protection through voluntarily donated conservation easements and acquisition by working with our project partners to acquire land with publicly funded land conservation programs.

CTF's mission is unique and essential to the future of Florida. We address the conservation of working rural lands - farms, ranches, and timberlands. These lands also encompass Florida's rich rural heritage and help preserve a sense of place.



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