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The Post

A Newsletter to Update

Members and Friends of the Conservation Trust for Florida

Protecting Our Rural Lands

Issue #6 September, 2004

Heubeck Easement: Ocala to Goethe

About 200 acres of land adjacent to the Orange Creek Restoration Area (OCRA) which is owned and managed by the St. Johns River Water Management District will be preserved. Kerry Heubeck placed a conservation easement on 200 acres of his family's 1,000-acre estate, known as Quail Roost Farm. The property is located about a mile east of the small town of Citra in Marion County and has an impressive stand of old-growth cypress trees. The majority of the site is wetlands, but there are trails that traverse through the upland areas. Portions of the remaining 800 acres of the estate will be placed under a deed restriction, which will limit future subdivision.



One of the hardwood dominated wetlands on the Heubeck estate. Photo by Erik Lewis.

The Heubeck easement is located in the Ocala National Forest to Goethe State Forest Corridor and is one of the key acquisitions to connect the Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area to the Ocala National Forest.

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 lands to development every year. Your support will help CTF work to slow this trend.

THANK YOU! to all the members who renewed their membership; The AEC Trust for their support of the Evinston/Orange Lake Preservation Project; GRU for their sponsorship of the August newsletter; Linda Barrett and the Herlong Mansion for allowing CTF to use their meeting room; and the Pearl Country Store and the Blue Highway Pizzeria for providing lunch at the Mentoring Program.

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

E-Mail Newsletter Subscription: If you would like to add or remove your e-mail address to the electronic newsletter subscription list, send an e-mail to newsletter@conserveflorida.org or call 352-466-1178.

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 ___ Other \$_____

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ E-Mail: _____ Phone #: _____

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

I am a landowner and would like more information on conservation easements. _____

Please make your check payable to the Conservation Trust for Florida & send to: P.O. Box 134, Micanopy, FL 32667

Hansen Preserve

Cross Creek is a special place with a unique rural character. Phyllis Hansen of Cross Creek donated a conservation easement to CTF on her 25-acre homestead in order to ensure that the densely forested property is protected.

Her property is located on the shore of Orange Lake and has a bald eagle's nest. The conservation easement will protect the wildlife and waterfront on her property from inappropriate development.

CTF is working on a new project in the Cross Creek area called the Evinston/Orange Lake Preservation Project, which is a focus area of The Farmlands Project and will protect the historic and scenic quality of the area.

Mark your calendar
 for CTF's
 Fall Fundraiser at
The Yearling
 Restaurant in
 Cross Creek

November 7th
 4 to 7 PM

Also in this issue:

- * President's Message
- * Current Projects Update
- * Fall Fundraiser at the Yearling
- * Evinston/Orange Lake Preservation Project
- * CTF Mentoring Program
- * Thank You to 2003 donors

A Letter from the President

Dear CTF members:

The Conservation Trust for Florida is proud of our recent successes. We obtained our first conservation easement on 25 acres in Cross Creek and are finalizing another easement with the Heubeck family on 200 acres in northern Marion County. We were recently awarded a generous grant from The AEC Trust to support the Evinston/Orange Lake Preservation Project. The Farmlands Project is moving forward and we see progress in educating the farming community on the advantages of conservation easements.

The board and staff participated in a workshop with the Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) and the Forest Management Trust in a Conservation Easement led by Chuck Roe of the Southeast Land Trust Alliance and Kevin McGorty of the Red Hills Conservation Program. The workshop focused on the key elements of a strong conservation easement program and how to effectively address violations.

Busy and I attended a seminar sponsored by the Florida Communities Trust in Tallahassee, which brought together staff and board members of many of the land trusts in Florida. We look forward to helping develop a network of land trusts in Florida that can share ideas and information. It was nice to find out that the Florida land trusts all share similar concerns and issues. CTF and ACT collaborated on a Florida Communities Trust application to protect the scenic and historical qualities of Tusawilla Lake/Prairie near Micanopy. ACT submitted the grant in May and they should find out soon if the project will be funded.

The Board Development Committee has been actively identifying future board members. Our Development and Outreach Committee has been preparing for a fundraising event on November 7th at The Yearling Restaurant in Cross Creek. We hope to see you there.

We have also had a change in staff positions. Busy Kislig Shires has become our new Executive Director; she has the dedication and passion for our mission and she brings enthusiasm to her job. Eric Lewis is taking a full time job at the University of Florida, but will stay involved with our projects as his time permits. Bethany Lavigno, a recent graduate of the University of Georgia, was hired in July as our new Research/Program Assistant.

We thank you for your continued support of the Conservation Trust for Florida!

Sincerely,

Terry L. Zinn

Terry L. Zinn
President of the Board

Board of Directors

Terry L. Zinn, President
Environmental Attorney - FDOT

Michael Campbell, Vice-President
Forester, Co-owner of a propagation nursery

Nancy J. Peterson, Secretary
Associate Director of the School of Natural Resources & Environment Research & Outreach & Extension

Kathleen S. Williams, Treasurer
Wildlife biologist, writer

David Carr
Conservationist, Pearl Country Store Owner

Joni Ellis
Conservation Education Specialist-FWC

David Pais
Design & Consulting Business, Real Estate Broker

Kathryn Sieving
Associate Professor in the Dept. of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation - UF

Advisory Board

Fay Baird, Hydrologist - Pandion Systems

Margy Bielling, Retired Biology & Chemistry teacher

Bob Buschbacher, Conservation Biology Professor - UF

Peggy Carr, Landscape Architecture Associate Professor - UF

Will Ellis, CTF webmaster

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Gary Meffe, Conservation Biology, Editor

Chris Monaco, Historian & Filmmaker

Steve Nesbitt, Ornithologist - FWC

Jack Putz, Botany Professor - UF

Tom Saunders, Community Development Director - City of Gainesville

Freddie Wood, Farmer, Owner of the Wood & Swink Country Store

Staff

Busy Kislig Shires, Executive Director

Bethany Lavigno, Research/Program Assistant

Erik Lewis, Matanzas Conservation Area Project Director

CTF's Annual Fall Fundraiser!

Please join the
Conservation Trust for Florida
for our
Fundraiser and Awards Ceremony at

THE YEARLING
Restaurant in historic Cross Creek
Sunday, November 7th from 4 to 7 PM

We will honor
Phyllis Hansen and Kerry Heubeck
with a Land Conservation Award for
protecting their land with
conservation easements.

Bid on great auction items!
Purchase a travel package!

Seating is limited, please RSVP early.
Tickets are \$35 a person.
Renew your membership at the same time
at a special rate of \$50.

Look for your invitation in the mail soon.

THE CTF EXPERIENCE

GET-AWAYS FOR MEMBERS

CTF is developing travel packages in an effort to raise awareness about land conservation and to raise funds for operating expenses. We would like to hear from our members about where you would like to go and what types of activities interest you. Please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire.
THANK YOU!

Describe some of the places you have visited.

What are some of the activities that you would like to do? (Circle as many as you wish.) tours of historic sites or farms; pontoon boat, house boat, or steam boat rides; canoe or kayak trips; breakfast with whooping cranes; small airplane rides; tubing down the river

What is the best time of year?

How would you like to purchase the packages? online, by phone, or by mail
Please provide contact information about the activity.

Do you have any other suggestions?

What do you think about CTF offering the packages?

Herlong Mansion Bed & Breakfast



Located in quiet historic Micanopy, the Herlong is a 1910 Greek revival mansion with nine in house rooms with private bathrooms.

Two cottages with large tubs & cable TV, addition to newly renovated bathrooms. Banquet room with 60-70 seating capacity, also with warming kitchen and handicap bathroom facility. Specializing in weddings, banquets, and seminars (during mid-week) and luncheons.

Let us pamper you for your special event, get away, or business retreats.

www.herlong.com (352) 466-3322

Thank You! Conservation Trust of Florida depends upon the financial support we receive from our members and from foundations & corporations. We would like this opportunity to thank those who supported CTF during 2003:

Cathy Z. Algood
Robert & Violet Asmuth
Jeri Baldwin
Jim Barrell &
Suzanne Sindledacker
Paul & Marjorie Bielling

Ed Hoovler
Greg Jones
Joyce La Fray
Warren & Gladys Lane
Deborah Ann Light
Neill & Nancy Macaulay

Ana Varela
Menno & Kathi Vellinga
John & Teri Vincent
Bruce & Kathy Volling
Peter & Diane Voyentzie
Eileen Wiley
Freddie & Wilma Sue Wood

**CTF WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO THANK
THESE INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTRIBUTED
\$500 OR MORE IN 2003:**

**Worth Auxier and Sandy Burnett
Gulf States Paper Corporation**

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Mike Sites & Chloe Buck
Cindy Smith
Susan Starling
Rick Stepp
Ira & Gail Stern
Helen Suits
David & Paula Swetland
Tom Thomas &
Renee Andrews
Jon & Eleanor
Thrasher, III
Ty & Jean Tyson

***CTF would like to say a
special Thank You to those
who donated \$100 or more:***
Thomas & Glenna Carr
Walter & Patricia Courtenay
Wyland & Marnelle Cripe
Peter Frederick &
Marilyn Spaulding
Carol Goodwin
Doria Gordon & Dwight DeVane
Jeff Hardesty &
Susan Jacobson
Larry Harris & Kathleen Deagan
Alan Hodges &
Susan Marynowski
Pierce & Laura Jones
Paul & Lynne Lefebvre
Gary & Nancy Meffe
Peter & Anne Meylan
David Pais
Katie Sieving
Dan Smith
Tom Staley & Fay Baird
Robert & Barbara Stenstream
Paul Wales & Annie Orlando
Kathleen S. Williams

*We apologize for any omissions or errors on this list.
Please contact us at 352-466-1178 with corrections.*

Mentoring Program Seminar: *Developing a Strong Conservation Easement Program*

Three conservation organizations participated in a seminar to learn more about land conservation methods. The Conservation Trust for Florida, Alachua Conservation Trust and the Forest Management Trust spent a Sunday afternoon in June with Kevin McGorty, Director of the Red Hills Conservation Program (RHCP) and Chuck Roe, Director of the Southeast Land Trust Alliance (SELTA) learning about ways to strengthen their conservation easement programs.

The Red Hills Conservation Program has protected about 200,000 acres of a unique pine forest and wiregrass community that consists of mostly large hunting plantations with conservation easements. McGorty credits the landowners for making the land conservation program so successful. The families wanted to protect their land and their lifestyle for the benefit of future generations. "The secret was the landowners who were willing to take the first step," said McGorty. "They were willing to take the gamble."

Conservation easements are a voluntary and perpetual legal agreement between the landowner and the land trust that protects the land from development, but allows the continued use of the property either for farming, hunting or raising livestock. Many large landowners receive significant estate and income tax benefits as a result of donating a conservation easement on their property. McGorty explained some of the techniques used to address violations and amendments to the conservation easement, fundraising techniques, and how to calculate the cost of stewardship. Roe also provided an update on the revisions to the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices; a set of guidelines that land trusts voluntarily follow.



Participants at the Strategic Planning Retreat in September 2003. (Back Row) David Pais, Katie Sieving, Erik Lewis, Terry Zinn, Mike Campbell, & Kathleen Williams. (Front Row) Gary Greenberg, Gary Meffe, Judy Greenberg, Busy Shires, & Nancy Peterson.

Evinston/Orange Lake Preservation Project *- grant received from The AEC Trust*

CTF is working to protect the scenic and historic character of the Evinston and the Cross Creek area, which are located near Orange Lake. These special places are in danger of being lost to cookie cutter homes and five-acre ranchettes. Many listed species such as Bald Eagles, Sandhill Cranes, Wood Storks, Fox Squirrels, Black Bears and a variety of amphibians and reptiles also make their home on the shores of Orange and Lochloosa Lakes and in the surrounding countryside. The objective is to protect and preserve the regions' environmental, agricultural, and historical heritage.

The Evinston/Orange Lake Preservation Project recently received an endorsement from the Alachua County Historical Commission and a generous grant from The AEC Trust. The project is also part of the Old Florida Heritage Highway, which is part of the state of Florida's Scenic Highway program. A historic preservation grant to protect the Wood & Swink Country Store and Post Office utilizing Transportation Enhancement Funds (TEA-21) is being sought in collaboration with Alachua County Public Works Department. CTF is also working collaboratively with the staff of the Alachua County Forever program and the St. Johns Water Management District to protect environmentally sensitive land and are seeking the support of allied organizations.

Updates on Current CTF Projects

The Farmlands Project

Phase I of the project, the compilation of data for the focus area, Alachua, Gilchrist, Marion, Levy, and Columbia Counties, is nearing completion. CTF will present the results of the study at the Green Horses/Clean Water forum sponsored by Marion Politeia on Saturday, October 23rd at the Southeast Livestock Pavilion and Agricultural Center on Jacksonville Road. Thank you again to Progress Energy for their support.

Matanzas Conservation Area

CTF and the North Florida Land Trust are working together to gather support for the project in nearby counties and are submitting a collaborative grant to the Land Trust Alliance. The goal is to protect a functional landscape corridor between the Ocala National Forest in Central Florida and the Matanzas State Forest/Faver-Dykes State Park/Pellicer Creek Conservation area.

Osceola National Forest to Ocala National Forest Corridor

As we reported in the Spring newsletter, the Governor and the Cabinet voted to place a portion of the corridor, the 153,000-acre Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway on the state's active acquisition list. Negotiations are currently underway.

Ocala National Forest to Goethe State Forest Corridor

The Heubeck easement will help protect an additional 200 acres of this corridor. The Barr Hammock parcel located between Levy and Ledwith Prairie is still undergoing acquisition negotiations. The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) is writing a management plan for Price's Scrub, a 952-acre parcel that was acquired by OGT in 2002. Residents of Shiloh and interested stakeholders participated in the development of the management plan.

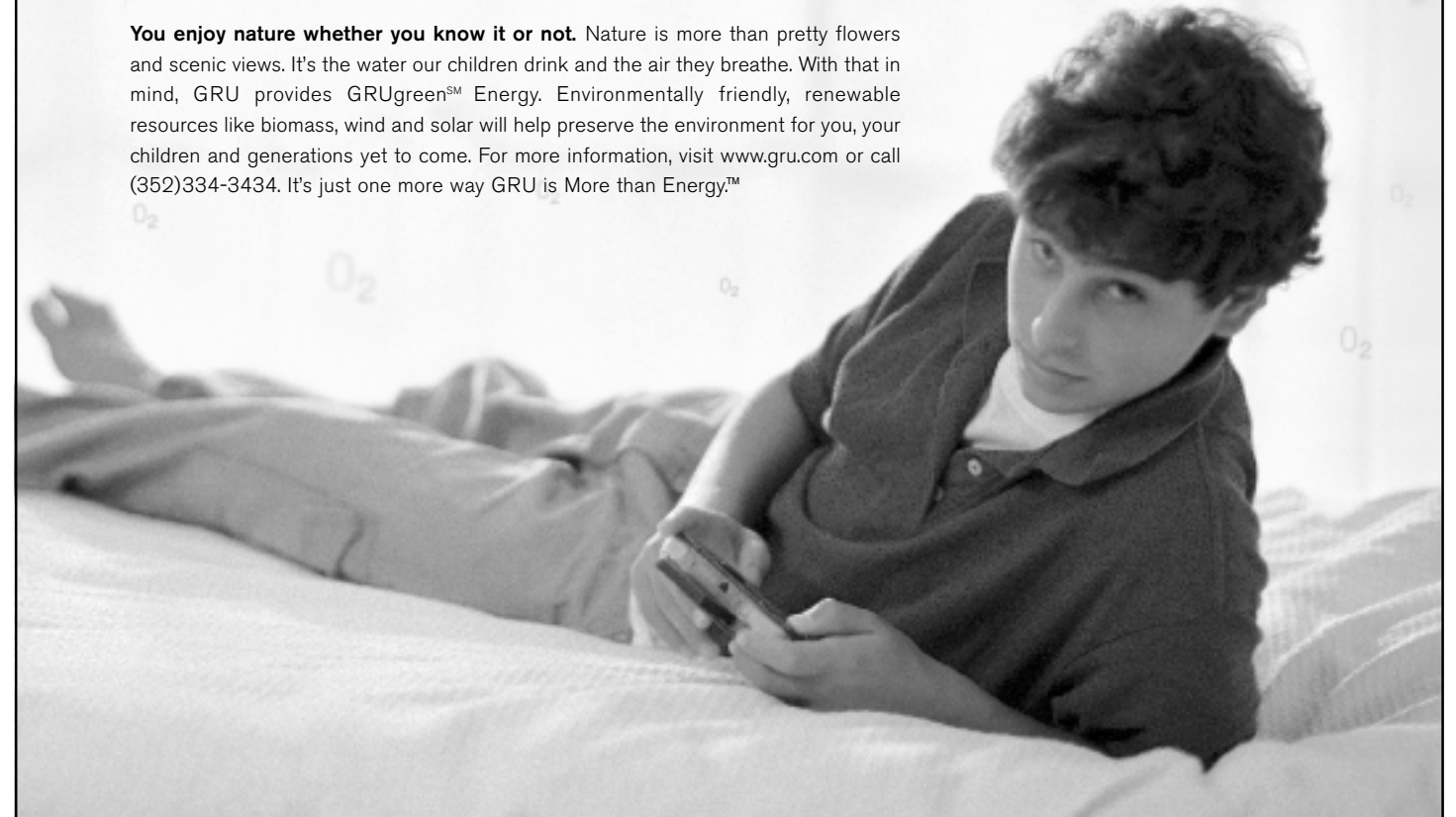
Meet the newest member of the CTF Staff



Bethany Lavigno is CTF's new Research/Program Assistant. She recently graduated from the University of Georgia with a M.S. degree in Environmental Economics and Management. Farmland Preservation has been her focus in school for over three years. Bethany's M.S. thesis is the backbone of the beginning implementation process for a statewide Georgia Farmland Preservation Program. Bethany has had several journal articles published as well as a presenter at two Smart Growth/Land Conservation conferences. She will be a great asset to CTF's Farmlands Project as well as many other future projects.



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