



December 2006

THE POST

PROTECTING OUR RURAL LANDS

BARR HAMMOCK PURCHASED BY COUNTY

In 2002, the Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. (CTF) nominated this magnificent tract for acquisition to the Alachua County Forever Land Conservation Program. One of our volunteer Board Members Mike Campbell initially put the project together with Ed Montgomery, Manager for Rayonier Timber Company. The expertise of Ramesh Buch of the Alachua County Forever program and Brian Block of The Nature Conservancy, along with the support of CTF, kept the project on track with the landowner and land manager during the four years of negotiations.

The Alachua County Commission voted unanimously on July 11, 2006 to purchase the 2,300-acre Barr Hammock property utilizing \$10 million dollars in Alachua County Forever (ACF) funds. At that meeting about 40 of CTF's members and friends showed up to support the project; all wearing green "Buy Barr Hammock" stickers. When the Commission voted, the crowd spontaneously cheered and clapped. It was a great victory for Alachua County.

Barr Hammock is truly a "crown jewel" and is one of the highest ranked parcels of land that ACF has considered. This prairie and surrounding uplands are also one of the most ecologically intact examples of prairie/lake ecosystems in north central Florida. It is also very important hydrologically, as it connects



Looking north from Barr Hammock to Levy Prairie. Barr Hammock is considered a "land bridge" between Levy Prairie and Ledwith Prairie.

Photo by Ramesh Buch.

two of the largest wetlands in the county - Ledwith Prairie and Levy Prairie.

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FALL FUNDRAISER AND AWARDS CEREMONY

CTF's Fall Fundraiser and Awards Ceremony held on Sunday, November 12th at Golden Hills Golf & Turf Club in Ocala was very successful. Over 150 guests from Alachua and Marion counties attended the event and approximately \$28,000 was raised for CTF's programs.

At the event, CTF honored Milo "Dick" and Sharon Sawallis with a

Land Conservation Award for participating in Marion County's Transfer of Development Rights Program. Our keynote speaker, John Strassburger, former editor of *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine, talked about the crisis that horse farm owners face due to the loss of land for horseback riding and most importantly for growing good quality hay. We distributed copies of the "Protecting Horse Country"

brochure to our guests, which provided information about the tax and financial benefits of conservation easements (farmers can deduct up to 100% of their income and carry that deduction forward for up to 16 years) and other land conservation options.

Chris Machen, First Lady of the University of Florida, who is an avid horse enthusiast and former nurse, was our Guest of Honor. She introduced John and spoke

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Letter from the President



See this boulder I'm holding up? Pretend for a moment that this boulder grew to 1,000 times the size of the one you can see, and then started rolling. If I can't move out of its way, I would have to get a bigger stick, don't you think?

The pressure to develop Florida's working landscapes, to crush the lifestyles that are rooted in Florida's heritage, is like this granite crusher looming over me in the photo – only bigger. And Florida's 'salt of her earth' – the men and women and families that safeguard her rural charms and natural resources for the benefit of all – face weighty choices every day. The crushing forces of development are steam-rolling across Florida and laying waste to rural lifestyles. Families are dodging the rolling boulders and selling out even when it means that the bonds between them and their sacred family histories are broken forever.

Most Americans don't know the feeling of standing on ground hallowed by generations of family before them. This is what's being lost, along with many other common resources provided by rural lifestyles and homelands.

CTF is a small land trust formed to assist rural landowners protect their land-based heritage. The public benefits of conservation easements designed to protect the character and production of rural lands are increasingly well understood at a time when those benefits are being crushed and ground out under the pavement of progress at unprecedented rates.

CTF is growing fast, and our strength is in our partnerships and relationships. Our mission is clear – rural lands comprise the final frontier of conservation. Without them – we have hard urban environments and isolated natural areas that can't 'breathe' beyond their hard borders with surrounding developments; islands of biodiversity strangled by unplanned growth.

Rural lands give every form of life, human and non-human, room to breathe and stretch and find a place for roots of all kinds – aesthetic, economic, spiritual, familial, and as yet unnamed. They are human.

Join us! Let's build a bigger stick to hold off the crushing boulders of development together!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Sieving, Ph.D.
President of the Board

CTF has successfully protected approximately 5,000 acres of rural landscapes through publicly funded land conservation programs and 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.

*The Post is a publication of the Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.
a non-profit 501(c)(3) land trust.*

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(continued from page 1) Barr Hammock Purchased by County

Barr Hammock connects to Paynes Prairie State Preserve and also helps to create a wildlife corridor that connects the Ocala National Forest to Goethe State Forest, through southern Alachua and northern Marion counties. Landscape-level corridor connections are one of the most important methods to protect our remaining intact ecosystems and their wildlife populations.

The property has significant prehistoric archaeological sites and is named after J.J. Barr who was a citrus grower in the early 1900's.

Once the management plan is finalized, the property will be open to the public for passive recreational activities such as bird watching and hiking.

Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (EPD) staff submitted a grant application to Florida Communities Trust (FCT) to assist with the purchase of the property. CTF was the co-applicant for the grant to FCT which reimbursed the County 60% of the purchase price -- \$6.6 million. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) also contributed approximately \$290,000 in mitigation funds.

As a part of the grant application to FCT, EPD staff received 13 letters from support from such diverse groups and individuals as the County's State legislative delegation, Women for Wise Growth, the Town of Micanopy, the Bartram Trail Conference, Micanopy Historic Preservation Trust, Alachua Conservation Trust, and various non-profit environmental organizations.

As land values continue to escalate, it will become more difficult to acquire large parcels, but this purchase is an extraordinary and important piece of the puzzle in the effort to connect Paynes Prairie to other protected natural areas such as Price's Scrub and Goethe State Forest. Beyond the scientific rationale for its protection, it is also a stunningly beautiful landscape, offering a haunting feel for old Florida, free of modern distractions. ☺



Some of the people who worked on the acquisition of Barr Hammock. Ed Montgomery, Manager for Rayonier Timber Company, was instrumental during the four years of negotiations. Back Row: CTF Board members David Carr and Mike Campbell; Richard Hilsenbeck of The Nature Conservancy and Ed Montgomery. Front Row: Ramesh Buch, Environmental Program Supervisor, Alachua County Forever Land Conservation Program and Brian Block, Senior Field Representative for The Nature Conservancy. Photo by Busy Shires Byerly.

EVINSTON to CROSS CREEK *Paint Out*

It really was six days of magic. Approximately 50 of the finest landscape painters from Florida set up shop in the tiny towns of Evinston and Cross Creek and painted what they saw. Gary Borse, an award winning painter recalled the beauty of Evinston, Freddie Wood's farm and Kay Richardson's Farm.

"We painted in 'paradise'. Thanks to the Richardson's too. Their property is so incredible. You just had to be there to really appreciate what we were looking at. So much beauty. It was at times overwhelming and every artist who came to paint there had the same comments. My remarks to people who

were spectators, as well as artists, were: 'look where we are...look at what we are painting...'; it was just incredible.," he wrote in an e-mail after the event.

CTF and the Artists Alliance of North Florida (AANF) co-sponsored the Evinston to Cross Creek Paint Out from April 7 - 15, 2006 to help raise funds to save Florida's Oldest Working Post Office -- the Wood & Swink Old Store & Post Office. Proceeds will help purchase an historic preservation easement to protect the building forever and carry out upgrades required by the Postal Service to maintain the post office in its current location.

The artists produced an amazing 350 paintings and over half of those sold during the six day event out of the "Wet Room" in the Wood & Swink and during the two day Gala Event at the historic Thomas Center; generating \$84,000 in total sales. An additional \$16,000 raised in sponsorships to cover the expenses of producing the event brought the total to \$100,000 in revenue.

Twenty percent of the proceeds of each painting sold went to support CTF's Evinston Historic Preservation Project to restore and protect the Wood & Swink.

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Milo "Dick" and Sharon Sawallis receive a Land Conservation Award from CTF Secretary Terry L. Zinn. The Sawallis' were one of the first landowners to participate in Marion County's Transfer of Development Rights program. Sharon's love for "Old Florida" was one of the reasons why they decided to protect their land.

(continued from page 1, Fall Fundraiser and Awards Ceremony)

about the importance of protecting our working rural landscapes and horse farms.

The Sawallis' were both raised in Ft. Lauderdale and they remember the "Old Florida" of their home town; with sea oats, marshes, and several species of wading birds. But that is all gone now - except for two miles of public beach.

Dick is a farmer and Sharon is a retired pharmacist. They own a 93-acre farm on the edge of Orange Lake near the historic town of McIntosh where they grow hay and raise cross-bred Hereford/Angus cattle. The reason they decided to participate in Marion County's Transfer of Development Rights program is because they would like to see the farm and a part of "Old Florida" protected.

"We have other acreage which we farm. I wanted to protect the marshes, Cross Creek, and the wildlife. I love the wildlife," said Sharon. "We just lucked out when we bought this property and we said that we'd never build on it."



Chris Machen, First Lady of the University of Florida, was the Guest of Honor. She is an avid horse enthusiast and a former nurse. She is active in the Florida Folklife Council and the Western Folklife Center Board in Elko, Nevada as well as many other health related, fine art, and child advocacy organizations.

CTF Board Member David Pais was chair of the live auction, which had 26 pieces of original artwork by several of the region's finest artists. Storm Roberts, Radio Host from WKTK 98.5 Radio Station generously volunteered his time as the auctioneer for the live art auction. He was, of course, very entertaining and \$7,300 in sales were generated from the auction, including original art by Gary Borse, Linda Blondheim, Stacey Breheny, Peter Carolin, Sean M. Dowie, Diane Farris, Bruce Fraleigh, Donna Chapman Grasso, Ruth Harley, Harriet Huss, John Moran, Nancy Moskovitz, Annie Pais, Jacquelyn M. Schindehette, Susan Starling, William Tippit, Carlton Ward, Jr., and Kathleen Wobie .

CTF has adopted the Artists Alliance of North Florida's (AAONF) guidelines for art auctions, which gives the artist the opportunity to receive one-half of the retail value of the art as a result of the live auction. Artists can also donate up to 100% of the retail value of the piece to CTF which allows

(continued on page 7)

Artist Gary Borse has generously offered to donate 25% of the value of the piece to CTF on any of his works going to the State Capitol Exhibit in Tallahassee at the price he has listed in the exhibit - if a piece is purchased prior to Jan. 1, 2007.

The potential buyer should contact Gary for a private exhibit preview at his home gallery. Over 25 pieces will be shown in the Exhibit with prices ranging from \$900 to \$6000. The exhibit runs until April 6, 2007. garyborse.com or 352-591-0128



Storm Roberts, Radio Host for WKTK 98.5, volunteered to be the auctioneer for the live auction.



LIVING GREEN

For the third episode of the University of Florida's "Living Green" series, Mark Hostetler produced a 30-minute video on conservation easements. The program aired on a statewide basis on WUFT-TV and other public television stations this summer.

The program features Freddie Wood, one of the landowners that CTF has been working with to protect his 173-acre farm. CTF Board Member David Carr and CTF Executive Director Busy Shires Byerly are also interviewed. Kevin McGorty of the Tall Timbers Land Conservancy and landowners that TTLC has worked with to protect a farm and a working forest are also featured.

Freddie Wood is a fifth generation farmer and he talks about his love for his family's land, which has been in the Ewins-Wood family since 1882.

"Maybe it is wrong to love land, but I have always have loved our farm; so peaceful to get away from the rest of the world and go talk to the cattle and look at the wildlife.

Most any time on the property, there are eagles, sandhill cranes, or hawks. Many other species can also be seen. I would so much love to see our little part of the world saved from the bulldozers and the concrete and left as is for my children and grand children to walk on and love it as I have," Freddie wrote after the video was filmed.

You can purchase DVDs from CTF or from UF.

Please send checks made out to UF to: Mark Hostetler, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, P.O. Box 110430, Gainesville, FL 32611-0430 Or you can view it online at:

<http://real.video.ufl.edu/~lgreen/easements.aspx>

Mark Hostetler, Ph.D. - Exec. Producer/Host/Writer

Mark is an associate professor working with state and county agencies to develop and implement community-wide sustainable design and management strategies. He is author of the award-winning book *That Gunk on Your Car: A Unique Guide to North American Insects*. ☺

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Tusawilla Pony Club

Music

Leslie Green & Kerry Blech

Door Prizes

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(continued from page 3) *Evinston to Cross Creek Paint Out*

CTF and AAONF presented Wilma Sue Brown Wood with a Special Appreciation Award at the Gala Event for her dedication and loving support to protect the Wood and Swink. She has served as Postmaster for 28 years.

The Wood & Swink has been in the Wood family since 1906 and a member of the Wood family has served as the postmaster since 1913. However, Wilma Sue plans to retire soon, and the fate of the post office is a concern for the entire community.

Due to a lack of modern conveniences - the woodstove and ceiling fans are authentic, but not the working conditions most people desire – there's concern that the next postmaster would not be able to work under those conditions and that the Postal Service would retire Zip Code 32633 or move the Post Office to another building. CTF is working to raise an additional \$180,000 to purchase an historic preservation easement and upgrade the store with central heat and air and a bathroom.

The collaborative partnership between AAONF and CTF brought awareness about efforts to protect the areas natural resources and AAONF introduced the "Heart of Florida" loop trail, which will create a vehicle to support asset based tourism and to build a creative economy by creating an inclusive, community-based structure which recognizes that maintaining quality of life, authenticity, and preservation of our natural resources are



Annie Pais and Stewart J. Thomas, Co-Directors of the Artists Alliance of North Florida present CTF President Katie Sieving and CTF Executive Director Busy Shires Byerly with a check for \$16,000 to help protect and restore the Wood & Swink Old Store and Post Office, Florida's Oldest Working Post Office. CTF received 20% of the proceeds from the sale of the paintings at the Evinston to Cross Creek Paint Out. (L to R: Katie, Annie, Busy, and Stewart) Photo by David Pais.

critical elements to building a sustainable future.

"Directly involving the spectator with the painting process and offering the public an authentic immersion experience in our beautiful rural landscape was key to the success of this event," said Annie Pais.

"Everyone readily connected the dots between conservation and local economic development based upon our "sense of place." In an era of unprecedented growth and change in Florida, we now know that our natural resources are worth much more to us preserved than they ever would be developed. Understanding this economic shift is essential to our region's quality of life," she added.

Sincere appreciation to Freddie and Wilma Sue Wood and Kay Richardson for warmly embracing the event; to The AEC Trust for your support and to our sponsors Mickey Singer and the Dharma Foundation, Don Daley, Shands, the City of

Gainesville, Alachua Co. Board of Co. Commissioners, Progress Energy, Renaissance Printing, Beechler Waters, and the FL Humanities Council.

Thank you to all the people who contributed to the event or project : Peter and Lisa Gearen, Ginny Cauthen, Pedro Patterson, Alan McKellips of Hunter McKellips Architects, Katy Graves, Carol Gordon, Vi Nguyen, Shelley Frazier Mickle, Donna Green-Townsend, John Sikorski, Richard Drake, Jeff Klinkenberg, Diana Tonneson, Claudio O'Brien, Ilene Silverman Budd, Jean M. Tyson, Leonardo's 706, Dragonfly Sushi, Blue Highway, Beth Davies, Warrington's Fine Interiors, Bagel Bakery, Gator Dominos, Shirley Payton, Cross Creek Homemakers Organization, Craig Carter Golf Carts, Greengate Farms Carriage Rides, Cherie Beers of the Marion Cultural Alliance, Kiara Winans, Alachua Co. Bicycle Alliance, Bike Florida, Florida Bicycle Association, FROGHAT, and GCC. ☺



John Strassburger, former editor of "The Chronicle of the Horse." Stacy Lloyd and Gerry Webb founded The Chronicle in Middleburg, Virginia, in September 1937.

(continued from page 4, Fall Fundraiser and Awards Ceremony)

the artist to deduct their value (50%) from their income taxes. Before the guidelines were developed, artists could only deduct the value of the art materials

such as paints, frames, or a canvas. For more information about the AAONF guidelines go to: www.FloridasEden.org.

A focal point of the art on display was horse artist William Schaaaf's bronze horse sculpture "Relic" with a custom wooden base by George Ferreira. The piece was not part of the live art auction, but for sale at the gallery listed price.

John Strassburger was the editor of *The Chronicle of the Horse* for 20 years when he retired in May 2006, so that he and his wife, Heather Bailey, could move to Healdsburg, Calif., to start Phoenix Enterprises, LLC.

He is currently editing the five-book *Chronicle Comment Series*, collections of the best columns by himself, George Morris, Denny Emerson, Victor Hugo-Vidal and Anne Gribbons published in *The Chronicle*.

John is a graduate A Pony Clubber with experience in a variety of horse sports. He is currently competing at the intermediate level; he has foxhunted for more than 35 years with more than two dozen packs in North America and England; he rode point-to-point and NSA-sanctioned races over hurdles, timber and on the flat for several years; and he has logged more than 350 miles in endurance competition.

John is currently a member of the Board of the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource. He served three years as President of the Land Trust of Virginia, serving on its Board of Directors for seven years. In the 1980s, he served on the Board of the U.S. Pony Clubs.

Chris Machen is a former nurse and an avid horse enthusiast. She became the first lady of the University of Florida when her husband, Bernie, became UF's 11th president in January 2004. She was born in St. Louis and attended St. Louis Univ. and graduated with a degree in nursing. She met Bernie at St. Louis Univ.

She taught nursing at the University of Iowa, followed by working in the neonatal intensive care unit at the Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Univ. Hospital. When her husband became provost at the Univ. of Michigan in 1996, Mrs. Machen left nursing to spend more time with their daughter and two sons.

Mrs. Machen is active in health-related community activities, such as Healthy Gator 2010. She is a member of UF's Sustainability Comm. and hon. chair of the Zero Waste Task Force, both part of UF's efforts to reduce its impact on the environment. Thanks to Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, Project Manager for the Alachua Conservation Trust for taking photos. &D



L Photo: Artist Robin Popp with Cynthia Lawrence & Susan Young at the Gala Sale. R Photo: Artist with spectators.

"The spectators easily embraced the importance of conserving our natural and cultural resources. They now have a personal, greater awareness of how the health of our rural working communities and maintaining our natural wildness and mystery is directly connected to their own quality of life," Annie Pais, Co-Director, Artists Alliance of North Florida.

NEW TAX INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Congress recently passed a law to enhance the tax benefits of protecting your land by donating a voluntary conservation easement.

If you own land with important natural, historic, or agricultural resources, donating a voluntary conservation easement can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love and protect America's natural heritage, while maintaining your private property rights and possibly realizing significant federal tax benefits.

These new incentives make it easier for average Americans, including working family farmers and ranchers, to donate an easement. The legislation allows:

- **A landowner to deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income;**
- **Qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income; and**
- **Donors to take deductions and carry forward their contribution over as many as 16 years.**

These changes allow many modest income landowners to deduct much more than they could under the old rules, bringing increased fairness to the tax code.

Income Tax Deduction Example

If a property has an appraised value of \$2 million and the easement reduces the market value to \$1 million, the value of the easement gift is \$1 million. If the easement meets IRS requirements, the landowner would be eligible for a federal income tax deduction.

It allows a landowner earning \$50,000 a year who donates a \$1 million conservation easement to deduct \$25,000 for the year of the donation and \$25,000 for an additional 15 years. That's \$400,000 in deductions. If the landowner qualifies as a farmer or rancher, he or she could take a maximum of \$800,000 in deductions for their \$1 million gift. ☺

Russ Shay and Christen Linke Young, "Exchange," Land Trust Alliance, Fall 2006, pgs. 19 – 22.

	No Deductions	With a \$500,000 Easement Donation taken up to 50% of AGI:	With a \$500,000 Easement Donation taken up to 100% of AGI:
Adjusted Gross Income	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Itemized Deductions	\$0	\$25,000	\$50,000
Net Federal Tax	\$4,210	\$2,005	\$0
Income Tax Savings	\$0	\$35,280 (\$2,205 x 16)	\$42,100 (\$4,210 x 10)
Adjusted Gross Income	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Itemized Deductions	\$0	\$99,010	\$199,010
Net Federal Tax	\$40,672	\$16,713	\$0
Income Tax Savings	\$0	\$119,795 (\$23,959 x 5)	\$105,303 (\$81,344 plus

Stephen J. Small, Esq., Law Office of Stephen J. Small, www.stevesmall.com/art/articles/061918.html, website accessed 12/23/06

FLORIDA 2060 REPORT

With close to 18 million residents in 2005, Florida already is overwhelmed with the ramifications of rampant sprawl, rapidly vanishing natural areas, and overcrowded roads. What will Florida look like in 2060, when its population is projected to reach almost 36 million?

To help address this question, 1000 Friends of Florida contracted with UF's GeoPlan Center to develop a "population distribution scenario" for the state.

Under the leadership of Paul D. Zwick and Margaret (Peggy) H. Carr, the University of Florida's GeoPlan Center used geographic information systems (GIS) to develop a series of graphics depicting what land use might look like in Florida in 2020, 2040, and 2060, assuming current development patterns continue. The resulting study includes the conclusions that by 2060:

- Roughly 7 million acres of additional land will be converted from rural to urban uses in Florida, including 2.7 million acres of existing agricultural lands and 2.7 million acres of native habitat.
- More than two million acres within one mile of existing conservation lands will be converted to an urban use, which will complicate their management and isolate some conservation lands in a sea of urbanization.
- The counties projected to undergo the most dramatic transformation, in rank order, will be Glades, Hardee, DeSoto, Hendry, Osceola, Baker, Flagler and Santa Rosa.

What does this mean for different parts of the state?

Only the Panhandle and Big Bend are projected to retain significant areas of open space, and this is only if current growth and development patterns continue.

Building on the findings of Florida 2060, the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development at the Georgia Institute of Technology prepared a series of recommendations for state leadership and citizens in Florida.

The report notes that the governor, state legislators, and citizens can change the course of development in Florida through deliberate growth leadership. Overarching recommendations include:

- Expand Florida Forever.
- Adopt New Policy on Conversion of Rural Lands to Urban Use.
- Create a 100 Year Legacy Plan.
- Identify Leaders and Galvanize Support.

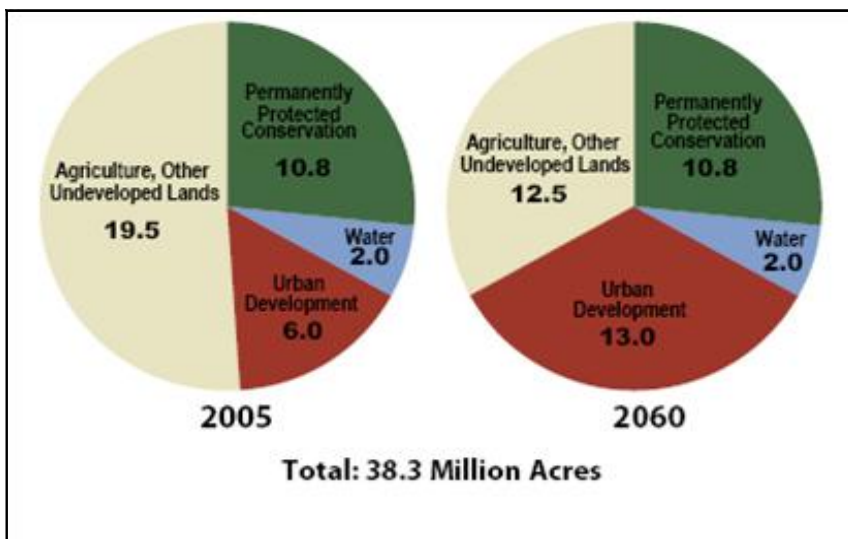
Next Steps

To move these studies forward, 1000 Friends is undertaking a series of activities in 2007. It is convening state leaders to begin the task of developing new policy on the conversion of rural lands to urban use.

The University of Pennsylvania is creating an "Alternative Future" which will identify what Florida will look like in 2060 if the projected growth and development patterns follow the principles of smart growth.

Supporters of this study include the St. Joe Company, Florida's largest builder, and A. Duda and Sons, one of the state's biggest agribusinesses.

For more info: www.1000friendsofflorida.org &



2005 Graph:

- Green = Permanently Protected 10.8%
- Blue = Water 2%
- Red = Urban Development 6%
- Beige = Ag & other undeveloped lands 19.5%

2060 Graph:

- Green = Permanently Protected 10.8%
- Blue = Water 2%
- Red = Urban Development 13%
- Beige = Ag & other undeveloped lands 12.5%

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Thank you TO ALL THE ARTISTS THAT
PARTICIPATED IN THE LIVE AUCTION

Linda Blondheim

Gary Borse

Stacey Breheny

Peter Carolin

Sean M. Dowie

Diane Farris

Bruce Fraleigh

Donna Chapman Grasso

Ruth Harley

Harriett Huss

John Moran

Nancy Moskovitz

Annie Pais

Jacquelyn M. Schindehette

Susan Starling

Carlton Ward, Jr.

Kathleen Wobie

ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

© Kerry Heubeck



Farmlands Program Director Ellen Huntley organized an estate planning workshop in Marion County on April 4th at the Golden Hills Golf & Turf Club as part of the “Protecting Horse Country” project. Linda

Solash-Reed, estate planning lawyer with more than 10 years of conservation legal experience answered questions about estate taxes and the economic benefits of conservation easements. Marion County Planner Dwight

Ganoe discussed the Marion County’s Farmland Preservation/Transfer of Development Rights Program.

The workshop was well attended and included a diverse group of people who represented the Thoroughbred industry, small and large horse farm owners, realtors and appraisers.

Additional outreach to Marion County included mailing the “Protecting Horse Country” brochure to horse farm owners in Marion County, attending meetings of stakeholders, and meeting with individual landowners.

Quail Roost Foundation, founded in honor of Elmer and Harriet Heubeck, and Progress Energy provided support for the workshop and the outreach efforts. ❧

“HORSE COUNTRY” BROCHURE RECEIVES ENDORSEMENTS

The brochure has received four major endorsements from the American Farmland Trust, the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, the United States Equestrian Federation, and the United States Eventing Association.

It’s a 12-page full color document that explains the advantages and disadvantages and the economic and tax benefits of conservation easements as well as other land conservation options. Information about the USDA Farm Bill programs and the local and state land conservation programs is also included.

Photography is by former horse photographer, Kerry Heubeck, Sean M. Dowie and Carlton Ward, Jr.

The entire brochure was reprinted in the April 2006 edition of the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders’ and Owners’ Association magazine, *The Florida Horse*.

The Ocala-Star Banner has published an online version since June of 2006 on their website. You can view the brochure at www.ocala.com. Click on the “Community” page, then click on the “Equine” page. ❧

*Memorial Donations made in the name of
Anita Weinstein
Madeline McClure*



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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.

KANAPAHA SPRING GARDEN and MARION COUNTY GARDEN FESTIVALS:
 CTF will have a booth at the 2007 events. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us.

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: _____

