



# THE POST

*PROTECTING OUR RURAL LANDS*

SEPTEMBER 2010

## EVINSTON PAINT OUT



*Former Governor Buddy MacKay was the Keynote Speaker at the Evinston Paint Out GALA held on April 24th at the University of Florida President's House. Photo courtesy of The Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government at the Univ. of Central FL.*

*Linda Blondheim paints a cluster of palm trees at the Richardson Brothers' Farm on the edge of Orange Lake at the Evinston Paint Out in April. Photo by Ashley Wood.*

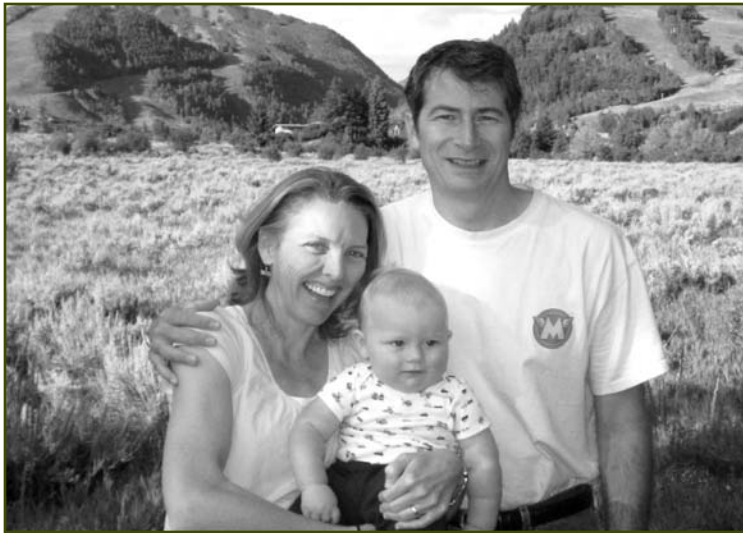
For a week in Evinston, thirty of the best landscape artists created magic during the Evinston Paint Out from April 17- 24, 2010. From the abstract art of Gary Borse and Kathleen Wobie to the realistic paintings of Charles Dickinson, Gene Rantz, Christophe Cardot, Cathy Berse, and Regina Stahl-Briskey their paintings captured the essence of the picturesque landscapes and historic homes.

The Paint Out culminated in a GALA event on Saturday evening at the University of Florida President's House. Former Lt. Governor and Governor of Florida Buddy MacKay, was the keynote speaker. It was an honor to have Gov. MacKay speak at the event. He spoke about the land conservation victories during his tenure and humorously described some of the battles for the Cross Florida Barge Canal, which was championed by CTF Founder David Carr's mother Marjorie Harris Carr.

David's wife, Peggy Carr introduced Gov. MacKay and she highlighted his staunch support to deauthorize the Barge Canal. "He showed leadership and commitment in pitched battles about the Barge Canal and the lands acquired for its construction. Without his timely election, efforts and influence, it is entirely possible Florida would have been girdled by a ditch just south of Ocala."

Gov. MacKay also supported the formation of the Florida Greenways System and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) located within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. One of CTF's core programs is supporting the implementation of the Florida Greenways System. CTF and OGT co-submitted the Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Greenway to the Florida Forever program in 2004 and have been working together since to protect the Greenway.

*(Continued on page 8.)*



*CTF Land Conservation Director Ellen Huntley Dube', Matt Dube' and Andrew William Dube'. Photo courtesy of Ellen.*

Ellen and her husband Matt had their first child last November.  
Welcome to the world Andrew!

## Welcome, new Board Member

**Lisa Molitor Gearen**, *Advisory Board*

Lisa is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner at the ACORN Clinic in Brooker, Florida. She is a lifelong resident of Florida, and active in various community efforts, especially those related to land conservation. She is a Friend of Kanapaha Prairie.

## Welcome, new Staff Member

**Kristianna J. Lindgren**, *Land Conservation Assistant Director*

Kristianna is a law student at the University of Florida, Levin College of Law. She will graduate in August 2010 with a Juris Doctor and a Certificate in Land-Use and Environmental Law. She is also seeking a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Ecology. Kristianna was also a legal extern at the Alachua County Forever Program.

## Congratulations

**Will and Joni Ellis**, *Advisory Board Member and former Board Member*  
Congratulations on becoming a Certified Forest Steward!

## In Loving Memory

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*Dr. Harris served on CTF's Advisory Board and helped shape CTF's Greenways Program and many of our wildlife corridor projects.*

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# FALL ROUND UP! 2009

The history of cattle ranching in Florida was the theme for CTF's Fall Round UP! and Awards Celebration held on November 8th, 2009 at the Whitehurst Horse Prairie Ranch near Archer.

The event helped CTF raise nearly \$20,000 for our land conservation and outreach programs!

Robert L. Stone, Florida Folklife Coordinator for the Florida Department of State was the keynote speaker. He brought an impressive slide show of the large, multi-media exhibit that documents the cattle ranching culture in the state.

The exhibit is called: Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Tradition. The exhibit opened at the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee in 2009 and will travel to museums all around Florida for several years - it even made it to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada in January 2010.

Bob said that organized ranching began with the founding of St. Augustine in 1565, when cattle from Spain and Cuba formed the basis of herds that fed the garrison and surrounding communities. By 1700, Florida contained approximately 34 ranches and 20,000 head of cattle

In January 2008, there were over 1.7 million cattle in Florida, including nearly 1 million head of beef cows. Florida was 12th in the nation for beef cattle and 18th for total cattle and calves. Industry officials assess the an-

nual economic impact of beef cattle ranches at nearly \$4 billion.

CTF honored Dr. Raymond T. Webber who conserved 54 acres of his 100 acre Cedar Lakes Ranch and Nature Preserve located near Williston with a conservation ease-

*"The exhibition tells the story of one of Florida's oldest and most important cultural activities," said Bob Stone.*

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

A portion of Dr. Webber's property has been developed into a magnificent botanical garden with waterfalls, gazebos, and trails down into a lime rock quarry, which is now a lake. The "Cedar Lakes Ranch and Nature Reserve" was so named because of the numerous native Red Cedars on the property.

The landscaping of one lake is cultivated with nearly 400 diverse species of plants. The ranch was also featured by Ocala Home Magazine (2008), and Home and Gardens TV in their 2006 Offbeat America series.

*(Continued on page 4.)*

*Thank you for your support!*



*Dr. Raymond T. Webber receives a Land Conservation Award for protecting 54 acres of his Cedar Lakes Ranch and Nature Preserve from CTF President (2009) Terry Zinn, at the Fall Round UP! & Awards Ceremony on November 8, 2009 at the Whitehurst Horse Prairie Ranch. Photo by Matt Dube.'*

*Dr. Peter Gearen, Frazier Springfield, Emory Springfield, and Dr. Melvin Dace at the Fall Round UP! Photo by Matt Dube.'*

# FALL ROUND UP!

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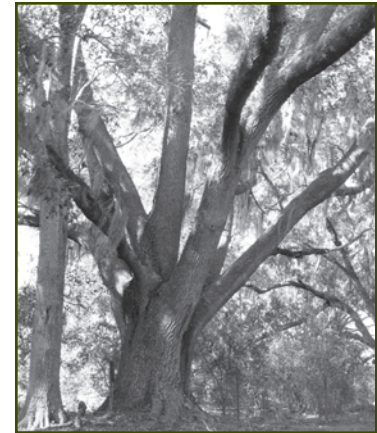
*(Continued from page 3.)*

Dr. Webber said that his "conservation easement donation was based on my concern for preserving nature. I have always been in love with nature and in my first year of college, I majored in forestry."

Dr. Webber quoted the Florida 2060 Report in his acceptance speech stating, "(The report) gave a grim outlook for Florida wildlife. By 2060, many species will be depleted with the loss of 7 million more acres to suburbs and cities. My little patch of land is just the start of what is needed to preserve some of the outdoors from the over population of Florida."

CTF was only able to accept 54 acres of Dr. Webber's 100 acre nature preserve due to the botanical garden, but Dr. Webber is working to preserve the remaining acreage. He is also part owner of Devil's Den, an underground spring that is popular among scuba divers. The easement will help buffer Devil's Den.

*Right photo: Martha Formella and her father Fred Hunter. CTF has been working with the Hunter family to protect their property in Lake County, which Mr. Hunter has restored to provide habitat for scrub jays and gopher tortoises.*



*One of Dr. Raymond Webber's beloved oak trees. Photo by Ellen Huntley Dube.*

*"My conservation easement donation was based on my concern for preserving nature," said Dr. Webber.*



*Top L. photo: Busy Shires Byerly, CTF Executive Dir.; Bill Whitehurst, V. E. Whitehurst & Sons President; Terry L. Zinn, CTF President (2009). Top R. photo: Kathleen S. Williams, CTF Treasurer; Grace Wagner and Dr. Tom Carr. Thank you to Leo Nico and Nancy Lasseter for playing music at the Fall Round UP! You were awesome! All photos by Matt Dube.*



# SEMINAR SERIES

*Appraiser Albert "Leon" Strickland, who spoke at the May 11, 2010 seminar in Hillsborough County about the process of appraising conservation easements is pictured here at the February 18, 2009 seminar held at the O'Neill's BOPODO Farm. Photo courtesy of CTF.*



The Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc (CTF), the University of Florida IFAS Extension, and Florida's Forest Stewardship Program hosted two interactive seminars titled "Planning for the Future of Your Family's Land" in 2010 for landowners to learn practical steps for passing their land from one generation to the next.

The May 11, 2010 seminar was held at the Trinkle Center and was also sponsored by Hillsborough Co. Extension, the Tampa Bay Watershed Forest Working Group, and the Tampa Bay Conservancy.

The seminar began with a presentation by Michael Gutter, PhD, who is an Assistant Professor and Family Financial Management Specialist at UF. He discussed the importance of estate planning for farm families and gave several bad examples to illustrate what can happen when a family fails to properly plan for the future of their farm.

In one example, the farm had to be sold in order to pay the estate taxes. In another example, one sibling who wanted to continue to manage

the farm couldn't afford to buy out the other two siblings, so the farm had to be sold.

*"When should I start planning? NOW!" said Dr. Gutter.*

Dr. Gutter also gave several good examples of how to plan for the future of a family farm. In one example, the family purchased life insurance in order to equal out the inheritance for the siblings.

One sibling received the farm and the other siblings received the proceeds from the life insurance and since the life insurance was not part of the estate, the proceeds transferred to the siblings tax free! A win-win for the siblings and the family!

Attorney John Feldman also spoke at the May 11 seminar. Mr. Feldman explained the current estate tax and income tax law for donated conservation easements for family farms and ranches.

*(Continued on page 6.)*



*Dr. Michael Gutter at the May 11 seminar. Dr. Gutter discussed the importance of estate and succession planning for farm and ranch families. Photo courtesy Michael Munroe.*

## THANK YOU AUCTION DONORS!

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### **Artists and Individuals:**

Kim Alderson, Kate Barnes, Gary Borse, Stacey Breheny, Peter Carolin, Donna Chapman Grasso, Paul & Polly Doughty, Ed Geers, Mark & Janice Gold, Steven Howell, John Moran, Nancy Moskovitz, Trish Riley, Bubba Scales, William Schaaf, Sean & Sharon Sexton, Susan Trammell, Ana Varela, Kathleen Wobie, Lois Wood, Freddie & Wilma Sue Wood, Terry L. Zinn, Esq.

# SEMINAR SERIES

*(Continued from page 5.)*



*Zac Ryan, an appraiser spoke about the process of appraising conservation easements at the June 10th seminar in Lake City. Attorney John Feldman spoke about the legal aspects of conservation easements at the May 11th seminar in Plant City. Photo by Busy Shires Byerly.*

Mr. Feldman also gave several examples of how to structure estate and succession plans and he gave audience members a thorough explanation of what can happen to a family if the estate taxes on family land are not sufficiently addressed.

Also at the May 11 seminar, George Wheeler, a Senior Appraiser at the Department of Revenue in Tallahassee, spoke about the new constitutional amendment that was passed by the Florida voters in November 2008 that created two property tax exemption classes for properties with a perpetual conservation easement.

Mr. Wheeler explained that for properties over 40 acres or more and 100% of the income from the agricultural operations is returned to

the easement for conservation management of the property, then there is a 100% (full) exemption from property taxes. Properties that are used exclusively for conservation also receive a full exemption from property taxes.

For properties that generate income from agricultural activities, there is a 50% exemption of the current green belt assessment. Home sites, barns, and agricultural buildings are assessed separately and do not receive the exemption from property taxes.

Special thanks to Robert J. Northrup and Christopher Demers for helping to organize the seminar and to Al Williamson and Michael Munroe for doing a great job on the video!

*(Continued on page 9.)*

*The Forest Stewardship Program secured Society of American Forester CFE's (2.5) credits for foresters. For more information about how to obtain CFEs, contact Robert Northrup, Extension Forester with the University of Florida/Hillsborough Co. Extension at northrop@ufl.edu or 813-744-5519 x 106.*

*The May 11 seminar was professionally videotaped by IFAS. The videos are available online (for free) or by purchasing a DVD from CTF for \$10. The agenda, handouts, and power points are also included. Links to the online videos are at [www.conserveflorida.org](http://www.conserveflorida.org) or at <http://tampabayforest.org/WorkshopPlanning.htm>.*



## FARMER MENTORING PROGRAM

As part of CTF's Farmlands Program, CTF is working with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Department (UF/IFAS) on a new project to mentor beginning farmers and ranchers. In 2009, CTF and UF/IFAS were awarded a \$600,000 grant from the USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher program.

Dr. Rose Koenig of the Agronomy Department at UF/IFAS and CTF were awarded the three year grant to help increase the number of small family farmers in the state by addressing some of the barriers faced by beginning farmers and ranchers. The award is one of 29 made across the country to address the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers and to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of U.S. agriculture.

The team at the University of Florida will address the challenges that beginning farmers face such as inadequate access to information related to crop production, marketing, government programs and regulations impacting them, as well as inadequate access to land by developing new curricula for use in formal university classes and informal extension workshops. The focus will be on hands-on training of students who want to be farmers and ranchers in the core concepts of sustainable vegetable production and marketing.

Dr. Koenig believes the grant will "enhance the plant science courses at UF. It will allow us to improve our current curriculum and to train students in more innovative ways."

Even after adequate training in farming and marketing practices, beginning farmers and ranchers must also have access to farmland.

*(Continued on page 9.)*

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*Thank you for your support!*

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Ray Woody



## THANK YOU EVINSTON PAINT OUT SPONSORS!



Freddie and Wilma Sue Wood, Ashley Wood, Frederick and Lilianna Wood, III, Kay Richardson, Richardson Brothers Farm, Richard Knellinger, Ed & Sheila Crapo, Cornelia Holbrook at Sweetwater Branch Inn, Chuck Sapp at Paddiwhack Gallery, David & Peggy Carr, Peter & Lisa Gearen

Hallie and Ted McFetridge, Dominos Pizza, Alachua County Visitors and Convention Bureau, WCJB TV 20, Larry D. Harris, PhD, Pais Realty and Pais Landscapes, Martha A. Johnston, P.A., Bruce & Paula M. DeLaney, Central Florida Office Plus, Pearl Country Store & BBQ, Northwest Seafood, Inc., Fresh Market, Alachua County Waste Management, Sweet Water Organic Coffee, A-1 Sewing Machine & Vacuum Center, Inc., Staley's Antiques, Blue Highway Pizzeria, Earth Pets Organic Feed & Garden, Visit Florida, Southern States, The Law Office of Richard M. Knellinger, P.A., McIntosh Country Store, Ice House Studios & Furniture Gallery, Thornebrook Gallery, and Mike's Fish Camp



*Freddie Wood, owner of the Wood & Swink, his brother Ashley Wood, and his son Frederick Wood III, told colorful stories and shared the history of Evinston to participants while on the hayrides through the countryside. Photo by Ashley Wood.*

## Evinston Paint Out

*(Continued from page 1.)*

The week long event was filled with activities for the young and the young at heart. There was face painting, a children's art area, and hayrides through the countryside. Freddie Wood, owner of the Wood & Swink, his brother Ashley Wood, and his son Fred Wood III, told colorful stories and shared the history of the area to participants on the hayride.

The artists generously donated a portion of the proceeds from the art sales to the restoration and preservation project to protect the Wood & Swink Old Store & Post Office. During the week over \$40,000 worth of art was sold. Thank you for your support!

In 2006 CTF joined forces with the Wood family in to host the first Evinston Paintout. It was a big success and CTF raised approximately \$19,000 for the preservation project, but not enough for completion of the project. With the proceeds from the 2010 Paint Out and the recent award of a USDA Farm & Ranchland Protection Program grant, CTF has reached our goal of raising \$55,000 for the restoration project.

CTF plans to start working on the restoration activities soon. The architectural plans have been donated by Hunter McKellips Associates. The restoration includes installing central heat/AC, a handicap ramp, a restroom, and restoring the floors and windows.

In order to protect the building from being demolished by potential future owners, CTF is working with the Wood Family to place a historic preservation easement on the building and the one acre lot so that it will be protected in perpetuity. The easement will preserve the building and the property as they are forever.

Our very special thanks to Leslie Long, Evinston Paint Out Event Director who did a tremendous job organizing the event! Special thanks to Freddie and Sue Wood, Frederick and Lilianna Wood, Ashley Wood, Rick Knellinger, Kay Richardson, Ed & Sheila Crapo and Cornelia Holbrook for their endless support and contributions that made this event possible.

Thank you to our hard working volunteers Linda Blondheim, Melissa Leslie, Corinne & Rick Keller, Susan Choccola, Kathleen S. Williams, Flora MacColl, Corey Souza, Christine Housel, Trey Greer, Joni Ellis, Peggy Carr, June Mac Auley, and Ashley Phillips.

Thank you to volunteers who provided housing for the artists: Alachua Conservation Trust, Sue Block, David & Peggy Carr, Al & Nancy Collins, Judy Etzler, Beverly Fitzgerald, Emily Humphreys-Beher, Rick Knellinger, Kathleen Pagan, Tim & Leslie Roberson, and Frederick & Lilianna Wood.



# SEMINAR SERIES

(Continued from page 6.)

CTF's second seminar of the year was held on June 10, 2010 at the Cooperative Extension Office in Lake City. The seminar targeted 6 counties: Suwannee, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Baker, and Clay Counties. The Florida Forest Stewardship program, the University of Florida Institute of Agricultural Sciences Department, and the Columbia County Extension Office served as co-hosts and sponsors for the seminar. About 40 people attended the seminar.

The format of the June 10th workshop was the same as the May 11th workshop. Dr. Michael Gutter spoke about the importance of estate planning and why landowners need to have succession plans for their farm or ranch. CTF Executive Director Busy Shires Byerly described how a land trust works with landowners to help them protect their property and CTF Land Conservation Director Ellen Huntley Dube' spoke about the easement process.

Jacksonville attorney Frank J. Yong made a presentation on the income, estate and property tax benefits of conservation easements. Participants were asked to follow Mr. Yong through an example of a family who had protected their land with an easement to help illustrate the process for landowners.

Appraiser Zac Ryan talked about the process of appraising easements and George Wheeler, a Senior Appraiser at the Department of Revenue in Tallahassee, gave a presentation on the new property tax exemption for landowners with a perpetual conservation easement. Jib Davidson, of Columbia Timber Company also spoke about the timber industry. Columbia Timber Company specializes in forest finance, taxation, investment analysis, and real estate transactions. There was also a presentation about the Florida Forestry Association.

Thank you to Robert J. Northrup, Derek Barber, Kristianna Lindgren, and Christopher Demers for helping organize the seminars.

Thank you to our major supporters of the seminars and CTF's Farmlands Program: Sally Venerable, the Lydia B. Stokes Foundation, Quail Roost Foundation, and the Educational Foundation of America.



Attorney Frank J. Yong was a speaker at the June 11, 2010 seminar in Lake City. Frank also owns a cattle ranch in northeast Florida. Photo courtesy of Frank Yong.



(Continued from page 6.)

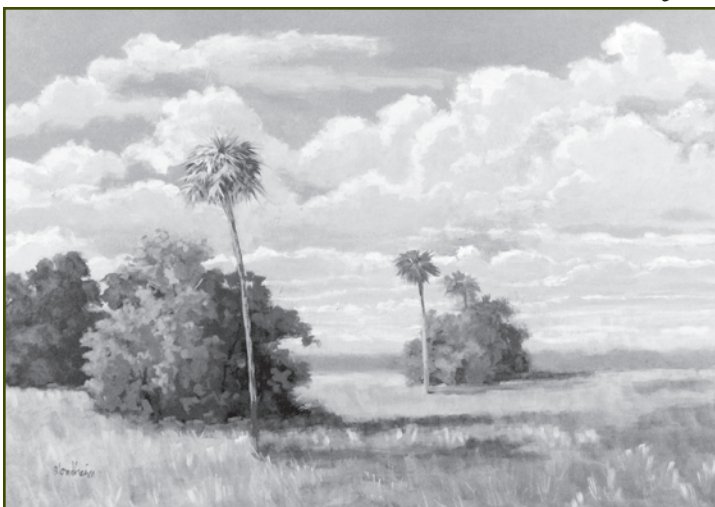
This is a growing problem because as land prices and urban development pressure increase and current farmers retire, the amount of available farmland decreases. Very little farm and ranch land in Florida is permanently protected from development, and landowners aren't aware of the income and tax benefits associated with conservation options like conservation easements.

CTF will provide information about farm succession methods highlighting estate planning and the process of conservation easements through educational workshops. CTF will also develop a website connecting beginning farmers and ranchers to available land resources throughout the state that meet their needs.

Time is of the essence as the average age of landowners in Florida is 58. Some landowners can be harshly affected by the federal estate tax and may be forced to sell their land to pay the taxes.

"This grant builds an essential link in keeping land in farm production. It will help farmers pass land successfully from one generation to the next," said Ellen Huntley Dubé, CTF Land Conservation Director.

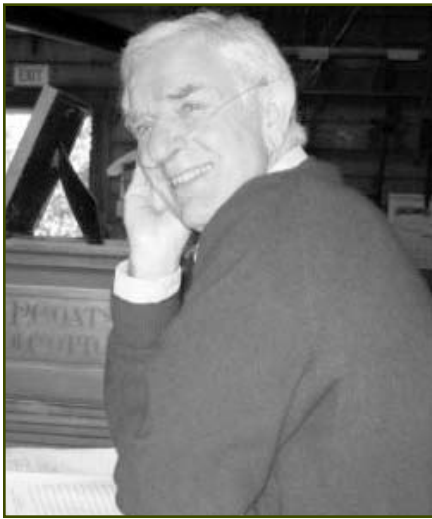
**Thank you** to the Evinston Paint Out artists who generously donated 40% of the proceeds from the art sales to the **Wood & Swink Restoration and Preservation Project.**



Steve Andrews, Kate Barnes, Trish Beckham, Cathy Berse, Linda Blondheim, Gary Borse, Thom Buttner, Christophe Cardot, Peter Carolin, Grayson Conroy, Katie Dobson Cundiff, Charles Dickinson, Cynthia Edmonds, Elizabeth Ferber, Scott Hiestand, Brenda Hofreiter, Bruce Marsh, Nancy Moskovitz, Barbara Perrotti, Robin Popp, Morgan Samuel Price, Gene Rantz, Val Sandell, Jacquelyn M. Schindehette, Robert Simone, Regina Stahl-Briskey, Mary Jane Volkmann, Julie Warmke-Robitaille, Kathleen Wobie, and John Yeackle.

"North Florida Sky" by Linda Blondheim was the cover art for the Evinston Paint Out catalog. Courtesy of Linda Blondheim.

## IN LOVING MEMORY LAWRENCE DEAN HARRIS



*"Larry was a passionate intellectual and book reader. He loved nothing better than being outdoors with colleagues, friends, students, and family, talking about natural history."*

Memorial Donations  
made in memory of Dr. Harris  
David & Peggy Carr  
Mimi Carr  
Michael & Elsbeth Gordon  
E.L. Roy Hunt  
Kathleen S. Williams

September 20, 1942 - August 15, 2010

*Dr. Larry Harris served on CTF's Advisory Board and helped shape CTF's Greenways Program and many of our wildlife corridor projects.*

In 1962, Dr. Harris joined the Peace Corps and served 2 tours in Tanzania, where he helped establish one of the country's first game parks at Mkomoti. He received his BS in Wildlife Biology at Iowa State University in 1964. He completed his MS in 1968 and PhD in 1970 at Michigan State Univ.

In 1972, Dr. Harris joined the faculty at the University of Florida, where he taught for 27 years. He was known as a highly entertaining, sometimes controversial, but always inspiring educator.

At a national level, in 1984, Dr. Harris stimulated new conservation thinking and practice with pioneering application of island biogeographic theory in his book, "The Fragmented Forest." He presented an alternative to timber harvesting practices that often isolated forest stands, and was awarded the Wildlife Society's 1986 Publications Award.

Dr. Harris was a pioneer in the area of landscape fragmentation and wildlife corridors, publishing many award winning, seminal papers and books. He conducted field research throughout Florida and the Everglades, as well as in Tanzania, Botswana, Haiti, and Oregon.

Dr. Harris was an internationally respected scientist in the field of

biodiversity. He served in an advisory capacity to governments in Botswana, Costa Rica, Sweden, and the US.

In Florida, he applied his research findings on the impacts of forest and landscape fragmentation as a basis for his advocacy of wildlife corridors while working with programs for the FL Wildlife Commission, Pinhook Swamp management, and the Florida Greenways Council. He served on the Governor's Council on Florida Greenways, the UF President's Council, and numerous other boards.

Larry was a passionate intellectual and book reader, and loved all kinds of discussions with all kinds of people on all kinds of subjects. He loved nothing better than being outdoors with colleagues, friends, students, and family, talking about natural history.

Larry is survived by his wife, Dr. Kathleen Deagan of Gainesville, his four children and their spouses, six grandchildren, two brothers, and three sisters.

At the request of Dr. Harris' family, donations in his memory may be made to CTF at P.O. Box 134, Micanopy, FL 32667 or to the Larry D. Harris Memorial Fund at UF's Dept. of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation. Checks to UF should be made payable to the UF Foundation, Inc. and mailed to UF, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, P.O. Box 110430, Gainesville, FL 32611-0430.

*Excerpted from the tributes written by Dr. Kathleen Deagan and Ken Dodd.*

## CTF'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY POSTER

Make a \$50 donation to CTF and you will receive a lovely signed copy of Kate Barnes' acrylic painting on canvas, titled "Horse Prairie." Kate painted this on location at the Whitehurst's Horse Prairie Ranch during CTF's Fall Round UP! in 2009. The poster's measurements are 18" x 24".





## JUBILEE CREEK PROJECT

CTF is working to expand the boundary of the 2,300-acre Barr Hammock Preserve and the 3,300-acre Levy Prairie Preserve in Alachua County. The Jubilee Creek Project is a 2,000-acre project in Alachua and Marion Counties to help protect Moore's Pond and Jubilee Creek and it has unique features that give it statewide historical and natural resource significance.

A joint North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant for \$1 million was awarded to CTF and the Alachua Conservation Trust. CTF is working to purchase a conservation easement on property adjacent to the Barr Hammock Preserve. This nearly 800-acre parcel will help bring CTF closer to the goal of protecting the entire 2,000 acres. A potential additional state grant from the Florida Communities Trust will purchase the remaining parcels.

These projects will encompass nearly 7,600 acres of contiguous conservation land and will also increase the amount of conservation land near the 22,000-acre Payne's Prairie Preserve State Park. The Jubilee Creek Project will help protect a portion of the Ocala National Forest to Goethe State Forest Greenway, which are some of north-central Florida's "crown jewels."

Jubilee Creek has a unique and special story about its value as a natural resource. The creek sprouted a reoccurring natural event that locals called the *Wacahoota Jubilee*. During this natural phenomenon, tens of thousands of salamanders, crayfish, and fish all gathered in the shallows of the slough, which led to a jubilant harvest and surely a sight to be seen! The event is chronicled in Dr. Archie Carr's book, "A Naturalist in Florida: A Celebration of Eden." But due to poor land management this event has not occurred for several years.

By purchasing this land, CTF plans to restore it and bring this natural event back to life! *Moore's Pond photo by Ellen Huntley Dube.*



## 2010 NFHJA LAND TRUST BANQUET

Conservation Trust for Florida (CTF), the North Florida Land Trust (NFLT), and the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) partnered on a presentation about the importance of saving land not only for horses, but for also for wildlife at the annual banquet held by the North Florida Hunter Jumper Association (NFHJA) on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

After the banquet, guests watched the \$75,000 FEI Grand Prix Show Jumping event in the covered arena. Nancy Hamill Winter, President of ELCR and an equestrian from Illinois who competed the 1984 Olympic Selection Trials, was the Keynote Speaker. Nancy was a pioneer in the field of therapeutic horsemanship establishing three centers for disabled riders in the Chicagoland area. Nancy also serves on the Boards of several conservation organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, JoDavie's Conservation Foundation, Morton Arboretum, Prairie State Conservation Coalition and ELCR.

Special thanks to Tony Weight, NFHJA President and Sue Rindal, NFHJA Sponsor Coordinator for their support of the event.



*Nancy Hamill Winter spoke about the importance of protecting horse farms and land necessary to feed horses at the 2010 North Florida Hunter Jumper Association banquet in Green Cove Springs. Photo courtesy of Nancy Hamill Winter.*



*ELCR was founded in 1997 by a group of concerned horse people who recognized that loss of open land is the greatest threat to the future of all equestrian sport, recreation, and industry.*



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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 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.

**2010 Fall Round UP! &  
Awards Celebration**

*Join us to celebrate*

**“The Art of Conservation”**

Sean Sexton, Keynote Speaker  
Treasure Hammock Ranch, Owner  
[www.floridacattleranch.org](http://www.floridacattleranch.org)

*Whitehurst Horse Prairie Ranch  
Sunday, November 14th from 3 - 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) & click on the PayPal link or call 352-466-1178 for a membership form.*

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