

Protecting Our Rural Lands

# THE POST PROTECTING OUR RURAL LANDS

JUNE 2011

# JUBILEE CREEK PROJECT to protect part of the Ocala to Goethe Wildlife Corridor



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!



The Jubilee Creek project connects to the Barr Hammock Preserve and Ledwith Prairie. Left photo by Ellen Huntley Dube' and right photo by Brian Block.

CTF is working on completing the purchase of an 800-acre conservation easement that will help bring CTF closer to the goal of protecting the 2,000 acre Jubilee Creek project. CTF hopes to close on the property soon. Funds for the purchase of the easement were awarded in 2009 from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) The grant was for \$1 million and CTF and the Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) split the proceeds.

This 2,000 acre project is adjacent to the Barr Hammock and Levy Prairie Preserves (owned by Alachua County), which encompass nearly 5,500 acres of contiguous conservation land. These conservation lands add a piece of the puzzle to the Ocala National Forest to Goethe State Forest wildlife corridor and will also increase the amount of conservation land near the 22,000-acre Payne's Prairie Preserve State Park.

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. (Continued on page 8.)

### A Message from CTF President Kathleen S. Williams:



This has been a tough fund-raising year for many non-profits, and CTF is no exception. In March, after six months as our new executive director we have had to let Brian Block go because of our less-than-robust financial situation. We are dissapointed to part ways with Brian who has done some exceptional work for CTF. He is a friend to conservation, and remains a friend to CTF.

In the interim, I am happy to report that Busy Shires Byerly has stepped in to keep things

running as the Interim Executive Director (she was CTF's former Executive Director for 7 1/2 years.) CTF plans to recruit a new executive director and move forward with renewed enthusiasm.

CTF has two major, long-term grants to cover our core programs - **The Farmlands Program** and **The Greenways Program**. The USDA Beginning Farmers project with UF/IFAS that Kristianna Lindgren and Ellen Huntley Dube are working on is moving forward and CTF has three workshops planned for this Fall.

Dr. Tom Hoctor will continue his work on the wildlife corridor project funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission through the State Wildlife Grants program. In addition, CTF is negotiating several new easements and the **\$500,000 North American Wetlands Conservation Act** grant to protect approximately 800 acres adjacent to the Barr Hammock Preserve.

Thank you to Guy Marwick and **The Felburn Foundation** for their generous support. Thank you to **Rayonier** for their generous contribution and an additional pledge for the Fall Round UP! Many thanks to Ed Montgomery of **TerraPointe Services** (Rayonier's real estate subsidiary) who is also a new member of CTF's Board of Directors, for requesting the donation.

Thank you to the Lydia B. Stokes Foundation for the generous grant to support CTF's Farmlands Program. Thank you to the Quail Roost Foundation for their generous support of the Protecting Horse Country project. Thank you to the Plum Creek Foundation for supporting the Greenways and Timberlands Education Project.

Thank you to **The AEC Trust** for their support of the Land Conservation and Landowner Education Project.

We are making great strides in the right direction! I came on CTF's board almost ten years ago. What impressed me then impresses me still - our mission and our people.

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 preseve a sence of place.

About five million acres of Florida (nearly a fifth of its area) are devoted to ranching, and the state is home to six of the top 10 beefproducing ranches in the United States. These large ranches are also part of many of the critical wildlife corridors in Florida. Wildlife corridors support not only wildlife and plants, but vital natural resources such as clean air and water. They provide food to eat and fiber from our timberlands. The agricultural, ranching, and timber industries are an important component of Florida's economy.

(Continued on page 7.)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Busy Shires Byerly, Interim Executive Director Ellen Huntley Dube,' Land Conservation Director Kristianna J. Lindgren, Land Conservation Assistant Director Tom Hoctor, Greenways Program Research Scientist

Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. 502 Cholokka Blvd. P.O. Box 134, Micanopy, FL 32667 Phone & Fax: 352-466-1178 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.



Worth Auxier, UF First Lady Chris Machen and a guest at CTF's event on Sunday, November 14.

Larry Harris, Jr., Dr. Harris' son and his wife Dr. Kathleen Deagan accept the Larry Dr. Harris Memorial Award.

*Guests enjoying the view of Horse Prairie Ranch. Photos by Matt Dube.'* 

# FALL ROUND UP! 2010

Guests at CTF's Fall Round UP! on Sunday, November 14 enjoyed gorgeous weather and a view of Horse Prairie, complete with bison grazing on a crisp fall day. The event raised about \$19,000 for the organization and our land conservation projects.

CTF honored the passing of Dr. Larry Harris, who was one of CTF's Advisory Board members and helped shape our Greenways Program and many of our wildlife corridor projects.

Dr. Harris was a pioneer in the area of landscape fragmentation and wildlife corridors. He explored the idea of connecting conservation areas and forest stands as part of a timber harvest instead of isolating the stands of trees.

Dr. Harris' pioneering ideas about island biogeopraphic theory were published in the 1984 book titled "The

### Thank you for your support!

Fragmented Forest" and the book was awarded the Wildlife Society's 1986 Publications Award.

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

The Larry D. Harris, PhD. Memorial Award was accepted by his widow Dr. Kathleen Deagan and his son Larry Harris, Jr.

CTF guests were also treated to a presentation by Sean Sexton, a rancher, professional writer and artist. He grew up on his family's Treasure Hammock Ranch in Vero Beach, Florida. He divides his time between taking care of a 600-acre cow-calf operation and seed stock operation and painting and writing. He and his wife Sharon Sexton, who is also an accomplished artist, raised their two children on the ranch.

In 2007, the Sextons placed a conservation easement on their ranch, which was purchased by Indian River Co. to preserve the ranch and wildlife.

Sean has kept journal-sketch books drawn from his life since 1973. He is the author of "Waldo's Mountain, Brief History of a Small Elevation," which is about his grandfather Waldo Sexton, the original founder of McKee Jungle Gardens, which closed in 1976 but reopened in 2001 as the McKee Botanical Garden.

Sean's new poetry book is titled *Blood Writing*, *Poems*, which was published in 2010.

(Continued on page 4.)



Sean Sexton was the Keynote Speaker at CTF's Fall Round UP! on November 14, 2010. Sean draws inspiration for his painting, sketches, and poetry from his 'field work' on his family's 600-acre cattle ranch. Left photo by Matt Dube.' Right photo courtesy of Sean Sexton.

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# FALL ROUND UP!

#### (Continued from page 3.)

Dr. Tom Hoctor, who is the Director of the Center for Landscape and Conservation Planning at the University of Florida, and is also CTF's Greenways Program Research Scientist, worked with Dr. Harris for many years on wildlife corridor projects.

Dr. Hoctor described several of CTF's wildlife corridor projects and the new Florida Wildlife Corridor outreach project spearheaded by CTF Advisory Board Member Carlton Ward, Jr. Brian Block presented Busy Shires Byerly with an award from the Board for being the Executive Director of CTF for 71/2 years. A gorgeous wood carving of two horse heads.

A very *Special Thank you* to the Whitehurst family for generously donating the use of the Ranch to CTF for the event. Thank you also to Bill Whitehurst for representing the family and for making a generous contribution to CTF.

Thank you to Cathy DeWitt and Keith Peters for generously donating the live music for the event. Cathy has shared the stage and the airwaves with Tom Paxton, Pete Seeger, and Garrison Keillor. She also created the Music in Medicine program at Shands Hospital's Arts in Medicine program. www. cathydewitt.com Keith is also a talented musician.

CTF Advisory Board Member Jennifer Springfield, Charlie Houder Assistant Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, and Jerry R. Joiner, owner of Joiner Consulting, Inc.

Bottom photo: Marilyn Sokolof, Memree Stewart, Sharon Sexton, and a guest at the event.







# at the Horse Prairie Ranch



Top Photo: CTF Land Conservation Director Ellen Huntley Dube' and her son Andrew Dube', and CTF Board Member Steve Nesbitt.

Middle Left Photo: CTF Advisory Board Member Lisa M. Gearen. Lisa gave an inspiring speech at the event. Thank you!

Middle Right Photo: Jack and Marjorie Hauptman.







Brian Block presented Busy Shires Byerly with an award from the Board for being the Executive Director of CTF for 71/2 years. A gorgeous wood carving of two horse heads.

All Fall Round UP! photos by Matt Dube'.



# Thank You auction donors

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#### **Artists and Individuals**

Douglas Adams, Kim Alderson, Kate Barnes, Ronald and Patricia Bern, Eleanor Blair, Catherine Boswell, Stacey Breheny, Christine Cambrea, Peter Carolin, Virginia Chen, Will Dickey, Paul and Polly Doughty, Sean Dowie, George Ferreira, William C. Flood, Ed Geers, Kristianna J. Lindgren, Whitey Markle, John Moran, Richard and Nancy Moskovitz, Bruce Nawrocke, Elisabeth Odum, Leslie Peebles, Jeff Ripple, Jacquelyn Schindehette, Ana Varela, Eric Zamora

## THANK YOU Volunteers

Susan Chocola, Patsy Conlon, Betsy Creveling, Aileen Dixon, Trey Greer, Linda Hewlett, Christine Housel, Ann Karlo, Melissa Leslie, June Mac Auley, Jorge Milanes, Celeste Shitama

#### CTF Development and Outreach Committee

David Carr, Lisa M. Gearen, Steve Nesbitt, David Pais, Jennifer Springfield, Kathleen S. Williams, Hans Tanzler III

# Welcome New Board Members

CTF President Kathleen Williams, CTF Board Member at Large Barry Rutenberg, CTF Advisory Board Members Anne MacKay and former Florida Gov. Buddy MacKay, former CTF Executive Director Brian Block and Steve Beeland. Annual meeting photos by Busy Shires Byerly.

Far right bottom photo: CTF Founder and Board Member David Carr, CTF Secretary David Pail, and CTF Board Mmeber David Maren. photo by Busy Shires Byerly.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN BROWN and RICHARD WHITE! Kevin Brown was recently appointed to the Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board.

Richard White was recently listetd by Super Lawyers. He is also listed in Best Lawyers in America, and he has a AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell.



**T**F is pleased to announce the appointment of former Florida Governor Buddy MacKay and his wife Anne MacKay to the Advisory Board at the annual meeting on January 23, 2011 at the Barr Hammock Preserve.

Gov. MacKay, who grew up near Ocala on a citrus farm, was a state legislator (serving in the FL Bob has taught courses Senate and the FL House of Representatives), a U.S. Representative, and Lt. Governor. Mrs. MacKay is a former school teacher and she helped create the State Wildflower license tag in 2000 and is a founding member of the Florida Wildflower Foundation.

The board also appointed forester **Ed** Montgomery to the Board of Directors and ecologist Bob Simons to the Advisory Board at the Annual Meeting.

Ed Montgomery joined Rayonier Inc. in with a BS in Forest Resources and Conservation.

Ed has held various positions with Rayonier and is currently Director, **Real Estate Sales** and Marketing for TerraPointe Services. A native of north Florida, Ed enjoys boating on Florida's beautiful waterways with his wife Jennifer,



Photo by Summer Best.

playing folk music and serving on praise music and prison ministry teams.

**Bob Simons** is a professional forester and private

consultant who conducts ecological inventories and writes forest management plans and scientific papers. at Santa Fe College and the University of Florida.

He is the manager and part owner of forest land in Suwannee

and Alachua Counties. Bob currently serves on the FL Silviculture Best Management Practices Technical Adv. Comm., the Suwannee River Water Management Dist. Land Management Review Team, FL 1979 after graduation from the University of Florida Defenders of the Environment, and the Alachua Co. Land Conservation Board.

> At the April Board meeting, the Board of Directors also appointed David Maren, conservationist and philanthropist, to the Board.





# Kristianna Passed the Bar

Kristianna J. Lindgren, CTF's Land Conservation Assistant Director, passed the bar exam and is now an Attorney!

She graduated from the University of Florida in December 2010 with a MS in Interdisciplinary Ecology and JD in Law with a certificate in Environmental and Land Use Law.

Kristianna took time off from CTF in January and February to study for the Bar Exam, but she is very happy to be back to work for CTF!

#### (Continued on page 7.) Message from CTF President Kathleen S. Williams

Agricultural lands are critical to wildlife. As a biologist I have worked with several threatened species--fox squirrels, sandhill cranes, and gopher tortoises-- whose future depends on ranchlands, farms, and open spaces. I've also had the opportunity to participate in a Florida panther capture, and have seen a Florida black bear in the wild--both these species depend on wildlife corridors comprised of natural areas and working landscapes.

The other reason I joined CTF is our people. Our board, advisory board, and staff includes foresters, biologists, landscape architects, businessmen, hydrologists, lawyers, realtors, botanists, professors, nurserymen, a farmer, a water manage-

The other reason 7 joined CT7 is our people. Our board, advisory board, and staff --together they form a fantastic and dynamic mixture of people, "said Kathleen Williams.



Left photo: Tom Staley takes guests at CTF's Annual Meeting on a hayride through the Barr Hammock Preserve. Right photo: CTF Advisory Board Member Jennifer Springfield and CTF Board Member Steve Nesbitt.



Kristianna J. Lindgren on graduation day at the UF College of Law. Photo courtesy of Kristianna.

ment district board member, writers, photographers, and a former Florida governor. Together they form a fantastic and dynamic mixture of people. Our board is politically "mixed", from both sides of the aisle, but all with a common goal. We have two new stellar board members--David Maren and Ed Montgomery, and three new advisory board members--Buddy and Anne MacKay, and Bob Simons.

We have recently hit a rough spot, financially. Most organizations do at some point. But we have solid, important programs continuing, and plenty of great deeds yet to do. Our financial future is already starting to look brighter. We have a tremendous mission and tremendous people.

I hope you will continue to support the Conservation Trust for Florida to help save the farms and forestlands of Florida. **20** 



Top Photo: Lauren Day and Matt Sexton, both of The Conservation Fund, on a tour of the North Florida Wetlands Conservation Project (NFWCP). The Jubilee Creek project is Phase 3 of the larger NFWCP project to protect critical nesting and breeding habitat for migratory birds such as sandhill cranes and wood ducks.

Bottom Photo: Ruellia, Wild Petunia. Photos by Robert Hutchinson.





Ledwith Prairie is adjacent to the Barr Hammock and Levy Prairie Preserves. This photo is taken from Barr Hammock looking out onto Ledwith Prairie. Jubilee Creek and Moore's Pond are the headwaters of Ledwith and Levy Prairies. Barr Hammock is the "land bridge" that connects Ledwith to Levy. Photo by Will Dickey © www.willdickey.com

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Jubilee Creek Project

(Continued from page 1.)

CTF will continue to work with the landowner and we hope to restore the property and it and bring the Wacahoota Jubilee back to life!

To purchase the remaining 1,200 acres of the Jubilee Creek project, CTF was awarded a \$4.5 million dollar grant from the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) in the summer of 2010.

The FCT grant was originally submitted in 2008 to the Florida Communities Trust, but the project just barely missed the funding cut off. However,

in 2010, funds for the FCT program were allocated to the land acquisition program by the state, but since it was limited funding, the staff at the Department of Community Affairs, which administers the FCT land acquisition program, decided to continue to work down the list of project that were submitted in 2008. CTF's project was ranked high enough so that the Jubilee Creek project could receive funding.

CTF and FCT staff negotiated with the

major landowner, who owned about 75% of the project area, but the landowner declined the state's purchase price. CTF will continue to work with the landowner on land conservation options.

The Jubilee Creek project is Phase 3 of a larger project to protect critical nesting and breeding habitat for migratory birds such as sandhill cranes and wood ducks.

Thank you to CTF's project partner Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) and to Lauren Day of The Conservation Fund for originally putting the the North Florida Wetlands Conservation Project, together.

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# GREENWAYS PROJECTS - FEGN AND FWC

Dr. Tom Hoctor, who is Director of the Center for Landscape and Conservation Planning University of Florida and Greenways Program Scientist for CTF, is working on the update of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN).

CTF and UF were awarded a matching grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to update the FEGN. The FEGN identifies the opportunities to protect large, intact landscapes important for conserving Florida's biodiversity and ecosystem systems.

The primary objective is to complete a comprehensive update of the FEGN to accomplish the goal of identifying a functionally connected statewide ecological network of public and private conser-

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vation lands. The updated FEGN will incorporate new and updated GIS data layers identifying areas of conservation significance and eliminate areas that have been developed and are no longer suitable since identification of the original FEGN.

In addition, it will maximize the potential of Florida's native biodiversity to functionally respond to climate change.



Florida Black Bear Cub photo courtesy of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

CTF Advisory Board Member Carlton Ward, Jr.'s photographs of black bears were featured in the May-June 2011 edition of the national Audubon Magazine.

The photographs document part of the Highlands

County Bear Research project, which is led by John Cox at the University of Kentucky. (The research project was originally begun by the late Dave Maehr seven years ago.)

The project has radio-collared more than 50 bears in Highlands County and researchers track the bear's birthrate, diet, and movement patterns. Researchers are concerned about the bear's longterm survival due to low genetic diversity and the threat of habitat fragmentation.

The Nature Conservancy and several additional project partners, including Archbold Biological Station, are

working on protecting a southern wildlife corridor to connect Highlands County to the Big Cypress and the Everglades and a northern corridor to connect to the Okefenokee National Forest in Georgia.

> The article also highlighted the Florida Wildlife Corridor project, spearheaded by Carlton. On January 17, 2012, Carlton, Joe Guthrie, and Mallory Lykes Dimmitt will kick off a 1,000 mile expedition over a 100 day period to increase public awareness and generate support for the Florida Wildlife Corridor project. The proposed corridor would encompass existing conservation lands and privately owned ranch and timber lands.

www.floridawildlifecorridor.org

www.audubonmagazine.org/currents/currents1105.html

## IN LOVING MEMORY PHYLLIS S. HANSEN

Phyllis donated a conservation easement on her 24-acre property in Cross Creek to CTF in 2004. She was CTF's first easement donor and we honored her with a Land Conservation Award at the 2004 Fall Round UP! at The Yearling Restuarant. Phyllis worked to protect not only her property, but the Cross Creek area from inappropriate development.

She was the President of the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.

Phyllis Hansen's tupelo swamp on her Cross Creek property. Photo courtesy of CTF.



## IN LOVING MEMORY DR. THOMAS D. CARR



"Dr. Carr had a deep dedication to protect wildlife habitat, which he would adamantly refer to as "wildlife privacy."

Memorial Donations made in memory of Dr. Carr Ron and Diana Cohen, Richard and Justine Fry, Alex and Freda Green, Charles Higgins, Joseph and Lucille Little, Nancy Macaulay, Jim and Mary Neal, Walter and Barbara Probert, Jack and Ann Williams, James and Anne Williams, and Thomas Michael Williams.

Top Photo: Dr. Carr standing near the pond on his beloved property. Photo by Ellen Dube'. Right Photo: CTF President Kathleen S. Williams, Grace Wagner Carr, and Dr. Tom Carr. Photo by Matt Dube'. Dr. Thomas D. Carr, who was Archie Carr's brother and CTF Founder David Carr's uncle, passed away on April 20, 2011 at age 94.

Dr. Carr was a Professor of Astronomy and Physics at the University of Florida for over 30 years. His primary area of research involved radio emissions from the planet Jupiter and its moon "lo."

He cared for his land (over 100 acres) near Micanopy and he loved to plant trees. Dr. Carr had been working with CTF for several years to protect his land with a conservation easement. His daughter, Susan Carr, continues to work with CTF to protect his property. Dr. Carr's property is very close to Price's Scrub.

Ellen Huntley Dube', CTF Land Conservation Director worked with Dr. Carr on land conservation options to protect his property and she wrote this touching tribute: "Reading the electronic guest book, you can see the love and respect everyone had for Dr. Carr. He had the mind and heart that inspired people and he helped make the world a better place. I fondly remember walking with him on his land; and whether the temperature was cool, hot, or cold, he exuded a true zest for life, nature, and wildlife. He was passionate about life and he was truly a steward of the land. Dr. Carr had a deep dedication to protect wildlife habitat, which he would adamantly refer to as "wildlife privacy."

Tom was preceded in death by his first wife, Glenna D. Carr. He is survived by his second wife Grace Wagner Carr of Gainesville, a daughter Susan, 4 nephews, a niece, 2 greatnephews and a great-niece.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made in Dr. Carr's name to the Conservation Trust for Florida or to the Umatilla Historical Society, PO Box 64, Umatilla, Florida 32784.



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".

## PRICE'S SCRUB NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Price's Scrub, which CTF helped protect in 2004, is now open to the public for light recreational activities such as hiking and horseback riding.

There are several miles of new trails that meander through the landscape. The surface of the trails range from deep sand to crushed shells. For horseback riders, the trails are wide and horse friendly. There is a turn around area and parking for horse trailers as well as water for horses.

Price's Scrub is a unique 962acre sand pine and pond pine system with saw palmetto understory. One of the unique features is that it contains one of the northern most fragments of scrub habitat. It also has part of an old stage coach road.

Thank you to Linda C. Duever who originally proposed the purchase of the property and who conducted extensive research.

Thank you also to CTF Advisory Board Member Peggy Carr, CTF Treasurer Mike Campbell, former CTF Executive Director Gary Meffe, and staff member Erik Lewis who were instrumental in convincing the state to purchase the property. The property was purchased by the State of Florida under the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Program and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails, manages the property.

CTF is negotiating conservation easements with adjacent landowners. Price's Scrub is an important connection in the effort to create a wildlife corridor, from the Ocala National Forest to Goethe State Forest.





#### O2O PROJECT IN 1,000 FRIENDS OF FL REPORT

CTF's Ocala National Forest to Osceola National Forest (O2O) project and Dr. Tom Hoctor's research on the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN), was included in the 1000 Friends of Florida's recent report on the state's Greenways system.

The report Florida's Evolving Large-scale Ecological Greenways System was written by Doug Alderson & Dan Pennington and published on the 1000 Friends of Florida's website in 2011. The report is one of the most popular publications on the website. (Dr. Hoctor is the Director of the Center for Landscape and Conservation Planning and is CTF's Greenways Program Research Scientist.)

http://www.1000fof.org/PUBS/EcologicalGreenwaysFinalVersion.pdf

Part of the old stage coach road on Price's Scrub. Photo by Muller and Associates, Inc.

### HARTZOG CONSERVATION EASEMENT



Grady and Honor Hartzog, who own approximately 120 acres in Gilchrist County on the Santa Fe River, donated a conservation easement to CTF in December 2010. The easement will protect nearly 2,000 feet of frontage on the Santa Fe River. The property has significant karst features and a cave system, as well as a long leaf pine forest, a hardwood hammock, and bottomland hardwoods.

Before the Hartzogs purchased the property, it was slated for 16 home sites.

During the spring rains, a lush carpet of rain lilies sprout up under the expansive oak canopy. The Hartzogs are also restoring the pines to long leaf with a wire grass understory.

*Thank you* to the Hartzogs for protecting this magnificent property.

Rain lilies, under a canopy of oak trees, bloom in the spring. Photo by Kristianna J. Lindgren.

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SAVE THE DATE! Fall Round UP! Sunday, November 6, 2011

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 9,300 acres of rural landscapes through publicly funded land conservation programs and privately donated conservation easements.

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 publicly funded land conservation programs.



CTF Board Member Bill Schlitzkus a forester with Plum Creek presents Interim Executive Director Busy Shires Byerly and CTF President Kathleen Williams with a check from Plum Creek for \$10,000 to support the Greenways and Timberlands Education project.

Thank you to the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc. for sponsoring the newsletter.

CTF's New Office Stop by CTF's new office located at 502 Cholokka Blvd. in Micanopy, right next to the Herlong B&B. Thank you to CTF Advisory Board Member Fay Baird and her husband Tom Staley for giving CTF a very generous lease.

# Thank you for your support!

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