

Landscapes

Dedicated to permanently preserving natural areas and special places in North Florida

North Florida Land Trust News

Winter 2008

Legacy Society members support NFLT!

When the North Florida Land Trust launched its Legacy Society in 2006, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our inaugural members. By pledging multi-year contributions for a minimum of five years, Legacy Society members demonstrate long-term support for our mission and confidence in our abilities. With deep gratitude, we recognize our Legacy Society members and invite others to join them in this vital work.

Save a Forest

Jean and Tom Dodson
Ronald and Sally Evens
Jay and Paula McGarvey
Robert & Thelma Nied

Save a Stand

Sandra Brooks/Brookslacayo
Cheryl Cumber
Newman Family Foundation
Sally Ann Freeman
David Strickland

Save a Tree

Cynthia S. Akre
Zimm Boulos
William and Mary Lou Coate
Martin & Sharon Connor
Andrea Conover and Jon Arnold
Myrtice Craig and Robert Broward
William Dresser
Bill and Kristen Ely
Karl Estes Foundation Trust
Lee and Mindy Hanna
Ray and Jody Hetchka
Charlene Johnson
Bruce and Holly Kern
Michael and Laura Langton
Joanne Martin
Daniel and Jeanne MacDonald
William and Suzanne McQuilkin
Betsy Mills
Doug Milne
Ted Pappas
Robert Spencer
Stop At Nothing, Inc.
Richard Suddath
William Tierney
Pat Vail

We also express our sincere thanks to the following generous, multi-year donors:

Mark and Rita Allen
Michael and Susan Boylan
Harry and Elsa England
George Halvorsen
Sam and Donn Heffner
Mark and Mercedes McGowan
Mark Middlebrook
Doug Parker
Dr. Todd Sack & Dr. Barbara Sharp
Kent and Marie Smith
Virginia Steiger and Woody Wilner
Linda Walker and Hal Ringeisen

NFLT works to finalize 160-acre conservation easement on St. Mary's River in Nassau County by year-end



One of the beautiful roads meandering through 160 acres of pristine uplands. This is a diverse riparian habitat with the following attributes: a relatively mature and pristine floodplain forest containing freshwater streams and sloughs; a mesic slope and ravine forests. Conserving this parcel helps provide watershed protection for the benefit of the general public in the St. Mary's River Basin. ■



PHOTO BY MARK MIDDLEBROOK

This property features over 5,000 feet of frontage on the St. Mary's River, forming the boundary between Florida and Georgia. This area has qualities that may make it eligible for "Wild and Scenic River" status.



PHOTO BY BONNIE BARNES

The protected property contains several plant species including this green-fly orchid (*Epidendrum conopseum*), climbing hydrangea (*Decumaria barbara*), and bluff oak (*Quercus austrina*).



Many thanks to staff of Environmental Services Inc. and NFLT volunteers who prepared the site assessment for the subject property.

Legacy Luncheon sets stage for announcement of partnership with Mayor Peyton's River Accord

This year's Legacy Luncheon was an overwhelming success with special guest Mayor John Peyton speaking on behalf of land conservation in our area. The North Florida Land Trust was pleased to join the Mayor in sharing the announcement of a partnership between the City of Jacksonville and the North Florida Land Trust to work on the River Accord Plan.

The River Accord Plan commits \$700 million over ten years to restore the lower basin of the St. Johns River. North Florida Land Trust has identified 20 parcels in the

Clapboard Creek watershed and signed two "first right of refusal" agreements with landowners. These properties fit with our strategic plan by allowing more access to the St. Johns River and provides land buffers needed to maintain water quality.



Bill McQuilkin receives special recognition for founding and working with the North Florida Land Trust for the past ten years.

A special recognition was given to our founder Bill McQuilkin, who started the land trust in 1999, and at the end of this year will be retiring from the Board of Directors. His ten years of service to this organization created the foundation that is opening up new possibilities for land conservation in our area. Although he is stepping down, he is honored to serve on our Advisory Board, continuing to watch over our efforts throughout the region.

We heard a tribute story from a Senior Girl Scout, Evelyn Skinner, who shared with the attendees how she learned to canoe at North Fork Ranch and then ultimately canoed from the adjacent Jennings State Park down to the camp, showing the connectivity of conserved lands working to provide even greater open spaces.

We had many returning donors at the luncheon and some bright new faces that we hope to encourage to attend our upcoming activities with the North Florida Land Trust. We enjoyed sharing our successes with everyone. As was mentioned during the luncheon, this is the best of times and possibly the worst of times. Landowners who have subdivided their acreage for development are suddenly re-thinking, calling us and exclaiming: "wouldn't my land be a great place for a natural park." NFLT is actively fundraising for some of these projects. ■

Florida Coastal Law students and community volunteers trailblaze Pescatello Island



Students, volunteers, Biologist Richard Bryant from National Park Service and Hallie Stevens from The Nature Conservancy work on the trails.

On a cold, dreary day in October, a dozen hearty volunteers were escorted by North Florida Land Trust staff, The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service personnel out to Pescatello Island, within the Timucuan Preserve.

The task was to trail-blaze a path through the island,




from the west to the east end. The island is horizontal in shape and covers 30 acres on Clapboard Creek in Duval County.

The group was successfully able to clear approximately 50% of the distance. We will return February 7, 2009 to clear the

other half and are looking for volunteers who want to help us finish this trail.

Much thanks are extended to the many volunteers and support staff that worked hard that Saturday. ■





2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melissa Gross-Arnold, President
 Michael Langton, Vice-President
 Ron Evens, Secretary
 Linda D. Walker, Treasurer
 Jane Akre
 Cora Connolly
 Philip E. Elson
 Alexa Graf
 Brian Hershorn
 Veronica Maybury
 Mark Middlebrook
 Marcy Silkebaken
 Myrna Strain
 David Strickland
 James T. Wolverton

ADVISORY BOARD

Mark Allen
 Warren Anderson
 Sarah Bailey
 Aimee Boggs
 Cheryl Cummer
 William Dresser
 Tom Fallin
 Art Graham
 N. Joel Harris
 Grace Hayes
 Ray Hetchka
 Marcia Ladendorf
 Alyson Shutts Lee
 Wally Lee
 Founder, Bill McQuilkin
 Lisa Mills
 Dr. Quinton White

Office: 2029 North Third Street, 32250
 Mailing: P.O. Box 51181
 Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240-1181
 Tel. (904) 827-9870
 Fax (904) 247-5433
 nfltooffice@bellsouth.net
 www.northfloridalandtrust.org

Bonnie E. Barnes
 Executive Director



North Florida Land Trust
P. O. Box 51181
Jacksonville Beach FL 32240

Telephone: 904-827-9870
Email: nftoffice@bellsouth.net
www.northfloridalandtrust.org

The North Florida Land Trust
is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Gifts are tax deductible.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. NFLT REG. # CH11177

Yes, I'll help preserve North Florida's landscapes

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please charge my credit card: Visa/MC/Discover/AMEX

Card # _____

Exp. Date ____ / ____

Enclosed is my check payable to: North Florida Land Trust

My company will match my contribution.

Enclosed is my annual gift:

Legacy Society Membership (5 year commitment)

- \$10,000 per year Save a Forest
 \$5,000 per year Save a Stand of Trees
 \$1,000 per year Save a Tree

Annual Donor

- \$500 Land Protector
 \$250 Land Saver
 \$100 Family
 \$50 Individual
 \$ _____ x _____ years

Please contact me about:

- Conservation options for my land
 Volunteering my time and talents
 Making a planned gift

Fundraising campaigns to launch early 2009 for strategic watershed properties

The North Florida Land Trust has identified three targeted areas and is developing a case for support and creating the programs needed to do some serious fundraising in 2009.

With the economy moving at a slower pace, it presents several valuable opportunities that are extremely critical to our conservation focus in North Florida.

DUVAL: A targeted list of 20 landowners in the *Pumpkin Hill* area have been identified that have watershed properties adjacent to tributaries of the St. Johns River. By working to acquire these lands, we are cooperating with other conservation organizations, the Mayor's River Accord, DEP, Big Talbot Island and the National Park Service to purchase or protect these lands, which will ultimately protect our water supply.

The North Florida Land Trust has purchased one parcel, and has the first right of refusal on over 70 acres of additional land in this area. We will be hosting fundraising events in 2009 to raise dollars toward their acquisition.

NFLT has been working with a landowner on *Old Middleburg Road* to establish a plan to maintain and educate others while conserving his land. In October, school board personnel met with the landowner and adjacent high school staff to see if there could be a relationship.

ST. JOHNS: NFLT is researching a project in the *Ponte Vedra* area, which would protect land adjacent to a critical

watershed and will require much support from the community to complete the acquisition.

NFLT has agreed to accept a 15.1 acre conservation easement on the marshlands east of *Fish Island in St. Augustine*. In developing this relationship with the landowner, we are working to conserve some additional parcels in the area.

NFLT has held two community meetings in *Julington Creek* looking at a potential neighborhood kayaking/crew center. We are reviewing the surveys collected and creating a steering committee to develop a plan.

NASSAU: A 160 acre conservation easement on the *St. Mary's River* will hopefully close before year end.

We have three additional potential projects identified, but they are still too early to provide you details. ■

Volunteers needed!

We have many opportunities for you to get involved. You can serve on planning committees for events, attend walking and kayaking tours, helping out at booths at events, and help blaze trails and do cleanups on some of our properties. We are also looking for corporations that want to do something for community that might take on a project to benefit the Land Trust. There are so many ways you can become involved. Please contact our volunteer coordinator: Angela Diaz at aevalu1@earthlink.net or 273-5917.

NFLT announces new Board President and members!

North Florida Land Trust is pleased to announce a new slate of officers and two new board members.



Melissa Gross-Arnold
Board President

Melissa Gross-Arnold has been on the board since 2004, and is a shareholder at Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. She represents public and private sector clients in environmental, land use, governmental and easement and access issues.

Melissa graduated from UF College of Law and has a certificate in Environmental and Land Use Law.

Additional officers include: Michael Langton, Vice President; Ron Evens, Secretary; and Linda D. Walker, Treasurer.

New board members:

Myrna Strain is a licensed realtor with Watson Realty. She served as president of the League of Women Voters, chairperson of USA for World of Nations, and board member for Children's Home Society. Graduate Florida A&M and M.Ed. from UNF in Administration and Supervision.

Alexa Graf, P.E. has over 15 years of experience in environmental engineering and land conservation. She has spent the past 10 years with England-Thims & Miller as a project engineer and manager. Her work has resulted in over \$24 million in awarded grant applications. She has worked on the Preservation Project since 2003. Graduate UNF and UF Environmental Engineering. ■



P. O. Box 51181 • Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240-1181
 904-827-9870 • nftoffice@bellsouth.net
www.northfloridalandtrust.org

Inside This Issue

- 160 acre easement on river
- Bill McQuilkin honored
- Fundraising priority in 2009
- 15.1 acre Fish Island easement on intracoastal

Calendar of events 2008-2009

ONGOING: Need volunteers for *Painting the Region* event planning committee. Committee meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 9-10am, England-Thims & Miller, 14775 St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville.

ONGOING: First Mondays, 5:30-7:00pm. Learn About the Land Trust. Join us at a different local establishment as we enjoy casual conversation and share how you can become involved with the North Florida Land Trust. Check website for locations.

December 3, 2008 Conservation Easement Permanence with special guest Lauren Florio, (before PLAM conference). 10am-4pm at Hyatt Regency. No fee, lunch on your own. Textbook \$20 if you desire. Registration required. Contact busy@conserveflorida.org or 352-466-1178.

December 3-5, 2008 Public Lands Acquisition Conference, Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, FL. NFLT will have a booth during conference.

December 11, 2008 NFLT Guest Speaker NEFAR Beaches Realtors, 8:00am

December 18, 2008 NFLT Guest Speaker USGBC, River City Brewery, 11:30am

January 7-February 1, 2009 Jacksonville Winter Series Hunter-Jumper Show Green Cove Springs North Florida Land Trust will have a booth.

January 17, 2009 5:30pm, Hunter-Jumper Show VIP dinner with guest speaker Clay Henderson, from Holland & Knight, evening focused on land conservation in the southeast and promotion of NFLT efforts locally.

January 31, 2009 VIP Kayaking Tour of Goelz Preserve, Ponte Vedra Beach. Two times: 9am or 1pm. \$75 includes guided tour, lunch and beverage included.

February 7, 2009 DUVWAV Kids Day at MOSH. NFLT will have a booth.

February 7, 2009 Trailblazing day at Pescatello Island. Volunteers needed.

February 10, 2009 Learn About The Land Trust Join us for our brown bag lunch series where you learn more about the North Florida Land Trust with special guest speakers at WJCT Channel 7, 100 Festival Park Drive. Drinks and dessert provided. 12-1pm. Visit website for details.

February 28, 2009 VIP Kayaking Tour sponsored by Kayak Amelia. 9-12am, \$75 includes kayak rental, guided tour, lunch and beverage included. Reserve now: Call Kayak Amelia at 904-251-0016, limited space available. 13030 Hecksher Drive, Jacksonville FL 32226.

March 21, 2009 VIP Kayaking Tour of Goelz Preserve, Ponte Vedra Beach. Two times: 9am or 1pm. \$75 includes guided tour, lunch and beverage included.

March 28, 2009 Bicycling/Walking Tours of Pumpkin Hill properties. Help us raise funds for acquisitions in this area. Committee volunteers needed.

April 20, 2009 Sunset Boat Tour of St. Johns River sponsored by Jody Willis, Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial. 6-8pm. This is a two-hour dinner boat cruise with reinactors sharing local history while you explore the beautiful St. Johns. The boat will leave promptly at 6pm. In the event of rain, the event will be postponed. Tickets \$45pp/\$80 couple. Cash bar. Tickets available on website or call.

SAVE THE DATE: October, 2009 Painting the Region-The Bartram Trail, St. Johns County. Artists by invitation. Public welcome for acquisitions and viewing and events. www.paintingtheregion.com

For up to date information or to sign up for events:, check out our website: www.northfloridalandtrust.org, call 827-9870, or email nftoffice@bellsouth.net.

We have a special Wish List this year!

We need your help. It's been a banner year for land conservation, which puts a stress on operations as we continue to "Save Land."

If you can assist us in any of these areas, we'd love to hear from you...

- \$500 for new banner promoting newest projects we're working on
- \$1,200 for new computer for office
- \$200 for sign outside new office
- \$5,000 for appraisal and survey of property in Pumpkin Hill
- \$500 closing costs for 160 acre conservation easement in Hilliard, Nassau County, Florida/Georgia border
- \$30,000 capacity building funds to add office assistant staff
- \$3,000 pays for six months office space

Support NFLT: Raffle!

The North Florida Land Trust is currently selling tickets for an opportunity to own a beautiful C. Ford Riley print. This print measured 30x40 unframed, and is number 5/50. Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100.00. The raffle will offer additional items to be won, and will be held during our Boat Cruise up the St. Johns River, Monday, April 20, 2009. You do not need to be present to win.



The print is being framed compliments of Chris Mier of The Art Company, and will be on display at their store, 274 Solana Rd., Ponte Vedra Beach. Tickets can be purchased from our website or by contacting any of our board members. ■

NFLT Executive Director graduates environmental leadership program for Southeastern US

Bonnie Barnes, Executive Director of the NFLT has completed a year long regional program focused on environmental leadership. As a graduate and new Senior Fellow, she is eligible for grants offered by the organization. Bonnie is now part of a network of over 300 senior fellows around the world that share ideas and work to solve environmental issues related to local food sources, reducing carbon footprints, restorative practices, etc. Check out www.elpnet.org ■

