



Suwannee-St. Johns Group

Sierra Club

Newsletter

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VOLUME 35 • NUMBER 7 • September 2005



Gumroot Swamp.



Hogtown Creek.

Get Into The ACT

In 1988, using the proceeds from a joint acquisition with the Trust for Public Land, and subsequent re-sale of lands along Prairie Creek, ACT hired staff and immediately began negotiating for properties around Paynes Prairie Preserve. Ultimately they protected the 963-acre Hickory Ranch, the 656-acre Jerevan properties, and half a dozen other parcels, totaling nearly 2,500 acres.

Besides land preservation, ACT's mission includes historic preservation, such as the decade long project to acquire and restore the 1850s era Haile Homestead. In 2001, ACT was awarded a Florida Communities Trust grant of \$2.9 million for Blues Creek Ravine and Fox Pond. Both properties, next to San Felasco Hammock Preserve, are now under permanent protection. ACT owns and manages Blues Creek Ravine, which will open to the public in 2006 in partnership with Alachua County. In 2002, ACT received a conservation easement on 650 acres of a landmark private farm near San Felasco Hammock.

In 2004, with the help of a conservation buyer, ACT purchased the last rookery on Lake Santa Fe, protecting 1500 feet of shoreline where osprey, great blue heron, bald eagle, and great egret nest every spring.

Most recently, July 29, ACT purchased Phifer Flatwoods. Phifer is ideal for a com-

munity-supported conservation and recreation property as it has 3 miles of frontage on Hawthorne Road and the Gainesville-Hawthorne bike trail.

The future for ACT will not differ from the past — there will be too much to do, not enough money to do it, and the heart-

breaking triage of selecting where conservation efforts might succeed in a climate of increasing land prices fueled by population growth, low interest rates, and land speculation. ACT has become an institution which expresses the desire of many in our community

who not only love our land and our heritage, but want to make the extraordinary effort required to save a little bit of this special place we call home.

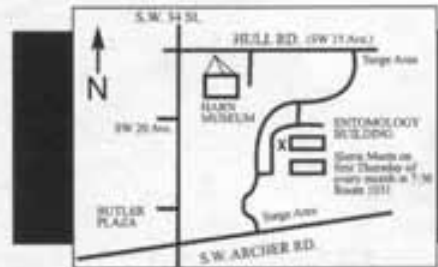
GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Sept. 1st, 7:30 PM

Entomology/Nematology Building on the UF campus
(Just east of the Performing Arts Center. Turn south off
Hull Road on to Natural Areas Road.)

A PRIMER ON LAND PRESERVATION

ROBERT HUTCHINSON
ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST



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Focus on Northside Park

BY LINDA POLLINI

I always like to start with the good news. Florida Rock went down to defeat in their attempt to operate a sand mine on 665 acres in West Putnam County!

On July 12, the final decision of the Putnam County Commission regarding the Florida Rock Sand Mine was to reject their request. The commissioners found that the land-use was inconsistent with the surrounding residential area that has grown up all around this acreage. Experts from both sides, including Dr. Kathy Cantwell and Dr. Sydney Bacchus for Sierra Club, again presented their case. It was a record-breaking meeting which started in the early afternoon and didn't conclude until 3:30 a.m.. Two hundred determined residents stayed into the early morning hours to hear the verdict. To my surprise, a major reason given for the rejection was the dangerous truck traffic that would have been generated on a two-lane country road.

This was an eighteen-month battle that forged many new friendships. The determination of the West Putnam Region Lake Association members who came together early and gave their all, really paid off. Consequently, the Sierra Club is making efforts to have some of the property in this

area put on a list for acquisition by the state and hopefully added to the Cross Florida Greenway. Many thanks to Dr. Cantwell for all of her efforts in this regard.

The SSJ Sierra Club Conservation Committee recently met at Gainesville's Northside Park - now proposed for a WalMart Supercenter (NW 34 St. & 441). In 1986 this park was given to the city of Gainesville by Alachua County with specific wording in the transfer stating that the park was to be kept as a park in "perpetuity". There are tennis courts, a picnic area, a small children's area and a nationally recognized disc golf course. It is indeed a beautiful place and an authentic wetland that is the headwaters of Hogtown Creek. The park is filled with beautiful tall pine trees, has numerous small wetland areas with standing water and wetland plants growing in them. The ground was soft and spongy after a recent rain, with abundant puddles everywhere when we stepped in the soft grass. This lush green oasis shows signs of the human hand trying to manipulate the environment.

One of our members, who has spent a lot of time at this park over the years, pointed out some of the changes. There has

been deep channelization done around the sides of the park in an effort to dry it out and carry the water downstream. There are two ugly scar-like channels dug side by side in the middle that go out to the edge channel. Native habitat for wildlife has been severely cut back and a thick row of bushes and palmettos that once acted as a sound barrier for the traffic on Hwy 441 is completely gone. A tiny wetland pond with trees all around the edge seems to be encroached upon and made smaller by chopped yard waste from the parks maintenance crew. The banks of the channels have been routinely sprayed with herbicide, killing the weeds and eliminating hiding places for small creatures that like to live there.

Still this park is doing what a wetland area is supposed to do: slowly filtering the water that collects there before it reaches the downstream creek system or the aquifer below. If this was paved over and a huge parking lot put in, the run-off from that area, whether in a retention pond or not, would eventually add all of the oil and automobile drippings and accumulated garbage from a very big parking area into our aquifer. We need to keep this park as it is because it is performing the important function of directly recharging the aquifer below.

see CORNER, page 4

CHAIR'S



CORNER

Visit the National and Local Sierra Club Websites!

National: <http://www.sierraclub.org> • Local: <http://www.gatorsierra.org>

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FOLDING PARTY

Interested in hosting a newsletter folding party?
Contact Scott Camil at 375-2563

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What Sierra Club Membership Means to Me

BY KAREN GARREN

Outings Chair

I find a fun Sierra Club experience is tabling at events with our newsletters and fundraising items like T-shirts, coffee, and calendars. Some people have never heard of the organization or have only a vague idea of its purpose.

This happens often enough that I've gotten a schpeal together: "The Sierra Club, started in 1896 by John Muir in California, their motto is 'Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet'. The Suwannee/St. John's group, encompassing 15 counties, is the largest geographic spread in Florida. The organization informs me on local conservation issues and environmental positions of political candidates. I've found that the Sierra Club functions to voice my opinions."

I maintain membership in organizations that promote preservation of wildlife habi-

tat and biodiversity. Our August Sierra Club meeting in Ocala presented topics such as impact of development on the Silver River, hydrogen fuel cells for alternative energy, and private landowners forming cooperative easements to connect out-parcels for the Cross Florida Greenway. Discussed at a recent Executive Committee meeting were Putnum County rezoning requests, clean energy proposals for Deerhaven Power Plant expansion, Wal-Mart Super Center sitings, and the US EPA's mandate for monitoring pollution threatening Gainesville's water sources.

SUWANNEE/ST. JOHN'S SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS PROGRAM

The Sierra Club monthly magazine advertises outings around the globe with certified leaders. Locally we have a multitude of interesting places and organizations to lead us. Suwannee/St. John's outings are planned to inform members on environmental issues and we love kids to participate. Call Karen Garren at (352) 371-0008,

e-mail ILuvFla@GRU.net or check the web site: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/ssj/outings.htm> for more information. All outings are open to the public - sometimes a donation is requested to cover costs.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 17, 9:30 AM.

Gainesville/Hawthorne Rails-to-Trail bike ride, postponed from August. The trail is 32 miles roundtrip but spectacular views of Payne's Prairie are available within walking distance from the parking area. Trip will highlight the 632-acre Phifer Tract, acquired by Alachua Conservation

Trust to preserve a vital link in the Santa Fe/Lochloosa Wildlife Corridor. Please bring lunch and plenty of water and contact me to participate.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24, AT 6:30 PM.

The Suwannee/St. John's Outing Committee meeting, location TBA. We're looking for outings suggestions, leaders and co-leaders. Refreshments provided. Please contact me to participate.

Potential up-and-coming outings: canoe the Okefenokee, tour an organic farm, visit Dry Tortugas Marine Reserve?



LABOR DAY WEEKEND POT-LUCK PICNIC AT GOLDHEAD BRANCH STATE PARK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 10:00 AM.

This lovely park offers Lake Johnson for non-motorized boating and swimming, the Florida Trail for hiking, and the spectacular ravine vegetation for tropical atmosphere. We've reserved a pavilion. Please bring personal utensils and group games. Park admission: \$4/vehicle Call Karen Garren to coordinate carpooling and food (352-371-0008).

Act now or we may never have peace

BY WILLIAM GILBERT

The cost of armament production for the preparation and conduct of war (now the War On Iraq) is costing people and our supporting natural environment.

Many of us* are trying to forge a genuine peace with ourselves and with the planet that will lead to a sustainable way of living. (See the Sierra Club statement against the war : www.sierraclub.org/iraqwar.)

People who are sickened by the killing, torture, destruction and spiraling human and financial costs of war are going to exercise their first amendment rights and show

their visible discontent by demanding that we must End the War on Iraq!

This nonviolent mass demonstration sponsored by A.N.S.W.E.R. and United for Peace will be held September 24, in Washington D.C.

Hundreds of organizations have endorsed this popular effort that will result in hundreds of thousands of people participating in this important event. You could be one of them.

If you would like to affirm your first amendment rights and participate in this citizens statement, there will be a large bus leaving Gainesville September 23 that will arrive in Washington DC mid-morning

the next day.

During the 24th there will be thousands of people from throughout the US representing human and environmental rights demanding to End the War on Iraq!

If you would like more information please contact: Bill Gilbert at 336-4510 or gilberts28@juno.com/ David Henderson at 375-1927 or HEND517@bellsouth.net/

If we do not speak up, we become a part of what is going on. Refuse to become complicit in what it is you disagree with.



Murder on the Prairie

A NORTH FLORIDA MYSTERY, STARRING...
THE SIERRA CLUB

Murder on the Prairie revolves around the threat of large scale development on the rim of Paynes Prairie. It begins when Lorelei Crane, an actress/environmentalist, learns about the development. She and her colleagues, at The Center for Earth Options, prepare to fight it. The dean of Alachua County's environmental groups dies suddenly, the Sierra Club office is ransacked, and her activist ex-husband is shot. Lorelei is then thrust on a dangerous trail of old passions, scandal, and murder.

Inspiration for the story was a real incident, the fight against development of the Hunt Club property, which took place in 1990. It was also inspired by Lars Andersen's, Paynes Prairie: A History of

the Great Savanna (Pineapple Press, 2001).

Mystery readers and environmentalists will enjoy the diverse characters, and the setting of this novel which deals with concerns about Florida's land use issues, the history and ecological significance of a unique North Florida setting, and the environs of Gainesville and UF.

Theatergoers will also take pleasure in the behind the scenes look as the leading character moves between her roles as lead actress in Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, and that of amateur sleuth in a real life drama. The subject of the play mirrors the protagonist's plight.

This book is the first in a mystery series featuring settings and ecological issues related to North Florida. Marjorie Abrams

(aka M.D. Abrams) one time manager for Florida Defender's of the Environment's Environmental Networking Project, is a retired college and university professor and administrator. She recently authored the play, *The Cellphone*, produced at the Hippodrome State Theatre (2004), and a winner in the Mt. Dora Music and Literature Festival (2005).

The author is donating ten percent of her profits from this book to the Sierra Club Foundation for local use, because of its efforts to preserve the Prairie, and because the Sierra Club plays a prominent role in her book. Murder on the

Prairie can be purchased at Goerings, Wild Iris, and other independent bookstores in Gainesville as well as from the author's website (www.mdabrams.com) and major online bookstores.

MURDER ON THE PRAIRIE: A NORTH FLORIDA MYSTERY

BY M.D. ABRAMS

PUBLISHED BY BOOKLOCKER.COM

CORNER, from page 2

The conservation committee also discussed the Hartman property (due south on Hwy 441) on which WalMart wants to invest \$2 million and build a big fancy park with all of the amenities as a lure for swapping Northside Park for their purposes. The Hartman site is also a wetland and even wetter. Neither of these properties should be put into large-scale commercial development. They are integral to the health of the water and creek system that is so unique to Gainesville. Both of these properties are within the official government map that delineates the headwaters of Hogtown Creek.

To manipulate the environment by put-

ting in a Super Shopping Center is the first step down the slippery slope to "pave paradise and put up a parking lot". The bottom line is that no amount of money can replace the aquifer recharge function of this natural system and it should not be compromised. It could have a deleterious effect on the creek system below which is already suffering from too much run-off, erosion and sedimentation downstream at SW 34 Street and University Ave. Sedimentation removal by the state Dept. of Transportation to prevent flooding is a frequent activity already. Paving the headwater area will only worsen the problem downstream. It is all connected!

Meanwhile, there are other shopping malls in the vicinity outside of the mapped

wetlands that already have paved parking lots but stand empty. Why does WalMart insist on developing in marked wetland areas and not build in the more appropriate economically-needy Enterprise Zone on the east side of Gainesville that has already been approved for this commercial use?

This big box retailer is not just targeting Gainesville, but has applied for permits in every little town that will allow them in. This is actually happening all over the country. We are very concerned about the outcome of this issue.

To help stop this from happening please contact the city commissioners at CityCom@cityofgainesville.org and/or send a letter to the editor of the Gainesville Sun.

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Organize for Airboat Control

BY WHITEY MARKLE

Under pressure from local lake residents, the Alachua County Commission has issued a request for proposals (RFP) to study airboat noise. This is an obvious stalling tactic, ninety percent of the material being proposed in the RFP has already been discovered and reported to them (see the Water Use Zoning Team report 10/2003, available from Alachua County Growth Management).

The money for this study is coming from Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWCC), bids start August 31. They say the research will be complete in 6 months. I'd like to believe them, but I have a friend who has newspaper clippings from the 1950's when the lake dwellers in Alachua County asked the commissioners for relief from airboat noise.

Ironically, FWCC should be the ones out in front on this issue. Aren't they supposed to be protecting our wildlife and wetlands habitats? Noise pollution is just that, pollution! In fact, FWCC is so reluctant to do anything about the issue that concerned citizens have had to appeal to the county and sheriff's department to get enforcement.

Alachua County Sheriff Oelrich (himself a lake-side resident) has expressed disgust with the way the FWCC is handling the muffler law and for his part has told the county commission the sheriff's dept. will: 1) meet with the airboaters, 2) educate them on muffler use, and 3) start issuing noise violation tickets. Of course, he has

not done any of this yet and right now appears focused on his bid for state senate.

The Suwannee St. Johns Sierra Group issued a proclamation last year, supporting an airboat curfew and quiet zones. This proclamation was delivered to the Alachua County Commission but it is going to take more pressure to get them to do anything. We need a coalition.



If the county commission ordains a curfew, the sheriff's department has no choice but to enforce it. The sheriff realizes it is much easier to enforce a curfew than to chase an airboat down at 4 a.m. with a sound level meter (that may be impossible!).

Also, a scientific study conducted over the last 2 years by FWCC is now going to peer review, which will take another year. Problem is, they have researched the wrong issues and the conclusions at this point are useless statewide. See http://myfwc.com/boating/airboat_sound_faq.htm. Note that the last paragraph says that, even if the working group recommends traditional muffling devices on air-

boats, "It would be up to Florida's courts to either support or reject that interpretation".

So, it looks like we are at the same place we were in 1996 when FWCC responded to my request for muffler enforcement by saying "you must seek relief from the courts (before we can expedite enforcement of the muffler law)".

At this point it is possible to file for a declaratory judgment (i.e. 'what is a muffler?'), but even if a judge issues a declaratory definition, FWCC still has discretionary power (they can choose whether to issue a misdemeanor ticket for noisy water vessels). I guess this may be progress because they at least would be stripped from the old reply of not knowing what a muffler is.

A simple answer is available through the Alachua County Commission. The state constitution allows for an ordinance to curfew air-

boat activity and slow them down in sensitive areas within the county. This way, they sheriff would do all the enforcement, and FWCC would be out of the picture.

We are not the only Florida county dealing with this problem. Perhaps a statewide effort in the legislature would work, but we are disorganized. I would like to hear from other concerned citizens in Alachua County or elsewhere. We need to focus our efforts, maybe first on Alachua County and then apply it to other counties. We are not the only ones suffering from airboat noise and the lack of enforcement.

To join forces or if you just want to ask some questions, contact Whitey Markle at 352-392-0270 or markle@ufl.edu

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FLORIDA CHAPTER—SIERRA CLUB

Congress has just passed what may be the worst Energy Bill in our nation's history. It does nothing to address our dire need to move away from petroleum-based fuels. On a local level, there are several new power plants or expansions being considered in our area. With this in mind, we have chosen to highlight our Florida Chapter Sierra Club's conservation committee on Energy.

How it works - The Florida Chapter formed a committee to work on this conservation issue. The committee produced an issue paper stating the official position of the Chapter; that paper is printed, in part, below. For more information about our conservation issues, visit <http://florida.sierraclub.org/issues.asp>

The current methods by which energy is generated and consumed affect our environment on many levels. Irresponsible and inefficient use of energy threatens our planet with global warming, pollution, depletion of water resources, habitat loss and harm to the health of humans and other species. The Energy Committee seeks to minimize these repercussions by promoting conservation, energy efficiency and the replacement of fossil fuels with clean renewable sources of energy.

Florida is experiencing tremendous population growth as our nation's third fastest growing state. This results in an increased need for reliable energy services. According to the National Renewable Energy Lab, Florida is among the top 15 states with the highest amount of sunlight. However, very little of Florida's electric energy comes from renewable energy sources. Imported fossil fuels, particularly coal, dominate the fuel generating mix. A significant portion of our electrical energy arrives as "coal-by-wire" via transmission lines from Georgia and Alabama. In-state, coal continues to make up a significant portion of the electrical energy generation fuel mix. We have several aging nuclear power plants, some oil-burning plants which were grandfathered in with the passage of the first Clean Air Act, and some natural-gas fired power plants. Based on power plant emissions data from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, for the year 2002 Florida is among the nation's top ten states with the most power plant pollution. Florida ranked third in emissions of NOx, the precursor of smog; fourth in emissions of CO2, the greenhouse gas; and ninth in SO2, which is responsible for acid rain. NOx and SO2 are also recognized as the main contributors to the formation of

fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), which gets deep into lungs and causes tens of thousands of illnesses and premature deaths each year.

EPA data from its most recent Toxic Release Inventory shows that electric utility power plants are America's biggest air polluters. Using the EPA data, Florida PIRG and the National Environmental Trust released the report Toxic Neighbors, which analyzes the data and concludes that Florida ranks fourth in the nation for total toxic emissions from power plants, third in the nation for dioxin and dioxin-like compounds, and fifteenth in the nation for mercury emissions. These power plants do not include municipal solid waste incinerators, known to be significant sources of airborne mercury, yet not required to report mercury emissions to the EPA Toxic Release Inventory.

Because of the centralized nature of our state's energy system with its large power plants, its vast transmission grid and its reliance on imported fuels, we are vulnerable to supply and distribution interruptions. Remember the electric blackout of August 14, 2003 - our nation's largest - affecting about 50 million people from New York City to Detroit and Toronto, Canada? Distributed generating systems based on renewable energy can alleviate our vulnerability to large scale system disruptions and make us safe and secure from terrorism attacks or other energy system emergencies.

Go to the webpage for energy conservation issues to read up on the committee goals and activities.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Join the committee and assist in research and advocacy efforts. Contact

Chair Ann Vanek at (813) 205-9810.

Disseminate information about current energy issues affecting the State of Florida.

Arrange for speakers from organizations such as the Florida Solar Energy Center, the Green Building Coalition, the Florida Energy Extension Service, to make presentations to local groups.

Share your views on energy matters with state legislators, public service commissioners, and local elected officials.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Keep up the habit of turning off lights as you leave a room, especially in summer. 99 percent of a light's energy use is converted to heat, one percent to light. Better yet, convert to fluorescent bulbs. They cost more than incandescent ones, but they last much longer and make up for their cost in energy savings.

Don't choose a lower air conditioning temperature when you first turn it on. It won't cool faster - whenever it's running, it's cooling as fast as it can. Set low, it cools longer, not faster.

A lot of folks set their air conditioner thermostat higher and run ceiling fans to save energy. But you should only run them when you are there to feel the breeze. Fans don't cool a room. They just cool your skin.

Buy Energy Star Appliances.

COMMITTEE CHAIR: ANN VANEK

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: DEBBIE EVANS, MARK ONCAVAGE, DEB SWIM, JOHN RYAN,

JANET STANKO, FRANK LESLIE, KEITH SCHUE, GINGER RODGERS, DARDEN RICE (STAFF ADVISOR)



Uneven-age Forestry

AN ECONOMIC AND CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY

Editor's Note: This article does not express the opinion of the Sierra Club on silviculture. According to the Florida Chapter Agriculture Issue Chair December McSherry, the Sierra Club does not consider tree farming sustainable, mostly because the routine removal of large amounts of biomass causes depletion of soil reserves. We are running this article because our region has many small and large-scale tree farms in it. The market is poor for pulpwood these days and some owners are switching to other land-uses. Unfortunately, there is much pressure to sell out to development or to use the fastest growing planted pines possible to generate cash. The alternative described below is far superior to more sprawl development in North Central Florida.

BY JOSHUA DICKINSON

Executive Director, The Forest Management Trust

If we intend to reverse the loss of natural pine ecosystems in the Southeast U.S. to even-age, short-rotation pulpwood plantations, we must commit to promotion of uneven-aged management. The reasons are both environmental and economic.

Loss of forestland to even-aged plantations negatively impacts an array of species, including threatened or endangered species like the red cockaded woodpecker and flatwoods salamander. Intensive site preparation results in habitat disruption and erosion of soil and nutrients, negatively

impacting site productivity and aquatic ecosystems downstream. Longer grown multi-age stands increase habitat value and decrease the site preparation.

The magnitude of the threat is enormous. The USFS Southern Forest Resource Assessment predicts that the area in plantations is expected to increase from

32 to 54 million acres by 2040 and natural forest types to decrease from 149 to 122 million acres during the same period.

The economic impact of plantation forestry is complex. On the one hand, fast-growing plantations assure a continued supply of cheap raw material for conversion into paper and other products. These companies make money selling newsprint, not growing trees. The continuing shift of pulpwood production offshore to countries with even higher growth rates and lower production costs, such as Brazil and New Zealand, assures that pulpwood remains cheap. Pressure on industry to increase recycled content in paper will also tend to drive pulpwood prices lower (but it doesn't mean we should not require recycling!).

There is a way out of this bind that is more environmentally sound and profitable — uneven-aged management of longleaf, loblolly and slash pine plantations for saw timber. A shift to uneven-aged management will involve a sea change in Southeastern forestry. The challenges are daunting, but the payoff is nothing less than the saving of natural forests in the Southeast! The convergent interests of the environmentalist and the landowner can facilitate the shift.

The greatest challenge comes from the family-plantation owners themselves. They control 70% of the plantation acreage in the Southeast. Unfortunately, some eighty-eight percent of owners practice no man-

agement whatsoever. Some see their plantation as a reserve, to be logged only in a dire emergency. Others, among them many absentee owners, just passively hold their land. Both tend to fall victim to the itinerant logger with his "We buy timber" signs along rural roads, who offers what appears to be a whopping price for the timber, then removes every merchantable stem, and leaves the area trashed.

A second challenge is the declining prestige of southern yellow pine as a quality building material. Experiment stations and industry in the Southeast have selected pines for maximum radial growth. This low lignin/high cellulose pine lumber is despised by builders because of its tendency to warp and poor structural characteristics. As a result, builders increasingly choose western, Canadian or European coniferous wood for studs and trusses - or steel and recycled plastic. Uneven-aged management yields slower grown saw timber that could restore the status of southern yellow pine as the industry standard.

The Forest Management Trust advocates a comprehensive program to promote uneven-aged management. Key to this effort are people like Don Handley, a leading advocate in the Southeast. At a recent field workshop sponsored by the Trust and the Forest Guild, Don convincingly demonstrated to a group of forest owners that forests managed for his clients bring a return in excess of \$100 per acre per year in perpetuity from a well-stocked stand while maintaining or increasing the timber volume on the property. Keep in mind, even-aged plantations and clearcut forests yield a lump sum once in an adult's life time. A factor in the favorable return on uneven-aged stands is the thinnings (pulpwood) done at intervals as well as the production of saw logs.

The Forest Management Trust considers its program to promote uneven-aged management as one of its core activities. We are conducting outreach to foresters, architects, builders and wood product retailers on the economic and environmental advantages of uneven-aged forest management. We are also promoting state and federal incentives programs for owners willing to practice uneven-aged management.

For more information contact Josh Dickinson at or 352-373-2377.

Suwannee-St. Johns Group
Sierra Club
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SEPTEMBER 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 1, Thursday 7:30 p.m. General meeting: A Primer on Land Preservation. Details on page 1.

Sept. 3, Saturday 10 a.m. Potluck Picnic at Goldhead Branch State Park. Great outing opportunity. Join us! Details on page 3.

Sept. 8, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Executive Committee meeting at Santa Fe Comm. College Downtown Gainesville campus.

Sept. 16, Friday. Deadline for submissions for October newsletter. Contact Kristina at 352-372-2464 or kristinajackson@cox.net

Sept. 23, Friday. 7:30 p.m. Folding Party for the October newsletter. At Scott Camil and Sherry Steiner's house, call 375-2563.

Go to www.sierraclub.org to learn more about national, state and local conservation issues.

Is it your turn?

Please consider serving on the executive committee of the Suwannee-St. John's Group. ExCom members are united by our great desire to protect the environment. We meet once a month, on a Thursday evening, to work on our priority issues.

Is it your turn? Step up to the plate and help us continue with this important work. To volunteer to have your name put on our next ballot as a candidate contact Roberta Gastmeyer at 336-2404 or rgastmeyer@earthlink.net.

Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

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email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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