



Bay County Conservancy, Inc.

The Land Conservancy of Northwest Florida

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Spring 2020 Newsletter
www.baycountyconservancy.org

Spring is a Time for Renewal

Yes, that also means that for many of our conservation-minded friends, it is time to check and see if your annual Bay County Conservancy membership is up to date. We've tried to make that easy for you by including a **Membership Renewal/Contribution** form and return envelope. Current members will see a sticker on the form showing the date of your last membership renewal or contribution. Please send in your renewal form today!

If you haven't yet joined the Conservancy -but care about and support our efforts to save local lands—please fill out and mail your enclosed **New Member** form.

Bay County Conservancy relies on membership dollars to help support restoration activities on our preserves. We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. Our work is done by volunteers, a non-paid Board of Directors and one part-time staff person. Please know that every contribution helps—and every dollar is appreciated!

Current fears about the Covid-19 virus have curtailed BCC's activities involving large numbers of volunteers. However, we will continue to work in small groups to improve accessibility to preserves and restore habitat. We still have a long way to go....

-Teresa Nooney
Executive Assistant, BCC



What's Happening at the Palm Preserve?

The Mary Ola Reynolds Miller Palm Preserve is BCC's smallest preserve. It boasts many native sabal palms and is home to a beautiful wall mural painted by local artist **Jane Perry**. Volunteers have been busy since Hurricane Michael—removing debris and downed branches, mowing the grass, and restoring and planting two small areas with native wildflowers. With help from members of the **Sweetbay Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society**, we just planted a native fringe tree, brushy stem palmettos, a dahoon holly, paw paws, and a number of wildflower seeds. The coral honeysuckle vine is blooming and (love 'em or hate 'em) - bright purple spiderwort flowers are flourishing.

If you're looking for a bright spot to walk to and reflect on how lucky we are to still have a few green spaces in our downtown vicinity—the Palm Preserve is a good place to spend a few quiet outdoor moments. If you're lucky, you'll spot one of the yellow-bellied sapsuckers up among the palms.



Nancy Harris and Deb Fable prepare one of the wildflower sites at the Palm Preserve.

Air Potato Round-Up 2020



BCC volunteers, along with Julie McConnell and Scott Jackson from the UF/IFAS Bay County Extension office, collected approximately 130lbs of invasive air potatoes on Feb. 22nd at Air Potato Round-up 2020. Regular efforts to remove air potato bulbs help prevent this invasive vine from taking over natural habitat and choking out our native trees.

With a Little From Our Friends - Thank You, Volunteers!!

Bottom left: A small army of volunteers descended upon the tree-strewn boardwalk at Audubon Nature Preserve. Al Clare repaired broken boards and chainsaw workers cut limbs into pieces that could be hauled out to the roadside. Luckily, the gazebo at the end of the boardwalk sustained only minor damage. Eventually, the walking trail will be made passable for visitors.

Below right: BCC held a work day at Juniper Headwaters near Fountain. We managed to clear trees blocking the main entrance to the preserve and hope to restore the loop trail later. The preserve signs here, as at many BCC properties, were blown away by Hurricane Michael and need to be replaced.



Oltz Family Preserve

Right: BCC Board member Joe Parell gets ready to fire up the chain saw at the Oltz Family Preserve in Lynn Haven. Hurricane Michael destroyed much of the preserve just days before its scheduled grand opening. Fallen trees now cover the trails that volunteers had cleared in the months prior to the storm. BCC plans to continue cutting and hauling out downed trees and hopes to once again clear walking paths.



Right:

Volunteers clear fallen trees at the entrance to the preserve last spring.



Mission Statement

The Bay County Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to the preservation of environmentally sensitive lands in Northwest Florida.

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