



Bay County Conservancy, Inc. Newsletter

www.baycountyconservancy.org

2009-2010

Celebrating 10 Years of Local Land Conservation!



While the economic downturn is not something to celebrate, it has given the Bay County Conservancy an unprecedented opportunity to buy land at a reasonable cost. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary this year, and we feel like a small group of volunteers has accomplished a lot in that time. We have 10 preserves, with a total of 205 acres. We purchased a **10-acre expansion** of Tumble Creek Preserve for 1/7th the price that had been asked for it. Now, we must pay off the no-interest loan. Please see the enclosed note **{Power of 10 2009-2010 Fundraiser}** that tells how you can help! **Special thanks** are due to **Graham Clarke** for sponsoring the Holiday Market and donating a public service announcement for BCC.

New Life Members in the last two years are: **Gail and Jerry Carmody, Nick Humble, Lehman Holder, Donna Albert, the Wal-Mart Foundation, and the Bay Point Women's Club.** Thanks to all who support the BCC, at whatever level you can manage!
- Candis Harbison

Changes at Doctors' Pond—Audubon Nature Preserve

In the past year, we have made some improvements in the Doctors' Pond area. Recently, with the help of six Wal-Mart volunteers, we cut a walking path from the end of the boardwalk going north to the main trail along the drainage canal. Now it is much easier to access the pond for working or nature study.



Earlier this year, we moved the kiosk from the end of the boardwalk to the beginning and replaced the old sign with a much-improved professional looking sign. And just last week we put up a third wood duck box. Now all we need is water in the pond to attract those beautiful birds back where they used to be fairly common.



Even though our invasive exotic plant control program is winding down, we still are faced with treating the alligator weed problem in the pond and doing some mopping up of some remaining Chinese Tallow trees (popcorn trees). To try and keep water in the pond we will fill in some of the drainage ditches that were dug before we acquired the property. If anyone has a small tractor or backhoe to help us, that would be great.

- Ron Houser



Tumble Creek Preserve Continues to Grow

One of our finest properties is Tumble Creek Preserve in Washington County. It started as a 20-acre donation from the Marianna Audubon Society, and we have added five more parcels to it, for a total of 67 acres. It consists of uplands with longleaf pine and turkey oak and wiregrass, with a stream running through it that has sphagnum moss bogs and wetland vegetation. It eventually connects with the Econfina Creek, thus protecting part of our watershed.

We found a willing seller who took \$2,000 an acre for 10 acres which is very wet. During the land boom, this same owner was asking \$150,000 for the property! We are interested in acquiring other pieces along the creeks in this area that drain into our water supply. Also, the diversity of plant life is notable and worthy of preserving. *Can you help?*

-Jackie Kolk

Nature Trail at Juniper Headwaters Preserve



A new nature trail is nearing completion at the 40-acre Juniper Headwaters Preserve in Fountain. Many thanks go to **Ron Houser** and **Ted Wilson** for their hard work on this project. BCC is also very fortunate to have nature-loving neighbors.

Management Team Leaders **George Jonkel** and his daughter, **Elise Gold**, keep an eye on the Preserve. Thanks again, George and Elise, for hosting last year's fall fieldtrip to *your* very own wild-life paradise!

- Teresa Nooney



Crayfish Alive and Well at Talkington Family Nature Preserve



Wetland creation, restoration, and enhancement activities at the Talkington Family Nature Preserve in Lynn Haven have been successful to date. Exotic plant species have been removed and have not reoccurred. The 10-acre site now is vegetated with a native wetland plant community.

A related objective of the wetland mitigation plan was to create suitable habitat for the Panama City crayfish, a Florida species of Special Concern. During the fall of 2008, a BCC member, state and federal biologists, and consultants sampled wetland habitats of the Preserve to try to determine whether Panama City crayfish had become established at the property. That survey *did* document the presence of the Panama City crayfish in numbers suggesting that it has successfully established itself in the Talkington Family Preserve.

- Ric Ruebsamen

10th Annual Meeting Highlights

BCC's 10th Annual Meeting was held on March 28, 2009, at the Doctors' Pond Gazebo on the Audubon Nature Preserve.

Wal-Mart's "Green Team" volunteers **Sarah Drake** and **Ashley Carmony** were thanked for their cleanup efforts at the Audubon Nature Preserve, which resulted in a \$1,000.00 donation from the Wal-Mart Foundation.

Special thanks were extended to **Laura Jenkins** for her donation in honor of her late husband, **Wally Jenkins**. The funds were used to refurbish the Doctors' Pond kiosk.

BCC Board members were formally elected for 2009-2010.

Garage Sale Fundraiser a Success

BCC's April Garage Sale netted nearly \$900.00, which will be applied toward the purchase of the new property acquisition at Tumble Creek.

Thank you to everyone who donated goods and helped make our first garage sale a success!

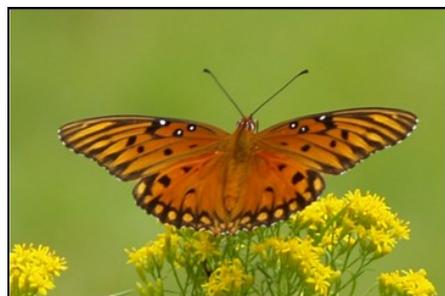
Please hang onto your unwanted, "gently used" items for next year!



Thank You Bay County Conservancy Members & Supporters

Life Members

Donna Miley Albert
 Bay County Bar Association
 Louise Berry
 Gail & Jerry Carmody
 James Davis
 Drs. Kamel and Joan Elzawahry
 Sara Eoff
 Eula Fontaine
 Byrd Family Foundation
 Alfred I. DuPont Foundation
 Gulf Power Foundation
 Jelks Family Foundation
 Dr. Ted & Geraldine Wilson Foundation
 Wal-Mart Foundation
 Jerry Gerde
 Candis Harbison
 Dr. Joe Harbison
 Hare, Hare & Myers
 Lehman Holder
 Ron Houser
 Nick Humble
 Dr. William Humphreys
 Dr. Ed & Lisa Keppner
 Jacalyn Kolk
 Pearl Lamonica
 Eugenia Lloyd
 Todd Gallati/Gulf Coast Medical Center
 John Robert Middlemas
 Mary Ola Miller
 John Newman
 Surgical Associates of NWFL
 Physicians of NW FL Surgery Center
 Rev. Nels J. Oas
 Dr. Joe & Carolyn Parel
 John T. Patronis
 Nancy Roberts
 Caroline & Doug Smith
 Don & Louisa Taylor
 Mary Thieme
 Bay Point Women's Club



Members & Supporters



John & Marsha Benton	Barbara Lewers
Dr. John Benton	Lynn Haven Lions Club
Peter & Louise Berry	Dr. John & Aviva Mallary
Rob Blue	Alyce Marquis
Christine Bodiford	Raymond & Ginny Matson
Arthur Boike, Jr.	Steve & Carol McLellan
Thelma Bruce	Margaret Meek
Shirley & George Burr	Warren Middlemas III
Samuel Carter	Beth Miller
Al Clare	Dave Burris & Mary Mittiga
Graham Clarke	Mary Morse
Dick & Nancy Clifton	Victoria Musgrave
Hildreth Cooper	Teresa Nooney
George & Mary Cornett	Nancy O'Connor
Max & Joyce Dannecker	Janet Olsen
Democratic Women's Club	Drs. Jeff & Nikki Palgut
Cheryl & Joe Detrick	Tim & Lorna Patrick
Mitch Dever	Leonard & Dorothy Perfetti
Marie Devey	Dr. Michael Reed
Tom Disanto	Dr. Michael & Thelma Rohan
Audrey Dow	Laura Roesch
Dr. Neal Dunn	Winifred Rogers
Henry Dusseault	Ric Ruebsamen
Dr. Boyd & Daphne Eaton	Betty Ryan
Ruby Jo Faust	Terry & Blandina Rytkonen
Laurel Withee Floyd	St. Andrew Bay RMA
David Fuller	Dr. John Savage
Sunny Hills Garden Club	Carl Saye
Elise Gold	Cecile Scoon
Friends of Goose Bayou Marsh	Carolyn & Doug Simpkins
David Gorchov	Rose Smith
Gulf Coast Woman's Club	Bill & Rebecca Spann
Robert Gutting	Staats, White & Grabner
Kathryn Hanline	Judith Stagg
Jerry & Nancy Harris	Vivian Steele
Edward Hayden	Dr. James & Pat Strohmenger
Dr. Larry Hodson	Law Firm of Syfrett & Furr
Russell Hofstead	Dr. James Talkington
Joanne & Lou Holt	Don & Louisa Taylor
Andrew Hunter	Ron Thomasson
Richard & Ann Ingram	Mark Thompson
Laura Jenkins	Robert Tracey
George Jonkel	UU Fellowship of Bay County
Walt & Janelle Jurkiewicz	Brenda Ward
Patty Kelly	Dr. Susan & Larry White
Rita King	Richard & Francis Wittkopf
Bay County Land & Abstract	Arlene Zacher & Robert Gilmore
Pat Lamar	
Dr. Neil Lamb	

Board of Directors

President

Candis Harbison

Vice President

Ron Houser

Treasurer

Carolyn Parell

Members at Large

Jerry Gerde, Esq.

Jacalyn Kolk, Esq.

Joseph Parell, M.D.

Warren Middlemas III.

Ted Wilson, M.D.

Executive Assistant

Teresa Nooney

Webmaster

Patrice Couch

Mission Statement

The Bay County Conservancy is a not-for-profit, 501 (c) (3) land trust dedicated to the preservation of environmentally sensitive lands in the St. Andrew Bay ecosystem with emphasis on Bay County, Florida.



Milkweed in bloom at the Mary Ola Reynolds Miller Palm Preserve. Visit BCC's smallest "oasis of green" located on W. Beach Drive, next to the Gallery of Art.

Contact Info:

Bay County Conservancy, Inc.
P.O. Box 1122
Panama City, FL 32402

Phone: (850) 872-8260 Fax: (850) 872-9972

Email: bcc@comcast.net
www.baycountyconservancy.org

BCC Protected Properties

Audubon Nature Preserve

King Family Preserve

Tumble Creek Preserve

Mary Ola Reynolds Miller Palm Preserve

Savage Swamp

Juniper Headwaters Preserve

Talkington Family Nature Preserve

Richard Jennings Preserve

Marjorie's Magical Marsh - Symone's Sanctimonious Swamp

Doreen Miley Holder Preserve



Thank You for Your Support

Volunteers and donors who understand the need for preserving at least a small part of our native environment are the bed-rock of our organization.

Please help the Bay County Conservancy save open space, wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail your donations to: **Bay County Conservancy, P.O. Box 1122, Panama City, FL 32402** or visit **www.baycountyconservancy.org** and make a secure donation online. If you wish to donate tax-deductible funds, properties or securities, or would like information on becoming a **volunteer**, please contact Candis Harbison at **872-8260** for details.

The Bay County Conservancy, Inc., is a charitable organization as determined by Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A copy of official registration #CH15037 with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may be obtained from the division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352.