



Bay County Conservancy, Inc.

The Land Conservancy of Northwest Florida

P.O. Box 1122 Panama City, FL 32402
(850) 381-7500

Summer 2021 Newsletter
www.baycountyconservancy.org

“Pathways to Native Plants at the Palm Preserve”

Despite threatening weather on April 24th, visitors came out to take a look at the abundance of Florida native plants at BCC’s Palm Preserve— and many went home with a native plant for their own garden. Thanks to a fruitful partnership with volunteers from the **Sweetbay Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society**, the tiny preserve has rebounded since Hurricane Michael. **Susan Llorca** and **Teresa Nooney** have greatly increased –and care for—the number of plants (now over 100 species!) in the pollinator gardens, bog and “upland” areas. And we’re inviting you to come and see us again on **August 21st, 9 a.m.– noon** (rain date is Aug. 28th). We hope to have a sampling of native plants available.



Changes at ANP

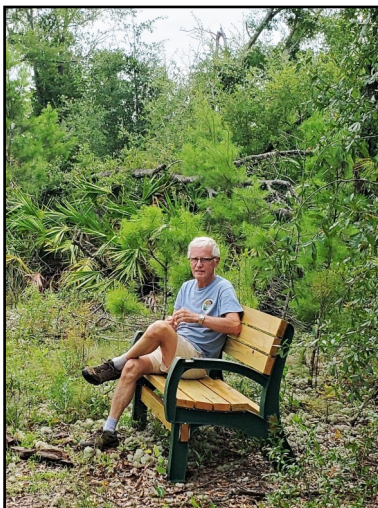
Acquisition of Audubon Nature Preserve (ANP) was the reason for formation of BCC, and it has been the focus of activity since 1998. Drought and the city’s increased drainage practices caused the original pond to transition to a marsh that is only occasionally wet. Unfortunately, the gazebo attracted so much vandalism through the years that we decided to remove the roof and benches. Now the boardwalk leads to an open deck that is still a lovely place for contemplation and enjoying nature. Benches have been built near the informational kiosk on the street (thanks, **Al Clare!**).

A loop trail ran from the gazebo to the levee behind Walmart and back to the boardwalk before Hurricane Michael, and the first half of it has been restored (thanks, **volunteers!**). We are working on completing a path in front of the new trees that were planted along State Avenue after the hurricane, and we are grateful to **Randy Wright of Gulf Coast Tree Specialists** for help on this and other projects.

- Candis Harbison, President

Getting by with a LOT of help from our friends

A grant from the **Bay Point Women’s Club (BPWC)** allowed the purchase of two benches for BCC preserves. A concrete bench was placed along a new path in the native plant garden at Mary Ola Reynolds Miller Palm Preserve and a wooden bench now graces the path at the Oltz Family Preserve that was recently cleared of hurricane damage by a volunteer work party. BCC is grateful to BPWC for their continued support over the years and for **Gail Carmody’s** sponsorship to the organization.



The Conservancy also extends special thanks to the **Allen Jelks Family**, the **Byrd Family Foundation**, the **Ted & Gerry Wilson Family Foundation**, **Mr. Maxwell Miller** and **Ms. Ola Jane Gow**.

Last, but not least, we offer a heartfelt *THANK YOU* to the **Community Services Foundation of Bay County** and the many, many others who donated in memory of **Mrs. Eugenia Lloyd**, a long-time BCC Life Member who passed away earlier this year. Please know that your contributions gave our organization a much-needed boost during a very challenging year.

Help Wanted

BCC recently purchased a trailer to hold the brush mower, grass mower, loppers and herbicides that are necessary to keep the preserves in order. Now we just need to find a **Field Manager** to hire! We are looking for a reliable person (with a vehicle that can tow the trailer) who is available to work a flexible 4 to 8 hour per week schedule maintaining BCC's preserves. You would be responsible for occasional mowing, trail-clearing, litter clean up, and assisting with the removal of invasive vegetation. Interested?

Please call Candis Harbison at (850) 381-7500.

Also Needed: Our Tax and Accounting expert has retired! BCC is seeking an experienced person to file quarterly payroll reports and help prepare the annual Form 990.

To be added to the Volunteer list: send your name and email address to nooneyt1963@gmail.com. We will be happy to send you notifications about any upcoming work days.



BCC doubles size of preserve at Sandy Creek

In 2010, Duncan and Eugenia McNaughton of San Francisco donated a 2-acre parcel in the Sandy Creek subdivision that had belonged to Mr. McNaughton's father, who was never able to realize his dream of building on it. A similar 2-acre lot adjacent to the land came up for sale, and BCC has purchased it to increase wildlife habitat and green space in the area.

Mission Statement

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



Swamp mallow *Hibiscus moscheutos*

Welcome new BCC Board Members!

BCC is excited to welcome two new Directors to the Board:

Bonnie Blue: recently moved back to her home town of Panama City after working as a city planner in such diverse areas as the Florida Keys, Houston, and Malibu. Bonnie and her father, Rob, and sister, Jill, have been frequent volunteers at work days. Bonnie's husband Taylor Camp is still managing a physician's office in California while living in Panama City.

Carrie Fioramonti: is an associate professor of biology at Gulf Coast State College who is familiar with the challenges of managing natural land in Florida. Carrie has participated in BCC's clean-up activities following Hurricane Michael. She also coordinates the Citizen Science lectures at GCSC.

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BCC Membership/Donation Form

Yes! I want to help the Bay County Conservancy save open space, wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Level: (circle one):

\$25-\$49 Contributor	\$200-\$999 Benefactor
\$50-\$199 Supporter	\$1,000+ Lifetime

Clip and mail with your check to: Bay County Conservancy, Inc.

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