

## **A Naturalist Yard**

This is our landscape management philosophy and objectives for a  
**Wakulla Spring Friendly Yard.**

### **Scenic and Wildlife Values**

The backyard is designed to enhance the view of the swamp and wildlife observation while providing food and cover for birds and other animals. One hundred fifty five species of birds have been observed here. The property is a Certified Wildlife Habitat designated by the National Wildlife Federation.

### **Avoid Use of Pesticides and Fertilizer.**

No fertilizer. Judicious use of herbicide is necessary to control Chinese tallow trees.

### **Simplicity and Low Maintenance**

We enjoy the openness of the yard and have avoided cluttering the space with shrubs. We reduced foundation shrubbery so as not to attract nuisance insects to the house. Centipede is our low maintenance lawn grass. It receives adequate fertilizer from the atmosphere in the form of nitrate that is continuously deposited on the grass and other plants. We burn the edge of the pond annually to maintain healthy cover for wildlife and to encourage a diversity of wildflowers.

### **Diversity of Native Trees and Shrubs**

There are 47 species of native trees which provide a diversity of foods for birds and butterflies. We planted 22 of these species.

### **Privacy**

Vegetative buffers have been created along the road and property lines for privacy. We stopped mowing these areas and Mother Nature did the rest without our assistance. Selective trimming of the buffer is necessary each spring to maintain the density.

### **Cavities**

Cavities created by woodpeckers are very important nesting sites for other birds and flying squirrels. You can't have cavities without woodpeckers and you can't have woodpeckers without dead wood. We have always had at least one snag in the yard for woodpecker cavities and food.

### **Protection**

We are placing a conservation easement on the cypress pond.  
Hunting, trapping and fishing are not permitted.

Jim Stevenson and Tara Tanaka

## Native Plants in the Yard

\*planted

### Trees

Black Gum\*  
Sourwood\*  
Shortleaf Pine  
Slash Pine  
Loblolly Pine  
Bald Cypress  
Red Cedar  
Cabbage Palm\*  
Red Buckeye\*  
Carolina Willow  
Pignut Hickory  
River Birch\*  
White Oak\*  
Southern Red Oak\*  
Laurel Oak  
Swamp Chestnut Oak\*  
Water Oak  
Shumard Oak\*  
Live Oak  
Red Maple  
Hackberry  
Devils Walking Stick  
American Elm\*  
Florida Elm\*  
Red Mulberry  
Tulip Poplar\*  
Southern Magnolia  
Sweetbay  
Redbay  
Sassafras\*  
Sweetgum  
Crab Apple\*  
Laurel Cherry\*  
Black Cherry  
Redbud\*  
Yaupon  
Swamp Tupelo  
Sparkleberry

Flowering Dogwood  
Persimmon  
Silverbell\*  
Green Ash\*  
Buttonbush  
Elderberry  
Shinning Sumac

### Shrubs

Fetterbush\*  
Oak leave Hydrangea\*  
Coontie\*  
Beauty Berry  
Cherokee Bean\*  
Sweet Shrub\*  
Mayberry  
Hazel Nut  
Pokeberry  
Wax Myrtle  
Pawpaw\*

### Vines

Coral Honeysuckle\*  
Yellow Jasmine  
Virginia Creeper  
Greenbrier  
Pepper Vine  
Morning Glory  
Butterfly Pea  
Grapevine  
Trumpet Creeper  
Poison Ivy  
Blackberry