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 leaf 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