

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