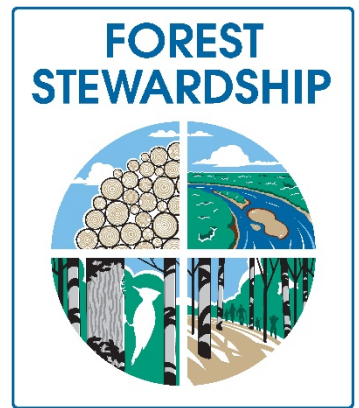

Florida Forest Stewardship Tour: Crooked Creek Preserve Property of Bill and Marcia Boothe

Gadsden County, Florida



Date: Thursday, October 3, 2019

Meet at the property at 9:00 AM ET (note Eastern Time)

Adjourn after lunch. Directions to the property are on the back.

In the late 1990s, Bill and Marcia Boothe were looking for land to purchase for conservation and preservation purposes. This 145-acre tract in the northwest corner of Gadsden County had what they were looking for: ravines and a winding creek system that is home to an extremely rich diversity of rare plant and animal species. The property also included a bahia pasture and upland hardwoods. Their first step was to restore longleaf pine forest to this area. With help from FWC's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), they offset some of the cost to have a fuel wood crew chip 22 acres of hardwoods. They prepared the site and planted longleaf, wiregrass, and Lopsided Indiangrass. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Working Lands for Wildlife Program has provided funding for prescribed burning, mechanical brush management, and pollinator habitat improvement. The Boothes planted three acres of pollinator-friendly native wildflower seeds and hedgerows of trees and shrubs in additional areas of the bahia grass pasture. Recently they acquired an additional seven acres of adjacent property that they plan to work with FWC and NRCS on wildlife friendly habitat programs.



Join us for a tour to see longleaf pine and wiregrass uplands, blooming wildflowers and Lopsided Indiangrass, native bee nesting boxes, bee hives, numerous game cameras at gopher tortoise burrows that monitor wildlife activity, and extensive damage to the ravine system caused by Hurricane Michael. This will be a walking tour so please dress accordingly. Note that we will be in some proximity to bee hives so take necessary precautions if you have allergies to bee stings.

Register: Cost is \$15 per person, lunch and materials included. Register online at <https://fsp-tour100319.eventbrite.com>. **Space is limited so register soon!** We will meet at the property, directions on back. Contact Chris Demers for information, cdemers@ufl.edu, (352) 846-2375.



Funding for this event is provided by the, USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Florida Forest Service, Florida Tree Farm Program, and the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee.

Directions to Crooked Creek Preserve

Directions from I-10:

Exit at the Chattahoochee exit (exit 166 Hwy 270A) and turn north. At the stop sign (Hwy 269) turn left. Hwy 269 runs into Hwy 270, turn right on Hwy 270 and travel 1.7 miles to the entrance on the left. Look for the green gate. This is the last property entrance on Hwy 270 before entering Liberty County.

Directions from Hwy 20:

Turn North on Hwy 12 in Bristol. Travel 6.4 miles to County road 1641 (Hwy 270) and turn left, toward Torrey State Park. The road will fork but stay to the right. Follow this road to the Crooked Creek Preserve gate on your right just past the Liberty/Gadsden County line. Look for the green gate on the right.

