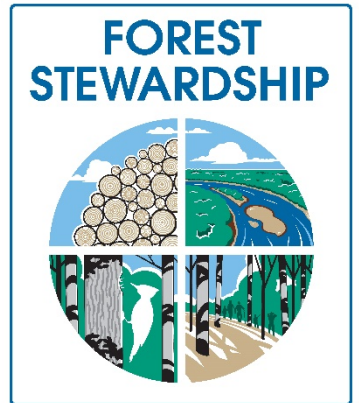

Florida Forest Stewardship Tour: Wetland Preserve

Property of Ben and Louann Williams

2019 Florida Land Stewards of the Year

Putnam County, Florida



Date: Friday, March 1, 2019

Wetland Preserve, LLC (see map and directions on back)

Meet at the property at 9:00 AM EST, adjourn after lunch

Ben and Louann Williams have owned and managed their Wetland Preserve, LLC since 2008. This 3,725-acre property in Putnam County is composed of mesic flatwoods, bottomland forest, floodplain swamp, and sandhill. Through assistance from many Florida Land Steward partners, participation in educational events, active management, and patience they, along with their daughter, Ashley, have made great strides in improving and conserving the forest and natural resources of the property.



The Williams family's desire to better understand their land and increase scientific knowledge of wildlife is demonstrated by their gracious accommodation of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's research staff to conduct surveys for uncommon, threatened or endangered species on their property over the last several years, providing critical population and location data on declining species. In addition to hard work at the property, the family engages with the public through presentations to local schools and other groups and media interviews about land stewardship and conservation. In addition to all of these efforts and many others not mentioned here, the family has taken an active role in the formation and leadership of the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association. Join us for a tour of the property and meet these amazing landowners. Most of the tour will involve riding in vans or open trailers with several discussion stops and short walks. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring rain gear in case of wet weather. Take a preview via a video they produced for Working Forests week 2017: <https://youtu.be/4alwRAWx2GQ>

Register: Cost is \$15 per person, lunch and materials included. Register online at <https://fsp-tour030119.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 Florida Tree Farm Program, USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Florida Forest Service, and the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee.

Directions to Wetland Preserve, LLC

The Wetland Preserve main gate is at the intersection of **State Road 100 and Palmetto Branch Road** west of Palatka. It is on the south side of SR 100, next to the Rice Creek Conservation Area and **across from the new Rails-to-Trails parking lot.**

The Google Map location is: <https://goo.gl/maps/xhKb6VGQP792>

