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Property Tax Incentive for Conservation Easements

As of January 1, 2010, there are two property tax exemption classes for properties with a perpetual conservation easement.

For properties over 40 acres or more and 100% of the income from the agricultural operations is returned to the easement for conservation or management of the property, then there is a 100% (full) exemption from property taxes.

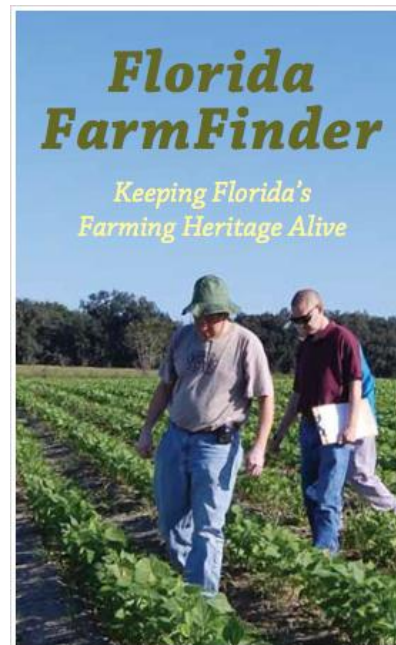
Properties that are used exclusively for conservation receive a full exemption from property taxes.

For properties that generate income from agricultural activities, there is a 50% exemption of the current green belt assessment.

Home sites, barns, and agricultural

Celebrate Earth Day!

***Support the preservation of local farms
and fresh local food***



***Join CTF and help preserve
family farms and ranches.***

CTF's FarmFinder Program is a comprehensive landowner

buildings are assessed separately and do not receive the exemption from property taxes.

Call CTF to learn more about the property tax incentive and conservation easements.
352-466-1178

Congratulations to Kristianna!



Kristianna J. Lindgren, CTF's Land Conservation Assistant Director, passed the bar exam and is now an Attorney!

She graduated in December 2010 with a MS in Interdisciplinary Ecology and JD in Law with a certificate in Environmental and Land Use Law.

Kristianna took time off from CTF in January and February to study for the Bar Exam, but she is very happy to

outreach project to not only help farmers protect their farms, but to help beginning farmers find land appropriate for farming. In addition, the program connects retiring farmers, who choose to to serve as mentors, for beginning farmers.

Your contribution is vital and helps CTF protect working rural lands and wildlife corridors.

Please join CTF's Heritage Society and help match a \$25,000 anonymous gift to CTF. Attached is a pledge form.

A Message from CTF President Kathleen S. Williams:

This has been a tough fund-raising year for many non-profits, and CTF is no exception. After six months as our new executive director we have had to let Brian Block go because of our less-than-robust financial situation. We are sorry to part ways with Brian who has done some exceptional work for CTF. He is a friend to conservation, and remains a friend to CTF.

We are temporarily scaling back, but Board members are working harder than ever to build a stronger financial foundation.

While we build our reserves, we are also doing some strategic planning and organizational development.

In the interim, I am happy to report that Busy Shires Byerly has stepped in to keep things running. CTF has two major, long-term grants to cover our core programs. The USDA Beginning Farmers project with UF/IFAS that Kristianna Lindgren and Ellen Huntley Dube are working on is moving

be back to work for CTF!

The Importance of Wildlife Corridors

The Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental Area, which is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, is part of the wildlife corridor that connects the Green Swamp to the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge.

Wildlife corridors help counter the effects of habitat loss and fragmentation. Landscape scale conservation helps to increase species richness and persistence.

Tom Hoctor, who is Director of the Center for Landscape and Conservation Planning University of Florida and Greenways Program Scientist for CTF, is working on the update of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN).

CTF and UF were awarded a matching grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to update the FEGN.

forward and CTF has three workshops planned for this Fall.

Dr. Tom Hoctor will continue his work on the wildlife corridor project funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission through the State Wildlife Grants program. In addition, CTF is negotiating several new easements and working on our NAWCA grant to protect approximately 800 acres adjacent to the Barr Hammock Preserve.

Once the organization is on better financial footing, CTF plans to recruit a new executive director and move forward with renewed enthusiasm.

In just the past few days we have received a significant corporate grant and assurance of a major grant from a private Florida foundation.

I came on CTF's board almost ten years ago. What impressed me then impresses me still --our mission and our people.

CTF's mission is unique and essential to the future of Florida.

We address conservation needs that few other organizations do--the conservation of working rural lands-- farms, ranches, and timberlands.

And we protect wildlife corridors. All are part of the landscape matrix which supports not only wildlife and plants, but humans as well. These lands provide essential ecosystem services--clean air and water. They provide food to eat and fiber from our timberlands. The agricultural, ranching, and timber industries are an important component of Florida's economy. These lands are critical to wildlife. As a biologist I have worked with several threatened species--fox squirrels, sandhill cranes, and gopher tortoises-- whose future depends on ranchlands, farms, and open spaces. I've also had the opportunity to participate in a Florida panther capture, and have seen a

The FEGN identifies the opportunities to protect large, intact landscapes important for conserving Florida's biodiversity and ecosystem systems.

Florida black bear in the wild--both these species depend on wildlife corridors comprised of natural areas and working landscapes.

The other reason I joined CTF is our people. Our board, advisory board, and staff includes foresters, biologists, landscape architects, businessmen, hydrologists, lawyers, realtors, botanists, professors, nurserymen, a farmer, a water management district board member, writers, photographers, and a former Florida governor. Together they form a fantastic and dynamic mixture of people. Our board is politically "mixed", from both sides of the aisle, but all with a common goal. We have two new stellar board members--David Maren and Ed Montgomery, and three new advisory board members--Buddy and Anne MacKay, and Bob Simons.

We have recently hit a rough spot, financially. Most organizations do at some point. But we have solid, important programs continuing, and plenty of great deeds yet to do. Our financial future is already starting to look brighter. We have a tremendous mission and tremendous people.

I hope you will continue to support the Conservation Trust for Florida to help save the farms and forestlands of Florida.

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