



Along the WaterFront

Winter, 2024

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association, Inc.

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association Inc. is a non-profit, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection of Lake Santa Fe as designated by the State of Florida as an Outstanding Florida Water.

Happy New Year Lake Dwellers and Friends!

2023 was a transitional year for the Lake Dwellers Association with the passing of our leader Jill McGuire in May.

Jill served as our president for two decades following similarly lengthy terms of our founder Harold Hill and his successor, Bill Miller. For over thirty-five years, Jill faithfully and tirelessly served as an advocate and protector of the Santa Fe wetlands, wildlife, river, lakes, and the floodplain swamp - greatly contributing to the 11,765 acres of conserved lands in the Santa Fe River Headwaters Region. Jill fought for protection of the natural environment and water resources throughout north Central Florida. In 2023, the Alachua Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to name the County's boat ramp and

recreation area the **Jill McGuire Santa Fe Lake Park** in recognition of Jill's decades of advocacy for the protection of the Santa Fe Lakes, Swamp, and River. We look forward to a dedication of the Park in the Spring. Jill loved the Lake and used the Park frequently, and lobbied for many of the improvements that are being completed today.

Jill had a natural gift for listening, understanding, and the ability to bring people together. Jill was a gentle spirit, yet a fierce and effective advocate and trailblazer for water, wetlands, and land conservation. Jill developed strong relationships with many organizations, local and state leaders, becoming a powerhouse in the Florida environmental movement.

A Tradition Continues...

For 21 years, your Association has hosted a **Winter Social - a Chili and Cornbread Supper** prepared by our Board Members in appreciation of your support. This year's Social will begin at 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 20 at Trinity Episcopal Church. We've asked **Tom Kay, the**



Executive Director of the Alachua Conservation Trust to speak. The mission of Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) is to protect the natural, historic, scenic and recreational resources in and around North Central Florida. ACT protects land

through purchase, donation, and conservation easements in 16 counties. Tom was named the Executive Director in June of 2013. He holds a bachelor's of science degree in Environmental Policy & Behavior from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment and a Juris Doctor from Florida State University's College of Law. A licensed Florida attorney, Tom worked as a staff attorney for a large not-for-profit healthcare organization

and a public housing authority. For seven years, he worked as a litigator in civil, criminal, and real estate matters. He has volunteered on local and national political campaigns and interned in U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's Tallahassee office during law school. He also previously served as the President of the Alliance of Florida Land Trusts, the umbrella organization for the state's 22 land trusts.

While Supplies Last...

The cooks (a/k/a Board Members) serving you on the 20th will be Ruth Berkelman, Mary Bennett, Terry Brant, Sally



Chesrown, Wiley Dixon, Gary Faircloth, Tom Germano, Mark Goldstein, Susan Oglesby, Jim Reid, Joe Rush, Jeff Wade, Carl Bennett, and Nancy Germano...all of whom hope you will enjoy their chili as well as fellowship with fellow lake lovers.