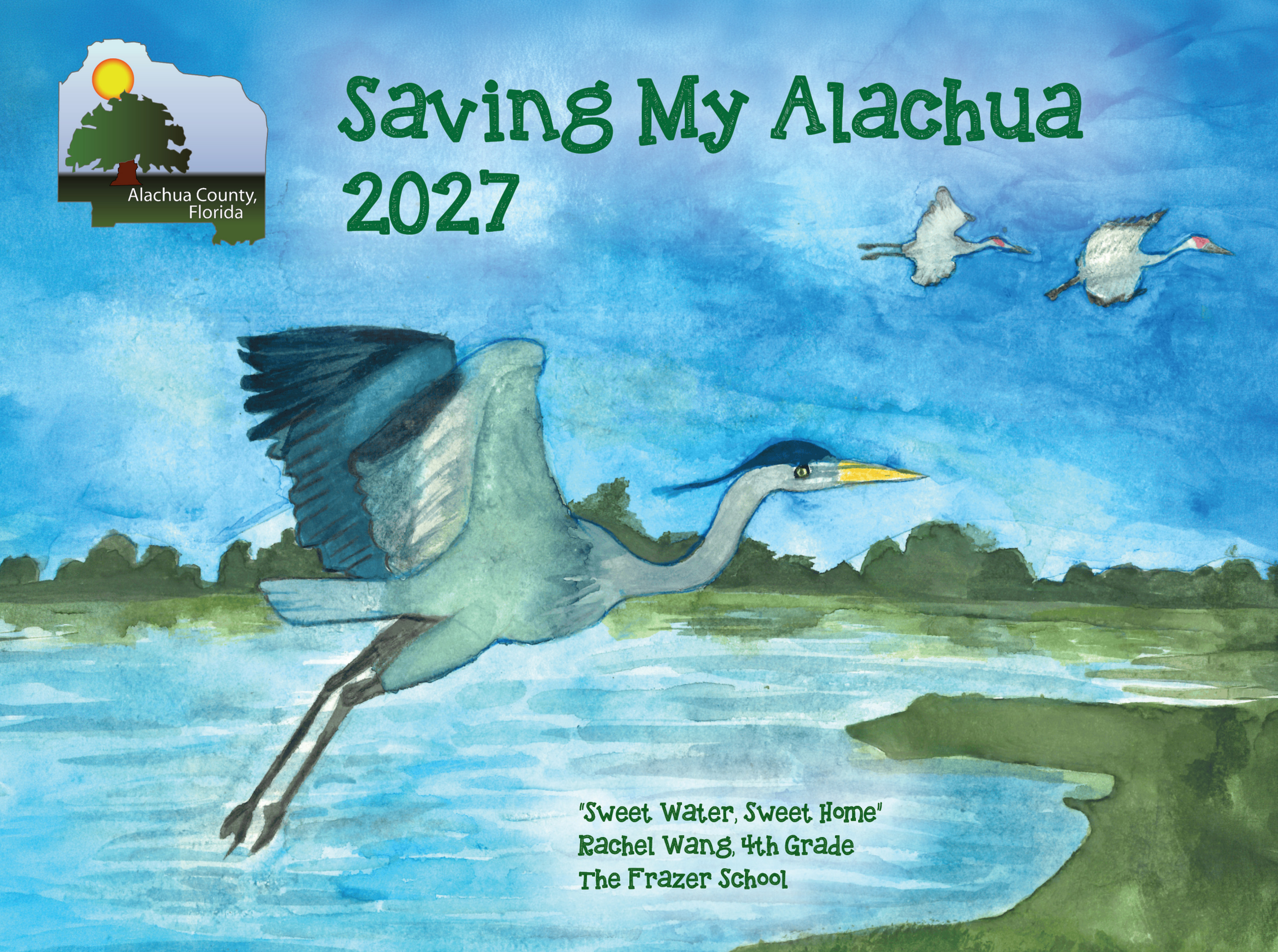
Alachua County, Florida

Saving My Alachua 2027



"Sweet Water, Sweet Home"
Rachel Wang, 4th Grade
The Frazer School

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: Protecting the environment from the many dangers of the modern world can seem like a daunting task, and the myriad problems we face can feel overwhelming at times. No individual can fix the whole world all by themselves. However, every person has the power to make changes for the better. Every small action we take can make a difference, and many small actions taken by many people can add up to making a very big difference. Throughout this calendar, you will find suggestions for some of those small actions you can take to make Alachua County a better, cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful place for the people, animals, and plants who live here. Remember that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step – so, please take that first step!

PROTECT HABITAT & WILDLIFE

- Minimize or eliminate the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides in your yard.
- Make your yard wildlife friendly. Plant a pollinator garden and use native shrubs and trees to increase wildlife habitat.
- Minimize light pollution at night by turning off outdoor lights or using motion sensors, timers, or dimmers, and opting for warm-colored lights outdoors.

REDUCE PERSONAL POLLUTION

- Be energy aware. Turn off lights and electronics when not in use.
- Consolidate driving trips and walk or ride your bike whenever possible.
- Keep grass clippings and landscaping debris out of the streets.
- Do not litter. Secure items/trash from blowing out of outdoor garbage cans & moving vehicles.
- Clean up after your pet. Scoop it! Bag it! Trash it!
- Purchase goods that are created with minimal packaging, transportation footprint, and impact on the environment.
- Report illegal dumping to 352-264-6800.
- Take household hazardous waste to your local HazWaste Collection Center.

CONSERVE WATER

- Save water outdoors by turning off automatic irrigation systems and run manually only when plants show signs of stress. Check your system regularly, promptly repair leaks, and remember the Alachua County irrigation restrictions are the *maximum* you can water.
- Hand watering with a garden hose is a great way to target only those plants that are actually thirsty.

"Beauty of Florida"



Jazzalyne Johnson, 10th Grade
The Community Classroom Microschool

"Bird Watching"



Tristan Williams, 9th Grade
Eastside High School

"The Fish"



Hannah Baun, 8th Grade
First Christian Academy

HAZARDOUS WASTE CENTER

Hazardous Waste poses a threat to environmental health and human safety if not properly disposed.

What type of hazardous waste is accepted?

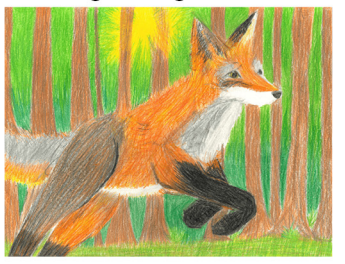
- Aerosol containers
- Automotive chemicals and filters
- Batteries (all types)
- Emergency flares
- E-scrap
- Flammable liquids and solids
- Fluorescent lamps and CFLs
- Household cleaners
- Lawn chemicals
- Paint products
- Pharmaceuticals
- Pool chemicals
- Propane tanks
- Sharps (syringes, needles, and lancets)
- Stale gas and diesel fuel
- Thermostats and thermometers
- Used cooking oil

"Great Egret Preening"



Shyla Brunson, 6th Grade
Sunflower Homeschool

"Running Through the Woods"



Joy Fischer, 5th Grade
Cornerstone Academy

"Gator Party"



Amelia Pierre-Jean, 1st Grade
Jordan Glen School

ALACHUA COUNTY'S RURAL COLLECTION CENTERS (RCCS)

Help us keep our beautiful Alachua County clean and free of trash and dumping! The five Rural Collection Centers are rural, regional facilities for the collection of recyclables, solid waste, yard trash, bulk items, and household hazardous waste. These facilities are for residential use only (commercial waste is prohibited).

What can I drop off at the RCC?

Recycling - Flattened, dry cardboard, paper, and paste board (cereal boxes), and commingled containers such as plastic bottles/jars, plastic yogurt/margarine tubs, aluminum, steel and tin containers, glass bottles/jars.

Garbage - Please place trash bags in available compactor or in dumpster if directed.

Yard Waste - Leaves, grass clippings, brush and small tree limbs. Remove yard waste from plastic bags before recycling and **do not include** boards, lumber, rocks, fencing, pallets, toys, or furniture.

Bulk Metals Recycling - Washers and dryers, stoves, grills, filing cabinets, metal exercise machines, metal patio furniture, metal roofing, bicycles, lawn mowers and other gas-powered equipment (must be empty of gas and oil).

Household Hazardous Waste - Oil filters, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries, vehicle/boat batteries, computer equipment, electronics, and up to five gallons of waste oil and old paint per day are accepted.

Main Location:
5125 NE 63rd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32609
Phone: 352-334-0440
Mon. – Fri., 7 AM – 5 PM, Sat. 8 AM – 12 PM
Closed: Sundays and holidays

Rural Collection Centers:
Mon., Tue., Fri. & Sat., 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM
Closed: Sundays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Archer Rural Collection Center:
19401 SW Archer Road
Phone: (352) 495-3257

Alachua/High Springs Rural Collection Center:
16929 NW US Highway 441
Phone: (386) 454-2563

Fairbanks Rural Collection Center:
9920 NE Waldo Road
Phone: (352) 334-3873

North Central Rural Collection Center:
10714 N SR 121
Phone: (352) 334-3875

Phifer Rural Collection Center:
11700 SE Hawthorne Road
Phone: (352) 334-3874



"Fly High" • Nye Walker • 12th Grade • First Christian Academy

"Protecting Newborn Hummingbirds"



Naomi Ray Vilaro, 2nd Grade
Jordan Glen School

In January, much of the United States is grappling with cold weather and covered in snow. But here in Alachua County, the areas surrounding lakes and rivers are alive with the sights and sounds of birds who make this their winter home. Amidst all this activity, year-round residents, Bald Eagles, are sitting in their giant nests waiting for eaglets to emerge. While it is inspiring to watch these majestic animals, it is important to give them their space and not disturb their natural habitat during this critical period.

There are restrictions on the types of construction and land clearing activities that can occur around eagle nests from October 1 to May 15 while mating and nesting takes place. Only one or two fledglings may successfully emerge from the nest, so we want to give them every chance to survive!

This calendar recognizes environmental events and dates of holidays established by law. For a multicultural calendar, visit: https://tinyurl.com/bdszdsct

January 2027

FERTILIZER
BANNED JULY - FEBRUARY

New Moon
First Quarter
Full Moon
Last Quarter

"If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together."
– African proverb

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
						2
3	4	National Bird Day 5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	Florida Arbor Day 15	16
17	MLK Holiday 18	19	20	21	22	23
24						
31	25	26	27	28	29	30

New Year's Day 1



"One Alachua, Two Futures" • Olivia Kung • 3rd Grade • Littlewood Elementary

"Save the Alachua County Wetlands"



Victoria Xu, 4th Grade
The Frazer School

Wetlands are ecologically important for filtering pollutants, protecting water quality, and providing habitats for plants and animals. They absorb water during heavy rainfall to reduce the risk of flooding; in turn, during dry spells, they slowly release stored water to maintain flow in rivers and lakes.

In Alachua County, Paynes Prairie is a popular destination where you can enjoy the beauty of wetland landscapes. There, you can see alligators, wild horses, bison, birds, and water lilies.

Unfortunately, many wetlands are disappearing due to agricultural and urban expansion. To raise awareness about wetland protection, World Wetlands Day is celebrated on February 2.

You can help Alachua County protect local waterways by reporting pollution or illegal dumping to the Clean Creeks Hotline at 352-264-6800.

CLEAN CREEKS HOTLINE
352-264-6800

February 2027

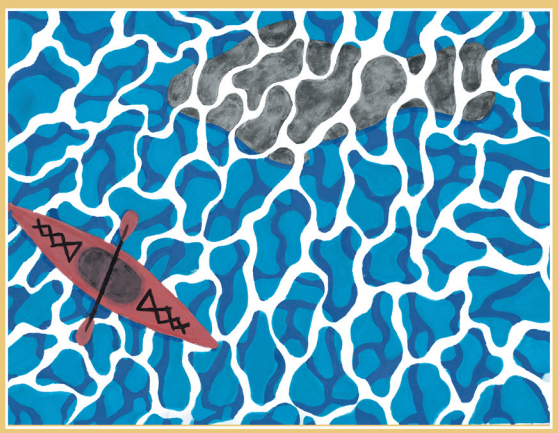
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
FERTILIZER BANNED JULY - FEBRUARY	1	World Wetlands Day 2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." – Jane Goodall



"Still Here but Fading" • Milo DeJesus • 9th Grade • Eastside High School

"Share Our Springs"



Annaleigh Wolcott, 10th Grade
First Christian Academy

An ecosystem is defined as "the complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit." Every part of an ecosystem must work together for it to thrive. If our waters become polluted, the animals that live there will not be able to survive. As a result, the animals that rely on them for food will also be unable to survive.

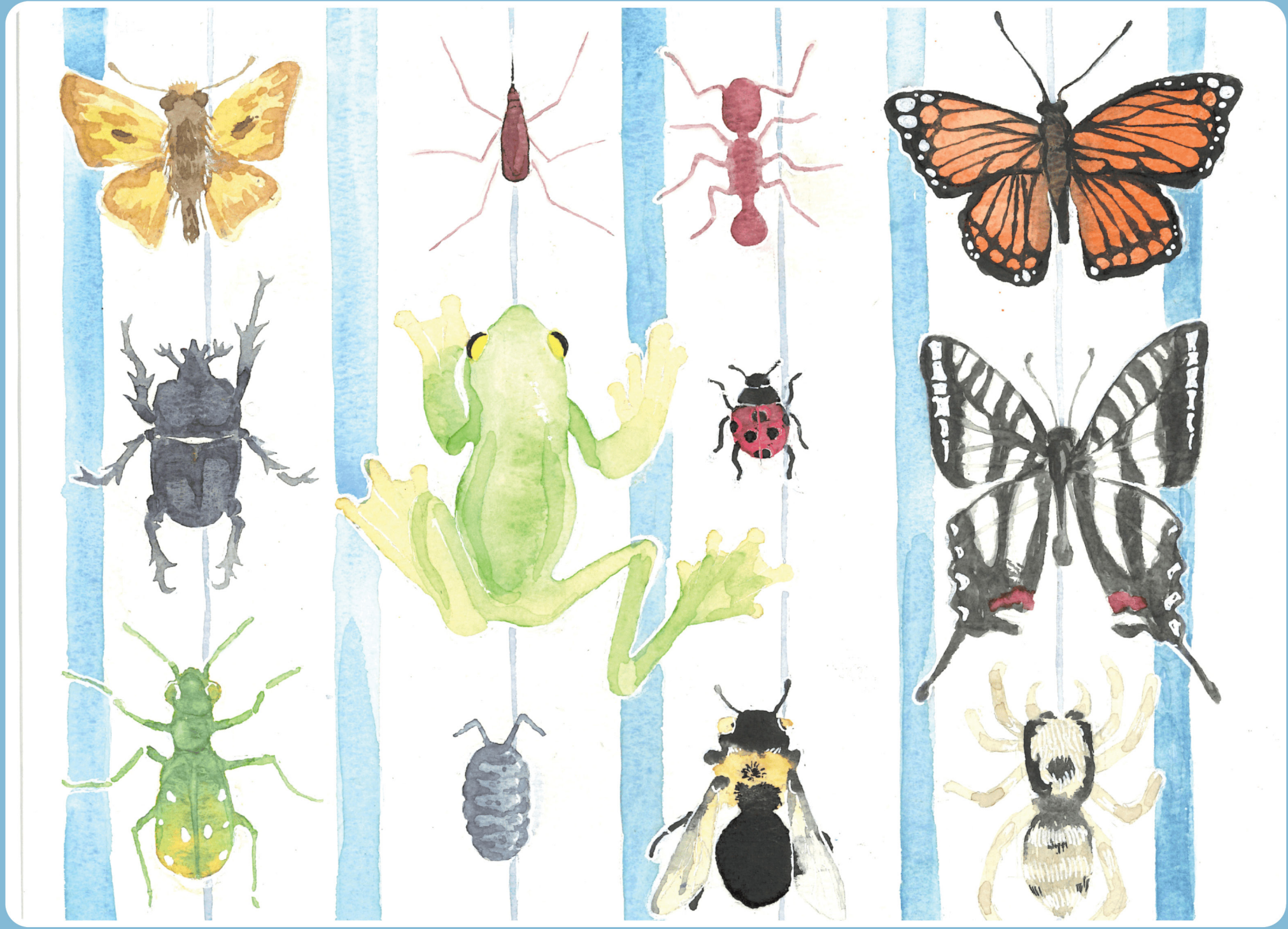
Another example, monarch butterflies lay their eggs on a specific type of plant called milkweed. Milkweeds are the only food that monarch caterpillars can eat. If these plants were to go extinct, monarchs would as well. This is one example of interdependence in nature that highlights how important it is to care for every part of our environment.

March 3rd is World Wildlife Day, so spend some time thinking about what our local wildlife depends on in their ecosystem.

March 2027

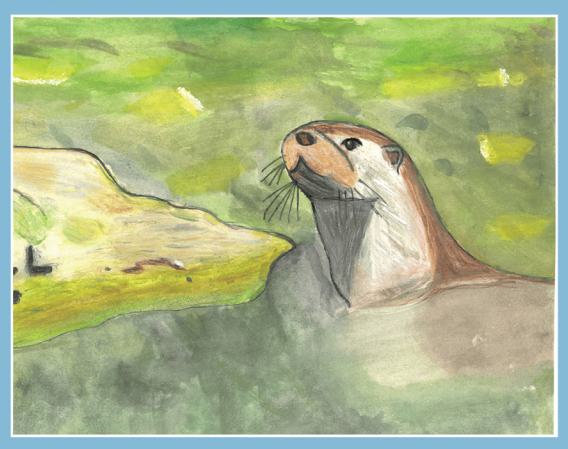
s	m	t	w	t	f	s
Help pollinators by joining the "No Mow March" movement and let your grass grow!	1	2	World Wildlife Day 3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	Global Recycling Day 18	19	World Frog Day 20
International Day of Forests 21	World Water Day 22	23	24	25	26	Earth Hour 27
28	29	30	Manatee Appreciation Day 31			

Report healthy manatee sightings to the Florida Springs Heartland Manatee Sighting Network!



"Far Away" • Adrienne Barker • 11th Grade • Eastside High School

"Otter in the River"



Hannah Robinson, 7th Grade
Oak Hall School

April is all about water in Alachua County. Our springs run clear, our rivers flow steadily, and the frogs remind us that even the smallest voices matter. By using water wisely and taking care of our aquifer, we help protect the places they call home. A few simple changes can go a long way toward keeping our springs healthy and the wildlife in and around them thriving.

Irrigation Restrictions

Watering is allowed before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

Location	Summer 2nd Sun in Mar - 1st Sat in Nov	Winter 1st Sun in Nov - 2nd Sat in Mar
Odd House #	Wed and/or Sat	Saturday
Even House #	Thur and/or Sun	Sunday
Other residential/ commercial	Tue and/or Fri	Tuesday

Check your rainfall shutoff device is functioning and set to "Active" and refer to the Irrigation Restriction table above. Watering is only allowed before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. on designated days.

April 2027



The frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives"
– Sioux Proverb

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
				1	2	World Aquatic Animal Day 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	International Bat Appreciation Day 17
18	19	20	21	Earth Day 22	23	24
25	26	27	Save The Frogs Day 28	29	National Arbor Day 30	



"Hummingbird in Flight" • Vivienne West • 8th Grade • Oak Hall School

"Roseate Spoonbills on Paynes Prairie"



Amalia Brunson, 9th Grade
Trilogy School

It's springtime in Alachua County and the abundance of life is in bloom! It's also the time of year when wildfire risks peak and hurricane season is just around the corner. Everyone in the web of life can play a role in preventing, preparing for, and responding to natural threats such as these.

The "Parable of the Hummingbird" inspires us all to do our part, no matter how small, in protecting our local environment, natural resources, and people. This Native American fable features a hummingbird as the tiny protagonist who, amid a massive forest fire, works quickly and persistently to gather drops of water from a stream in its beak to extinguish the blaze. When the larger wildlife point out the apparent futility of the hummingbird's actions, it pauses briefly to reply: "I am doing what I can". May is the perfect time of year to *be a hummingbird* and do what you can to protect our one and only Mother Earth.

May 2027

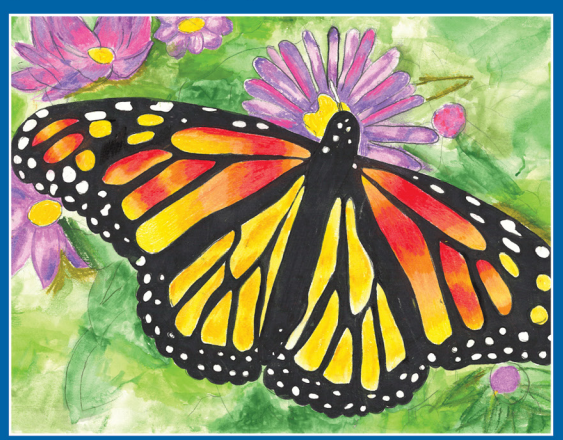
"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."
– John James Audubon

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	International Migratory Bird Day 8
Mother's Day 9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	World Bee Day 20	Endangered Species Day 21	World Biodiversity Day 22
World Turtle Day 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Memorial Day 31					



"Sunset in the Lake" • Xiaoting Zeng • 10th Grade • Gainesville High School

'Monarch on a Purple Bloom'



Emmie Smith, 8th Grade
Oak Hall School

Butterflies are important pollinators that help plants reproduce by transferring pollen as they feed on nectar. Using their long proboscis, they visit bright, colorful flowers and carry pollen from one plant to another. Although less efficient than bees, butterflies travel farther and visit a wide variety of plants, making them valuable in spreading pollen across larger areas. They also indicate a healthy ecosystem, as they are sensitive to environmental changes. Supporting butterfly habitats helps maintain biodiversity and strengthens natural ecosystems.

Next time you are thinking of plants for your yard, make sure to select some for all seasons. Choose a variety that will bloom at different times of the year, so butterflies have a continuous food source, especially during migration periods.



June 2027

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
"You need to be content with small steps. That's all life is. Small steps that you take every day, so when you look back down the road, it all adds up and you know you covered some distance." – Katie Kacvinsky		1	2	3	4	World Environment Day & National Trails Day 5
6	7	World Oceans Day 8	9	10	11	National Dragonfly Day 12
13	14	15	16	17	18	Juneteenth 19
Father's Day & American Eagle Day 20	National Pollinator Week 21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

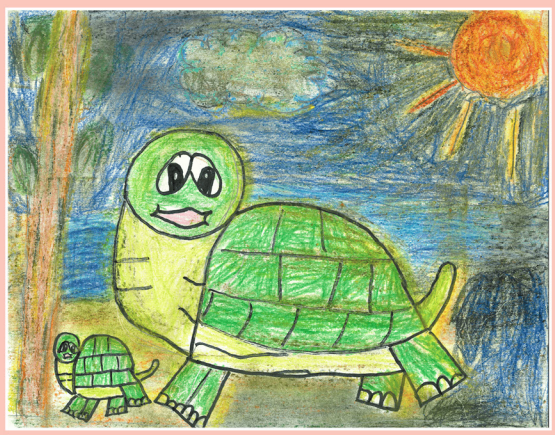


Check your rainfall shutoff device is functioning and set to "Active" and refer to the Irrigation Restrictions table on the April page. Watering is only allowed before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. on designated days.



"Save My Rainbow Snake" • Beatrice Kirvan • Kindergarten • Jordan Glen School

"The Turtles of Alachua"



Fox Smith Nelly, 3rd Grade
Jordan Glen School

Sometimes snakes get a bad reputation. Their lack of legs and cryptic nature may seem scary to some. It is easy to perceive these differences as strange or even threatening, especially when myths and media often reinforce the perception of snakes as "bad guys." But snakes are unique and important animals, and even venomous ones don't want to bite you for no reason.

You may already know that snakes can "smell" with their tongues, but did you also know that they can "see" heat? That they have friends that they like to bask with? That some snakes take care of their young and babysit for other new moms? That some have "dance-offs" to compete for potential mates?

People's negative attitudes toward snakes may be one of the biggest barriers to their protection. On World Snake Day, July 16, take the opportunity to reassess the fears you may have about snakes. You might realize that many of your fears are really just misunderstandings.

July 2027

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
				1	2	3
Independence Day 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	World Snake Day 16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	World Nature Conservation Day 28	29	30	31

FERTILIZER
BANNED JULY - FEBRUARY

"Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference." – Jane Goodall



"Welcome to Gator Country" • Erick Fan • 5th Grade • Brentwood School

"Healthy Blue Jay"



Arya Yang, 4th Grade
Expressions Learning Arts Academy

Our surface waters and wetlands are the 'lifeblood" of our planet. They support many life forms by providing essential water supply and habitats for humans, animals, and plants. Our lakes and rivers also offer us a place to enjoy their beautiful scenery, as well as activities such as boating, fishing, and swimming.

Sadly, many of our local lakes are facing environmental degradation, primarily through water loss and pollution. With the aim to raise awareness on the challenges facing lakes, the United Nations has dedicated August 27 as World Lake Day. You can do your part to bring back healthy lake environments by keeping trash out of lakes, not over-watering plants and lawns, and taking shorter showers.

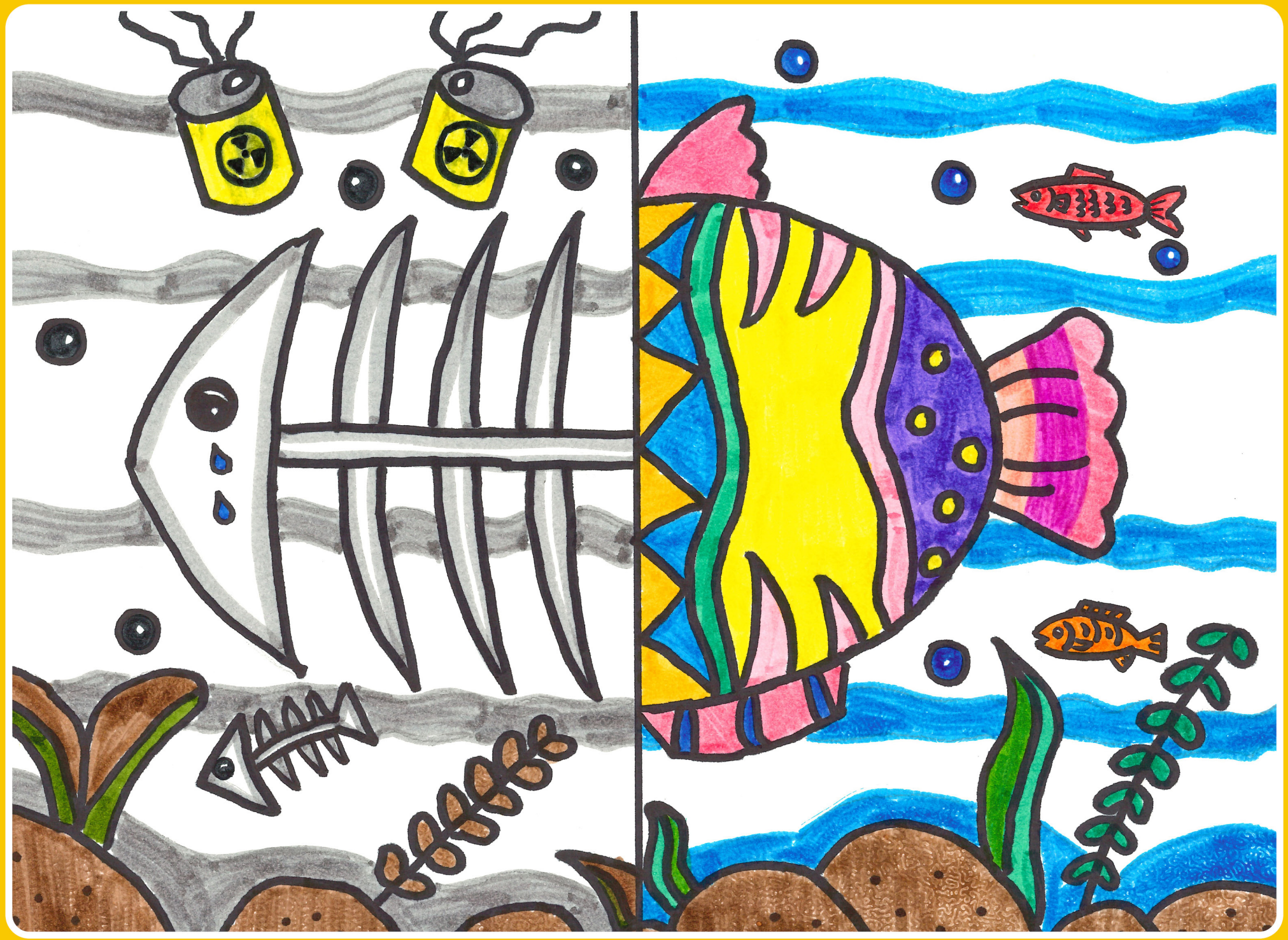
Alachua County has plenty of beautiful lakes that you can visit and enjoy, including Lake Santa Fe, Orange Lake, and Newnan's Lake to name just a few. Have you visited any lakes in Alachua County lately?

August 2027

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
1	2	3	International Owl Awareness Day 4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	National Honey Bee Day 21
22	23	24	25	26	World Lake Day 27	28
29	30	31				



"The power of one, if fearless and focused, is formidable; but the power of many working together is better."
– Gloria Macapagal Arroyo



"One Fish, Two Worlds" • Mia Li • 1st Grade • Meadowbrook Elementary

"Life Along the Santa Fe River"

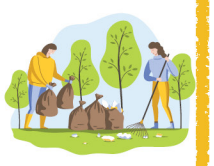


Jayden Wu, 5th Grade
The Frazer School

Alachua County is bordered to the north by the Santa Fe River, a unique waterway that is fed by over 75 springs. The Santa Fe River begins at Lake Santa Fe and Lake Alto where it flows 72 miles to meet the Suwannee, then ultimately ends in the Gulf. A variety of wildlife use these rivers, including fresh and saltwater fish, birds, manatees, and countless turtle species.

Humans can impact the health of rivers in many ways. At home, it is important to be mindful of our fertilizer use and yard irrigation (and avoid these when possible). When enjoying these waterways, remember to bring reusable containers whenever possible, pack out any trash or place it in provided trash receptacles, and consider bringing a bag with you so you can pick up trash when you see it. Give wildlife space and appreciate it from a distance. Avoid trampling aquatic plants by remembering to "Feet Up and Float". Everyone doing their part can help ensure the river ecosystems are preserved for generations to come.

September 2027

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
	"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." – Theodore Roosevelt		1	2	3	 National Wildlife Day 4
5	 Labor Day 6		7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	 World Cleanup Day 20	21	22	23	24	 National Public Lands Day 25
 World Rivers Day 26	27	28	29	30		



"Wading" • Chloe Esprit • 7th Grade • Mebane Middle School

"The Loblolly Forest"



Gianna Darling, 1st Grade
Expressions Learning Arts Academy

We are a part of the earth just as it is a part of us. We do not own it, we belong to it, and our existence is tied to the health of the natural world we live in. It is important that we take care of it before it can no longer take care of us.

"The Hiker's Creed" by Nancy F. Hodges

Leave only footprints
Spend only time
Take only memories
Through life as you climb

Wherever you wander
Walk softly with care
Give space for the others
On this planet we share

The seven principles below embody the spirit of this poem and give you a simple way to think about your impact on the natural world and how to reduce it.

The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan ahead & prepare
2. Travel & camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of others

October 2027



"We are not helpless. We all have the ability to make this world a better place. We can start with small steps, one day at a time."
– Wayne Gerard Trotman

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
					1	2
3	 World Animal Day & World Habitat Day 4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



"The Lower Plants and Bobcats" • Daniela Dodds • 6th Grade • Homeschool

"Snake on a Branch"



Carson Mowitz, 7th Grade
Oak Hall School

For decades, people have been encouraged to "take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints" when hiking or camping in beautiful natural areas. Unfortunately, not everyone follows this simple rule, and many thoughtlessly leave behind trash that not only spoils the view for others but can also damage fragile ecosystems. You can do your part to help clean up litter from the trails you visit by "PLIKING". The term comes from a combination of the words "Picking up Litter while Hiking (or Biking)". Just remember to bring a bag (or two) on your next hike and pick up any trash you may see along the trail. Then drop it off in a garbage receptacle at the trail head on your way out – or better yet, recycle any cans or bottles you find to keep them out of the landfill. Pliking is an easy action that everyone can do to make the world a cleaner and more beautiful place.

"We may not have the ability to change all of the world's wrongs, but we can make a difference where we are."
– Dillon Burroughs

November 2027

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
November is Manatee Awareness Month!	Irrigation Restrictions Change 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	Veterans Day 11	12	13
14	America Recycles Day 15	16	Take A Hike Day/National Hiking Day 17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	Thanksgiving Day 25	26	27
28	29	30	FERTILIZER BANNED JULY - FEBRUARY	Florida Springs Heartland Manatee Sighting Network	Report healthy manatee sightings to the Florida Springs Heartland Manatee Sighting Network!	



"Watcher in the Green" • Jiexi "Jessica" Ma • 6th Grade • The Frazer School

"Dusk"



Samson Shulman, 11th Grade
Eastside High School

As the year winds to a close, it is a good time to reflect on our lifestyle and how we can better contribute to protecting the natural world around us. It's also the season of consumerism which gives us the opportunity to think twice about our purchasing habits. Here are some simple tips to being more environmentally friendly:

- Conserve water by taking shorter showers and turning off irrigation systems.
- Carry a reusable water bottle so you don't need to buy single-use plastic as frequently.
- Save and reuse gift bags and tissue paper throughout the coming year's celebrations.
- Allow a portion of your yard to grow wild and support pollinators like butterflies and bees without fertilizer.

Some things take little to no effort, only a mindset shift. Any small change can make a big impact over time, especially if everyone is doing their part.

December 2027

"Do all the good you can by all the means you can in all the ways you can in all the places you can to all the people you can as long as you can." – John Wesley

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
			1	2	3	4 Wildlife Conservation Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Christmas Bird Count	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Get out and EXPLORE

There is simply no better way to gain an appreciation for the natural environment than to go out and explore it, canoe it, hike it… you get the idea! Below are some of our favorite Alachua County Forever Preserves.

Preserve Name	Location	Description	Activities
Barr Hammock Preserve - Levy Prairie	14920 SE 11th Dr., Micanopy	The 6.5-mile Levy Loop Trail encircles a wet prairie and offers vistas of spring and fall wildflowers. Northern portion of the loop is unshaded.	NO DOGS
Barr Hammock Preserve - South Entrance	300 SE 175th Ave., Micanopy	13 miles of multi-use, forested trails; a favorite loop for hikers is the Bayhead trail; for equestrians, the Hammock Trail. For a longer hike or ride, try the Landing Overlook.	
Black Lake Preserve	6197 NE 225th St., Melrose	3 different trail loops through pine and hardwood forests, including a paved 0.1-mile trail to a pond overlook.	
Buck Bay Preserve	6502 N County Rd. 225, Gainesville	Multiple trail loops through pine flatwoods habitat, ranging from 0.7 miles to 2.5 miles in length.	NO BIKES
Four Creeks Preserve	6845 NW 37th St., Gainesville	A partnership property with the City of Gainesville, with a 2.5-mile walking loop trail through pine and hardwood forests. Trail can be flooded during wet periods.	
Fox Pen Preserve	Near 10777 Holden Park Rd. in Hawthorne	A 1-mile-long trail loop through pine and wetland habitat. A partnership property with Alachua Conservation Trust.	
Lake Alto Preserve - North	14500 County Rd. 1471, Waldo	3.5 miles of unpaved trails accessible from the Preserve entrance off of CR 1471, or from the boat dock on Lake Alto. Look for black bear tracks in the north portion of the preserve.	
Lake Alto Preserve - South	18795 NE 132nd Ave., Waldo	The 1.2-mile Canal Loop is accessible from NE 132nd Ave., less than 1/2 mi east of CR 1471. Wildflowers abound in fall near the entrance.	
Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve	20201 NE 132nd Ave., Waldo	A 1-mile trail loop through the upland pinewoods, and the wetland ecotone.	
Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve	Main parking area located on CR 325, about 2.3 mi south of Hawthorne Rd./SR 20	Managed by St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), the Reserve features sandhill, mesic flatwoods, and cypress swamp habitats. Wildflowers can be plentiful spring thru fall. For more information: https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation.	NO BIKES
Mill Creek Preserve	14505 NW County Rd. 236, Alachua (just west of the intersection with CR 241)	This Preserve features about 5 miles of trails and the southernmost extent of American beech trees. There are several easy-to-moderate marked loop trails of various lengths.	
Newnans Lake Conservation Area	3 tracts: Hatchet Creek Tract trailhead is 0.9 mile east of the Hatchet Creek bridge on SR 26	Managed by SJRWMD, the best time to visit this area is winter, as some trails can be wet and buggy during the summer, and there are trail closures during hunting season in fall and spring. For more information: https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation	
Phifer Flatwoods Preserve	Parking area located at 12243 SE County Rd. 2082 on the Gainesville Hawthorne State Trail (GHST)	Four different short trails (ranging from 0.5 miles to 1.3 miles) through pine flatwoods near wetland areas. Trails are accessible from the Gainesville Hawthorne State Trail.	
Poe Springs Park	28800 NW 182nd Ave., High Springs	This park offers swimming in the springs, watercraft rentals, picnic facilities and play areas, as well as hiking trails. Summer parking fee is $6 per vehicle.	
Serenola Forest Preserve	Near the intersection of SW 21st St. and SW 49th Ave., Gainesville (near Idylwild Elementary School)	A 1-mile trail loops through a diverse hardwood forest. Limited parking by the main trail head, trail access is primarily by foot or bike. Managed by Alachua Conservation Trust.	
Sweetwater Preserve	2 trailheads: one at 309 SE 16th Ave., Gainesville; the other located north of Boulware Springs City Park (3300 SE 15th St., Gainesville) on the GHST	The 1.75-mile West Trail accessible from SE 16th Ave. offers full shade along Sweetwater Branch. A bridge connects to the 1.2-mile Sandy Trail (parking at Boulware Springs).	
Turkey Creek Preserve	Main Trailhead located at 6300 NW 93rd Ave., Alachua	Features 5 miles of trails over rolling topography through a variety of habitat types. Also includes a ½ mile Fitness Trail with 7 exercise stations to add a workout to your visit (exercise equipment rules and instructions found onsite).	
Watermelon Pond Park and Preserve	10700 SW 250th St., Newberry	A marshy, sandhill lake, accessible for shallow water boaters from the boat ramp at Watermelon Pond Park.	

Hiking/Nature Trails · Horseback Riding Trails · Dogs on leash · Fishing · Bicycling Trails · Group Camping (reservation only) · Boat Ramp · Hunting (during season)