



# Alachua County

## Alachua County Forever's Lochloosa Longleaf Nature Preserve



Portion of the Longleaf Pine Flatwoods along access trails.

**Date: August 28, 2003**

**Purchase Price: \$1,579/acre**

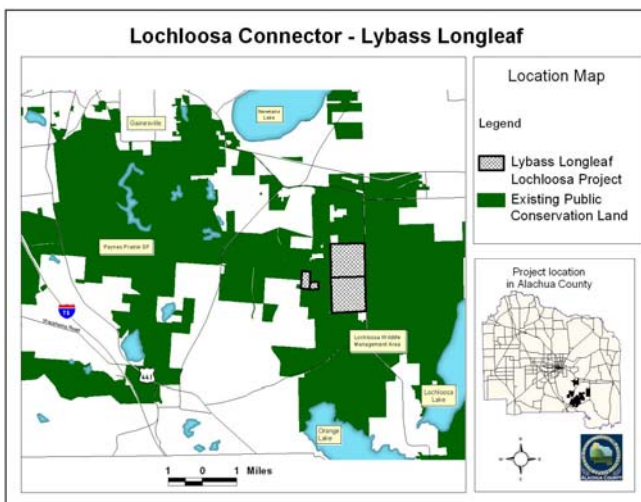
**Sellers: Lybass family**

**Size: 1,388 acres**

- The Preserve is one of the keystone tracts in the Lochloosa Connector Project, nominated by Conservation Trust for Florida.
- Ranked second by Alachua County Land Conservation Board.
- Contained some of the best longleaf pine flatwoods and sandhill habitat remaining on private land in Alachua County.
- The St. Johns River WMD holds conservation easements on 16,994 acres of timberland surrounding the Preserve and owns an additional 10,400 acres around Lochloosa Lake. This area - the Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area - connects Lake Lochloosa, Paynes Prairie Preserve, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historical State Park and Newnan's Lake Conservation area.
- Provides habitat for Bald Eagles, Sandhill Cranes, Wood Stork, Fox Squirrel, Black Bear and a variety of amphibians and reptiles.
- SJRWMD provided 33% of the acquisition for the Preserve.
- SJRWMD will also manage site as a refuge within the Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area to enhance its natural resource values and provide a nature-based passive recreation for residents and visitors. ACF will provide technical assistance and cooperation.
- The Preserve will be managed using a combination of invasive plant control, prescribed fire, natural regeneration, re-vegetation and possibly the selective harvesting of pines.
- Recreation opportunities may include primitive hiking trails, interpretive exhibits and wildlife observation.

### ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER REFERENDUM

*Approved in November 2000 by the voters, to acquire, improve and manage the county's environmentally sensitive lands to protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.*





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## Alachua County Forever Program

### Partners

- Citizens of Alachua County who approved the Bond Referendum
- Citizens who submit nominations.
- Citizens who volunteer their time to support the Program
- Landowners who are willing to protect their lands and leave an environmental legacy for future generations
- County Commission
- Land Conservation Board
- St. John's River Water Management District
- State and Federal acquisition and management agencies
- Local Land Trusts

### Program Notes

- Alachua County Forever responds to public nominations.
- Property owners must be willing. Condemnation of property is not permitted under Alachua County Forever.
- Each project is evaluated by staff and the volunteer Land Conservation Board.
- Criteria include water resources protection, habitat protection, species protection, social value, manageability, economic and acquisition issues.
- The County Commission approves acquisition projects.
- County can negotiate to acquire property outright or acquire certain rights through less-than-fee mechanisms such as conservation easements.
- Offers are made based on independent, private appraisals.
- Program acquisitions are funded through a \$29 million in voter-approved bonds, payable through a quarter-mill ad valorem property tax, levied for 20 years.
- Program actively seeks to leverage county funds through state, federal and private grants.
- Properties are managed as preserves under approved management plans that describe the appropriate uses and management strategies.
- Resource-compatible, passive recreation is allowable on sites where appropriate.



One of the site's namesake Longleaf Pines



County staff evaluating the property

Alachua County Commission  
Rodney J. Long, Chairman  
Mike Byerly, Vice-Chairman  
Cynthia Moore-Chestnut  
Lee Pinkoson  
Penelope Wheat

County Manager  
Randall H. Reid

### For more information:

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