

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Nature Centers Commission presents the Annual Star Awards to recognize individuals, groups, businesses or organizations for their positive contribution to Gainesville's natural environment; and

WHEREAS, The Star Good Neighbor Award goes to the Westwood Middle School science team, along with partners the US Forest Service and University of Florida, for conducting the Kids in the Woods program at Loblolly Woods Nature Park. Teacher Sara Charbonnet and Assistant Principal Ginger Stanford champion the program encouraging its continuation year after year. Thus far over 1800 students have spent time outdoors conducting research and learning the scientific method while acquiring an appreciation for the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, Star Volunteer Award recipient Tyler Carney has been a reliable and committed volunteer at Sweetwater Wetlands Park dedicating over 70 hours in just the past year, and a total of 180 hours since 2015. Tyler is willing to help with everything including invasive plant removal, trail maintenance, boardwalk maintenance, landscaping, trash pickup and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, Star Volunteer Award recipient Katherine Ewel has dedicated her career to natural resource education, having taught ecology courses and conducted ecological research in Florida for more than 23 years. She served as a member of Friends of Morningside from 1979 to 1984. Her expertise proved invaluable during her recent service on the Nature Centers Commission. From 2015 to 2018 Ms. Ewel served as Secretary taking on extra responsibility making the board more effective and efficient; and

WHEREAS, Star Volunteer Award recipient Gary Paul utilizes his extensive knowledge and experience to help facilitate events such as Native Plant Sales, Wildflower Walks, the Cane Boil and FiddleFest and the Poetry in the Parks initiative for elementary school children. Mr. Paul is a longtime member and current Secretary of the Friends of Nature Parks, and is an advocate for natural and cultural history literacy and appreciation; and

WHEREAS, Star Volunteer Award recipients Howard and Lisa Jelks have been instrumental in facilitating the Native Plant Sales for the last 15 years. Howard has been a leader with Alachua Conservation Trust successfully passing Alachua County Forever and two Wild Spaces Public Places referenda, adding many new parks and improved infrastructure. Mr. and Ms. Jelks regularly participate in the Great Air Potato Roundups and Invader Raider Rallies serving in leadership capacities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2019 as

*Sara Charbonnet, Ginger Stanford, Annie Hermansen-
Baez, Michael Andrew, Tyler Carney, Katherine Ewel,
Gary Paul, and Howard and Lisa Jelks Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in recognizing these Star Award recipients, and expressing our appreciation for their service, dedication and positive contributions to Gainesville's natural environment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 26th day of February, A.D., 2019.



Lauren Poe
Mayor