

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, Star Volunteer Jean Lansford was the very first City volunteer at Sweetwater Wetlands Park. Ms. Lansford volunteered 180.5 hours from September 1, 2015 to August 1, 2016. She has helped with many and varied tasks such as invasive plant removal, boardwalk maintenance, trail maintenance, trash removal, school group tours, answering visitor questions and recruiting and training additional volunteers. Ms. Lansford enjoys sharing this amazing park with everyone she meets. Having her at the park is like having an additional park ranger around; and

WHEREAS, Star Volunteer Carson Bell is being recognized for her impact as member and treasurer of the Board "Friends of Nature Parks". From October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016, Ms. Bell has been responsible for all of the treasurer responsibilities of three Native Plant Sales and dedicated an estimated 45 hours to those events alone. She has made many fundamental changes that increased efficiency, productivity and exposure of the Native Plant Sales. The funds generated from the sales enabled educational grants to local Elementary and Middle Schools to visit Morningside Nature Center and take part in the City's nature programming. Ms. Bell believes in volunteering and in helping others improve; and

WHEREAS, Star Good Neighbor John Jopling is committed to raising environmental awareness and effecting meaningful change in the greater North Florida Region. Mr. Jopling is a founding member and president of the Ichetucknee Alliance. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Florida Springs Council and is the newly elected Vice Chair for the Florida Wildlife Federation. Mr. Jopling has so much passion for our community and devotion toward protecting and restoring our City's environmental treasures, which is evidenced by the amount of time he constantly volunteers towards these goals; and

WHEREAS, Star Good Neighbor Thomas Fasulo is a neighbor that lives close to San Felasco City Nature Park. He voluntarily removes invasive plants from the park on a regular basis. Mr. Fasulo has also removed large patches of invasive plants from his yard and his neighbors' yards. Further, he continues to monitor for recurrence and contacts City staff about the status of the area. His efforts as a good neighbor have greatly contributed to halting the spread of invasive species into San Felasco City Nature Park; and

WHEREAS, Star Green Business, Green Clean Homes, upholds strict business practices to ensure they are the most eco-friendly cleaning service, minimizing the impact to the City's environment and natural resources. They are setting an example for others to use eco-friendly business practices; and

WHEREAS, Star Green Business, Searchlight Yoga, a locally owned and operated business, considered the health of individuals and the impact on the environment when constructing and operating the studio. During construction the owners made a conscious decision to use green building materials such as bamboo flooring, cork flooring and low VOC paint. During operation washable air filters and non-toxic, environmentally-friendly cleaning supplies are used for the health of their customers and the impact on Gainesville's environment and the planet.