

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, Karen Garren and Robert Garren are recipients of the Star Good Neighbor Award. Karen Garren is a persistent advocate for natural areas and has worked tirelessly to improve the natural areas of Greentree Park through coordination with City staff members and many hands on volunteer efforts for 20 years. Robert Garren, who was a two term president of the Florida Native Plant Society's local chapter, has furthered local environmental education programs, has advocated for native plant habitats and has assisted with Native Plant Sales at Morningside Nature Center and many other community initiatives for decades; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Centers Commission recognizes the significant amount of support from community members who volunteer to help maintain and preserve natural areas and support the efforts of the Nature Operations Division; and

WHEREAS, Star Volunteer Award recipient Charlie Pederson chaired, or co-chaired the Nature Centers Commission for nearly 20 years providing strong leadership, advocacy and hands on volunteer efforts that enhanced and supported the City's nature parks; and

WHEREAS, The following Star Volunteer recipients dedicated their time and efforts to remove many species of invasive non-native plants from City Nature Parks for the City's Gainesville Greenway Challenge and made a significant impact to the health of local natural communities: Star Volunteer Eric Wright is upbeat and committed to learning invasive, non-native plant removal best practices as he volunteered over 120 hours. Star Volunteer Mary Logan worked tirelessly and consistently to dedicate over 110 hours; Star Volunteer Danielle Ellis donated nearly 100 hours; and Marwa Hussein volunteered 80 hours, and also recruited many more volunteers for the City's Gainesville Greenway Challenge through her University of Florida connections and enthusiasm for protecting natural areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 1, 2018 as

*Karen Garren, Robert Garren, Charlie Pederson,
Eric Wright, Mary Logan, Danielle Ellis,
and Marwa Hussein 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 31st day of January, A.D., 2018.



Lauren Poe
Mayor

