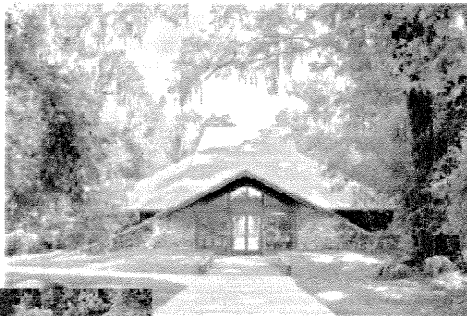


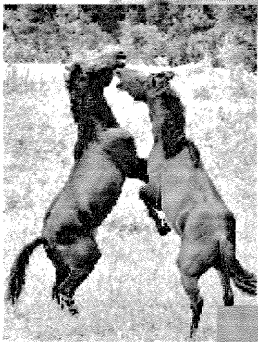
# PROTECTING FLORIDA'S EXTRAORDINARY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



[www.prairiefriends.org](http://www.prairiefriends.org)



Photography by Dominick Martino



Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park is truly amazing. The 22,000-acre wilderness, right here in Alachua County, represents the finest of *the Real Florida*. Distinctive geologic features, rich and productive wildlife habitat, and immeasurable value to the community now and in the future make the Preserve an extraordinary place.

For more than 12,000 years people have depended on the diverse ecosystems of Paynes Prairie. Today, the mosaic of wet prairie, freshwater marsh, open water, and uplands still generate health, livelihood, and enjoyment for the community and for visitors. It is **THE** place to go to **reconnect to nature** on more than thirty miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, by camping under the stars, or through a ranger-led activity. The visitor center near the historic town of Micanopy provides exhibits, stunning photography, and an audiovisual program that highlights the area's natural significance and cultural history. A 50-foot-high observation tower at the visitor center offers outstanding panoramic views.

Paynes Prairie staff and volunteers are working hard to restore and protect the Preserve, and to provide opportunities for the appreciation of this unique treasure. Visitors and **local residents** are encouraged to learn more and become lifelong partners in the preservation of Paynes Prairie.



# FRIENDS OF PAYNES PRAIRIE WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

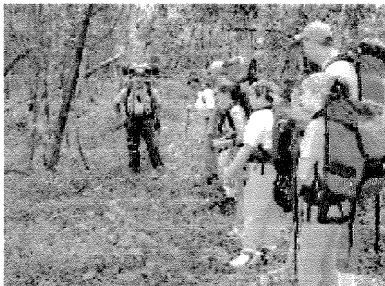


With over 350 members and growing, the Friends of Paynes Prairie - a 501(c)(3) corporation - provides significant support to the Preserve through fundraising, outreach, education, and volunteerism. We host events such as an evening of stargazing, Art on the Prairie, creek clean-ups, and guided-adventures. We fund improvements such as the campfire amphitheater, kiosks, and equipment for a resource room. PLUS, we have fun.

Learn more and see photos: [www.prairiefriends.org](http://www.prairiefriends.org)



*The prairie is a solid thing to hold on to in a world all broken out by man.  
There is peace out there, and quiet to hear rails call and cranes bugling in the sky. - ARCHIE CARR*



## SUPPORT YOUR PRAIRIE JOIN US

As our goals grow we are seeking support from appreciators of natural Florida and its history, people who understand as you do the importance of Paynes Prairie. We know you want the personal satisfaction of being a direct contributor to this great treasure in our community. By joining the Friends you are welcomed into a group of committed individuals who share your love of Paynes Prairie. The enclosed membership envelope is for your convenience. For more information visit [www.prairiefriends.org](http://www.prairiefriends.org) or email [info@prairiefriends.org](mailto:info@prairiefriends.org).

*Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park*