

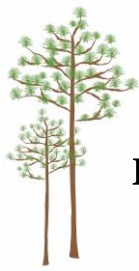
2019 Annual Year in Review Report

Well 2019 has been quite a year! Thanks to YOU, we have conducted invaluable scientific research, worked unflinchingly to save multiple imperiled species, adhered steadfastly to ecological management of 250 prime Coastal Plain acres, and passionately facilitated natural history learning with countless citizens, families, and children.

Secrets of the River

We are excited to have launched a new ecoadventure series this year called Secrets of the River. The series is designed to explore the natural history of exceptional area rivers in unique ways. Drawing from the extensive backgrounds of our leaders, groups get to experience the wildest, most remarkable sections of rivers and discuss numerous topics ranging from prehistoric to present-day ecology, hydrogeology, and conservation. So far we've focused on the Wakulla and Wacissa Rivers, but trips to many more rivers are in the works. So keep checking, and don't hesitate to reach out to ask for trip availability. After the new year, we will be adding more trips to our Event calendar. As always you, as a CPI member, will receive advance notice of all trips.





Research

Our research in 2019 again mostly focused on our striped newt repatriation project and monitoring amphibian populations of ephemeral wetlands in the Munson Sandhills of the Apalachicola National Forest.

In 2019, the striped newt repatriation project continued into its seventh year of efforts to save this beloved local imperiled species. We released 262 captive-raised adult newts into select Apalachicola National Forest wetlands in January. Dry conditions in the spring and summer precluded the release of larvae this year. However, we documented successful breeding of released adults this spring despite overall dryness. Rubber lining of study wetlands successfully created pond refugia where breeding could take place even during drought. This year's releases brings the grand total number of captive striped newts released in the ANF to 1958. We inch ever closer to project success, and continue to need support from all sources, particularly you.



February 2019 Striped Newt Release Event. CPI members at the Caudata level are invited to participate in our striped newt releases.



Education

We focused on several educational programs in 2019: What Lives in the Wetland, Adopt an Ephemeral Wetland, and Coastal Plains Adventures. The first two programs are offered free to the public thanks to a grant from the Disney Conservation Fund and donations from our members!

What Lives in the Wetland

We brought about 250 citizens to our striped newt repatriation project this year to learn about rare species conservation, longleaf pine ecology, scientific research, and much more! We also continued our partnership with Oasis Center for Women and Girls, Palmer Monroe Teen Center, Florida State University, and many more! To date, we have brought over 1450 area citizens, officials, families, and children out to our field project.



City Nature Challenge

We partnered with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and WFSU to host a City Nature Challenge in April. About 65 people were bussed down to our research site throughout the day to document as many species as possible using the iNaturalist app. We competed with cities across the world in biodiversity. We placed first in all categories in cities with similar population and in the Top 10 in per capita observations, species, and participation!



Adopt an Ephemeral Wetland

The Adopt an Ephemeral Wetland program continues to be an excellent way to engage the public in wetland ecology and conservation and collect essential data on amphibian populations. We hold monthly Dipnetting Days to provide continued training and to encourage new participants. This year the Adopt an Ephemeral Wetland program involved about 275 participants!



Coastal Plains Adventures

In addition to our Secrets of the River series, we continued our Big Bend Biodiversity Tours in 2019. Through biodiversity tours, we help our local community learn about many of the natural features, species, and habitats that make our corner of the continent so very special.





Our Preserves

Rowlett's Creek Preserve

With the help of the Tall Timbers Private Lands Prescribed Fire Team we conducted an ecological control burn of the entire Rowlett's Creek Preserve in June (80 acres). The fire eliminated much of the downed debris left over from Hurricane Michael, as well as created favorable ecological conditions that stimulate most flowering plants in this ecosystem to flowers/reproduce.

We also hosted a workday on November 17th. Sixteen people came out to assist in the removal of encroaching hardwood vegetation from within a potential flatwoods salamander breeding wetland located on our preserve, survey for various species of rare plants on the property, and explore potential areas for a nature hiking route.

CPI utilizes this property in a variety of ways including education and the kind of spiritual rejuvenation created by time well spent immersed in the outdoors. Join CPI at the \$100 level and get free daytime access!



Crown Pointe Preserve

We visited the property, located along Perdido Bay, in June this year to explore, observe, and discuss/create effective management strategies for our largest preserve. Crown Pointe Preserve consists of 174.9 acres of pine flatwoods harboring one of the largest patches of the endangered white-topped pitcher plant preserved on private property.



Other Updates and Events



Open House

Our April Open House was a huge success! About 50 people came out to spend the day with us, bid on silent auction items, and tour the property. This will definitely be an annual event!



DEEP Brewing Company

We are partnering with DEEP Brewing Company for the month of February. They have chosen us as their monthly mission to support our efforts to engage children in conservation. We will select a seasonal beer that they have on tap and \$1 from every pour of that beer in February will go towards Coastal Plains Institute.

Interns

We are partnering with Florida State University's Science Education program to work with a few interns. The program is providing \$500 funding for the students and we provide the work to be done. Win, Win!

Future Events

- January 19th – Volunteer Appreciation Party
- January 25th – Red Hills Fire Festival
- February 1st – DEEP Brewing Co. Monthly Mission Launch Event

Grants for 2020



We were successful in our Building Communities to Conserve Wetlands grant to Disney Conservation Fund again this year.

We also received funding from Florida's Wildlife License Plate program to help fund the striped newt repatriation project.

We are also honored to have received funding from The Felburn Foundation to conduct both the striped newt repatriation project and our educational activities.

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Our volunteers are an essential part of our organization and accomplishing our mission. Volunteers help us construct and deconstruct the drift fence each project year, check the fence traps, monitor amphibian populations of area wetlands, and help in land management activities. As a way of saying thanks, we are hosting a bonfire and chili party in January.



Support our Mission

Our Mission is to stimulate appreciation for nature through environmental education, generate new knowledge about the values of nature through scientific research, and help conserve the native biota of the southeastern U. S. and elsewhere through land ownership and habitat stewardship.

CPI operates entirely through grants, contracts, and contributions from individuals who believe in what we do. We are very proud of all that we have accomplished on a very small annual budget and believe that absolutely no other environmental organization can match our cost/benefit ratio of income to productivity. On our website, we list the published results of our work and educational videos. Check them out and see if you agree. Please help us accomplish even more by becoming a member, providing an additional donation, volunteering, purchasing a t-shirt, or choosing us while shopping on Amazon Smile (see below).

Membership has its Benefits

- **Species *perstriatus* (\$25)** - a CPI window sticker, advanced invitation for field trips and classes, and an annual Year-in-Review Report.
- **Genus *Notophthalmus* (\$50)** - All the above plus a pack of notecards with stunning photography from around the Coastal Plain.
- **Family Salamandridae (\$100)** All of the above plus daytime access to our 80-acre Rowlett's Creek Preserve for a year
- **Order Caudata (\$250)** - All the above and an invitation to striped newt release in Apalachicola National Forest
- **Class Amphibia (\$500)** - All the above and a two-hour natural history tour of the Wakulla River for up to 4 guests
- **Phylum Chordata(\$1,000)** - All the above and a personal, catered tour of our Rowlett's Creek Preserve for up to 6 guests

Amazon Smile

You can support our efforts while shopping on Amazon at no extra cost to you! Just go to smile.amazon.com and select Coastal Plains Institute as your chosen charity. Every time you shop at smile.amazon.com, they will remember your choice and a percentage of every qualifying purchase will go to our organization!

Volunteer

Whether its checking a drift fence, adopting a wetland, or helping on field trips, there are lots of opportunities to get involved! Contact Rebecca if you are interested.

Become a Striped Newtist



We still have Striped Newtist shirts left. We are selling these organic cotton shirts, made in the USA, for \$25 as a way to raise money for the striped newt project. Women (shown at left) and Men styles available. Purchase on our website or through the enclosed card. Look and feel good at the same time!

Organizational Info

President: Ryan Means

Director: Rebecca Means

Board of Trustees: Ryan Means, Wilson Baker, Tom Ostertag

Mailing Address: 46 Kinsey Road, Crawfordville FL 32327

Phone: (850) 925-1622

Email Contact Info

General: info@coastalplains.org

Ryan: Ryan@coastalplains.org

Rebecca: Rebecca@coastalplains.org

Social Media

Facebook (coastalplainsinstitute)

Instagram (coastalplainsinstitute)

Website: coastalplains.org