

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.

RE: Fall Fundraiser Features John Strassburger as Keynote Speaker

DATE: August 18, 2006

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CTF Fall Fundraiser Features John Strassburger as Keynote Speaker

The Conservation Trust for Florida (CTF) is pleased to announce John Strassburger, former editor of *The Chronicle of the Horse*, as the keynote speaker at our Fall Fundraiser & Awards Ceremony on Sunday, November 12 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Golden Hills Golf & Turf Club in Ocala.

John Strassburger was the editor of *The Chronicle of the Horse* for 20 years before retiring with his wife, Heather Bailey to Healdsburg, California to start Phoenix Enterprises LLC, under which they operate a horse breeding and training business and a writing/editing business. He is currently editing the five-book *Chronicle Comment Series*, collections of the best columns by himself, George Morris, Denny Emerson, Victor Hugo-Vidal, and Anne Gribbons published in the *Chronicle*.

John is a graduate A Pony Clubber with experience in a variety of horse sports. He is currently competing at the intermediate level (having completed the Jersey Fresh CCI ** in June); he has foxhunted for more than 35 years with more than two dozen packs in North America and England; he rode point-to-point and NSA-sanctioned races over hurdles, timber and on the flat for several years; and he has logged more than 350 miles in endurance competition.

At the awards ceremony, CTF will honor two landowners with awards for protecting their land for future generations. CTF will feature a live art auction by some of the region's finest artists and a silent auction. Wine and a buffet-style dinner will also be served.

At CTF's 2005 Fall Fundraiser, we auctioned off 27 pieces of art in the live auction which were donated by 22 artists.

LIVE AUCTION: Kate Barnes, Allison LeBaron, Eleanor Blair, Linda Blondheim, Clyde Butcher, Peter Carolin, Virginia Chen, Sean Dowie, Bruce Fraleigh, Bruce and Christine Green, Harriet Huss, Lenny Kesl, Michael Kemp, Dimitri Kournoukiotis, John Moran, Annie Pais, Jeff Ripple, Sean Sexton, Jean Tyson, Colquitt Tanner, Stewart Thomas, Susan Trammell

SILENT AUCTION: Jim Aikin, Richard Beardsley, Stacey Breheny, Iris Burke, Jacquelyn Collett, Katy Fisher, Carl Hanover, Mara Uman Hixon, Elsa Kula, Tisha Mauney, Rancy Batista, Media Image Photos, Jane Morris, Linda Pollini, Frank James, Shady Oak Stained Glass Studio & Gallery, Bruce Smart, Kate Turner, Ana Varela

Over 150 guests attended the 2005 event at Savannah Grande Reception Hall in Gainesville and approximately \$25,000 was raised for CTF's programs. CTF honored Freddie Wood and M.C. Davis, both landowners for their work in protecting their land for future generations with Land

Conservation Awards. Larry D. Harris, Ph.D. was honored for his lifelong contributions to conservation biology and landscape ecology with a Distinguished Conservationist Award.

CTF has been instrumental in obtaining funding from public land conservation programs and securing conservation easements that have permanently protected some 5,000 acres of Florida's rural landscape. In concert with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection/Office of Greenways and Trails, CTF also initiated the Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway, a 153,000-acre project that was placed on the state's top ranking Florida Forever land acquisition list in 2004.

CTF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust founded in 1999 by David Carr, whose parents were the famous sea-turtle researcher Archie Carr, and Marjorie Harris Carr (the Cross Florida Greenway located near the Florida Horse Park is named after her). CTF is headquartered in Micanopy, Florida. We work with landowners on a voluntary basis to identify and broaden land conservation options, and offer educational programs and materials to the public.

The event is sponsored by Alta, Inc., Barry Rutenberg Homes, Campus USA Credit Union, Central Florida Office Plus, Ron Chandler, Cox Communications, Gainesville Health and Fitness Center, Hawthorne Medical Center, Hendrix Consulting, Holbrook Travel, Inc., David Pais Real Estate and Landscapes, the Pearl Country Store, Petrotech, and Helen Warren, Realtor with ERA Trend Realty.

Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. For more information, call 352-466-1178 or go to www.conserveflorida.org.