



Entrance to the Splinter Hill Bog Preserve © TNC



Grass Pink Orchid © TNC



Gopher Tortoise © Marco del Santo



To celebrate the life, passion, and mission of a great naturalist, the trail on the property bears the name George Folkerts, a former BioSci Professor at Auburn University. During his career as a professor and researcher, George studied every aspect of nature. His comprehensive knowledge of the plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates inhabiting the Southeast was second to none, and he was a renowned expert in the ecology of disappearing habitat types and declining species. George's passion for conserving nature made him a leader for local, state, and national conservation efforts. George was kind to all who met him, generous with the time he offered to others, and humble despite his exceptional accomplishments.



HOURS OF OPERATION

The Preserve is open dawn to dusk, but may be closed periodically while controlled burns are being conducted. Dress to get your feet wet. Long pants and insect repellent are recommended. Temperatures from March–October can range from 30's in early March to mid-90's by June and July.



Ruth McClellan Abronski Splinter Hill Bog Preserve





ABOUT THE PRESERVE'S NAME

Nestled in south Alabama, Splinter Hill Bog Preserve is home to some of the most visually impressive pitcher plants globally. The preserve bears the equally impressive name of Mary Ruth McClellan Abronski. A native of Clay County, Alabama, Mary Ruth McClellan Abronski was a computer specialist for Sun Oil Company in Philadelphia for 37 years. "While working in the accounting department of Sun Oil, Ruth was told that they were going to start using these things called computers. She quickly jumped on the opportunity and became a leader in technology for the company," said Lewis "Dick" Burdick Abronski, her husband of 45 years. Successful in his own right, Mr. Abronski is quick to give Mrs. Abronski credit for their financial success and happy marriage. "She could do anything. She also made quilts, upholstered furniture and



had the good sense to marry me," beamed Abronski. In the 1970s, Dick read a book that described great places to live in the United States. One of those places was a sleepy southern town appropriately named Fairhope. One of the benefits listed in the book was that one could buy a bushel of oysters for \$2.50. So Dick and Ruth decided to visit Fairhope, and the result was that they bought a lot, built a house and retired there seven years later. While Mrs. Abronski passed away in 2007, Mr. Abronski is adding to her tremendous legacy with a conservation endowment. "Years ago we decided to give our entire estate to benefit the birds and the bees," said Abronski.

To include the Conservancy in your estate plans call 205-251-1155 or visit www.nature.org/alabama.

WHAT TO SEE: PLANTS

This preserve is known to be home to over 12 species of carnivorous plants, including 5 species of pitcher plants, 2 species of butterworts and several species of sundews. Some of the unique and rare plants known from the site include: Chapman's butterwort, white-topped pitcher plant, Wherry's sweet pitcher plant, purple pitcher plant, parrot pitcher plant, yellow trumpets, sundews, spoonflower, pineland bogbutton, Drummond's yellow-eyed grass, Chapman's yellow-eyed grass, and many others.

WHAT TO SEE: ANIMALS

Several rare animals frequent the preserve, including Bachman's sparrow, Florida pine snake and gopher tortoise. Eastern cottonmouths can be abundant in the small stream drains so proceed with caution. During the spring and summer, the most common birds observed are summer tanagers, indigo buntings, prairie warblers, yellow throated warblers, pine warblers, eastern towhees, and prothonotary warblers (in the swamps).



HEADWATERS

The site is located in the low rolling hills of southern Alabama near the community of Perdido in northern Baldwin County. The preserve includes portions of the headwaters of Dyas and Bushy Creeks, tributaries of the Perdido River.

WHY THE CONSERVANCY SELECTED THIS SITE

The Splinter Hill Bog Preserve and the adjacent state-owned Forever Wild Preserve contain some of the most intact seepage bog communities remaining on the Gulf Coast. Numerous rare and declining species associated with seepage bogs, upland longleaf forest and coastal blackwater streams are known to occur within this site.

WHAT THE CONSERVANCY IS DOING

The Conservancy is working in cooperation with Alabama's Forever Wild Program to acquire and manage a significant portion of the remaining natural habitat in the Splinter Hill Bog area. To date the State of Alabama and The Nature Conservancy have acquired contiguous acres and will work cooperatively to manage this property using periodic controlled burns and working to control non-native invasive species such as cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*).

For more information:
www.nature.org/alabama
www.facebook.com/thenatureconservancyinalabama
205-251-1155