

# FEDERAL DESIGNATION OF UNF NATURE TRAIL

The University of North Florida Nature Trail will be designated officially as a National Recreation Trail in the U. S. National Trails System during brief ceremonies on Monday, July 10, at 11:30 a.m.

Ceremonies will be held at the starting point of the Red Maple Handicapped Boardwalk Trail near the Big Lake adjacent to the UNF Entrance Road.

Joining us for the ceremony will be Mr. John T. Brown, chief of the resource planning and evaluation division of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, U. S. Department of the Interior (Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia). Mr. Brown will represent the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, and will present to the University a certificate of designation signed by Secretary Andrus.

The UNF Nature Trail is the fifth such system in Florida to be designated as a National Recreation Trail and the 159th such trail system so designated in the nation.

Faculty, students, staff, and friends of the University are cordially invited to attend and participate in the ceremony.

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1978

11:30 A.M.

RED MAPLE BOARDWALK TRAIL  
(NEAR BIG LAKE AND ENTRANCE ROAD)

FACULTY, STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FRIENDS INVITED

Recognition of the UNF Nature Trails  
by the U.S. Department of Interior  
July 10, 1978



Left to right: UNF President Thomas Carpenter; Sawmill Slough President Ray Lewis; U.S. Department of Interior Chief of Heritage, Conservation and Recreation, John Brown; Sawmill Slough Faculty Advisor, Ray Bowman

April 1976

## NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS

The National Trails System Act of October 2, 1968 (Public Law 90-543) provided the Nation a framework for developing trails systems in proximity to urban areas and within established scenic areas. Through prescribed methods and standards, by which components may be added, the national trails system is intended to serve the constantly increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and promote public access to "close-to-home" recreational opportunities which increase appreciation of the open air.

Created by the Act are three types of trails: national scenic trails, national recreation trails, and connecting or side trails.

National scenic trails, designated only by Congress, are extended paths usually several hundred miles or more in length and, because they possess outstanding cultural, historical, natural, or scenic values, are capable of attracting visitors from throughout the United States.

The guidelines and criteria established for national recreation trails basically provide that a trail must be ready for public use before designation, should be available for day use and within approximately 2 hours' travel of urban areas, and should be available for public use at least 10 years after its designation.\* Designation may be made either by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture. Varying in length and use, these trails provide for an assortment of outdoor recreational experiences in or near urban areas.

Connecting or side trails provide access to other trails or areas of interest in the proximity of a national recreation trail or a national scenic trail and may become part of the trail.

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\*National Recreation Trails: Information and Application Procedure, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, 10 p. Available on request.



# United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**D3821-University of North Florida Nature Trails**

MAY 26 1970

Sawmill Slough Ecology Club  
c/o Dr. Ray Bowman  
University of North Florida  
P.O. Box 17074  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, I want to express to each of you our appreciation for your support and leadership in constructing the University of North Florida Nature Trails.

We are pleased that Secretary of the Interior Andrus has designated the network of trails as a National Recreation Trail. I am certain that residents of Jacksonville and visitors who hike the trails will experience great delight in this recreation/education trails resource. We are especially pleased that one of the trails was designed for wheelchair users.

I hope that you continue to enjoy great success with public use of the trails. Thank you for your fine support of the National Recreation Trail program.

Sincerely yours,

MEG MACUIRE

*for*  
Chris Therral Delaporte  
Director



Photo by Mike Harold

**The Red Maple Boardwalk leads to a view of Lake Oneida  
accessible to even the handicapped**

## UNF nature trails now national

By Dave Brayshaw

UNF President Thomas Carpenter will accept a certificate July 10th at 11:30a.m. designating the network of UNF nature trails a National Recreation Trail. Presenting the document will be John Brown, chief of heritage conservation and recreation for the U.S. Department of Interior.

National Recreation Trails may be named by the Secretary of Interior if on national forest lands. Otherwise, designation is given by the Secretary of the Interior. Found in or near urban areas, various recreation users may be served by national trails. The network of UNF trails becomes the fifth National Recreation Trail in Florida and the 159th in the nation.

Existing previously as old log and hunting roads, the nature trails have been made into a 12-mile network of inter-connected, walking and hiking paths.

The advisor to the Sawmill Slough Conservation Club, Ray Bowman said, "We weren't getting across to the hikers the ecological facts necessary to making the trails educational and useful to both community and city." Therefore, the club established three trail routes: The Blueberry Nature Trail (1.5 miles); The Goldenrod Nature Trail (2.5 miles); and The Red Maple

Boardwalk (1,600 ft.) The club constructed and installed directional signs, key numbers and brochures at different locations. The self-guiding system was completed in May 1976, making each trail accessible to persons of all ages.

Bowman said the system is working well.

According to the campus pamphlet, The Blueberry Nature Trail averages 45 minutes walking time. Its name comes from the blueberries and huckleberries found in abundance. Large colonies of gallberries are also plentiful; however, these are not as tasty to man as they are to many birds, including quail and wild turkey.

In the Fall, the blooms of the goldenrod provide scenic beauty to The Goldenrod Nature Trail. It takes just over an hour to walk it, which makes it the longest. Prior to cutting by loggers, large cypress trees occupied the area where slash pine, planted eight years ago, now grow. At the edge of a deep swamp is a loblolly bay tree, whose creamy-white flowers light up the swamps in the early Summer, says the pamphlet. The largest lake on campus, Lake Oneida, provides a home for at least one large alligator. It is encompassed about by a diversity of aquatic plants, especially cat-tails, useful in sup-

plying protection for many fishes, frogs, snakes, birds and other wild animals. The Red Maple Boardwalk is designed especially for the handicapped and it makes the lake easy to approach.

Future plans for the trails include building two additional-boardwalks. "We found a tree that is 565 years old, which means it was around before Columbus discovered America, and we're proposing to construct a trail directing the hiker to it; and the other will lead 40 feet to a large cypress tree." However, the boardwalks in planning will not be suitable for use by the handicapped.

Other projects will be to upgrade nature information by identifying vegetation, publishing brochures similar to those of National Parks, assembling a slide show on eco-systems of North Florida, and employing trained guides for wages beginning in the Fall quarter, Bowman said. Part of the budget for student guides has been allocated by the Student Government.

The trails are maintained by Physical Facilities, who are obligated to keep them for ten years. At the entrance of the trails is a gazebo, stocked with brochures by the campus police department.

# UNF trails get acclaim

By Dave Brayshaw

UNF President Thomas Carpenter has accepted a certificate designating the network of UNF nature trails as a National Recreation Trail. Presenting the document July 10 was John T. Brown, chief of the resource planning and evaluation division of the heritage conservation and recreation service of the U.S. Department of Interior.

Dr. Carpenter said: "We are the only university that has been designated the owners of a national trail. This is a thing that of course pleases us a great deal, but the thing that gives us the greatest amount of pride is the fact that this has been a concerted effort on the part of many volunteer groups."

"This particular recreational accommodation has been accomplished through such groups as the Sawmill Slough Club, an environmental group here on the campus who have a student staff and faculty, Physical Facilities, various women's clubs here at the University of North Florida, the Southside Women's Club, and the Arlington Women's Club have donated both their time and money," he said.

"The reward is to see the thousands who come out here on a continuing basis to enjoy the facilities. It's a pleasure to see the yellow school bus and the little tots going back through the woods or on the boardwalk."

"If you've had an opportunity to see the rest of the campus, you'll know that we're all very much concerned with preserving

as much of the natural foliage, shrubs, and trees we can without putting in other major educational facilities. For the youngsters, this may be the only opportunity they have to see the natural setting that we are interested in preserving here."

Brown said, "The purpose of the National Recreation Trails Program is to recognize trails close to urban areas or in urban areas, to provide hiking opportunities for people who live in the city, as well as to encourage the development of these."

A government directory is published periodically that lists all the national trails in the United States. The one closest to UNF is in Palatka, at the Rice Creek Sanctuary.

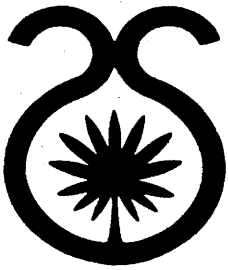
Letters from the Secretary of Interior, Cecil B. Andrus, were read to Ray Bowman, Advisor to the Sawmill Slough Conservation Club and to Larry Davis from the department of Physical Facilities. The Department of Interior was "especially pleased that one (trail) is designated for wheelchair users."

Carpenter said, "We have ordered a bronze plaque to arrive in 60 days to commemorate this day."

Until then, there is a substitute plaque near the entrance of the Red Maple Boardwalk. Within the gazebo are the names of the contributors to the trails.

Mike Bono, head of the UNF Alumni Association, presented a check for 500 dollars to help in the maintenance of the trails and to aid in the coming publications.

## NATURE TRAIL PROPOSAL



Sawmill Slough Conservation Club of the University of North Florida

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Three self-guiding trails would be constructed out of existing UNF nature trails in the southwest quadrant of the campus. All would have a common origin, the eastern corner of Oneida Lake (see map). The trails would include the boardwalk, a triangular route about one mile in length along the Buckhead Branch Walk Through and around the lake, and a meandering route about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long following the Bald Cypress and Sawmill Slough trails. We propose to name these three trails the Red Maple Trail, the Blueberry Trail and the Goldenrod Trail respectively.

The trails would be completely self-guiding. Directional signs would mark all intersections and places where the route may not be clear. Ecological points of interest along the way would be marked with numbered posts. Hikers would obtain a one sheet map and key at the trail origin which would explain these points of interest. The three trails would be differentiated by use of three contrasting colors on the respective trail signs as well as by the different identifying names. Red would be used on the Red Maple trail signs, blue on the Blueberry trail and yellow on the Goldenrod trail.

A starting point display would be erected under the gazebo which would be relocated to Oneida Lake's eastern corner. The display would include a large color coded map with mileages, a list of instructions and regulations (if any) and pockets to contain the point of interest keys. A plastic laminated sign would list the contributors who have made the trail system possible. The list should include all past contributors as well as those directly involved with the present self-guiding concept.

We propose that the Sawmill Slough be responsible for obtaining and installing all directional and point of interest signs. Samples of these signs will be submitted to the Nature Trail Committee for approval of the basic designs. The placement of the signs should not interfere with the operation of trail maintenance equipment. The Slough would also oversee the construction of the starting point display and would draft a map and text for use as point of interest keys. We propose that these keys be published by the University.

Ray Bowman 1976

The Department of Physical Facilities would be responsible for moving the gazebo to a location adjacent the parking area at the eastern corner of Oneida Lake. They would also be responsible for regular maintenance of the three trails with the exception of the signs. Litter removal could be accomplished as a joint effort of Slough manpower and Physical Facilities equipment.

It would be extremely desirable if the trail between the western terminus of the boardwalk and the southern corner of Lake Oneida could be improved. This stretch of about 200' is all that is lacking to complete a perimeter trail around the lake. The Slough feels improvement of this trail should be given high priority.

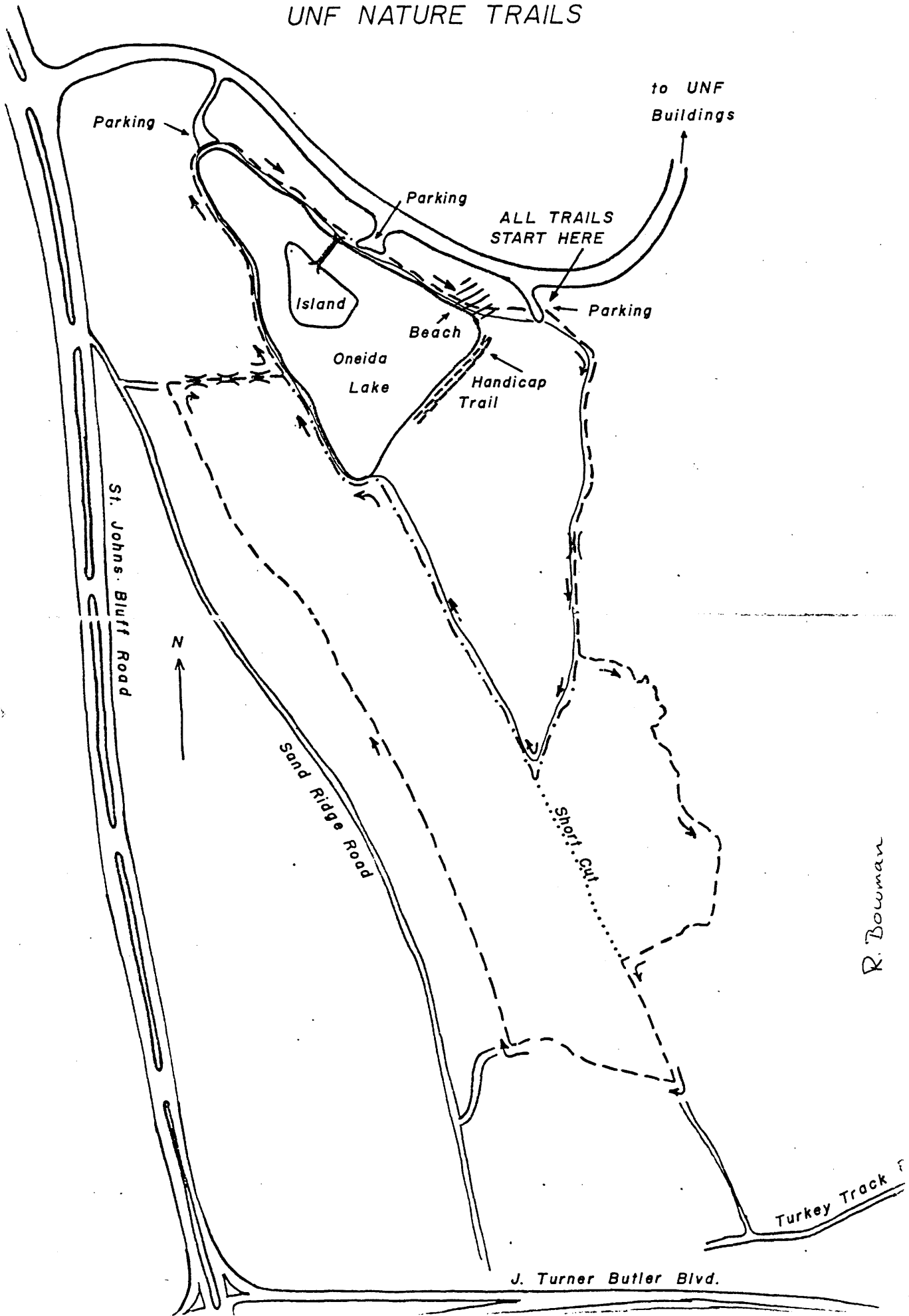
COST ESTIMATE

Directional Signs	\$71.10
Point of Interest Signs	36.50
Starting Point Display	50.00
Point of Interest Key	
Original Copy	10.00
Vegetation Markers	<u>50.00</u>
Total Initial Cost	<u>\$217.60</u>

RB



# UNF NATURE TRAILS



R. Bowman

J. Turner Butler Blvd.

Turkey Track F

## Give them all 'A+'

Those responsible for the national recognition given to the UNF nature trails by the Department of Interior deserve some thanks.

On the top of the list are members of the Sawmill Slough Conservation Club, headed by Ray Bowman. Their fervor has not ceased. Since the forming of the club, they have been instrumental in implementing every phase of construction. National recognition is the least they deserve.

Second, Physical Facilities is to be noted. It has maintained the trail's excellence. The job is a necessary one, and needs our constant support. Special thanks is due Larry Davis, Ernie Mancell and associates for their cheerfully willing efforts.

Donations from the Southside Junior Women's Club for the handicapped nature trail, Arlington Junior Women's Club and the Duval County Audobon Society are also greatly appreciated.

Daily calls are received from groups wishing to visit the trails. UNF averages from forty to fifty visitors a month. But there is no real way of knowing exactly how many people use the trails, possibly as many as one hundred per month. With national recognition, the numbers are due to go higher.

UNF could have been built on a site with lesser qualities. Instead, we are fortunate enough to be surrounded by trees, lakes and wildlife. The potential was noticed and the initiative was taken.

To all the contributors, we offer our deepest appreciation.



Dr. Bowman and his dog Sonya at the base of a cypress tree on the UNF campus dated in 1978 by the U.S. Forest Service to be 565 years old.

June 3, 1977

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ray Bowman  
Natural Sciences

FROM: Kimzie Cowart, Grounds Supv.  
Physical Facilities

SUBJECT: AGING THE BIG CYPRESS

*JCC*

Next Tuesday, June 7, at 10:00, the State Forestry Service will be on campus to core the big cypress. Could you help us arrange the use of a dissecting microscope for us in the Physical Facilities building.

Please call me at ext. 2879 before 2:30. Thank you.

KC:so

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Thank you very much for your generosity.

The tree was 564 years old or dated since the year 1423. They will be sending us a letter verifying this.

Kimzie Cowart

*87000 build boardwalk to  
... 80 years*

California may have its giant redwood trees, but the University of North Florida, host to the April 14-15 Earth Celebration, recently discovered this 564-year old cypress near its Federally recognized nature trails.

The "Big Cypress," according to Earth Celebration coordinator Dr. Ray Bowman, (pictured here) who also is a natural sciences instructor at UNF, was dated by the State Forestry Service to have been around since at least 1423, before the time of Columbus! And, says Bowman, also faculty advisor for the UNF Sawmill Slough conservation club, that's worth noting just because of the fact that the area on which the UNF campus stands was logged extensively about 80 years ago.

"Cypress was used whenever possible for building, because it is a good wood," explains Bowman, "soft enough to work with, but containing oils and resins which bugs hate, making it very durable."

Nevertheless, Bowman, University officials, and members of the conservation club are trying to raise \$3000 to build a boardwalk out to where the ancient--and historically significant--tree is located, an area which at certain times of the year is too swampy to make the tree accessible.

Unfortunately, lightning "topped" the cypress many years ago, and all that remains is ~~the~~ its huge trunk.