

---

# Florida Land Steward Tour: Sparkleberry Farm Property of Bill Black and Denise Matthews *2022 Florida Land Stewards of the Year* Alachua County, Florida

---



**Date: Friday, October 25, 2024**

**Meet at 9:00 AM ET**

Sparkleberry Farm property near Earleton in Alachua County, FL

Lunch served after the tour at the Florida Forest Service's Waccasassa Forestry Center in Gainesville  
(See back page for location details)



Bill Black and Denise Matthews purchased their 80-acre Sparkleberry Farm property in November 2010. Their goal was to transform the neglected stands of pine, cypress, and hardwoods into a more productive and sustainable condition for timber production, recreation, and native flora and fauna. To accomplish this, they use forestry practices that enhance the native, fire-dependent ecosystem. Bill and Denise were recognized in 2022 as the **Florida Land Steward landowners of the Year** for their outstanding stewardship and outreach efforts. Join us for a tour of the property to gain some valuable, hands-on information

about multiple-use forest management, and network with professionals and other landowners who share your interests. This will be a walking tour of reasonable length. Wear appropriate clothing for the field and bring a water bottle.

**Register:** Register online at <https://florida-land-steward.eventcube.io/events/64273/florida-land-steward-tour-at-sparkleberry-farm-alachua-county/>. **Space is limited so register soon!** We will meet at the property at 9:00 am ET for the tour. Lunch will be served after the tour at the Florida Forest Service's Waccasassa Forestry Center. See next page for location details. Contact Chris Demers for more information, [cdemers@ufl.edu](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu), (352) 846-2375.



Funding for this event is provided by University of Florida IFAS, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Florida Forest Service, and the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee.

University of Florida IFAS is an Equal Opportunity Institution

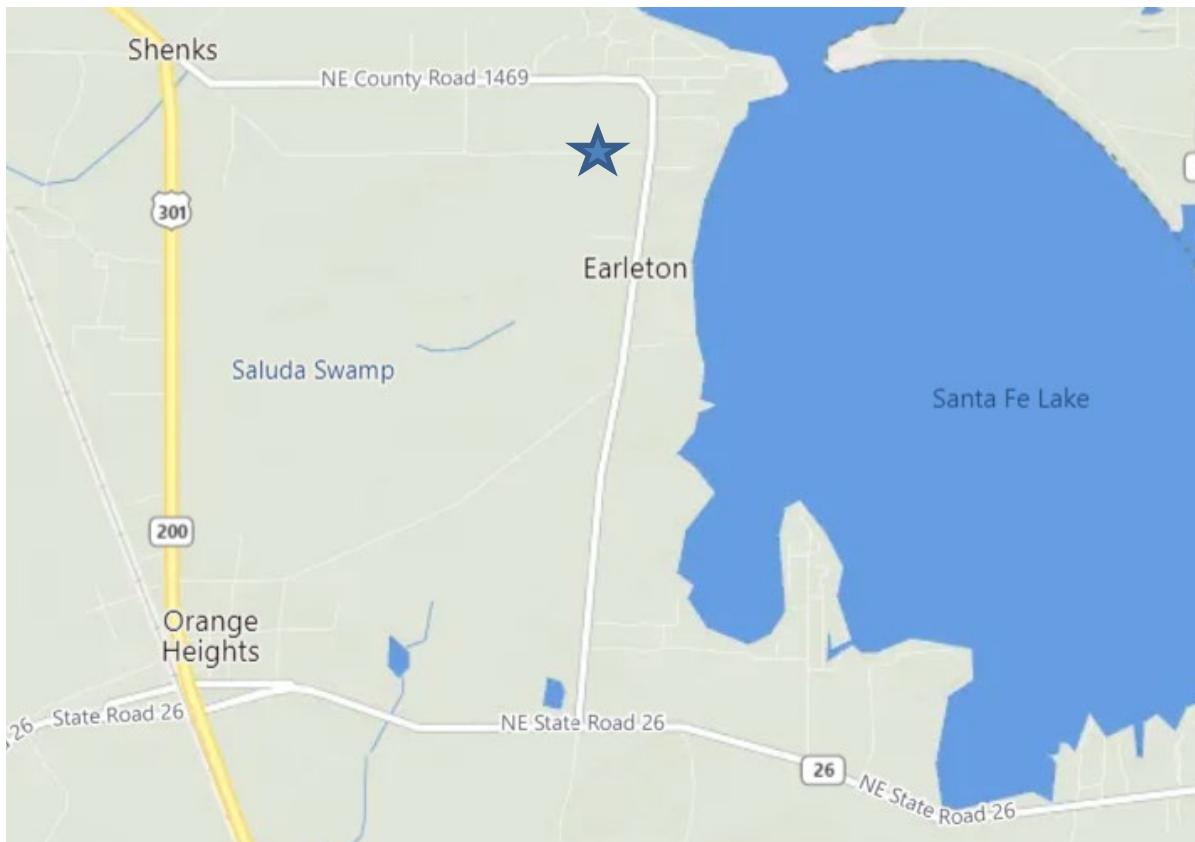
## Sparkleberry Farm

Located off CR 1469 in Earleton, FL

-From the intersection of SR 26 and CR 1469 between Gainesville and Melrose, go north on CR 1469 about 3.0 miles toward Earleton.

-Look for the Forest Stewardship Tour signs. The property gate will be on the left (west side of road).

-Location coordinates: 29.7557553, -82.1018016



**Join us for lunch at:**

**Waccasassa Forestry Center**

**Florida Forest Service**

5353 NE 39th Ave (SR 222)

Gainesville, FL 32609

Phone: (352) 395-4950

Park in the grassy area on the right as you enter the gate to the facility. Lunch will be served in the Training Room at the opposite end of the building.