



**GEORGIA-ALABAMA  
LAND TRUST**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Memorial Preserve Dedicated to Conservationist Nancy Schuster Natoli.**

**Richmond Hill, Georgia (May 27, 2023)** - The Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, Inc. (GALT) proudly announces the successful dedication of the Nancy Schuster Natoli Memorial Preserve at Elbow Swamp. This event honored the remarkable achievements of the late Nancy Schuster Natoli, a dedicated conservationist and instrumental figure in the creation of the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program. The dedication ceremony took place on Saturday, May 27, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Preserve's location on Daniel Siding Loop Road, Richmond Hill, Georgia.

The Memorial Preserve, spanning 5 acres within the vast 1,100-acre Elbow Swamp property, is now open from sunrise to sunset. Owned by GALT pursuant to Fort Stewart's Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program, the Memorial Preserve stands as a reminder of the transformative power of Nancy's conservation efforts. The REPI program, which Nancy played a pivotal role in establishing, has effectively safeguarded over one million acres of conservation land.

During the dedication ceremony, friends, colleagues, and members of Nancy Schuster Natoli's family delivered heartfelt remarks, shedding light on her unwavering commitment to conservation. Attendees had the privilege of exploring the Preserve for the first time following the dedication. The Memorial Preserve showcases restored longleaf pine areas and picturesque walking trails, providing a peaceful outdoor space for members of the Savannah area.

Situated in close proximity to 30,000 acres of other ACUB-protected land, the Nancy Schuster Natoli Memorial Preserve forms part of the larger Elbow Swamp property. This location ensures the preservation of a vast, contiguous habitat, fostering biodiversity and maintaining the ecological integrity of the area.

The Georgia-Alabama Land Trust extends its sincere gratitude to all attendees and individuals who contributed to the success of this event. The dedication of the Memorial Preserve not only pays tribute to Nancy's enduring legacy, but also serves as a celebration of the preservation of this beautiful natural area. For more information on the Preserve or Nancy's legacy, please visit [www.galandtrust.org/Natoli](http://www.galandtrust.org/Natoli).

About Georgia-Alabama Land Trust: The Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, Inc. (GALT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving and protecting land in Georgia and Alabama. GALT preserves over 448,000 acres of land by working with landowners, communities, and various partners to preserve critical habitats and agricultural land, safeguard water resources, and promote sustainable land use. By preserving these natural areas, GALT ensures the long-term well-being and enjoyment of the region's unique landscapes for future generations.

For more information about the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust and its ongoing conservation efforts, please visit [www.galandtrust.org](http://www.galandtrust.org) or contact Katie Dorris, GALT Communications and Events Specialist, at [kdorris@galandtrust.org](mailto:kdorris@galandtrust.org).

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