

Chapman's Pond and Nature Trails at Kanapaha



AREA TIMELINE

10,000 BC Santa Fe River is a series of small sinks used as watering holes by prehistoric animals. Sinks such as these indicate signs of human presence in Alachua County.

4,000 BC Large Archaic Village established at northern rim of Payne's Prairie; evidence of tool making near Lake Kanapaha.

220 AD Cades Pond People, unique to Alachua and Putnam County, establish village near Boulware Springs.

600 Alachua Culture (Timucuan tribe later known as Potano) moves south from Georgia into Alachua County. Villages rise in Alachua County at Robinson Sink, Moon Lake (site of Buchholz High School), west of Devil's Millhopper and Payne's Prairie.

1513 Ponce de Leon lands in Florida near mouth of St. John's River. Thinking he had found another island, names land "La Florida" and claims it for Spain.

1539 Hernando de Soto, Spanish conquistador, makes contact with Potano in passage through Alachua County.

1573 First Franciscan friars arrive in Florida. Mission Era begins along Florida's northeast coast. Missions are then established along the "Camino Real" trail which stretches from St. Augustine to St. Marks.

1606 San Francisco de Potano, first mission in Alachua County, established near Devil's Millhopper.

1630s Spanish begin cattle-raising at La Chua Ranch near Alachua Sink, Payne's Prairie.

1763 Spain cedes Florida to England; the remaining Timucuan culture Native Americans leave with departing Spanish. A British document names the Florida Indians "Seminoles."

1776 American Colonists sign the Declaration of Independence.

1783 United States and Britain sign Peace Treaty. Spain regains Florida.

1784 Naturalist William Bartram visits Alachua County; documents experience in his "Travels," detailing natural environment, wildlife and daily activities among Seminoles in Alachua County.

1818 General Andrew Jackson moves against Seminoles in Alachua County.

1819 Adams-Onís Treaty is signed ceding Florida to the United States.

1821 Florida's Seminole population peaks at 5,000. Winton (Micanopy) established as trading post; Florida recognized as United States territory. (Florida purchased from Spain for \$5 million)

1824 Alachua County established, includes large area from North Florida to Tampa Bay. Alachua is a Timucuan word meaning "big jug"

1830 Population of Alachua County 2204 people.

1834 President Andrew Jackson signs Treaty of Payne's Landing, by which Seminoles are to cease hostilities and be moved west of the Mississippi River; not all Seminoles sign; hostilities continue.

1835 President Andrew Jackson "ignites" the Second Seminole War by moving the Seminoles west; several battles fought in the Alachua County area.

1842 End of Second Seminole War; Seminole survivors flee south.

1845 Florida becomes 27th State.

1853 David Yulee obtains charter to build the Florida Railroad between Fernandina and Cedar Key. Town of Gainesville, named for General Edmund Gaines founded on route of new railroad. County Seat moved to Gainesville from Newnansville at Boulware Springs meeting.

1859 Florida Railroad reaches Gainesville.

1861 Civil War begins.

1872 Alachua sink plugs Payne's Prairie fills, creating Alachua Lake; regular steamboat service between Gainesville and Micanopy.

1876 Gainesville Sun first published as a weekly under the name Gainesville Times.

1891 City purchases Boulware Springs, establishes public water system. The first sanitary sewer system constructed.

1905 Public sewer system expanded in Gainesville with a bond issue.

1906 University of Florida begins operating west of Gainesville city limits.

1930 Naturalist Frank Chapman records 149 species of birds in Alachua County.

1973 Gainesville's city/county utilities board purchases 510-acre Broken Arrow Ranch for new Kanapaha Wastewater Treatment Plant.

1979 Gainesville Regional Utilities formed from the Gainesville Alachua County Regional Utilities Board.

1992 GRU enters into agreement to provide reclaimed water from the Kanapaha Wastewater Treatment Plant — renamed Kanapaha Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) — to all of Haile Plantation.

1995 Money Magazine names Gainesville most livable city in America.

1996 GRU's Water/Wastewater Engineering Department constructs reclaimed water features for UF's TREEO facility adjacent to the Kanapaha WRF. Wastewater Collection Department begins clearing Chapman's Pond site, named for late 19th century naturalist and ornithologist, Frank M. Chapman.

2000 Gainesville population exceeds 100,000.

2002 Chapman's Pond added to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Great Florida Birding Trail.

2003 Chapman's Pond and Nature Trails earn Gold Award in the City's Beautification Board Public Open Spaces category.

CAUTION: Chapman's Pond and Nature Trails is a home to a wide variety of native wildlife including alligators and poisonous snakes.