



March 27, 2013

West Orange Committee 101
Attn: Krista Carter

Dear Krista,

One of the greatest success stories about Oakland Nature Preserve is that it was purchased, developed, and is maintained through community support.

ONP has no consistent source of funding, and without donations and grants it would not exist today. Over the last several years, we have been fortunate to have a grant to establish and expand the environmental education programs. Students and visitors who come to the Preserve are able to learn about the natural environment of the Central Florida area in the Preserve's education programs.

It is donations and grants like that from Committee 101 that keeps the doors open and the lights on so that visitors have this beautiful place to come to. I see it happen this way: a child comes to ONP with his class to learn about plants and wildlife. Later the child returns and brings the rest of family. I actually hear the child teaching his parents what he or she has learned with a great deal of authority: "This is a Florida pine snake. It lives in the sand hill plant community. It is not a venomous snake; it will not hurt you. It belongs in nature." I have heard this kind of thing more than a few times. It is music to my ears, and from where I sit, it is what Oakland Nature Preserve is all about.

Without the funding from Committee 101 and others in our community, we might have a grant to teach but no funding that will keep ONP running so that the child who has learned can return to teach.

Thank you for supporting our mission.

Sincerely,
Mona Phipps
Managing Director, Oakland Nature Preserve

Educating • Conserving • Restoring

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