



# ST. JAMES BAY

CARRABELLE, FLORIDA

Natural Region: Southern Coastal Plain

Watershed: South Atlantic Gulf Region

Located in Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida, St. James Bay Golf Course property was undeveloped except for a centrally situated wilderness treatment facility for troubled youth (Anneewakee School). Situated within the Southern Coastal Plain Natural Region of the U.S., the course winds through a mosaic of vegetated communities consisting of flatwoods, planted pines, forested wetlands and marshlands. Of the 370 acres of property, Audubon International provided design and management input on 237 acres, of which there are 122 acres of golf course, 95 acres of wetlands (in the northern and southern portions of the property), and 20 acres of uplands. Three large preserves serve as the main wildlife habitats on the property. One of the most significant natural features in the vicinity of the property is Apalachicola Bay, an Outstanding Florida Water, Aquatic Preserve, Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Priority Water Body, International Biosphere Reserve, and the largest Estuarine Sanctuary in the U.S. The Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), a state listed threatened species, has been frequently observed on site and continues to use on-site lakes for swimming and wetlands vegetation for resting. The most predominant wetland plant community found on the project is the 77-acre titi swamp featuring two species of titi called swamp cyrilla and black titi. Revegetation efforts included the reintroduction of the Chalk Maple (*Acer saccharum*), a local common species in the Apalachicola area, as well as Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*). Godfrey's Blazing Star (*Liatis provincialis*), a very rare flowering plant in Franklin County and found on site, will continue to be relocated in an effort to propagate a larger population of the species. The large contiguous forest wetlands and associated buffers of this project ultimately connect to the Gulf of Mexico and are very important in maintaining and improving water quality of the gulf. St James Bay Golf Course, designed by Robert Walker, opened on September 20, 2003 and was certified as a Silver Signature Sanctuary on August 25, 2004.

