

## 2021 Conservation Stewards Awards Ian Kress

Ian was born in Gainesville in 1970, and grew up here, graduating from Eastside High School and Santa Fe Community College. In the mid-80's his family moved to the southwest side of town, and as a teenager he spent many an hour exploring the woods there, developing a love of the natural world. After Community College he served 4 years in the US Army, then earned an engineering degree from the University of Texas, and began a career in the oil business, working mostly overseas. In the mid 2000's, Ian began to wonder what the status and fate was of the woods that he walked in as a teen, and began working to protect and conserve this beautiful section of native Florida. Thirteen years later, that land is protected conservation land, known now as Serenola Forest Preserve.