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For Immediate Release

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Northeast Floridians Invited to Round Up Invasive Plants Overtaking Local Natural Areas

Volunteers will participate in the 3rd Annual Air Potato Roundup for Northeast Florida

JACKSONVILLE, FL — Volunteers are invited to participate in the third annual First Coast Air Potato Roundup for northeast Florida. Volunteers will help rid local parks and preserves of the air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) vine. The air potato is a non-native, invasive species taking root in natural areas, suffocating native plants and smothering the landscape. Such species are one of the highest ecological threats to local natural communities. **The volunteer who collects the largest air potato will win the grand prize — a guided kayak tour for two donated and led by Kayak Amelia.** This event is one of several being held as part of National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, a national event running from February 21-28. To learn more about the threat invasive species pose to Florida's native plants, animals and natural habitats, visit nature.org/floridainvasive.

WHEN: Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Volunteers can choose one of the nine sponsored sites:
The Crosby Sanctuary of the Audubon Society (Clay County)
City of Jacksonville's Tillie Fowler Preserve (West Duval County)
Egan's Creek Greenway (City of Fernandina Beach, Nassau County)
Fort Mose Historic State Park (St. Augustine in St. Johns County)
Howell Park (City of Atlantic Beach)
Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens (Arlington in South Duval County)
Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens (North Duval County)
Tree Hill Nature Center (Arlington in South Duval County)
University of North Florida –Nature Trails (South Duval County)

HOW: Pre-registration is not necessary unless you are coming with a large group.

Volunteers can call the Northeast Florida Program of The Nature Conservancy at (904) 598-0004 for more event information.

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The Nature Conservancy is a leading international, nonprofit organization that preserves plants, animals and natural communities representing the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. With funding from the voter approved Florida Forever program and our generous donors the Conservancy has helped protect more than 1.2 million acres in Florida since 1961. Visit us on the Web at nature.org/florida.