

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a worldwide, non-profit organization committed to preserving and protecting the natural world. A science-based approach to creating a sustainable planet is at the core of this vision. TNC recognizes that preservation and sustainability cannot be accomplished through the efforts of a single organization, thus they actively partner with organizations and community members alike in order to more effectively utilize the existing resources. In order to effectively partner with locals and community members, TNC has established chapters in all 50 states, and in 33 other countries.

The Nature Conservancy in Alabama specifically tailors their efforts to the conservation and community needs in the state. Over the course of this summer, these needs have mostly been concentrated on restoration in the Gulf of Mexico and in the communities that rely on this vital resource. However, other areas of concentration include watershed management for a variety of rivers and preservation of rare and endangered species (both flora and fauna).

As an intern, I was given a variety of responsibilities throughout the summer. Arguably the main project of the summer has been re-writing and updating the chapter's website (however, due to some technical difficulties, my revisions are not yet on the internet, though they will soon be). I have also been updating the chapter's social media presence (for example, I am currently designing and creating a Facebook page specifically for TNC's work in Alabama). I have also written a variety of articles and taken photographs from projects around the state to be used on both sites. In order to write enthusiastically and effectively, I have visited nearly all of the preserves in the state, as well as worked in the field on a number of occasions. Ultimately, the goal of my internship is to let residents know what work TNC is doing in their community, as well as conveying to them the importance of the land and resource conservation that is happening in their home state.